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## **Invasion of Eurasian Watermilfoil in Lakes of the Western Upper Peninsula, Michigan**

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**ABSTRACT:** Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) has the potential to cause major long-term adverse environmental, recreational, and aesthetic impacts to the pristine lakes in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan. At the request of the U.S. Army Engineer District, Detroit, the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center evaluated 16 lakes in Gogebic County, first to verify if Eurasian watermilfoil was present in the lakes, and then to recommend spot-treatment control options for pioneer infestation of the exotic species. Surveys were conducted using a sampling grid and global positioning system method. Of the lakes surveyed, only two contained small infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil. Occurrences of rare, threatened, or endangered aquatic plants were documented during the lake evaluations.

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# Preface

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The work reported here was conducted as part of the Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP). The APCRP is sponsored by Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (HQUSACE), and is assigned to the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) under the purview of the Environmental Laboratory (EL), Vicksburg, MS. Funding was provided under Department of the Army Appropriation No. 96X3122, "Construction General." Support was also provided by the U.S. Army Engineer District, Detroit (LRE) coordinated through Mr. Charles Uhlarik and Mr. Joe Wanielista, LRE. Mr. Robert C. Gunkel, Jr., was Program Manager for the APCRP. Program monitor during this study was Mr. Timothy R. Toplisek, HQUSACE.

The Principal Investigator for this research was Mr. John G. Skogerboe, Environmental Processes Branch (EPB), Environmental Processes and Engineering Division (EPED), EL, ERDC. This work was conducted and report prepared by Mr. Skogerboe, Ms. Angela G. Poovey, and Dr. Kurt Getsinger (EPB); and Dr. Greg Kudray, Ecological Inventory and Analysis, Chassell, MI.

Technical reviews were provided by Dr. Stan Nichols, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, and Ms. Susan Trull, U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Special thanks are extended to Mr. Jeff Zelinski and the Watersmeet (Michigan) Chamber of Commerce for initial development of the project and logistical support throughout the study. Ms. Trull supplied specimens of sensitive and endangered aquatic plant species from the lakes of the Ottawa National Forest. Mr. Robert Evans, Wildlife Biologist, USFS, Watersmeet Ranger District, provided maps and information on lakes in the Ottawa National Forest. We also thank Ms. Sadie Rosenthal, Ms. Margaret Kulwicki, and Ms. Samantha Stevens, University of Notre Dame Environmental Research Center, for technical assistance in sampling Clearwater and Langford Lakes.

This work was performed under the general supervision of Dr. Edwin Theriot, Director, EL; Dr. Richard E. Price, Chief, EPED; and Dr. Terrence M. Sobecki, Chief, EPB. The Commander and Executive Director of ERDC is COL James R. Rowan, EN, and the Director of ERDC is Dr. James R. Houston.



# 1 Introduction

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## Background

The Gogebic County region is a rural area in the western Michigan Upper Peninsula, where the Ottawa National Forest covers 85 percent of the county (Figure 1). Included in the national forest is the Sylvania Wilderness Area (SWA; Figure 2), which is a protected area of old climax forests and numerous lakes (Peacock 1986). It is a valuable regional resource that supports a diverse vegetative community, including sensitive, threatened, and endangered (STE) species that occur both upland and along lakeshores. Because of its pristine lakes, SWA attracts many people who enjoy hiking, canoeing, and primitive camping. Hiking and portage trails that wind through forests and along lakeshores are unmarked. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) maintains developed recreational areas north of SWA with modern campsites, picnic areas, and groomed hiking and backpacking trails.

The Cisco Chain of Lakes is a system of 15 interconnected lakes on the Michigan-Wisconsin border (Figure 3). With over 271 miles of shoreline, it is an important natural and recreational resource to the Upper Great Lakes Region. Most of these lakes lie in Gogebic County; however, some lakes extend into Wisconsin. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MI-DNR) maintains public access boat ramps on Thousand Island, Cisco, and Clearwater Lakes. Another public access boat ramp is maintained on Big Lake by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI-DNR). Many of the lakes have numerous lake homes and resorts, and significant boat traffic moves throughout the system. The Cisco Chain supports an excellent fishery with walleye, musky, northern pike, bass, and panfish. Numerous other lakes are located in the Watersmeet Area, 13 of which have public access boat ramps maintained by either the USFS or the MI-DNR. The size of these lakes varies greatly, ranging from several thousand acres to less than a hundred acres. Moreover, privately owned resorts border on many area lakes.

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum* L.) has the potential to cause major long-term adverse environmental, recreational, and aesthetic impacts to the pristine lakes in the western Upper Peninsula. Therefore, it is imperative that new infestations of this invasive plant species are detected early to rapidly implement control techniques. Likewise, existing populations of Eurasian watermilfoil should be controlled to prevent regrowth and reestablishment.

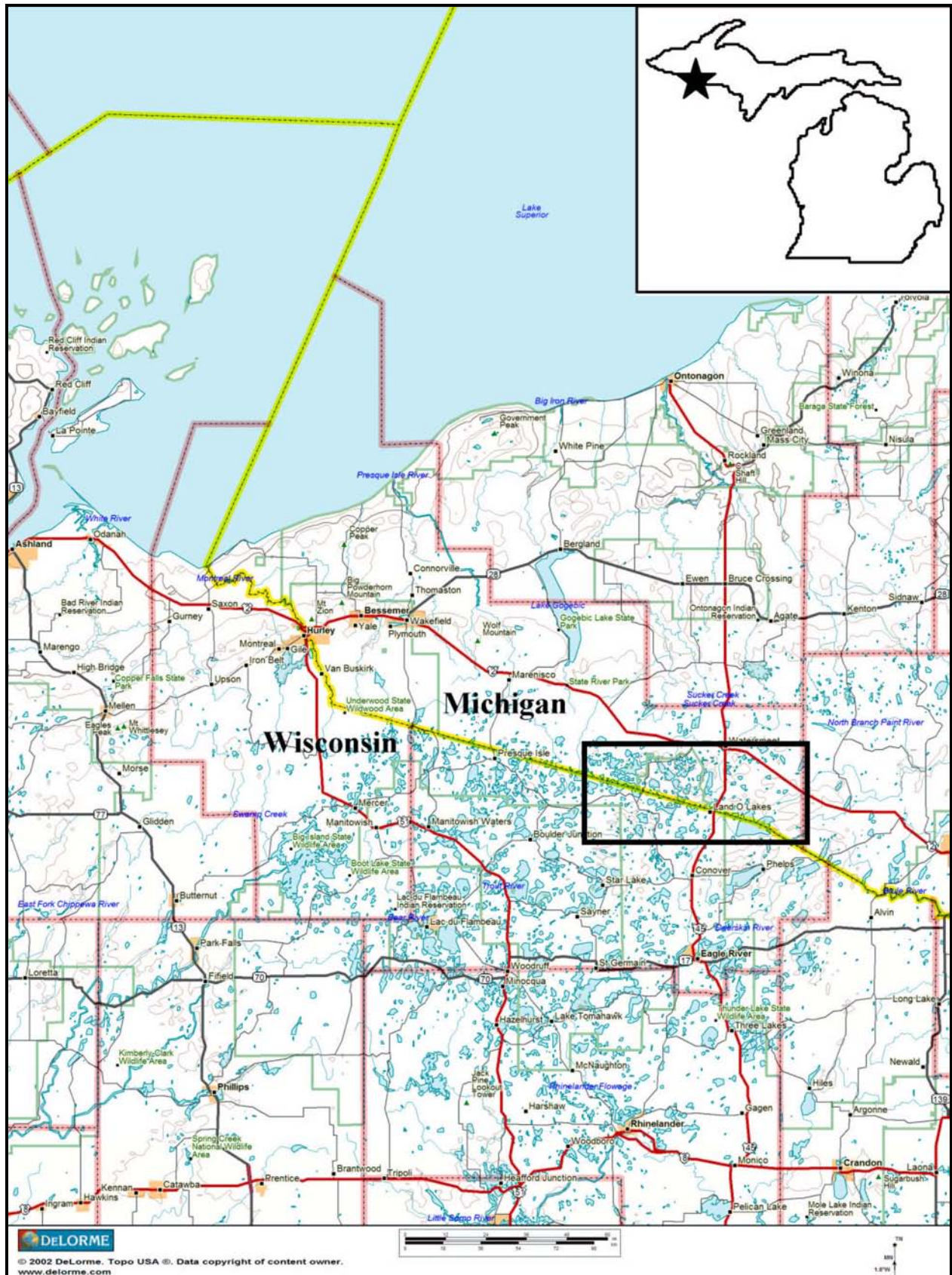


Figure 1. Gogebic County and the Watersmeet Area, MI



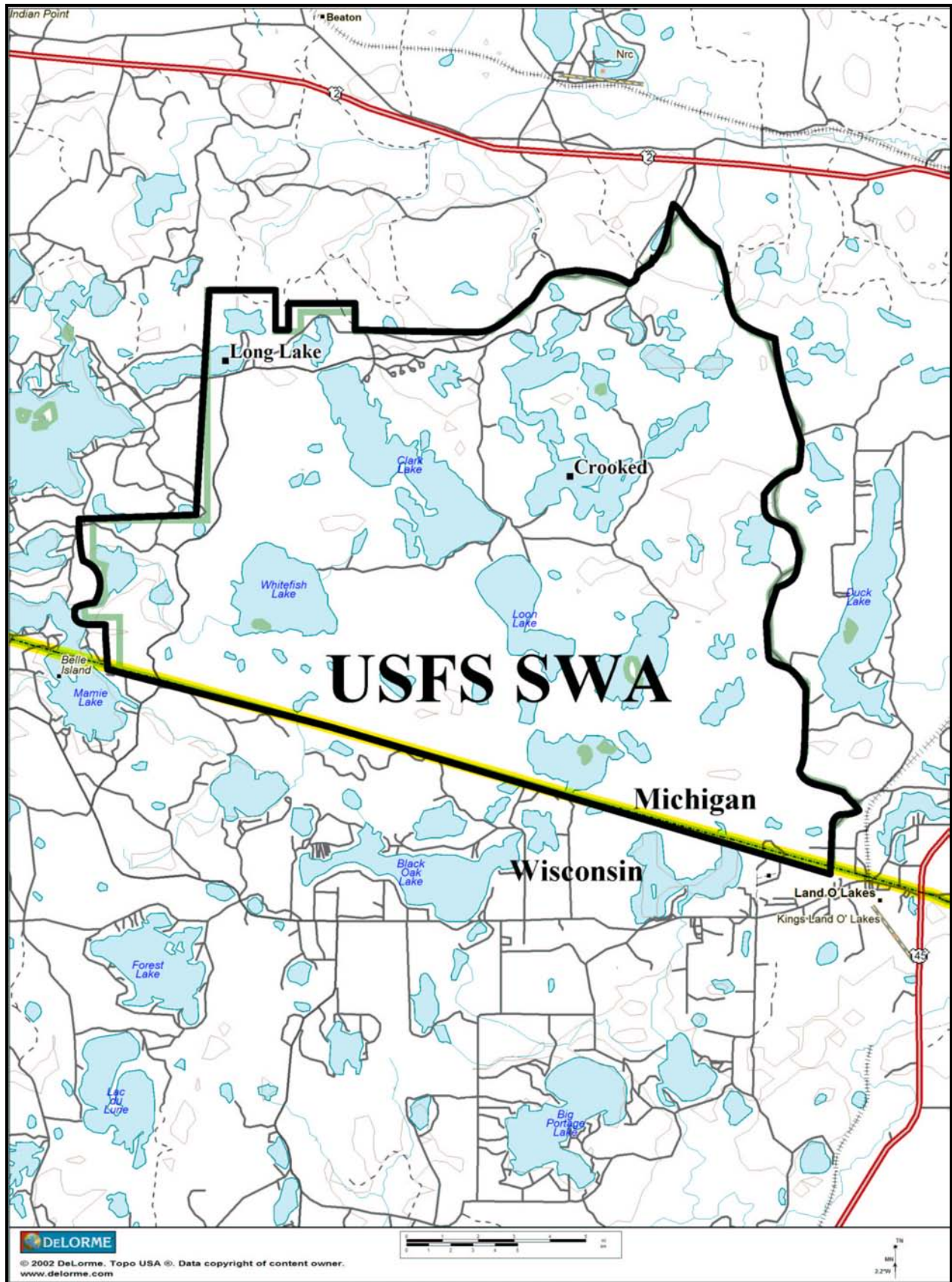


Figure 2. USFS Sylvania Wilderness Area, MI

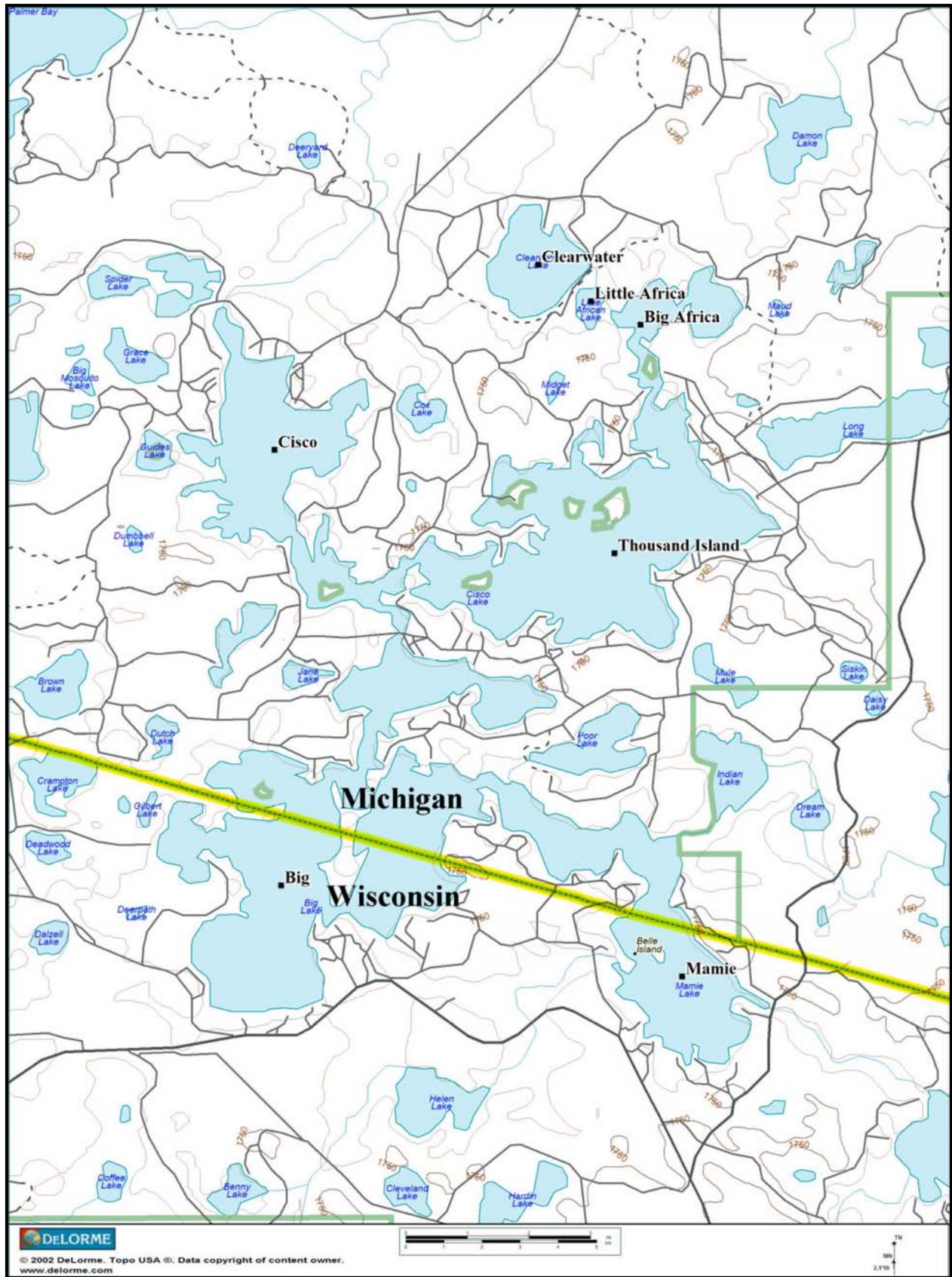


Figure 3. Cisco Chain of Lakes, Upper Peninsula, MI



Eurasian watermilfoil was first discovered in the Cisco Chain of Lakes in 2000. It is found throughout Wisconsin, including Iron and Vilas Counties, which border Gogebic County, and throughout the Michigan Lower Peninsula. Eurasian watermilfoil ostensibly entered Clearwater Lake through a public boat access. The milfoil infestation covered 57 acres, about 34 percent of the lake surface, then most likely floated downstream to Little Africa Lake. On Little Africa Lake, the infestation was less than 1 acre. Both lakes were treated with the aquatic herbicide 2,4-D in June 2001.

In 2002 Congress tasked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District to assess the aquatic plant communities of selected lakes in the western Michigan Upper Peninsula for infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil. As part of that task, the District requested the services of the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center's Environmental laboratory (EL), a national research and development (R&D) laboratory located in Vicksburg, MS. The Corps of Engineers Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) is managed at the EL, and for more than 30 years this program has supported R&D in the aquatic plant control arena throughout the United States. Scientists, supported by the APCRP, have extensive experience in studying the biology and management of Eurasian watermilfoil. In response to the District's request, the EL evaluated 16 lakes in Gogebic County; first, to verify if Eurasian watermilfoil was present in the lakes, many of which are hydraulically connected, and second, to recommend spot-treatment control options for pioneer infestations of this exotic species. In addition, occurrences of rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) aquatic plants were documented during the lake evaluations. This information will be presented during an overview of key lakes in the region, and as lake-specific vegetation assessments.

## Objectives

The objectives of this study were:

- a. To conduct a detailed vegetation assessment on selected lakes in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan.
- b. Based on that assessment, determine the extent and establishment of the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil.
- c. Provide recommendations for controlling/eradicating pioneer Eurasian watermilfoil infestations using environmentally compatible techniques.

## 2 Materials and Methods

In July 2002, detailed vegetation assessments were conducted on 16 lakes in Gogebic County (Table 1). These lakes were selected based on ecological, economic, and recreational importance to the area as well as public access to the lake. Two lakes, Crooked and Long, are part of the SWA. Four lakes, Cisco, Thousand Island, Clearwater, and Little Africa, are part of the Cisco Chain of Lakes. The remaining nine lakes are scattered through the county (Figure 4).

