



PUBLIC NOTICE

In Reply Refer to: Keith Hannon
Email: CTRiver-Hydrilla@usace.army.mil
Planning Division
Date: 06/11/2025
Comment Period Closes: 07/13/2025

30 DAY PUBLIC NOTICE AQUATIC INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL RESEARCH DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

CONNECTICUT RIVER HYDRILLA CONTROL RESEARCH AND DEMONSTRATION PROJECT LOWER CONNECTICUT RIVER, CONNECTICUT

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District, is proposing to modify its aquatic invasive plant control research demonstration project, the Connecticut River Hydrilla Control Research and Demonstration Project (Project), by adding an additional 12 treatment sites within the Lower Connecticut River Watershed (Attachment 1) and additional herbicides. The proposed modification to the Project is subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (Public Law 91-190) and Executive Order 11988 – Floodplain Management along with additional pertinent laws, regulations, and directives provided in Attachment 2. Project activities involve the application of herbicide to the waters of the Lower Connecticut River Watershed for the control of the invasive aquatic plant, hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*). The Project is a part of the USACE Engineering Research and Development Center's (ERDC) Aquatic Plant Control and Research Program (APCRP). The Project is being conducted under the authority provided by Section 104 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1958, as amended. This authority allows the APCRP to support the "prevention, control, and progressive eradication of noxious aquatic plant growths and aquatic invasive species from the navigable waters, tributary streams, connecting channels, and other allied waters of the United States."

Project Description:

The Project currently includes five treatment sites within the Lower Connecticut River Watershed, with a field-scale demonstration of chemical technology to evaluate the effectiveness of an aquatic herbicide to manage hydrilla, including sites in high water exchange environments (e.g., tidal, riverine environment). The proposed modification to the Project includes the addition of 12 treatment sites within the Lower Connecticut River Watershed: (1) Chester Creek in Chester; (2) Deep River in Deep River; (3) Hamburg Cove in Lyme; (4) Joshua Creek in Lyme; (5) Mattabesset River in Middletown; (6) Parker's Point in Chester; (7) an expanded Portland Boat Works in Portland; (8) Post and Pratt Coves in Deep River; (9) Salmon River in East Haddam; (10) Selden Creek in

Lyme; (11) Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton; and (12) Pameacha Pond in Middletown. The Project currently includes the use of three herbicides: diquat dibromide (diquat), dipotassium salt of endothall, and florypyrauxifen-benzyl. The proposed modification to the Project includes the use of bispyribac-sodium, imazamox, flumioxazin, fluridone, penoxsulam, or combinations thereof for treatment of hydrilla (Attachment 3).

During the field demonstration, herbicides will be selected based on site-specific environmental characteristics, such as water exchange rate, product retention, and the presence of native species, as well as the likelihood of the herbicide's effectiveness in controlling target plant species within the application limits outlined on the product label. The herbicide will be evenly distributed across entire treatment areas using the industry-standard boat-based subsurface injection application methods consisting of a calibrated pump and trailing hoses. Herbicide will be applied by licensed applicators and in accordance with product labels. Proposed maximum application rates is provided in Attachment 4.

Proposed treatments will occur in the summer after July 4th, 2025, with any subsequent treatments occurring after July 4th of future years. This timing was selected to avoid impacts to diadromous fishes and northern pike (*Esox lucius*) that may spawn in submerged aquatic vegetation at sites in or adjacent to the Connecticut River. Pre- and post-application monitoring will occur at treatment sites to understand control efficacy for hydrilla and impacts to non-target species to inform the management of other hydrilla infestations. Post-application monitoring may occur for up to three years.

Purpose of Work: The purpose of the Project is to provide a field-scale demonstration of technology developed under the APCRP, which is evaluating the effectiveness of aquatic herbicides to manage monoecious hydrilla in high water exchange environments, such as the tidal, riverine environment of the lower Connecticut River. The Project will evaluate herbicide efficacy, optimal timing of treatment, non-target impacts, and herbicide concentration-exposure time requirements for effective control of hydrilla. The Project will also provide interim control of hydrilla at sites in the Lower Connecticut River Watershed for the duration of the research and demonstration project to demonstrate and understand effective management practices.

