

**APPENDIX E**  
**BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT  
696 VIRGINIA ROAD  
CONCORD MA 01742-2751

February 6, 2026

Planning Division

Audrey Mayer, Ph.D.  
Supervisor, New England Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Dr. Mayer:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District, proposes to carry out the Connecticut River Hydrilla Control Research and Demonstration Project (Project) in the Lower Connecticut River in Connecticut. The Project is a part of the USACE Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC)'s Aquatic Plant Control Research Program. The Aquatic Plant Control Research Program is authorized by Section 104 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1958, as amended, 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."

The USACE requests initiation of informal consultation and conference under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended, regarding potential effects of the proposed action on terrestrial ESA-listed species. The USACE has determined that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*), and the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*). The USACE has determined that the proposed action would result in no effect to the puritan tiger beetle (*Ellipsoptera puritana*). The USACE requests your written concurrence on the species that may be present in the action area and with its determinations on the effects of the proposed action on these species.

The USACE's supporting analysis is provided in the enclosed Biological Evaluation (BE). The BE and supporting enclosures contain the information required for initiation of informal consultation pursuant to 50 CFR 402.13, including:

- (i) A description of the proposed action to be considered, including any measures intended to avoid, minimize, or offset effects of the action (Section III in the BE).
- (ii) A map or description of all areas that may be affected directly or indirectly by the action, and not merely the immediate area involved in the action (i.e., the action area as defined by 50 CFR 402.02) (Section IV in the BE and Enclosure 4);

(iii) Information obtained by or in the possession of the USACE on listed species (Section V in the BE);

(iv) A description of the effects of the action and an analysis of cumulative effects (Sections VII and VIII in the BE);

If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please contact the project biologist, Kelsie Dakessian, at [REDACTED] or by email at [Kelsie.Dakessian@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kelsie.Dakessian@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Chris L. Chabot, Ph.D.  
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosures

Copies Furnished:  
David Simmons, Supervisory Biologist  
New England Ecological Services Field Office

# Connecticut River Hydrilla Control Research and Demonstration Project Biological Evaluation

5 February 2026

## I. Introduction

This Biological Evaluation<sup>1</sup> (BE) reanalyzes the potential effects of the implemented Connecticut River Hydrilla Control Research and Demonstration Project (Project) on listed and proposed species identified within the Project's Action Area. Additionally, this BE analyzes potential effects to listed species as a result of proposed modifications to the Project to determine whether any such species are likely to be adversely affected by the action. The BE supports the USACE's determination on Federally-listed species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), New England District, is proposing to conduct the Project within the Lower Connecticut River in Connecticut. The Project is a field-scale demonstration of technology developed under the USACE Engineer Research and Development Center's (ERDC) Aquatic Plant Control Research Program that is evaluating the effectiveness of aquatic herbicides to manage monoecious *Hydrilla verticillata* (Hydrilla) in the Lower Connecticut River watershed.

The Connecticut River is a tidally influenced river that spans 410 miles and forms the border between Vermont and New Hampshire and flows through Massachusetts, and Connecticut where it reaches its confluence with the Long Island Sound. The Project is located within the Lower Connecticut River watershed that includes areas of southern Massachusetts and Connecticut. Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) is an aquatic invasive species found within the Connecticut River as recent as 2020. There are three genetically distinct Hydrilla variants identified in the United States: dioecious Hydrilla primarily found in southern and western states, monoecious Hydrilla in mid-Atlantic to northern states, and Clade C Hydrilla found in the Lower Connecticut River watershed. Clade C or Connecticut River Hydrilla, was identified in 2020 and is a unique ecotype of the Connecticut River (Tippary et al., 2020). Because this strain of Hydrilla is unique, it is unknown if this variant is responsive to the established management practices for Hydrilla in the rest of the U.S.

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<sup>1</sup> This BE and USACE's NEPA reviews also constitute a biological assessment to determine whether the action may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat, and, if so, whether the action is likely to adversely affect listed or proposed species or critical habitat.

The Project currently includes the application of an aquatic herbicide to the waters of the Lower Connecticut River watershed for the control of Hydrilla and includes five treatment sites: (1) Keeney Cove in Glastonbury; (2) Portland Boat Works in Portland; (3) Chapman Pond in Haddam; (4) Chester Boat Basin in Chester; and (5) Selden Cove in Lyme. Three aquatic herbicides are currently being used for the Project: diquat dibromide (diquat), dipotassium salt of endothall, and florpyrauxifen-benzyl at the treatment sites.

Herbicide application initially occurred in 2024 in accordance with Federal and state law. As discussed below, the USACE coordinated the 2024 application with the USFWS. In July and August of 2024, herbicide applications occurred at the five treatment sites with monthly post-treatment monitoring conducted after application. Project monitoring is being conducted to determine changes in submersed aquatic vegetation, including non-target (native) species. Monitoring methods include hydroacoustic surveys and point-intercept surveys. In August 2025, re-treatment occurred at Chester Boat Basin and Selden Cove. No changes in monitoring protocol have occurred, and monthly post-treatment monitoring began in September 2025.

## **II. Consultation History**

The USACE previously consulted with the USFWS on the Project through the USFWS's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool and by letter dated March 28, 2024 (Please see Enclosure 2).

The USACE is proposing to modify the Project (please see Proposed Action below) and consulted with the USFWS on Project modifications on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> through IPaC (Please see Enclosure 3).

## **III. Proposed Action**

50 CFR 402.02 defines an "Action" as all activities or programs of any kind authorized, funded, or carried out, in whole or in part, by Federal agencies (50 CFR 402.02). The USACE, as part of ERDC's Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP), proposes aquatic herbicide field demonstrations for the Project. The proposed action includes future treatment and monitoring at the current sites considered in the 2024 USFWS consultation. The proposed action considers modifying the Portland Boat Works site and its treatment plan. This site is considered to be an additional site, as discussed below, due to the modifications. In addition, the proposed action seeks to expand the existing Project by adding twelve sites with herbicide treatments in the Lower Connecticut River watershed. In addition to the three herbicides analyzed in the 2024 USFWS consultation and used in the 2024 treatment (diquat, dipotassium salt of endothall, and florpyrauxifen-benzyl), the currently proposed action will include the addition of the following herbicides: bispyribac-sodium, imazamox, flumioxazin, fluridone, and penoxsulam, or combinations thereof (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Proposed herbicides for consideration.

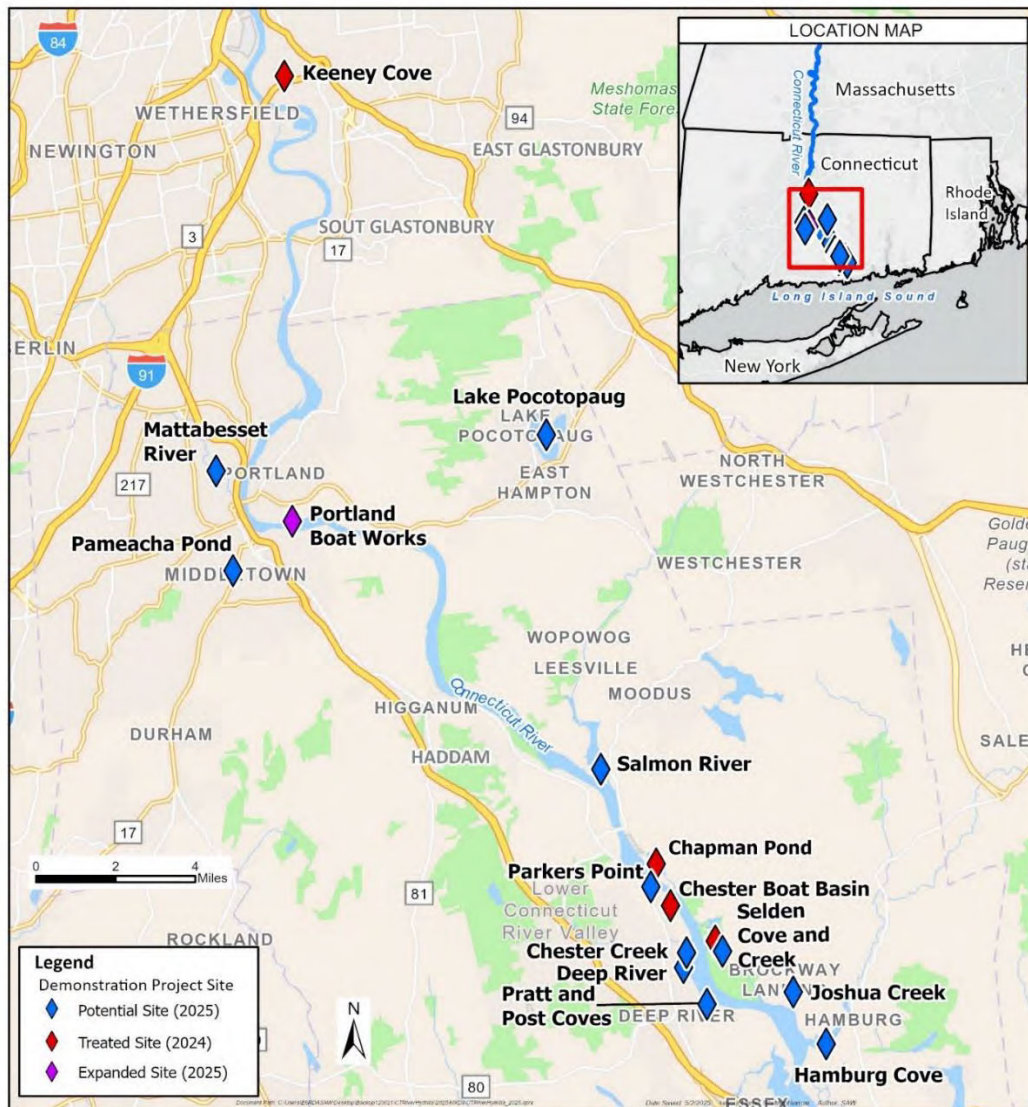
Site	Potential Herbicide(s)
Chapman Pond	Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Chester Boat Basin <sup>2</sup>	Dipotassium salt of endothall and Diquat
Keeney Cove	Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Selden Cove	Dipotassium salt of endothall
Chester Creek <sup>1</sup>	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Deep River <sup>1</sup>	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Hamburg Cove <sup>1</sup>	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Mattabeset River <sup>1</sup>	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl, Fluridone
Parker's Point <sup>1</sup>	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Portland Boat Works <sup>1</sup>	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Pratt and Post Coves <sup>1</sup>	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Salmon River <sup>1</sup>	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Joshua Creek <sup>1</sup>	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Selden Creek <sup>1</sup>	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl
Lake Pocotopaug <sup>1</sup>	Diquat, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Imazamox, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl, Flumioxazin, Penoxsulam
Pameacha Pond <sup>1</sup>	Fluridone, Bispyribac-sodium, Dipotassium salt of endothall, Florpyrauxifen-benzyl

<sup>1</sup> Herbicides will be selected during field demonstration based on field characteristics

<sup>2</sup> Two treatments will occur that are 14-days a part

The purpose of the proposed 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 varied water exchange environments, such as the tidal, riverine environment of the lower Connecticut River. These environments are influenced by water exchange processes driven by gravity flow, tides, wind, and thermal circulation. These processes influence the length of exposure and can impact an herbicide's effectiveness (Getsinger & Netherland, 2018). In addition, the proposed action will evaluate herbicide efficacy where monoecious Hydrilla is most problematic, optimal timing of treatment, and length of exposure required for effective control of Hydrilla. The proposed action will also provide interim control of Hydrilla at the treatment sites for the duration of the research and demonstration project.

The five sites originally proposed for treatment in 2024 were: (1) Keeney Cove in Glastonbury; (2) Portland Boat Works in Portland; (3) Chapman Pond in Haddam; (4) Chester Boat Basin in Chester; and (5) Selden Cove in Lyme. USACE is now proposing to treat additional sites will allow for further demonstration on varied environments, such as lakes and ponds, within the Connecticut River system. These additional sites are: (1) Chester Creek in Chester; (2) Deep River in Deep River; (3) Hamburg Cove in Lyme; (4) Joshua Creek in Lyme; (5) Mattabeset River in Middletown; (6) Parker's Point in Chester; (7) an expanded Portland Boat Works in Portland; (8) Pratt and Post 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 (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Treatment sites for the Connecticut River Hydrilla Control Research and Demonstration Project. Portland Boat Works was treated in 2024 and is proposed for expansion during future treatments.

All treatments will occur in the summer of 2026 or in the summer of future years, no later than 2030. Treatments at Pameacha Pond and Lake Pocotopaug will occur after June 1 of each calendar year. Treatments at all other sites will occur after July 4 within each calendar year because of a time of year restriction to avoid potential impacts to diadromous fishes and northern pike (*Esox lucius*) spawning. No time of year restriction will occur at Pameacha Pond and Lake Pocotopaug due to the lack of diadromous fish passage from dams. All treatments will occur no later than October 14 within each calendar year. Each treatment site will be treated no more than once each calendar year, unless otherwise noted, and treatments will be completed in one or two days.

Herbicides will be evenly distributed across entire treatment areas using industry-standard, and Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) approved, boat-based, subsurface injection application method consisting of a calibrated pump and trailing hoses. Where multiple herbicides are proposed, herbicides will be selected during the field demonstration based on site-specific environmental characteristics (i.e., water exchange, product retention, native species abundance). Herbicides will be applied in concentrations that are compliant to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)-approved label (Table 2). At the Chester Boat Basin treatment site, two herbicides (dipotassium salt of endothall and diquat) will be co-applied to monitor effectiveness. This is the only site where two herbicides will be used at once.

**Table 2.** Proposed herbicide 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

As part of the proposed action, one or two herbicide treatment vessels will be used at each site with up to two additional monitoring vessels. The herbicide treatment vessel will be either an 18- to 25-foot airboat or a conventional skiff with outboard motor. The monitoring vessels will likely be 16- to 20-foot skiffs. The monitoring vessels may be present for up to a week to monitor the residual herbicide levels, dissipation times, and impacts of the herbicide to the target plants. Vessel access to each site will occur via public boat launches and marinas. Vessel access from Deep River Town Landing, Salmon River State, and Portland Boat Works will be through the Connecticut River, a traditional navigable waterway, via the routes specified in the Description of the Action Area section.

## IV. Action Area

The Action Area is defined as “all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action” (50 CFR §402.02). For the proposed action, the Action Area includes the five 2024 treatment sites and the proposed additional 12 treatment sites, within the Connecticut River system, and their access routes (Figure 1). Individual treatment sites are discussed in detail below and maps can be found in Enclosure 4. The USFWS’s National Wetlands Inventory online mapping tool (USFWS, 2025a) was used to identify the types of wetland systems present at the various treatment sites according to the Cowardin et al. (1979) classification system. Federal and state lands adjacent to the treatment sites are also described below (CT DEEP, 2025).

The USEPA has determined the environmental fate of the proposed herbicides during the pesticide registration process under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIRFA) (7 U.S.C. §136(a)). Environmental fate describes the movement, transportation, and degradation of pesticides in soil, water, and air following application. The proposed aquatic herbicides are registered for aquatic use and are not highly persistent in the water column or biologically available in soils. Therefore, the USACE does not anticipate the transport of herbicide to areas outside of the treatment sites. Furthermore, herbicide applications will utilize subsurface injection application methods to avoid the risk of herbicide contact with upland resources.

### 1. Chapman Pond

Chapman Pond is a large tidal pond off the mainstem of the Connecticut River, located in East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT, and centered at 41.439° N, 72.446° W. The treatment area is 50.1 acres, with an estimated mean depth of 4.4 to 7.2 feet Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW). Surrounding habitat includes freshwater tidal wetlands and upland forested habitat. Freshwater tidal wetlands are dominated by emergent vegetation, with some small areas of scrub-shrub or forested wetlands. Upland forested habitat is associated with the Chapman Pond Preserve and is managed by The Nature Conservancy and East Haddam Land Trust for recreation and conservation.

### 2. Chester Boat Basin

Chester Boat Basin is located off the mainstem of the Connecticut River, in Chester, Middlesex County, CT, and centered at 41.424° N, 72.439° W. The treatment area is 4.1 acres with an estimated mean depth of 4.7 to 7.6 MLLW. Surrounding habitat includes developed areas (associated with the boat basin), residential areas, and wetland habitat. Emergent freshwater tidal wetlands are found near the Connecticut River, while other scrub-shrub freshwater tidal wetlands are found outside of the boat basin facility.

### 3. Keeney Cove

Keeney Cove is a tidal cove off the mainstem of the Connecticut River. The cove is in Glastonbury and East Hartford, Hartford County, CT, and centered at 41.721° N, 72.629° W. The treatment area is 70.3 acres with an estimated mean depth of 2.7 to 4.5 feet MLLW. Surrounding habitat includes forested freshwater tidal wetlands, with small areas of emergent freshwater tidal wetlands (USFWS, 2025a). The surrounding landscape includes portions of the state's Connecticut River Wildlife Management Area for East Hartford. There are two road crossings associated with Connecticut State Highway 3.

### 4. Selden Cove

Selden Cove is a tidal cove associated with Selden Creek. The cove is located in Lyme, Middlesex County, CT, and centered at 41.411° N, 72.417° W. The treatment area is 16.1 acres with an estimated mean depth of 1.4 to 4.4 feet MLLW. Surrounding habitat includes freshwater tidal wetlands, upland forested habitat, and residential areas. Freshwater tidal wetlands are predominately emergent vegetation, with a small area of scrub-shrub wetlands. Upland forested habitat includes portions of the state's Selden Neck State Park.

### 5. Chester Creek

Chester Creek is a tidal creek off the mainstem of the Connecticut River, in Chester, Middlesex County, CT, and centered at 41.409° N, 72.435° W. The treatment area is 37.9 acres with an estimated mean depth of nine feet mean higher high water (MHHW). The treatment site is surrounded by freshwater tidal wetlands associated with Chester Creek. These wetlands are predominately emergent wetlands. Other freshwater tidal wetlands include scrub-shrub and forested wetlands (USFWS, 2025a). In addition to wetland habitat, the tidal creek contains multiple marinas and a yacht club. There are two road crossings within the Chester Creek treatment area: Route 156 and a railroad bed associated with the Essex Steam Trail/Valley Railroad.