Lake	Mean Depth ft	Surveyor	Lake Area acres	MSD <sup>3</sup> ft	MRD <sup>4</sup> ft
Allen	14	ERDC <sup>1</sup>	79	10.1	15
Cisco	11	ERDC	500	9.2	14
Clearwater	7	ERDC	170	6.8	11
County Line	20	ERDC	72	12.5	18
Crooked	15	ERDC	566	19.1	26
Dinner	11	ERDC	106	13.3	19
Duck	7	EIA <sup>2</sup>	610	10.1	15
Imp	39	ERDC	74	21.5	29
Langford	8	ERDC	476	6.8	11
Little Africa	7	ERDC	18	5.1	9
Long	15	EIA	168	12.5	18
Marion	17	ERDC	252	11.7	17
Moon	20	ERDC	93	29.7	39
Tamarack	11	ERDC	283	5.1	9
Taylor	20	EIA	162	6.0	10
Thousand Island	27	ERDC	1,000	12.5	18

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center.  
<sup>2</sup> Ecological Inventory and Analysis.  
<sup>3</sup> Mean secchi depth.  
<sup>4</sup> Maximum rooting depth.

A 328-ft by 328-ft sampling grid was developed for each lake to be surveyed using Garmin MapSource topographic software (Olathe, KS). The sampling grid was downloaded to a Garmin™ 76C Global Positioning System (GPS) and each sample point was located and recorded as a permanent site using the GPS. Water depth at each sample point was recorded. If depth was less than or equal to the maximum rooting depth (MRD) of submersed plants, then the point was sampled to determine the presence or absence of aquatic plant species. Maximum rooting was determined from the mean secchi depth (MSD) of each lake using the equation  $MRD = 2.73 + 1.22 \times MSD$  ft (Nichols 1999). A device constructed

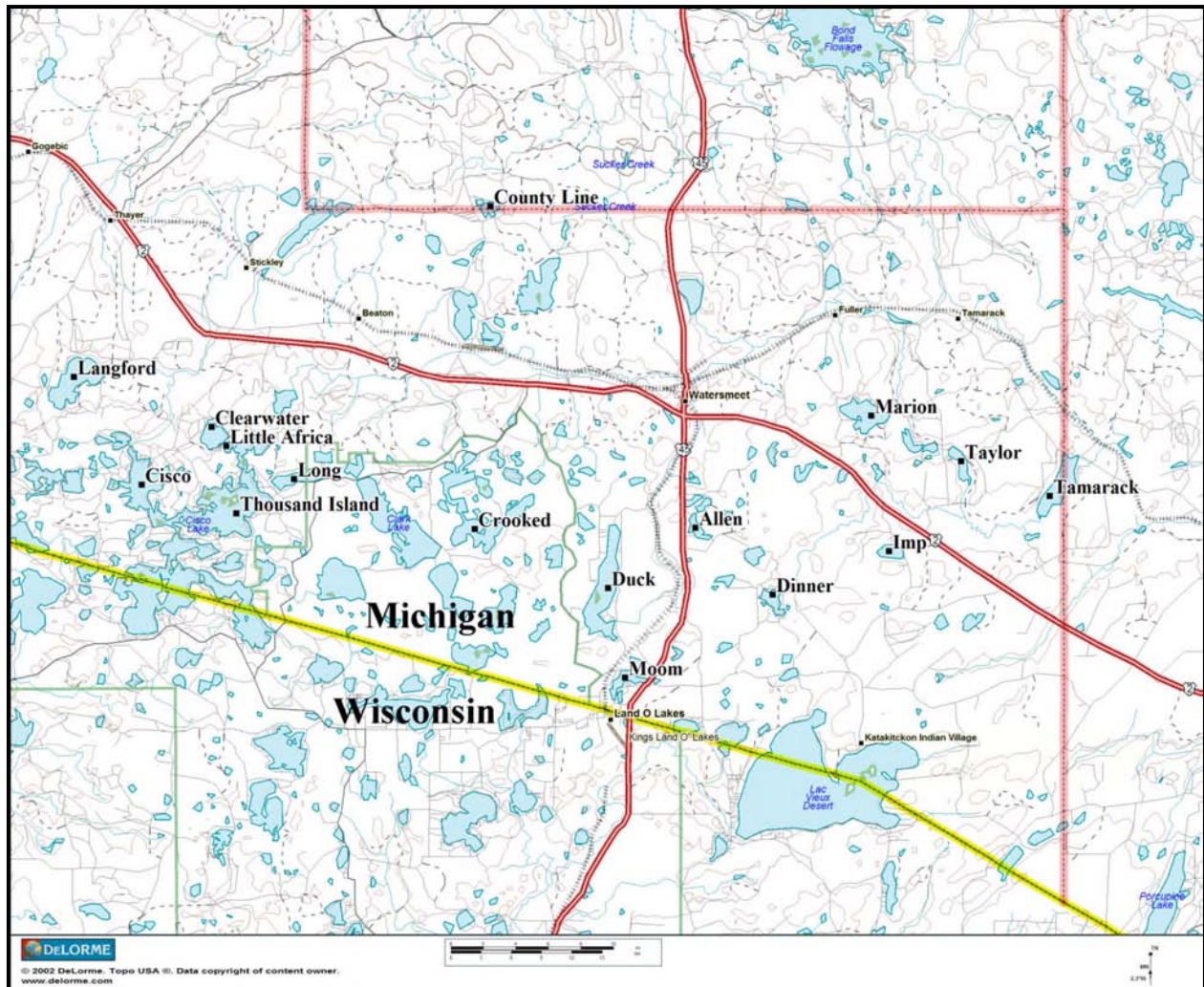


Figure 4. Location of lakes surveyed in the Michigan western Upper Peninsula, summer 2002

from two garden rake heads tied or welded together and attached to a rope was used for plant sampling. The device was thrown twice 10 to 20 ft from the boat and dragged back to the boat along the lake bottom. All plant species attached to the device were identified (Borman et al. 1997; Crow and Hellquist 2000a; Crow and Hellquist 2000b) and recorded. Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus* L.), another invasive exotic species, were also observed visually from the surface while traversing from one sample point to another. These locations were recorded and boundaries of these plant colonies were mapped using a GPS. Voucher samples to document plant identification were collected and sent to the University of Michigan Herbarium (Ann Arbor, MI) for verification and archiving. Species listed as USFS, Regional Forester’s Sensitive Plants (RFSS) or listed as STE plant species for Michigan, Wisconsin, or Minnesota were also identified.

Since light may determine plant species distribution in a lake (Barko et al. 1986), secchi depth as light transparency measurements may indicate where Eurasian watermilfoil might invade a lake. For each lake, the potential area that could be infested by watermilfoil was calculated by determining the percentage of sample points that were less than or equal to the MRD and by determining the percentage of points that currently supported aquatic plants. The percent occurrence of a plant species was determined by the number of points a species occurred divided by the total number of sampling points in each lake (Madsen 1999).

Plant communities were qualitatively evaluated using the Wisconsin Floristic Quality Assessment (WFQA) system (Griffin and Bernthal 2003). The WFQA system uses a coefficient of conservatism (CoC) to rank each plant species on a scale of 0 to 10. A plant with a CoC of 10 would most likely be found only in a pristine natural community or pre-settlement condition; conversely, a plant with a CoC of 0 could be found anywhere, but would most likely be found in highly disturbed or degraded areas. The floristic quality index ( $I$ ) of each lake was determined by multiplying the square root of the number of species ( $\sqrt{N}$ ) by the average CoC ( $\text{CoC}_{\text{avg}}$ ) for all species found in that lake:  $I = \text{CoC}_{\text{avg}} * \sqrt{N}$  (Nichols 1999).



# 3 Results and Discussion

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## General Lake Conditions

All lakes in the Cisco Chain, except Little Africa, were well developed with shoreline residences, as were most of the other surveyed lakes. Because it was part of the SWA, Long Lake was undeveloped. Crooked Lake, although part of the SWA, was developed on the north end; consequently, residents and guests of these houses and resorts were allowed to use motorized boats. Lake surface area ranged from 18 acres on Little Africa Lake to 1,000 acres on Thousand Island Lake (Table 1). Mean depths ranged from 7 ft in Clearwater and Little Africa Lakes to 39 ft in Imp Lake (Table 1). Most lakes assessed had mean depths of between 10 and 20 ft. Secchi depth readings ranged from 5.1 ft at Little Africa and Tamarack Lakes to 29.7 ft at Moon Lake, and the resulting MRD ranged from 9 to 38 ft (Table 1). Three lakes had MRD greater than 20 ft and two had an MRD of less than 10 ft. The percentage of sample points with water depths < MRD ranged from 33 percent on Allen Lake to 100 percent on Moon Lake (Table 2).

## Overview of Eurasian Watermilfoil Infestations and Native Plant Communities

No Eurasian watermilfoil was found in the plant surveys conducted on Clearwater and Little Africa Lakes, which were the sites of infestations in 2000. Because of the selective use of 2,4-D in 2001, these lakes continued to support large stands of native vegetation. Based on the 2002 aquatic plant survey, Clearwater Lake had the highest percentage of sample points with aquatic plants of any of the lakes surveyed (70 percent), most numerous species (22), and the highest  $CoC_{avg}$  rating (6.7) of any lake in the Cisco Chain of Lakes (Table 2). The  $I$  was relatively high (31.4).

Eurasian watermilfoil was found in Crooked and Langford Lakes. Both infestations were small and in the immediate vicinity of the USFS public access boat ramps. Five individual plants were found at Crooked Lake within 100 ft of the boat ramp; these plants were pulled and removed by hand. The infestation at Langford Lake consisted of scattered plants along a 100-yd band on either side of the boat ramp. The infestation extended about 50 ft out from the ramp.

**Table 2**  
**Summary of Vegetation Assessment for Each Lake Surveyed in July 2002**

Lake	Total Sample Pts	Total No. Pts < MRD <sup>1</sup>	% of Pts < MRD	No. of Pts with Plants	% of Pts with Plants	Total No. Plant Species	CoC <sub>avg</sub> <sup>2</sup>	I <sup>3</sup>
Allen	40	13	33	12	30	15	6.9	26.7
Cisco	223	153	69	134	60	23	6.6	32.1
Clearwater	80	66	83	56	70	22	6.7	31.4
County Line	37	20	54	11	30	7	7.4	19.6
Crooked	281	245	87	156	56	28	6.5	33.8
Dinner	50	45	90	17	34	15	6.5	25.9
Duck	247	116	47	109	44	31	7.1	39.5
Imp	37	11	30	9	22	12	7.9	27.4
Langford	207	135	65	95	46	31	6.8	37.1
Little Africa	12	7	58	7	58	13	6.6	23.9
Long	68	44	65	34	50	19	7.8	34.0
Marion	109	62	57	27	25	19	7.3	31.8
Moon	29	29	100	10	34	12	7.5	26.0
Tamarack	146	48	33	27	18	14	6.0	22.4
Taylor	52	16	31	12	23	22	6.4	30.0
Thousand Island	429	181	42	146	34	31	6.5	36.0

<sup>1</sup> Mean rooting depth.

<sup>2</sup> Average Coefficient of Conservatism.

<sup>3</sup> Floristic Quality Index.

In addition, one Eurasian watermilfoil specimen was collected from Big Africa Lake, which is in the Cisco Chain of Lakes downstream from Little Africa Lake and upstream from Thousand Island Lake; however, no additional Eurasian watermilfoil was found. No Eurasian watermilfoil was found in any of the other lakes surveyed.

The percentage of sample points that supported aquatic vegetation ranged from 14 percent on Imp Lake to 70 percent on Clearwater Lake (Table 2). All plants occurred at sample points  $\leq$  the MRD in all of the lakes surveyed. A total of 69 different submersed and emergent aquatic plant species were found in the 16 lakes surveyed (Table 3). Five species found in the plant survey have an official designation of RFSS, either in the Ottawa National Forest or other regional national forests, or designation as STE in Michigan, or the nearby states of Wisconsin and Minnesota (Table 4). Of the five STE species recorded, *Myriophyllum farwellii* was found in the greatest number of the lakes. Any Eurasian watermilfoil management strategies would have to consider impacts on STE plant species. The median CoC<sub>avg</sub> rating calculated from all the species found in the vegetation assessment was 6.7 (Table 2), which indicated the lakes supported vegetation that grew in mostly undisturbed or pristine areas. The median I was 30.7 (Table 2), which corresponds to high floristic quality.

**Table 3**  
**Aquatic Plant Species Found in Lakes of Gogebic County, MI in July 2002**

Scientific Name	Common Name <sup>1</sup>	CoC Rating <sup>2</sup>
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	Water-shield	6
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	Sedge	9
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Coontail	3
<i>Chara</i> spp	Muskgrass	
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	Three-way Sedge	9
<i>Elatine minima</i>	Waterwort	9
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	Needle spikerush	5
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	Creeping spikerush	6
<i>Eleocharis smallii</i>	Spikerush	6
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Common waterweed	6
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	Water horsetail	7
<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	Pipewort	9
<i>Glyceria borealis</i>	Northern manna grass	8
<i>Gratiola aurea</i>	Golden pert	10
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	Northern blue flag	5
<i>Isoetes lacutris</i>	Lake quillwort	8
<i>Isoetes echinospora</i>	Spiny-spored quillwort	8
<i>Isoetes</i> spp	Quillwort	8
<i>Juncus brevicaudatus</i>	Rush	6
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush	4
<i>Juncus pelocarpus</i>	Brown-fruited rush	8
<i>Lemna triscula</i>	Forked duckweed	6
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	Water lobelia	10
<i>Lysimachia terrestris</i>	Bulbil loosestrife	7
<i>Megalodonta beckii</i>	Water marigold	8
<i>Myriophyllum farwellii</i>	Farwell's watermilfoil	8
<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	Northern watermilfoil	6
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian watermilfoil	
<i>Myriophyllum tenellum</i>	Dwarf watermilfoil	10
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	Slender naiad	6
<i>Nuphar advena</i>	Yellow pond lily	8
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ssp <i>variegata</i>	Spatterdock	6
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	White water lily	6
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Giant reed	1
<i>Pontedaria cordata</i>	Pickerelweed	8
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	Water smartweed	5
<i>Potamogeton alpinus</i>	Alpine pondweed	9
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	Large-leaf pondweed	7
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	Ribbon-leaf pondweed	8
<i>Potamogeton friesii</i>	Frie's pondweed	8

(Continued)

<sup>1</sup> Common name according to Borman et al. 1997.

<sup>2</sup> Coefficient of Conservatism.

<b>Table 3 (Concluded)</b>		
<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Common Name<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>CoC Rating<sup>2</sup></b>
<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	Variable pondweed	7
<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	Floating-leaf pondweed	5
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	Small pondweed	7
<i>Potamogeton pusillus ssp tenuissimus</i>	Small pondweed	7
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	Clasping-leaf pondweed	5
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	Robbins pondweed	8
<i>Potamogeton spirillus</i>	Spiral-fruited pondweed	8
<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	Flat-stem pondweed	6
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Creeping spearwort	9
<i>Ranunculus flammula var. filiformis</i>	Creeping spearwort	9
<i>Ranunculus longirostris</i>	Stiff water crowfoot	8
<i>Riccia fluitans</i>	Slender riccia	7
<i>Sagittaria graminea var. cristata</i>	Grass-leaved arrowhead	9
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	Common arrowhead	3
<i>Scirpus tabernaemontani</i>	Soft-stemmed bulrush	4
<i>Scirpus acutus</i>	Hardstem bulrush	6
<i>Scirpus subterminalis</i>	Water bulrush	9
<i>Sparganium augustifolium</i>	Narrow-leaf bur-reed	9
<i>Sparganium chlorocarpum</i>	Short-stemmed bur-reed	8
<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>	Common bur-reed	5
<i>Sparganium fluctuans</i>	Floating-leaf bur-reed	10
<i>Stuckenia pectinata</i>	Sago pondweed	3
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Broad-leaved cattail	1
<i>Utricularia intermedia</i>	Flat-leaf bladderwort	9
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	Bladderwort	7
<i>Utricularia resupinata</i>	Small purple bladderwort	9
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	Wild celery	6
<i>Zizania aquatica</i>	Wild rice	8
<i>Zosterella dubia</i>	Water stargrass	6

<sup>1</sup> Common name according to Borman et al. 1997.  
<sup>2</sup> Coefficient of Conservatism.

Tamarack Lake was unique because the water was stained with tannins and humic acids that caused low visibility. The percentage of sample points supporting vegetation in Tamarack was relatively low (18 percent) as was the number of species found (12). Consequently, the CoC<sub>avg</sub> rating was the lowest of the lakes surveyed (6.0) and the *I* was 22.4 (Table 2).

On lakes such as County Line, Dinner, Long, Marion, and Moon, there were high percentages (>50 percent) of sample points less than the MRD; however, the percentage of sample points that actually supported vegetation was much lower (<35 percent). These lakes were very clear, with sand, gravel, and rocky substrates and would be classified as oligotrophic. While the MRD indicated that plants could grow in deeper water, substrates may have inhibited plant

**Table 4**  
**Species Found in Lakes That Are Listed as Sensitive, Threatened,**  
**and Endangered in the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Plants (RFSS)**  
**or in the States of Michigan (MI), Wisconsin (WI), or Minnesota (MN)**

Species	USDA ID Code <sup>1</sup>	No. of Lakes	RFSS	MI	WI	MN
<i>Gratiola aurea</i>	GRAU	1		T <sup>4</sup>	SC <sup>5</sup>	
<i>Myriophyllum farwellii</i>	MYFA2	4	ONF <sup>2</sup>	T	SC	
<i>Scirpus subterminalis</i>	SCSU10	3	ONF			
<i>Utricularia resupinata</i>	UTRE	3	Other <sup>3</sup>		SC	SC
<i>Zizania aquatica</i>	ZIPA3	1				

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture plant identification code.  
<sup>2</sup> Species is designated as RFSS in Ottawa National Forest.  
<sup>3</sup> Species designated RFSS in other national forests but not in Ottawa National Forest.  
<sup>4</sup> Threatened species.  
<sup>5</sup> Species of concern.

colonization. Common submersed plant species in these lakes included *Lobelia dortmanna*, *Myriophyllum tenellum*, *Eleocharus* sp, *Brasenia schreberi*, and *Ranunculus flammula*. Although CoC<sub>avg</sub> ratings for these lakes ranged from 7.1 to 7.8 (Table 2), *I* values ranged from 19.6 to 34.0 (Table 2).

