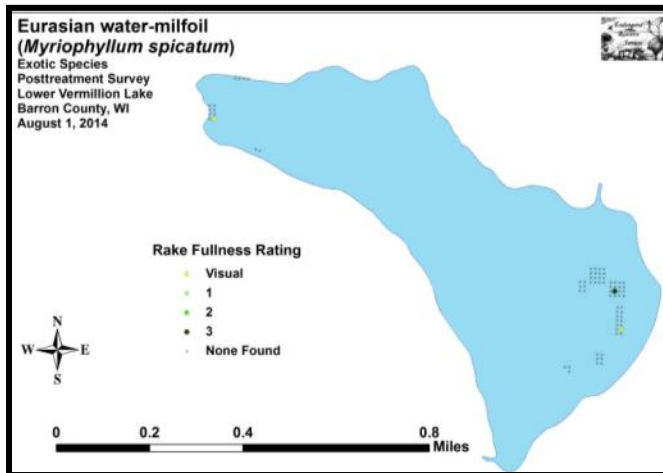


# Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) Pre/Post Herbicide and Fall Bed Mapping Surveys Lower Vermillion Lake – WBIC: 2098200 Barron County, Wisconsin



2014 EWM Posttreatment Distribution Lower Vermillion Lake



Eurasian water milfoil (Berg 2007)

Project Initiated by:

Vermillion Lakes Association, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Lake Education and Planning Services, LLC (Grant AIRR-108-12)



2014 EWM treatment areas

Survey Conducted by and Report Prepared by:

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St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin

June 1, August 1, and October 11, 2014

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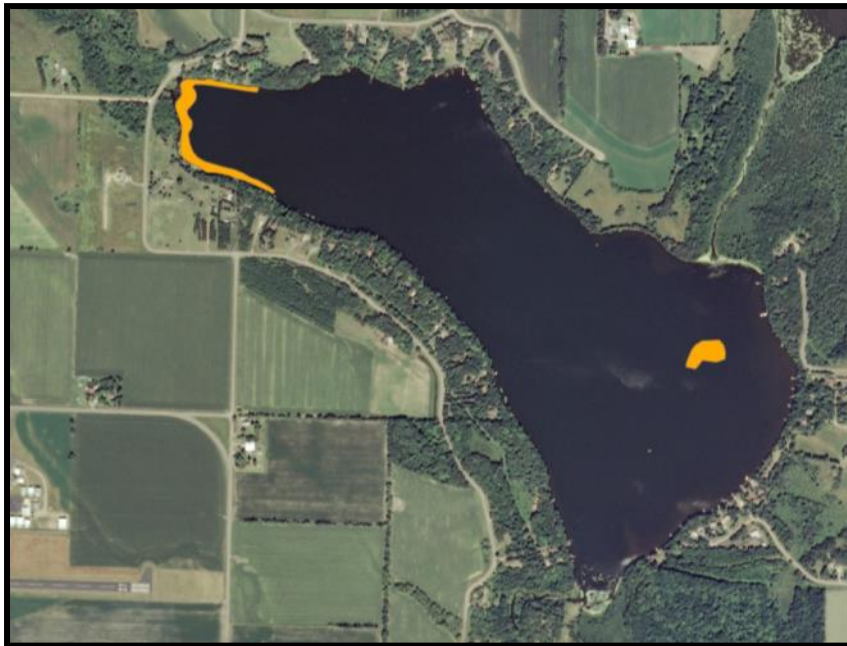
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## INTRODUCTION:

Lower Vermillion Lake (WBIC 2098200) is a 215 acres stratified drainage lake in northwestern Barron County, Wisconsin in the Town of Cumberland (T35N R13W S22 SW NE). The lake reaches a maximum depth of 55 feet in the central basin and has an average depth of approximately 25ft (Busch et al 1967). Although limited historical data is available, Lower Vermillion appears to be mesotrophic and water clarity has been fair to good with summer Secchi readings ranging from 7-12ft (WDNR 2014). This clarity produced a littoral zone that reached approximately 12ft in the spring of 2014. Bottom substrates along the north, south, and southeastern shorelines are primarily rocky/sandy while most of the east bay and main basin are organic muck or sandy muck in nature.



**Figure 1: 2014 EWM Treatment Areas**

In 2008, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) confirmed the presence of Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) in Lower Vermillion Lake, and the Vermillion Lakes Association (VLA) has been actively working to control this invasive exotic species ever since. Following the 2013 fall EWM bed mapping survey that found a few EWM towers in the eastern bay and scattered patches throughout the northwest bay near the boat landing, the VLA, under the direction of Lake Education and Planning Services LLC (LEAPS) and in accordance with the WDNR approved Vermillion Lakes Aquatic Plant Management Plan, decided to chemically treat two areas in 2014. Combined, they totaled 4.34 acres or 2.0% of the lake's total surface area (Figure 1).

On June 1<sup>st</sup>, we conducted a pretreatment survey to gather baseline data from the scheduled treatment areas and to allow LEAPS to finalize treatment plans. Following the June 6<sup>th</sup> herbicide application, we conducted an August 1<sup>st</sup> posttreatment survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment. We also conducted an October 11<sup>th</sup> EWM bed mapping survey to determine where EWM control might be considered in 2015. This report is the summary analysis of these three field surveys.

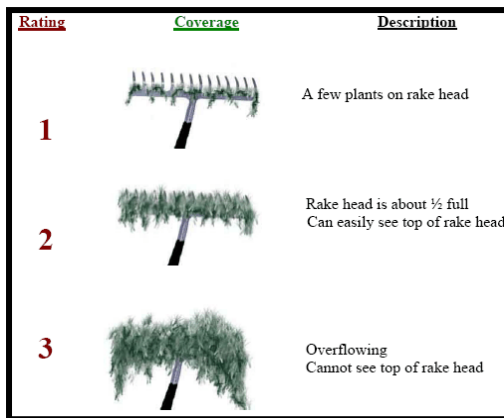
## METHODS:

### Pre/Post Herbicide Survey:

LEAPS requested we use the same 75 survey points developed in 2013 for the 2014 surveys. Although the majority of these points fell outside the 2014 treatment areas as they were based on that year's treatment, they served as exploratory point to see if EWM had returned in the former beds. Despite this high number of points outside the treatment areas, the grid still met the WDNR pre/post protocol expectation of between 4 and 10 points/acre (Appendix I).

During the surveys, we located each of these points using a handheld mapping GPS unit (Garmin 76CSx) and used a rake to sample an approximately 2.5ft section of the bottom. All plants on the rake were assigned a rake fullness value of 1-3 as an estimation of abundance, and a total rake fullness for all species was also recorded (Figure 2). Visual sightings of EWM were noted if they occurred within 6ft of the point. In addition to plant data, we recorded the lake depth using a hand held sonar (Vexilar LPS-1) and the bottom substrate (bottom type) when we could see it or reliably determine it with the rake.

We entered all data collected into the standard WDNR APM spreadsheet (Appendix II). These data were then analyzed using the linked statistical summary sheet and the WDNR pre/post analysis worksheet (UWEX 2010). Pre/post treatment differences were determined to be significant at  $p < .05$ , moderately significant at  $p < .01$ , and highly significant at  $p < .005$ .



**Figure 2: Rake Fullness Ratings**

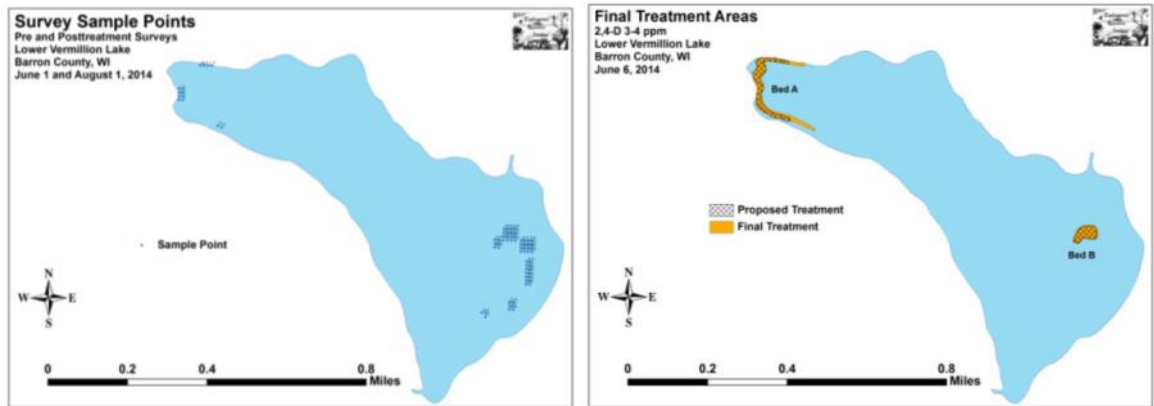
### Fall Eurasian Water Milfoil Bed Mapping:

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, we searched the entire visible littoral zone of the lake and mapped all known beds of EWM. A “bed” was determined to be any area where we visually estimated that EWM made up >50% of the area's plants and was generally continuous with clearly defined borders. After we located a bed, we motored around the perimeter of the area, took GPS coordinates at regular intervals, and estimated the average rake fullness rating of EWM within the bed (Figure 2). Using the WDNR's Forestry Tool's Extension to ArcGIS 9.3.1, we plotted these coordinates to generate bed shapefiles and determine the acreage to the nearest hundredth of an acre. We also GPS marked individual EWM plants outside of the beds as they were few in number.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

### Finalization of Treatment Areas:

Initial expectations were to treat two beds totaling 3.14 acres with liquid (Bed A) or granular (Bed B) 2, 4-D (Navigate) at a concentration of 3-4 ppm (Table 1). Although the pretreatment survey did not find Eurasian water milfoil in the rake at any point, we noted EWM plants scattered throughout and just beyond the proposed treatment areas. Because of this, it was decided to expand the total area to be treated from 3.14 to 4.34 acres. This represented an acreage increase of 38% over initial expectations. The final treatment was conducted by Northern Aquatic Services (Dresser, WI) on June 6<sup>th</sup> (Figure 3) (Appendix I).



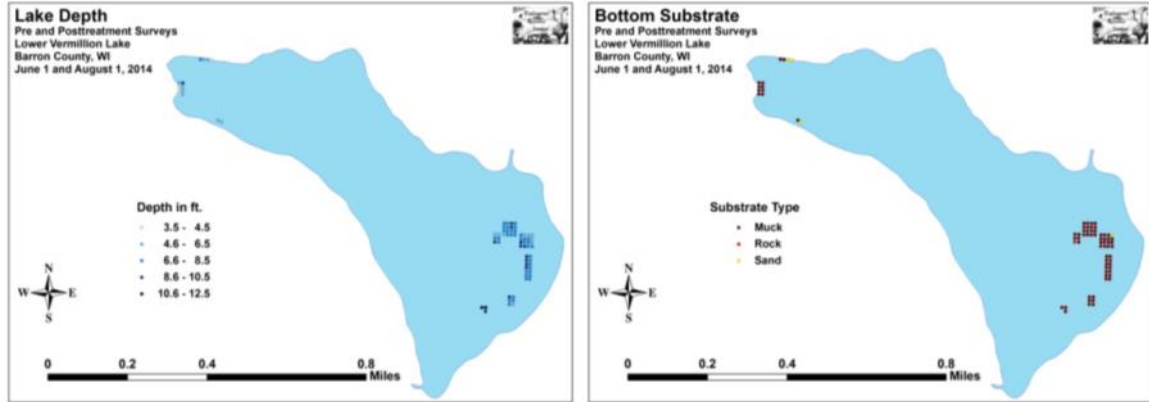
**Figure 3: 2014 Survey Sample Points and Final Treatment Areas**

**Table 1: EWM Treatment Summary  
Lower Vermillion Lake – June 6, 2014**

<b>Bed</b>	<b>Proposed Acreage</b>	<b>Final Acreage</b>	<b>Difference +/-</b>
A	2.10	3.12	1.02
B	1.04	1.22	0.18
<b>Total Acres</b>	<b>3.14</b>	<b>4.34</b>	<b>+1.20</b>

### EWM Pre/Post Herbicide Survey:

The survey area littoral zone extended from 11.5-12.0ft during both surveys. Mean and median depths for all plants were 7.5ft each during both surveys (Table 2). Most EWM was established over organic muck with a few low density patches occurring on sandy bottoms along the western shorelines (Figure 4) (Appendix III).



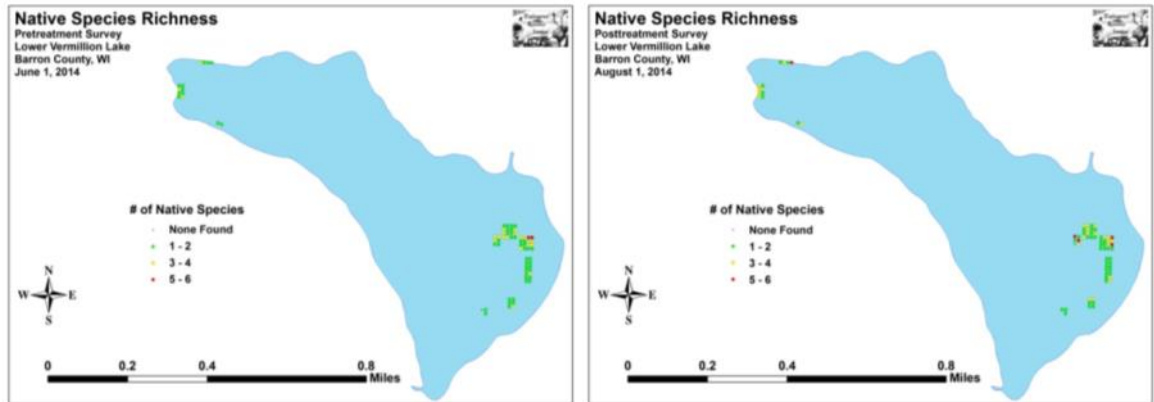
**Figure 4: Treatment Area Depths and Bottom Substrate**

**Table 2: Pre/Post Survey Summary Statistics  
Lower Vermillion Lake, Barron County  
June 1 and August 1, 2014**

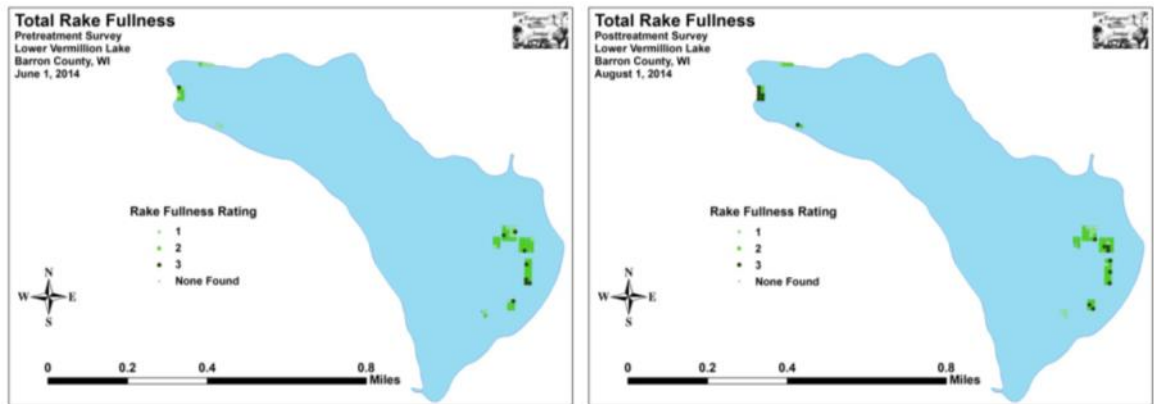
Summary Statistics:	Pre	Post
Total number of points sampled	75	75
Total number of sites with vegetation	74	74
Total number of sites shallower than the maximum depth of plants	75	75
Frequency of occurrence at sites shallower than maximum depth of plants	100.0	98.7
Simpson Diversity Index	0.70	0.80
Floristic Quality Index	19.6	21.9
Mean Coefficient of Conservatism	5.9	5.9
Maximum depth of plants (ft)	11.5	12.0
Mean depth of plants (ft)	7.5	7.5
Median depth of plants (ft)	7.5	7.5
Average number of all species per site (shallower than max depth)	2.12	2.43
Average number of all species per site (veg. sites only)	2.12	2.46
Average number of native species per site (shallower than max depth)	2.12	2.41
Average number of native species per site (sites with native veg. only)	2.12	2.45
Species richness	11	15
Mean rake fullness (veg. sites only)	1.89	2.05



Initial diversity within the beds was moderate with a Simpson Index of 0.70. This value improved slightly to 0.80 posttreatment. The Floristic Quality Index, another measure of only native species, also showed a slight increase from 19.6 pretreatment to 21.9 posttreatment. Mean native species richness at sites with native vegetation was 2.12/site pretreatment and 2.45 species/site posttreatment (Figure 5). Total rake fullness also increased from 1.89 pretreatment to 2.05 posttreatment (Figure 6) (Appendix IV).

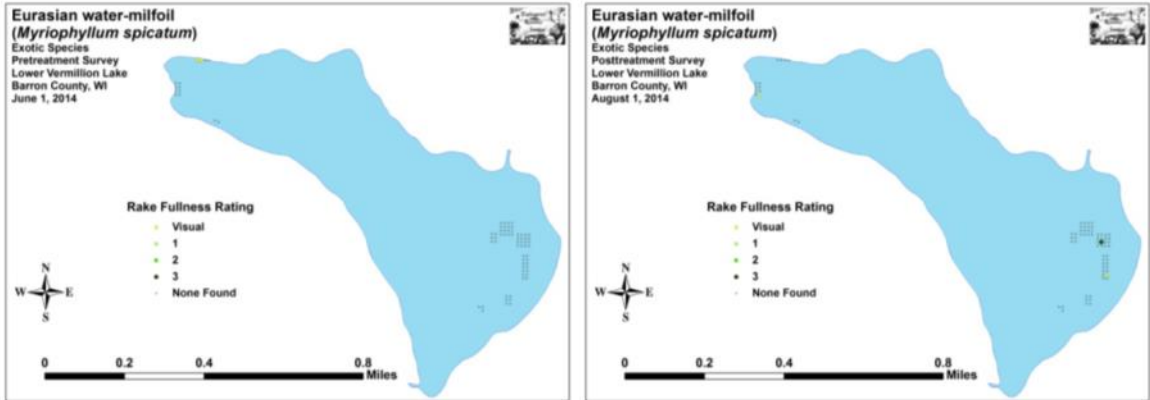


**Figure 5: Pre/Post Native Species Richness**

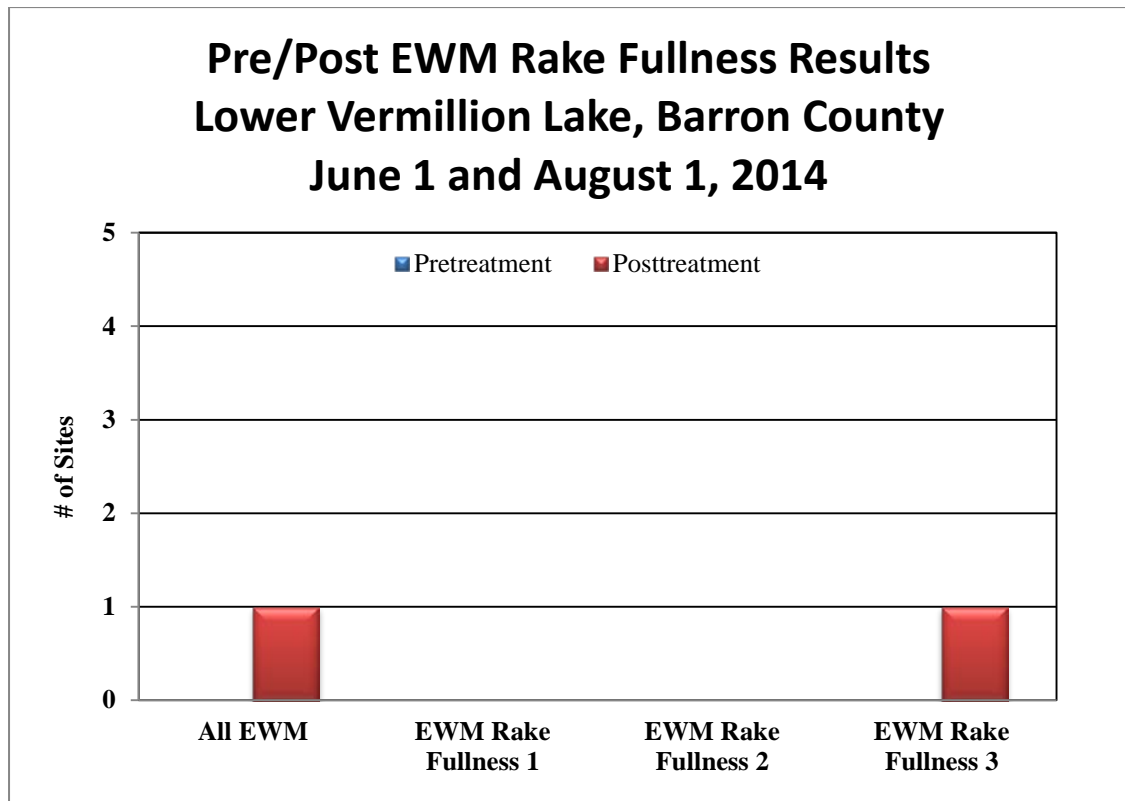


**Figure 6: Pre/Post Total Rake Fullness**

We didn't find EWM in the rake at any survey points during the pretreatment survey. Despite this, we did note plants as visuals at two points and also found them inter-point in both treatment areas. During the posttreatment survey, we located EWM at a single point in the eastern bay, and it rated a 3 as the point was within a small dense bed. We again recorded EWM as a visual at two points (Figure 7) (Appendix V). Our findings suggested there was no significant change in EWM within the treatment areas (Figure 8).



