

Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report

Moody Pond

June, 2026

Prepared By:

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



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Overview

In 2026, the Upper Saranac Foundation's Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) Team continued its partnership with the Friends of Moody Pond, building on management efforts that began in 2021. Collectively, these sustained efforts have been highly successful, and aquatic invasive species (AIS) are now considered rare in Moody Pond.

As in previous years, divers operated from the Dumas family's private beach, providing efficient access to historically infested areas. Reflecting the continued decline in both the density and distribution of invasive plants, 2026 management is projected to require **100–175 diver work hours**, a significant reduction from previous seasons (360 hours in 2023, 308 hours in 2024, and 185 hours in 2025).

Management is conducted through targeted single-day work sessions from June through September, allowing divers to monitor regrowth and remove newly established plants before they mature and spread. This adaptive approach has proven both efficient and cost-effective.

June required two management days after afternoon thunderstorms shortened the first session. Divers employed multiple survey techniques, including surface spotting from paddleboards, snorkeling, line swims, grid searches, and deeper-water diving using a Hookah air compressor system.

Only one aquatic invasive species, **Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)**, was detected. Most plants found were small and immature. The continued decline in both plant numbers and biomass is another encouraging indicator of the long-term success of the management program.

During the first survey, divers also observed an abundance of **Banded Mystery Snails (*Viviparus georgianus*)** washed ashore. Although not native to New York, this species is well established throughout the Adirondacks. Periodic population booms followed by natural die-offs are common and can result in large numbers of shells accumulating along shorelines, occasionally producing unpleasant odors. While concerning for some shoreline property owners, these events are considered a normal part of the species' life cycle and are not indicative of a new invasive species problem.

Harvest Data

June 10: A five-person crew consisting of four divers and one top-side support member logged **32 work hours**, removing **18 Eurasian watermilfoil plants** with an estimated biomass of **2.5 pounds**. Heavy morning rain prevented surface spotting, so divers immediately began underwater surveys. A brief period of improved weather allowed limited surface searches before increasing cloud cover made line-swimming more effective. Operations concluded early at 4:30 p.m. due to thunderstorms.

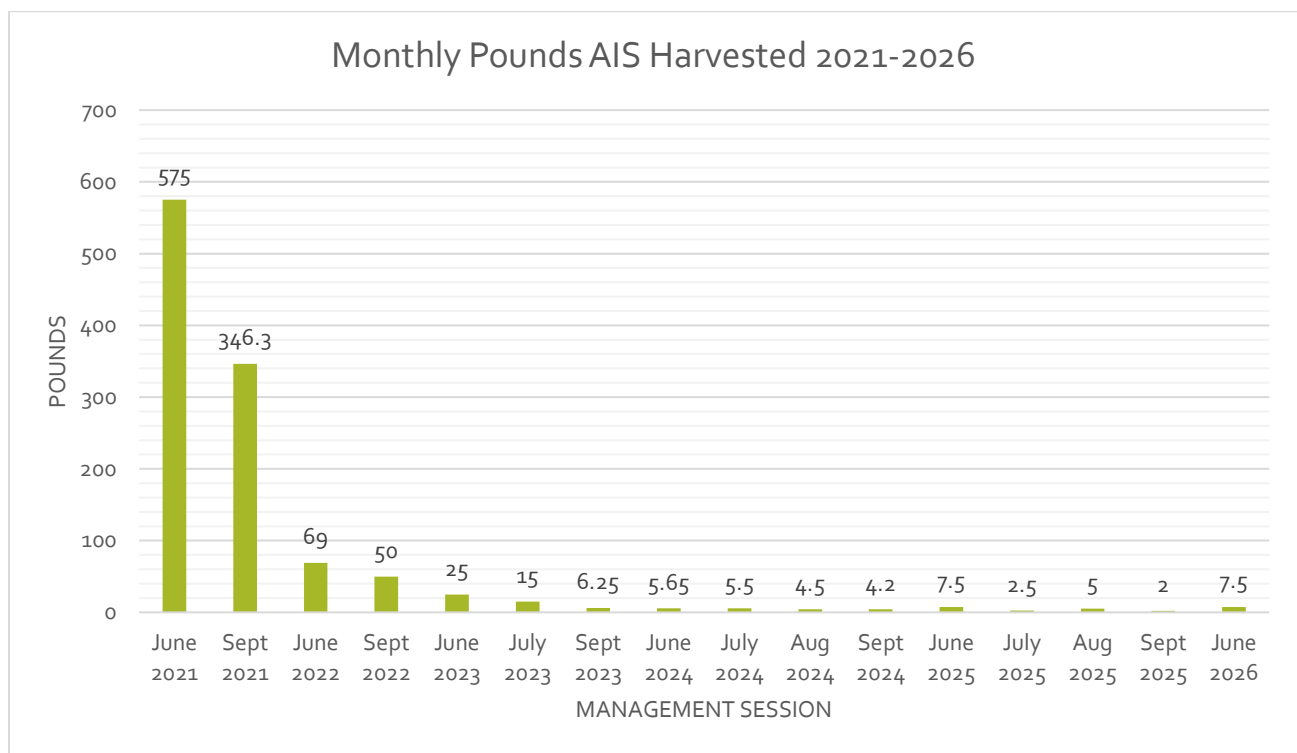
June 24: A three-person crew returned for an additional **27 work hours**, removing **49 invasive plants** with an estimated biomass of **5 pounds**. Surface spotting that began first thing continued