Other lakes, particularly those in the Cisco Chain of Lakes, and Duck, Crooked, Langford, and Taylor Lakes, had softer silt sediments that were more amenable to aquatic vegetation colonization. Common submersed plant species included large stands of mixed *Potamogeton* spp., *Myriophyllum sibiricum*, *Eloдея canadensis*, and *Vallisneria americana*. The percentage of points supporting vegetation was similar to the percentage of points with water depths less than the MRD (Table 2). These lakes also supported more species diversity (>20 species), but received lower CoC<sub>avg</sub> ratings (6.4 to 6.7; Table 2); however, *I* values for these lakes were higher (30 to 39.5; Table 2) than the oligotrophic lakes.

Differences between western Upper Peninsula oligotrophic lakes and lakes of the Cisco Chain are similar to those reported for the lakes of Northern Forests and Lakes (NFL) and the flowages of Northern Forests and Lakes (NFLF) of Wisconsin (Nichols 1999). Number of species reported for the NFL ranged from 10.8 to 31.3, the median CoC<sub>avg</sub> rating was 6.2, and the median *I* value was 28.3; these values correspond to lakes found in the Cisco Chain. Number of species reported for the NFLF ranged from 7 to 20, the median CoC<sub>avg</sub> rating was 6.7, and the median *I* value was 24.3; these values correspond to oligotrophic lakes.

Native aquatic plant communities of Gogebic County lakes were diverse and abundant. Based on the WFQA system, native plant communities were characterized as mostly pristine, typically found in isolated or well-protected areas. The SWA is a protected wilderness area, yet Crooked Lake had a small infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil, which was also found in Langford Lake. Both infestations were found near the public access boat ramps.

Clearly, Eurasian watermilfoil is threatening to become established in Gogebic County. Based on the currently published literature (Smith and Barko 1990), exact predictions cannot be made on the magnitude of the effect Eurasian watermilfoil will have if it becomes permanently established. From vegetation assessments, the Cisco Chain of Lakes, lakes in the SWA, Duck Lake, and Langford Lake probably have the highest risk of developing nuisance-level infestations. Plants found in these lakes indicated conditions were more conducive to rapid expansion of new infestations (Nichols and Buchan 1997). Moreover, the MRD data also indicated that many of these lakes could potentially support 50 to 70 percent coverage of the surface, which would be detrimental to native plant and animal communities as well as recreation and aesthetics. The small oligotrophic lakes found scattered throughout Gogebic County were less likely to support large, dense stands of Eurasian watermilfoil even though the secchi depth and MRD data indicated that plants could cover much of the lake surface area. Types of plants found in these lakes suggested that substrate and available nutrients may not be adequate to support rapid expansion of Eurasian watermilfoil, if it were introduced. Small, submersed colonies of Eurasian watermilfoil may not pose a threat to recreation and aesthetic appeal, but could be a threat to these fragile shoreline native plant communities. Moreover, small Eurasian watermilfoil populations would be a source for other infestations.

Past experience at Clearwater Lake has shown that, once Eurasian watermilfoil is introduced, it rapidly expands and moves into nearby interconnected lakes such as Little Africa and Big Africa. However, if managed early with appropriate control techniques, Eurasian watermilfoil may be stopped and possibly eradicated. Results of the 2002 aquatic plant survey on Clearwater and Little Africa Lakes demonstrated that applying aquatic herbicides selectively controls not only the invading exotic plants, but protects valuable native plant communities, including STE species. Early detection of exotic plant invasions is vital to stopping new infestations from becoming established, maximizing protection of native plant communities, and minimizing the cost of control.

## **Management of Pioneer Eurasian Watermilfoil Infestations**

Eurasian watermilfoil is an exotic aquatic plant that has been in Wisconsin and Michigan since the early 1970s (Nichols 1994), and negatively impacts biotic and abiotic lake interactions (Nichols and Shaw 1986; Smith and Barko 1990). Formation of dense surface canopies by species such as Eurasian watermilfoil reduce native plant diversity and abundance (Madsen et al. 1991; Boylen et al. 1999), resulting in a decrease in aquatic macroinvertebrate diversity (Keast 1984). Moreover, when plant coverage exceeds 30 percent of a lake littoral zone, predatory fish such as bass remain small, causing overall fish production to decline (Colle and Shireman 1980; Wiley et al. 1984; Engel 1995; Valley and Bremigan 2002). Abiotic components adversely affected by Eurasian watermilfoil's dense surface canopies are reviewed in Getsinger et al. (2002) and include anoxia below the canopy, enhanced nutrient cycling, and strong vertical gradients in pH and temperature. Pullman (1992) outlines characteristics of Eurasian

watermilfoil that have contributed to its establishment as a major nuisance in Michigan's water resources.

Management techniques for controlling Eurasian watermilfoil in an environmentally sound manner include the use of an indigenous weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei* (Dietz)) as a biocontrol agent. Predictable long-term control using the weevil as an operational tool has been inconsistent (Getsinger et al. 2002). In addition, refinement of stocking rates and a better understanding of life-cycle/population dynamics is needed. An excellent review of these techniques for control of Eurasian watermilfoil in a large Michigan inland lake is provided by Getsinger et al. (2002). Other techniques are more suitable for controlling pioneer infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil, including benthic barriers, hand pulling, diver-operated suction dredging, and use of aquatic herbicides (Madsen 2000).

Benthic barriers serve as blankets blocking light for plant growth or screens physically preventing plant growth. They are usually installed early in the spring right after ice out (Perkins et al. 1980) for one to several months. Synthetic sheeting that blankets the sediment surface may lift away from the lake bottom due to the evolution of gases from plant decomposition (Gunnison and Barko 1992). Screen barriers need to be maintained and cleaned regularly to provide multiple years of control (Engel 1984; Eichler et al. 1995). Because benthic barriers are not species selective, it is considered only when small patches of Eurasian watermilfoil are present or in areas that are ecologically sensitive.

Hand pulling is the most common form of aquatic plant control by lakeshore owners throughout the United States (Madsen 2002). Hand cutters, rakes, or bare hands remove vegetation along shorelines and around boat docks. SCUBA divers can also hand-pull vegetation near the sediment surface to remove the roots and rhizome systems. This method is labor intensive, but hand pulling is selective and can be effective in very localized areas (<1 acre). Plant beds that are too large to hand pull may be removed by a diver-operated suction dredge. A suction dredge is a hydraulic vacuum system created by a fuel-generated pump borrowed from the gold-mining industry. Divers use this method to selectively harvest vegetative stems and roots without removing the sediments. Although this method is labor intensive, it significantly reduces biomass and limits regrowth of the target plant (Eichler et al. 1993).

Effectiveness of aquatic herbicides is predictable and is therefore the most common form of controlling Eurasian watermilfoil in areas too large to hand pull. Moreover, herbicides are less expensive than diver-operated suction dredging and benthic barriers (Madsen 2000). Herbicides registered for use in the United States and permitted by the State of Michigan for Eurasian watermilfoil control are: 2,4-D, fluridone, endothall, and diquat. Success or failure of a herbicide treatment designed to control submersed plants depends upon the herbicide concentration that comes in contact with the target plant concomitant with the length of time a target plant is exposed to the dissipating herbicide concentration. Understanding this concentration exposure time (CET) relationship is critical in achieving desirable control of nuisance submersed plants (Getsinger and Netherland 1997). Each herbicide has different CET requirements, which dictate circumstances where it can be most effective.

Diquat [6,7-dihydro-dipyrido (1,2-a:2',1'-c) pyrazinediium dibromide] is a contact herbicide that acts quickly to burn down plant foliage. Regrowth occurs within 6 to 8 weeks posttreatment. No CET relationships have been developed for diquat that would allow for its use as a method to selectively control Eurasian watermilfoil. When used at rates effective for controlling milfoil, diquat will also control other plants in the treated zone. Although it has a broad spectrum of activity, it may be used for effectively treating small plant beds or cleanup around docks, boat launches, and swimming areas. Broad spectrum removal of submersed aquatic plants in those settings would be seasonal and only represent a small proportion of the total plant community.

Endothall [7-oxabicyclo (2.2.1) heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid] is also a contact herbicide. Research of endothall CET relationships conducted at the ERDC have indicated that milfoil injury was directly proportional to the length of time plants were in contact with a given endothall concentration (Netherland et al. 1991). Control of Eurasian watermilfoil may last 8 weeks or longer. Endothall rates that are effective for milfoil control should have at least 18- to 24-hour exposure times for best results (Netherland et al. 1991). Given these exposure times, water in treatment areas should be quiescent, with minimal flow. Small-scale research has shown that using low rates and exposure times of 1 to 3 days, endothall can be efficacious against Eurasian watermilfoil with minimal damage to nontarget vegetation (Skogerboe and Getsinger 2001, 2002).

Exposure times of 1 to 3 days are also required for control of Eurasian watermilfoil using the low-volatile butoxyethyl ester (BEE) of 2,4-D (2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid; Green and Westerdahl 1990). 2,4-D is a systemic herbicide and, once it is absorbed into plant tissues, shoots start to decay 7 to 14 days after application. Plants decompose slowly 14 to 28 days after application. Young, actively growing milfoil plants are more susceptible to 2,4-D than are mature, slowly growing plants. In cases where milfoil is not completely killed, regrowth can occur in 8 to 12 weeks following the initial application. Control of milfoil is selective at all rates, with minimal injury to nontarget plants (Getsinger et al. 1982; Parsons et al. 2001). 2,4-D has been routinely used to selectively control Eurasian watermilfoil in Michigan lakes and other Midwestern water bodies for many decades (Pullman 1992).

Triclopyr (3,5,6-trichloro-2-pyridinyloxyacetic acid) is a newly registered herbicide for aquatic uses. Similar to 2,4-D in its mode of action and translocation, this systemic herbicide is also effective against Eurasian watermilfoil requiring exposure times of 1 to 3 days (Netherland and Getsinger 1992). Stem epinasty and browning occurs 1 to 2 days after application, while plant decomposition occurs 14 to 28 days after application. Triclopyr is most efficacious against young, actively growing plants. Eurasian watermilfoil may be controlled for 3 years, including the year of treatment, with no adverse effects on native vegetation (Getsinger et al. 1997). Nonetheless, plant regrowth may occur in 4 to 6 weeks if Eurasian watermilfoil is not completely killed during herbicide application.

Fluridone (1-methyl-3-phenyl-5-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]-4(1*H*)-pyridinone) is a systemic herbicide that requires a 45- to 60-day exposure time to be effective. Once the herbicide is absorbed by the plant leaves and stems,



fluridone interrupts the carotenoid biosynthetic pathway; carotenoid pigments are necessary for plants to photosynthesize. Susceptible plants die and decompose slowly. If the treatment is effective, target plant regrowth usually does not occur for more than 12 months (Netherland and Getsinger 1993, 1995a, 1995b). Although a broad-spectrum herbicide, it can be used to selectively control Eurasian watermilfoil with minimal damage to most native aquatic plants using low rates (Netherland et al. 1997; Getsinger et al. 2002).

A permit is required by the State of Michigan for all aquatic herbicide applications. There are special regulatory requirements regarding granular applications of endothall and 2,4-D. Currently, fluridone applications are restricted to spring applications with limits set on application rates. For complete use restrictions of any chemical product, refer to the product label. For permit and application restrictions contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MI-DEQ).

## Lake-Specific Vegetation Assessments

This section presents results of detailed vegetation assessments on the 16 lakes surveyed in this study. Fourteen of the lakes are in Gogebic County, while two lakes, County Line and Tamarack, are on the border of another county, Ontonagon and Iron, respectively.

### Allen Lake

Allen Lake has a surface area of 79 acres (Figure 5) and a mean water depth of 14 ft (Table 1) with a maximum depth of 40 ft. The water was relatively clear with an MRD of 15 ft (Table 5). About 30 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data and 33 percent of plots that fell within the MRD (Table 2). The substrate was mostly hard bottom consisting of rock, gravel, or sand. The most common plants (Table 5) were floating leaf plants, *Brasenia schreberi* and *Nymphaea odorata*, and emergent plants including *Dulichium arundinaceum*, *Equisetum fluviatile*, and *Sparganium* species. Submersed plants occurred mostly in very shallow water and included small plants such as *Eleocharis acicularis*, *Eriocaulon aquaticum*, *Juncus pelocarpus*, *Lobelia dortmanna*, and *Myriophyllum tenellum*, which are indicative of relatively pristine systems based on their CoC rating. Allen Lake had a  $CoC_{avg}$  rating of 6.9 and an *I* of 26.7. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 33 percent of the lake based on the MRD. The substrate and plant species that occurred in the lake suggested that Eurasian watermilfoil may not reach nuisance levels with respect to recreation and aesthetics. Localized infestations, however, might significantly displace native submersed plant populations.

### Cisco Lake

Cisco Lake (Figure 6) is part of the Cisco Chain of Lakes, and has a surface area of 500 acres and a mean depth of 11 ft (Table 1) with a maximum depth of 20 ft. The water was relatively clear with an MRD of 14 ft (Table 1). The lake is

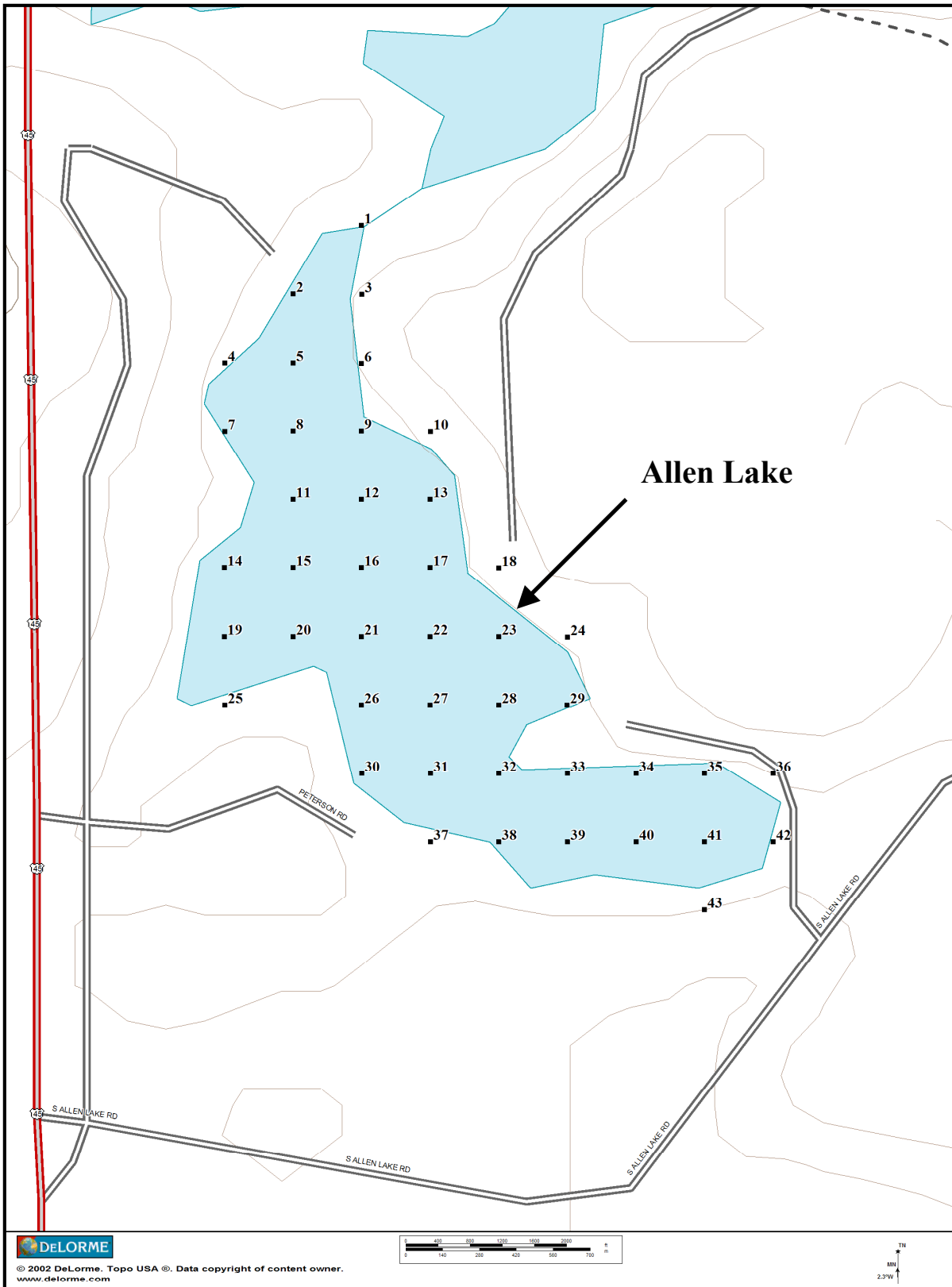


Figure 5. Allen Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

<b>Species</b>	<b>CoC Rating</b>	<b>% Occurrence</b>
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	6	30.80
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	9	26.90
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	5	3.90
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	7	11.50
<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	9	11.50
<i>Juncus pelocarpus</i>	8	3.90
<i>Lemna triscula</i>	6	11.50
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	10	15.40
<i>Myriophyllum tenellum</i>	10	19.20
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ssp <i>variegata</i>	6	7.70
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	11.50
<i>Sparganium augustifolium</i>	9	7.70
<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>	5	3.90
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	1	3.90
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	7	3.90

connected by narrow channels and streams to numerous other lakes in the chain. Cisco Lake can be reached by boat from Clearwater Lake and Little Africa Lake, which were the sites of Eurasian watermilfoil infestations in 2001. About 60 percent of the lake has vegetation based on survey data, and 69 percent of sample locations fell within the MRD (Table 2). Numerous permanent and summer homes line the lakeshore. The substrate is mostly soft sediments with sufficient nutrients to support large stands of pondweeds including *Potamogeton zosteriformis*, *P. robbinsii*, *P. richardsonii*, and *P. pusillus* (Table 6). Other common submersed plants included *Ceratophyllum demersum*, *Elodea canadensis*, and *Myriophyllum sibiricum*. Overall, Cisco Lake had an *I* of 32.1 and a CoC<sub>avg</sub> rating of 6.6. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 69 percent of the lake based on the MRD. The substrate and plant species that occurred in the lake indicated that Eurasian watermilfoil might reach nuisance levels with respect to recreation and aesthetics. Infestations also might adversely impact native submersed plant populations. Once established in Cisco Lake, Eurasian watermilfoil could quickly spread to other lakes in the Cisco Chain of Lakes via boat traffic, water currents, and animals.

