

# Trego Lake District – Aquatic Plant Control Plan for 2023

## **Background:**

TLD has been cutting aquatic plants on the lake for many years. The efforts have been funded by Xcel Energies based on contract negotiations during dam re-licensing, which took place in 1995. Aquatic plant-cutting aimed to keep navigation channels open on the south end of the lake. Since then, we have identified that 2000 cubic yards of sedimentation flow into the lake each year, causing our water depth to decrease and aquatic plants to grow more prevalently in the watershed. No area of the lake is immune from this transfer of sediment.

In 2020, TLD commissioned a study to determine Aquatic Invasive Plant Species in Trego Lake. This effort gauged our lake's health and determined how to control AIS identified in a 2011 study and in this 2020 study.

Key findings from the 2020 survey:

- The survey was completed in late July.
- Aquatic plants grow to a maximum depth of 10-ft.
- 66% of the lake's area is shallow enough to support aquatic plant growth
- 325 sites were sampled in the area shallow enough to support aquatic plant growth
- 71% of these sites had aquatic plants
- 52 different plant species were found
- During a survey in mid-June, curly-leaf pondweed was found at 24% of the sites in the littoral zone
- During a survey in mid-June, Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) was found at 8% of the sites in the littoral zone
- Wild rice was found at 26% of the sites sampled within the littoral zone and at 37% of the sites sampled with vegetation.
- The three most commonly occurring aquatic plants were: wild celery (*Vallisneria americana*), 43% of sites,
- coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*), 32% of sites; and flat-stem pondweed (*Potamogeton zosteriformis*), 29% of sites.
- Three other non-native aquatic plants were found – Eurasian watermilfoil, narrow-leaved cattail, and reed canary grass.

## **Assumptions to our AIS plan.**

- Maintaining a healthy balance of aquatic plants is critical to a lake's ecosystem. Aquatic plants provide the basic resources for the rest of the lake community, including oxygen production, spawning and nesting habitat, and food resources. Additionally, aquatic plants act to stabilize sediments and tie up excess nutrients. Therefore, removing all the plants from a lake is rarely desirable.
- Excess aquatic plants will continue to significantly deter recreation on Trego Lake.
- Aquatic plants, especially aquatic invasive species (AIS), on our flowage will not slow down but will worsen as the sediment continues to flow into our lake.
- TLD has decided to expand excess aquatic plant cutting to control the spread of AIS. At the annual meeting in June, TLD approved increased tax dollars to expand our ability to control AIS.

- Please note: TLD is reimbursed up to \$6,000 per year from Xcel Energies for aquatic plant cutting. All other funds are collected through tax dollars from the owners who live on Trego Lake. The Trego Dam will be relicensed in 2025. TLD intends to negotiate with Xcel for more funds for controlling excess aquatic plants/AIS on our lake.
- All aquatic plant harvesting must be permitted by DNR.
- Xcel harvesting (TLD does, Xcel pays for) will be maintained under current dam licensing agreement using existing plan.
- Funds are limited for aquatic plant cutting. We must prioritize our efforts and ensure we get the best results for the money we spend. However, if our funds are insufficient to maintain our waterway, we could increase the tax levy to cover more areas.
- Priorities are based on TLD's goal to maintain and improve the resource.

**TLD's excessive aquatic plant control plan for 2023 will be executed in the following manner:**

Trego Lake District will request TSB (harvester) to harvest aquatic plants according to the Aquatic Plant Management Plan addressing primary channel access and removal of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). An overview of the areas to be harvested can be found in Appendix A.

Because funds are limited, for 2023 the TLD prioritized areas in the harvest area. They are as follows:

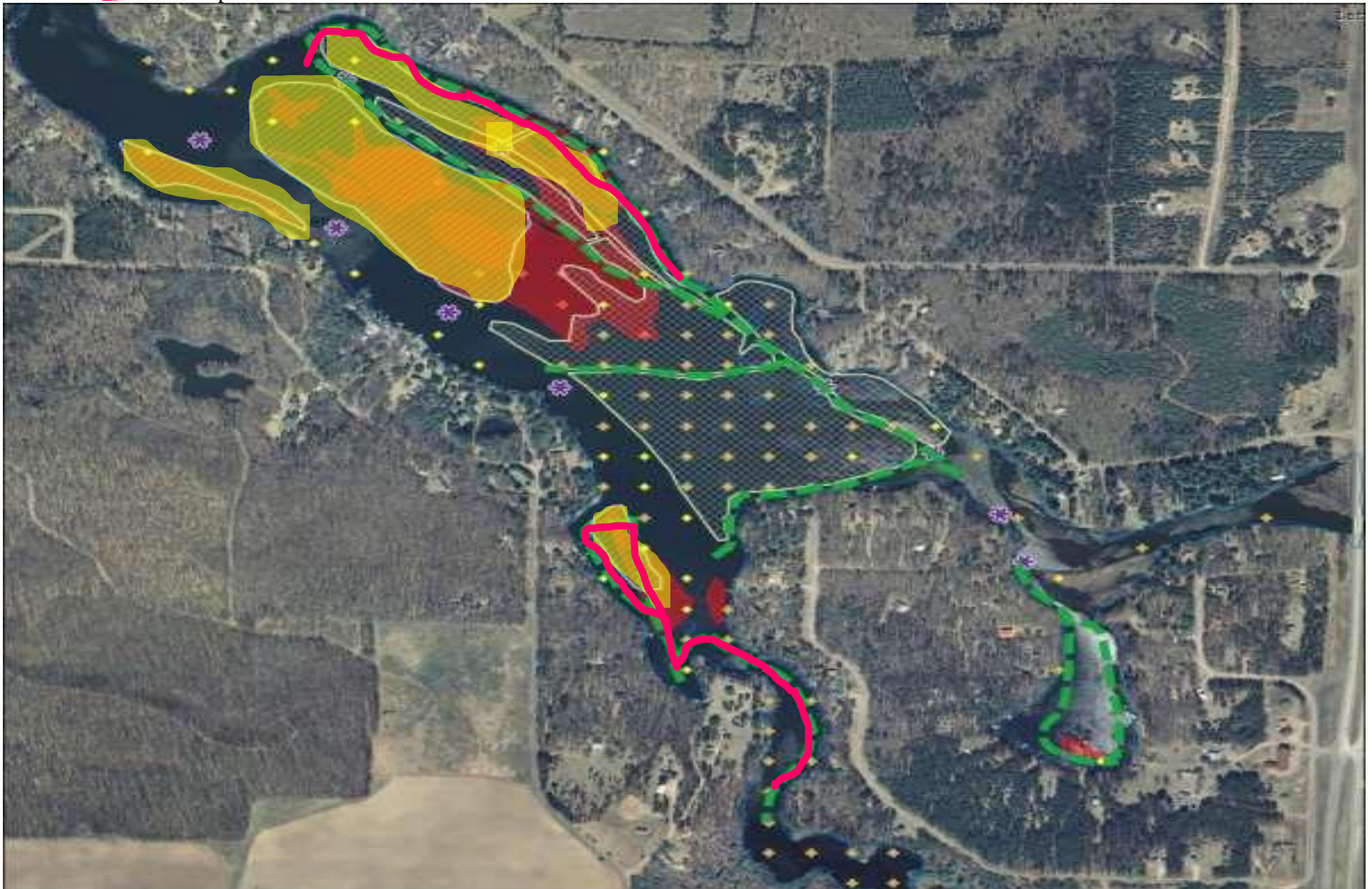
- Priority 1 – Harvest where Potato Creek enters Trego Lake the curly-leaf pondweed area nearest the lake identified in the report and the channel from Trego Lake up into Potato Creek. How far into Potato Creek will be determined in consultation with TSB. Additionally, a shorter channel along the shoreline on the west bank of Potato Creek as it enters the lake. See Appendix B.
- Priority 2 – Harvest the curly-leaf pondweed bed along the south west shore of the lake where the large bay narrows. Further, a channel will be harvested through the curly-leaf pondweed bed along the north shore of the large bay. See Appendix C
- Priority 3 – Harvest the curly-leaf pondweed bed in the western center of the large bay in Trego Lake. See Appendix D.
- Priority A – Harvest the curly-leaf pondweed in the wider area in the narrows approximately half-way between the large bay and the Trego Lake landing. This area has a different prioritization because it is anticipated it can be harvested as the harvester passes from the Trego Lake landing to the main harvest area at the mouth of Potato Creek and/or the large bay on Trego Lake. See Appendix E.
- Possible areas to harvest – Two new areas not identified in the APMP but have identified (photos) curly-leaf pondweed are in the center of “Dahl’s Bay” and along the northeast shore of the lake at N8383 River Road. Both area are west and north of Trego Lake landing. TLD will identify these areas in the application for DNR permit and if approved and funds are available will be harvested. See Appendix F.