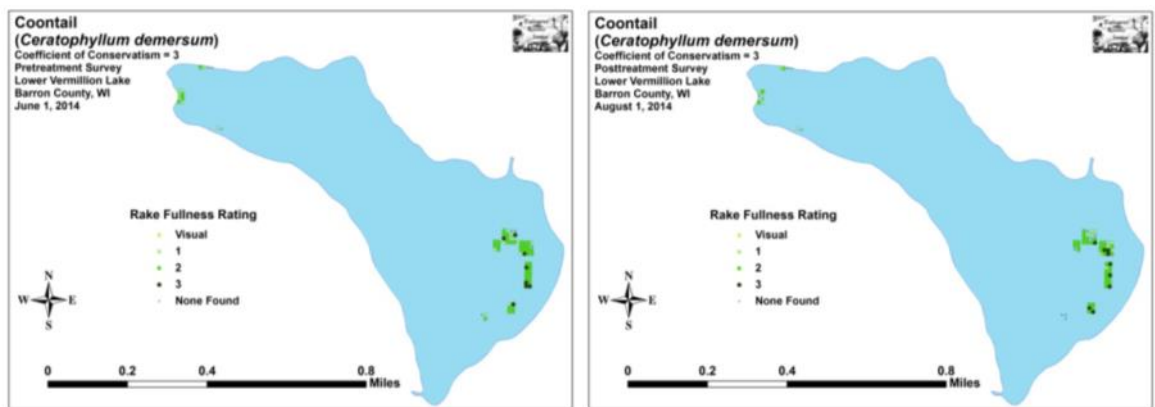
**Figure 7: Pre/Post EWM Density and Distribution**



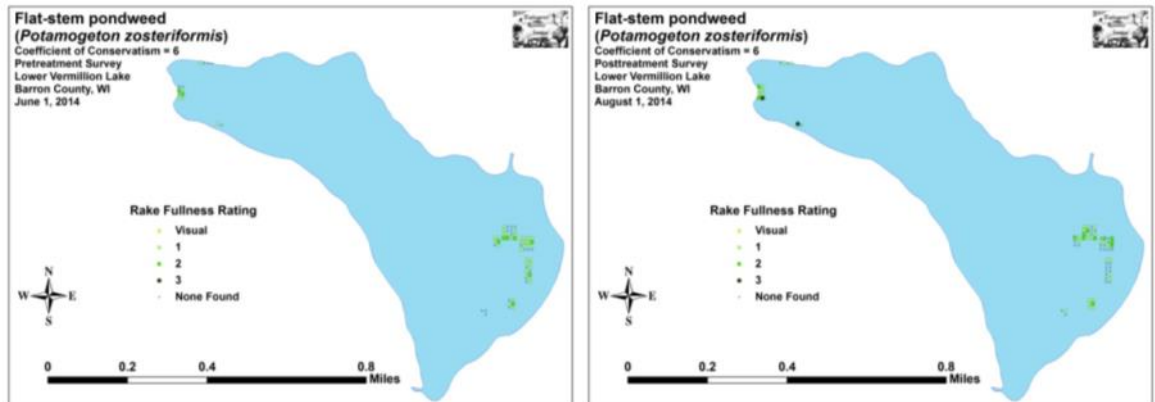
Significant differences = \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .005$

**Figure 8: Pre/Post Changes in EWM Rake Fullness**

Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) and Flat-stem pondweed (*Potamogeton zosteriformis*), the two most common native species in both the pre and posttreatment surveys (Tables 3 and 4), showed no significant change posttreatment (Figures 9 and 10). White-stem pondweed (*Potamogeton praelongus*) was the only species that showed a significant decline posttreatment, and this likely had more to do with normal late-season senescence than the treatment as pondweeds are monocots and not generally affected by 2,4-D. Conversely, Clasping-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton richardsonii*) demonstrated a highly significant increase; Small pondweed (*Potamogeton pusillus*) a moderately significant increase; and Wild celery (*Vallisneria americana*), Muskgrass (*Chara* sp.), Slender naiad (*Najas flexilis*), and filamentous algae significant increases posttreatment (Figure 11). These positive changes are all likely the product of normal growing season expansion (Maps for all native species from the pre and posttreatment surveys are available in Appendixes VI and VII).

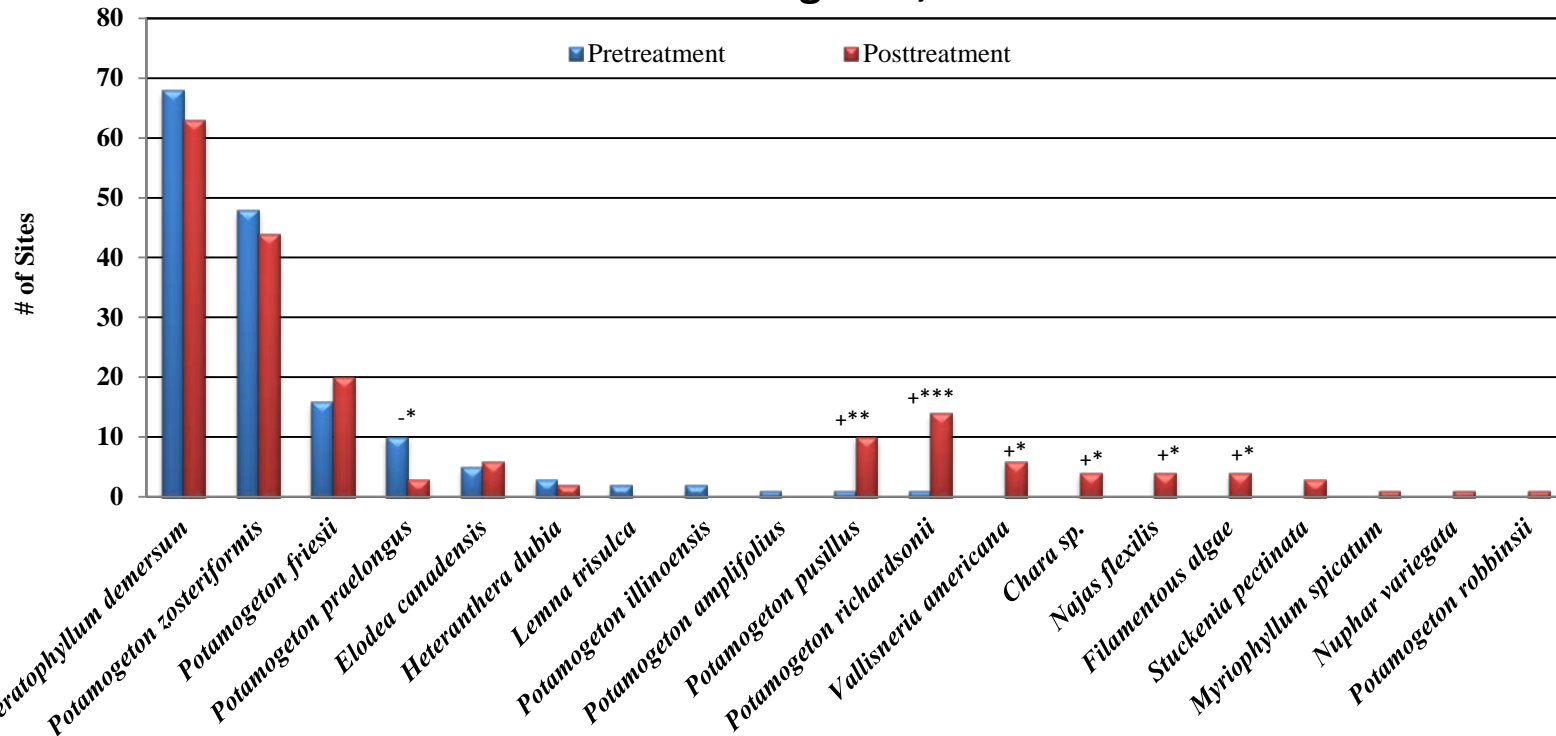


**Figure 9: Pre/Post Coontail Density and Distribution**



**Figure 10: Pre/Post Flat-stem Pondweed Density and Distribution**

**Pre/Post Differences for All Species  
Lower Vermillion Lake, Barron County  
June 1 and August 1, 2014**



Significant differences = \*  $p < .05$ , \*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*\*  $p < .005$

**Figure 11: Pre/Post Macrophyte Changes**

**Table 3: Frequencies and Mean Rake Sample of Aquatic Macrophytes  
Pretreatment Survey Lower Vermillion Lake, Barron County  
June 1, 2014**

Species	Common Name	Total Sites	Relative Freq.	Freq. in Veg.	Freq. in Lit.	Mean Rake	Visual Sites
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Coontail	68	43.31	91.89	91.89	1.87	0
<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	Flat-stem pondweed	48	30.57	64.86	64.86	1.19	0
<i>Potamogeton friesii</i>	Fries' pondweed	16	10.19	21.62	21.62	1.13	0
<i>Potamogeton praelongus</i>	White-stem pondweed	10	6.37	13.51	13.51	1.00	0
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Common waterweed	5	3.18	6.76	6.76	1.80	0
<i>Heteranthera dubia</i>	Water star-grass	3	1.91	4.05	4.05	1.00	0
<i>Lemna trisulca</i>	Forked duckweed	2	1.27	2.70	2.70	1.00	0
<i>Potamogeton illinoensis</i>	Illinois pondweed	2	1.27	2.70	2.70	1.00	0
<i>Potamogeton amplifolius</i>	Large-leaf pondweed	1	0.64	1.35	1.35	1.00	0
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	Small pondweed	1	0.64	1.35	1.35	1.00	0
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	Clasping-leaf pondweed	1	0.64	1.35	1.35	1.00	0
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian water milfoil	**	**	**	**	**	2
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curly-leaf pondweed	***	***	***	***	***	***

\*\* Visual Only

\*\*\* Inter-point Only

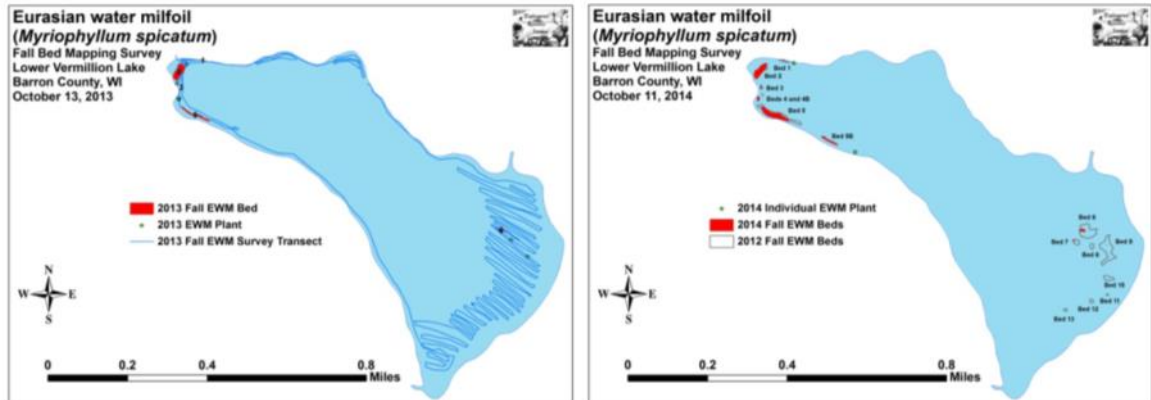
**Table 4: Frequencies and Mean Rake Sample of Aquatic Macrophytes  
Posttreatment Survey Lower Vermillion Lake, Barron County  
August 1, 2014**

Species	Common Name	Total Sites	Relative Freq.	Freq. in Veg.	Freq. in Lit.	Mean Rake	Visual Sites
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Coontail	63	34.62	85.14	84.00	1.89	0
<i>Potamogeton zosteriformis</i>	Flat-stem pondweed	44	24.18	59.46	58.67	1.36	0
<i>Potamogeton friesii</i>	Fries' pondweed	20	10.99	27.03	26.67	1.35	0
<i>Potamogeton richardsonii</i>	Clasping-leaf pondweed	14	7.69	18.92	18.67	1.21	0
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	Small pondweed	10	5.49	13.51	13.33	1.10	0
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Common waterweed	6	3.30	8.11	8.00	2.50	0
<i>Vallisneria americana</i>	Wild celery	6	3.30	8.11	8.00	1.00	0
<i>Chara</i> sp.	Muskgrass	4	2.20	5.41	5.33	1.75	0
<i>Najas flexilis</i>	Slender naiad	4	2.20	5.41	5.33	1.00	0
	Filamentous algae	4	*	5.41	5.33	1.00	0
<i>Potamogeton praelongus</i>	White-stem pondweed	3	1.65	4.05	4.00	1.33	0
<i>Stuckenia pectinata</i>	Sago pondweed	3	1.65	4.05	4.00	1.33	0
<i>Heteranthera dubia</i>	Water star-grass	2	1.10	2.70	2.67	2.00	0
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Eurasian water milfoil	1	0.55	1.35	1.33	3.00	2
<i>Nuphar variegata</i>	Spatterdock	1	0.55	1.35	1.33	3.00	0
<i>Potamogeton robbinsii</i>	Fern pondweed	1	0.55	1.35	1.33	1.00	0

\* Excluded from Relative Frequency Analysis

## Fall EWM Bed Mapping Survey:

On October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014, we located and mapped a total of 8 beds on the lake ranging in size from 0.01 acre (Beds 1, 3, and 7) to 0.54 acres (Bed 5) (Figure 12) (Appendix VIII). In total, these beds covered 1.18 acres or 0.5% of the total lake surface. This represented a 0.47 acre (68.6%) increase over the 0.71 acre found in 2013, but was still much below the peak of 2.70 acres found in 2012 (Table 5).



**Figure 12: 2013 and 2014 Fall EWM Bed Maps**

## Descriptions of Past and Present EWM Beds:

Beds 1 and 5B – Both beds were more of a high density area (HDA) than a true bed as the EWM in them was somewhat scattered. Despite this, EWM plants were generally continuous, canopied and merging. They occurred in narrow strips along sharp drop-offs into 15ft+ of water which will likely again make treating these areas challenging.

Bed 2-3 – EWM plants were rapidly reestablishing throughout the treatment area, and many plants were prop-clipped as they were directly in front of the channel away from the public boat landing.

Beds 4 and 4B – We didn't see any plants in Bed 4, but Bed 4B contained scattered canopied plants mixed in with Spatterdock (*Nuphar variegata*).

Bed 5 – This was the worst we have ever seen this area as EWM formed a solid mat in many near shore areas. Plants were found from the shoreline to 8ft+ of water.

Beds 6 and 7 – Although EWM plants were greatly reduced from fall 2012, we found a few 10's of canopied clusters in 5-7ft of water on the western end of the formerly expansive beds. These beds were not visible at the surface in August, but, by October, they appeared to be fragmenting and growing rapidly.

Bed 9 – The single large tower found in August had almost doubled in size by October.

Beds 8, 10-13 – The only EWM seen in these beds was a single plant in Bed 10 that we rake removed in August. Other than that, we found these areas to be EWM free during all three surveys.