### **Clearwater Lake**

Clearwater Lake (Figure 7) is part of the Cisco Chain of Lakes and has a surface area of 170 acres with a mean depth of 7 ft (Table 1) with a maximum of 20 ft. The water was relatively clear with an MRD of 11 ft (Table 1). The lake is connected to numerous other lakes in the chain by streams that flow into Little Africa Lake, then Big Africa Lake, and finally into Thousand Island Lake.

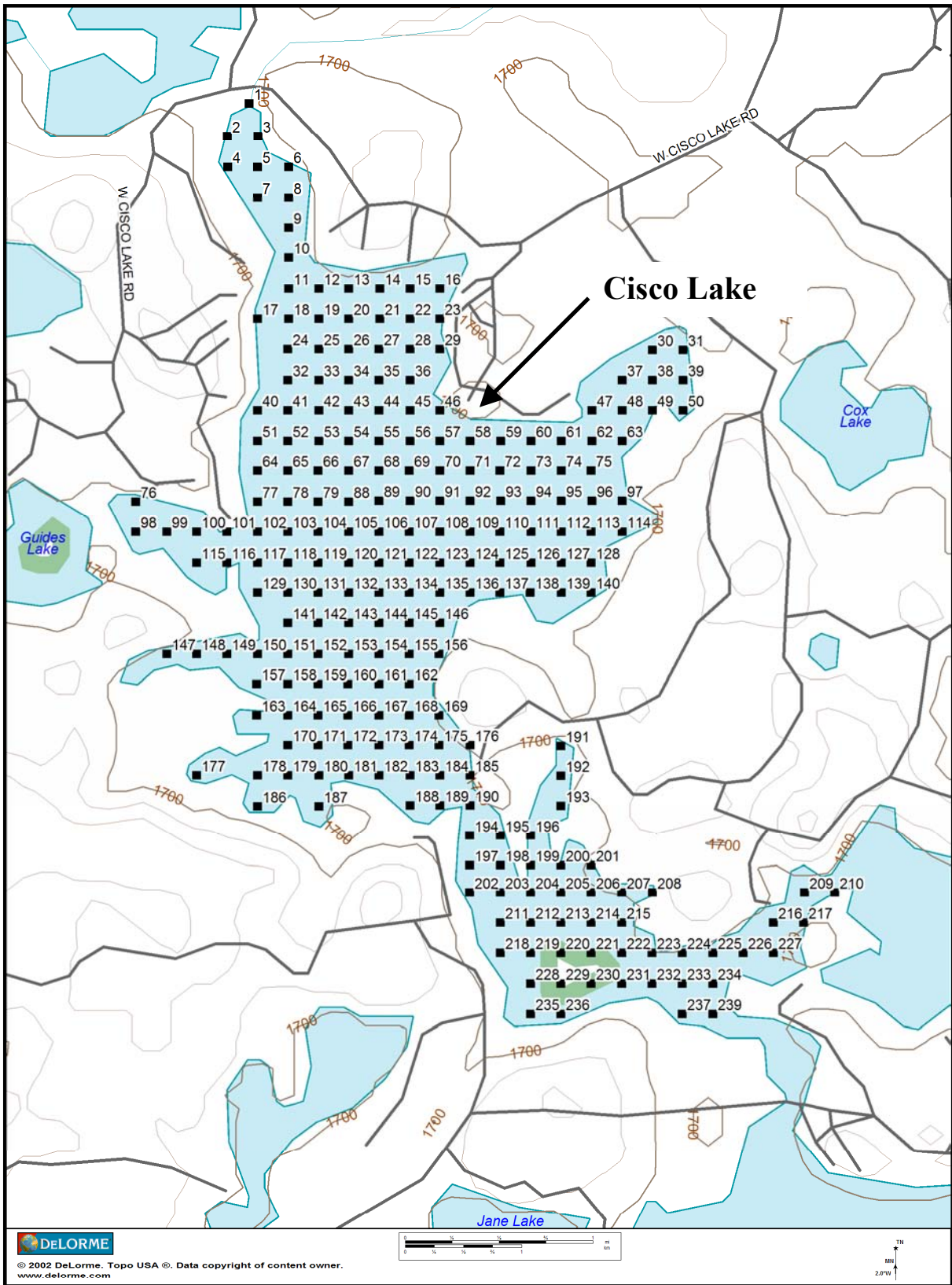


Figure 6. Cisco Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

**Table 6  
Cisco Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results –  
2002**

Species	CoC Rating	% Occurrence
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	6	3.13
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	3	36.50
<i>Chara</i> spp		1.04
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	6	14.58
<i>Lemna triscula</i>	6	4.17
<i>Megalodonta beckii</i>	8	3.13
<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	6	18.75
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	6	4.17
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ssp <i>variegata</i>	8	11.46
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	14.58
<i>Pontedaria cordata</i>	8	2.08
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	7	7.29
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	8	6.25
<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	7	1.04
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	7	12.5
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	5	27.08
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	8	42.71
<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	6	50.00
<i>Ranunculus longirostris</i>	8	2.08
<i>Sparganium augustifolium</i>	9	3.13
<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>	5	2.08
<i>Utricularia microrhiza</i>	7	5.21
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	6	9.38

About 70 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data and 83 percent of sample locations fell within the MRD (Table 2). Numerous permanent and summer homes line the northern and western lakeshore. The southern and eastern shores were mostly forested land managed by the USFS. The substrate consisted of soft sediments with sufficient nutrients to support large stands of pondweeds (Table 7) including *Potamogeton gramineus*, *P. richardsonii*, and *P. amplifolius*. The most common plant was *Vallisneria americana*, and other common plants included *Utricularia vulgaris* and small *Isoetes* species. Overall, Clearwater Lake had a CoC<sub>avg</sub> rating of 6.7 with 21 different species and an *I* of 31.4.

Clearwater Lake is the site of the first reported Eurasian watermilfoil infestation in the region, where 55 acres of the plant occurred in 2000 (L. Esman, MI-DEQ, pers. comm.). The following year, all infested areas were treated with the aquatic herbicide, 2,4-D. In 2002 no Eurasian watermilfoil was found at any of the sample locations or by visual observation while traversing from one sample point to another. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to

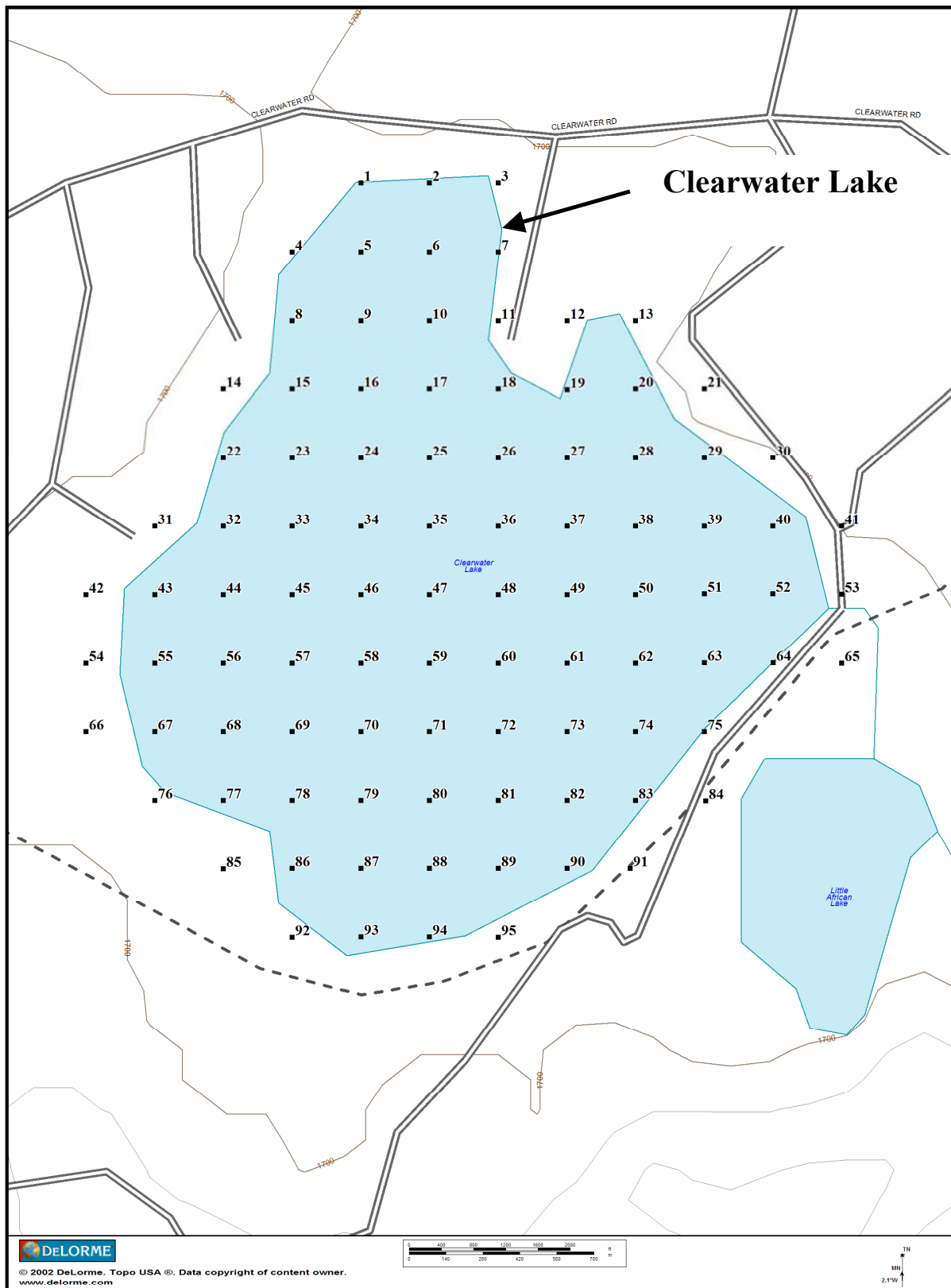


Figure 7. Clearwater Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

**Table 7  
Clearwater Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey  
Results – 2002**

Species	CoC Rating	% Occurrence
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	6	1.41
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	3	1.41
<i>Chara</i> spp		14.08
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	5	7.04
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	6	2.82
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	7	4.23
<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	9	2.82
<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>	8	15.49
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	10	7.04
<i>Myriophyllum tenellum</i>	10	4.23
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ssp <i>variegata</i>	6	8.45
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	4.23
<i>Pontedaria cordata</i>	8	9.86
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	7	15.49
<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	7	26.76
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	5	19.72
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	9	4.23
<i>Sparganium augustifolium</i>	9	4.23
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	1	2.82
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	7	21.13
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	6	36.62

83 percent of the lake based on the MRD. The substrate and plant species that occur in the lake indicated that Eurasian watermilfoil might reach nuisance levels, impacting recreation and aesthetics. Infestations also might adversely impact native submersed plant populations. Once established in Clearwater Lake, Eurasian watermilfoil could quickly spread to other lakes in the Cisco Chain of Lakes via boat traffic, currents, and animals, as was the case when it was found downstream in Little Africa Lake in 2000.

### County Line Lake

County Line Lake has a surface area of 72 acres (Figure 8), a mean water depth of 20 ft (Table 1), and a maximum depth of 65 ft. The water was relatively clear with an MRD of 18 ft (Table 1). Only about 30 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data even though 54 percent of sample points fell within the MRD (Table 2). The substrate was mostly hard bottom consisting of rock, gravel, or sand. The most common plant (Table 8) was the floating leaf plant, *Brasenia schreberi*, and emergent *Sparganium* spp. Submersed species occurred near the shoreline, and included such small plants as *Elatine minima*, *Eleocharis acicularis*, and *Eriocaulon aquaticum*. These plants indicate relatively pristine systems based on their CoC rating. The total number of species

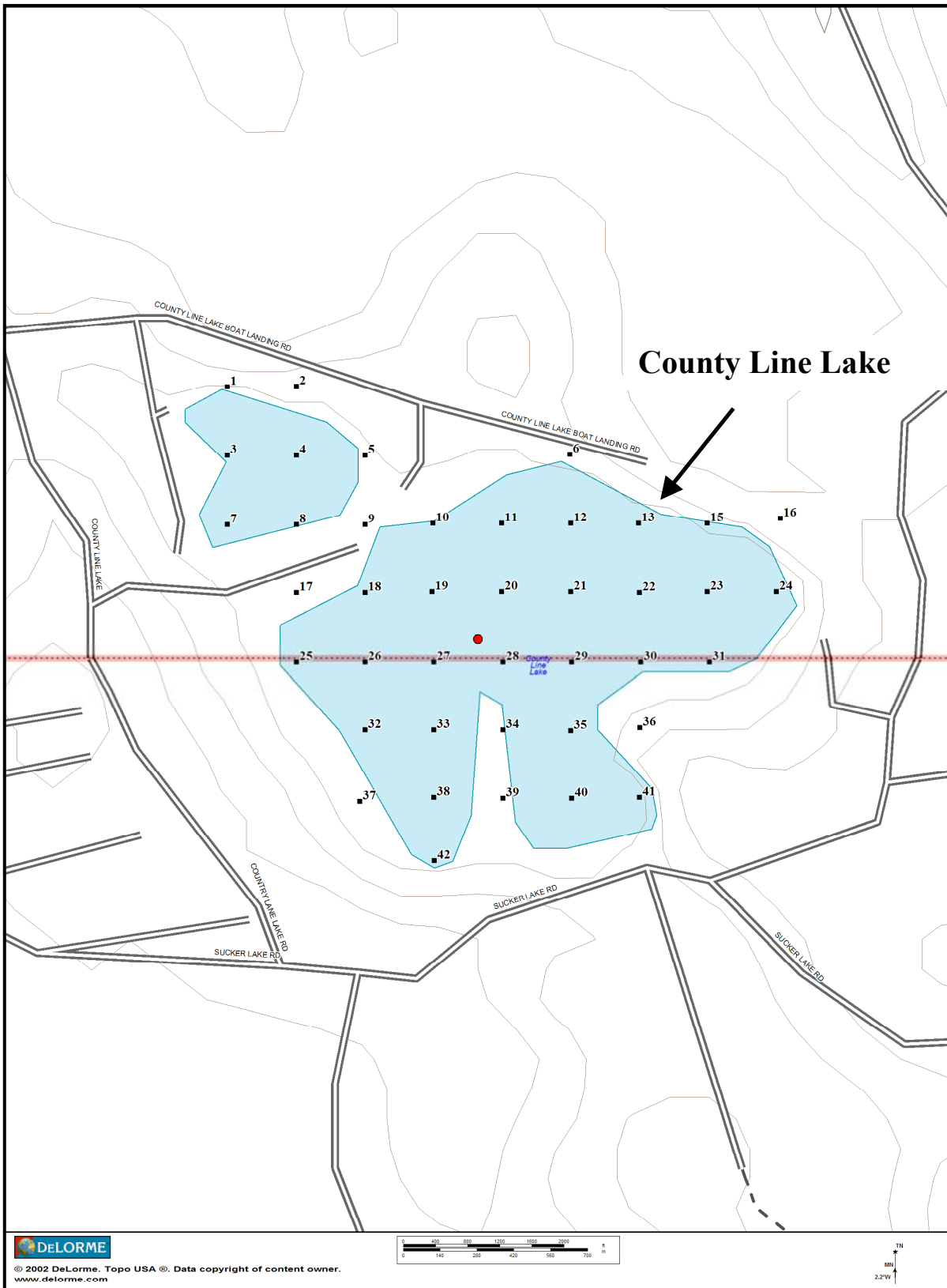


Figure 8. County Line Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points



<b>Table 8 County Line Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results – 2002</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>CoC Rating</b>	<b>% Occurrence</b>
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	6	50.00
<i>Elatine minima</i>	9	4.55
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	5	9.09
<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	9	9.09
<i>Nuphar lutea ssp variegata</i>	8	4.55
<i>Sparganium augustifolium</i>	9	9.09
<i>Sparganium chlorocarpum</i>	8	13.64

was low (7) with an *I* of 19.6, but the  $CoC_{avg}$  rating of 7.7 was one of the highest for the lakes surveyed in this study. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 54 percent of the lake based on the MRD. The substrate and plant species that occurred in the lake indicated that Eurasian watermilfoil may not reach nuisance levels with respect to recreation and aesthetics. Localized infestations, however, could significantly displace native submersed plant populations.

### **Crooked Lake**

Crooked Lake is part of the USFS SWA. A small section in the northernmost bay is privately owned and includes a resort. Although residents and resort guests are allowed to use motorized boats on the lake, boat motor use by the public is prohibited. The lake is not directly connected to other lakes within the SWA, but overland trails are maintained to allow portaging of boats to other lakes. The surface area of Crooked Lake is 566 acres (Figure 9) with a mean depth of 15 ft (Table 1) and a maximum depth of 66 ft. The water in the lake was very clear with an MRD of 26 ft (Table 1). About 56 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data, and 87 percent of sample locations fell within the MRD (Table 2). Much of the substrate contained sufficient nutrients to support large stands of pondweeds (Table 9) including *Potamogeton zosteriformis*, *P. robbinsii*, *P. richardsonii*, and *P. gramineus*. A total of 28 species were collected; the  $CoC_{avg}$  rating was 6.5 with an *I* of 33.8. A large stand of *Zizania aquatica* was found in the southeast bay.

A very small infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil was found near the USFS boat ramp in the northern bay (Figure 9). Five individual plants were found at the site and removed by hand pulling. These samples were destroyed. Although the infestation was controlled, this site should be carefully monitored to ensure that hand-pulling efforts were effective. If more plants are found, the Eurasian watermilfoil should be controlled using aquatic herbicides to prevent spread by boat traffic and animals to other lakes near the SWA. Based on the MRD, Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 69 percent of the lake, which would severely impact recreation and aesthetics and displace native submersed plant populations.