until late morning before divers transitioned to deeper-water diving using the Hookah air compressor system. The crew completed operations at **6:00 p.m.**

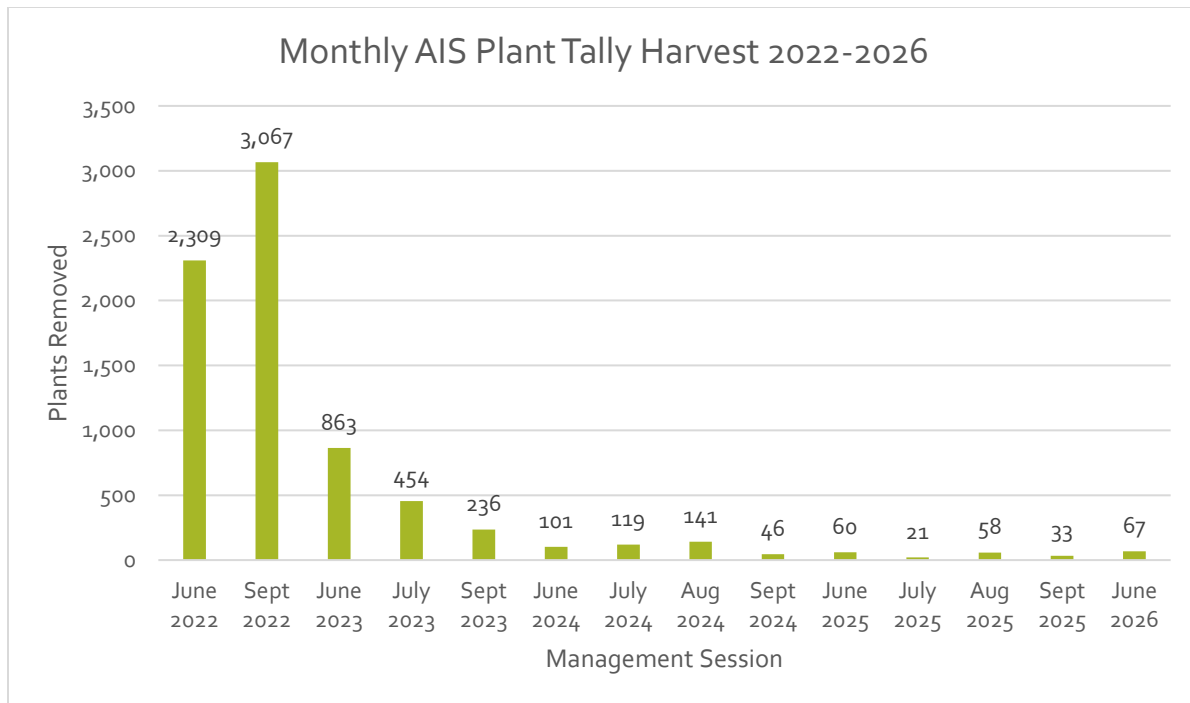
June Totals: During **59 diver work hours**, the AID Team removed **67 Eurasian watermilfoil plants** with a combined estimated biomass of **7.5 pounds**.

AIS Harvesting Comparisons 2021-2026

Harvest data from Moody Pond continues to demonstrate a strong long-term decline in AIS since management began in 2021. In terms of biomass, the June 2021 harvest removed **575 pounds** of Eurasian watermilfoil, compared to just **7.5 pounds** in June 2026—matching June 2025.