**Table 5: Fall Eurasian Water Milfoil Bed Mapping Summary  
Lower Vermillion Lake, Barron County  
October 11, 2014**

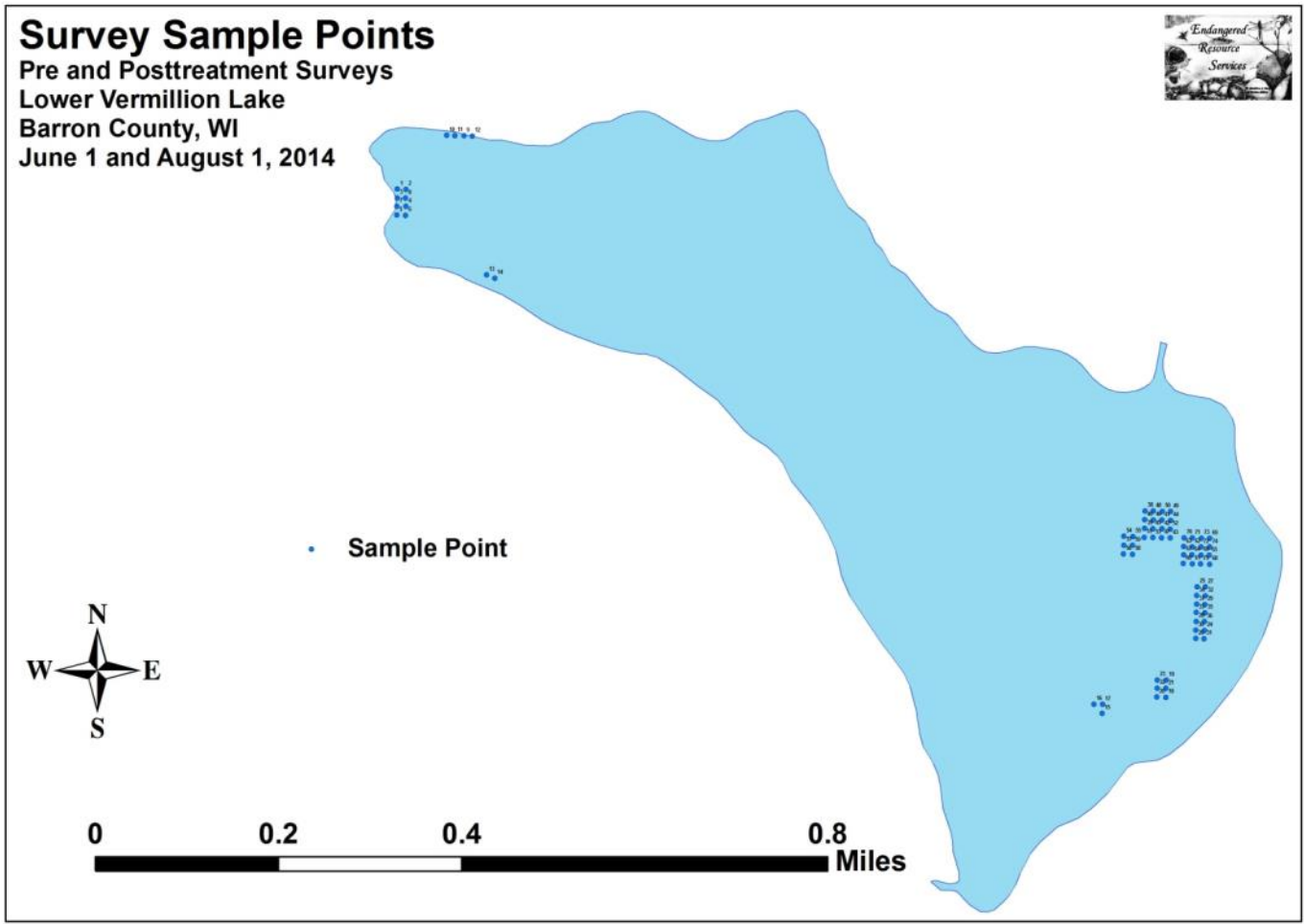
<b>Bed Number</b>	<b>2014 Fall Bed Acreage</b>	<b>2013 Fall Bed Acreage</b>	<b>2012 Fall Bed Acreage</b>	<b>2011 Fall Bed Acreage</b>	<b>2014 Change in Acreage</b>	<b>Range and Estimated 2014 Mean Rake Fullness</b>	<b>2014 Bed Characteristics And Field Notes</b>
1	0.01	0.02	0.02	0	-0.01	<1-1; most <1	Continuous scattered plants; more of a HDA
2	0.39	0.43	0.07	0.49	-0.04	<1-2; most 1	Plants regrowing, fragmenting, and merging
3	0.01	<0.01	0.03	0	0	1-2; most 2	A few merging towers
4	0	0	0.01	0	0	0	No EWM found
4B	0.04	0	0	0	0.04	<1-1; most <1	Continuous scattered plants; more of a HDA
5	0.54	0.22	0.70	0.35	0.32	<1-3; most 1	Continuous merging canopied plants
5B	0.13	0	0	0	0.13	<<1-1; most <1	Nearly continuous plants; more of a HDA
6	0.06	0.04	0.68	0	0.02	<1-3; most 3	Merging large canopied towers
7	0.01	0	0.10	0	0.01	<1-3; most 3	Merging large canopied towers
8	0	0	0.06	0	0	0	No EWM found
9	<0.01	0	0.80	0	<0.01	3	10ft <sup>2</sup> canopied group of towers.
10	0	0	0.14	0	0	0	No EWM found
11	0	0	0.01	0	0	0	No EWM found
12	0	0	0.05	0	0	0	No EWM found
13	0	0	0.03	0	0	0	No EWM found
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.47</b>		

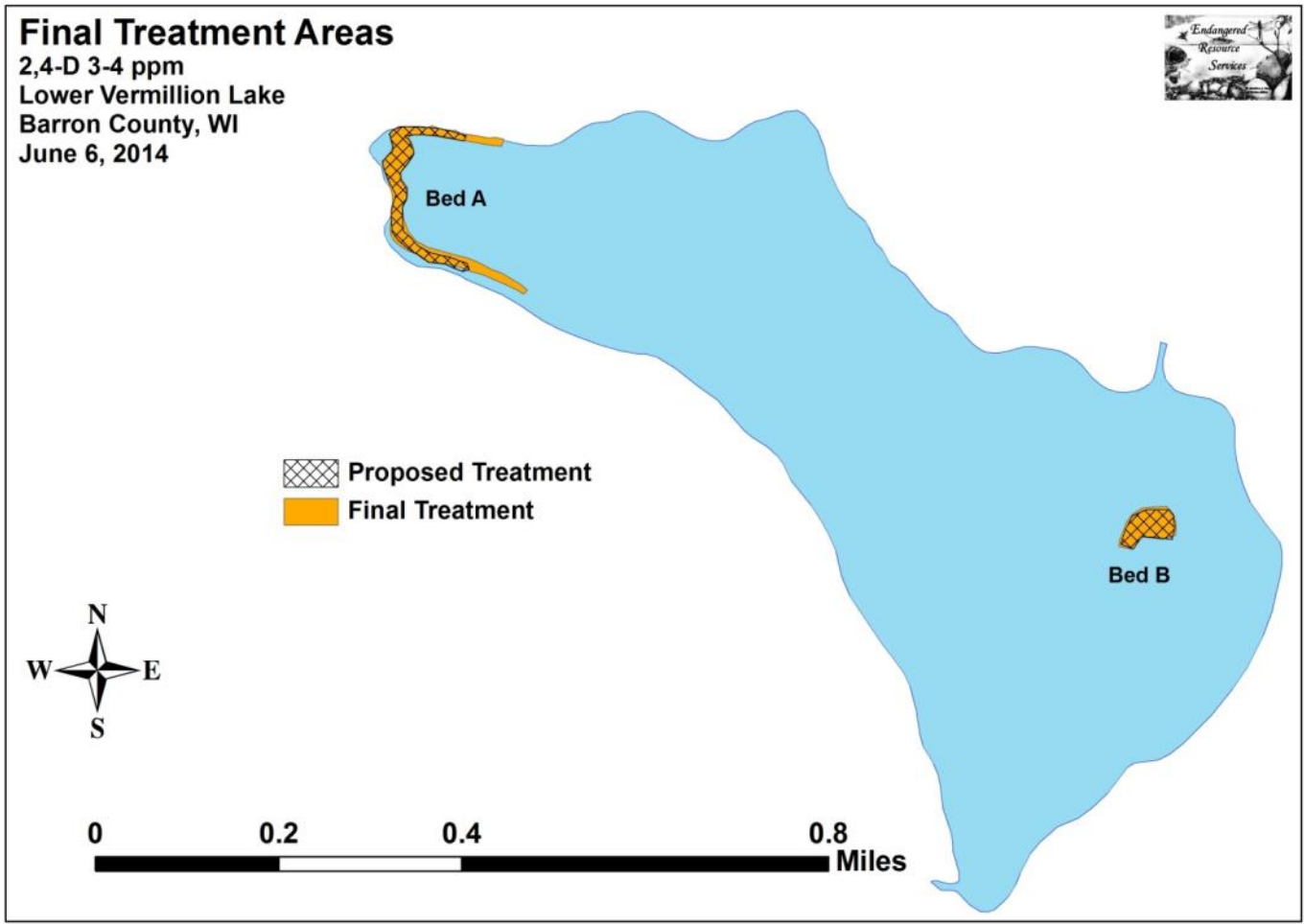


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**Appendix I: Survey Sample Points and EWM Treatment Areas**

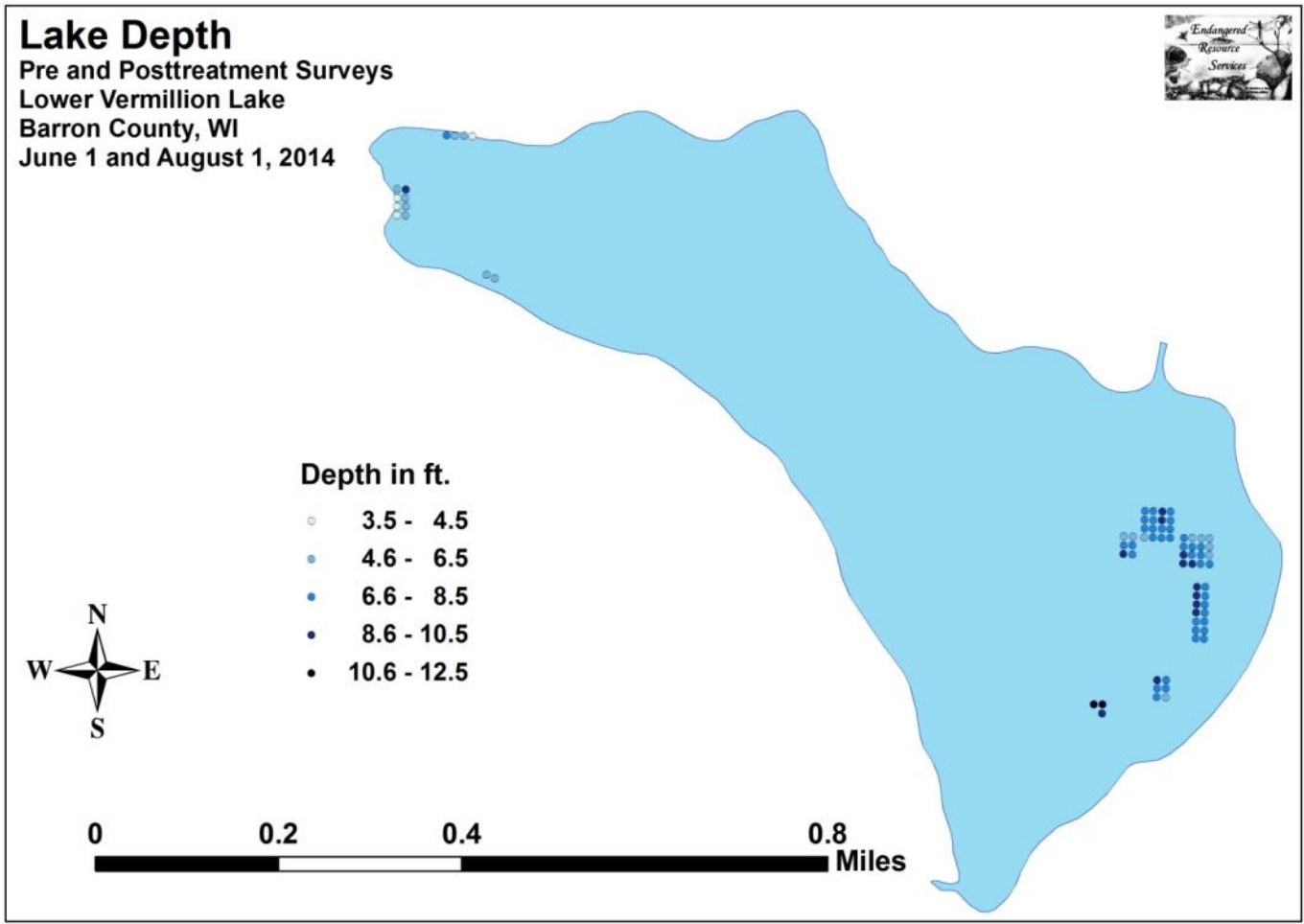




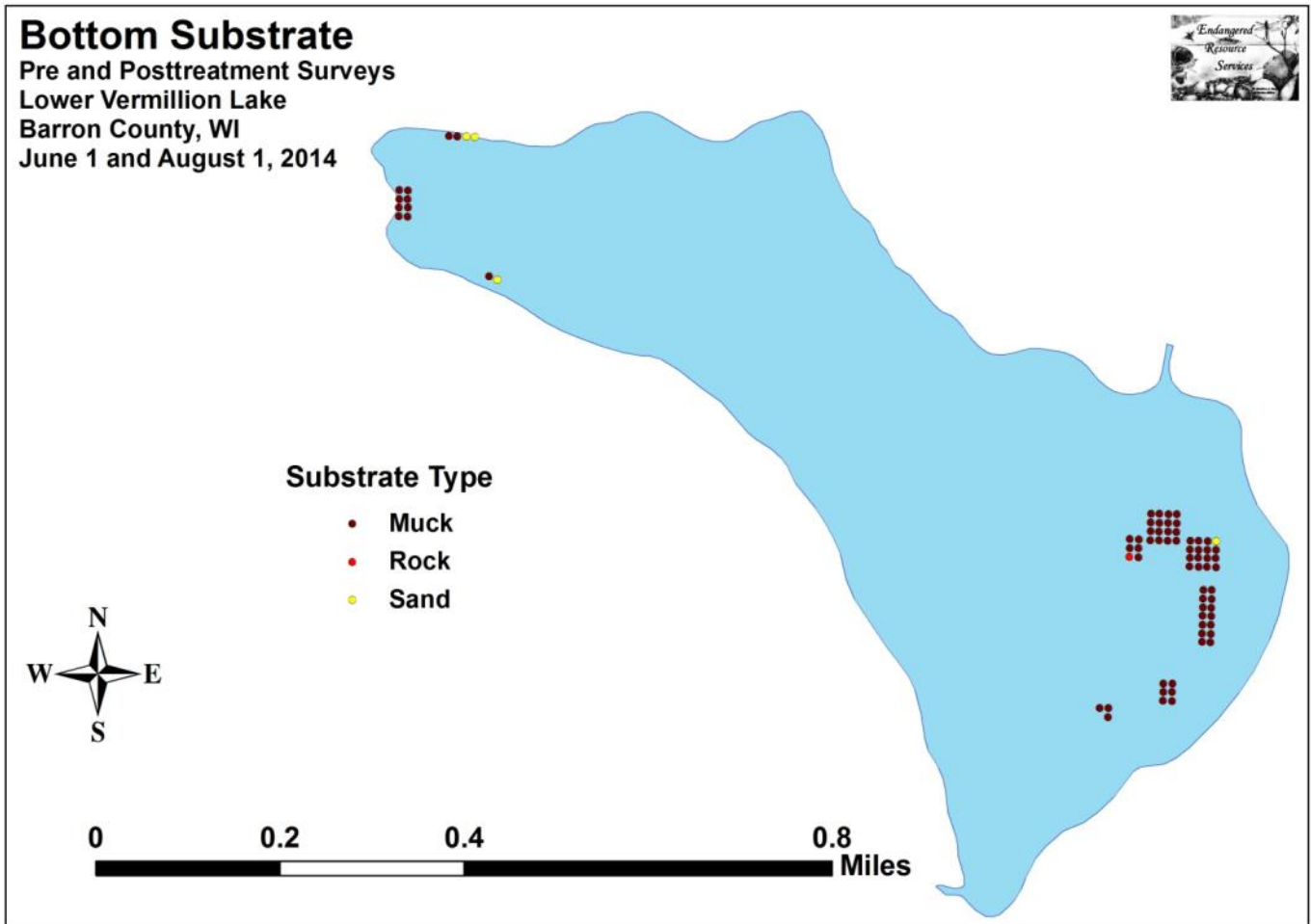
**Appendix II: Vegetative Survey Data Sheet**

Observers for this lake: names and hours worked by each:																										
Lake:		WBIC																			County		Date:			
Site #	Depth (ft)	Muck (M), Sand (S), Rock (R)	Rake pole (P) or rake rope (R)	Total Rake Fullness	EWM	CLP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
1																										
2																										
3																										
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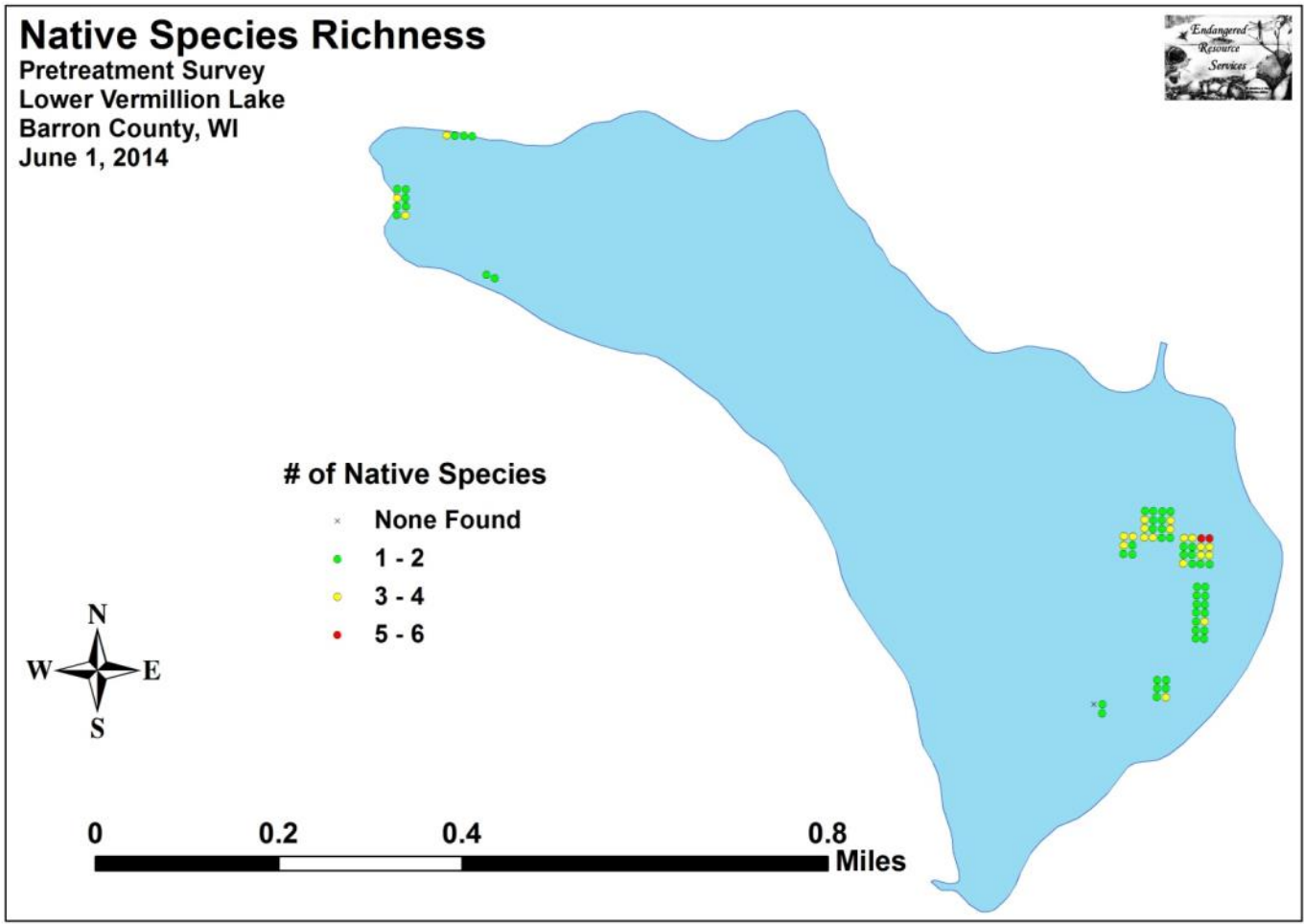
### **Appendix III: Pre/Post Habitat Variable Maps**