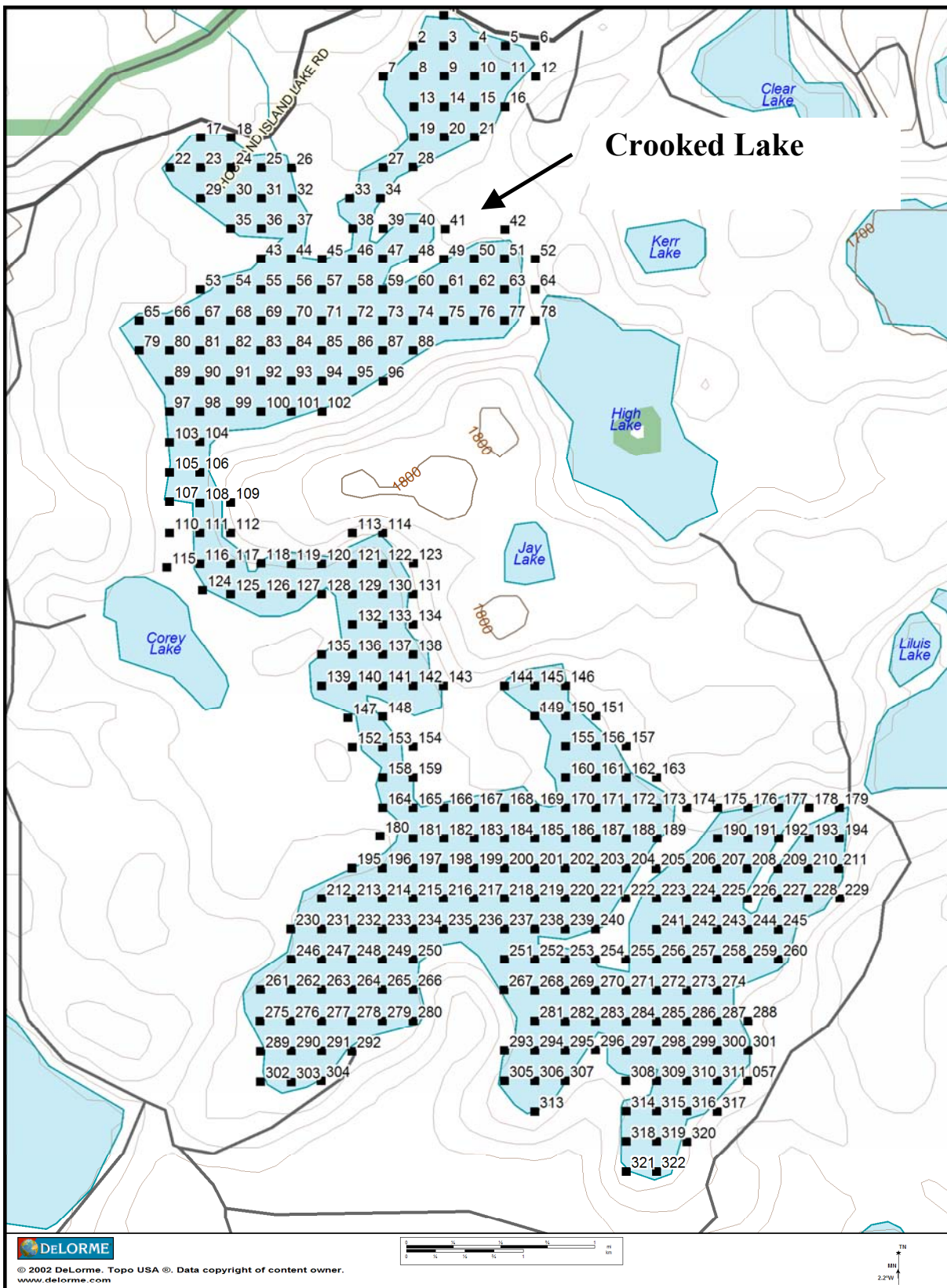


Figure 9. Crooked Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

**Table 9  
Crooked Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results –  
2002**

Species	CoC Rating	% Occurrence
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	6	0.42
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	3	0.42
<i>Chara</i> spp		1.67
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	5	0.42
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	6	9.62
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	5	2.09
<i>Lemna triscula</i>	6	0.84
<i>Megalodonta beckii</i>	8	1.67
<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	6	3.77
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>		0.42
<i>Myriophyllum farwellii</i>	8	0.42
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	6	9.62
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ssp <i>variegata</i>	8	5.02
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	4.18
<i>Pontedaria cordata</i>	8	0.42
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	5	7.95
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	8	5.02
<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	7	4.60
<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	5	2.51
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	7	17.99
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	5	17.15
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	8	22.59
<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	6	29.29
<i>Sagittaria graminea</i> var. <i>cristata</i>	9	2.09
<i>Sparganium augustifolium</i>	10	0.42
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	6	4.60
<i>Zizania aquatica</i>	8	7.11
<i>Zosterella dubia</i>	6	1.67

## Dinner Lake

Dinner Lake has a surface area of 106 acres (Figure 10) and a mean water depth of 11 ft (Table 1) with a maximum depth of 25 ft. The water was relatively clear with an MRD of 19 ft (Table 1). Although 90 percent of sample points fell within the MRD, only about 34 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data (Table 2). The substrate was mostly hard bottom consisting of rock, gravel, or sand, and may have prevented the colonization of a larger plant community. The most common species was the floating leaf plant, *Nymphaea odorata* (Table 10). Common submersed plant species included *Vallisneria americana* and *Sagittaria graminea*. Submersed species occurred mostly in very

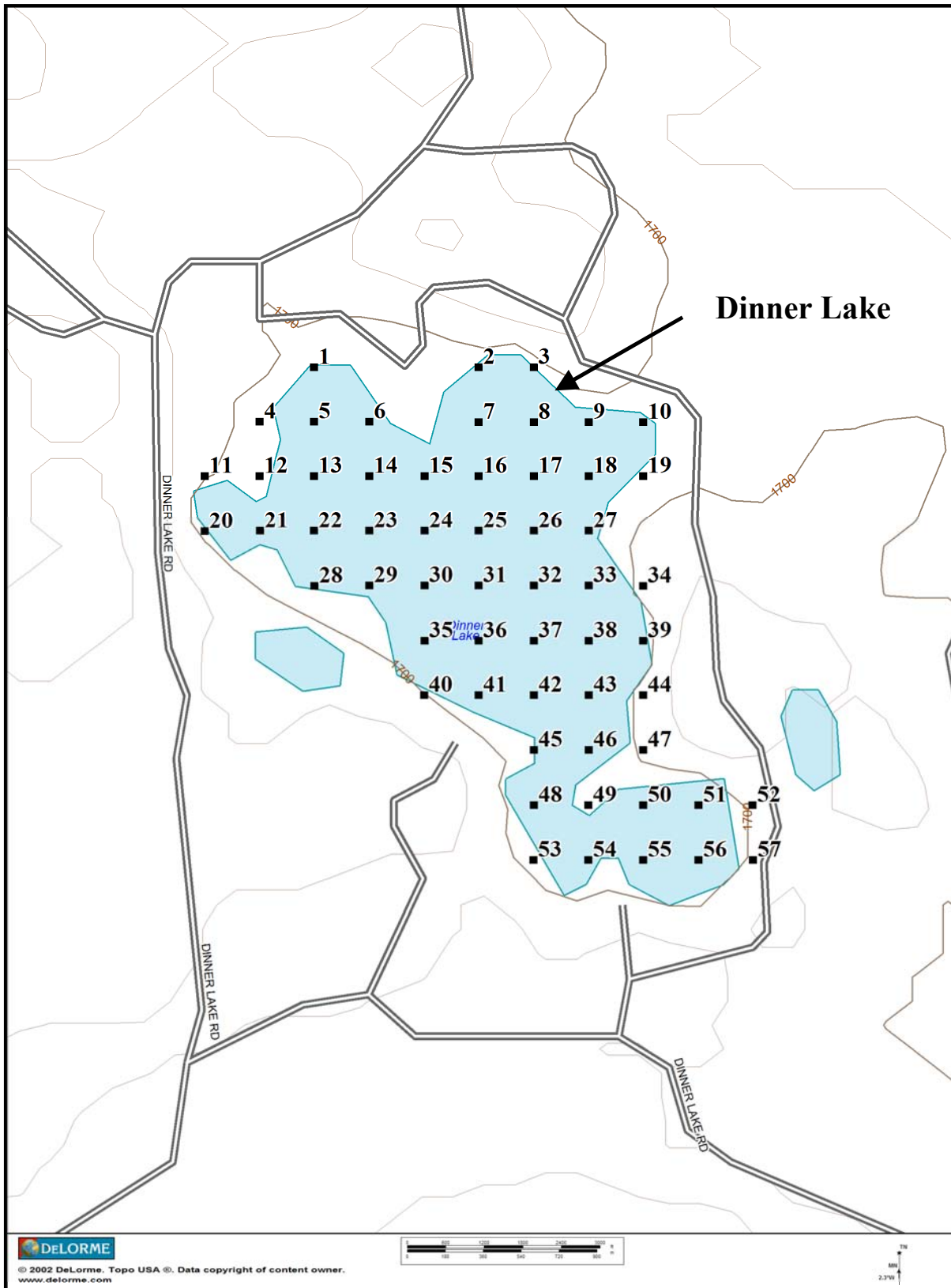


Figure 10. Dinner Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

<b>Table 10 Dinner Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results – 2002</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>CoC Rating</b>	<b>% Occurrence</b>
<i>Chara</i> spp		8.89
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	5	4.44
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	6	6.67
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	5	8.89
<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>	8	2.22
<i>Lemna triscula</i>	6	2.22
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ssp <i>variegata</i>	8	2.22
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	22.22
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	8	4.44
<i>Potamogeton foliosus</i>	6	4.44
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	5	4.44
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	8	2.22
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	9	2.22
<i>Sagittaria graminea</i> var. <i>crinata</i>	9	11.11
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	6	11.11

shallow water and included small plants such as *Elatine minima*, *Eleocharis acicularis*, and *Eriocaulon aquaticum*, which are indicative of relatively pristine systems based on their CoC rating. A number of pondweeds were found, but were uncommon. The total number of species was 14 with a  $CoC_{avg}$  of 6.6 and an *I* of 25.9. Although Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 90 percent of the lake based on the MRD, the substrate and plant survey data indicated that Eurasian watermilfoil might not reach these levels. Localized infestations, however, could have significant adverse effects on native submersed plant populations.

## Duck Lake

Duck Lake has a surface area of 610 acres (Figure 11), a maximum water depth of 25 ft, and a mean depth of 7 ft (Table 1). A sizable island is located in the west central part of the lake. The shoreline is mostly developed, although houses are typically on large lots leaving considerable amounts of undisturbed lakeshore. The water was relatively clear with an MRD of 15 ft (Table 1). A small creek flows into the north end of the lake. The area around the inlet had a soft organic substrate with depths within the MRD. Otherwise, the northern half of the lake east and north of the island was deeper than the MRD, except for a narrow band along the shoreline before a generally steep drop-off to deeper water. A shallow heavily vegetated area within the MRD occurred between the island and the west shore. The outlet of the lake, Duck Creek, is at the southern end of the lake. The southern one-third of the lake had a gradually sloping to level, mostly organic bottom that is within the MRD. Based on the MRD, Eurasian watermilfoil could colonize 47 percent of the lake. About 44 percent



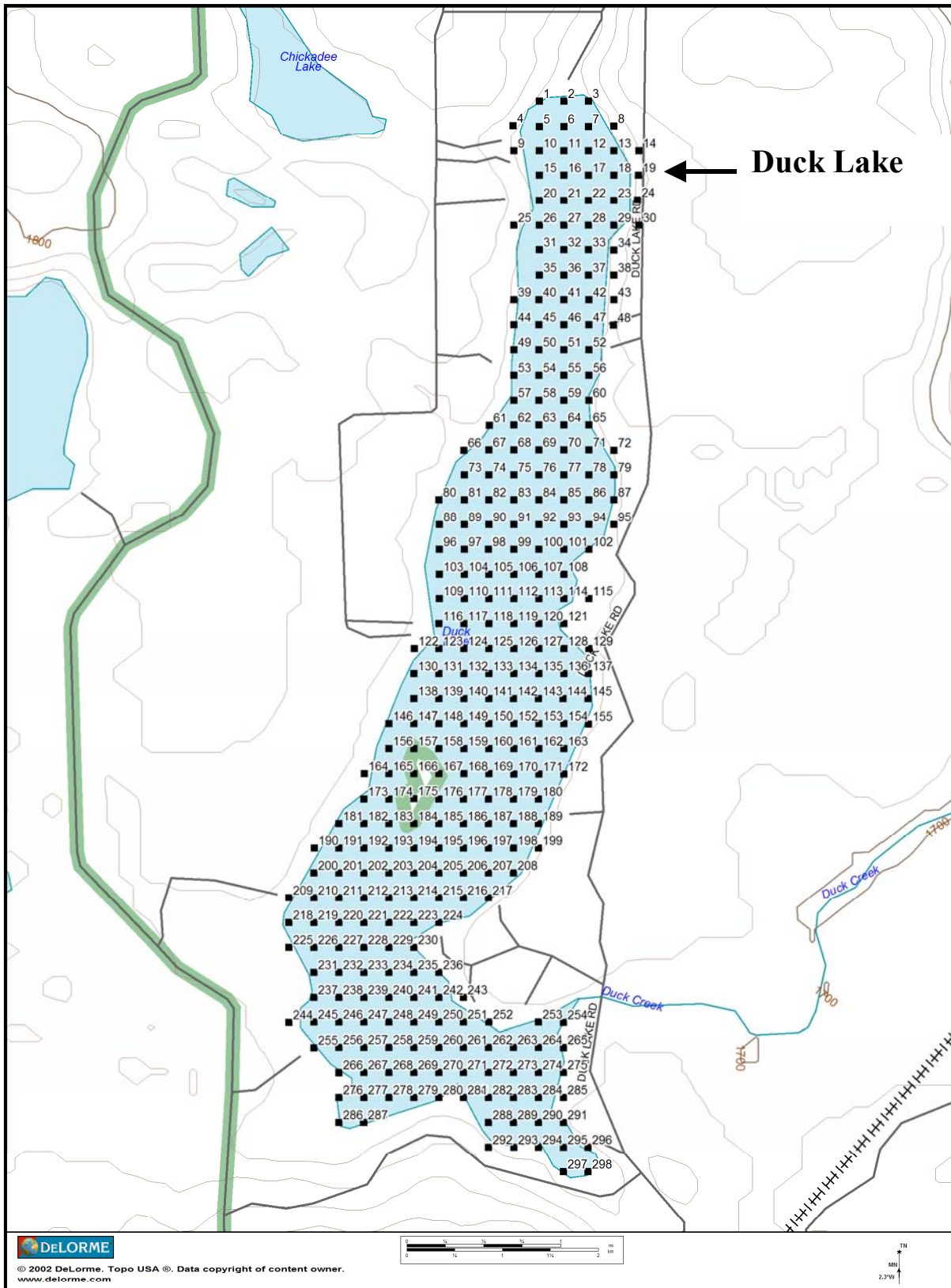


Figure 11. Duck Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

Species	CoC Rating	% Occurrence
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	6	2.59
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	9	Present
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	9	0.86
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	5	4.31
<i>Eleocharis smallii</i>	6	4.31
<i>Elodea Canadensis</i>	6	50.86
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	7	Present
<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>	8	0.86
<i>Isoetes echinospora</i>	8	2.59
<i>Isoetes spp</i>	8	2.59
<i>Juncus pelocarpus</i>	8	4.31
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	10	5.17
<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	6	3.45
<i>Myriophyllum tenellum</i>	10	10.34
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	6	4.31
<i>Nuphar lutea ssp variegata</i>	6	Present
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	1.72
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	1	0.86
<i>Potamogeton alpinus</i>	9	0.86
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	7	55.17
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	8	6.03
<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	7	26.72
<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	5	2.59
<i>Potamogeton pusillus ssp tenuissimus</i>	7	7.76
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	8	38.79
<i>Potamogeton spirillus</i>	8	0.86
<i>Rannunculus flammula var. filiformis</i>	9	3.45
<i>Sagittaria graminea</i>	9	0.86
<i>Scirpus acutus</i>	6	2.59
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	7	0.86
<i>Vallisneria Americana</i>	6	17.24

of the lake had some vegetation based on the number of points that fell within the MRD (Table 2). Shallow organic bottom bays in the southern end of the lake were covered with floating vegetation (Table 11) consisting of *Brasenia schreberi* and *Potamogeton natans* on the surface with *Elodea canadensis*, *Potamogeton amplifolius*, and *P. robbinsii* most common beneath. Deeper areas in the lake were dominated by *Elodea canadensis*, *P. amplifolius*, and *P. robbinsii*, with *P. gramineus* and *Vallisneria americana* also common. *Lobelia dortmanna*, *Myriophyllum tenellum*, *Juncus pelocarpus*, *Eleocharis acicularis*, *Najas flexilis*, and *Isoetes* species made up the typical vegetation community in shallow areas with a hard bottom. These areas also had *Scirpus acutus* and *Eleocharis smallii* as typical emergents. *P. amplifolius*, *Elodea canadensis*, *P. robbinsii*, and *P. gramineus* were the most common aquatic plants occurring on 55, 51, 39, and 27 percent of all points respectively. The  $CoC_{avg}$  rating of the lake was 7.1 and the *I* was 39.5.

## Imp Lake

Imp Lake has a surface area of 74 acres (Figure 12) and a mean depth of 39 ft (Table 1) with a maximum depth of 80 ft. The water was very clear with an MRD of 29 ft (Table 1). The substrate was mostly hard bottom consisting of rock, gravel, or sand. Much of the lake is very deep, and the deepest point is greater than 90 ft. Only about 14 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data and 30 percent of sample points fell within the MRD (Table 2). The most common species were the floating leaf plants, *Nuphar lutea* ssp *variegata* and *Nymphae odorata*, and emergent plants, *Sparganium angustifolium*, *Juncus pelocarpus*, *J. effusus*, *Elatine minima*, and *Glyceria borealis* (Table 12). The total number of plant species was low (11), and the number of submersed species was only 2, *Eriocaulon aquaticum* and *Potamogeton epihydrus*. The  $CoC_{avg}$  rating of 7.9 was one of the highest for the lakes surveyed, and the  $I$  was 27.4. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 30 percent of the lake based on the MRD. The substrate and plant species that occurred in the lake indicated that Eurasian watermilfoil might not reach nuisance levels. Localized infestations, however, could significantly displace native submersed plant populations.