### 6. Deep River

Deep River is a tributary of the Connecticut River in Deep River, Middlesex County, CT, and centered at 41.401° N, 72.434°W. The treatment area is 5.3 acres with an estimated mean depth of seven feet MHHW. Deep River is in a rural area surrounded by wetlands, low-density residential development, and marinas (e.g., Chester Point Marina) to the north. Freshwater tidal wetlands surround the northern areas of the Deep River treatment site. These wetlands include emergent, scrub-scrub, and forested wetlands. The railroad bed associated with the Essex Steam Trail/Valley Railroad also crosses the Deep River treatment site.

## 7. Hamburg Cove

Hamburg Cove is a tidal cove located at the confluence of the Eightmile River and the Connecticut River. Hamburg Cove is located in Lyme, New London County, CT, and centered at 41.379° N, 72.359° W. The treatment area is 178.8 acres with an estimated mean depth of 11 feet MHHW. The cove receives heavy recreational use, and includes numerous boat docks, a summer camp, two marinas, and a yacht club. There are limited amounts of freshwater tidal wetlands associated with Hamburg Cove. Land use surrounding the cove includes residential, with developed shorelines and boat docks, and upland forested habitat. Smaller wetland habitat consisting of forested/scrub-shrub wetlands occur in the southern portion of the cove. Emergent wetlands are found in the northern and eastern arms of Hamburg Cove, associated with the Eightmile River and Fuller Brook. Three road crossings occur within the Hamburg Cove treatment site: Cove road and Route 156 near the eastern arm of the cove, and Joshuatown road at the northern arm.

The Eightmile River Watershed is protected under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C 1271 *et seq.*). The mainstem of the river, including Hamburg Cove, and specified tributaries are managed by the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic Coordination Committee and the National Park Service (NPS) (Eightmile River Wild & Scenic Study Committee, 2005).

## 8. Joshua Creek

Joshua Creek is a tidal creek off the mainstem of the Connecticut River and located in Lyme, New London County, CT, and centered at 41.395° N, 72.377° W. The treatment area is 20.7 acres with an estimated mean depth of six feet MHHW. Surrounding land use includes terrestrial forest, residential, and wetlands. Freshwater tidal wetlands, dominated by freshwater emergent vegetation, are found near the lower pond. Pockets of estuarine intertidal wetlands are found at the confluence of Joshua Creek and the Connecticut River. In the upper pond, forested and scrub-shrub wetlands can be observed. The creek is transected by two roads, with a culvert connecting the upper and lower ponds.

## 9. Mattabesset River

Mattabesset River is a tidal river off the mainstem of the Connecticut River and located in Middletown, Middlesex County, CT, and centered at 41.583° N, 72.663° W. The treatment area is 65.6 acres with an estimated mean depth of seven feet MHHW. Surrounding land use is predominantly freshwater tidal wetlands, with lesser areas of upland forested habitat. Freshwater tidal wetlands are associated with the Mattabesset River and include emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested wetlands; emergent wetlands are prevalent throughout the treatment site. Areas of forested wetlands are found to the north and south of the treatment site. Surrounding land use includes the state's Cromwell Meadows Wildlife Management Area.

There are two road crossing at the confluence of the Mattabeset and Connecticut Rivers: Route 9 and a CSX Transportation railroad.

#### 10. Parker's Point

Parkers Point is located on the mainstem of the Connecticut River in Chester, Middlesex County, CT, and centered at 41.431° N, 72.449° W. The treatment area is 2.4 acres with an estimated mean depth of six feet MHHW. The treatment area includes a boat launch facility and shoreline protection. Surrounding habitat is predominantly residential, with small areas of terrestrial forest and wetland forested habitat.

#### 11. Portland Boat Works

Portland Boat Works is an operating marina located in Portland, Middlesex County, CT, and centered at 41.411° N, 72.417°W. The marina is located along the shore of the mainstem of the Connecticut River. The site was treated during the 2024 field demonstration, and USACE is proposing an expanded treatment area in 2025. The original treatment area was 0.6 acres with a mean depth of 2.1 feet MHHW. The proposed expanded treatment area is 3.8 acres with an estimated mean depth of five feet MHHW. Surrounding land use includes residential and boat docks for the various marinas. No vegetated wetlands are adjacent to the treatment site.

#### 12. Pratt and Post Coves

Pratt and Post coves are tidal coves off the mainstem of the Connecticut River located in Deep River, Middlesex County, CT, and centered at 41.386° N, 72.421° W. The treatment area is 35.5 acres with an estimated mean depth of six feet MHHW. Surrounding habitat is predominantly freshwater tidal wetlands. There is also upland forested habitat, residential development, and impervious surfaces associated with a boat club. Freshwater tidal wetlands are predominantly emergent vegetation, with a small area of scrub-shrub forested wetlands. There is one road crossing at the south of Pratt Cove, that is associated with Essex Street. The Connecticut Valley Railroad is adjacent to Pratt Cove. Surrounding land use also consists of the state's Connecticut Valley Railroad State Park trail.

### 13. Salmon River

The Salmon River is a tributary of the Connecticut River located in East Haddam and Haddam, Middlesex County, CT, and centered at 41.484° N, 72.478° W. The treatment area is 274.3 acres with an estimated mean depth of nine feet MHHW. Surrounding land use is largely undeveloped and includes freshwater tidal wetlands and upland forested habitat. There are residential areas near adjacent roads, as well as a utility corridor right-of-way. Freshwater tidal wetlands are dominant near the southern portion of Salmon River, where it confluences with the Connecticut River. These wetlands areas predominantly scrub-scrub, with lesser areas of emergent vegetated wetlands. Other freshwater tidal wetlands are found near the north of the treatment site, near Dykas Brook, Pine Brook, and Leesville Pond. Surrounding lands also include the CT DEEP's Haddam Neck Wildlife Management Area and the Sunrise and Machimoodus State Parks, and the USFWS's Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

### 14. Selden Creek

Selden Creek is a tidal creek off the mainstem of the Connecticut River located in Lyme, New London County, CT, and centered at 41.400° N, 72.406° W. The treatment area is 48.1 acres with an estimated mean depth of 12 feet MHHW. Surrounding land use includes freshwater tidal wetlands and upland forested habitat. Freshwater tidal wetlands include emergent, scrub-shrub, and forested wetlands. Selden Creek includes areas of the CT DEEP's Selden Neck State Park and the USFWS's Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge.

### 15. Lake Pocotopaug

Lake Pocotopaug is a large lake, approximately 7.3 miles upstream of the Salmon River. It is located in East Haddam, Middlesex County, CT, and is centered at 41.595° N, 72.501° W. The treatment area is approximately 232 acres with an estimated mean depth of 10 feet. The Pocotopaug Dam impounds Pocotopaug Creek (USACE, 2024). The creek flows southwest and confluences with Pine Brook, a tributary to the Salmon River. Surrounding habitat is predominantly residential. The shoreline of Lake Pocotopaug has an urbanized waterfront comprised of single-family homes with boat docks.

### 16. Pameacha Pond

Pameacha Pond is located in Middletown, Middlesex County, CT, and is centered at 41.544° N, 72.653°W. Pameacha Pond is impounded by the Pameacha Pond Dam (USACE, 2024). The pond drains via Long Hill Brook and Sumner Brook flowing north before discharging to the Connecticut River. The treatment area is 18.8 acres with an estimated mean depth of 8.5 feet. Surrounding land use is highly developed, with commercial developments immediately abutting the eastern shore and residential communities to the west.

The Action Area also includes access routes to the treatment sites. Table 3 describes boat launches or ramps that will be utilized for access. Maps of the access routes considered in the Action Area are enclosed (please see Enclosure 4)

Access for Keeney Cove, Parker’s Point, Pameacha Pond, Portland Boat Works, Salmon River, and Lake Pocotopaug are through launches/ramps within the treatment sites. No additional access is described for these points as denoted by Not Applicable (“N/A”) in Table 3. The treatment sites and access routes are expected to encompass all the effects of the proposed project.

**Table 3.** Boat ramps or launches for treatment site access.

<b>Treatment Site</b>	<b>Access Route Origin</b>
Chapman Pond	Deep River Town Landing
Chester Boat Basin	Deep River Town Landing or Salmon River State boat launch
Keeney Cove	N/A
Selden Cove	Deep River Town Landing or Salmon River State boat launch
Chester Creek	Deep River Town Landing
Deep River	Deep River Town Landing
Hamburg Cove	Deep River Town Landing
Joshua Creek	Deep River Town Landing
Mattabeset River	Portland Boat Works
Parker’s Point	N/A
Pameacha Pond	N/A
Portland Boat Works	N/A
Pratt and Post Coves	Deep River Town Landing
Salmon River	N/A
Selden Creek	Deep River Town Landing
Lake Pocotopaug	N/A

## V. Listed or Proposed Species that May Be Present in Action Area

A list of Federally listed and proposed species in the Action Area was obtained from the USFWS’s Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool on January 22, 2026 (please see Enclosure 5). Coordination with the USFWS New England Field Office also identified the puritan tiger beetle (PTB) (*Ellipsoptera puritana*) as potentially occurring in the Action Area. Table 4 lists the Federally listed and proposed species with the potential to occur in the Action Area. No critical habitat is designated for these species.

**Table 4.** Federally listed and proposed species with the potential occurrence in the Action Area.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Puritan tiger beetle	<i>Ellipsoptera puritana</i>	Threatened
Northern long-eared bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Endangered
Tricolored bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>	Proposed Endangered
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Proposed Threatened

## VI. Environmental Baseline

The “environmental baseline” is defined at 50 CFR 402.02 as “the condition of the listed species or its designated critical habitat in the Action Area, without the consequences to the listed species or designated critical habitat caused by the proposed action. The environmental baseline includes the past and present impacts of all Federal, state, or private actions and other human activities in the Action Area, the anticipated impacts of all proposed Federal projects in the Action Area that have already undergone formal or early section 7 consultation, and the impact of state or private actions which are contemporaneous with the consultation in process. The impacts to listed species or designated critical habitat from Federal agency activities or existing Federal agency facilities that are not within the agency's discretion to modify are part of the environmental baseline.”<sup>2</sup>

This section describes the environmental baseline considered in the effects analysis.

### A. Lower Connecticut River Watershed

The Connecticut River watershed is one of the largest watersheds in New England. The river forms the boundary between Vermont and New Hampshire and flows through Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The Action Area is a part of the Lower Connecticut River watershed. The treatment sites include areas of the Connecticut River, its tributaries, creeks, coves, lakes, and ponds, as described above in Section IV.

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<sup>2</sup> USACE considered the proposed 2025 revisions to the Services’ ESA regulations in 50 CFR Part 402 and determined they would not alter the analysis in this BE.

The Connecticut River watershed includes various flood control structures, such as dams, levees, and floodwalls. There are no dams along the mainstem of the Connecticut River in the Lower Connecticut River watershed. The closest dam within the Connecticut River is the Holyoke Dam in Holyoke and South Hadley, Massachusetts, approximately 55 river miles to the north. In the Lower Connecticut River watershed, the USACE has constructed Local Protection Projects to provide flood risk management to communities. These include structures such as levees and floodwalls, which are operated and maintained by non-federal sponsors. In the Lower Connecticut River watershed, there are three Local Protection Projects: in Hartford and East Hartford, Connecticut, and in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Within the Lower Connecticut River watershed, the Connecticut River includes a Federal Navigation Project (FNP). The Connecticut River is a traditional navigable waterway, with navigational modifications beginning in 1836. The FNP includes multiple channels, jetties, anchorage basins, turning basins, dikes, and revetments (USACE, n.d.).

In addition to navigation, the Lower Connecticut River watershed has varied recreational uses. The FNP includes recreational harbors at the Essex waterfront and in Wethersfield Cove (USACE, n.d.). Boat launch facilities are found throughout the watershed, including state, municipal, and private facilities. Private facilities include marinas as well as residential boat launches and docks that are found throughout rivers, lakes, and ponds in the watershed. As described in Section IV, the CT DEEP manages state parks along the Connecticut River and its tributaries. The CT DEEP also has designated Wildlife Management Areas along the Connecticut River and its tributaries. These areas are managed for wildlife and provide recreational hunting opportunities.

## B. Proposed Treatment Sites

The proposed action will include application to aquatic and intertidal habitat within the proposed treatment sites. The adjacent shoreline includes wetland and forested habitat, such as the Selden Creek Preserve and Selden Neck State Park adjacent to Selden Creek and Cove (USFWS, 2025a; CT DEEP, 2025). In addition to upland forested and freshwater tidal wetland habitat, the proposed treatment sites are abutted by various residential and commercial land uses. The proposed treatment sites include inland waterbodies within the Lower Connecticut River watershed:

- The mainstem of the Connecticut River (Chester Boat Basin, Parker's Point and Portland Boat Works);
- Tidal tributaries to the Connecticut River (Deep River, Mattabesset River, and Salmon River);
- Tidal creeks (Chester Creek, Joshua Creek, and Selden Creek);
- Tidal coves (Hamburg Cove, Keeney Cove, Pratt and Post Coves, and Selden Cove);

- and lakes and ponds (Lake Pocotopaug and Pameacha Pond).

#### C. Access Routes

Access routes are described in Table 3, above, and in Enclosure 4. Boat access ramps/launches include the Deep River Town Landing, Salmon River State Boat Launch, and the Portland Boat Works marina. Access for lakes and ponds will be within the treatment sites. Therefore, no additional access routes are described for these sites. River access from the launches will be through the mainstem of the Connecticut River. The Connecticut River provides recreational and commercial access to various communities along the Connecticut River.

#### D. Status of ESA Species in the Action Area

##### 1) Puritan tiger beetle (PTB; *Ellipsoptera puritana*)

The USFWS presented the updated status of the PTB when it reclassified the species as a threatened species on August 7, 1990 (55 FR 32088 32094). The beetle's current range is restricted to Chesapeake Bay, in Maryland, and along the Connecticut River, in Massachusetts and Connecticut. The Connecticut metapopulation includes four sites near Cromwell, Connecticut, with individuals moving between populations. Potential suitable sites have also been identified in northern New England. Reintroduction efforts in Connecticut have occurred at Dart Island (Middletown), Higganum Meadows (Haddam), and Windsor Island (Windsor). In Connecticut, the PTB is found on sandy islands and banks of rivers that have suitable substrate for larval burrows. The Connecticut River metapopulation prefers to lay eggs in damp sand adjacent to and below a beach's wrack line (USFWS, 2025b). The PTB undergoes a two-year larval period, followed by pupation in late spring. In Connecticut, adult emergence occurs around late June to early July. Adults are active during the day and night. Feeding occurs throughout the day near the wrack line (USFWS, 1993).

##### 2) Northern long-eared bat (NLEB; *Myotis septentrionalis*)

The USFWS presented the updated status of the NLEB when it reclassified the species as an endangered species on November 30, 2022 (87 FR 73488 73504). The NLEB is found throughout the Northeast, and its range includes 37 states. During the summer, NLEB bat activity in Connecticut includes the summer occupancy, pup season, and fall swarming life stages (USFWS, 2025c). Roosting and foraging may occur in suitable habitat near the proposed treatment sites. Roosting may occur in the cavities or crevices of live trees and snags, or in human-made structures (i.e., bridges). NLEBs are nocturnal foragers that feed on various insects, including moths, flies, leafhoppers, caddisflies, beetles, and spiders. Foraging occurs between the understory and canopy of forested hillsides and ridges. NLEBs may also forage over small forest clearings and water. Bat

activity is heightened during the fall swarming season, in which increased activity and congregation around proximal hibernacula has been observed (USFWS, 2022). In addition, increased foraging, roosting, and mating may occur.

3) Tricolored bat (TCB; *Perimyotis subflavus*)

The USFWS presented the updated status of the TCB when it listed the species as a proposed endangered species on September 14, 2022 (87 FR 56381 56393). The TCB is found throughout the Northeast, and its range includes 39 states. TCB bat activity periods in Connecticut are similar to the NLEB, and include the summer occupancy, pup season, and fall swarming life stages (USFWS, 2025b). Roosting and foraging may occur in suitable habitat near the proposed treatment sites. Roosting occurs primarily in live and dead leaf clusters of live or recently dead deciduous hardwood trees. Roosting has also been observed in pine needles and in eastern red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). Similar to the NLEB, TCB may use human-made structures (i.e., bridges) for artificial roosts. The TCB is an opportunistic feeder that forages at treetop level but may also forage closer to the ground during the evening. Foraging is common over waterways and forest edges. The TCB diet includes moths, flies, and beetles, small wasps, flying ants, and true bugs (USFWS, 2021). Similar to the NLEB, bat activity is heightened during the fall swarming season (USFWS, 2025b).

4) Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

The USFWS presented the updated status of the monarch butterfly when it listed the species as a proposed threatened species on December 12, 2024 (89 FR 100662 100716). The eastern North American population consists of migratory individuals that overwinter and breed in Central America. After overwintering, in the spring the eastern population migrates from Central America up through Canada. Individual dispersal is dependent on various factors such as available vegetation and climate. Monarch butterflies utilize their obligate host plant, milkweed (primarily *Asclepias* spp.) for egg laying and larval development (USFWS, 2024). However, adults will utilize a diverse diet of floral resources during breeding and migration periods.

## VII. Effects of the Proposed Action

Effects of the action are defined at 50 CFR 402.02 as “all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action but that are not part of the action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action.”

This section includes an analysis of the direct and indirect effects caused the proposed action. Since the NLEB and TCB have similar suitable habitat requirements, their effects evaluation will be consolidated.

#### A. Puritan tiger beetle

The potential effects of the proposed action on the puritan tiger beetle within the Action Area were considered. No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts are anticipated within the Action Area from herbicide application or vessel traffic. Nor are there any anticipated direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on to foraging habitat.

##### 1) Herbicide application

The proposed action involves the use of herbicides in the aquatic and intertidal habitats of the proposed treatment sites. No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the PTB are anticipated, as the PTB is not known to occur within the proposed treatment sites. The Connecticut metapopulation includes sites near Cromwell, Connecticut, with reintroduction efforts at Dart Island, Higganum Meadows, and Windsor Island. The proposed action includes two treatment sites near Cromwell: Mattabesset River and Portland Boat Works. No impacts are expected from application at these sites due to the environmental fate of the proposed pesticides. Environmental fate was determined during pesticide registration, and the proposed herbicides are not highly persistent in the water column or biologically available in soils. As a result, the proposed herbicides are not expected to drift outside of the proposed treatment sites.