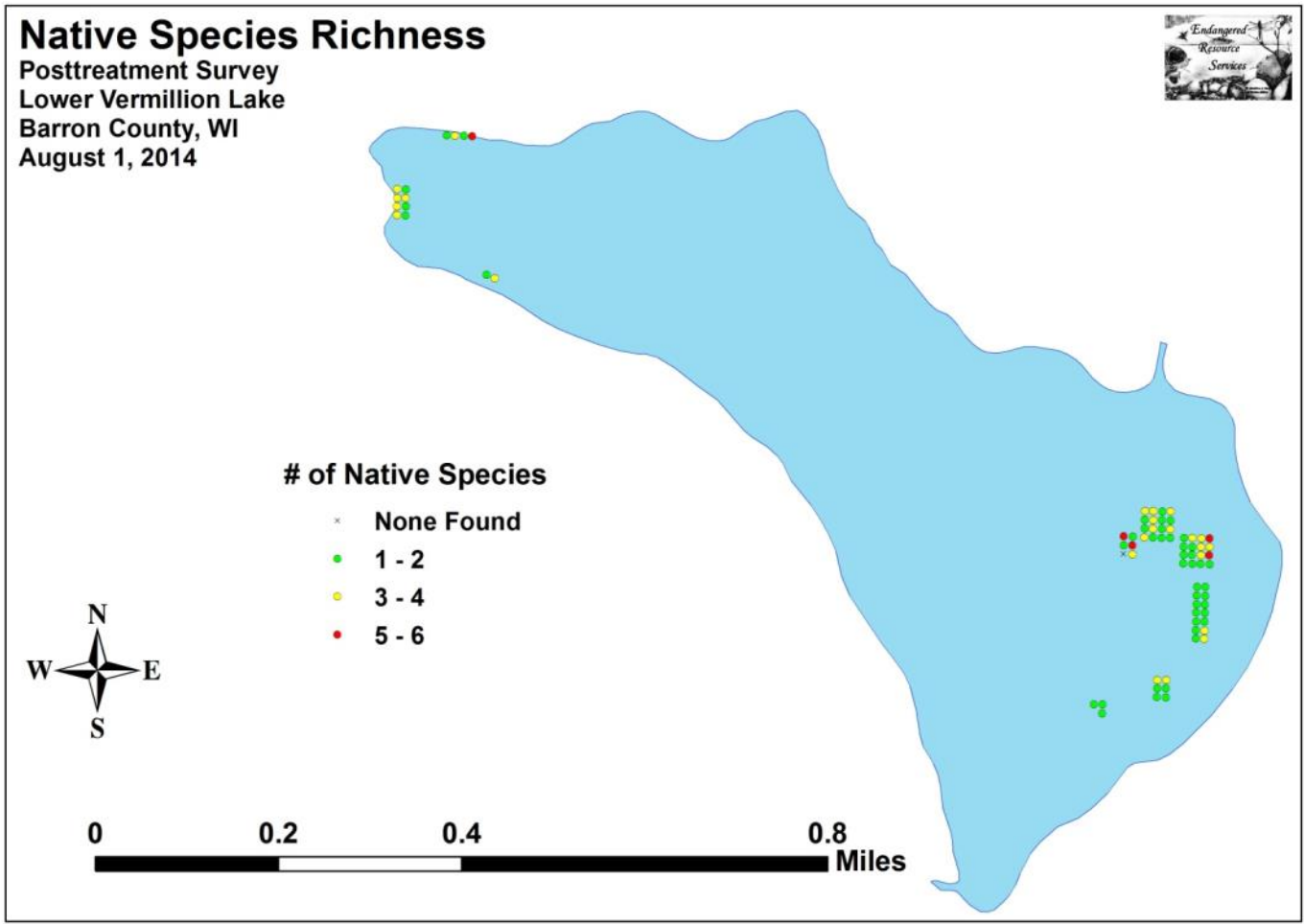


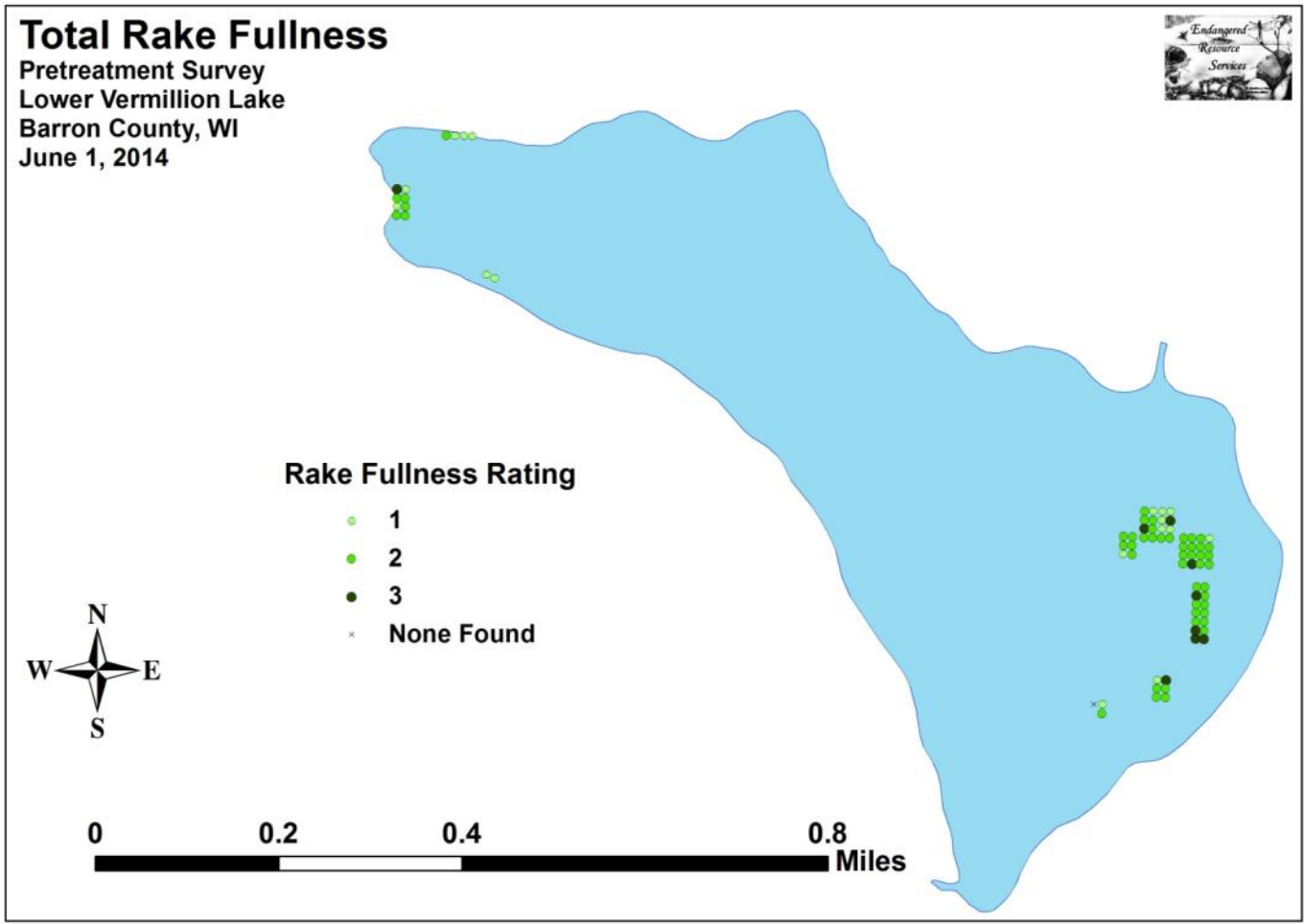


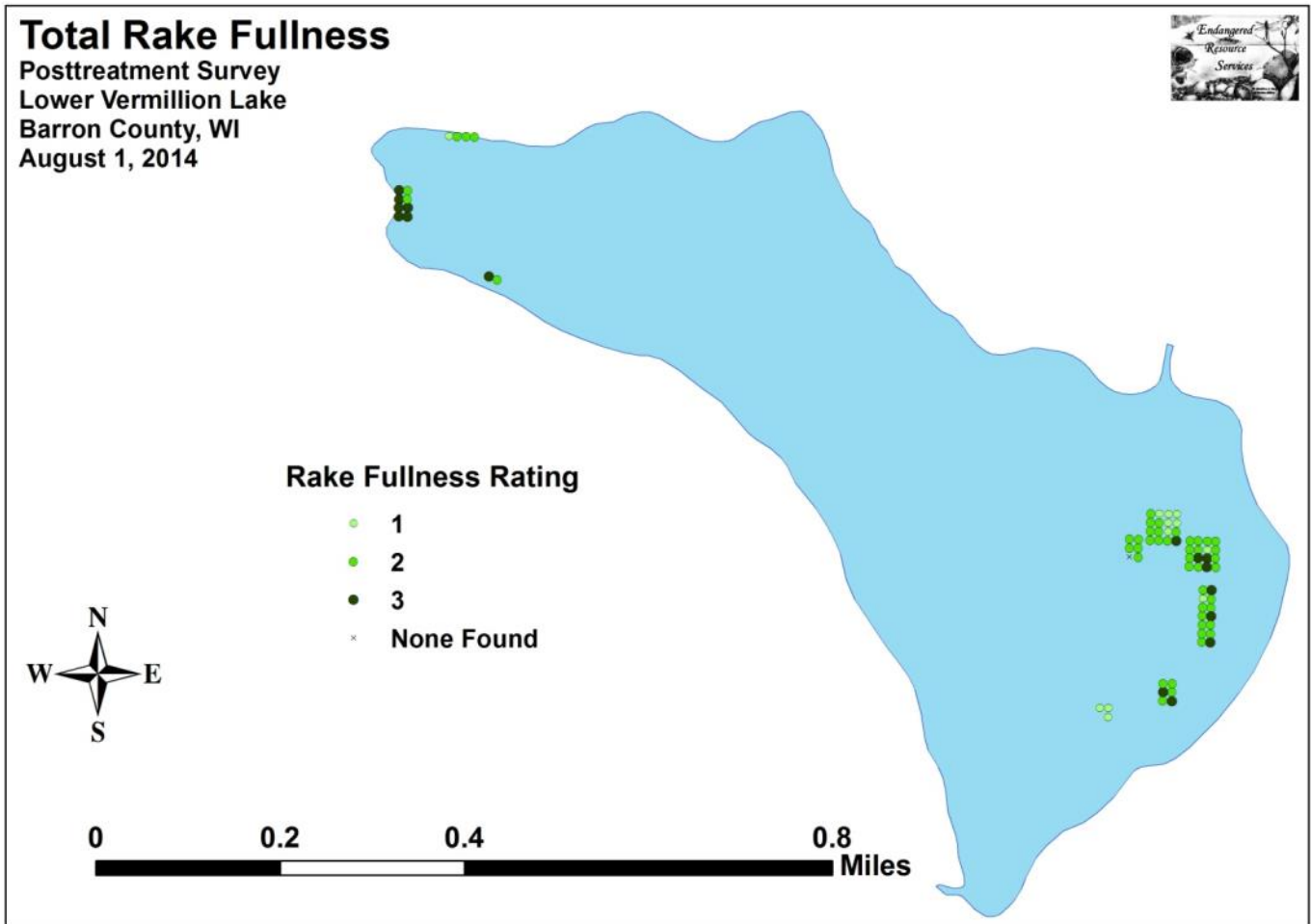


**Appendix IV: Pre/Post Native Species Richness and  
Total Rake Fullness**

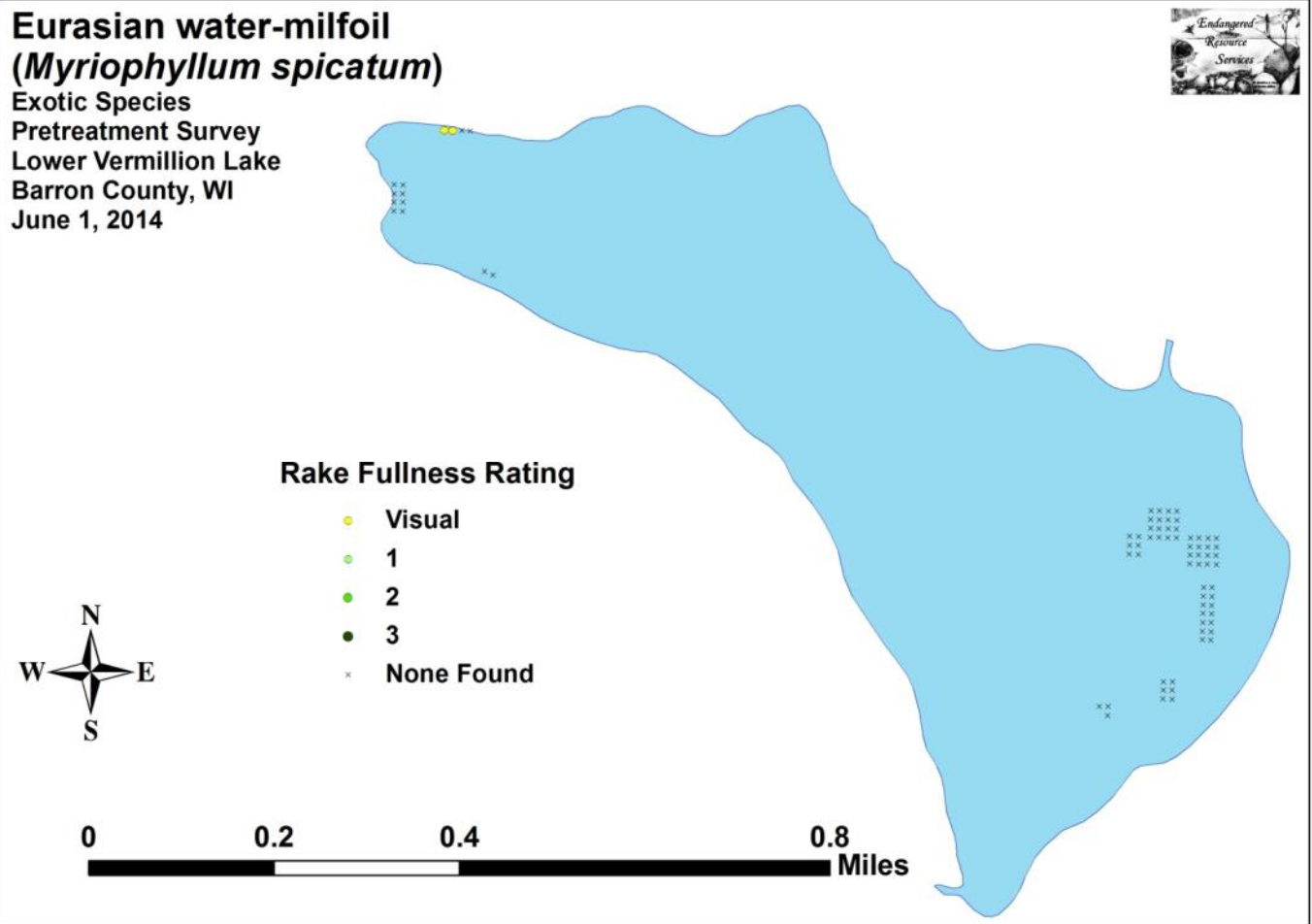




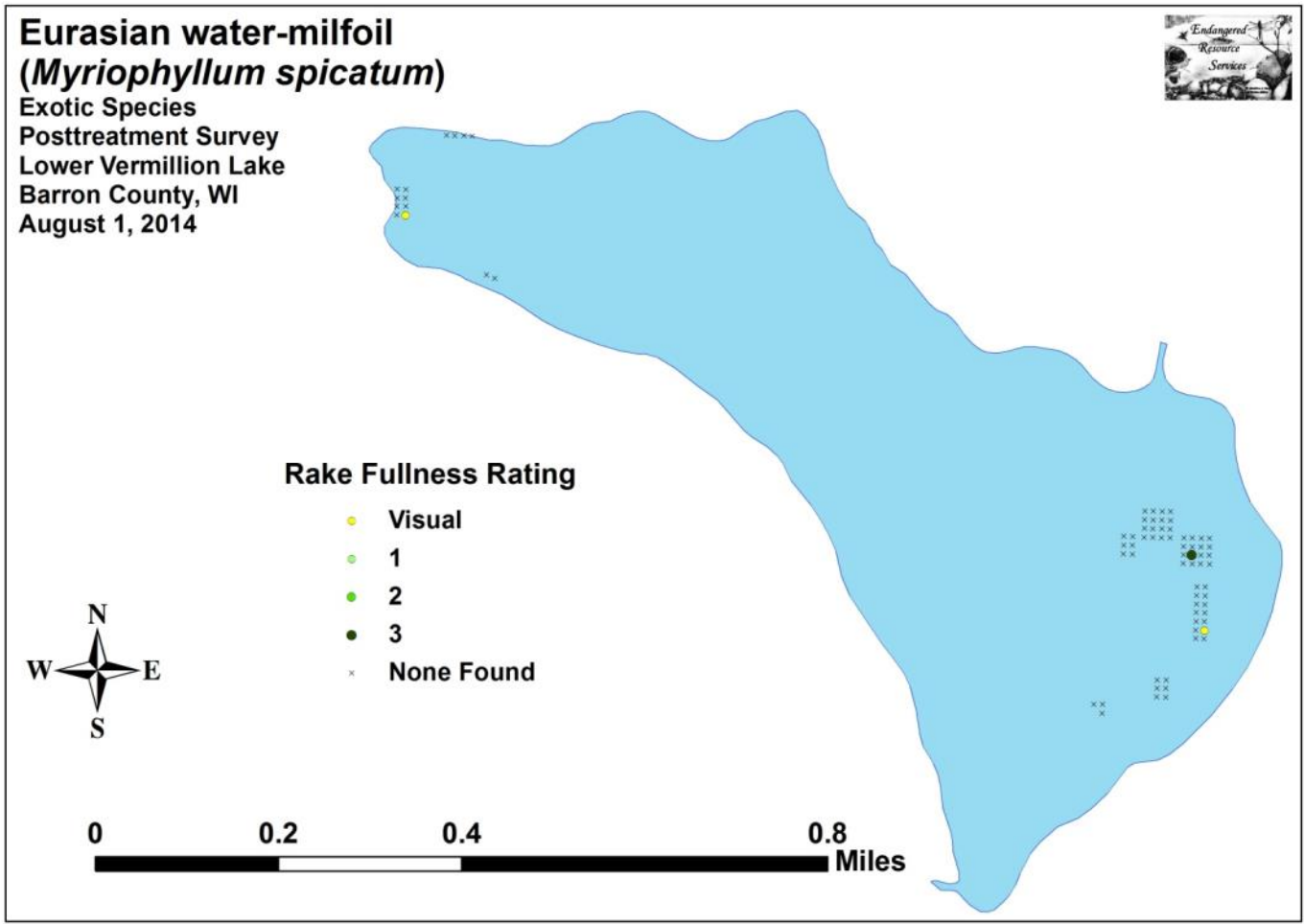




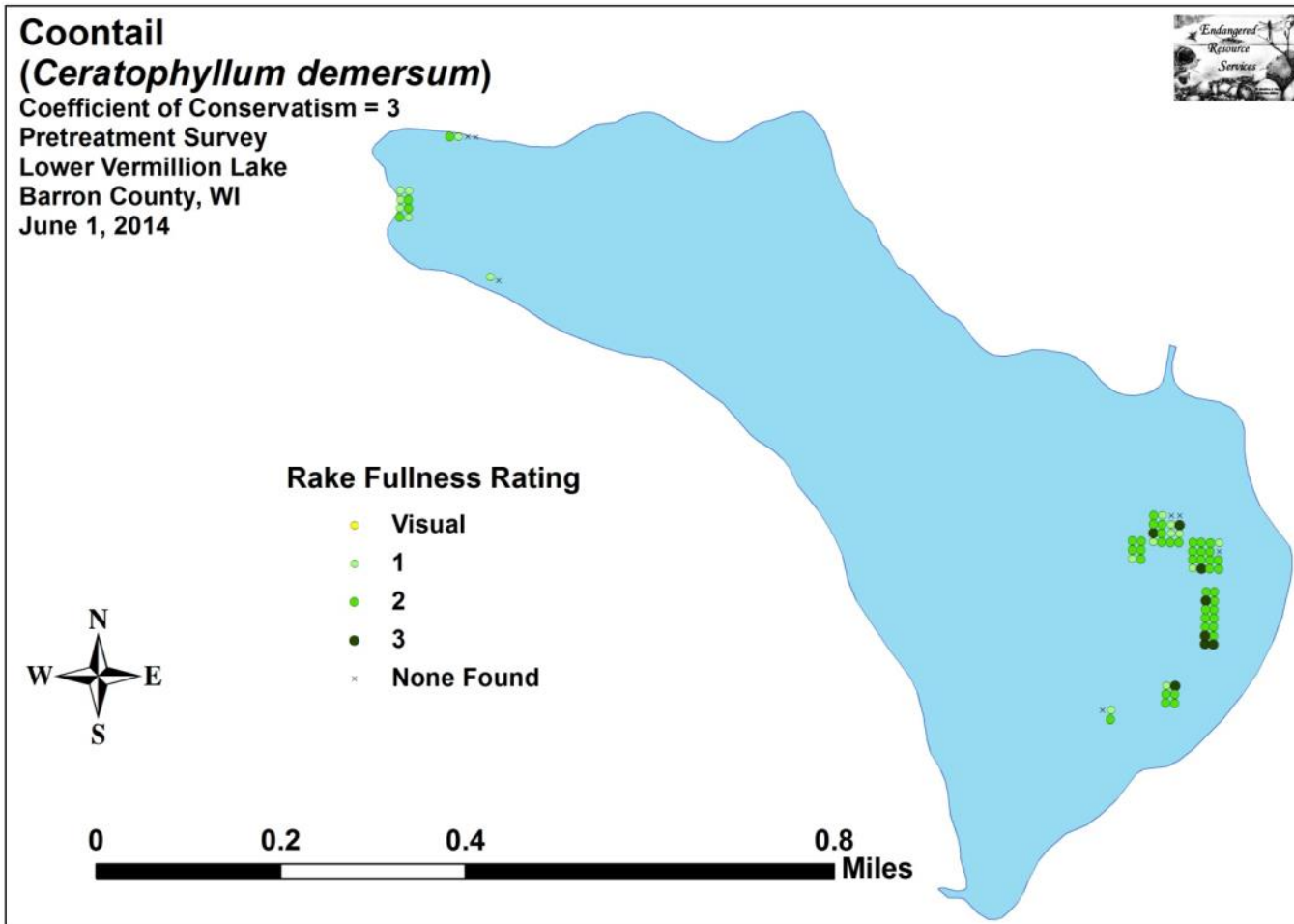
## **Appendix V: EWM Pre/Post Density and Distribution**