Alternatives: In addition to the modified Proposed Action analyzed in the modified Project's draft supplemental environmental assessment (SEA), the draft SEA also evaluated a No Action Alternative. Under the No Action Alternative, herbicide application to the proposed additional 12 treatment sites in the Lower Connecticut River Watershed would not occur.

Additional Information: Additional information may be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District Project Team general email at CTRiver-Hydrilla@usace.army.mil. Information on the overall project, including the 2024 environmental assessment, that is not a part of the Proposed Action can be found at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Connecticut-River-Hydrilla/>.

Coordination: Modifications to the Project are being coordinated with the following federal, state, and tribal entities.

Federal

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Parks Service

State

Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP)
Connecticut Pesticide Management Program
Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (CT SHPO)
Connecticut Office of Aquatic Invasive Species

Tribal Nations

Mohegan
Mashantucket Pequot
Narragansett Indian Tribe
Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Environmental Impacts: A draft SEA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been prepared for the modified Project. These documents are available for public review at <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects-Topics/Connecticut-River-Hydrilla/>. The USACE has made a preliminary determination that an environmental impact statement for the modified Project is not required under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This determination will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice.

Other Information:

- a. **Local Sponsor:** There is no local sponsor for the Project.
- b. **Floodplain Management:** In accordance with Executive Order 11988, the USACE has determined that the proposed work will not contribute to negative impacts or damages caused by floods.
- c. **Endangered Species:** The USACE determined that the Project may affect, but would not likely adversely affect, threatened or endangered species. Concurrence was obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on February 6, 2024, and from the National Marine Fisheries Services on July 11, 2024. The USACE determined that there would be no change in effect to listed species as a result of modifications to the Project. The USACE has coordinated the modified Project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844).

d. Cultural Resources: In accordance with National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the USACE consulted with the Connecticut SHPO, Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, Narragansett Indian Tribe, and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) on the Project and its determination that the Project would have no effects to historic properties. Concurrence was obtained from Connecticut SHPO on April 3, 2024. The USACE is coordinating the modified Project with the Connecticut SHPO, Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, Narragansett Indian Tribe, and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah).

Please bring this notice to the attention of anyone you know to be interested in this project. Comments are invited from all interested parties and should be directed to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751, ATTN: Keith Hannon; or emailed to CTRiver-Hydrilla@usace.army.mil within 30 days of this notice.