Plant counts show a similarly encouraging trend. Following a peak removal of **3,067 plants** in September 2022, the June 2026 management removed only **67 plants**. While this is seven more plants than were removed during the June 2025 survey, the increase reflects **additional survey effort** (59 diver hours in 2026 versus 50 hours in 2025) rather than an increase in infestation. Overall, these results demonstrate the continued effectiveness of long-term, science-based AIS management and the significant reduction of invasive species populations in Moody Pond.



Future Plans

The Upper Saranac Foundation's Aquatic Invasive Dive (AID) Team will return to Moody Pond in July to continue monitoring and managing aquatic invasive species (AIS). Divers will conduct targeted harvesting based on plant growth observed during monitoring, with particular attention given to areas where larger plants were previously removed to ensure any regrowth from fragmentation is detected and eliminated before it can mature and spread.

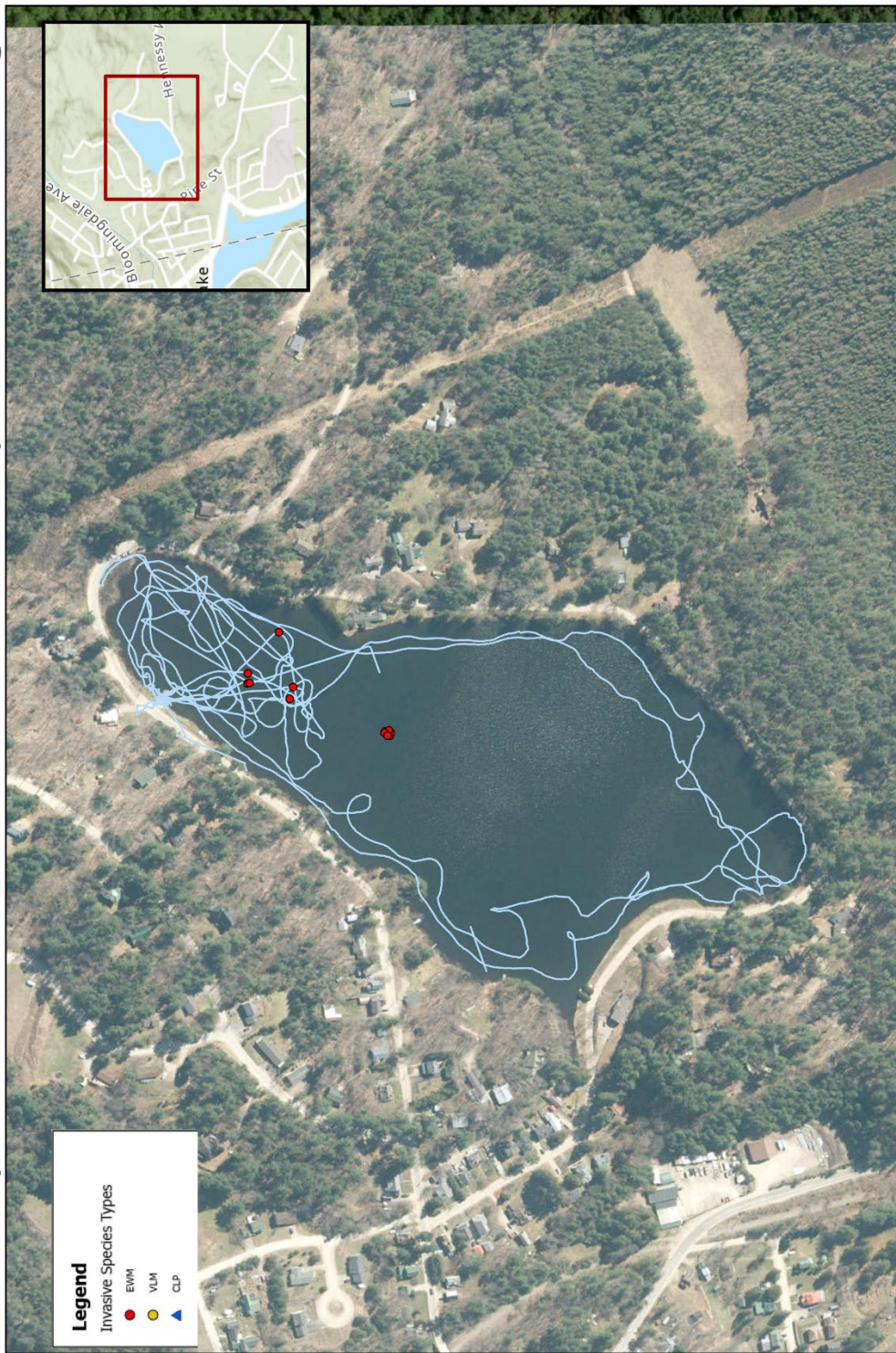
This phased management approach, with survey and harvesting efforts spaced throughout the growing season, allows newly emerging plants to be removed while populations remain small and manageable.