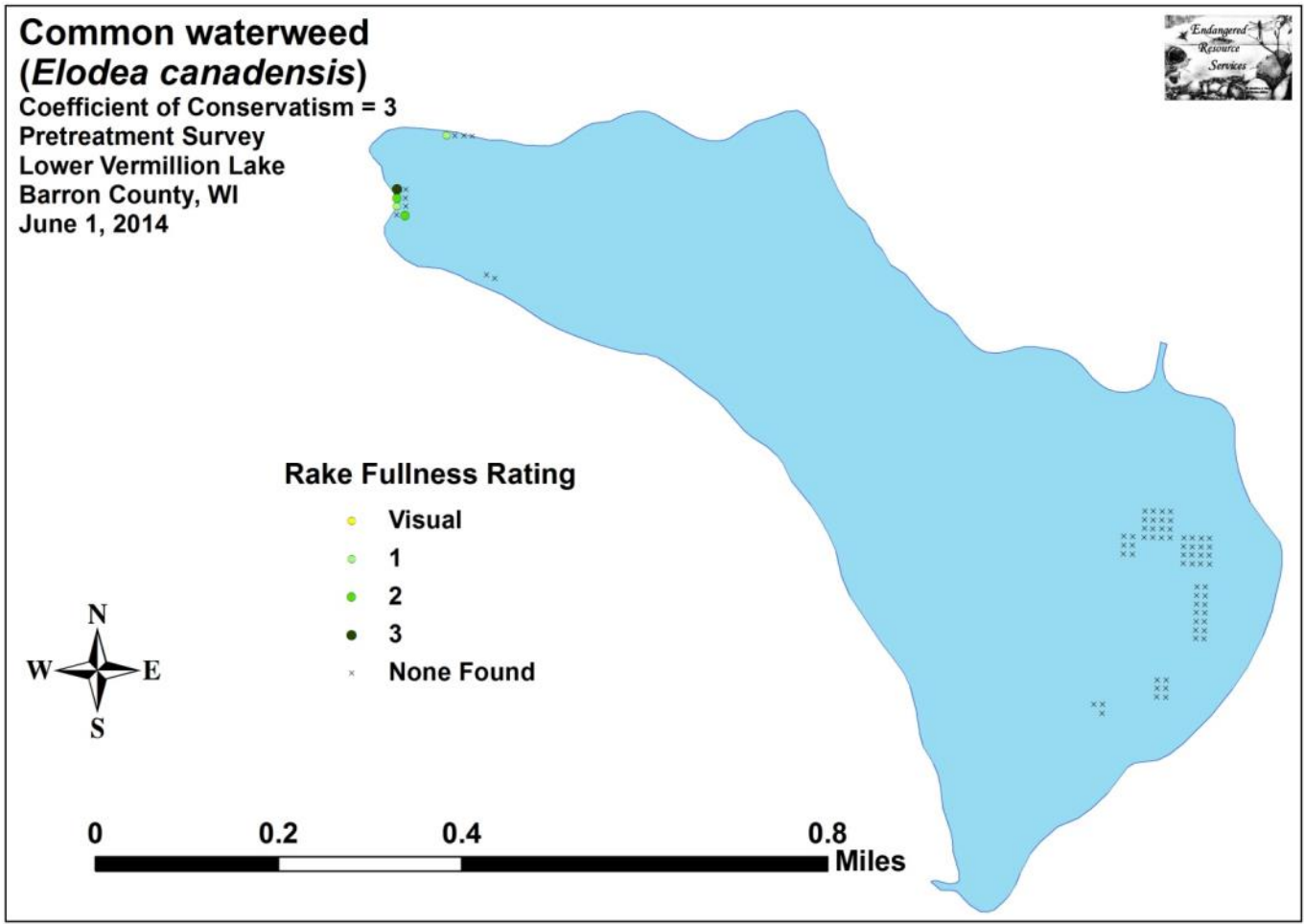


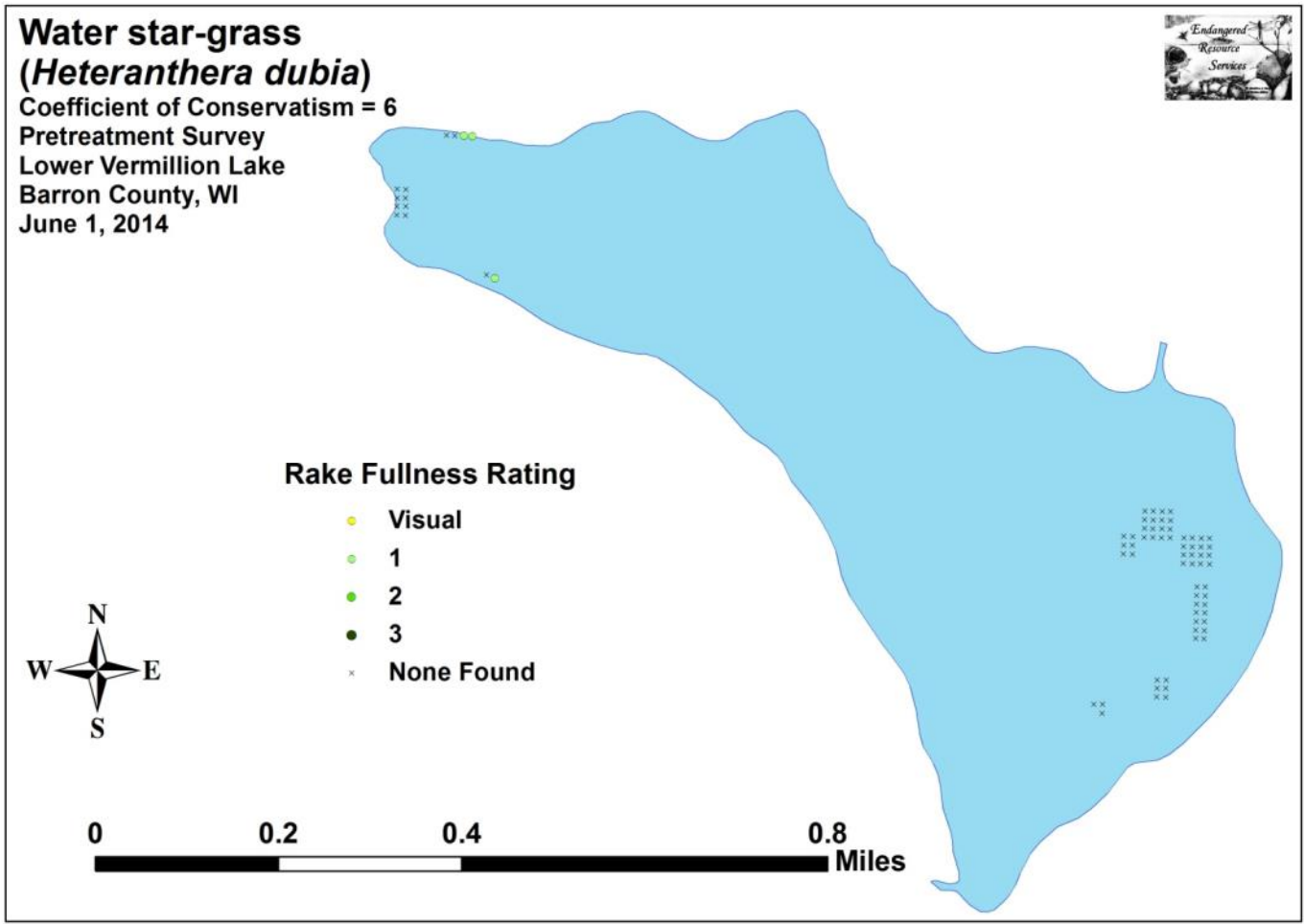


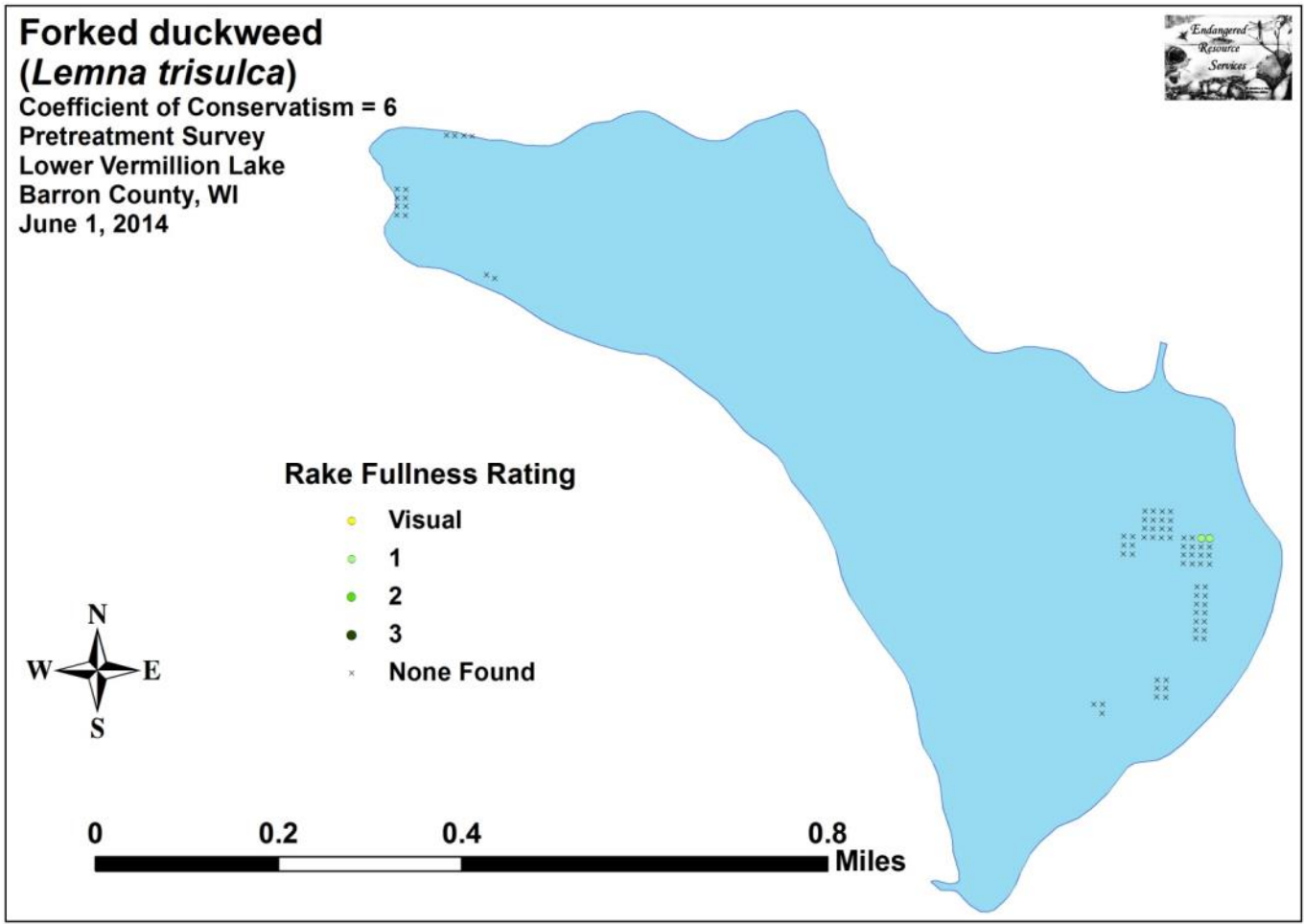


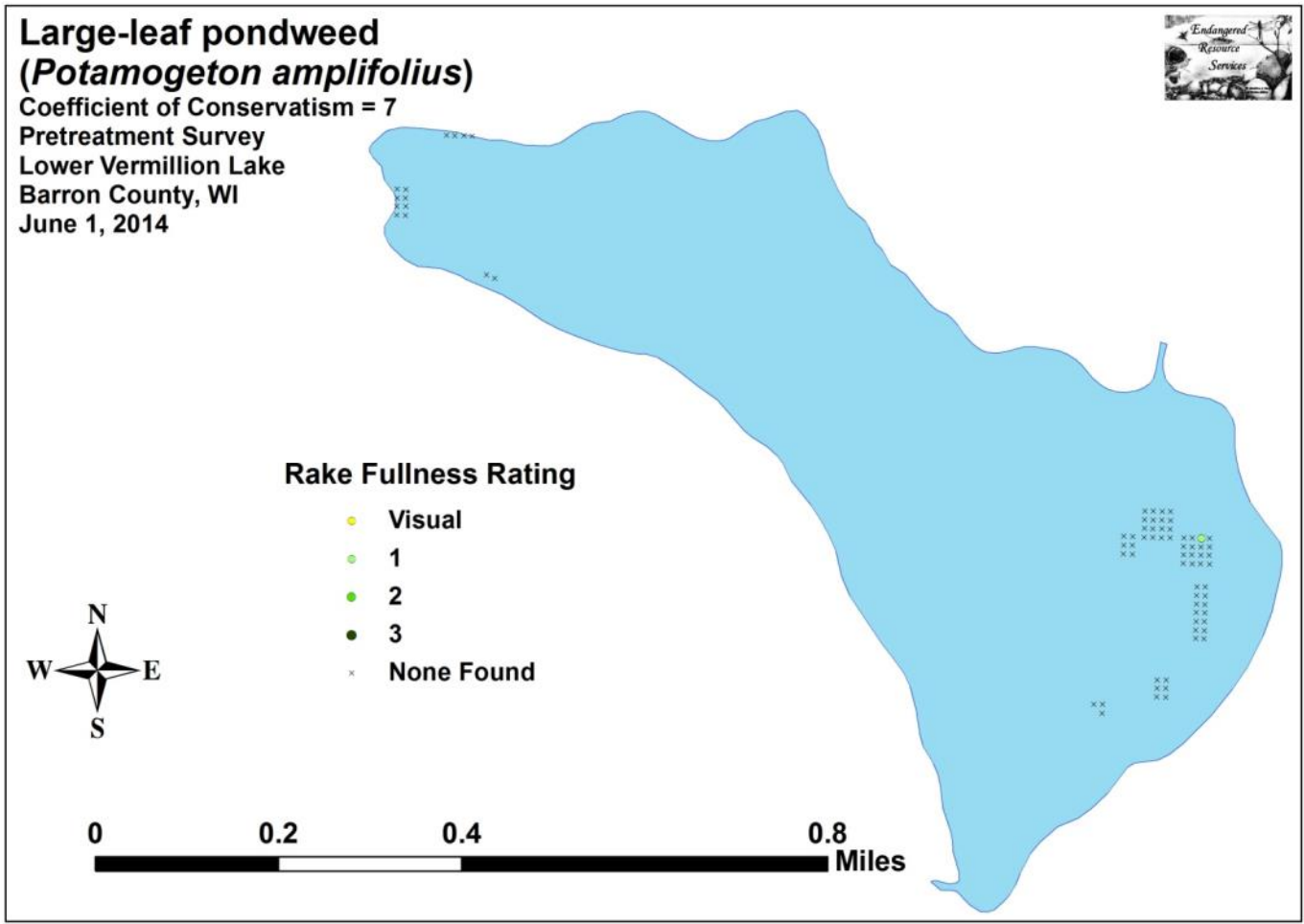
## **Appendix VI: Pretreatment Native Species Density and Distribution**