## Langford Lake

The surface area of Langford Lake is 476 acres (Figure 13) with a mean depth of 8 ft (Table 1). The water in the lake was very clear with an MRD of 26 ft (Table 1). The lakeshore consists partly of permanent and summer lake homes, and the remainder is a portion of the Ottawa National Forest. The public boat ramp and campground on the northeast side of the lake is managed by the USFS. About 46 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data, and 65 percent of sample locations fell within the MRD (Table 2). Much of the substrate is soft sediments with sufficient nutrients to support large stands of pondweeds (Table 13) including *Potamogeton amplifolius*, *P. gramineus*, *P. richardsonii*, *P. robbinsii*, and *P. zosteriformis*. A total of 31 species were collected, which was the most for any lake surveyed, and the  $I$  was 37.1. The  $CoC_{avg}$  rating was 6.8. Eurasian watermilfoil was found near the USFS boat ramp on the west side of the bay (Figure 13), scattered in a 100-yd strip in front of the ramp and campground out to about 20 yd from shore. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 65 percent of the lake based on the MRD. The substrate and plant species that occur in the lake indicate that Eurasian watermilfoil could reach nuisance levels with respect to recreation and aesthetics. Infestations could also have significant adverse impacts on the submersed plant populations. Once established in Langford Lake, Eurasian watermilfoil could spread to other lakes in the area via boat traffic, the outflow stream, and animals. The present infestation is very small, but is probably too large to be controlled effectively by SCUBA divers and hand-pulling techniques. Therefore, the infested area should be treated as soon as possible with an approved aquatic herbicide. The site should then be carefully monitored to ensure that the herbicide application was effective. In many cases, a second herbicide application or more hand pulling may be necessary to eradicate the infestation.



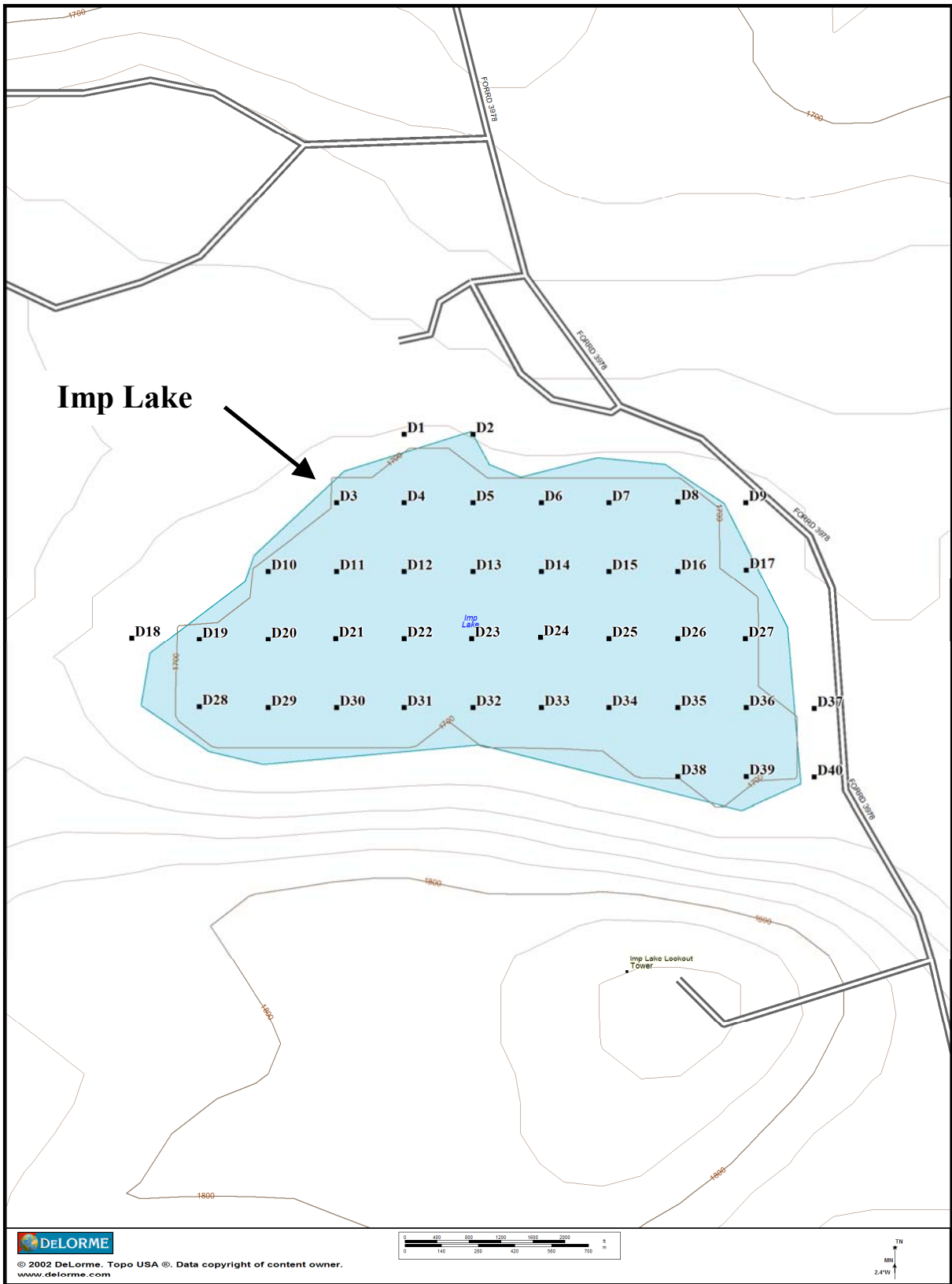


Figure 12. Imp Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

**Table 12**  
**Imp Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results – 2002**

Species	CoC Rating	% Occurrence
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	9	6.67
<i>Elatine minima</i>	9	13.33
<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	9	6.67
<i>Glyceria borealis</i>	8	13.33
<i>Juncus effuses</i>	4	13.33
<i>Juncus pelocarpus</i>	8	33.33
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	10	6.67
<i>Nuphar lutea ssp variegata</i>	6	6.67
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	6.67
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	8	6.67
<i>Sparganium augustifolium</i>	9	26.67
<i>Utricularia resupinata</i>	9	6.67

### Little Africa Lake

Little Africa Lake is part of the Cisco Chain of Lakes. The lake is between Clearwater and Big Africa Lakes and is connected to both by a stream. The surface area is 18 acres (Figure 14), with a mean depth of 7 ft (Table 1). The MRD of the lake is 9 ft (Table 1). Little Africa Lake does not have a public access boat ramp; however, a small infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil occurred in 2000, probably transported to the site by the stream flowing in from Clearwater Lake. An area of less than 1 acre was treated with the aquatic herbicide 2,4-D in summer 2001. About 58 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data, and 58 percent of sample locations fell within the MRD (Table 2). No homes were built along the lake. The substrate consisted mostly of soft sediments with sufficient nutrients to support large stands of pondweeds (Table 14) including *Potamogeton amplifolius*, *P. epihydrus*, *P. richardsonii*, *P. robbinsii*, and *Stuckenia pectinata*. Other common species included the floating leaf plants, *Nuphar lutea ssp variegata*, *Nymphaea*, and *Brasenia schreberi*, emergent plants including *Pontedaria cordata* and *Sparganium augustifolium*. *Utricularia vulgaris* and *Ceratophyllum demersum* were also common. Little Africa Lake had a CoC<sub>avg</sub> rating of 6.7 and an *I* of 23.9. No Eurasian watermilfoil was found at any of the sample locations or by visual observation while traversing from one sample point to another. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 58 percent of the lake based on the MRD and plant survey data. The substrate and plant species that occur in the lake indicate that Eurasian watermilfoil could reach nuisance levels with respect to recreation and aesthetics. Infestations could also have significant adverse impacts on the submersed plant populations. Once established in Little Africa Lake, Eurasian watermilfoil could quickly spread to other lakes in the Cisco Chain of Lakes via boat traffic, water currents, and animals as was the case when Eurasian watermilfoil was found downstream from Clearwater Lake, in Little Africa Lake in 2000, and in Big Africa Lake in 2002. The herbicide application conducted in summer 2001 was very effective. No Eurasian watermilfoil was found in Little Africa Lake in summer 2002, but the lake continued to support native aquatic plants, including 13 different species, at 58 percent of the sample locations.

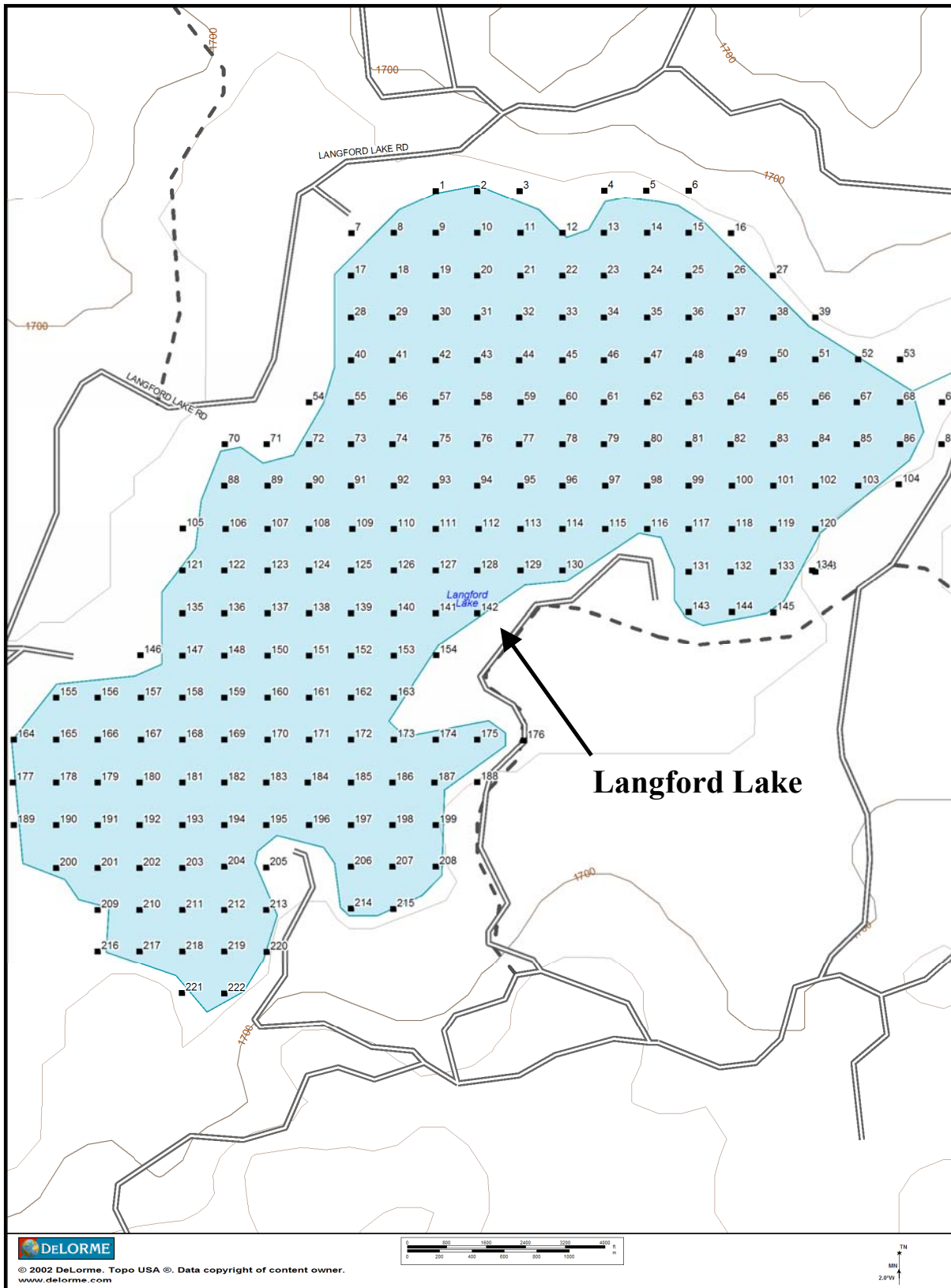


Figure 13. Langford Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

**Table 13**  
**Langford Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results – 2002**

Species	CoC Rating	% Occurrence
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	6	8.59
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	3	3.13
<i>Chara</i> spp		3.91
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	5	0.78
<i>Eleocharis palustris</i>	6	1.56
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	6	13.28
<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	9	0.78
<i>Lemna triscula</i>	6	0.78
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	10	3.13
<i>Megalodonta beckii</i>	8	3.13
<i>Myriophyllum farwellii</i>	8	1.56
<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	6	0.78
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>		0.78
<i>Myriophyllum tenellum</i>	10	0.78
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	6	2.34
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ssp <i>variegata</i>	6	7.81
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	13.28
<i>Pontedaria cordata</i>	8	1.56
<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	5	2.34
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	7	33.59
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	8	0.78
<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	7	20.31
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	5	34.38
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	8	17.19
<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	6	21.09
<i>Scirpus acutus</i>	6	11.72
<i>Sparganium chlorocarpum</i>	8	0.78
<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>	5	0.78
<i>Utricularia intermedia</i>	9	1.56
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	7	2.34
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	6	4.69

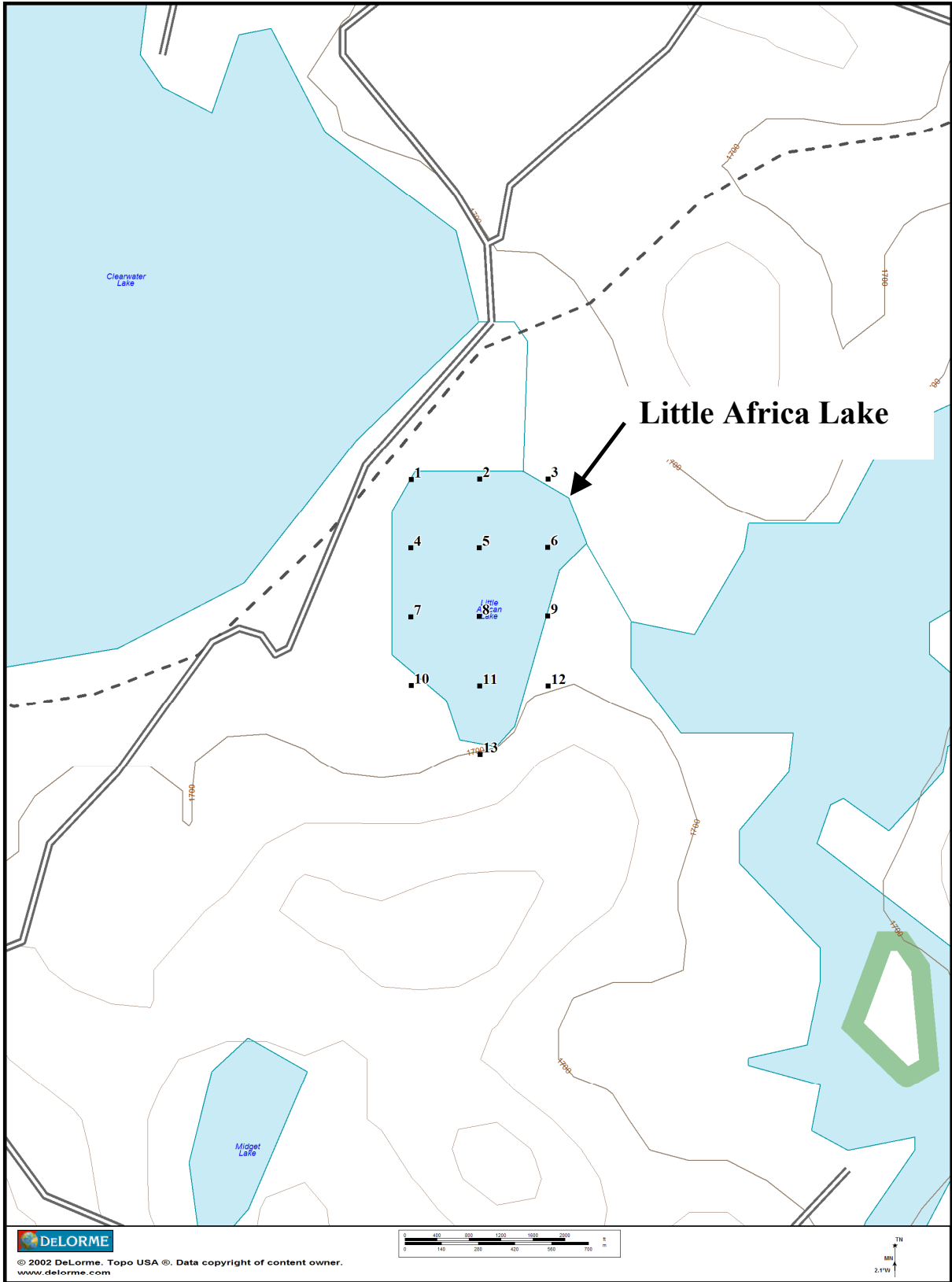


Figure 14. Little Africa Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

**Table 14**  
**Little Africa Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results**  
**– 2002**

Species	CoC Rating	% Occurrence
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	6	58.33
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	3	16.67
<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>	8	8.33
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	6	8.33
<i>Nuphar lutea ssp variegata</i>	6	41.67
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	33.33
<i>Pontedaria cordata</i>	8	33.33
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	7	16.67
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	8	25.00
<i>Stuckenia pectinata</i>	3	8.33
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	8	8.33
<i>Sparganium augustifolium</i>	10	25.00
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	7	58.33

## Long Lake

Long Lake has a surface area of 168 acres, a mean depth of 15 ft (Table 1), and a maximum depth of about 60 ft in the eastern end of the lake (Figure 15). A rocky reef reaches up to within a few feet of the surface directly across from the boat ramp at the same end of the lake. The lakeshore is mostly undeveloped. Most of the shoreline gradually slopes into deeper water, although a few areas have steep drop-offs. A small inlet stream comes in at the west end of the lake. The water was relatively clear with an MRD of 18 ft (Table 1). About 50 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data, and 65 percent of sample locations fell within the MRD (Table 2). *Eleocharis smallii* forms an emergent community sometimes mixed with *Carex lasiocarpa* on shallow flats, most common on the north shore of the lake, but also on the south shore at the west end of the lake. Otherwise, Long Lake was dominated by a low-growing vegetative community (Table 15) with *Myriophyllum tenellum* being the most common species, occurring in 50 percent of all plots (Table 3). Associated species included *Eriocaulon aquaticum* (18 percent), *Eleocharis acicularis* (16 percent), *Isoetes* spp (16 percent), and *Isoetes lacustris* (14 percent). *Isoetes* spp collections were often difficult to identify to species due to the fragmentary nature of many of the collections; these were likely *Isoetes lacustris*. Aquatic mosses also were common but not recorded. Pondweeds were not common in this lake, although *Potamogeton natans* was a dominant in shallow bays at the northwest end of the lake. *Gratiola aurea*, an STE, was quite common (23 percent). A total of 17 native plant species were found, the *I* was 34, and the overall CoC<sub>avg</sub> was 7.8. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 50 percent of the lake based on the MRD. The substrate and plant species that occur in the lake indicate that Eurasian watermilfoil may not reach nuisance levels with respect to recreation and aesthetics. Localized infestations, however, could significantly displace native submersed plant populations.