##### 2) Post-treatment monitoring

As described in Section III, vessel traffic will include one or two treatment vessels, with up to two additional monitoring vessels. Vessels will not be greater than 25-feet and will be similar in size to existing vessels in the Action Area. Post-treatment monitoring vessels may be present for up to a week. Vessels will be present during the day. Vessels in the Action Area may use access routes along the Connecticut River where PTB may occur. Vessels will utilize boat launches or ramps as described in Section IV. No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts are anticipated, as the PTB is not expected to be within the vessel traffic routes.

##### 3) Foraging habitat

The proposed action involves the use of herbicides in the aquatic and intertidal habitats of the proposed treatment sites. No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to the foraging habitat of the PTB are anticipated as

the proposed treatment sites do not include suitable foraging habitat for the species. The PTB is found on sandy islands and banks of rivers where vegetation is sparse. The proposed treatment sites include areas of dense hydrilla growth and submerged aquatic vegetation. Mud flats with sparse intertidal vegetation occur within or adjacent to the proposed treatment sites. These areas are not expected to be suitable habitat for the PTB due to lack of vegetation or substrate requirements.

## B. Northern long-eared bat and the tricolored bat

The potential effects of the proposed action on the NLEB and TCB at each site were considered through the use of the IPaC determination key (please see Enclosures 2 and 3). Based on the IPaC analysis, no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts are anticipated at any site from herbicide application or vessel traffic. Nor are there any direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on, or to foraging habitat. It is not anticipated that the proposed action as a whole will have direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on the NLEB or TCB.

### 1) Herbicide application

The proposed action involves the use of herbicides in the aquatic and intertidal habitats of the proposed treatment sites. The application will utilize injection methods, and no impacts to adjacent summer habitat are anticipated from applications. The NLEB and TCB may forage over waterways or forest edges near or in the proposed treatment sites. No direct or indirect impacts from herbicide exposure are anticipated, as no airborne exposure risks are anticipated from subsurface application methods.

### 2) Post-treatment monitoring

As described in Section III, vessel traffic will include one or two treatment vessels, with up to two additional monitoring vessels. Vessels will not be greater than 25-feet and will be similar in size to existing vessels in the Action Area. Post-treatment monitoring vessels may be present for up to a week. Vessels will be present during the day and will not be operating at night. The NLEB and TCB are nocturnal foragers; therefore, the species will not be present when application or monitoring will occur.

### 3) Foraging Habitat

The proposed treatment sites may provide foraging habitat to the NLEB and TCB; foraging may occur in forested edges adjacent to the proposed treatment sites, or in the waterways. However, one to two monitoring vessels will be present for up to a week post treatment and their operation will be limited to the daytime when bats are not present.

Thus, there will be no effect to NLEB foraging habitat during herbicide application and monitoring.

### C. Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

No direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to the monarch butterfly are anticipated from herbicide application or monitoring. The proposed action may result in temporary disturbance to foraging areas. Temporary disturbance is expected to be insignificant and discountable.

#### 1) Herbicide application

The proposed action involves the use of aquatic herbicides in the proposed treatment sites. The application will utilize subsurface injection methods. Monarch butterflies may forage opportunistically on floral resources in the intertidal zone; however, they are more likely to be found in upland meadows. No direct impacts from herbicide exposure are anticipated, as no airborne exposure risks are anticipated from subsurface application methods.

#### 2) Post-treatment monitoring

As described in Section III, vessel traffic will include one or two treatment vessels, with up to two post-treatment monitoring vessels. Vessels will not be greater than 25-feet and will be similar in size to existing vessels in the Action Area. Monitoring vessels may be present for up to a week. Monarch butterflies may utilize floral resources in the intertidal or upland areas adjacent to the treatment sites. However, monarch butterflies are expected to avoid contact with these vessels.

#### 3) Foraging Habitat

The proposed treatment sites may provide foraging habitat to the monarch butterflies. Foraging may occur in intertidal or upland areas adjacent to the proposed treatment sites, or in the waterways. Herbicide application at each site will occur in one or two days within a calendar year as described in Table 1, above. Monitoring vessels may be present for up to a week. No impacts to adjacent upland habitat are anticipated from herbicide application. The herbicide application may result in the temporary loss of herbaceous emergent vegetation in the intertidal areas of the treatment site. Herbaceous emergent vegetation may provide floral resources to adult life stages during migration and breeding. The adjacent habitat does not include suitable host plants (i.e. milkweeds) for other life stages. USACE expects non-target vegetation to recover in the same or following growing season.

The proposed applications would occur in the summer of a calendar year, occurring after June 1 or July 4 as described in Section III. The proposed applications would occur at least one to two months after the beginning of a growing season. No long-term impacts are anticipated to herbaceous emergent vegetation. USACE expects the temporary disturbance to foraging from the application to be insignificant and discountable.

### **VIII. Cumulative Effects**

“Cumulative effects” include the effects of future state or private activities, not involving Federal activities, that are reasonably certain to occur in the Action Area subject to consultation (50 CFR 402.02). The Lower Connecticut River watershed includes active recreational and navigable waterbodies. The Action Area includes waterbodies adjacent to state parks, boat launch facilities, and wildlife management areas and wildlife refuges. The treatment sites and access routes would continue to provide recreation and navigation uses.

Once the Project is finished, management and control of aquatic invasive species may continue from state or private action within the treatment sites. This may include the temporary mechanical or chemical removal of aquatic invasive species such as hydrilla or water chestnut (*Trapa natans*). These activities are likely to be localized to invasive species infestations. These actions are not expected to result in any substantive cumulative impacts to Federally-listed species as protected under the Endangered Species Act.

### **IX. Effects Determination**

Based on the information and analysis of effects presented in this BE, the USACE has determined that the proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the northern long-eared bat, the tricolored bat, and the monarch butterfly. The USACE has determined that the proposed action would result in no effect on the puritan tiger beetle.

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**ENCLOSURE 2**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT  
696 VIRGINIA ROAD  
CONCORD, MA 01742-2751

March 28, 2024

Planning Division  
Environmental Branch

Audrey Mayer, Ph.D.  
Supervisor, New England Field Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Dr. Mayer:

I am writing to request your comments in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Endangered Species Act on our aquatic invasive plant research and demonstration project at sites within the Connecticut River in Glastonbury, Portland, Haddam, Chester, and Lyme, Connecticut (Attachment 1). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District and the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) plan to apply aquatic herbicides during summer 2024 to control the aquatic invasive plant, hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*), which is present in the mainstem of the Connecticut River and tributaries, boat basins, and coves that abut the river. A copy of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) will be sent to you by electronic mail. The draft EA includes maps of the proposed project area, a project description, resource characterizations of the project area, and a not likely to adversely affect determination for federally listed threatened and endangered species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project codes for the potential sites are 2024-0045833, 2024-0045827, 2024-0045823, 2024-0045811, and 2024-0045816.

Invasive aquatic plants are plant species that are non-native to an aquatic ecosystem and whose establishment in a system causes economic, human health, and/or environmental harm. These species can alter native habitats by limiting the species diversity, which can in turn limit shelter and foraging resources, and severely impact fisheries in aquatic systems. They also inhibit recreation by obstructing water bodies used for boating, fishing, and swimming. Effects to local economies can be severe and include causing obstacles to the transport of goods and services, lowering property values, limiting agricultural productivity, and impacting public utility operations, on top of the costs of invasive species control measures.

Hydrilla was first detected within the Connecticut River in 2016 in Glastonbury, CT. The Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel (NEANS) and other partner organizations surveyed and sampled the populations in 2018. Genetic testing determined that the hydrilla present in the Connecticut River was a new genotype within the United States. Within the Connecticut River system, hydrilla is found in both high flow and quiescent river conditions with control of hydrilla in high flow areas posing a complex challenge. Various physical, biological, and chemical methods have been used for control and eradication of hydrilla. The most effective and economical method of

control for well established, large-scale populations is typically a chemical approach using tested and approved aquatic herbicides. Investigations into herbicide application methods and techniques that address the conditions specific to the Connecticut River will allow for more effective hydrilla control to prevent further spread and impact to other parts of the river and watershed.

The hydrilla control research and demonstration project is authorized by Section 104 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1958, as amended. Section 104 authorized ERDC's Aquatic Plant Control Research Program (APCRP) to provide an expanded aquatic plant control program that supports 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," (Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958, Public Law (P.L.) 85-500). This includes continuous research into efficient and economical methods for aquatic plant control.

Five sites are being considered for herbicide treatments in the summer of 2024: (1) Keeney Cove in Glastonbury; (2) Portland Boat Works in Portland; (3) Chapman Pond in Haddam; (4) Chester Boat Basin in Chester; and (5) Selden Cove in Lyme (Attachment 1). Chester Boat Basin and Selden Cove are located within the state's designated coastal zone. The proposed treatment plans for the sites are presented in Attachment 2. Further details on the sites and proposed treatment plans can be found in Sections 3.2 and 3.4 of the EA.

We are requesting that you review this project information, specifically Sections 4.5 and 5.4 of the draft EA, which relate to threatened and endangered species and provide your comments within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information, please contact the project manager, Keith Hannon at (978) 318-8833 or by email at [Keith.W.Hannon@usace.army.mil](mailto:Keith.W.Hannon@usace.army.mil); or Ms. Grace Moses at (978) 318-8717 or by email at [C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil](mailto:C.Grace.Moses@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

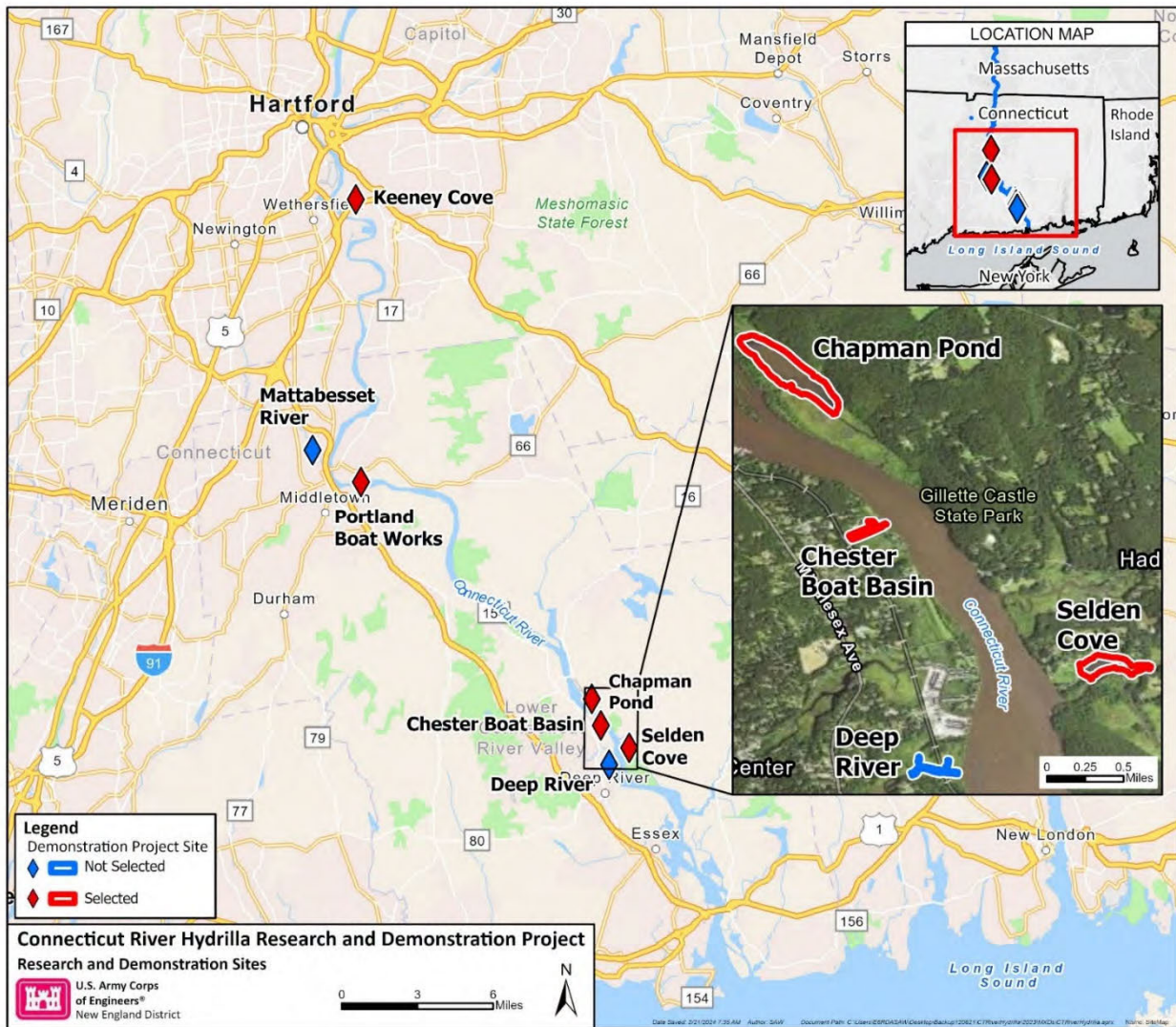
Wendy Gendron  
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosures

Copy Furnished:

New England Ecological Services Field Office: [newengland@fws.gov](mailto:newengland@fws.gov)

# Attachment 1. Location of the proposed hydrilla control sites



**Attachment 2. Proposed treatment plans for the sites selected for treatment in summer of 2024.**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Herbicide(s)</b>	<b>Concentration(s)</b>
Chapman Pond	Florpyrauxifen-benzyl	48 parts per billion (ppb)
Chester Boat Basin	Dipotassium salt of endothall Diquat dibromide	1.8 parts per million (ppm) 0.36 ppm
Keeney Cove	Florpyrauxifen-benzyl	48 ppb
Selden Cove	Dipotassium salt of endothall	5 ppm
Portland Boat Works	Diquat dibromide	370 ppb; two treatments 14 days apart



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

February 06, 2024

Project code: 2024-0045833

Project Name: Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project - Chapman Pond

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Record of project representative's no effect determination for 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project - Chapman Pond'

Dear Hannah Doherty:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on February 06, 2024, for 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project - Chapman Pond' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2024-0045833 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.***

### **Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat**

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis, your project has reached the determination of "No Effect" on the northern long-eared bat. To make a no effect determination, the full scope of the proposed project implementation (action) should not have any effects (either positive or negative), to a federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Effects of the action are all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed

action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (See § 402.17).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, if a federal action agency makes a no effect determination, no consultation with the Service is required (ESA §7). If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required except when the Service concurs, in writing, that a proposed action "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or designated critical habitat [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR§402.13].

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination for the northern long-eared bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the animal species listed above and, if so, how they may be affected.

### **Next Steps**

Based upon your IPaC submission, your project has reached the determination of "No Effect" on the northern long-eared bat. If there are no updates on listed species, no further consultation/coordination for this project is required with respect to the northern long-eared bat. However, the Service recommends that project proponents re-evaluate the Project in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Project changes (includes any project changes or amendments); 2) new information reveals the Project may impact (positively or negatively) federally listed species or designated critical habitat; or 3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional coordination with the Service should take place to ensure compliance with the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2024-0045833 associated with this Project.

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project - Chapman Pond

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project - Chapman Pond':

Use of aquatic herbicides to treat invasive hydrilla

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.43935645,-72.44643836834743,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the Endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of the northern long-eared bat or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. The proposed action does not intersect an area where the northern long-eared bat is likely to occur, based on the information available to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as of the most recent update of this key. If you have data that indicates that northern long-eared bats are likely to be present in the action area, answer "NO" and continue through the key.

Do you want to make a no effect determination?

*Yes*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Name: Hannah Doherty

Address: 696 Virginia Rd

City: Concord

State: MA

Zip: 01742

Email: hannah.l.doherty@usace.army.mil

Phone: [REDACTED]



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
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In Reply Refer To:

February 06, 2024

Project code: 2024-0045827

Project Name: Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Record of project representative's no effect determination for 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project'

Dear Hannah Doherty:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on February 06, 2024, for 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2024-0045827 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter.**

## **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.***

## **Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat**

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis, your project has reached the determination of "No Effect" on the northern long-eared bat. To make a no effect determination, the full scope of the proposed project implementation (action) should not have any effects (either positive or negative), to a federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Effects of the action are all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed

action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (See § 402.17).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, if a federal action agency makes a no effect determination, no consultation with the Service is required (ESA §7). If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required except when the Service concurs, in writing, that a proposed action "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or designated critical habitat [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR§402.13].

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination for the northern long-eared bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the animal species listed above and, if so, how they may be affected.

### **Next Steps**

Based upon your IPaC submission, your project has reached the determination of “No Effect” on the northern long-eared bat. If there are no updates on listed species, no further consultation/coordination for this project is required with respect to the northern long-eared bat. However, the Service recommends that project proponents re-evaluate the Project in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Project changes (includes any project changes or amendments); 2) new information reveals the Project may impact (positively or negatively) federally listed species or designated critical habitat; or 3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional coordination with the Service should take place to ensure compliance with the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2024-0045827 associated with this Project.

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project':

Aquatic herbicide treatment of invasive hydrilla

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.424234,-72.43852439043701,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the Endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of the northern long-eared bat or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. The proposed action does not intersect an area where the northern long-eared bat is likely to occur, based on the information available to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as of the most recent update of this key. If you have data that indicates that northern long-eared bats are likely to be present in the action area, answer "NO" and continue through the key.

Do you want to make a no effect determination?

*Yes*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Name: Hannah Doherty

Address: 696 Virginia Rd

City: Concord

State: MA

Zip: 01742

Email: hannah.l.doherty@usace.army.mil

Phone: [REDACTED]



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

February 06, 2024

Project code: 2024-0045823

Project Name: Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Record of project representative's no effect determination for 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project'

Dear Hannah Doherty:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on February 06, 2024, for 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2024-0045823 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter.**

## **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.***

## **Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat**

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis, your project has reached the determination of "No Effect" on the northern long-eared bat. To make a no effect determination, the full scope of the proposed project implementation (action) should not have any effects (either positive or negative), to a federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Effects of the action are all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed

action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (See § 402.17).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, if a federal action agency makes a no effect determination, no consultation with the Service is required (ESA §7). If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required except when the Service concurs, in writing, that a proposed action "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or designated critical habitat [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR§402.13].