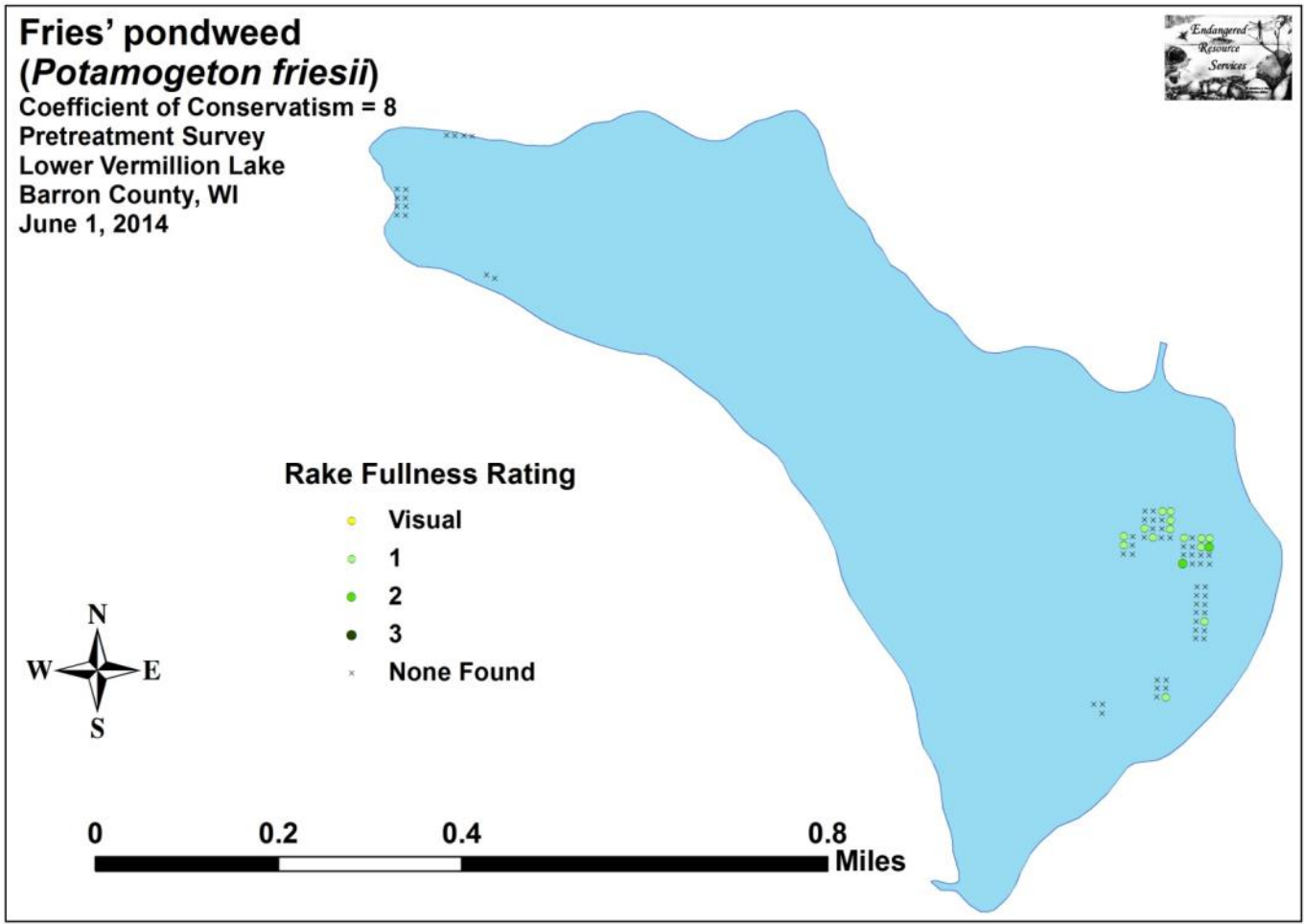




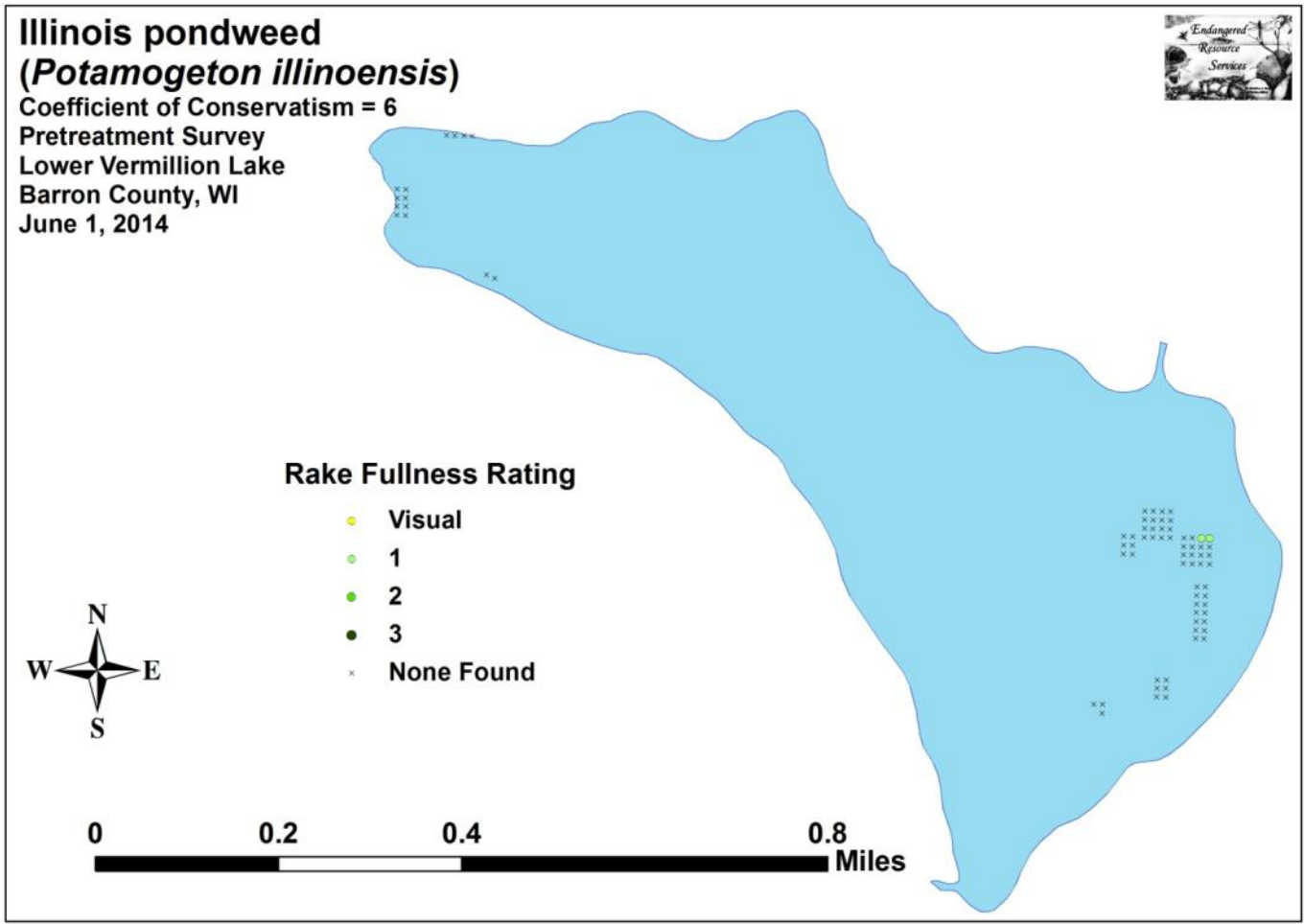


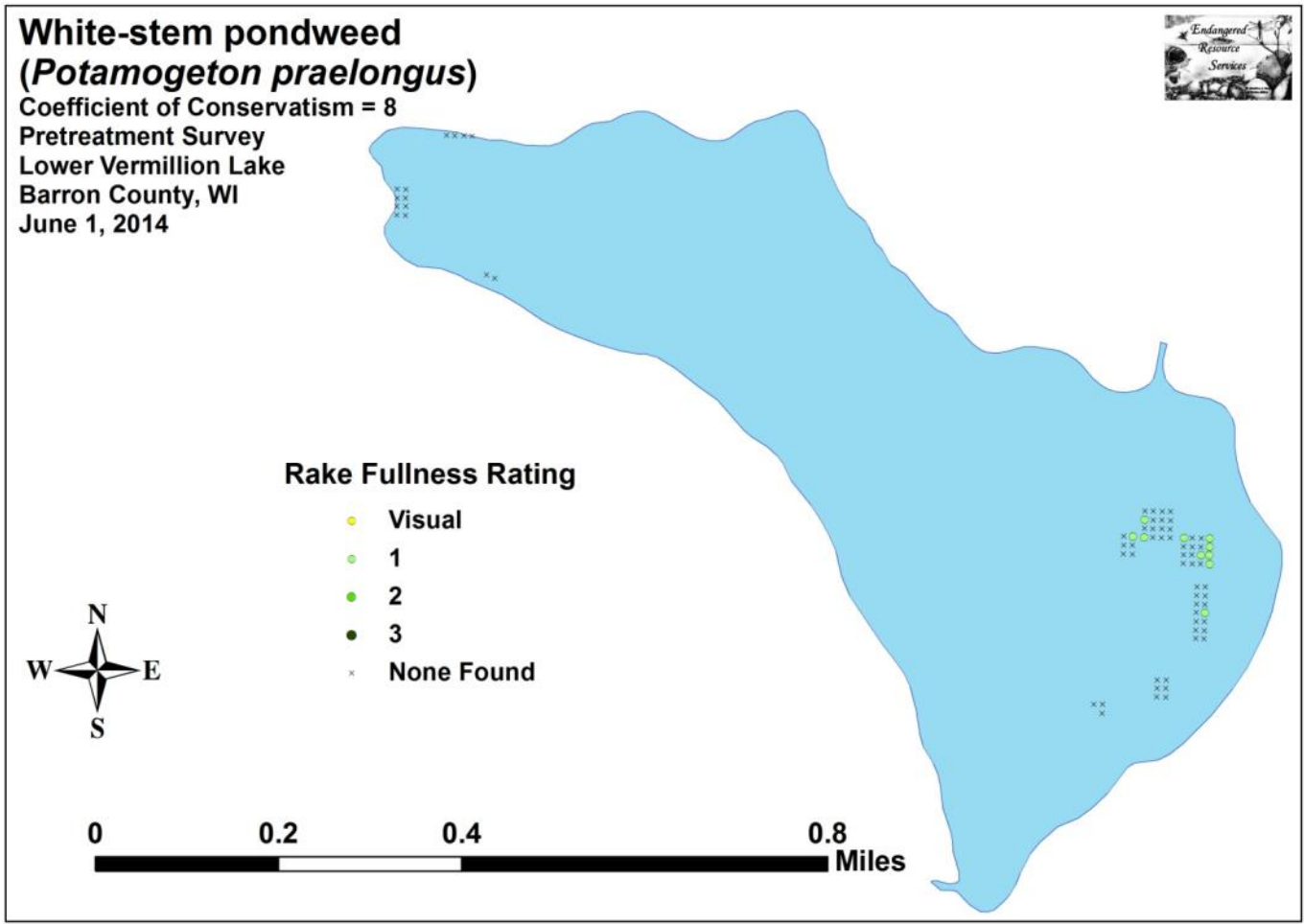


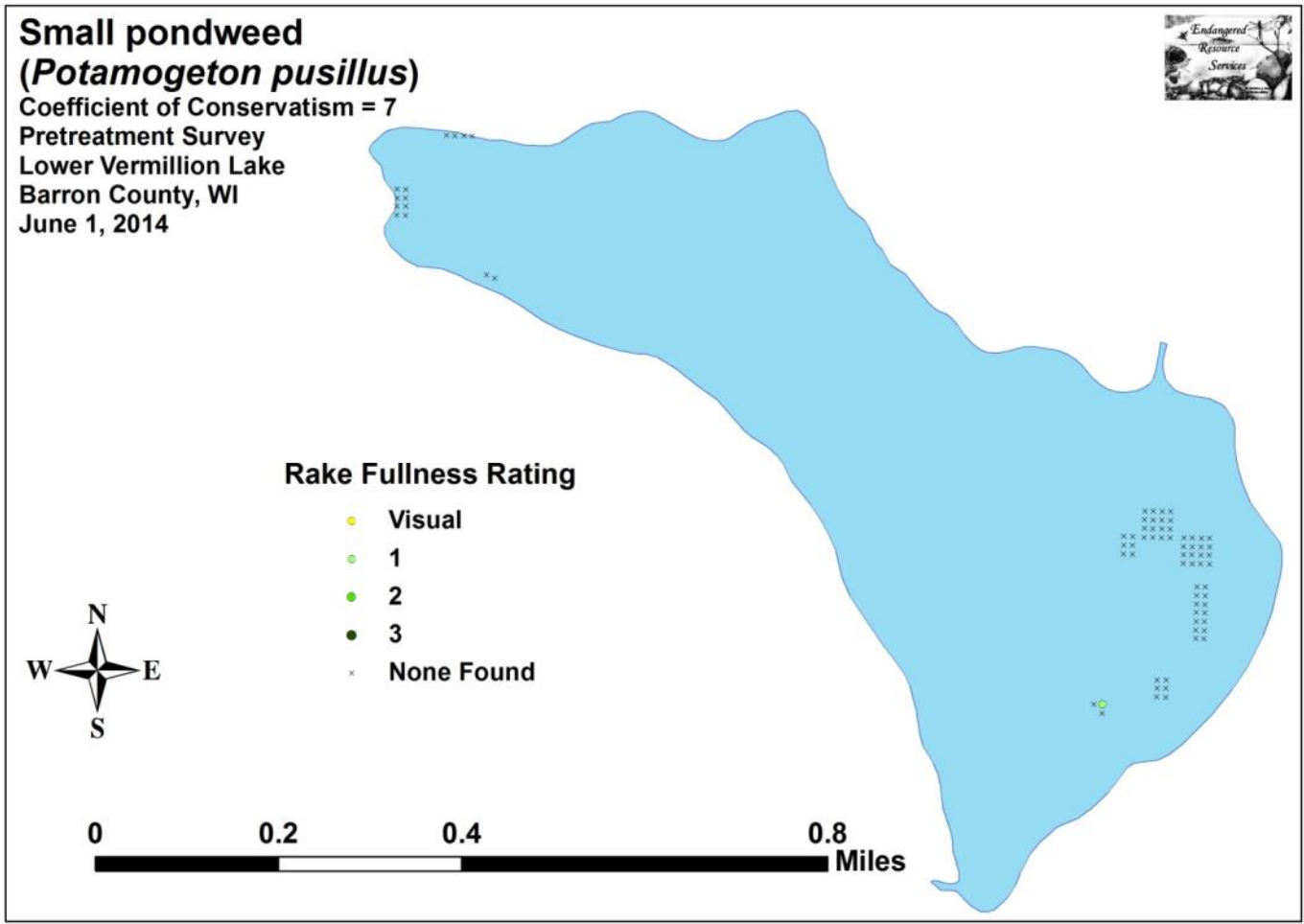


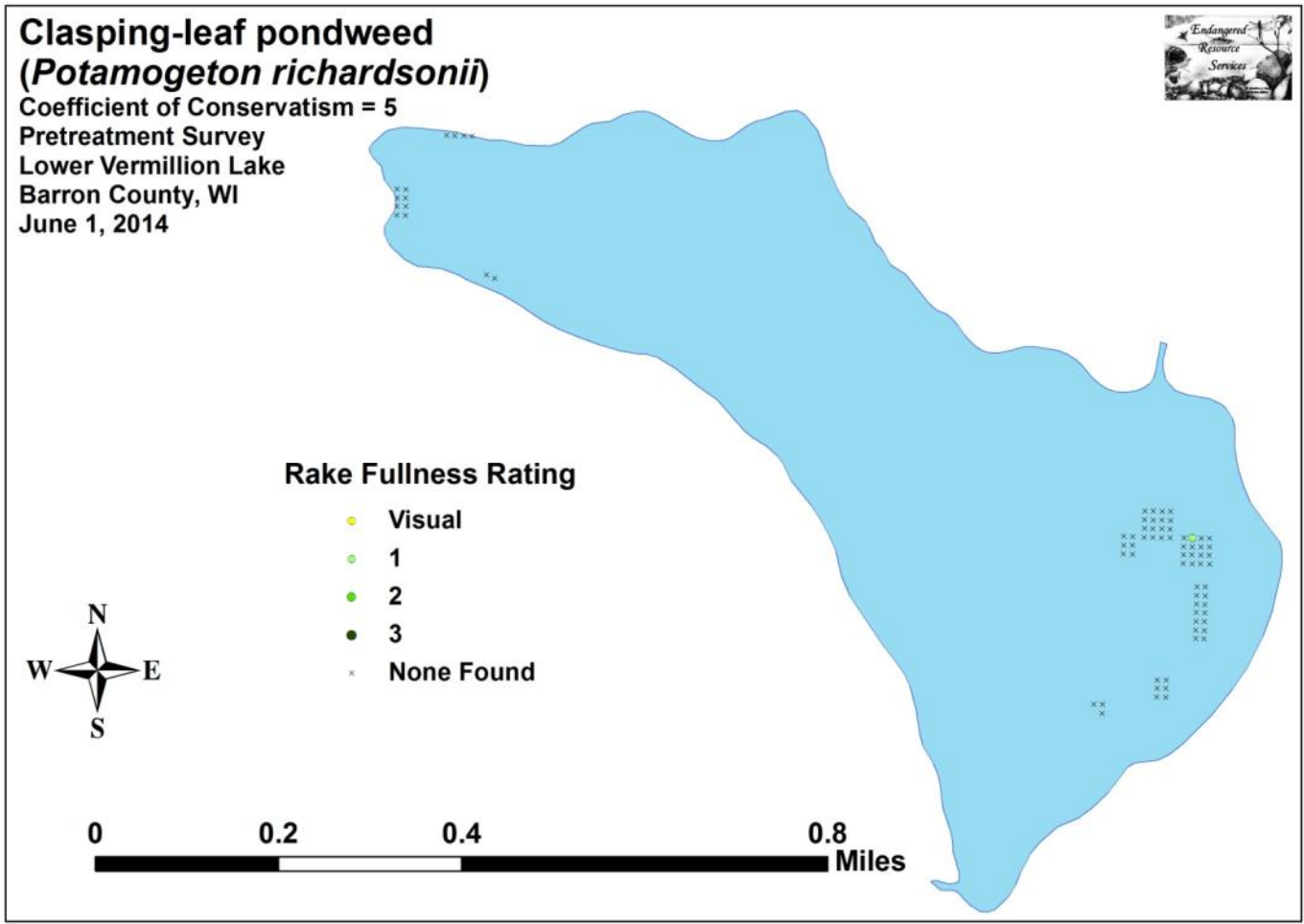


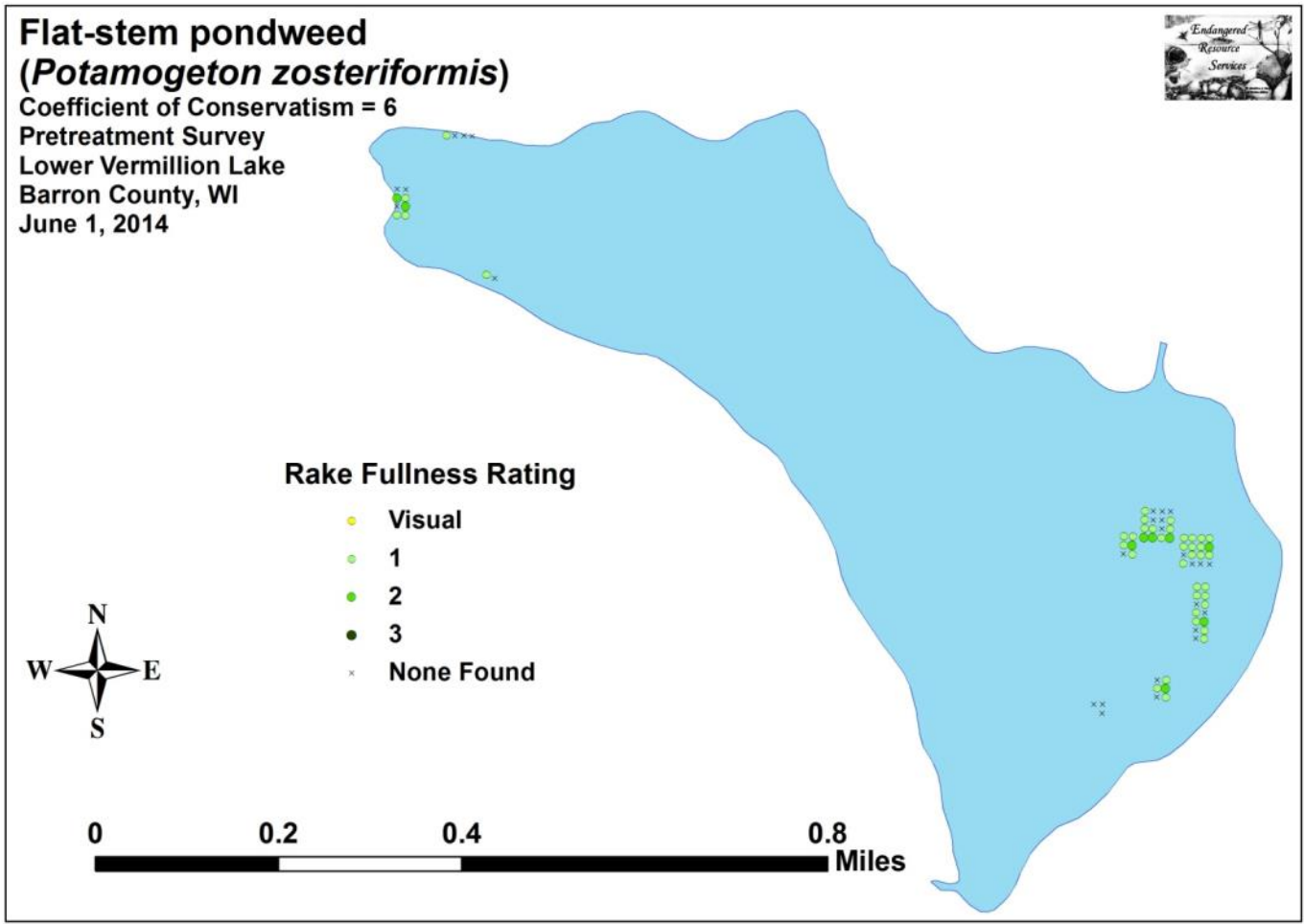