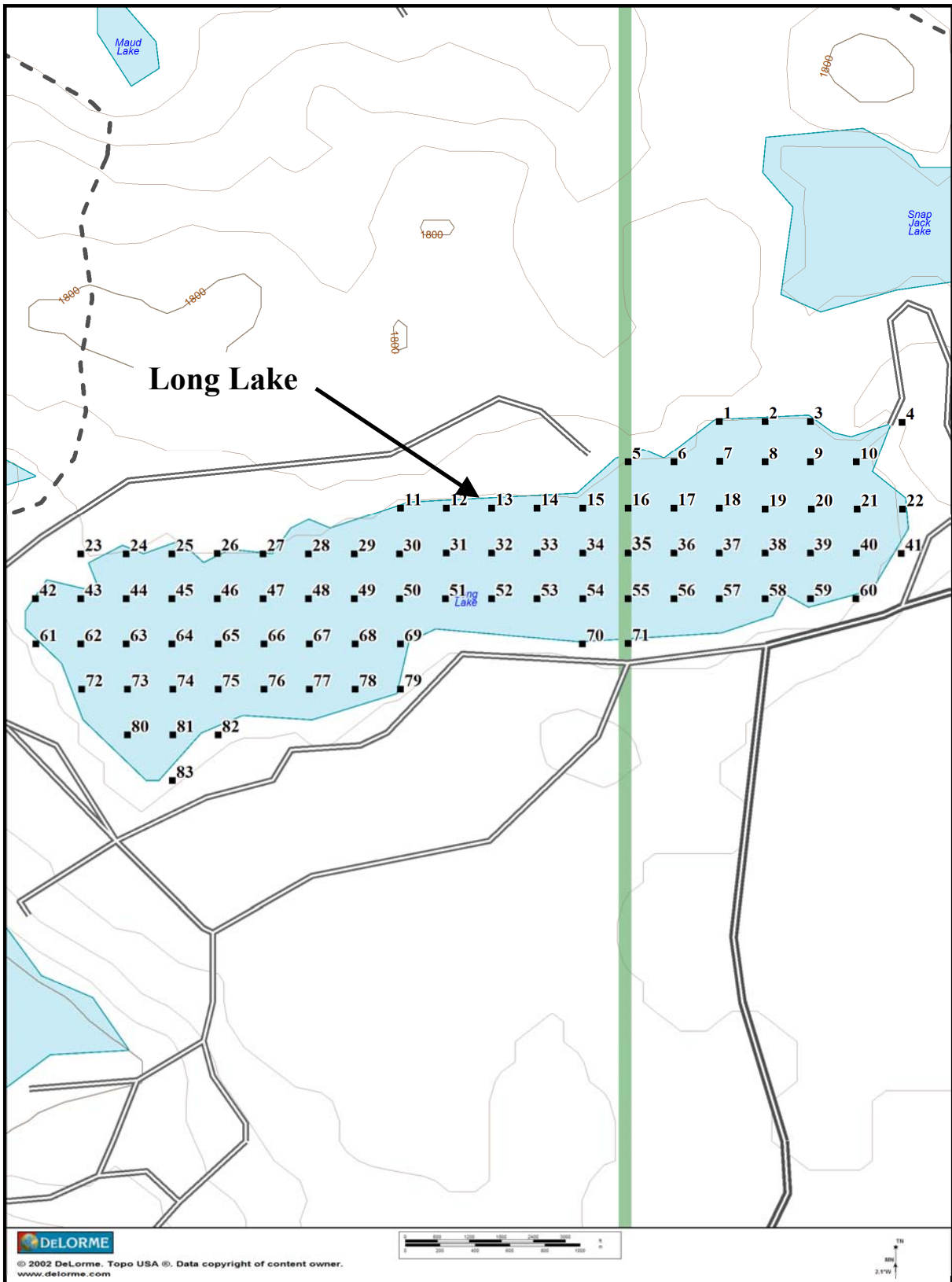


Figure 15. Long Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

<b>Table 15 Long Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results – 2002</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>CoC Rating</b>	<b>% Occurrence</b>
<i>Carex lasiocarpa</i>	9	2.27
<i>Cladium mariscoides</i>	10	2.27
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	9	2.27
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	5	15.91
<i>Elocharis smallii</i>	6	11.36
<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	9	18.18
<i>Gratiola aurea</i>	10	22.73
<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>	8	13.64
<i>Isoetes echinospora</i>	8	2.27
<i>Isoetes spp</i>	8	15.91
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	10	2.27
<i>Lysimachia terrestris</i>	7	2.27
<i>Myriophyllum tenellum</i>	10	50.00
<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	5	4.55
<i>Potamogeton pusillus ssp tenuissimus</i>	7	6.82
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	3	Present
<i>Sparanguium fluctuans</i>	10	2.27
<i>Utricularia resupinata</i>	9	2.27
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	6	2.27

## Marion Lake

Marion Lake has a surface area of 252 acres (Figure 16), with a mean depth of 17 ft (Table 1). The water was relatively clear with an MRD of 17 ft (Table 1). Only about 25 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data, even though 57 percent of sample points fell within the MRD (Table 2). The substrate was mostly hard bottom consisting of rock, gravel, or sand. Aquatic vegetation was sparse and scattered. The most common species (Table 16) was the floating leaf plant, *Nymphaea odorata*. Submersed species occurred mostly in very shallow water, and included small plants such as *Eriocaulon aquaticum*, *Juncus pelocarpus*, *Lobelia dortmanna*, and *Myriophyllum tenellum*, which are indicative of relatively pristine systems based on their COC<sub>avg</sub> rating. One dense stand of *Potamogeton amplifolius* was located at the northeast end of the lake, and according to residents the stand had appeared only in the last couple of years. The total number of species was 19, the *I* was 31.8, and the CoC<sub>avg</sub> rating was 7.3. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 57 percent of the lake based on the MRD. The substrate and plant survey data indicated that Eurasian watermilfoil may not reach widespread nuisance levels with respect to recreation and aesthetics. The existence of the dense stand of *P. amplifolius* suggested that Eurasian watermilfoil could reach nuisance levels in localized areas. Localized infestations could significantly displace native submersed plant populations.



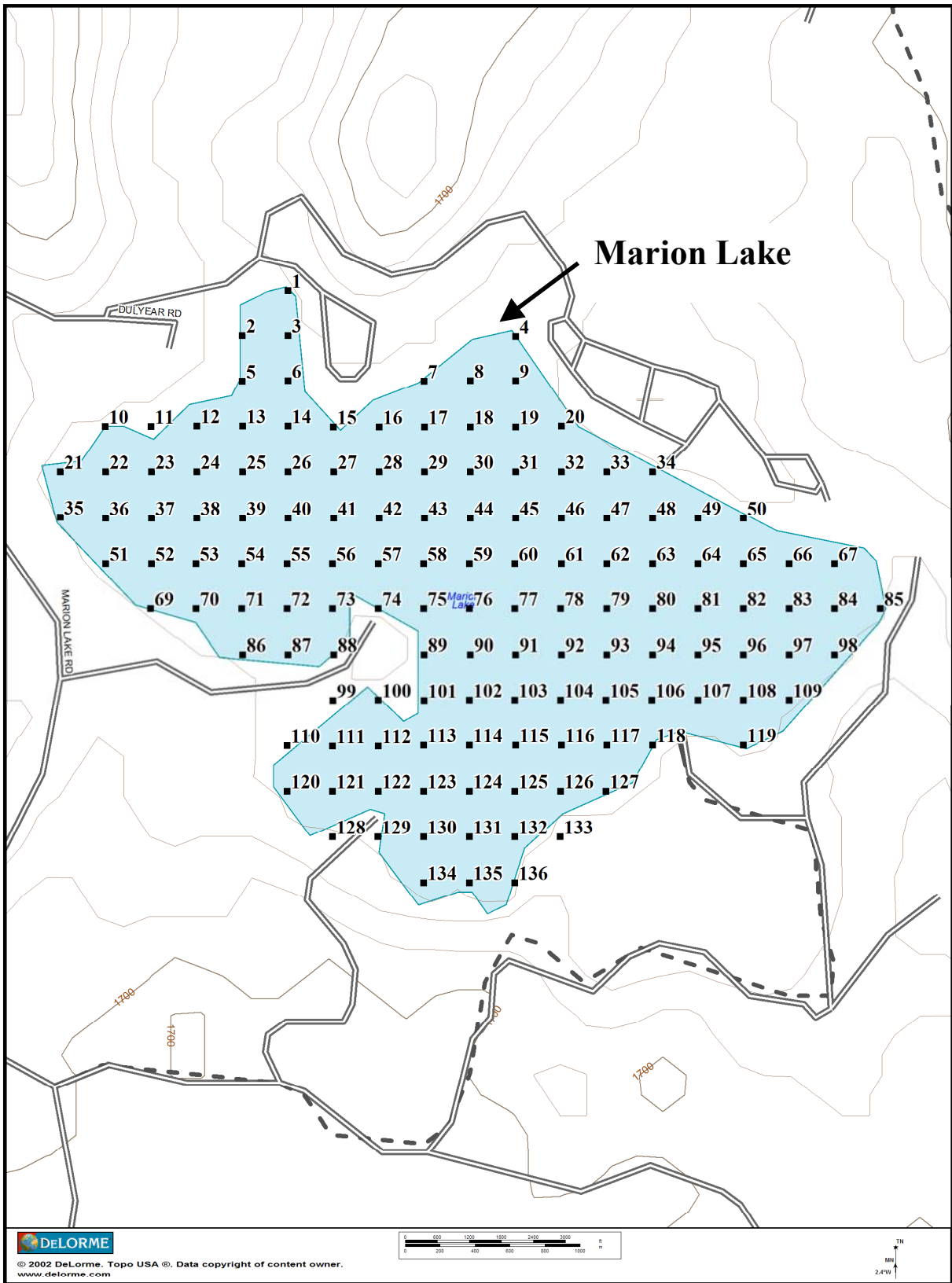


Figure 16. Marion Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

<b>Table 16 Marion Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results – 2002</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>CoC Rating</b>	<b>% Occurrence</b>
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	9	3.51
<i>Chara</i> spp		3.51
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	6	7.02
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	7	1.75
<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	9	10.53
<i>Glyceria borealis</i>	8	1.75
<i>Juncus pelocarpus</i>	8	3.51
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	10	7.02
<i>Myriophyllum tenellum</i>	10	3.51
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ssp <i>variegata</i>	6	5.26
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	15.79
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	7	3.51
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	8	5.26
<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	5	3.51
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	9	5.26
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	3	Present
<i>Scirpus acutus</i>	6	3.51
<i>Sparganium augustifolium</i>	9	1.75
<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>	5	5.26

## **Moon Lake**

Moon Lake had a surface area of 93 acres (Figure 17), with a mean depth of 20 ft and a maximum depth of 40 ft. The water was very clear with an MRD of 39 ft (Table 1). Only about 34 percent of the lake had some vegetation based on survey data, but 100 percent of sample points fell within the MRD (Table 2) because of the extremely clear water. The substrate was mostly hard bottom consisting of rock, gravel, or sand. The most common species (Table 17) were the floating leaf plants such as *Brasenia schreberi*, *Nuphar lutea* ssp *variegata*, and *Nymphaea odorata*, and emergent plants including *Sparganium augustifolium*, *Juncus effusus*, and *Dulichium arundinaceum*. Submersed plants were rare and included *Eleocharis acicularis*, *Eriocaulon aquaticum*, *Juncus pelocarpus*, and *Myriophyllum tenellum*. The total number of species included was 12, the *I* was 26, and the CoC<sub>avg</sub> rating was 7.5. Based on the MRD, Eurasian watermilfoil theoretically could colonize 100 percent of the lake. Substrate type and plant species that occur in the lake indicated that Eurasian watermilfoil populations might not reach this extreme level. Localized infestations, however, could significantly displace native submersed plant populations.

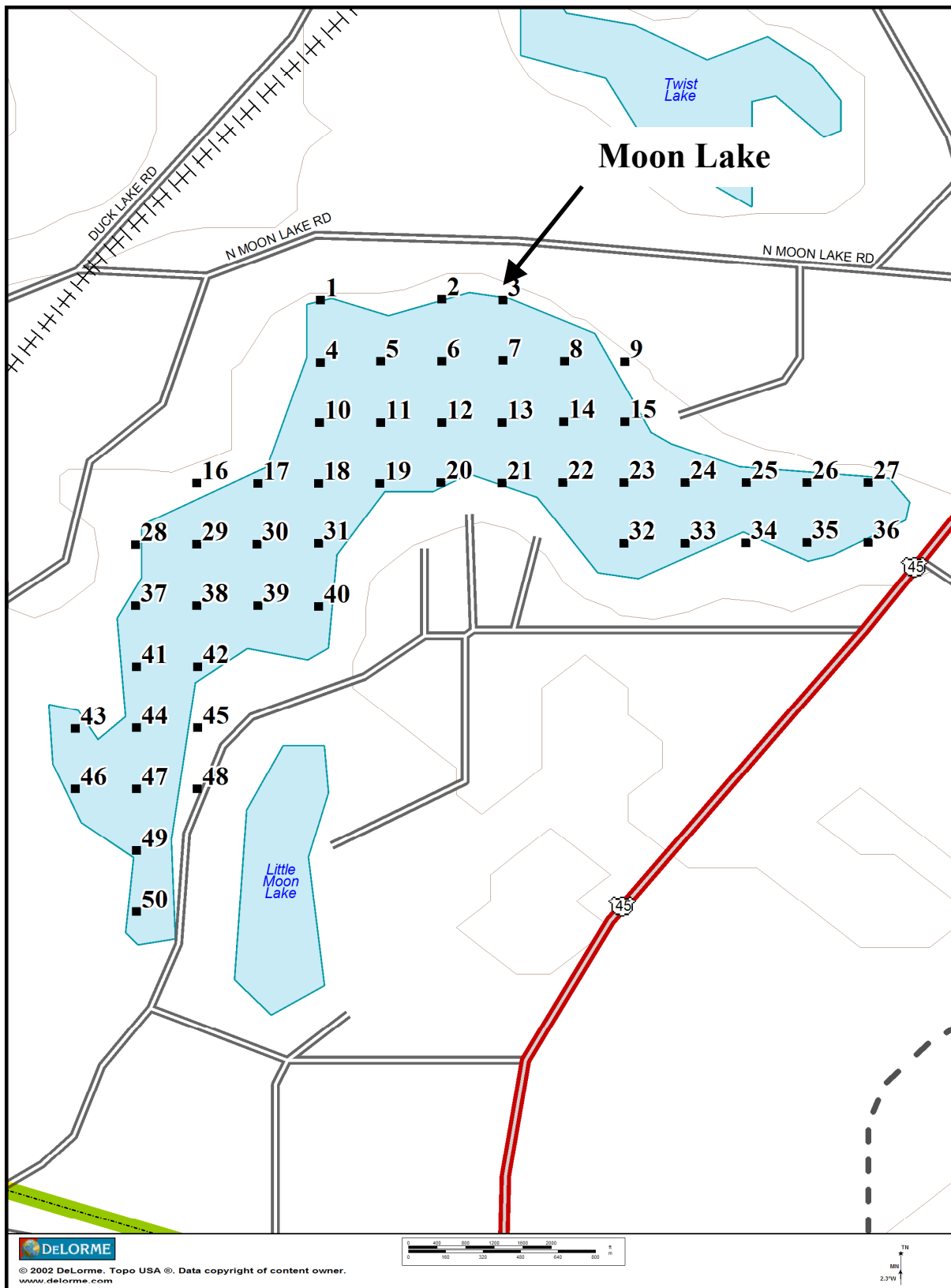


Figure 17. Moon Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

<b>Table 17 Moon Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results – 2002</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>CoC Rating</b>	<b>% Occurrence</b>
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	6	13.33
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	9	6.67
<i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>	5	13.33
<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	9	3.33
<i>Juncus effuses</i>	4	10.00
<i>Juncus pelocarpus</i>	8	6.67
<i>Myriophyllum tenellum</i>	10	3.33
<i>Nuphar lutea ssp variegata</i>	6	6.67
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	13.33
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	9	3.33
<i>Sparganium augustifolium</i>	9	6.67
<i>Utricularia resupinata</i>	9	3.33

### **Tamarack Lake**

Tamarack Lake has a surface area of 283 acres (Figure 18) with a mean depth of 11 ft (Table 1). The water was darkly stained with humic acids and tannins; therefore, clarity was relatively poor with an MRD of only 9 ft (Table 1). Consequently, only about 18 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data, and only 33 percent of sample points fell within the MRD (Table 2). The substrate was mostly hard bottom consisting of rock, gravel, or sand, except for wetlands at the southwest end where a stream flowed into the lake. Sediment near the stream was soft and rich in organic matter. Dense plant stands including native pondweeds and milfoils were concentrated here. Stands of *Vallisneria americana* and the floating leaf plant *Nymphaea odorata* scattered in other parts of the lake (Table 18). The total number of species was 14, the *I* was 22.4, and the  $CoC_{avg}$  rating was 6.0. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 33 percent of the lake based on the MRD. The substrate and plant survey data indicated that Eurasian watermilfoil may not reach widespread nuisance levels, but could reach nuisance levels in localized areas. These localized infestations could significantly displace native submersed plant populations.

### **Taylor Lake**

Taylor Lake has a surface area of 110 acres, with a mean depth of 20 ft (Table 1). Although relatively undeveloped, a small USFS campground is located at the side of the lake (Figure 19). The surrounding shore is generally steep with a drop-off. The 40-ft maximum depth is reached near the center of the lake. Shallower flats near the lake inlet at the north end and outlet at the south end have soft silty organic sediments. The lake had an MRD of 9.8 ft (Table 1).

