

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

August, 2024

Prepared By:

Upper Saranac Foundation
It still is, and always will be, about Water Quality



Upper Saranac Foundation

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Overview

The Upper Saranac Foundations Aquatic Invasive Divers (AID) hours of management in 2024 will range between 300 and 320, and will be determined based on invasive growth and harvesting needs. Management periods will be spread out with work being completed between June and September. With this slight modification to our management approach, we will no longer spend a full week for each management session. Our staff will monitor growth and return to harvest as needed. We are confident that with this flexibility in scheduling we can be more effective and provide a better outcome for less cost.

Our AID team worked out of the private beach residence of the Dumas family on Moody Pond. This location provided convenience to known aquatic invasive species (AIS) infestation locations. Special thanks to the Dumas family for being so accommodating.

The focus for AIS management in August was to periodically check growth of any invasive species and harvest plants prior to their ability to mature enough to fragment. Our divers utilized a variety of techniques to locate and hand harvest AIS, including surface spotting from paddle boards, Hookah air compressor diving, line swims searches, and snorkeling.

The divers, trained in AIS identification, found only one type of invasive; Eurasian watermilfoil. The team was pleased to find mostly small plants, with little larger old growth milfoil. With few large and mature plants, chances for propagation become less. Plants found and harvested continues to decrease each year the pond is managed. The poundage also remains low since most growth were small immature plants.

There is an abundance of immature Common Bladderwort (a lookalike native plant) growing in shallow waters of the pond that we do not harvest. This is mentioned so there is no confusion with shore owners believing we are missing invasive plants.

Harvest Data for the Month: The Upper Saranac Foundation dive crew visited Moody Pond three days during the month; August 8, 28 and 29. Our crew devoted 92.5 hours of work in August and found and removed 141 plants, totaling approximately 4.5 lbs. On August 8th our divers arrived at 6am, and on August 29th at 7am during the calmest part of the day for optimal surface spotting.

Our divers used the mornings calm waters to observe plants visible from the surface. Invasive plants are then marked for removal later in the day. Our divers also utilized grid or line search techniques when plants can no longer be spotted from the surface.

Most plants in August were found in the northwestern shallows closest to the Mount Baker trailhead. On the 28th of August, the diver’s day was cut short due to poor weather conditions. Cloudy, windy and dark waters were not conducive for spotting plants either from above or below the surface. Our divers did one dive lap around the pond before departing at 11:30am.

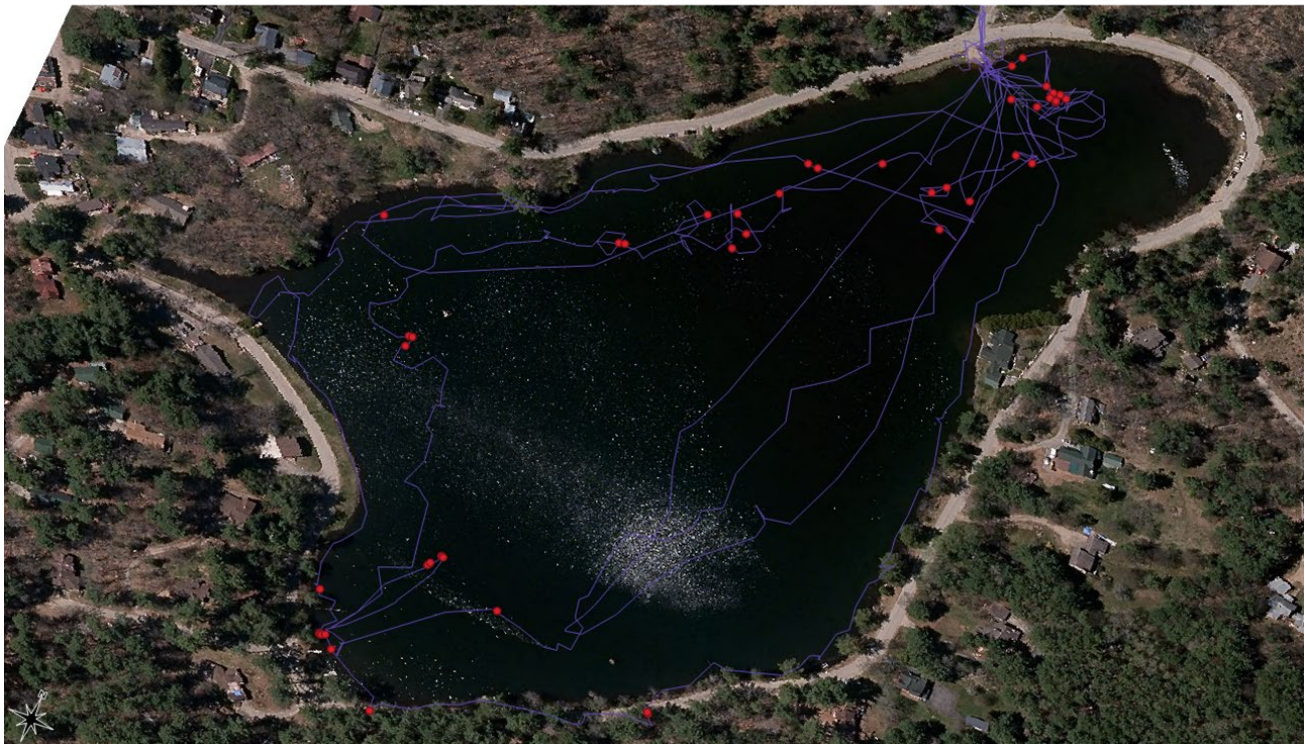
The divers did return the following day at 7am for a much better opportunity to locate invasive plants. Most plants found were single stem with only a few multi stem plants found in the western portion of the pond.