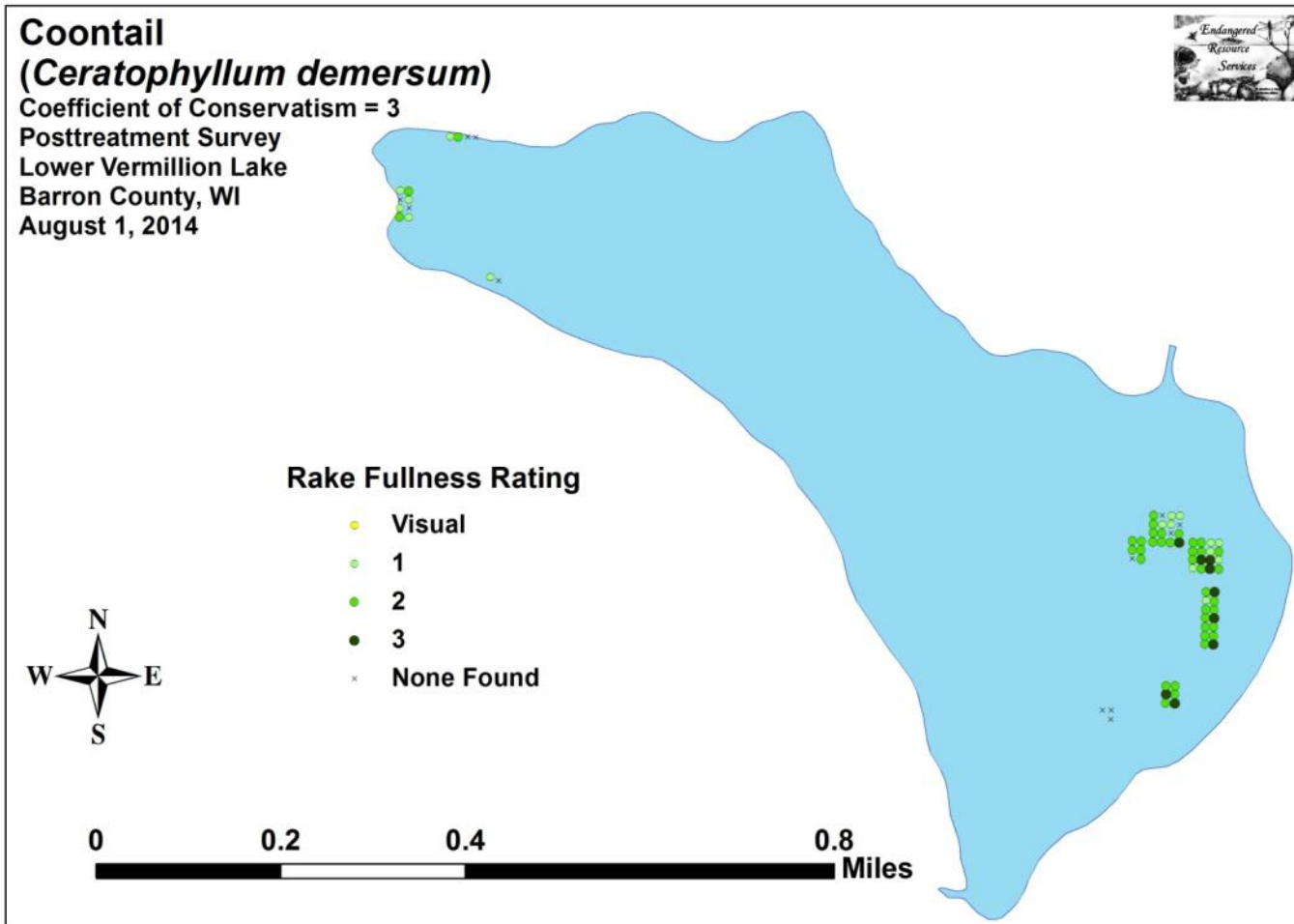


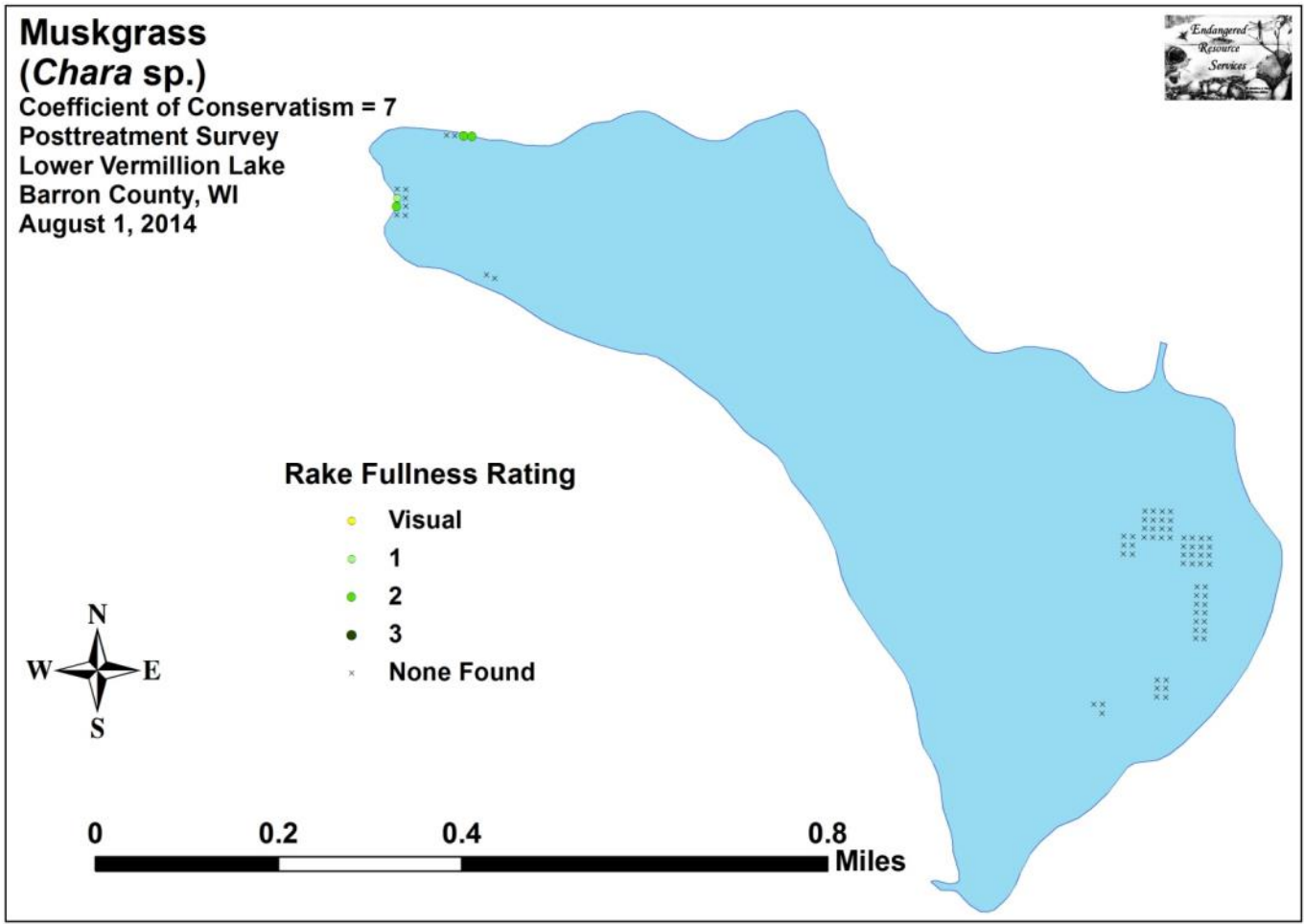




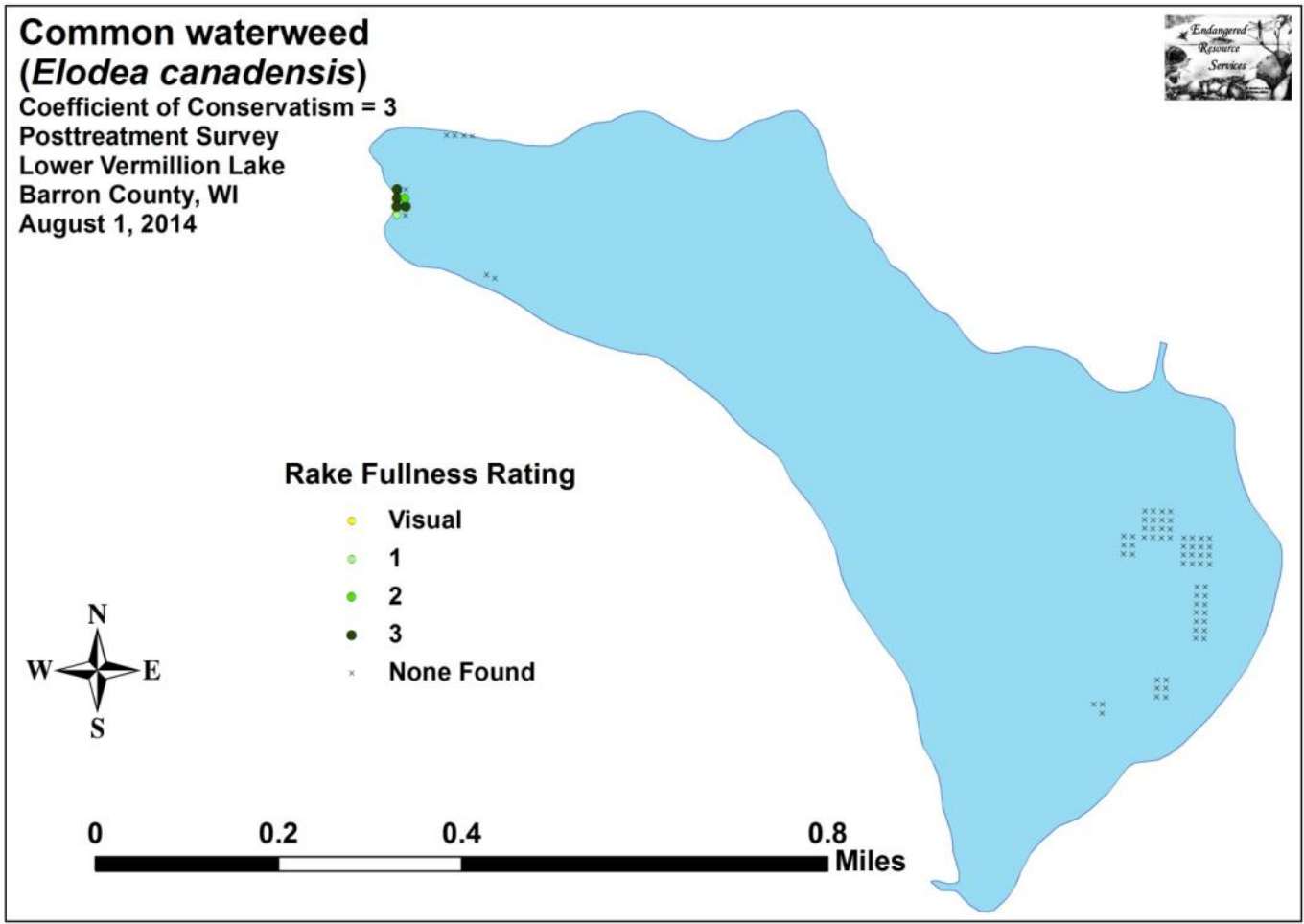


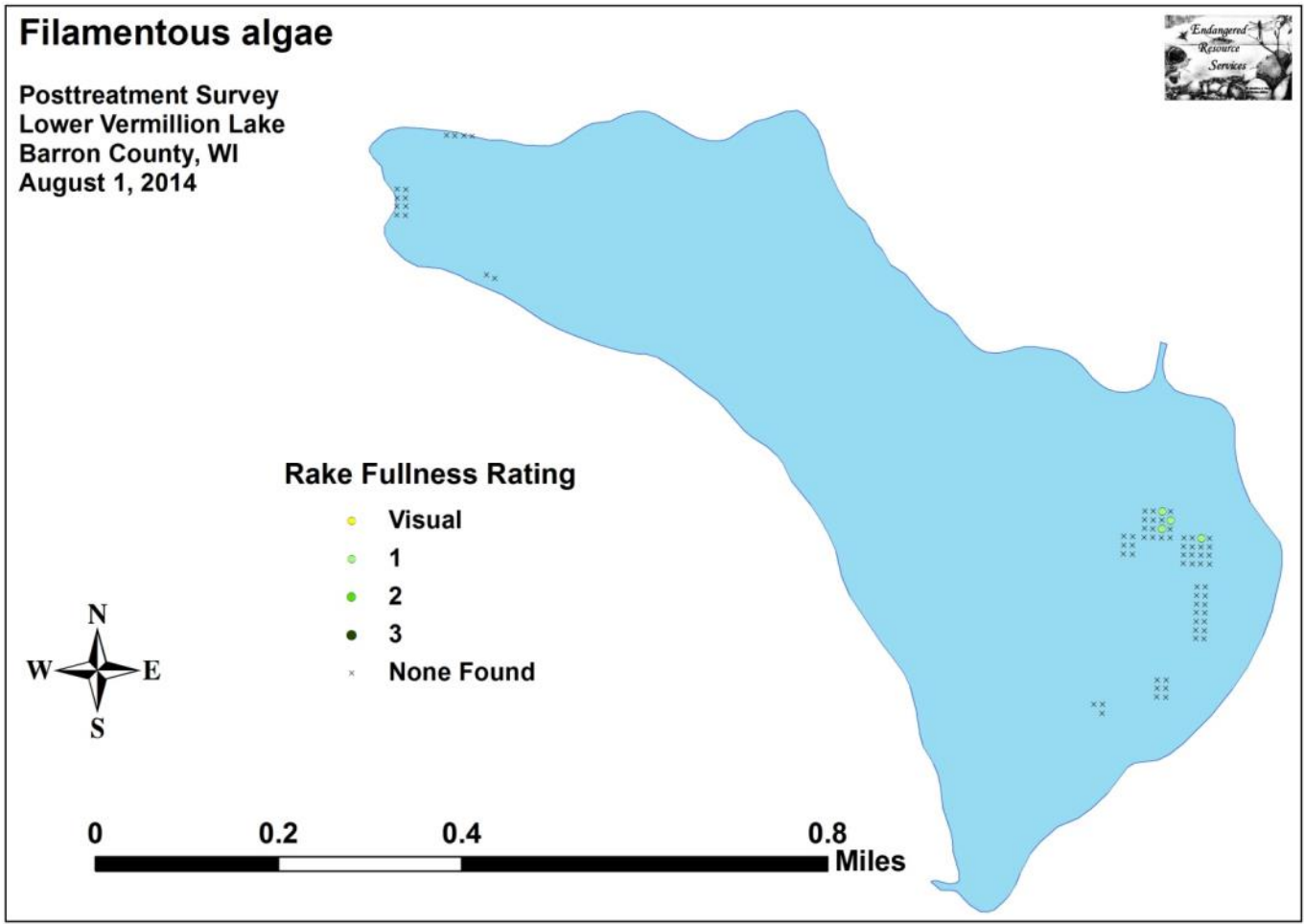
## **Appendix VII: Posttreatment Native Species Density and Distribution**