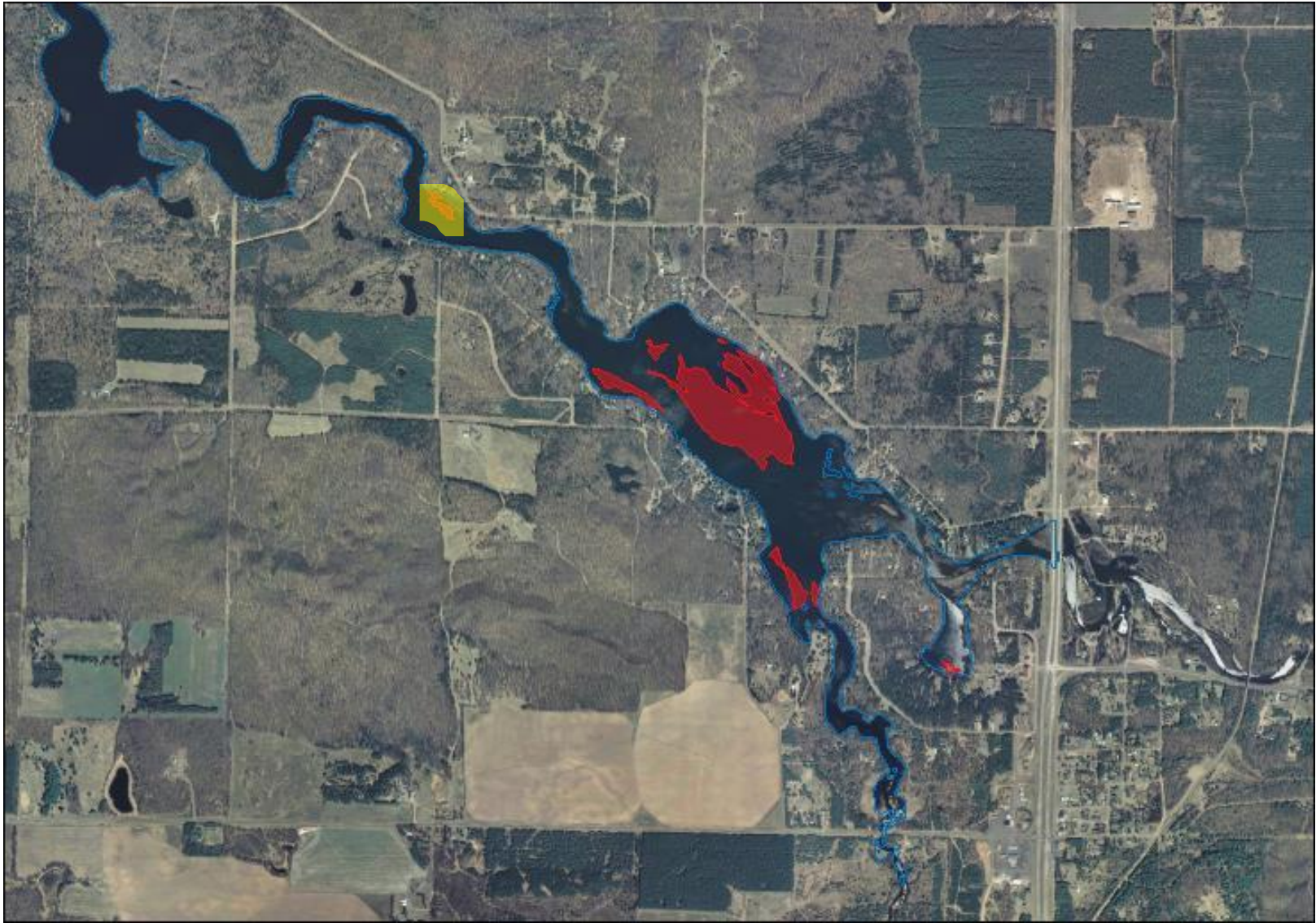
This plan will be communicated to TLD members through Board meeting minutes and at the TLD Annual Meeting. It will be review and revised after implementation. This is the first year of additional harvesting and future priority areas may change based on review, analysis, discussion, and determination of impact to the lake and its recreational users.