In addition to field operations, USF staff will participate in the **Friends of Moody Pond Annual Ice Cream Social** on **August 4**, where they will showcase dive equipment, discuss AIS management efforts, and answer questions from residents. The event provides an opportunity to engage the community and highlight the importance of continued stewardship in protecting Moody Pond.

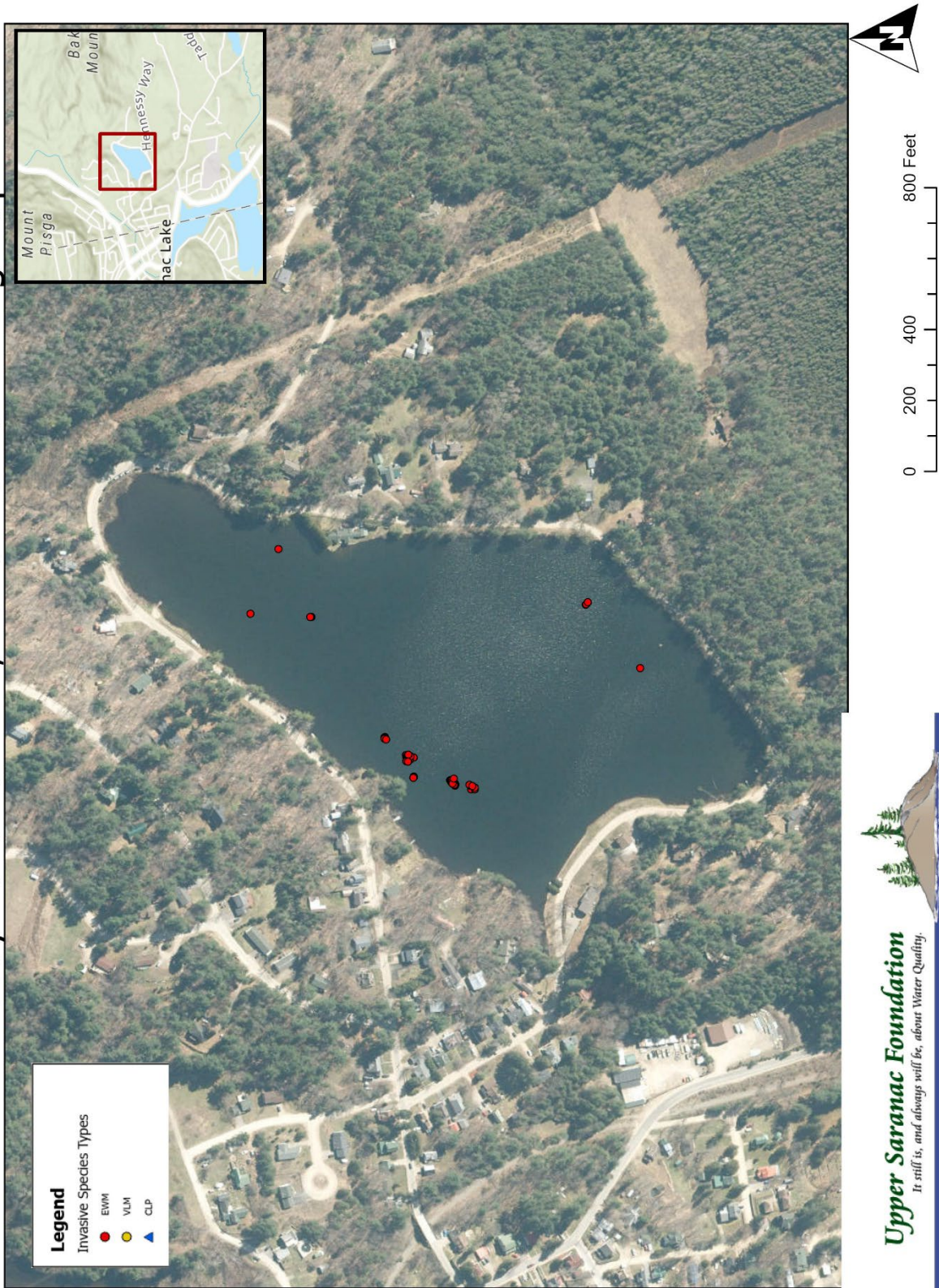
Moody Pond June 11, 2026 AIS Harvest Map