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination for the northern long-eared bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the animal species listed above and, if so, how they may be affected.

### **Next Steps**

Based upon your IPaC submission, your project has reached the determination of "No Effect" on the northern long-eared bat. If there are no updates on listed species, no further consultation/coordination for this project is required with respect to the northern long-eared bat. However, the Service recommends that project proponents re-evaluate the Project in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Project changes (includes any project changes or amendments); 2) new information reveals the Project may impact (positively or negatively) federally listed species or designated critical habitat; or 3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional coordination with the Service should take place to ensure compliance with the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2024-0045823 associated with this Project.

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

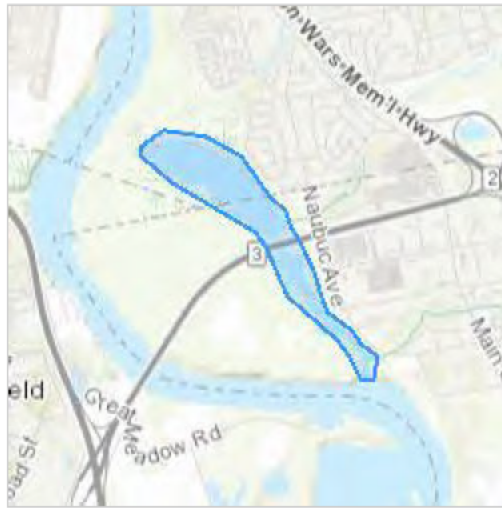
Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project':

Aquatic herbicide treatment of invasive hydrilla

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.72155405,-72.62867879676926,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the Endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of the northern long-eared bat or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. The proposed action does not intersect an area where the northern long-eared bat is likely to occur, based on the information available to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as of the most recent update of this key. If you have data that indicates that northern long-eared bats are likely to be present in the action area, answer "NO" and continue through the key.

Do you want to make a no effect determination?

*Yes*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Name: Hannah Doherty

Address: 696 Virginia Rd

City: Concord

State: MA

Zip: 01742

Email: hannah.l.doherty@usace.army.mil

Phone: [REDACTED]



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

February 06, 2024

Project code: 2024-0045811

Project Name: Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Record of project representative's no effect determination for 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project'

Dear Hannah Doherty:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on February 06, 2024, for 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2024-0045811 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter.**

## **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.***

## **Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat**

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis, your project has reached the determination of "No Effect" on the northern long-eared bat. To make a no effect determination, the full scope of the proposed project implementation (action) should not have any effects (either positive or negative), to a federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Effects of the action are all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed

action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (See § 402.17).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, if a federal action agency makes a no effect determination, no consultation with the Service is required (ESA §7). If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required except when the Service concurs, in writing, that a proposed action "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or designated critical habitat [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR§402.13].

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination for the northern long-eared bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the animal species listed above and, if so, how they may be affected.

### **Next Steps**

Based upon your IPaC submission, your project has reached the determination of "No Effect" on the northern long-eared bat. If there are no updates on listed species, no further consultation/coordination for this project is required with respect to the northern long-eared bat. However, the Service recommends that project proponents re-evaluate the Project in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Project changes (includes any project changes or amendments); 2) new information reveals the Project may impact (positively or negatively) federally listed species or designated critical habitat; or 3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional coordination with the Service should take place to ensure compliance with the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2024-0045811 associated with this Project.

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project':

Aquatic herbicide treatment of invasive hydrilla

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.56248545,-72.62447830349333,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the Endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of the northern long-eared bat or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. The proposed action does not intersect an area where the northern long-eared bat is likely to occur, based on the information available to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as of the most recent update of this key. If you have data that indicates that northern long-eared bats are likely to be present in the action area, answer "NO" and continue through the key.

Do you want to make a no effect determination?

*Yes*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Name: Hannah Doherty

Address: 696 Virginia Rd

City: Concord

State: MA

Zip: 01742

Email: hannah.l.doherty@usace.army.mil

Phone: [REDACTED]



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

February 06, 2024

Project code: 2024-0045816

Project Name: Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Record of project representative's no effect determination for 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project'

Dear Hannah Doherty:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on February 06, 2024, for 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2024-0045816 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter.**

## **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key (Dkey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid.***

## **Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat**

Based upon your IPaC submission and a standing analysis, your project has reached the determination of "No Effect" on the northern long-eared bat. To make a no effect determination, the full scope of the proposed project implementation (action) should not have any effects (either positive or negative), to a federally listed species or designated critical habitat. Effects of the action are all consequences to listed species or critical habitat that are caused by the proposed

action, including the consequences of other activities that are caused by the proposed action. A consequence is caused by the proposed action if it would not occur but for the proposed action and it is reasonably certain to occur. Effects of the action may occur later in time and may include consequences occurring outside the immediate area involved in the action. (See § 402.17).

Under Section 7 of the ESA, if a federal action agency makes a no effect determination, no consultation with the Service is required (ESA §7). If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required except when the Service concurs, in writing, that a proposed action "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or designated critical habitat [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR§402.13].

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination for the northern long-eared bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Candidate

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the animal species listed above and, if so, how they may be affected.

### **Next Steps**

Based upon your IPaC submission, your project has reached the determination of “No Effect” on the northern long-eared bat. If there are no updates on listed species, no further consultation/coordination for this project is required with respect to the northern long-eared bat. However, the Service recommends that project proponents re-evaluate the Project in IPaC if: 1) the scope, timing, duration, or location of the Project changes (includes any project changes or amendments); 2) new information reveals the Project may impact (positively or negatively) federally listed species or designated critical habitat; or 3) a new species is listed, or critical habitat designated. If any of the above conditions occurs, additional coordination with the Service should take place to ensure compliance with the Act.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2024-0045816 associated with this Project.

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River hydrilla demonstration and research project':

Aquatic herbicide treatment of invasive hydrilla

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.4113087,-72.41626693300833,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the information you provided, you have determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on the Endangered northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is required for those species.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of the northern long-eared bat or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. The proposed action does not intersect an area where the northern long-eared bat is likely to occur, based on the information available to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as of the most recent update of this key. If you have data that indicates that northern long-eared bats are likely to be present in the action area, answer "NO" and continue through the key.

Do you want to make a no effect determination?

*Yes*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers

Name: Hannah Doherty

Address: 696 Virginia Rd

City: Concord

State: MA

Zip: 01742

Email: hannah.l.doherty@usace.army.mil

Phone: [REDACTED]

**ENCLOSURE 3**

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## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/08/2025 12:17:05 UTC

Project code: 2025-0043647

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Chester Creek

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Chester Creek'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 08, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Chester Creek' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0043647 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	NLAA
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0043647 associated with this Project.

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

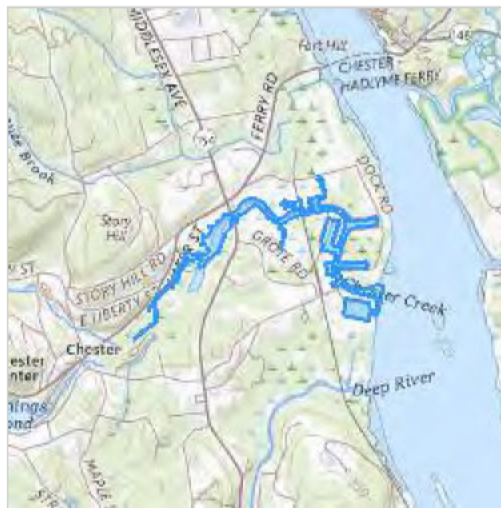
Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Chester Creek

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Chester Creek':

The project proposes application of herbicide to Chester Creek as a part of the Connecticut River Hydrilla Control Research and Demonstration Project. The proposed application will be through boat-based subsurface injection methods to aquatic and intertidal habitat. The proposed application includes the use of diquat, dipotassium salt of endothall, floryprauxifen-benzyl, or combinations thereof.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.40871785,-72.44237541245295,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

*No*

32. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

34. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

36. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

37. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

38. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

39. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?  
(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

*Yes*

40. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

*No*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/08/2025 12:24:27 UTC

Project code: 2025-0065801

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Deep River

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Deep River'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 08, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Deep River' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0065801 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	NLAA
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0065801 associated with this Project.

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

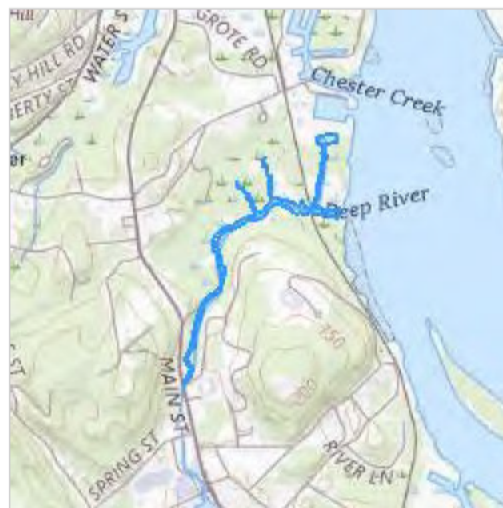
Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Deep River

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Deep River':

The proposed project includes the use of diquat, dipotassium salt of endothall, florypraxifen-benzyl or combinations thereof for the control of hydrilla. The proposed application will be through boat-based subsurface injections methods and will the treatment area will include aquatic and intertidal habitat.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.39930765,-72.43695049394556,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

*No*

32. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

34. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

36. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

37. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

38. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

39. Has a presence/probable absence bat survey targeting the [tricolored bat and following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

40. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?  
(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

*Yes*

41. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

*No*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/08/2025 16:12:52 UTC

Project code: 2025-0065809

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Hamburg Cove

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Hamburg Cove'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 08, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Hamburg Cove' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0065809 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	NLAA
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0065809 associated with this Project.

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Hamburg Cove

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Hamburg Cove':

The proposed project includes the application of diquat, dipotassium salt of endothall, floryprauxifen-benzyl, or combinations thereof to control hydrilla. Subsurface application methods using boat-based injection methods.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.38356935,-72.35257209235897,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

*No*

32. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

34. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

36. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

37. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

38. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

*Yes*

39. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

*No*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/08/2025 16:19:32 UTC

Project code: 2025-0065819

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Joshua Creek

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Joshua Creek'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 08, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Joshua Creek' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0065819 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	NLAA
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0065819 associated with this Project.

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Joshua Creek

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Joshua Creek':

The proposed project includes the application of herbicide(s) to control the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla. The proposed herbicide(s) include dipotassium salt of endothall, diquat, florypyrauxifen-benzyl, or combinations thereof. Application will be through boat-based subsurface injection methods to aquatic and intertidal habitat.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.39383435,-72.37921743225134,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

*No*

32. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

34. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

36. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

37. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

38. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

39. Has a presence/probable absence bat survey targeting the [tricolored bat and following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

40. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?  
(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

*Yes*

41. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

*No*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
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State: MA  
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Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/08/2025 16:25:53 UTC

Project code: 2025-0065822

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Mattabeset River

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Mattabeset River'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 08, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Mattabeset River' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0065822 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0065822 associated with this Project.

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Mattabesset River

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Mattabesset River':

The proposed project includes the application of diquat, dipotassium salt of endothall, florpyrauxifen-benzyl, fluridone, or combinations thereof for the control of hydrilla. Herbicide application will utilize boat-based subsurface injection methods to aquatic and intertidal habitat.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.5858951,-72.66800168641589,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

No

32. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

Yes

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

No

34. Has a presence/probable absence bat survey targeting the [tricolored bat and following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

No

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

36. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

No

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/08/2025 16:31:40 UTC

Project code: 2025-0065834

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Pameacha Pond

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Pameacha Pond'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 08, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Pameacha Pond' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0065834 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

## **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0065834 associated with this Project.

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Pameacha Pond

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Pameacha Pond':

The proposed project includes the application of fluridone, bispyribac-sodium, floryprauxifen-benzyl, dipotassium salt of endothall, or combinations there of for the control of hydrilla. Herbicide application will utilize boat-based subsurface injection methods.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.543983850000004,-72.65278995961373,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

No

32. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

Yes

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

No

34. Has a presence/probable absence bat survey targeting the [tricolored bat and following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

No

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

36. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

No

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/08/2025 16:38:40 UTC

Project code: 2025-0066666

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Parkers Point

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Parkers Point'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 08, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Parkers Point' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0066666 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	NLAA
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0066666 associated with this Project.

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

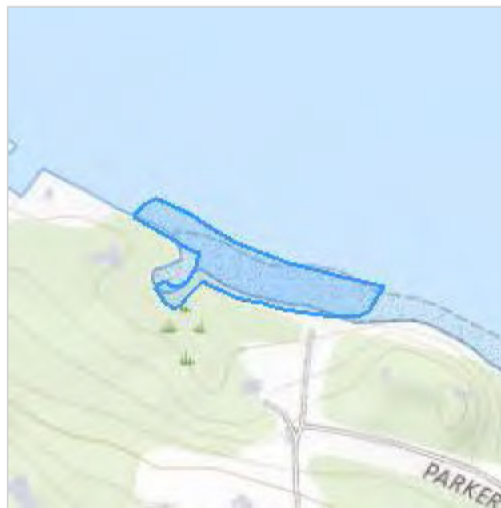
Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Parkers Point

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Parkers Point':

The proposed project includes the application of diquat, dipotassium salt of endothall, floryprauxifen-benzyl, or combinations thereof to control hydrilla. Herbicide application will utilize boat-based subsurface injection methods to aquatic and intertidal habitat.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.431007050000005,-72.4487936326356,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

*No*

32. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

34. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

36. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

37. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

38. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

39. Has a presence/probable absence bat survey targeting the [tricolored bat and following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

40. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?  
(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

*Yes*

41. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

*No*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/08/2025 12:08:36 UTC

Project code: 2025-0066668

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Portland Boat Works

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Portland Boat Works'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 08, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Portland Boat Works' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0066668 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0066668 associated with this Project.

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Portland Boat Works

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Portland Boat Works':

The proposed project includes the control of hydrilla through application of diquat, dipotassium salt of endothall, florpyrauxifen-benzyl, or combinations thereof. The proposed application will utilize boat-based subsurface injection methods. The herbicide will be applied to the mainstem of the Connecticut River (Portland Boat Works), and will be restricted to aquatic and intertidal habitat.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.562544700000004,-72.62369076146837,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

No

32. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

Yes

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

No

34. Has a presence/probable absence bat survey targeting the [tricolored bat and following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

No

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

36. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

No

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/08/2025 16:58:43 UTC

Project code: 2025-0066674

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Post Pratt Coves

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Post Pratt Coves'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 08, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Post Pratt Coves' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0066674 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	NLAA
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0066674 associated with this Project.

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Post Pratt Coves

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Post Pratt Coves':

The proposed project includes the control of hydrilla through the application of diquat, dipotassium of endothall, florpyrauxifen-benzyl, or combinations thereof. Herbicide application will utilize boat-based subsurface injection methods. The treatment area includes aquatic and intertidal habitat.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.3849357,-72.41802472739218,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

*No*

32. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

34. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

36. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

37. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

38. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

39. Has a presence/probable absence bat survey targeting the [tricolored bat and following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

40. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?  
(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

*Yes*

41. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?  
*No*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/08/2025 12:00:20 UTC

Project code: 2025-0065783

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla R&D Project Selden Creek

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Connecticut River Hydrilla R&D Project Selden Creek'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 08, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla R&D Project Selden Creek' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0065783 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	NLAA
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0065783 associated with this Project.

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

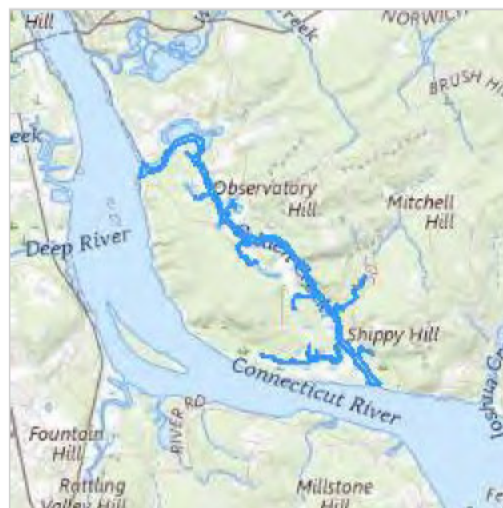
Connecticut River Hydrilla R&D Project Selden Creek

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla R&D Project Selden Creek':

The proposed project includes subsurface application of herbicide(s) to control the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla. Herbicide application will be through boat-based injection methods, and will be restricted to the aquatic habitat and intertidal zones of Selden Creek. Potential herbicides include diquat, dipotassium salt of endothall, floryprauxifen-benzyl or combinations thereof.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.400284850000006,-72.40302414536202,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

*No*

32. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

34. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

36. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

37. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

38. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

No

39. Has a presence/probable absence bat survey targeting the [tricolored bat and following the Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

No

40. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?  
(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

Yes

41. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

No

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/08/2025 17:59:04 UTC

Project code: 2025-0080217

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Salmon River

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Salmon River'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 08, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Salmon River' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0080217 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	NLAA
Tricolored Bat ( <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> )	Proposed Endangered	NLAA

Federal agencies must consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) when an action *may affect* a listed species. Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as endangered under the ESA, but not yet listed. For actions that may affect a proposed species, agencies cannot consult, but they can *confer* under the authority of section 7(a)(4) of the ESA. Such conferences can follow the procedures for a consultation and be adopted as such if and when the proposed species is listed. Should the tricolored bat be listed, agencies must review projects that are not yet complete, or projects with ongoing effects within the tricolored bat range that previously received a NE or NLAA determination from the key to confirm that the determination is still accurate.

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0080217 associated with this Project.

**Action Description**

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

**1. Name**

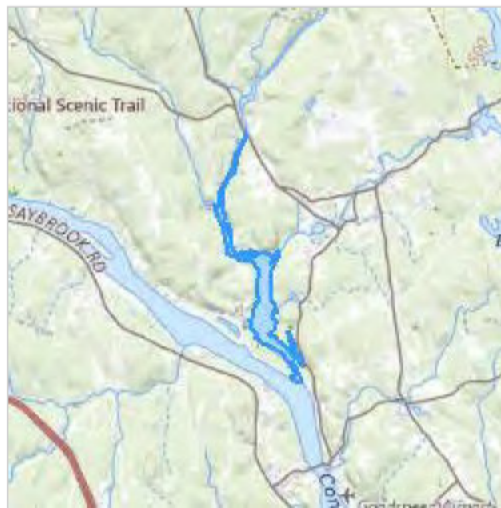
Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Salmon River

**2. Description**

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Salmon River':

The project proposed herbicide application to control the invasive aquatic plant hydrilla. Herbicide will be applied through boat-based subsurface injection methods. The proposed application includes the use of diquat, dipotassium salt of endothall, floryrauxifen-benzyl, or combinations thereof.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.48975085,-72.47911771785647,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

17. Does the action involve removal, modification, or maintenance of a human-made structure (barn, house, or other building) **known or suspected to contain roosting bats**?