# APPENDIX A

**2023 Weed Harvest Areas – in addition to Xcel main channel harvest** – includes wider area in narrows identified on map (next page)  
(overlaid on APMP suggested harvest/channel areas)

- Areas in yellow – CLP harvest
- Lines in pink – channels in addition to Xcel channels





## **APPENDIX B**

**2023 Weed Harvest Areas – in addition to Xcel main channel harvest – PRIORITY AREAS – Area Priority ONE**

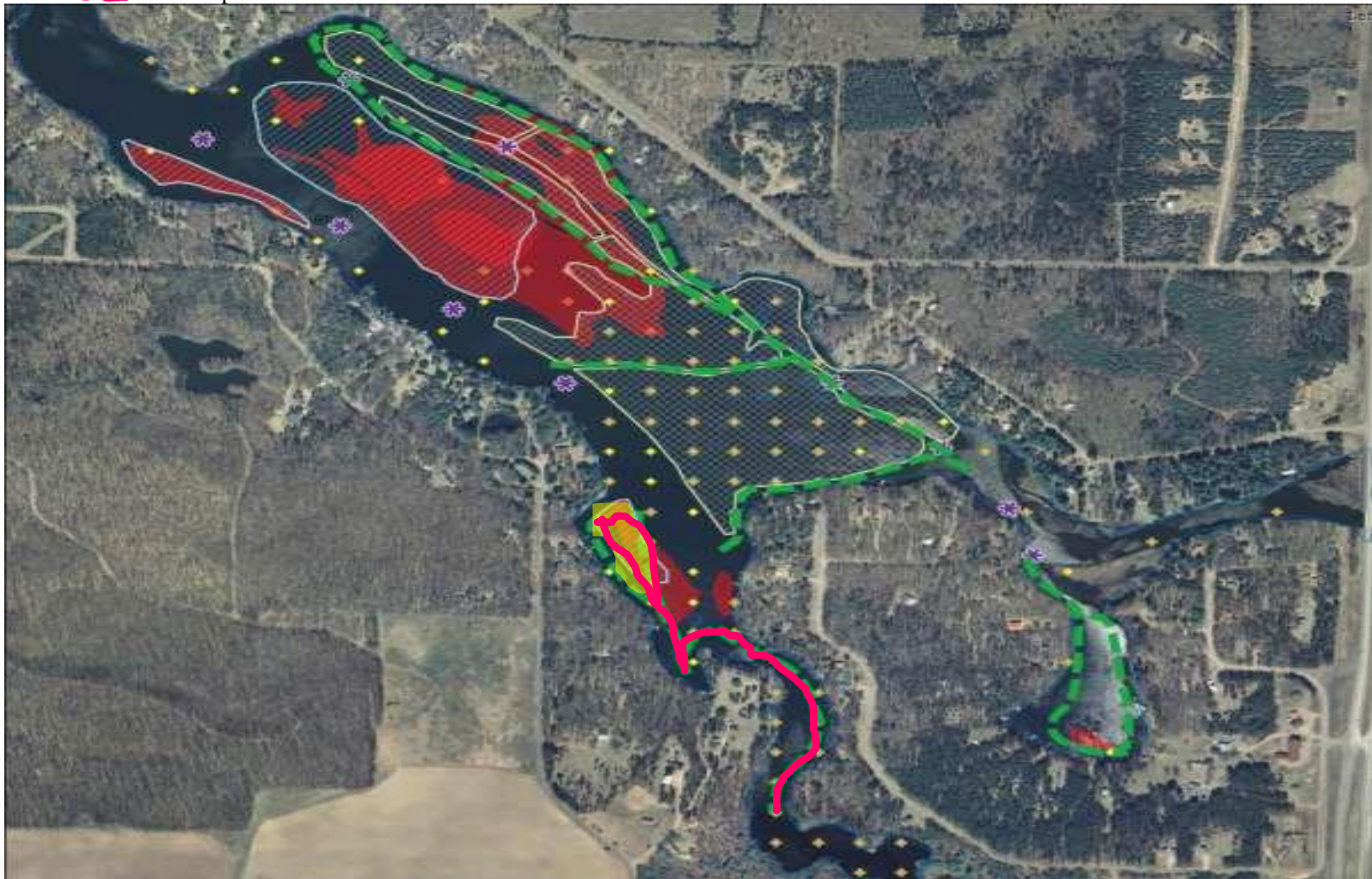
(overlaid on APMP suggested harvest/channel areas)