To date, we have completed 242 hours of the scheduled 300-320 hours for 2024. So far in 2024, we have harvest 361 plants totaling approximately 15.6 pounds. In 2023 a total of 1,553 plants were removed weighing approximately 46.25 pounds for the year.

Date	Hrs.	Plants removed
3-Jun	33	40
4-Jun	30	14
18-Jun	25.5	47
2-Jul	30	55
10-Jul	1	0
22-Jul	30	64
8-Aug	41	74
28/29 Aug	51.5	67
Total	242	361

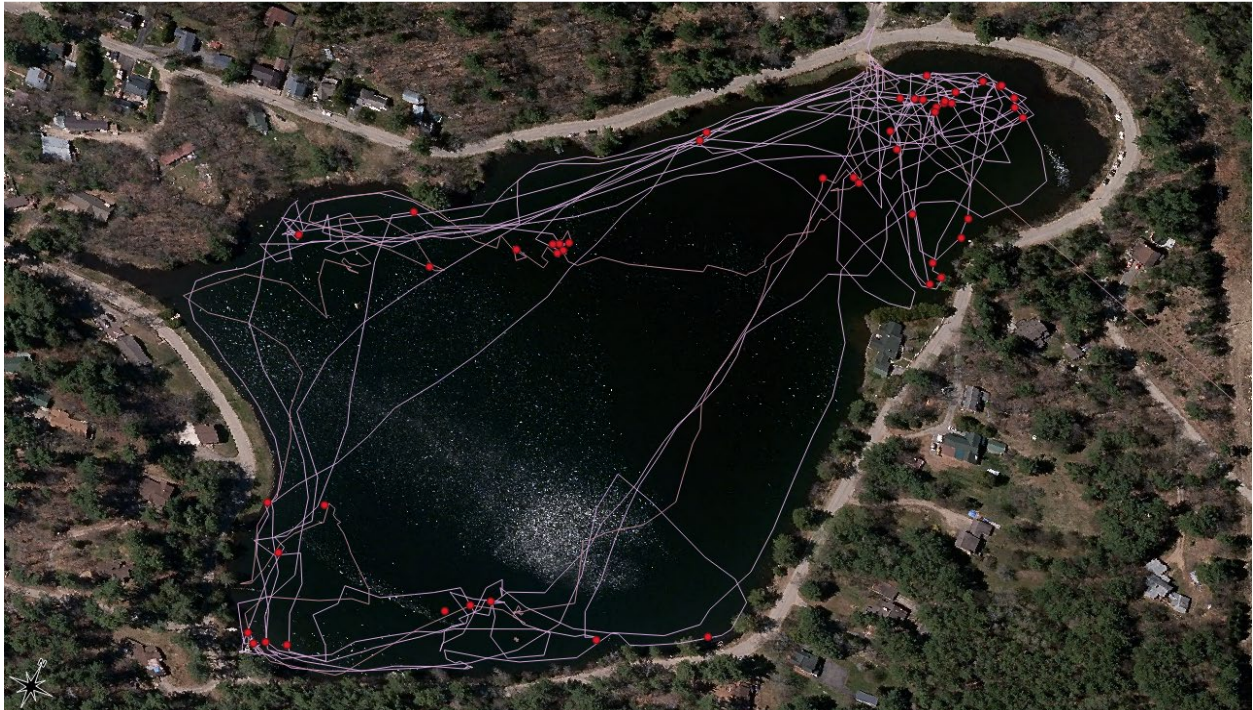
Operations - August 2024
Diver tracking. Red dots indicate locations of plants removed