*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

20. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase the number of travel lanes on an existing thoroughfare?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

30. Will the action include tree cutting or other means of knocking down or bringing down trees, tree topping, or tree trimming?

*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

*No*

32. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

34. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

36. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

37. Does the action area intersect the tricolored bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

38. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

39. Is suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?  
(If unsure, answer ""Yes."" )

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that may provide potential roosts for tricolored bats (e.g., clusters of leaves in live and dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss (*Tillandsia usneoides*), clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines) answer ""Yes."" For a complete definition of suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat, please see Appendix A in the [Service's Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#).

*Yes*

40. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

*No*

# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 03301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

04/11/2025 18:03:27 UTC

Project code: 2025-0082360

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Lake Pocotopaug

Federal Nexus: yes

Federal Action Agency (if applicable): Army Corps of Engineers

**Subject:** Federal agency coordination under the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for  
'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Lake Pocotopaug'

Dear Kelsie Dakessian:

This letter records your determination using the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on April 11, 2025, for 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Lake Pocotopaug' (here forward, Project). This project has been assigned Project Code 2025-0082360 and all future correspondence should clearly reference this number. **Please carefully review this letter. Your Endangered Species Act (Act) requirements may not be complete.**

### **Ensuring Accurate Determinations When Using IPaC**

The Service developed the IPaC system and associated species' determination keys in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and based on a standing analysis. All information submitted by the Project proponent into IPaC must accurately represent the full scope and details of the Project.

Failure to accurately represent or implement the Project as detailed in IPaC or the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat Range-wide Determination Key (DKey), invalidates this letter. ***Answers to certain questions in the DKey commit the project proponent to implementation of conservation measures that must be followed for the ESA determination to remain valid. Note that conservation measures for northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat may differ. If both bat species are present in the action area and the key suggests more conservative measures for one of the species for your Project, the Project may need to apply the most conservative measures in order to avoid adverse effects. If unsure which conservation measures should be applied, please contact the appropriate Ecological Services Field Office.***

**Determination for the Northern Long-Eared Bat and Tricolored Bat**

Based on your IPaC submission and a standing analysis completed by the Service, you determined the proposed Project will have the following effect determinations:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Listing Status</b>	<b>Determination</b>
Northern Long-eared Bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Endangered	NLAA

Unless the Service advises you within 15 days of the date of this letter that your IPaC-assisted determination was incorrect, this letter verifies that consultation on the Action is complete for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat and no further action is necessary unless either of the following occurs:

- new information reveals effects of the action that may affect the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; or,
- the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat that was not considered when completing the determination key.

### **15-Day Review Period**

As indicated above, the Service will notify you within 15 calendar days if we determine that this proposed Action does not meet the criteria for a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” (NLAA) determination for the northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat. If we do not notify you within that timeframe, you may proceed with the Action under the terms of the NLAA concurrence provided here. This verification period allows the identified Ecological Services Field Office to apply local knowledge to evaluation of the Action, as we may identify a small subset of actions having impacts that we did not anticipate when developing the key. In such cases, the identified Ecological Services Field Office may request additional information to verify the effects determination reached through the Northern Long-eared Bat and Tricolored Bat DKey.

### **Other Species and Critical Habitat that May be Present in the Action Area**

The IPaC-assisted determination key for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat does not apply to the following ESA-protected species and/or critical habitat that also may occur in your Action area:

- Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* Proposed Threatened

You may coordinate with our Office to determine whether the Action may affect the species and/or critical habitat listed above. Note that reinitiation of consultation would be necessary if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action before it is complete.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or need further assistance, please contact the New England Ecological Services Field Office and reference Project Code 2025-0082360 associated with this Project.

## Action Description

You provided to IPaC the following name and description for the subject Action.

### 1. Name

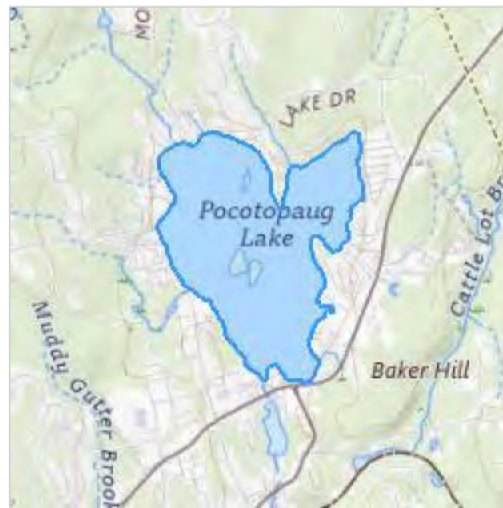
Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Lake Pocotopaug

### 2. Description

The following description was provided for the project 'Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project Lake Pocotopaug':

The proposed project includes the control of hydrilla through subsurface herbicide application. The proposed herbicides for consideration during the field demonstration include: diquat, dipotassium salt of endothall, imazamox, floryprauxifen-benzyl, flumioxazin, penoxsulam, or combinations thereof.

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.59417965,-72.50362854593557,14z>



## DETERMINATION KEY RESULT

Based on the answers provided, the proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” for a least one species covered by this determination key.

## QUALIFICATION INTERVIEW

1. Does the proposed project include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, intentional take of listed bats or any other listed species?

**Note:** Intentional take is defined as take that is the intended result of a project. Intentional take could refer to research, direct species management, surveys, and/or studies that include intentional handling/encountering, harassment, collection, or capturing of any individual of a federally listed threatened, endangered or proposed species?

*No*

2. Is the action area wholly within Zone 2 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

3. Does the action area intersect Zone 1 of the year-round active area for northern long-eared bat and/or tricolored bat?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

4. Does any component of the action involve leasing, construction or operation of wind turbines? Answer 'yes' if the activities considered are conducted with the intention of gathering survey information to inform the leasing, construction, or operation of wind turbines.

**Note:** For federal actions, answer ‘yes’ if the construction or operation of wind power facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for a federal agency action (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

5. Is the proposed action authorized, permitted, licensed, funded, or being carried out by a Federal agency in whole or in part?

*Yes*

6. Is the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), or Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

7. Are you an employee of the federal action agency or have you been officially designated in writing by the agency as its designated non-federal representative for the purposes of Endangered Species Act Section 7 informal consultation per 50 CFR § 402.08?

**Note:** This key may be used for federal actions and for non-federal actions to facilitate section 7 consultation and to help determine whether an incidental take permit may be needed, respectively. This question is for information purposes only.

*Yes*

8. Is the lead federal action agency the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC)? Is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Federal Communications Commission (FCC) funding or authorizing the proposed action, in whole or in part?

*No*

9. Is the lead federal action agency the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)?

*No*

10. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.5 miles of a known bat hibernaculum?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

11. Does the action area contain any winter roosts or caves (or associated sinkholes, fissures, or other karst features), mines, rocky outcroppings, or tunnels that could provide habitat for hibernating bats?

*No*

12. Does the action area contain (1) talus or (2) anthropogenic or naturally formed rock shelters or crevices in rocky outcrops, rock faces or cliffs?

*No*

13. Will the action cause effects to a bridge?

**Note:** Covered bridges should be considered as bridges in this question.

*No*

14. Will the action result in effects to a culvert or tunnel at any time of year?

*No*

15. Are trees present within 1000 feet of the action area?

**Note:** If there are trees within the action area that are of a sufficient size to be potential roosts for bats answer "Yes". If unsure, additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

16. Does the action include the intentional exclusion of bats from a building or structure?

**Note:** Exclusion is conducted to deny bats' entry or reentry into a building. To be effective and to avoid harming bats, it should be done according to established standards. If your action includes bat exclusion and you are unsure whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats are present, answer "Yes." Answer "No" if there are no signs of bat use in the building/structure. If unsure, contact your local Ecological Services Field Office to help assess whether northern long-eared bats or tricolored bats may be present. Contact a Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator (NWCO) for help in how to exclude bats from a structure safely without causing harm to the bats (to find a NWCO certified in bat standards, search the Internet using the search term "National Wildlife Control Operators Association bats"). Also see the White-Nose Syndrome Response Team's guide for bat control in structures.

*No*

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*No*

18. Will the action cause construction of one or more new roads open to the public?

For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.).

*No*

19. Will the action include or cause any construction or other activity that is reasonably certain to increase average daily traffic permanently or temporarily on one or more existing roads?

**Note:** For federal actions, answer 'yes' when the construction or operation of these facilities is either (1) part of the federal action or (2) would not occur but for an action taken by a federal agency (federal permit, funding, etc.). .

*No*

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*No*

21. Will the proposed Action involve the creation of a new water-borne contaminant source (e.g., leachate pond, pits containing chemicals that are not NSF/ANSI 60 compliant)?

**Note:** For information regarding NSF/ANSI 60 please visit <https://www.nsf.org/knowledge-library/nsf-ansi-standard-60-drinking-water-treatment-chemicals-health-effects>

*No*

22. Will the proposed action involve the creation of a new point source discharge from a facility other than a water treatment plant or storm water system?

*No*

23. Will the action include drilling or blasting?

*No*

24. Will the action involve military training (e.g., smoke operations, obscurant operations, exploding munitions, artillery fire, range use, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft use)?

*No*

25. Will the proposed action involve the use of herbicides or other pesticides other than herbicides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides)?

*Yes*

26. Will the action include or result in herbicide use that may affect suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

27. Will the action include or cause the application or drift of pesticides (e.g., fungicides, insecticides, or rodenticides) into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat?

Answer "Yes" if the application may result in transport (e.g., in water) or aerial drift of the pesticide into forested areas that are suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat.

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

28. Will the action include or cause activities that are reasonably certain to cause chronic or intense nighttime noise (above current levels of ambient noise in the area) in suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat during the active season?

Chronic noise is noise that is continuous or occurs repeatedly again and again for a long time. Sources of chronic or intense noise that could cause adverse effects to bats may include, but are not limited to: road traffic; trains; aircraft; industrial activities; gas compressor stations; loud music; crowds; oil and gas extraction; construction; and mining.

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*No*

29. Does the action include, or is it reasonably certain to cause, the use of permanent or temporary artificial lighting within 1000 feet of suitable northern long-eared bat or tricolored bat roosting habitat?

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*No*

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*No*

31. Will the proposed action result in the use of prescribed fire?

**Note:** If the prescribed fire action includes other activities than application of fire (e.g., tree cutting, fire line preparation) please consider impacts from those activities within the previous representative questions in the key. This set of questions only considers impacts from flame and smoke.

*No*

32. Does the action area intersect the northern long-eared bat species list area?

**Automatically answered**

*Yes*

33. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 0.25 miles of a culvert that is known to be occupied by northern long-eared or tricolored bats?

**Automatically answered**

*No*

34. [Semantic] Is the action area located within 150 feet of a documented northern long-eared bat roost site?

**Note:** The map queried for this question contains proprietary information and cannot be displayed. If you need additional information, please contact your State wildlife agency.

**Automatically answered**

*No*

35. Is suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat present within 1000 feet of project activities?

If unsure, answer "Yes."

**Note:** Additional information defining suitable summer habitat for the northern long-eared bat and tricolored bat can be found in Appendix A of the USFWS' Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern long-eared bat Survey Guidelines at: <https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>.

*Yes*

36. Has a presence/probable absence summer bat survey targeting the northern long-eared bat following the Service's [Range-wide Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat Survey Guidelines](#) been conducted within the project area?

*No*

37. Do you have any documents that you want to include with this submission?

*No*

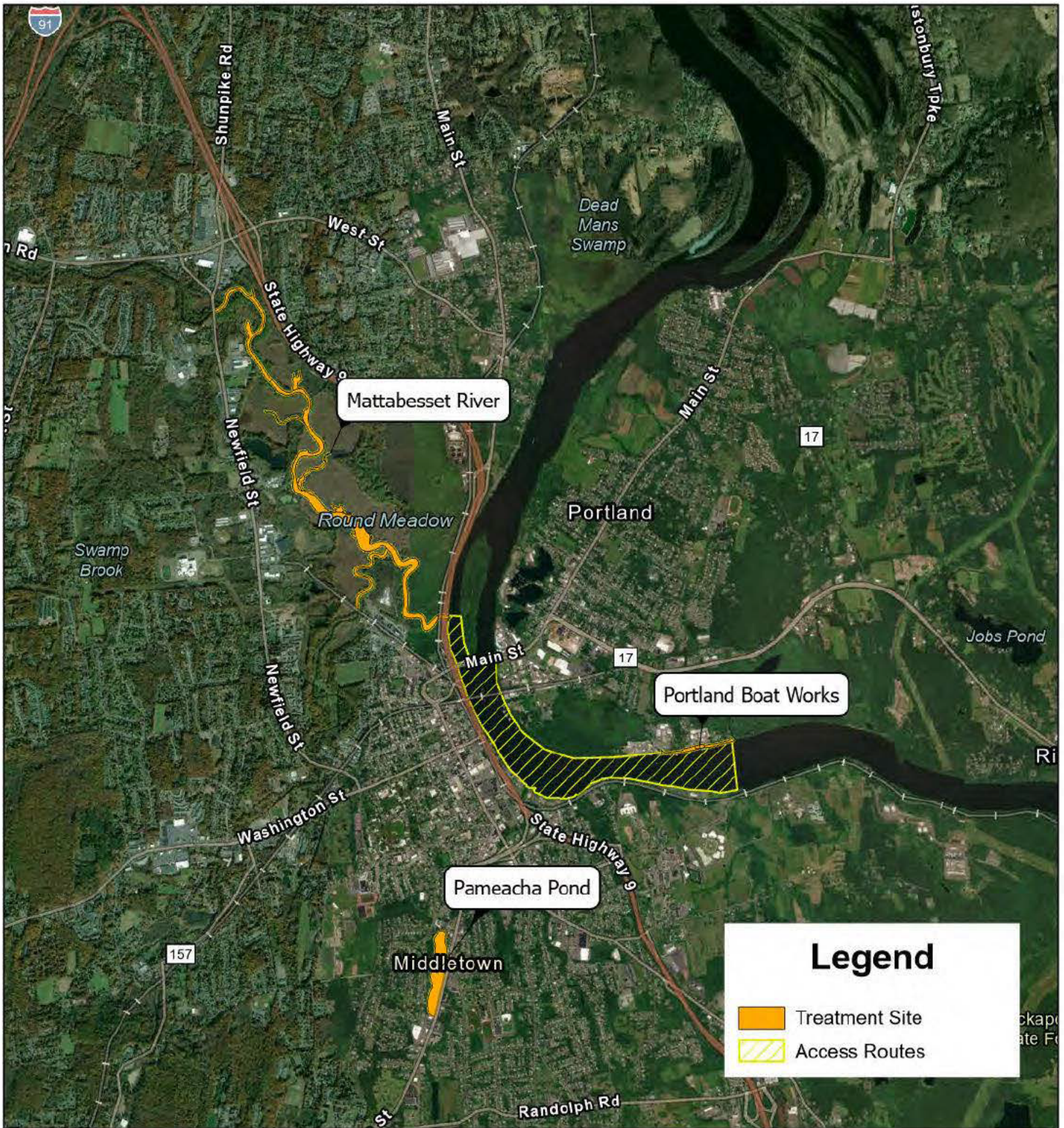
# PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]

**ENCLOSURE 4**

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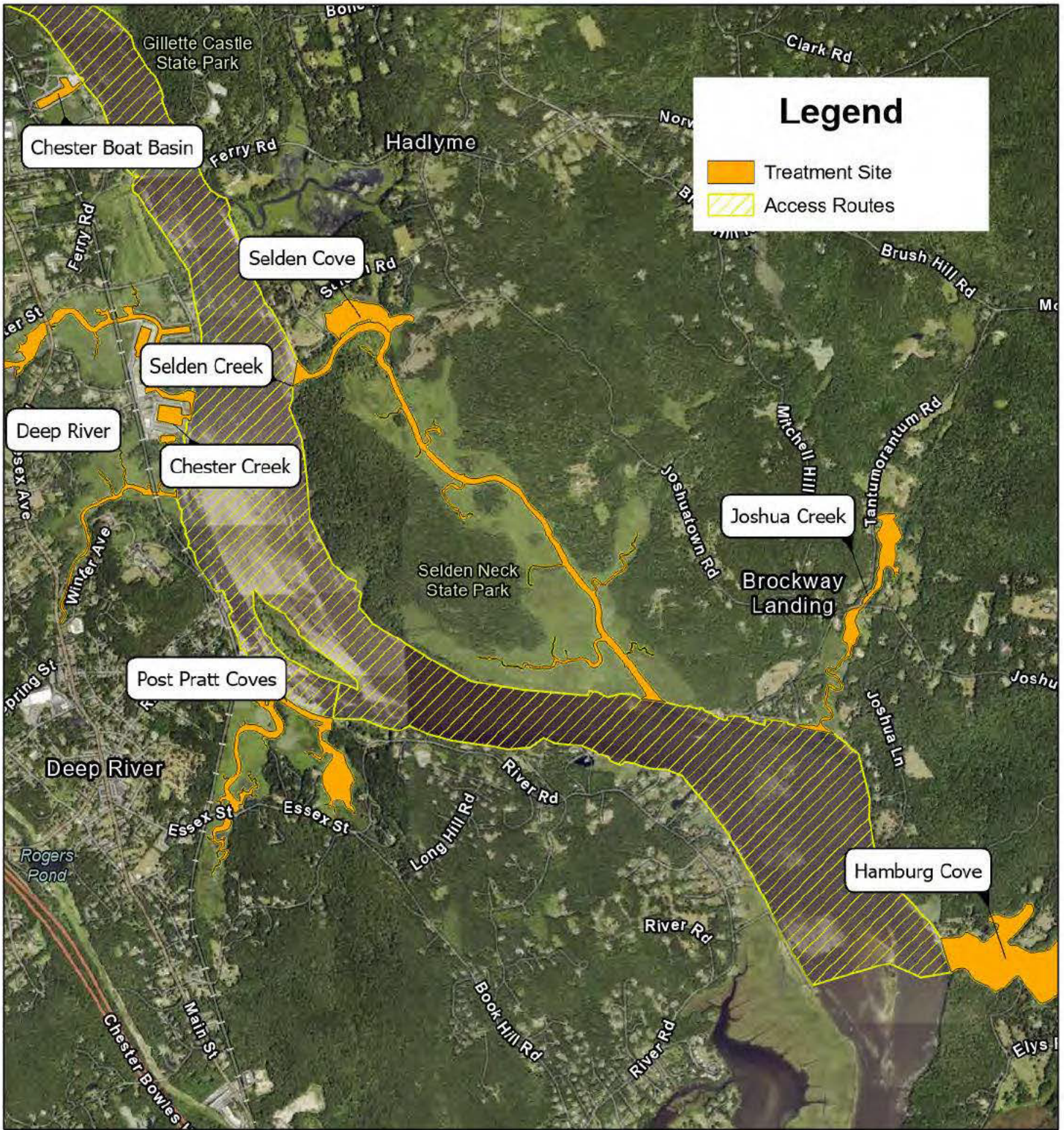