Areas in yellow – CLP harvest



Lines in pink – channels in addition to Xcel channels



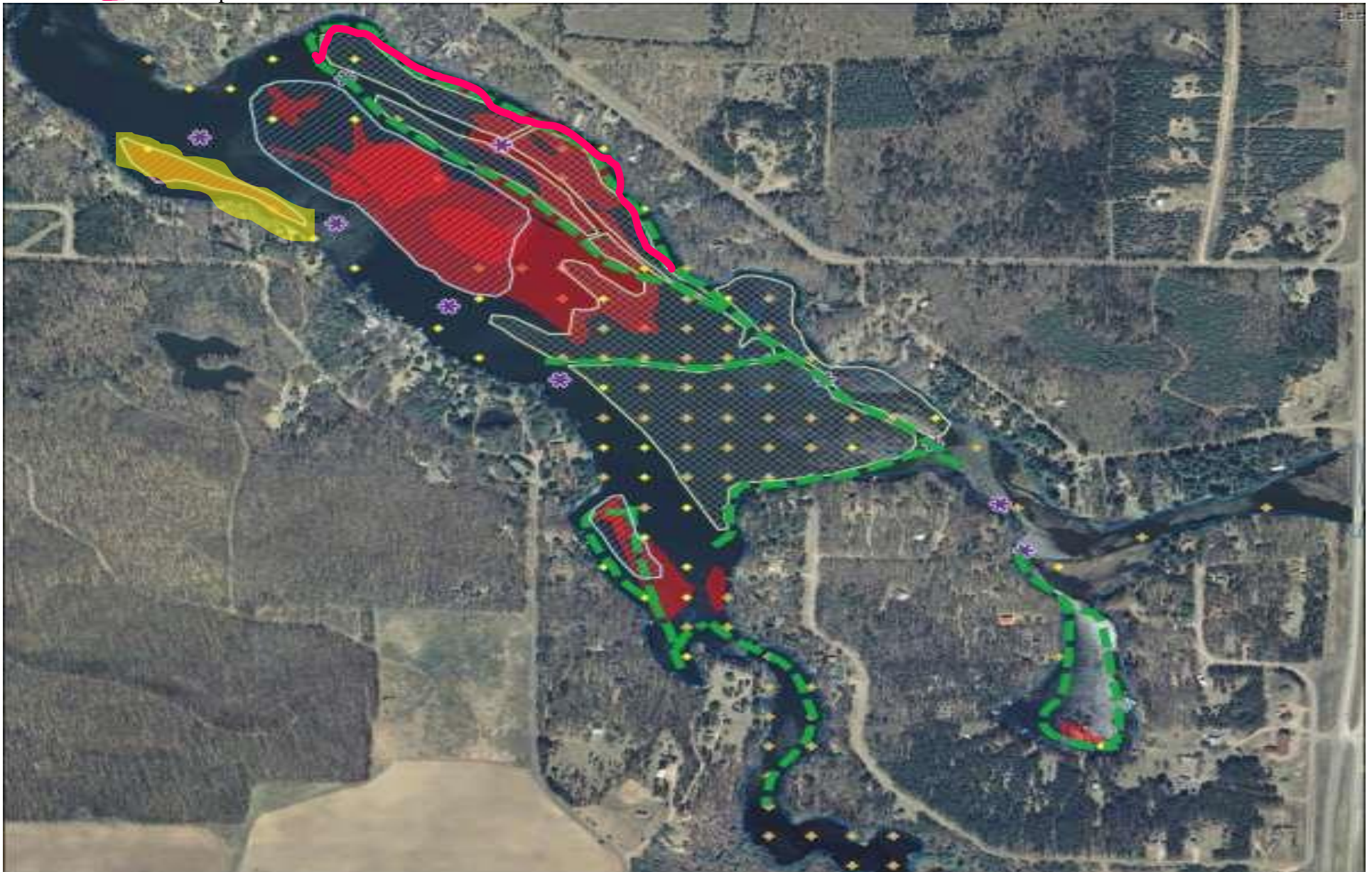
## APPENDIX C



**2023 Weed Harvest Areas – in addition to Xcel main channel harvest – PRIORITY AREAS – Area Priority TWO**

(overlaid on APMP suggested harvest/channel areas)

