

Tonawanda Creek/Erie Canal Hydrilla Control Demonstration Project

Michael Greer

Regional Technical Specialist
Buffalo District

Michael Netherland

Research Biologist
Engineer Research Development Center

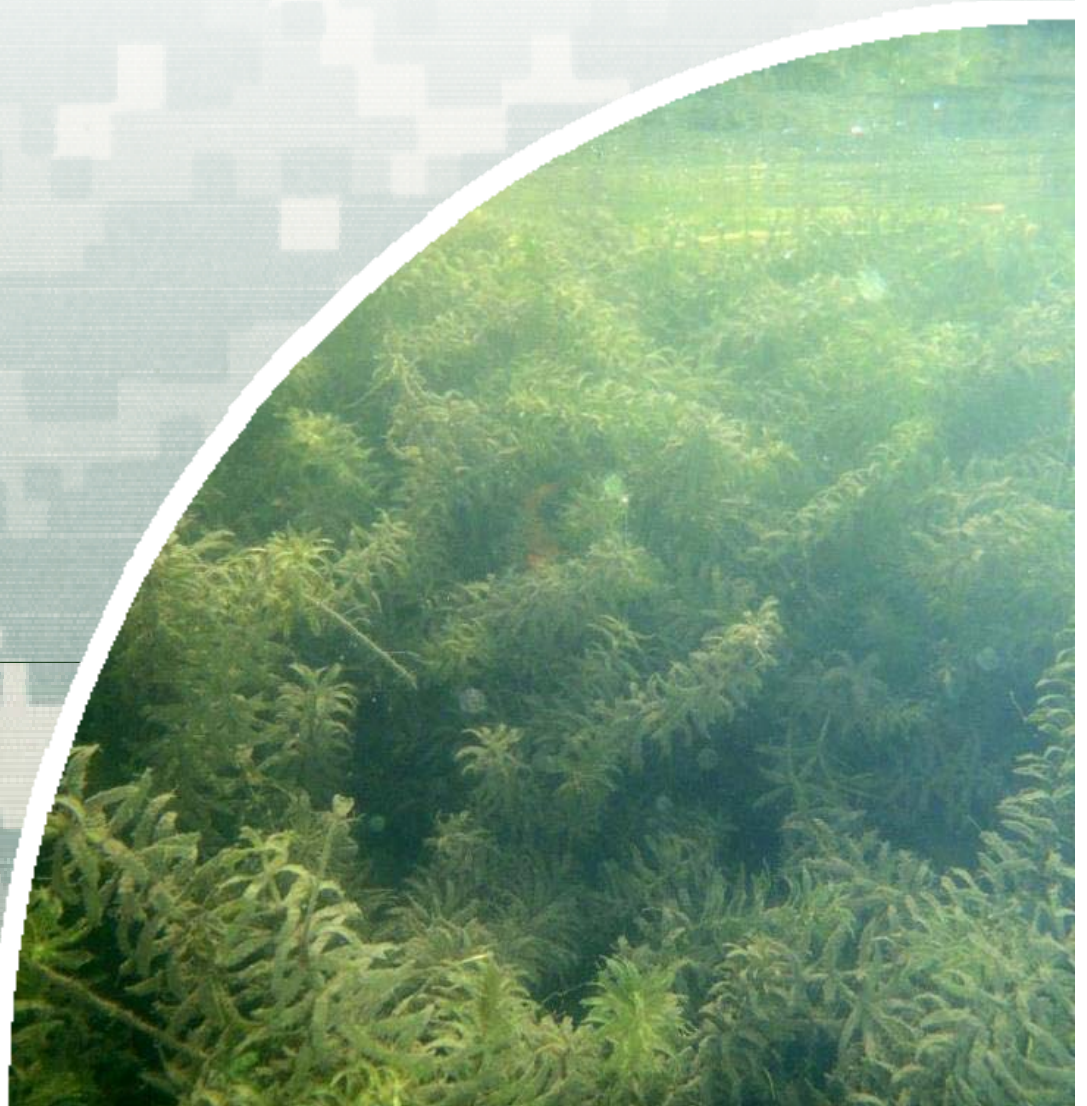
Richard Ruby

Biologist
Buffalo District

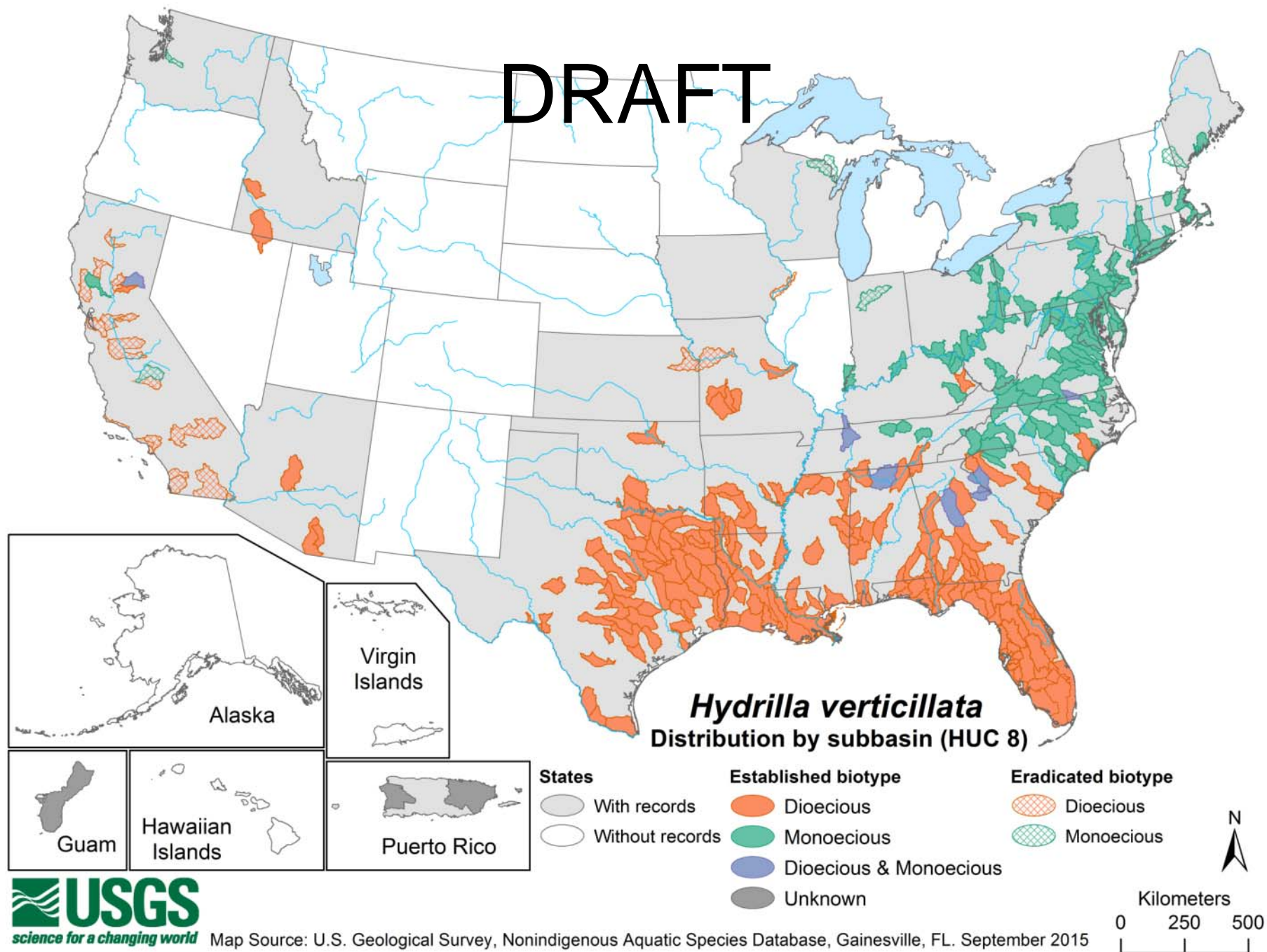
October 6, 2015



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®



DRAFT



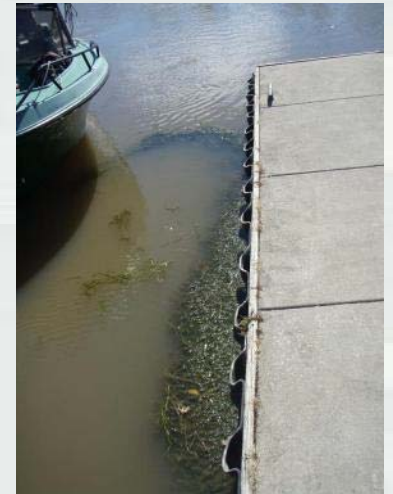