US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

**FIGURE 1.1 CONNECTICUT RIVER HYDRILLA CONTROL R&D PROJECT  
ACTION AREA: PORTLAND BOAT WORKS ACCESS ROUTE**

1:50,000





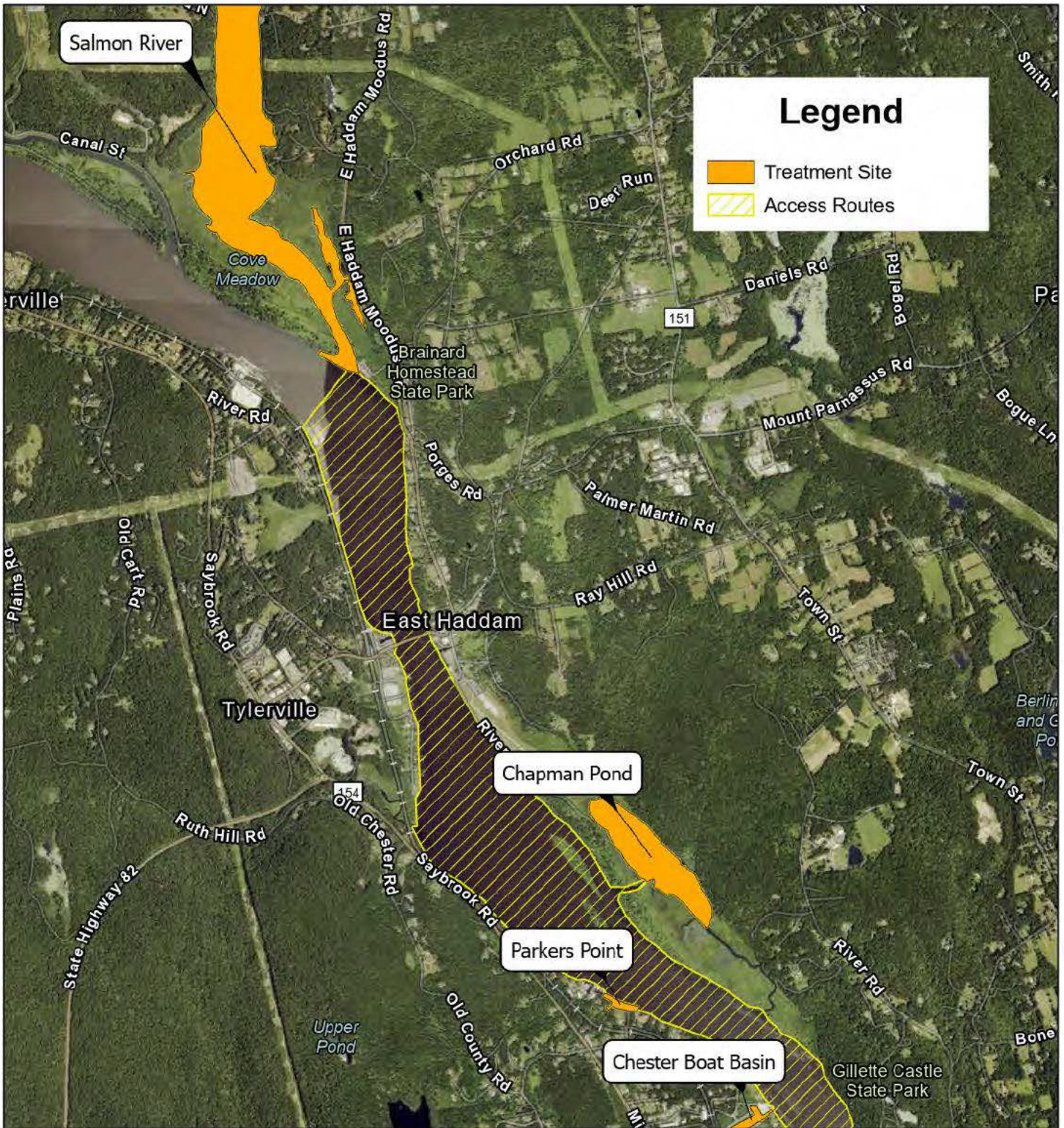
US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

**FIGURE 1.2.1 CONNECTICUT RIVER HYDRILLA CONTROL R&D PROJECT  
ACTION AREA: DEEP RIVER TOWN LANDING ACCESS ROUTE**

1:35,000



Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community, Source: Esri, USDA FSA, UConn/CTDEEP, Esri, HERE, Garmin, NGA, USGS, NPS, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

**FIGURE 1.2.2 CONNECTICUT RIVER HYDRILLA CONTROL R&D PROJECT  
ACTION AREA: DEEP RIVER TOWN LANDING AND SALMON RIVER STATE  
BOAT LAUNCH ACCESS ROUTES**

1:35,000



72°26'15"W

41°25'30"N

41°25'30"N

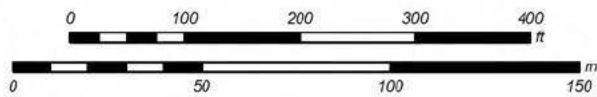


72°26'15"W



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

**CHESTER BOAT BASIN**  
**HYDRILLA TREATMENT AREA**  
**CHESTER, CT**

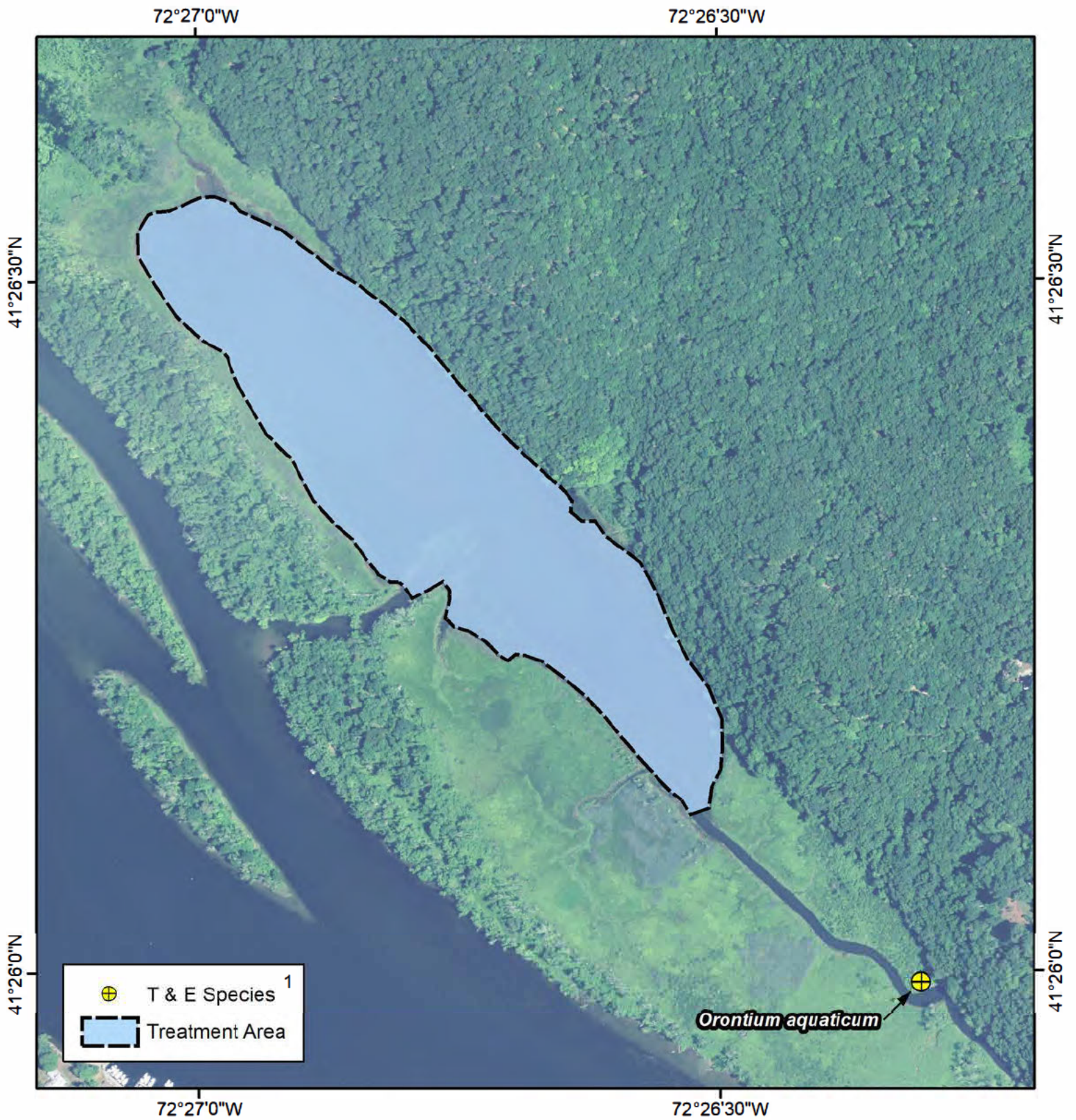



2016 NAIP AERIAL IMAGERY

1:2,000

GCS NAD 1983






 US Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District

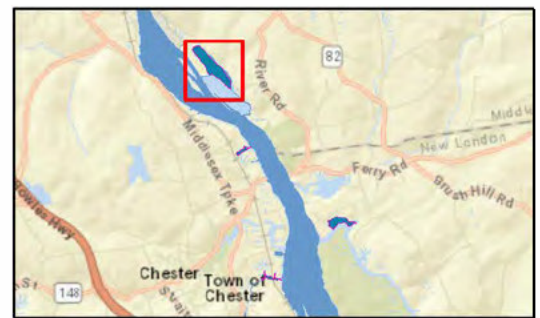
**CHAPMAN POND  
HYDRILLA TREATMENT AREA  
EAST HADDAM, CT**

0 250 500 750 1,000  
ft

0 100 200 300  
m


2016 NAIP AERIAL IMAGERY 1:7,000 GCS NAD1983






1 T&E: Species considered to be state-listed, and not protected under the Endangered Species Act




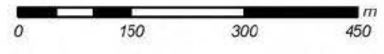


US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

**KEENEY COVE**  
**HYDRILLA TREATMENT AREA**  
**GLASTONBURY, CT**



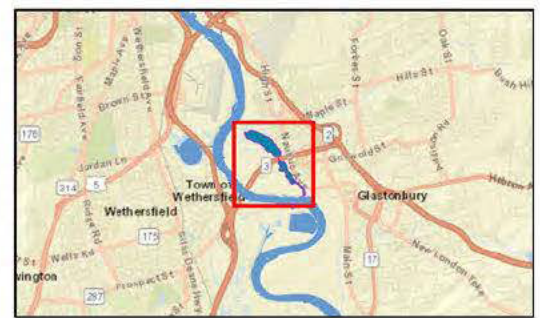


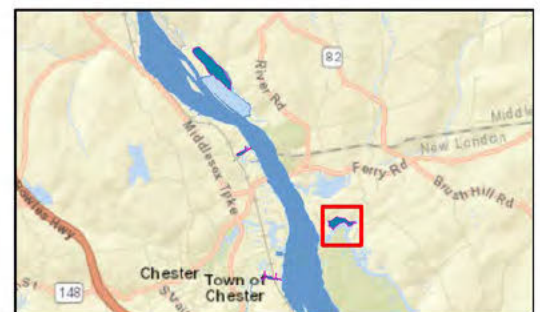
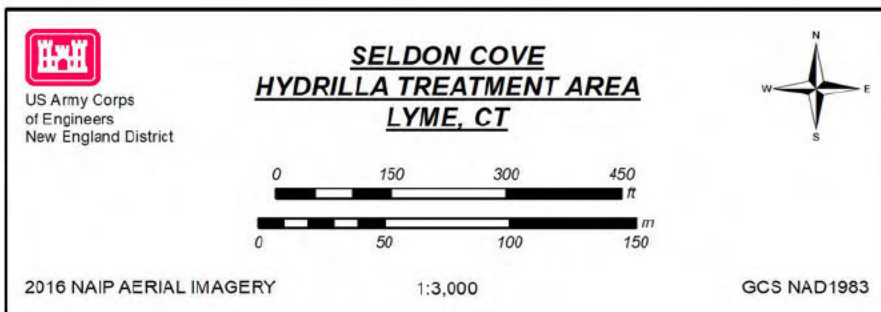
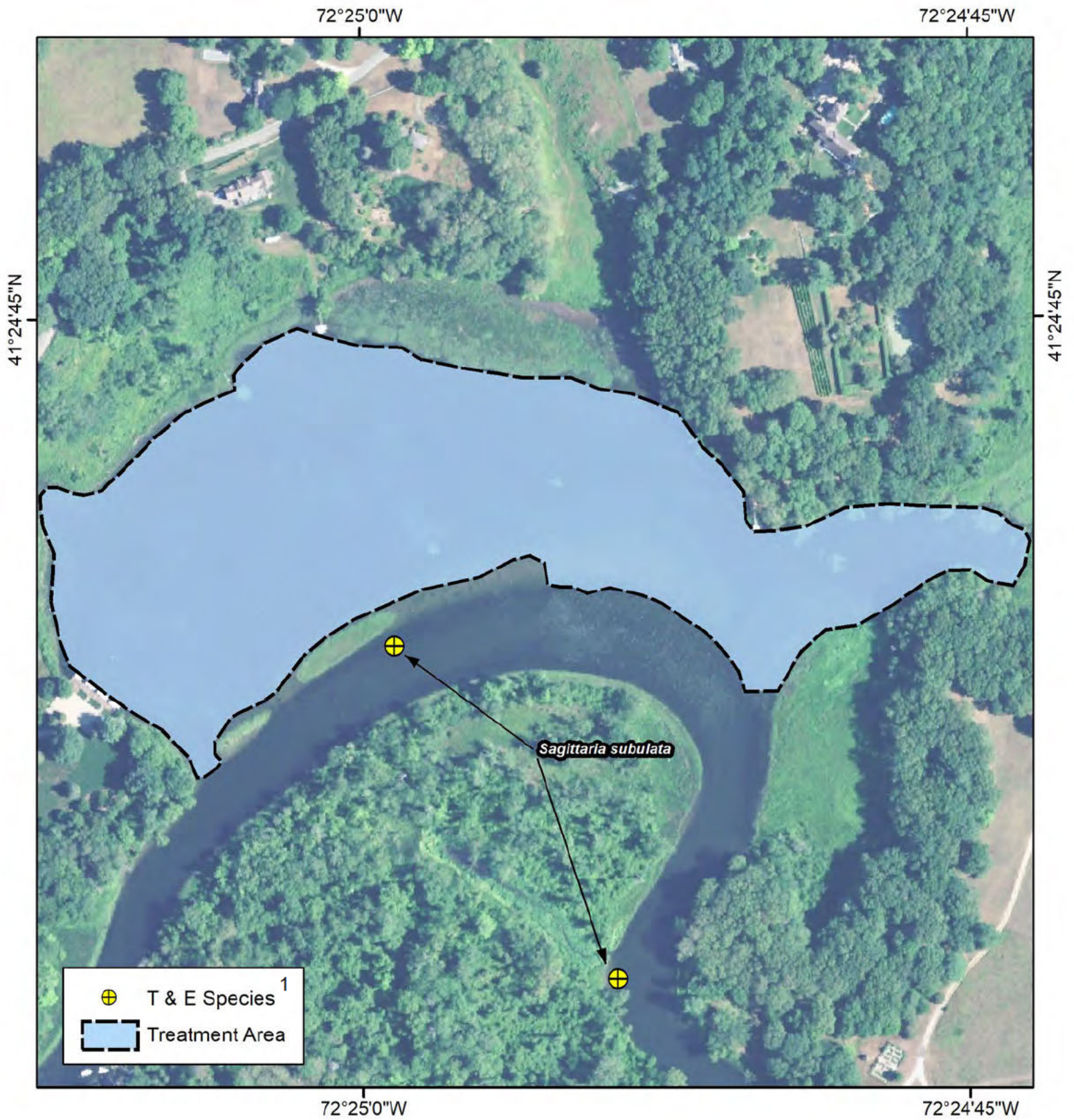


2016 NAIP AERIAL IMAGERY

1:10,000

GCS NAD 1983





1 T&E: Species considered to be state-listed, and not protected under the Endangered Species Act



**US Army Corps of Engineers**  
New England District

**CHESTER CREEK TREATMENT SITE**  
**CHESTER, CT**

0 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500 ft

0 200 400 600 800 m

2023 NAIP AERIAL IMAGERY 1:10,000 GCS NAD 1983

Detailed description: This block contains the title and scale information for the map. It features the US Army Corps of Engineers logo, the title 'CHESTER CREEK TREATMENT SITE CHESTER, CT', a north arrow, and two scale bars. The scale bars show distances in feet (0 to 2,500) and meters (0 to 800). The map is based on 2023 NAIP Aerial Imagery and uses the GCS NAD 1983 datum.