moody pond coverage & plant locations August 8, 2024



Plant location and driver tracking for August 8, 2024

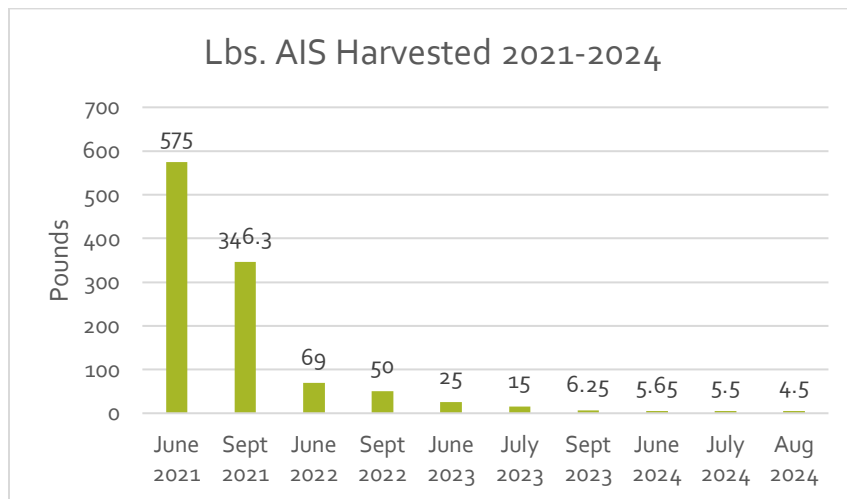
moody pond coverage & plant locations August 28-29, 2024



Plant location and driver tracking for August 28-29, 2024

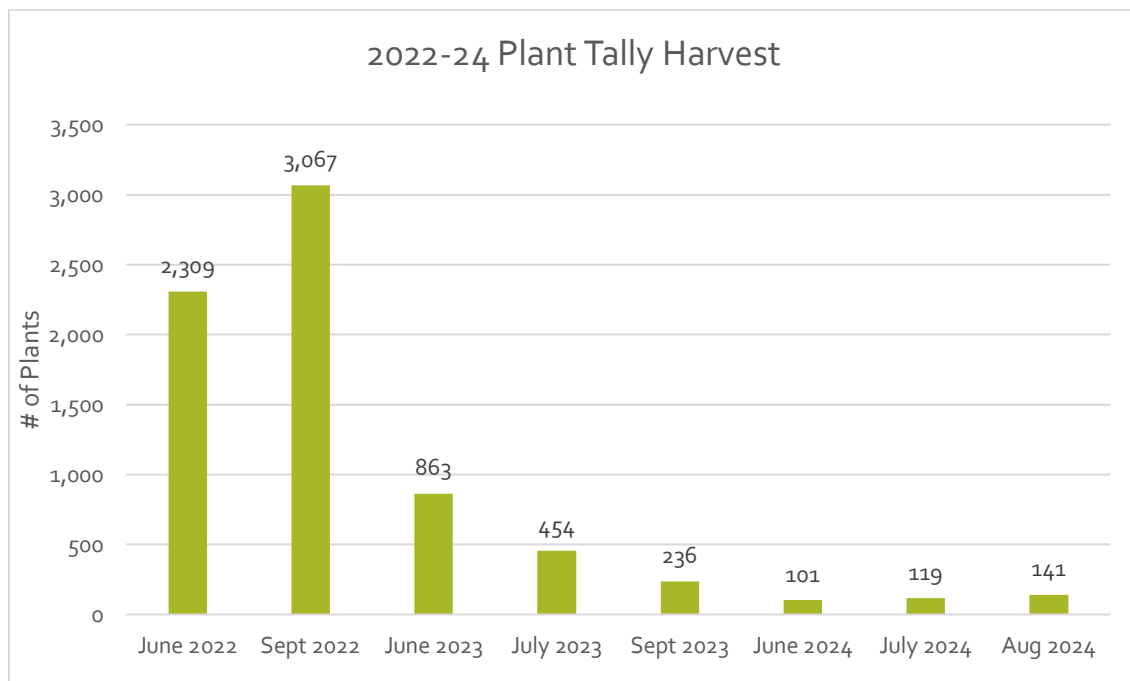
AIS Harvesting Comparisons 2021-2024

There has been a continuous reduction in the number of plants and poundage removed from previous harvesting operations. Attributing to the reduction in weight is that the majority of plants found are smaller in size and volume. This, and the reduction of the number of plants retrieved are both strong indicators of successful management accomplishments.



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With low accumulating densities of AIS, our divers are not only weighing daily harvest totals but also counting the number of plants harvested. This plant count began when USF- AID divers took over harvesting management in 2022. This method has been used on Upper Saranac Lake since 2015 and is a more accurate way of quantifying and assessing the efficacy overtime of our management techniques. August, the height of the growing season, often produces more plants than any other time of year. In addition, the number of plants retrieved generally correlates to the amount of time dedicated to looking for plants. In July, 61 diver hours removed 119 plants while in August 92 hours removed 141 plants.



Future Plans

Our staff will continue to monitor growth throughout September and harvest invasive plants as needed based on the growth found during monitoring. Much of the focus will be where some of the larger plants were found to assure that if they did fragment we locate new plants early. The spacing of management periods will allow any AIS regrowth not already harvested to emerge and be identified, but prior to it becoming mature enough to fragment and start additional growth.

Photos



August 8, 2024



August 28 and 29, 2024