Project Area



(Erie Canal Website: <http://www.eriecanal.org/index.html>)

BUILDING STRONG®

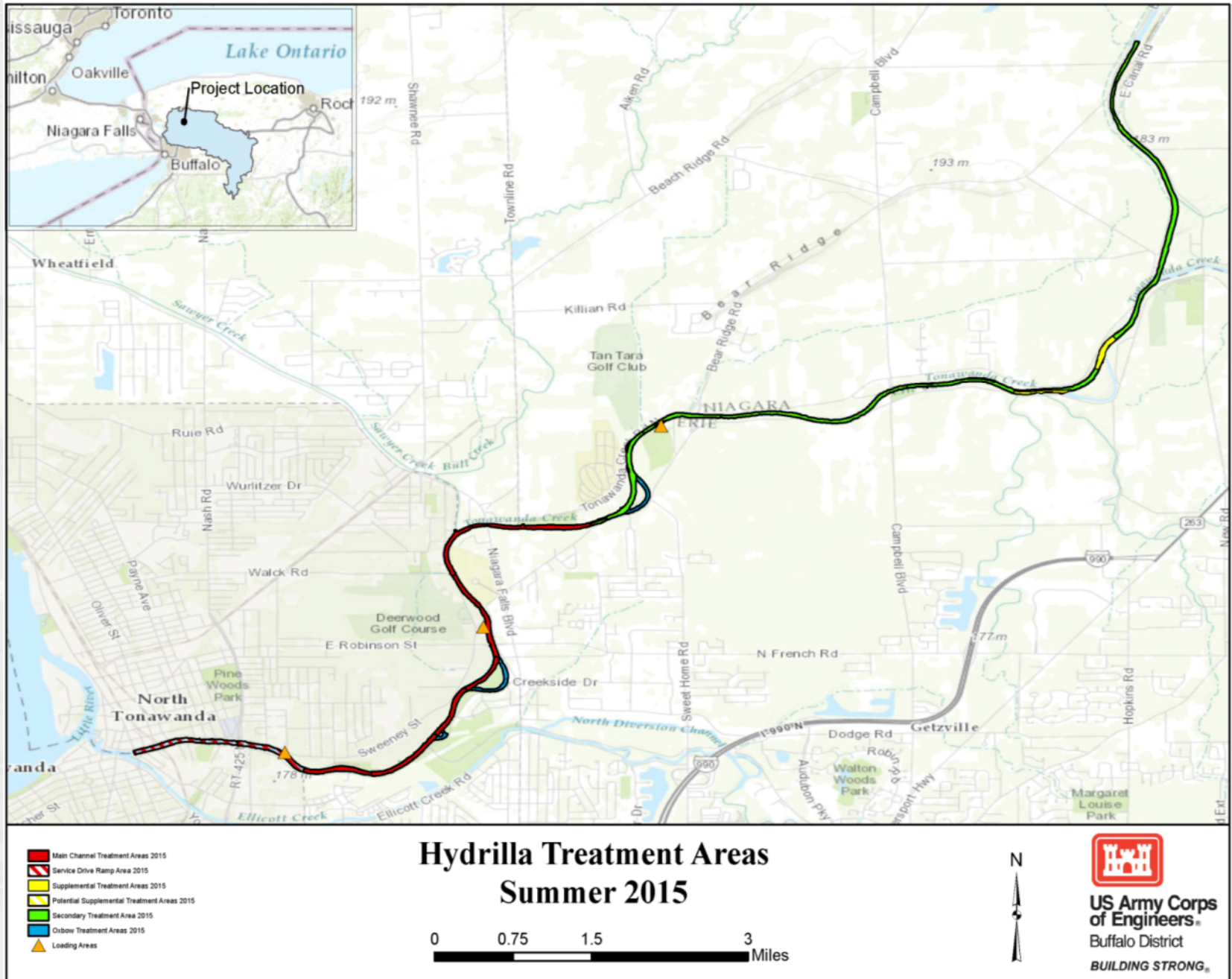
Hydrilla can be found in patchy large beds along the canal banks*