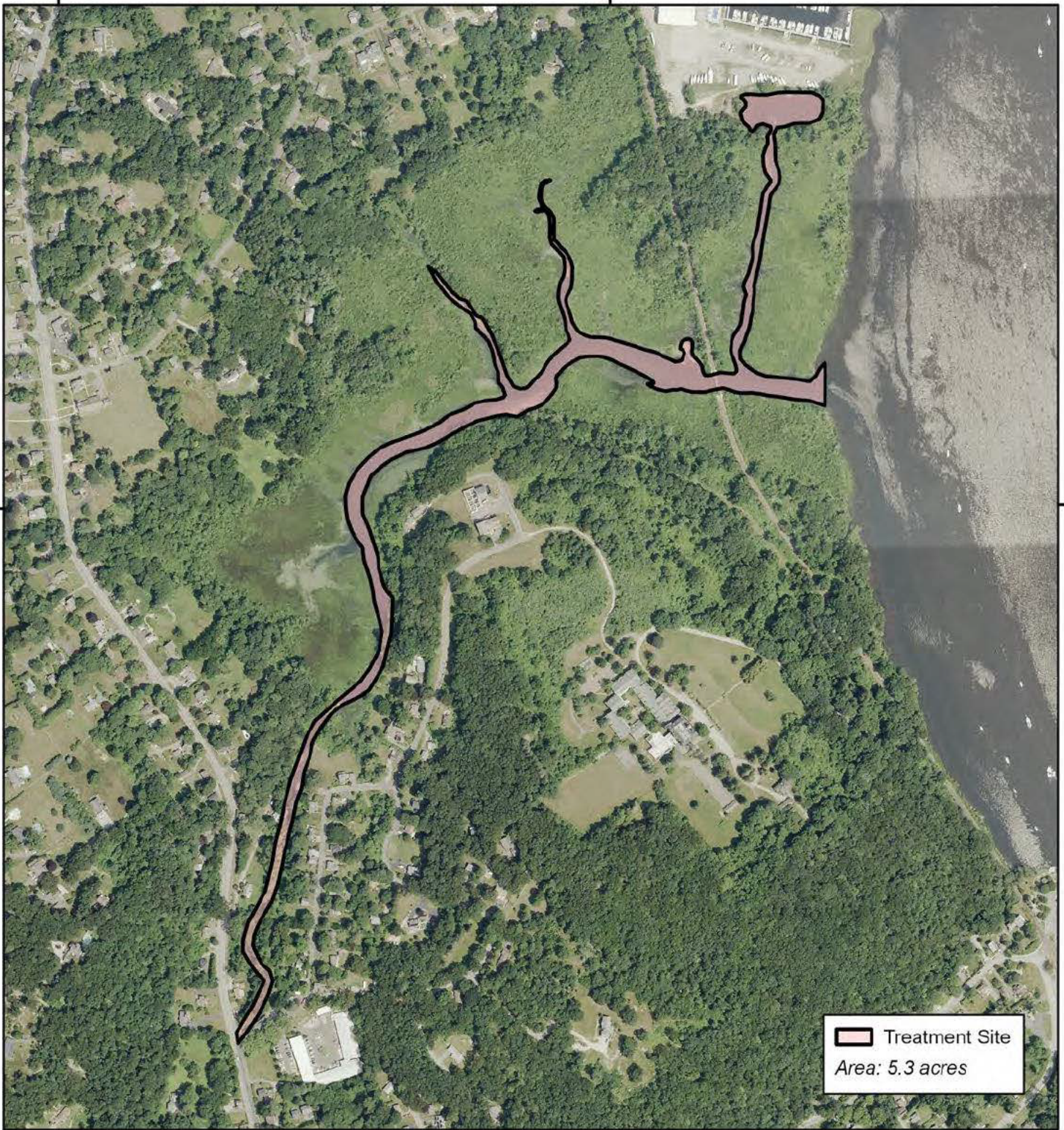


72°26'30"W

72°26'0"W

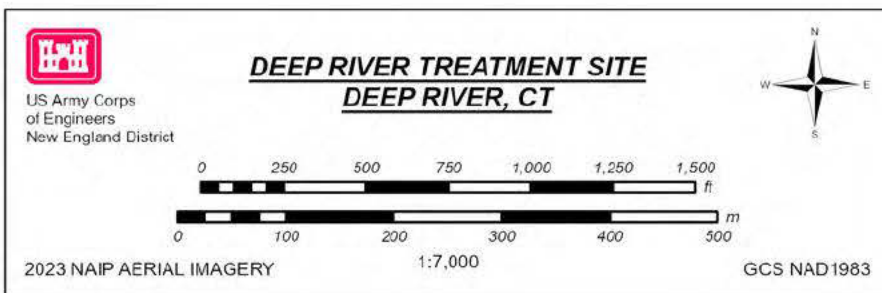
41°24'0"N

41°24'0"N



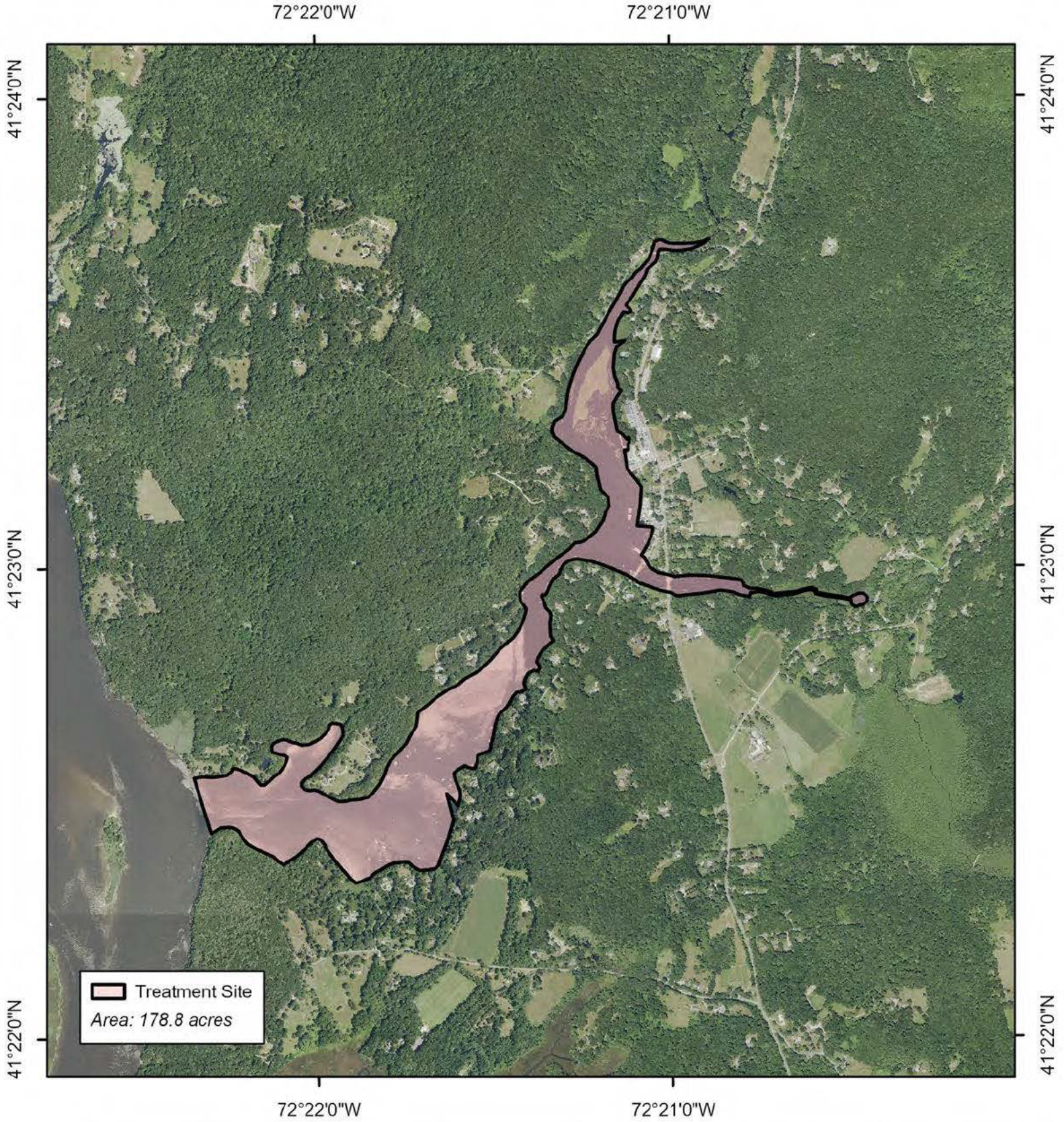
72°26'30"W


72°26'0"W




GCS NAD 1983






 Treatment Site  
 Area: 178.8 acres

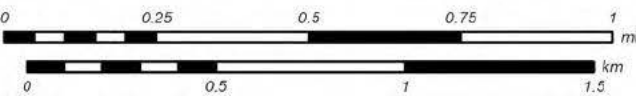


US Army Corps  
 of Engineers  
 New England District

**HAMBURG COVE TREATMENT SITE**

**LYME, CT**





2023 NAIP AERIAL IMAGERY

1:20,000

GCS NAD 1983



72°41'0"W

72°40'0"W

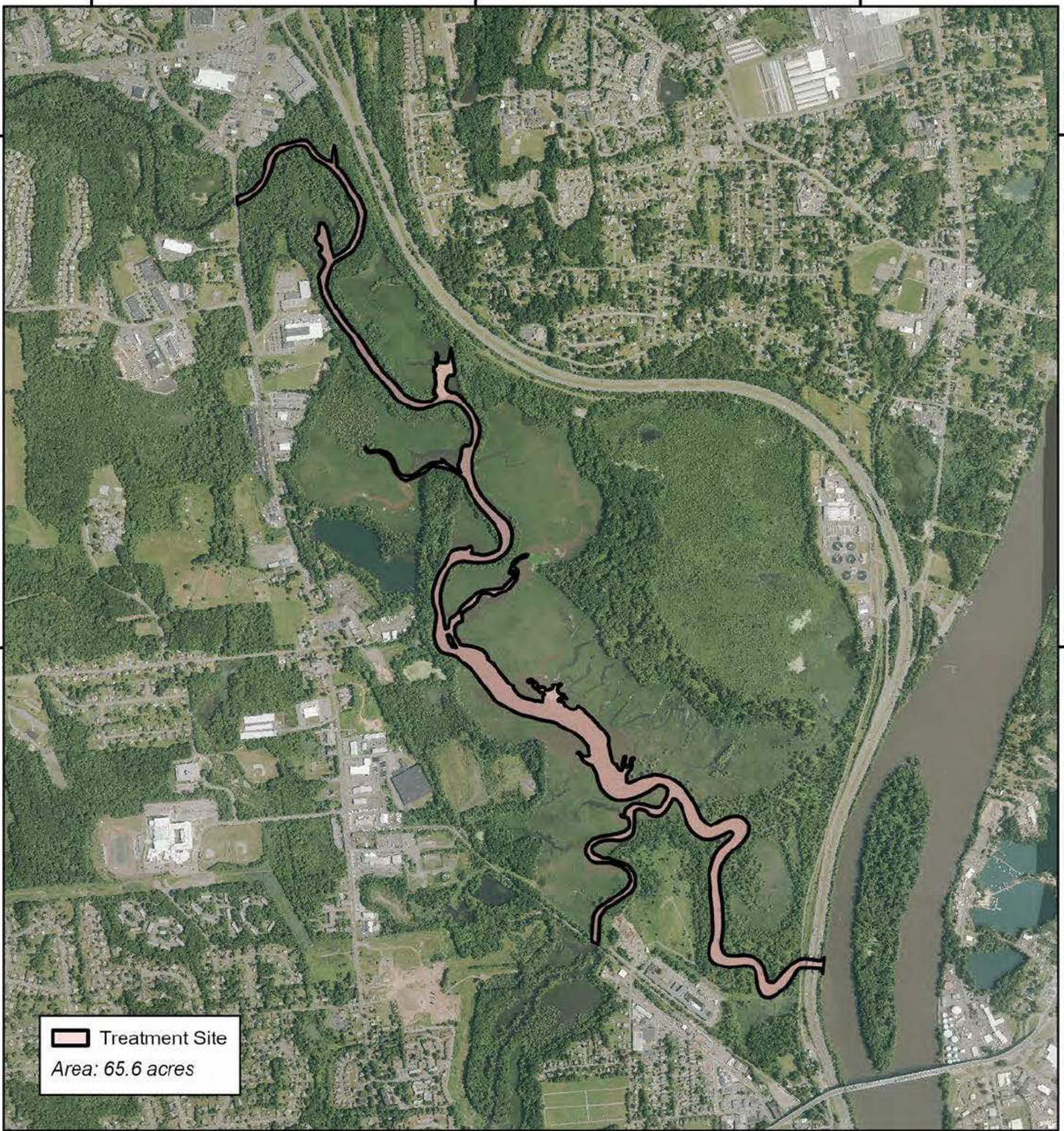
72°39'0"W

41°36'0"N

41°36'0"N

41°35'0"N


41°35'0"N




72°41'0"W


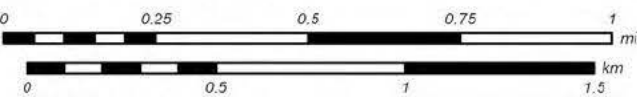
72°40'0"W

72°39'0"W

 Treatment Site  
Area: 65.6 acres

 **MATTABESSET RIVER TREATMENT SITE**  
**MIDDLETOWN, CT**

US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

2023 NAIP AERIAL IMAGERY 1:20,000 GCS NAD 1983



72°27'0"W

72°26'50"W


41°26'0"N

41°26'0"N

41°25'50"N


41°25'50"N




 Treatment Site  
 Area: 2.4 acres

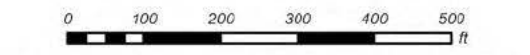
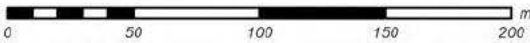
72°27'0"W