- Areas in yellow – CLP harvest
- Lines in pink – channels in addition to Xcel channels

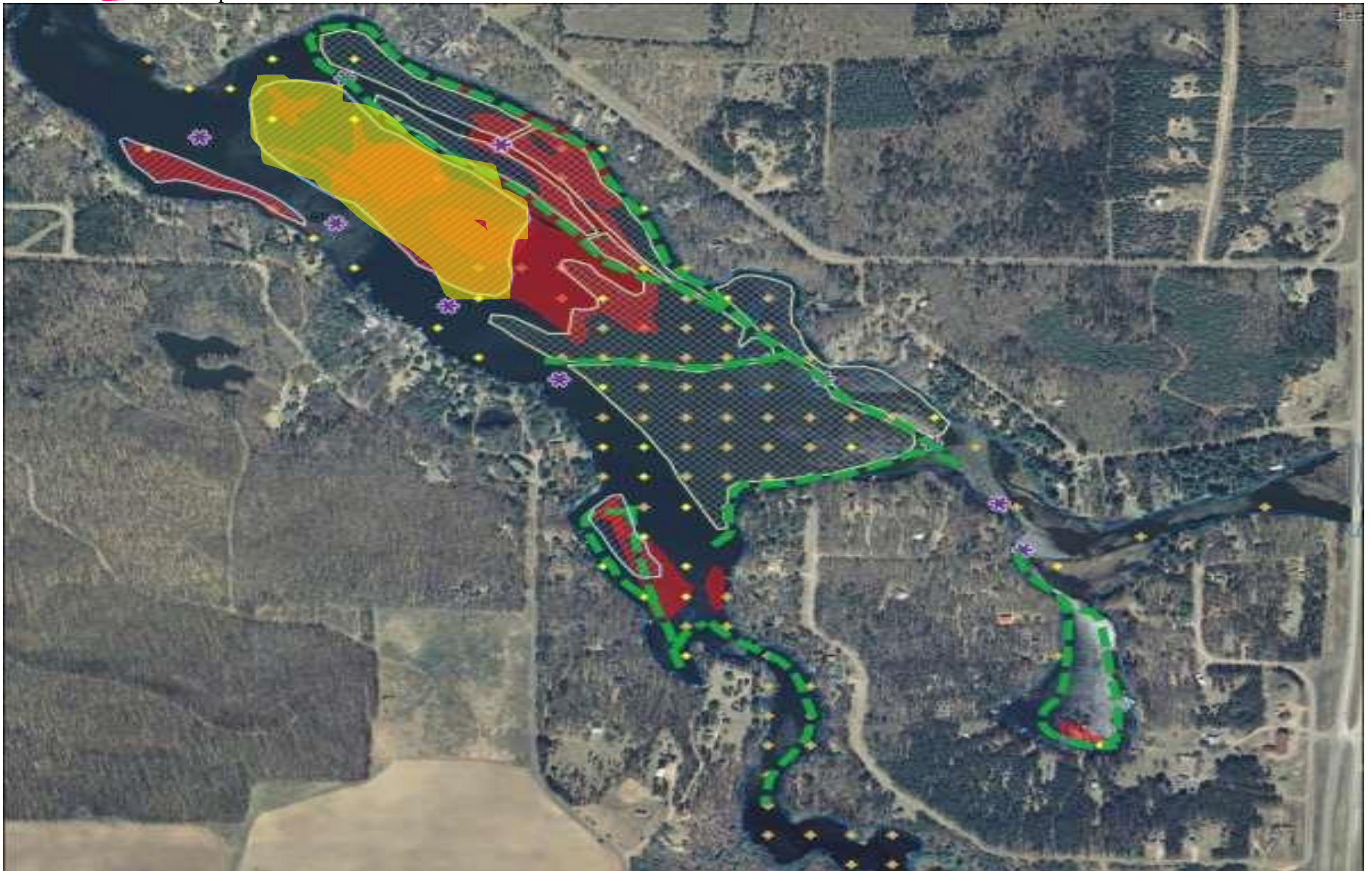


## APPENDIX D

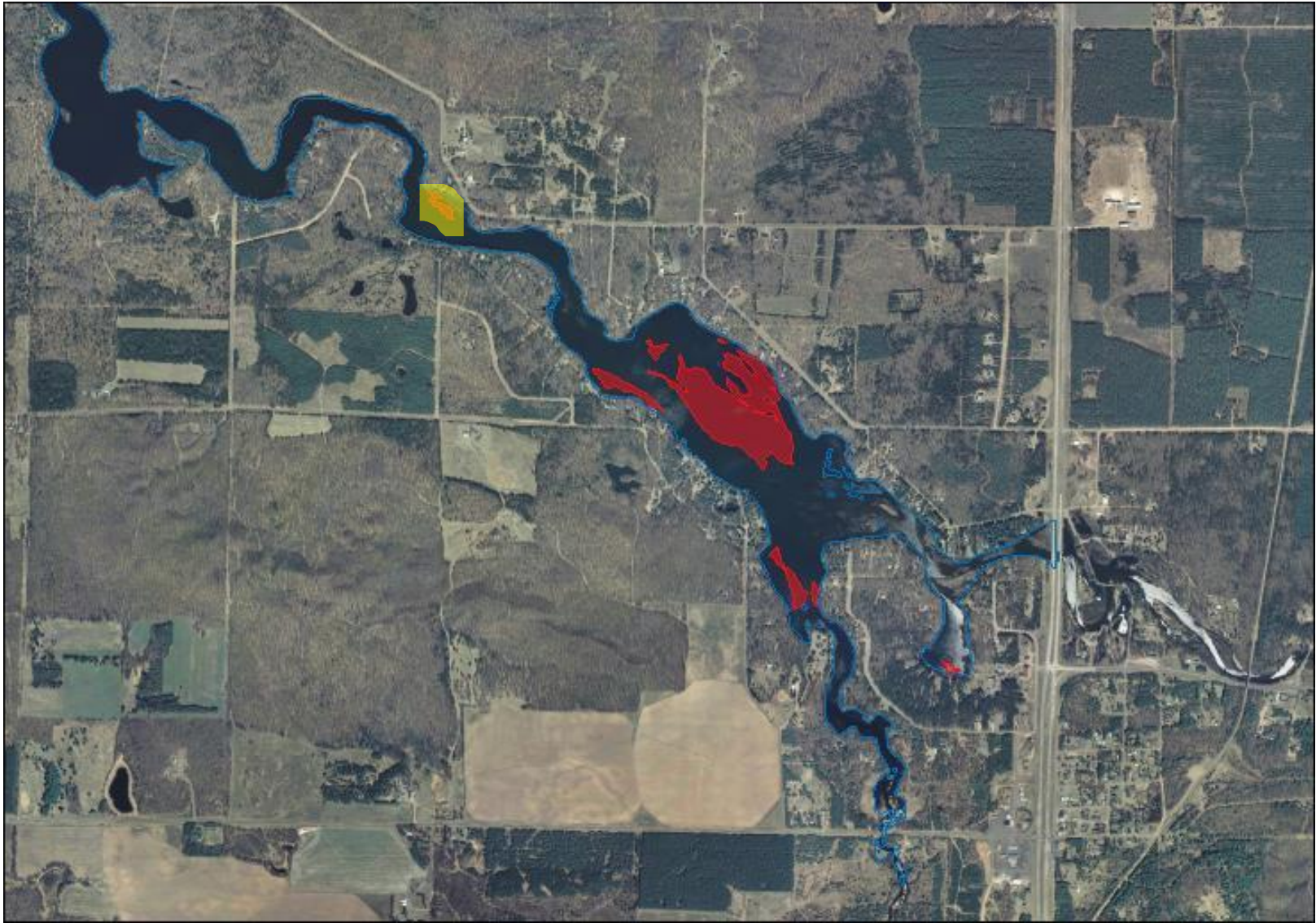
**2023 Weed Harvest Areas – in addition to Xcel main channel harvest – PRIORITY AREAS – Area Priority THREE**

(overlaid on APMP suggested harvest/channel areas)

- Areas in yellow – CLP harvest
- Lines in pink – channels in addition to Xcel channels