* 2014 Pre-treatment



BUILDING STRONG®



BUILDING STRONG®

Hydrilla patch outside of main
treatment area, identified Aug 25



Spot herbicide application Sep 8 & 9



Preliminary 2015 Results

- Overall hydrilla frequency in canal was reduced from 33% to 4%
- Overall hydrilla tuber densities were reduced by >90% in yrs 1 and 2.
- Significant decrease in hydrilla frequency has greatly reduced the number of fragments observed floating in the canal

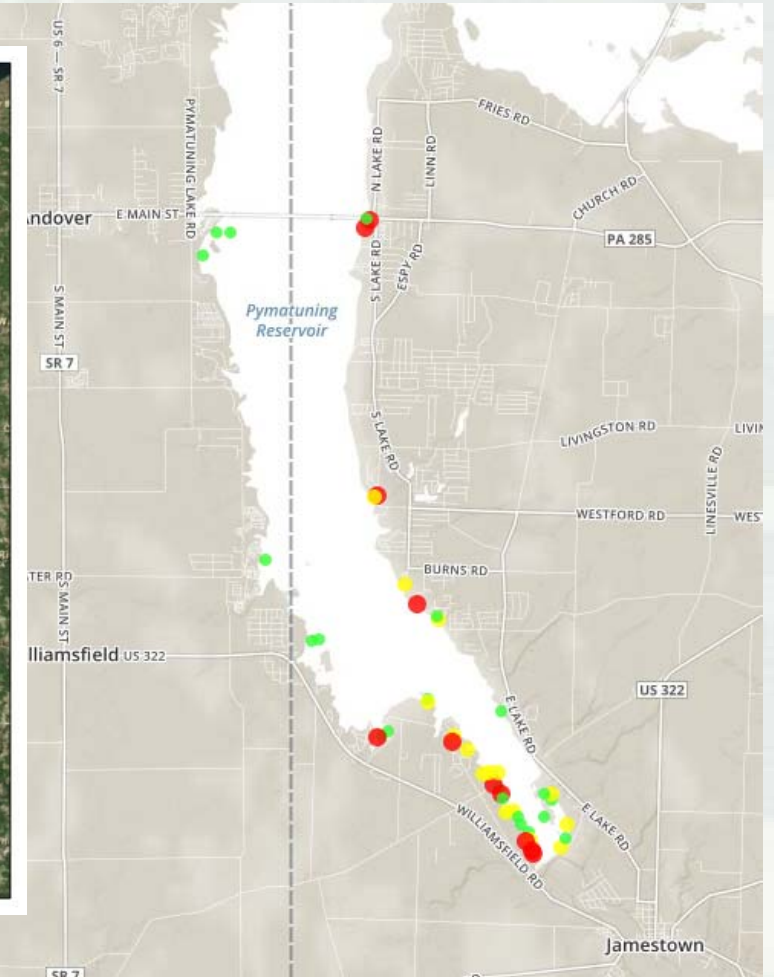
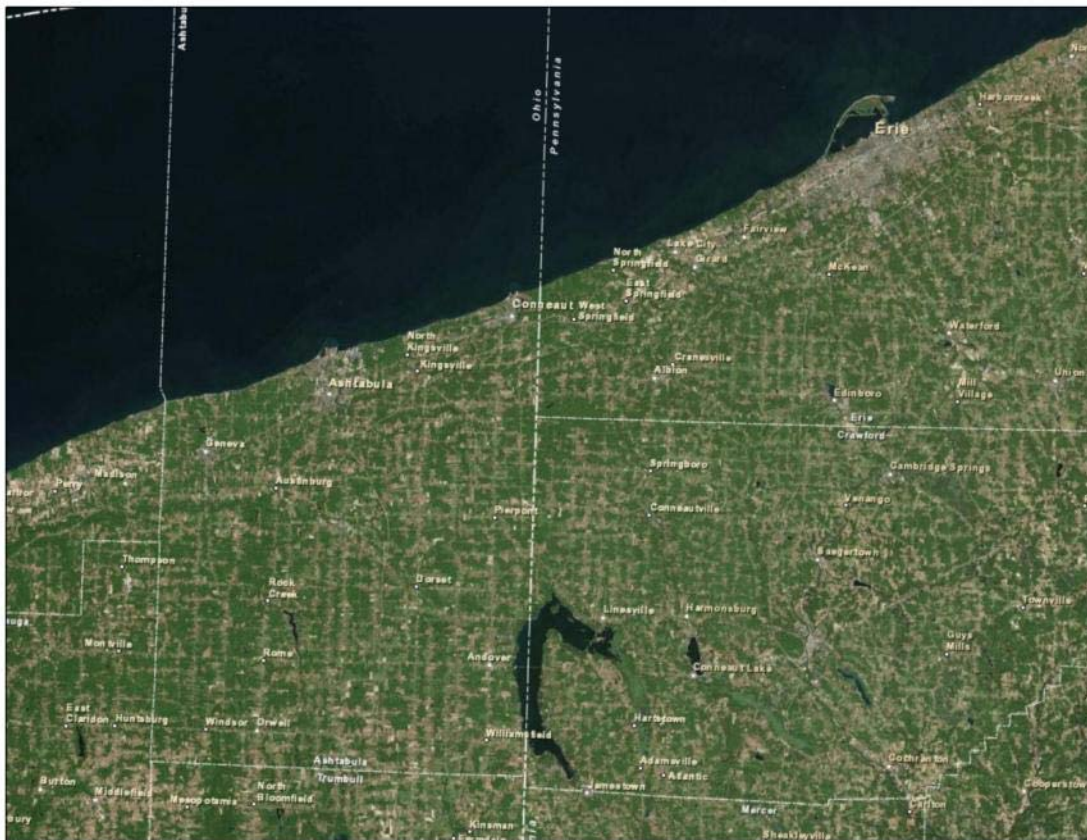


Preliminary 2015 Results

- Achieved excellent control of hydrilla in the area near the Service Drive ramp in 2015, was not controlled in 2014
- Several of the key native species remained much more stable following the 2015 large-scale application as opposed to 2014
- Strategies in 2016 may change to more specifically target hydrilla beds (versus the entire canal) from mid-July to mid-August



Pymatuning Reservoir



BUILDING STRONG®

Risk Assessment

- Will result in a Great Lakes specific assessment of hydrilla
- Risk = probability of establishment + consequence of establishment
- Will include plant biology and ecology studies necessary to support risk assessment, modeling, and reduce uncertainty