72°26'50"W

  
 US Army Corps  
 of Engineers  
 New England District

**PARKERS POINT TREATMENT SITE**  
**CHESTER, CT**



2023 NAIP AERIAL IMAGERY      1:3,000      GCS NAD 1983



72°37'45"W

72°37'30"W

72°37'15"W

41°34'0"N

41°34'0"N

41°33'45"N

41°33'45"N

41°33'30"N


41°33'30"N



72°37'45"W

72°37'30"W


72°37'15"W

 **PORTLAND BOAT WORKS**  
**TREATMENT SITE**  
**PORTLAND, CT**

US Army Corps of Engineers  
 New England District

0 250 500 750 1,000 ft  
 0 100 200 300 m

2023 NAIP AERIAL IMAGERY 1:5,000 GCS NAD 1983




72°25'40"W

72°25'20"W

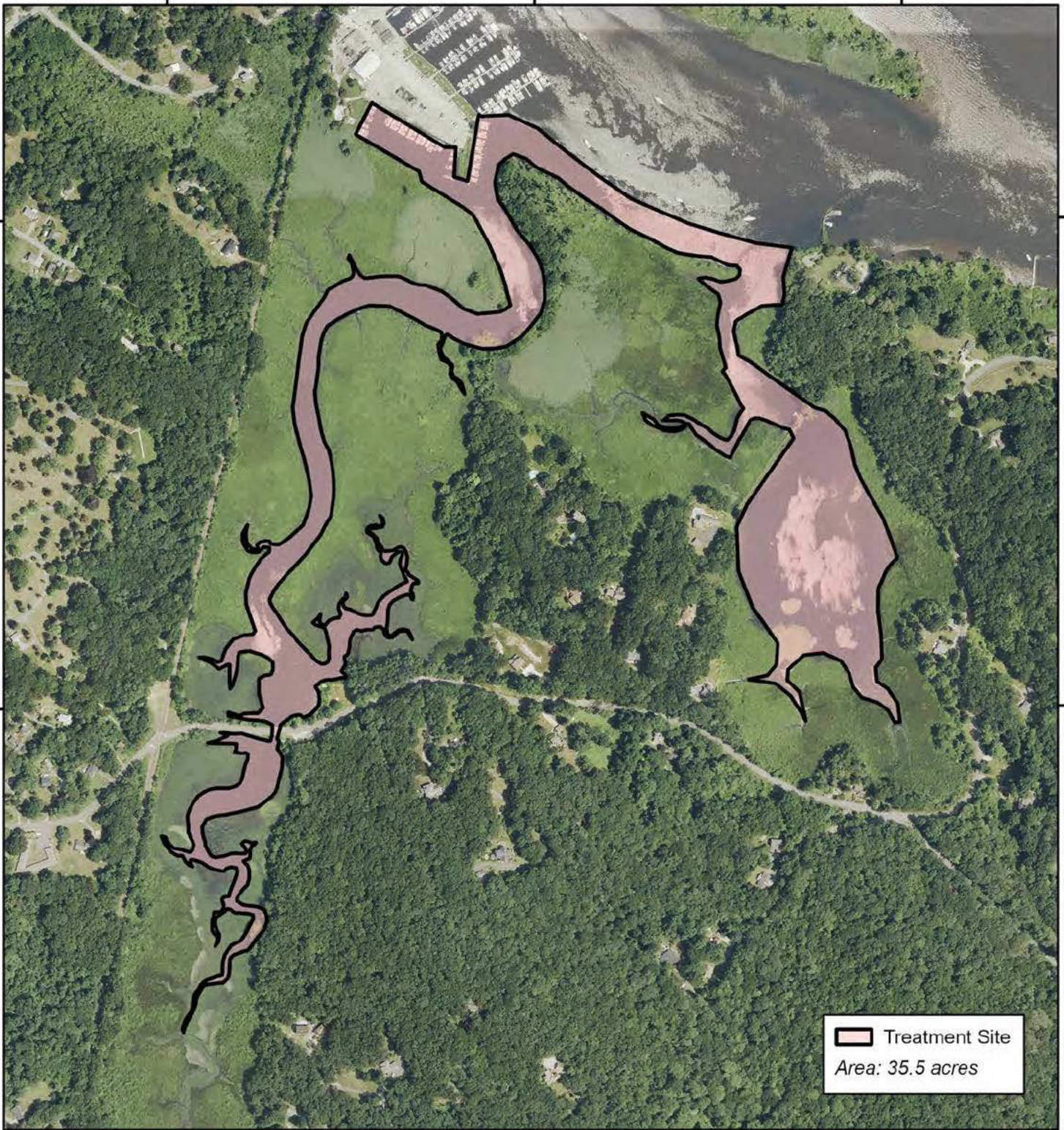
72°25'0"W

41°23'20"N

41°23'20"N

41°23'0"N

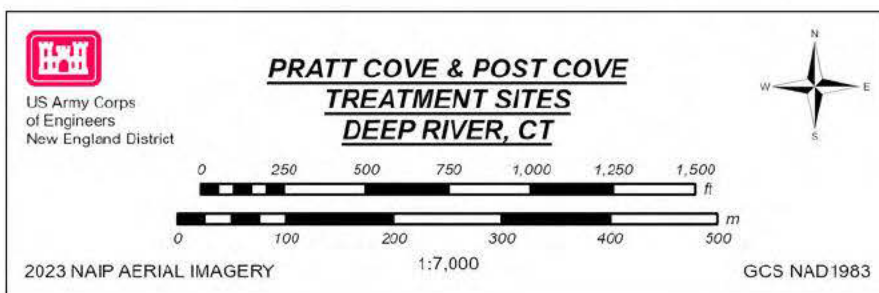
41°23'0"N

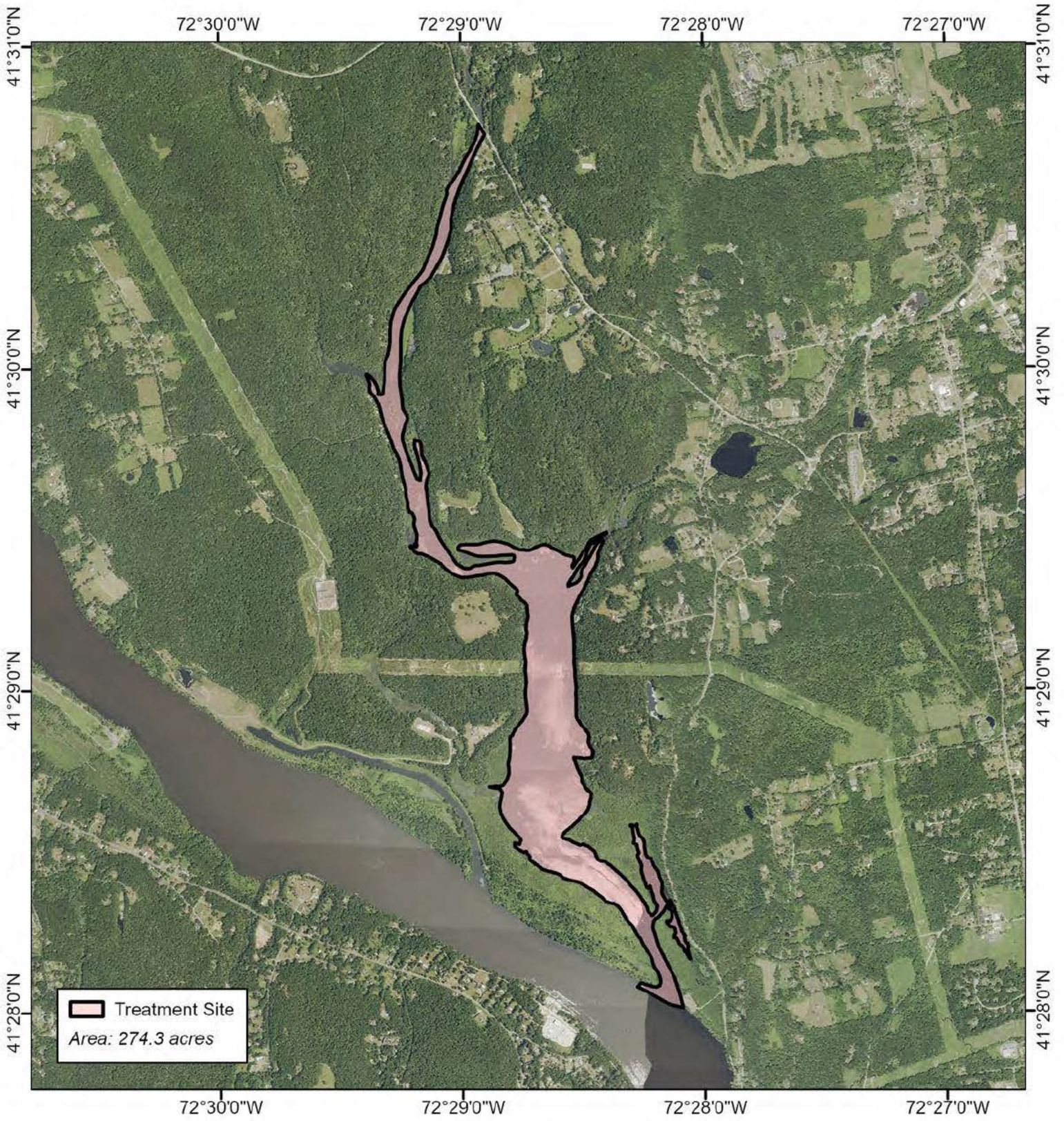


72°25'40"W

72°25'20"W

72°25'0"W





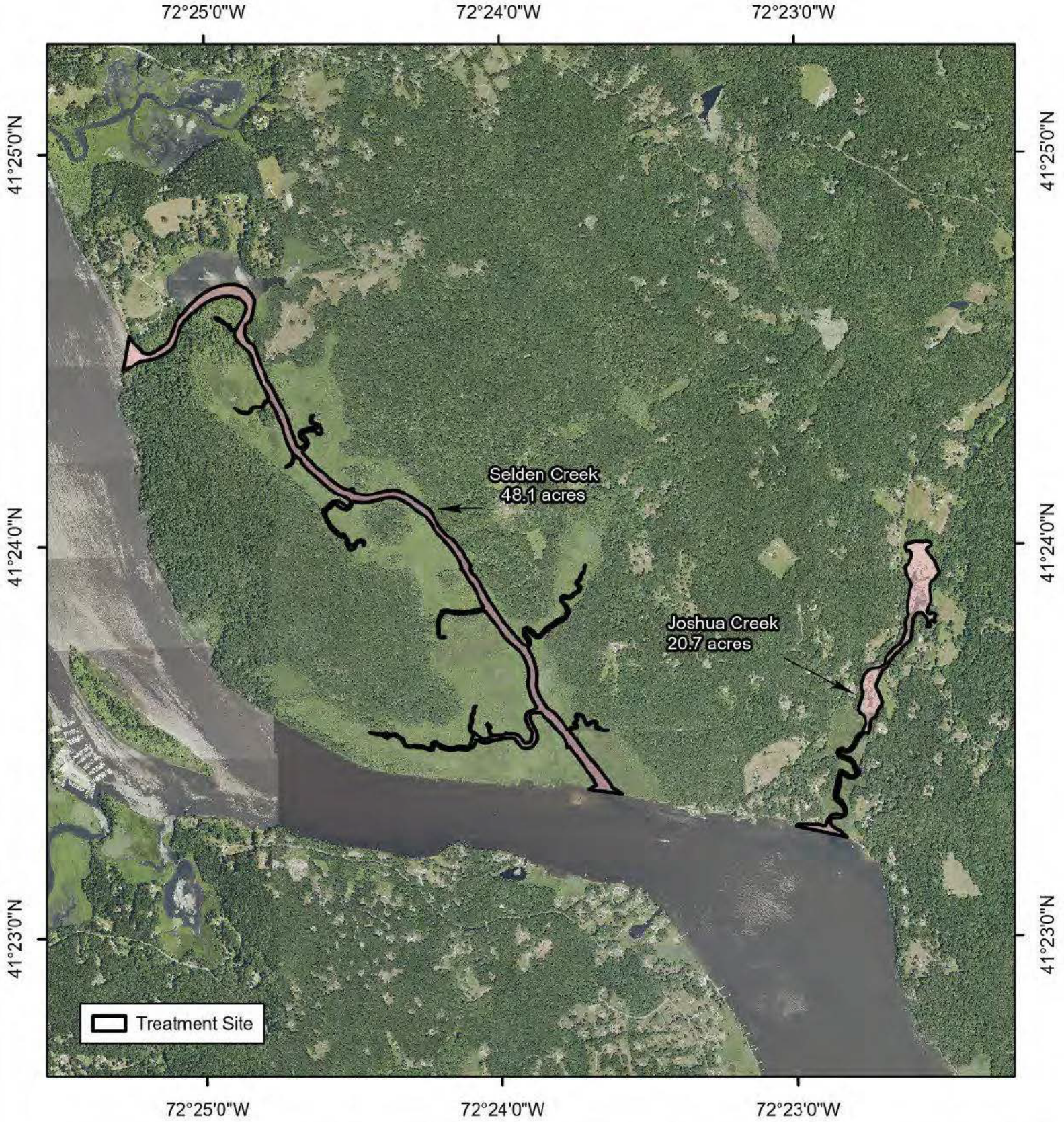
US Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District

**SALMON RIVER TREATMENT SITE**  
**EAST HADDAM, CT**

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5  
mi  
0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5  
km

2023 NAIP AERIAL IMAGERY 1:30,000 GCS NAD 1983





**HPH**  
 US Army Corps  
 of Engineers  
 New England District

**SELDEN CREEK & JOSHUA CREEK**  
**TREATMENT SITES**  
**LYME, CT**

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1  
 mi

0 0.5 1 1.5  
 km

2023 NAIP AERIAL IMAGERY 1:24,000 GCS NAD1983



72°31'0"W

72°30'30"W

72°30'0"W

72°29'30"W

41°36'0"N


41°36'0"N

41°35'30"N

41°35'30"N

41°35'0"N

41°35'0"N

 Treatment Site  
 Area: 232.0 acres

72°31'0"W

72°30'30"W

72°30'0"W

72°29'30"W



US Army Corps  
 of Engineers  
 New England District

**LAKE POCOTOPAUG TREATMENT SITE**  
**EAST HAMPTON, CT**



0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000  
 ft

0 250 500 750 1,000  
 m

2023 NAIP AERIAL IMAGERY

1:15,000

GCS NAD 1983

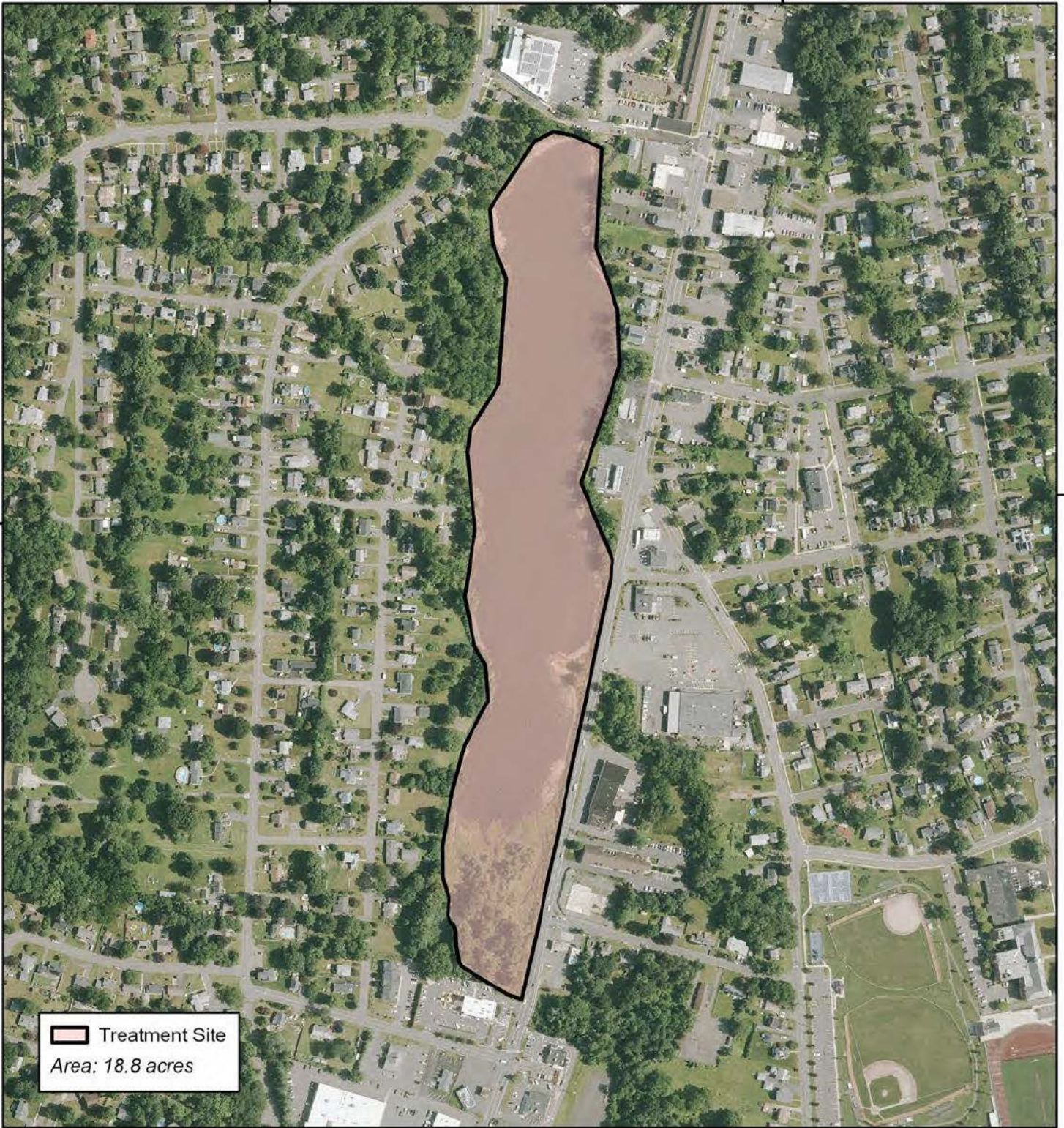



72°39'20"W

72°39'0"W

41°32'40"N


41°32'40"N



 Treatment Site  
Area: 18.8 acres


72°39'20"W

72°39'0"W

  
US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New England District

**PAMEACHA POND TREATMENT SITE**  
**MIDDLETOWN, CT**

0 250 500 750 1,000 ft  
0 50 100 150 200 250 300 m  
1:5,000



GCS NAD 1983



**ENCLOSURE 5**

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# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
New England Ecological Services Field Office  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 3301-5094  
Phone: (603) 223-2541 Fax: (603) 223-0104

In Reply Refer To:

01/22/2026 19:51:14 UTC

Project Code: 2026-0006615

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

*Updated 4/12/2023 - Please review this letter each time you request an Official Species List, we will continue to update it with additional information and links to websites may change.*

## **About Official Species Lists**

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Federal and non-Federal project proponents have responsibilities under the Act to consider effects on listed species.

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested by returning to an existing project's page in IPaC.

## **Endangered Species Act Project Review**

Please visit the “**New England Field Office Endangered Species Project Review and Consultation**” website for step-by-step instructions on how to consider effects on listed

species and prepare and submit a project review package if necessary:

<https://www.fws.gov/office/new-england-ecological-services/endangered-species-project-review>

**\*NOTE\*** Please do not use the **Consultation Package Builder** tool in IPaC except in specific situations following coordination with our office. Please follow the project review guidance on our website instead and reference your **Project Code** in all correspondence.

**Northern Long-eared Bat - (Updated 4/12/2023)** The Service published a final rule to reclassify the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) as endangered on November 30, 2022. The final rule went into effect on March 31, 2023. You may utilize the **Northern Long-eared Bat Rangewide Determination Key** available in IPaC. More information about this Determination Key and the Interim Consultation Framework are available on the northern long-eared bat species page:

<https://www.fws.gov/species/northern-long-eared-bat-myotis-septentrionalis>

For projects that previously utilized the 4(d) Determination Key, the change in the species' status may trigger the need to re-initiate consultation for any actions that are not completed and for which the Federal action agency retains discretion once the new listing determination becomes effective. If your project was not completed by March 31, 2023, and may result in incidental take of NLEB, please reach out to our office at [newengland@fws.gov](mailto:newengland@fws.gov) to see if reinitiation is necessary.

#### *Additional Info About Section 7 of the Act*

Under section 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat. If a Federal agency, or its non-Federal representative, determines that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Federal agency also may need to consider proposed species and proposed critical habitat in the consultation. 50 CFR 402.14(c)(1) specifies the information required for consultation under the Act regardless of the format of the evaluation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<https://www.fws.gov/service/section-7-consultations>

In addition to consultation requirements under Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, please note that under sections 7(a)(1) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species. Please contact NEFO if you would like more information.

**Candidate species** that appear on the enclosed species list have no current protections under the ESA. The species' occurrence on an official species list does not convey a requirement to

consider impacts to this species as you would a proposed, threatened, or endangered species. The ESA does not provide for interagency consultations on candidate species under section 7, however, the Service recommends that all project proponents incorporate measures into projects to benefit candidate species and their habitats wherever possible.

### **Migratory Birds**

In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see:

<https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit>

<https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/bald-and-golden-eagle-management>

Please feel free to contact us at **newengland@fws.gov** with your **Project Code** in the subject line if you need more information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat.

Attachment(s): Official Species List

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

## **OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST**

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

**New England Ecological Services Field Office**  
70 Commercial Street, Suite 300  
Concord, NH 3301-5094  
(603) 223-2541

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2026-0006615

Project Name: Connecticut River Hydrilla Control R&D Project

Project Type: Invasive Plant Control

Project Description: The Project proposed the application of herbicides to treatment sites within the Connecticut River. Treatment sites include tidal creeks, coves, and tributaries of the Connecticut River. Two sites occur within the main stem of the Connecticut River: Portland Boat Works and Parker's Point. Subsurface injection methods will be utilized. Applications will occur in the Summer, after July 4, to avoid indirect impacts to diadromous fish and Northern pike spawning on submerged aquatic vegetation. The action area includes the treatment sites and all access routes from boat ramps/ launches. Herbicide application will occur in one-two days based on the treatment plan, with post-treatment monitoring occurring.

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@41.5942067,-72.50363615063895,14z>



Counties: Hartford , Middlesex , and New London counties, Connecticut

## ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 3 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

- 
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

**MAMMALS**

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Endangered
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</a>	Proposed Endangered

**INSECTS**

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743</a>	Proposed Threatened

**CRITICAL HABITATS**

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

## **IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers  
Name: Kelsie Dakessian  
Address: 696 Virginia Road  
City: Concord  
State: MA  
Zip: 01742  
Email: kelsie.dakessian@usace.army.mil  
Phone: [REDACTED]