10 JUNE 2025

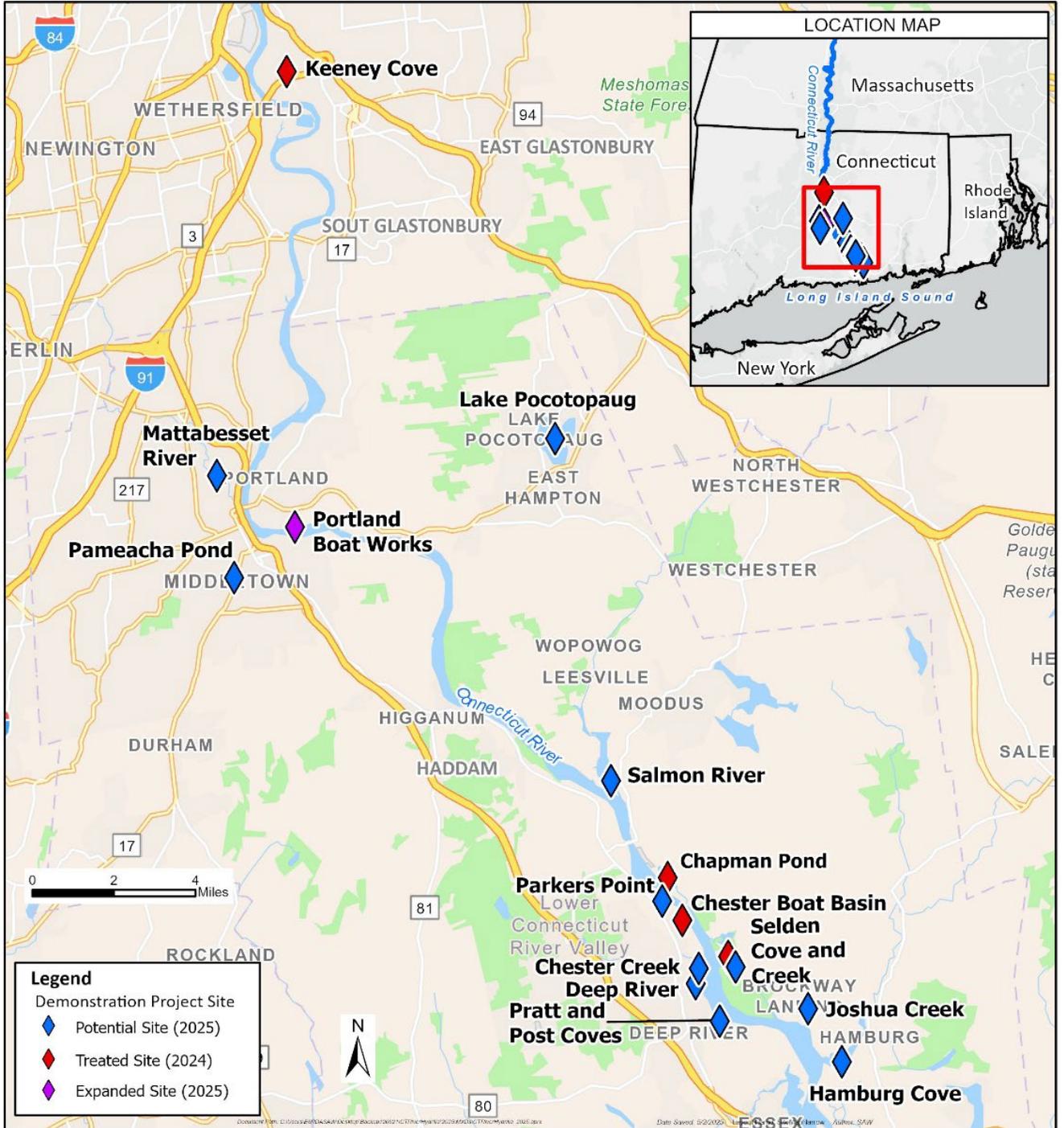
Date



Wendy Gendron
Chief, Planning Division

Attachment 1

Prior research and demonstration treatment sites and proposed treatment sites within the Lower Connecticut River watershed



Attachment 2

PERTINENT LAWS, REGULATIONS, AND DIRECTIVES

Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.)

Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.)

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.)

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq.)

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)

Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.)

Estuary Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.)

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460I-12 et seq.)

Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (54 U.S.C. 200302 et seq.)

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.)

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.)

Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, 24 May 1977

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks, 21 April 1997

Attachment 3

Proposed herbicides for consideration

Site	Treatment Area (acres)	Potential Herbicide(s)¹
Chester Creek	37.9	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Deep River	5.3	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Hamburg Cove	178.8	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Mattabesset River	65.6	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl, Fluridone
Parker's Point	3.0	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Portland Boat Works	16.1	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Post and Pratt Coves	35.5	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Salmon River	274.3	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Joshua Creek	20.7	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Selden Creek	48.1	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Lake Pocotopaug	232	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Imazamox, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl, Flumioxazin, Penoxsulam
Pameacha Pond	18.8	Fluridone, Bispyribac-sodium, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl

¹ Herbicide(s) will be selected based on field-conditions during summer treatment period

Attachment 4.

Proposed Herbicides Use Rates

Potential Herbicide	Maximum Application Rate
Bispyribac-sodium	40 ppb
Diquat	370 ppb
Dipotassium salt of endothall	5 ppm
Florpyrauxifen-benzyl	48 ppb
Imazamox	500 ppb
Flumioxazin	400 ppb
Fluridone	15 ppb
Penoxsulam	150 ppb