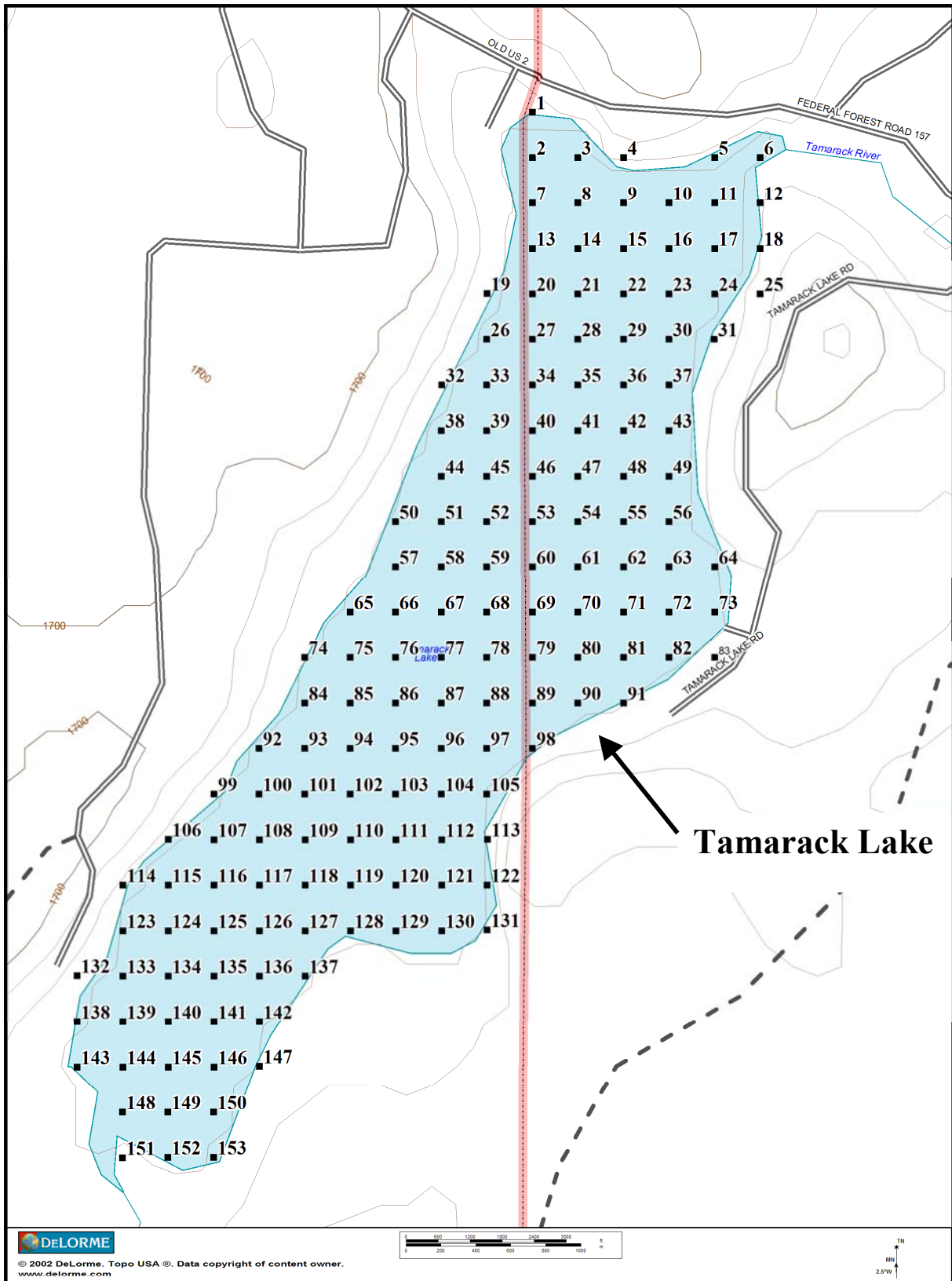


Figure 18. Tamarack Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

**Table 18  
Tamarack Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results –  
2002**

Species	CoC Rating	% Occurrence
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	3	4.65
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	6	4.65
<i>Myriophyllum alterniflorum</i>	10	2.33
<i>Myriophyllum heterophyllum</i>	7	2.33
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	6	2.33
<i>Nuphar lutea ssp variegata</i>	6	4.65
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	18.60
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	7	2.33
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	5	18.60
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	8	13.95
<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	6	2.33
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	1	2.33
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	7	2.33
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	6	27.91

About 23 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data, and 31 percent of sample points fell within the MRD (Table 2). The broad inlet flowing through a peatland area had the most diverse vegetation in Taylor Lake with a mix of many floating, emergent, and submerged species (Table 19) such as *Brasenia schreberi*, *Potamogeton natans*, *Nuphar lutea ssp variegata*, *Najas flexilis*, *Utricularia vulgaris*, and other species. The outlet, Taylor Creek, is in a broad bay with floating vegetation of *Brasenia schreberi* and water lilies with pondweeds beneath. Otherwise vegetation is fairly sparse and confined to a narrow belt along the shoreline. *Brasenia schreberi* is the most common plant in the lake, occurring on half of all plots (Table 4), at both inlet and outlet areas and in shallow locations along much of the shore. *Utricularia vulgaris* is also widespread (31 percent of all plots). There were 22 species found in Taylor Lake with a  $CoC_{avg}$  rating of 6.4 and an *I* of 30. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to 31 percent of the lake based on the MRD. The substrate and plant species that occurred in the lake indicated that Eurasian watermilfoil could reach nuisance levels with respect to recreation and aesthetics. Infestations could also have significant adverse impacts on the submersed plant populations. Once established in Taylor Lake, Eurasian watermilfoil could quickly spread to other lakes in the area via boat traffic, water currents, and animals.

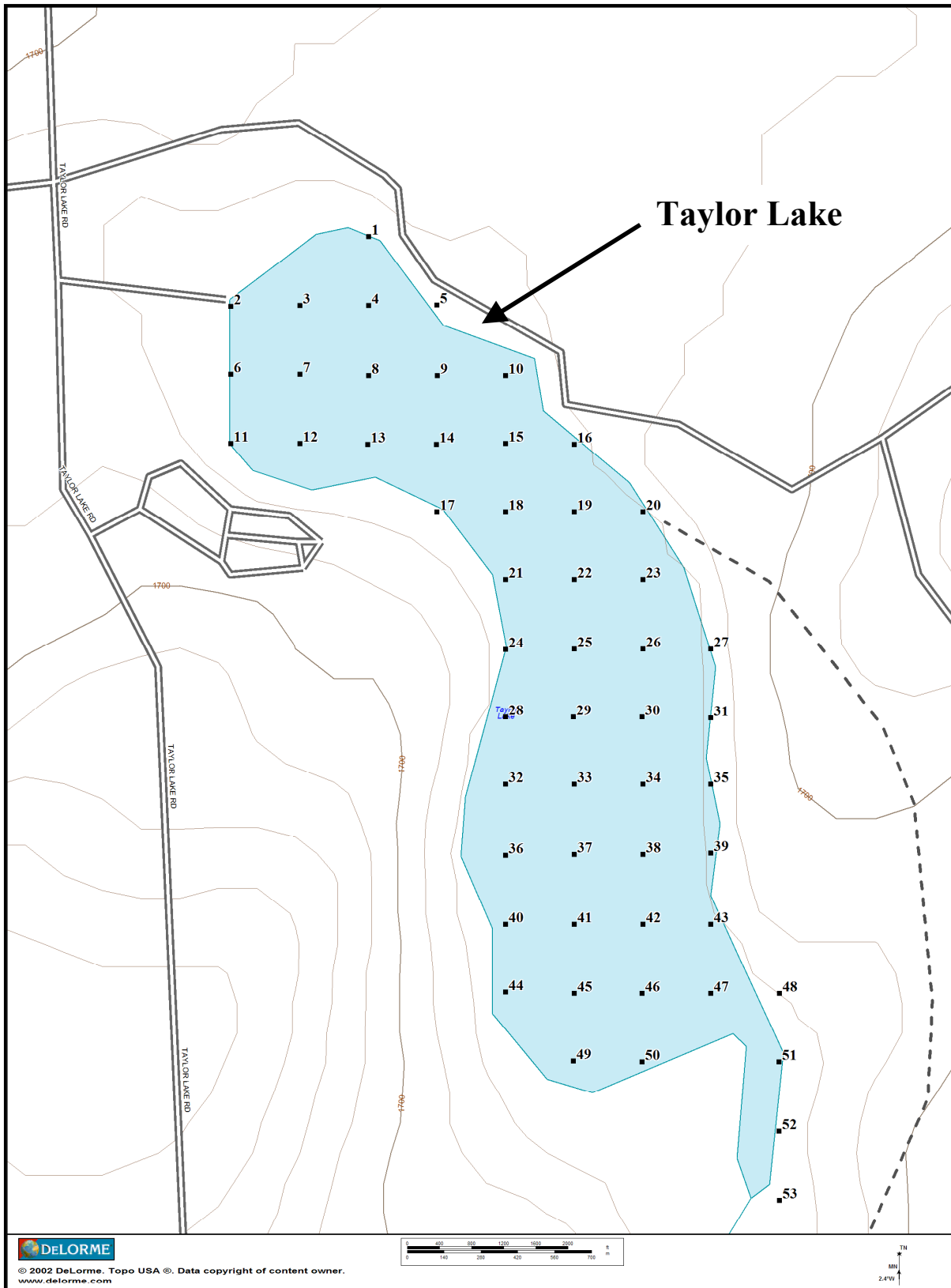


Figure 19. Taylor Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points



<b>Table 19 Taylor Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results – 2002</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>CoC Rating</b>	<b>% Occurrence</b>
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	6	50.00
<i>Dulichium arundinaceum</i>	9	Present
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	6	12.50
<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	7	Present
<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>	8	12.50
<i>Juncus brevicaudatus</i>	6	Present
<i>Juncus pelocarpus</i>	8	Present
<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	6	12.50
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	6	18.75
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ssp <i>variegata</i>	6	18.75
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	6.25
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	7	12.50
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	8	6.25
<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	7	6.25
<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	5	12.50
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i> ssp <i>tenuissimus</i>	7	12.50
<i>Sagittaria latifolia</i>	3	Present
<i>Scirpus tabernaemontani</i>	4	Present
<i>Sparganium fluctuans</i>	10	12.50
<i>Stuckenia pectinata</i>	3	6.25
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	7	31.25
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	6	6.25

### Thousand Island Lake

Thousand Island Lake is the largest lake in the Cisco Chain of Lakes. It has a surface area of 1,000 acres (Figure 20) and a mean depth of 27 ft (Table 1) with a maximum depth of 95 ft. Numerous homes and resorts line the lakeshore. The water was relatively clear with an MRD of 18 ft (Table 1). Thousand Island Lake is connected to Big Africa Lake, which can be reached by boat through a stream that feeds into the lake's northernmost bay. Cisco Lake is connected to Thousand Island Lake by a channel at the southwest end of the lake. About 34 percent of the lake has some vegetation based on survey data, and 42 percent of sample locations fell within the MRD (Table 2). The northern and western bays were relatively shallow (< MRD) with mostly soft organic sediments that supported large stands of pondweeds (Table 20), including *Potamogeton zosteriformis*, *P. robbinsii*, *P. richardsonii*, and *P. epihydrus*. *Elodea canadensis* and *Myriophyllum sibiricum* were also common in these areas. The southeast and east sections of lakes were much deeper (>90 ft in some areas), and the substrate tended to be gravel or sand. Many plants were common in the shallow areas, but this area was too deep (> MRD) to support aquatic plants. The number of species found was 31, the greatest of any lake surveyed. The CoC<sub>avg</sub> rating was 6.5, and the *I* was 36.0. Eurasian watermilfoil could become established in up to

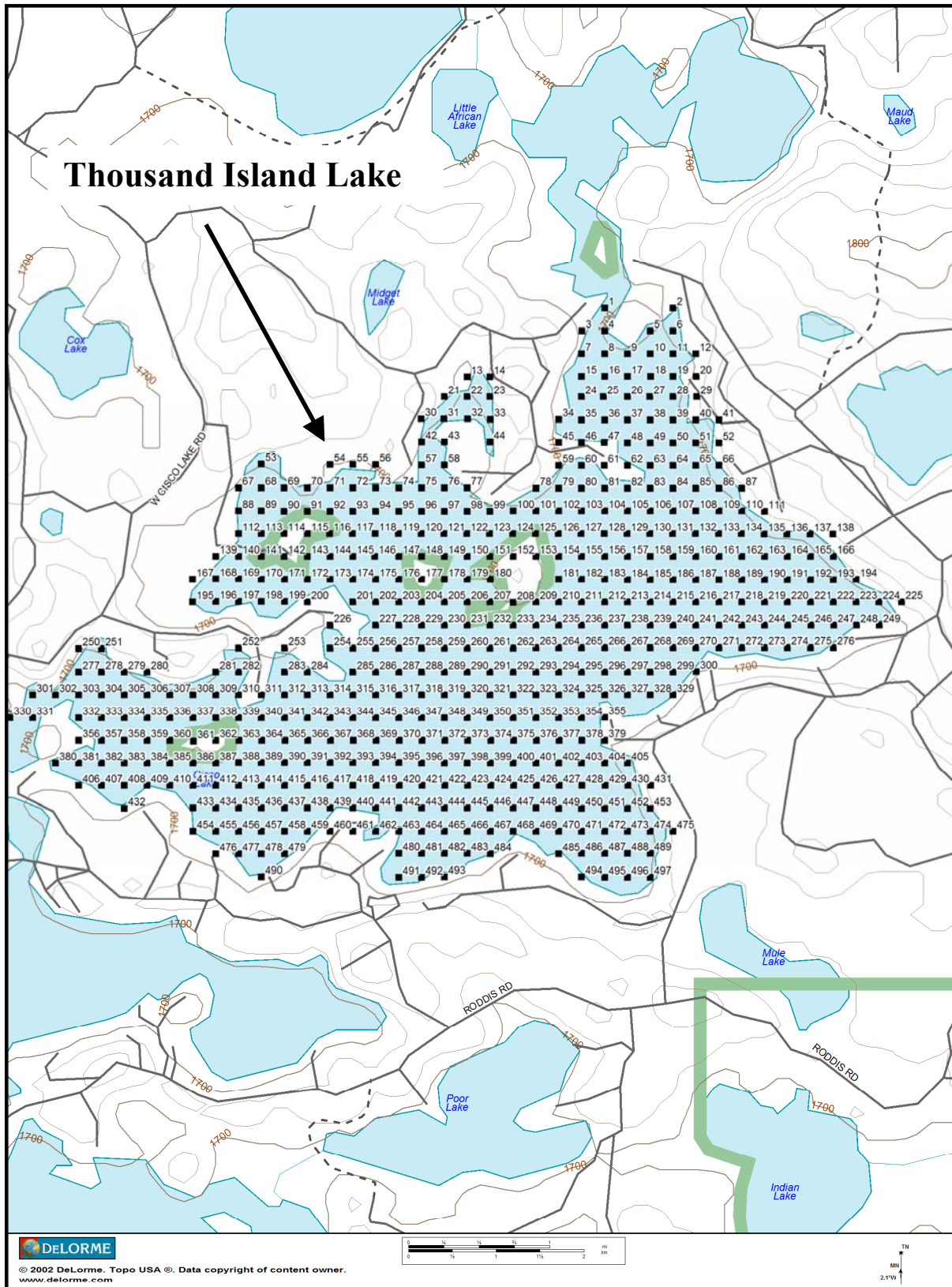


Figure 20. Thousand Island Lake, Gogebic County, MI, aquatic plant survey locations – 2002. Squares on lake map indicate discrete GPS sampling points

<b>Table 20 Thousand Island Lake, Gogebic County, MI, Aquatic Plant Survey Results – 2002</b>		
<b>Species</b>	<b>CoC Rating</b>	<b>% Occurrence</b>
<i>Brasenia schreberi</i>	6	4.67
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	3	6.67
<i>Chara</i> spp		10
<i>Elocharis acicularis</i>	5	0.67
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	6	34.67
<i>Zosterella dubia</i>	6	0.67
<i>Iris versicolor</i>	5	1.33
<i>Megalodonta beckii</i>	8	0.67
<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	6	24.67
<i>Myriophyllum farwellii</i>	8	1.33
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	6	6.00
<i>Nuphar lutea</i> ssp <i>variegata</i>	8	12.00
<i>Nymphaea odorata</i>	6	17.33
<i>Pontedaria cordata</i>	8	8.00
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	7	20.67
<i>Potamogeton epihydrus</i>	8	10.00
<i>Potamogeton friesii</i>	8	4.00
<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	7	0.67
<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	5	7.33
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	7	7.33
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	5	32.67
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	8	26.00
<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	6	14.00
<i>Ranunculus longirostris (aquaticus)</i>	8	2.00
<i>Riccia fluitans</i>	7	0.67
<i>Scirpus subterminalis</i>	9	0.67
<i>Sparganium augustifolium</i>	9	2.00
<i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i>	5	2.00
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	1	2.00
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	7	4.00
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	6	8.00

42 percent of the lake based on the MRD. The substrate and plant species that occur in the lake indicate that Eurasian watermilfoil could impact recreation and aesthetics, particularly in the northern and western portions of the lakes. Infestations could also have significant adverse impacts on the submersed plant populations. Once established in Thousand Island Lake, Eurasian watermilfoil could quickly spread to other lakes in the Cisco Chain of Lakes via boat traffic, water currents, and animals.

# 4 Conclusion and Recommendations

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## Conclusion

Lakes of the Michigan western Upper Peninsula are valuable natural resources, supporting healthy and diverse native aquatic plant populations, including sensitive and rare species of the 16 lakes surveyed, only 2 (Crooked Lake and Langford Lake) had small infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil. While this invasive plant is not currently widespread, if left unchecked it has the potential to cause major adverse environmental, recreational, economic, and aesthetic impacts to the area.

## Recommendations

- a.* Annual vegetation surveys should be conducted during the growing season on lakes in the Cisco Chain and the surrounding region to identify the presence of Eurasian watermilfoil. A high priority for the vegetation survey should be lakes with public access points, such as boat ramps and campgrounds.
- b.* If Eurasian watermilfoil is found, a rapid response is required to control or eradicate the infestation through hand pulling or diver dredging in small areas, spot treatments of aquatic herbicides in larger areas, or an integration of both physical and chemical methods.
- c.* Lake communities should coordinate with local government entities, state agencies (e.g., MI-DNR, MI-DEQ, and WI-DNR), and Federal agencies such as USACE Detroit District and the USFS, to identify, prevent, and control Eurasian watermilfoil in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

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# REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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