# APPENDIX E

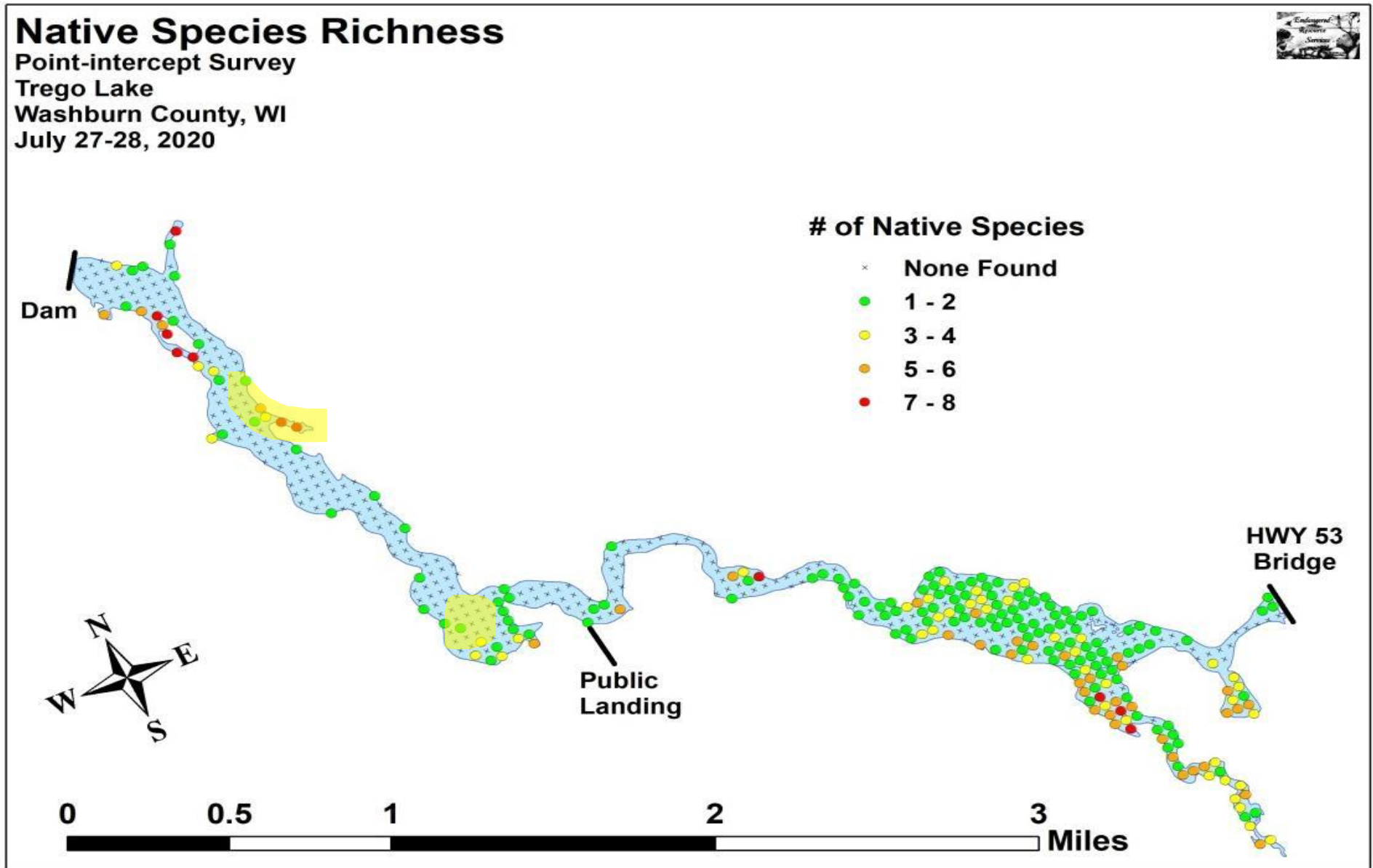


# APPENDIX F

**2023 Weed Harvest Areas – in addition to Xcel main channel harvest – Possible Additional Harvest Areas**

(overlaid on APMP plant point-intercept survey map)

Areas in yellow – CLP harvest



Possible areas include “center” of “Dahl’s Bay” and area at N8383 River Road – photos of CLP available for both locations