## Contrasting effects of early-season harvesting and chemical treatment in Lake Monona (Madison, WI)

March 30, 2011


## Early-Season Control Strategies

-2,4-D treatment

- Semi-selective
- Dicots: EWM, Coontail, Water stargrass
- Deep harvesting
- Non-selective
- Can treating early increase selectivity?




## Assessing Plant Response

- 8 Surveys : June \& August, 2007-2010
- ~40 points per plot
- Plant presence/absence
- Make linear predictions, assess significance of response to treatment


## Harvesting

- 2008
- high water levels prevented harvesting until later in the season (July)
- 2009 (early June) and 2010 (25 May)
- timing was based on start of EWM growth






## Results

- Decrease in EWM Frequency observed over four years with chemical treatment or harvesting

Plot
Year


## Results

- Decrease in EWM frequency after four years with chemical treatment or harvesting
- Considerable variation
- Among plots
- Among years


# Are there statistically 

 significant differences among treatment groups?



CLP


## Other natives

- No significant effects, although most species were less than $10 \%$ frequent throughout the majority of the study


## Interim Results

- EWM (decrease)
- Mechanical harvesting
- Chemical application
- Coontail (decrease)
- Chemical application
- Elodea (increase)
- Mechanical harvesting
- CLP
- Increase: Mechanical harvesting
- Decrease: Chemical application


## Interim Results

- Results of harvesting are variable
- Multiple years required to be comparable to chemical treatments
- Non-target effects of chemical treatment
- Interannual variation can be great
- Further research is required!


## Going forward

- Monitor 2 years post treatment (2011, 2012 in chemically treated plots
- Harvest one additional year to confirm 2010 findings
- Monitor 2 years post treatment (2012, 2013) in harvested plots