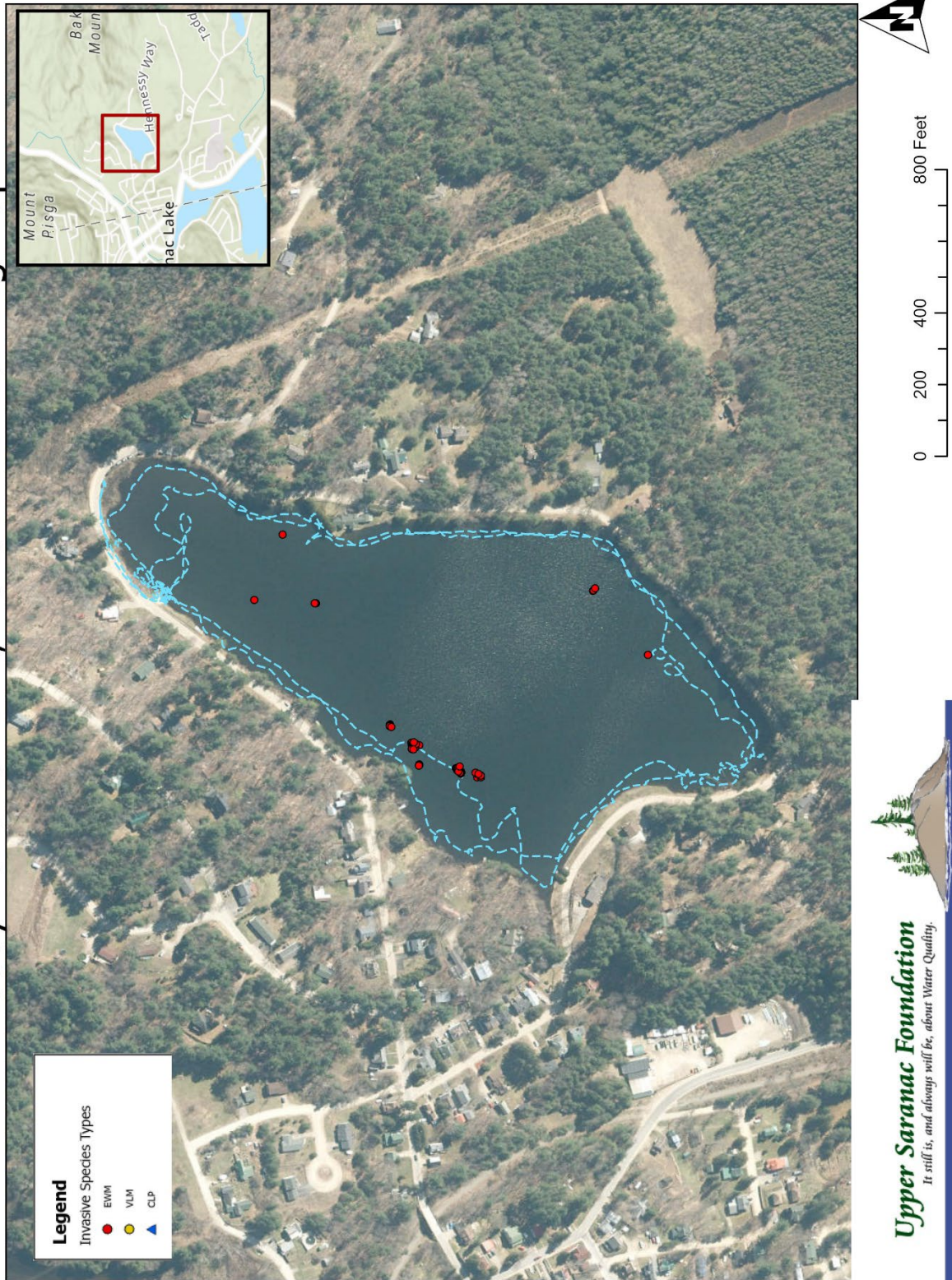
Moody Pond June 11, 2026 AIS Harvest Map With Diver Tracking



Moody Pond June 24, 2026 AIS Harvesting Map



Moody Pond June 24, 2026 Diver Tracking Map





June 10, 2026



June 24, 2026



Mood Pond Salvage