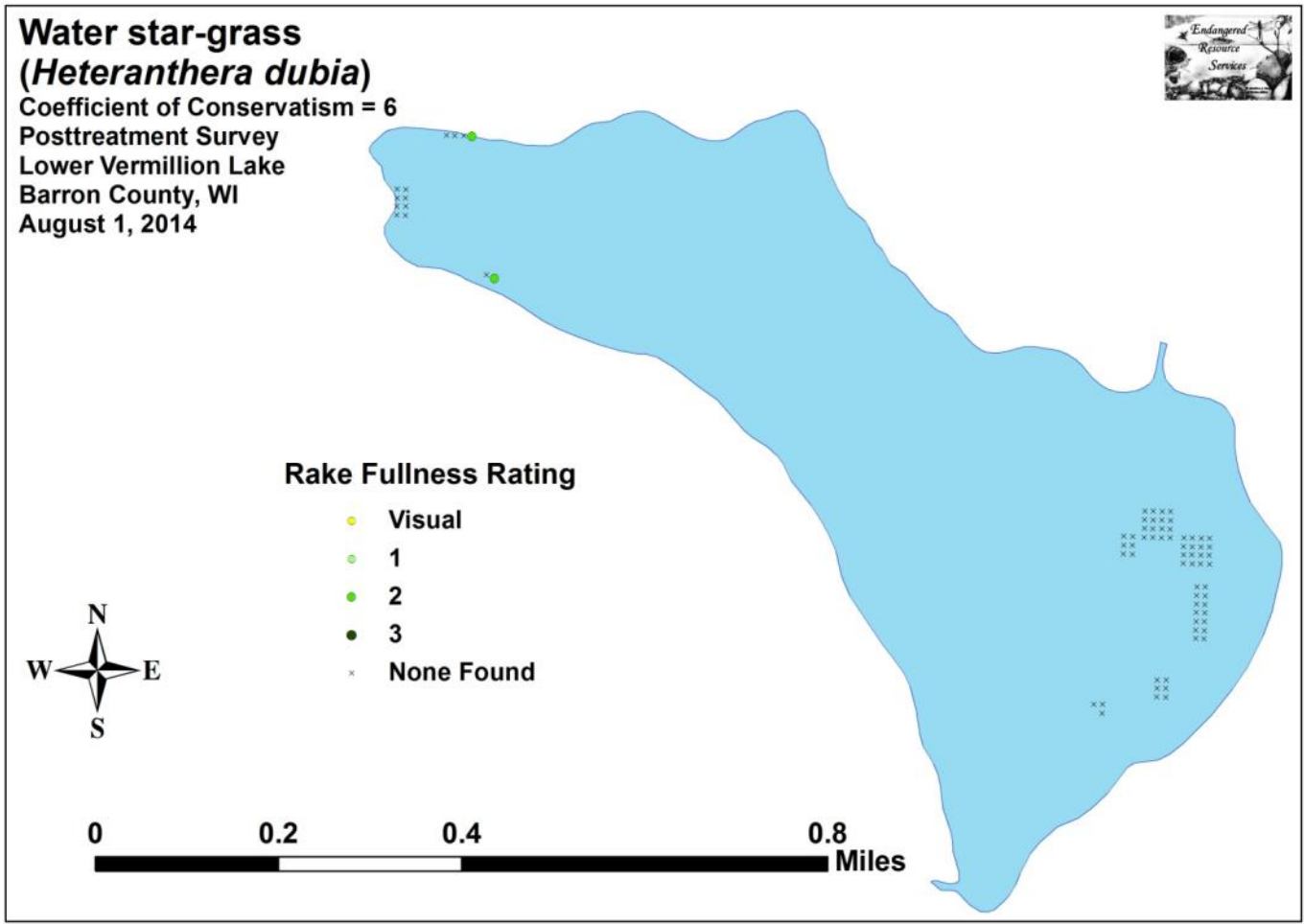


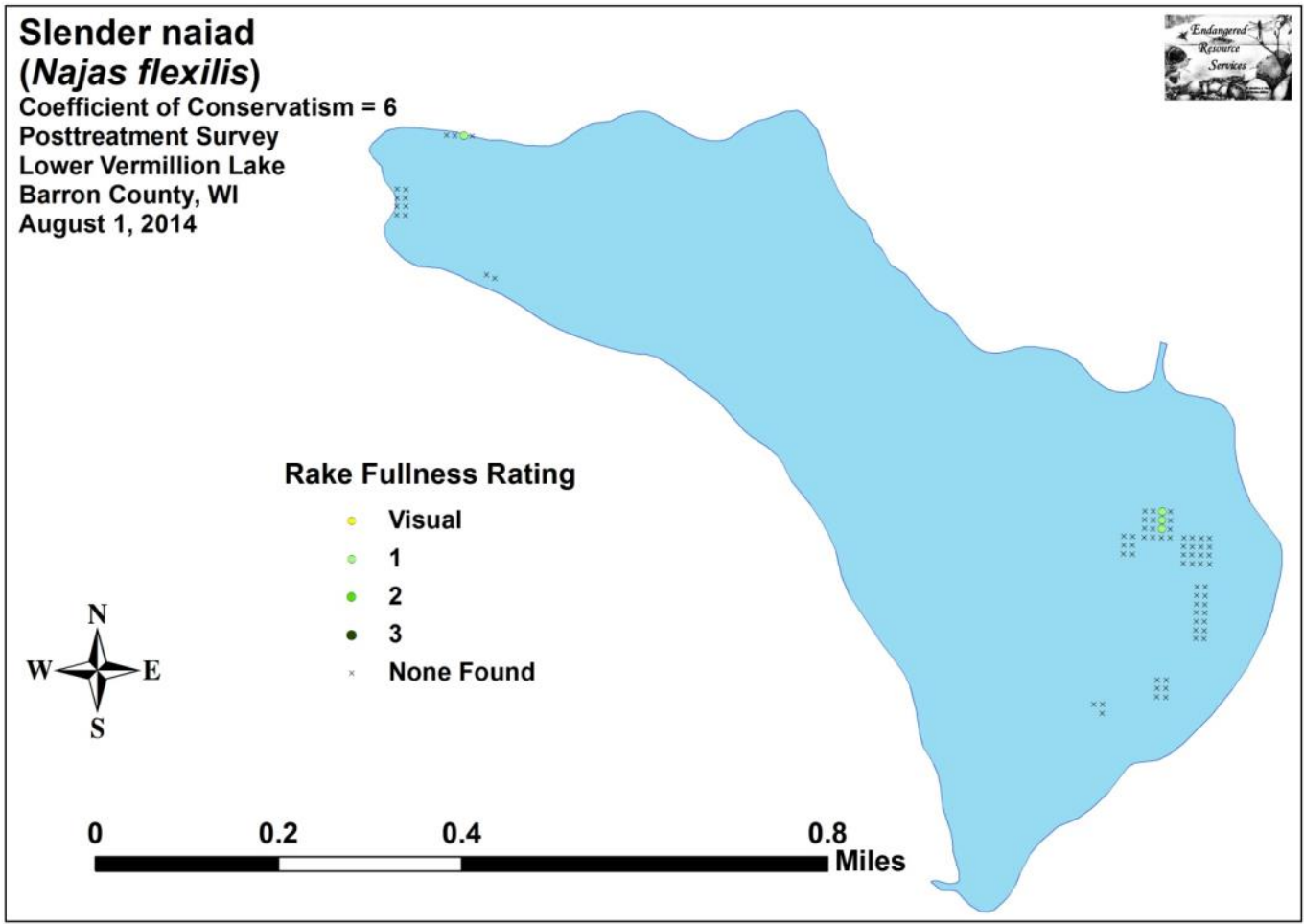


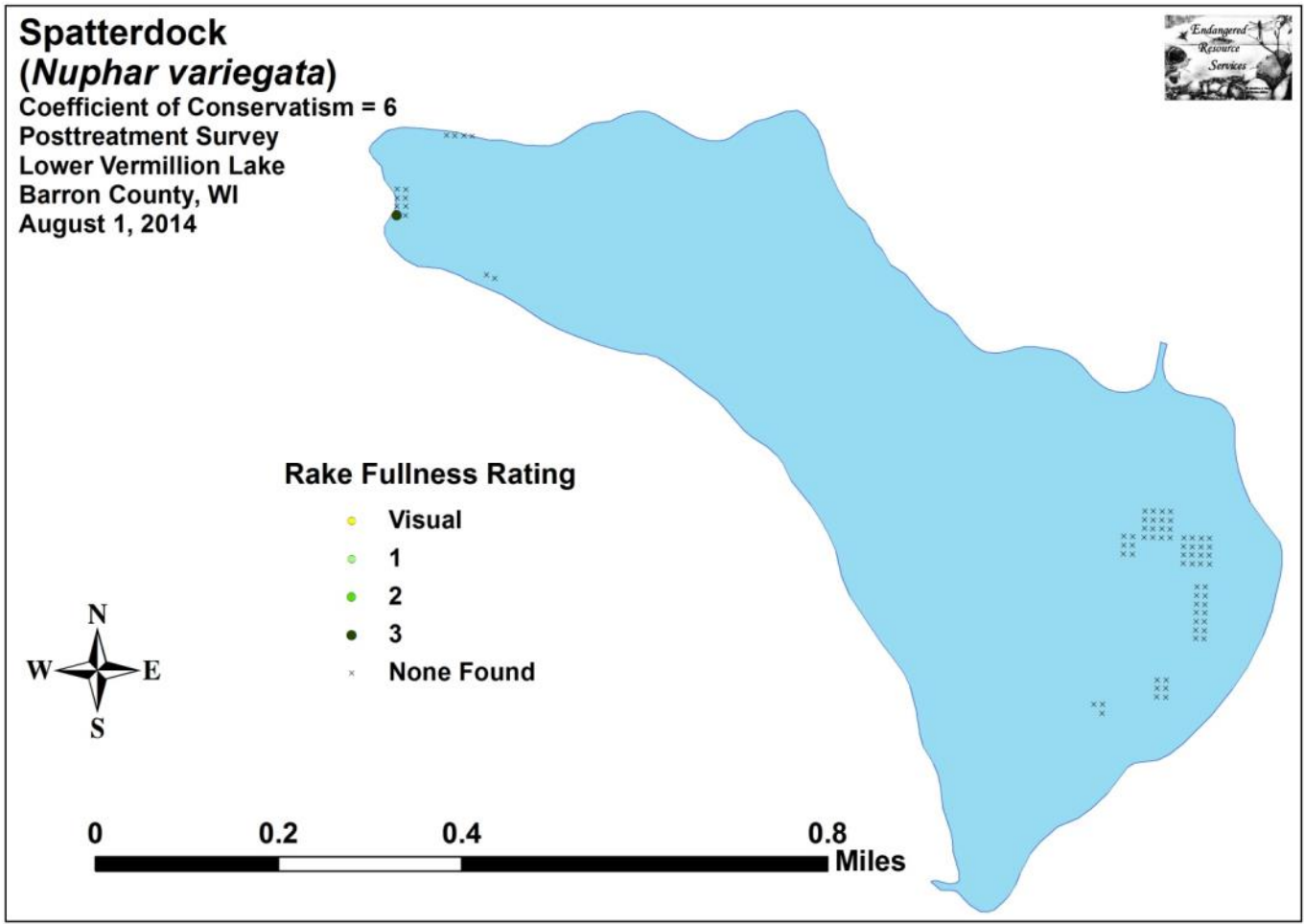


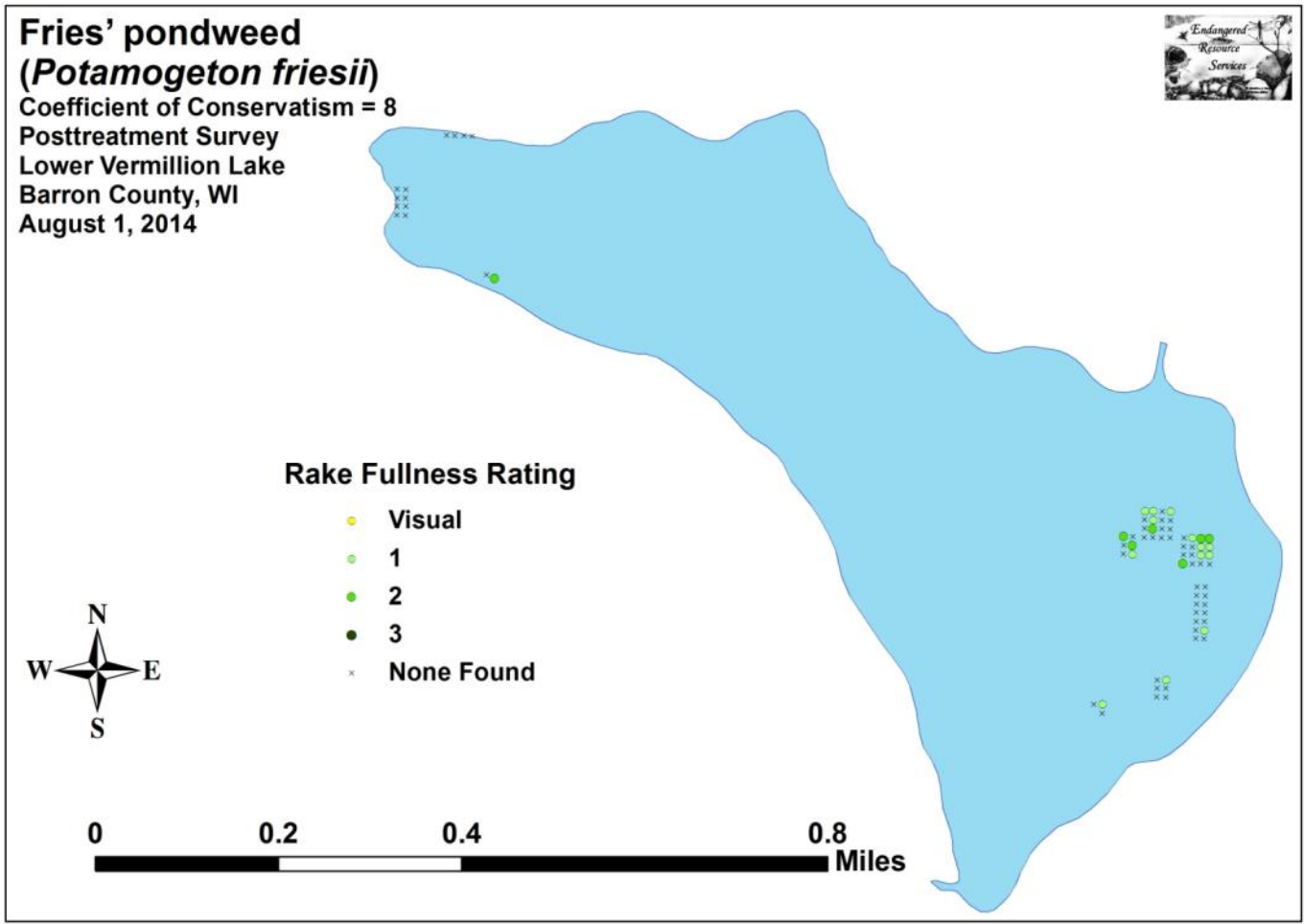


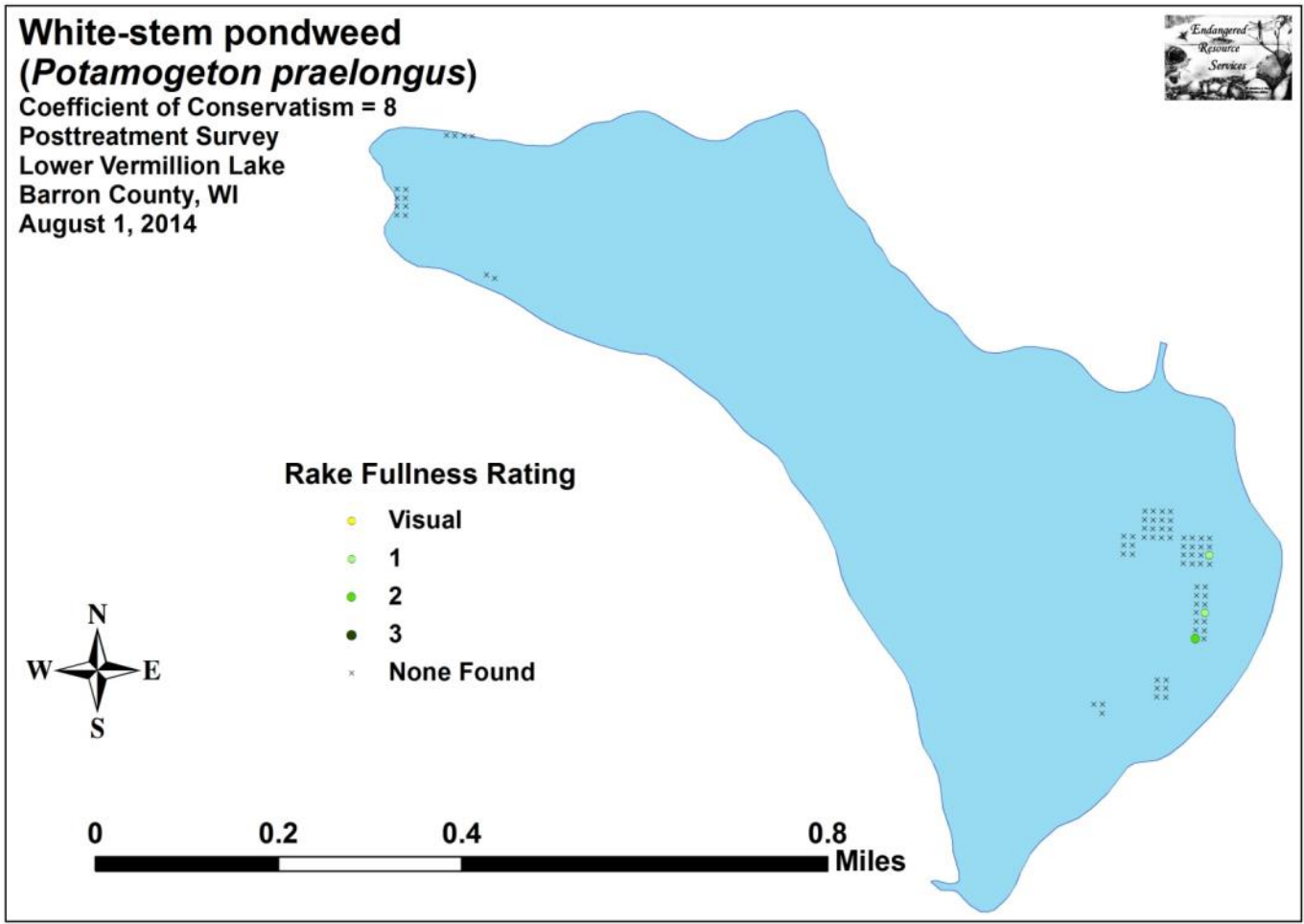


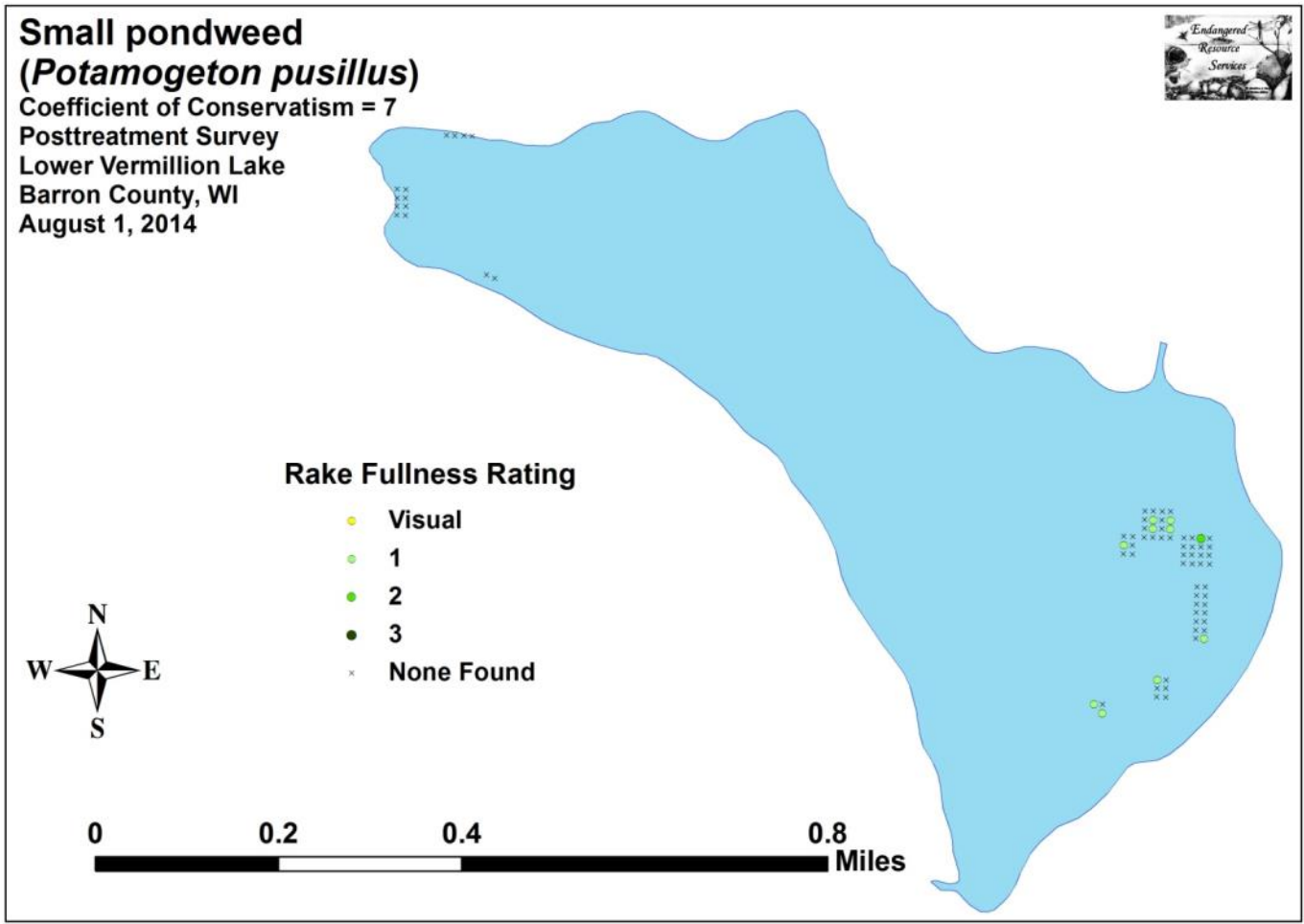




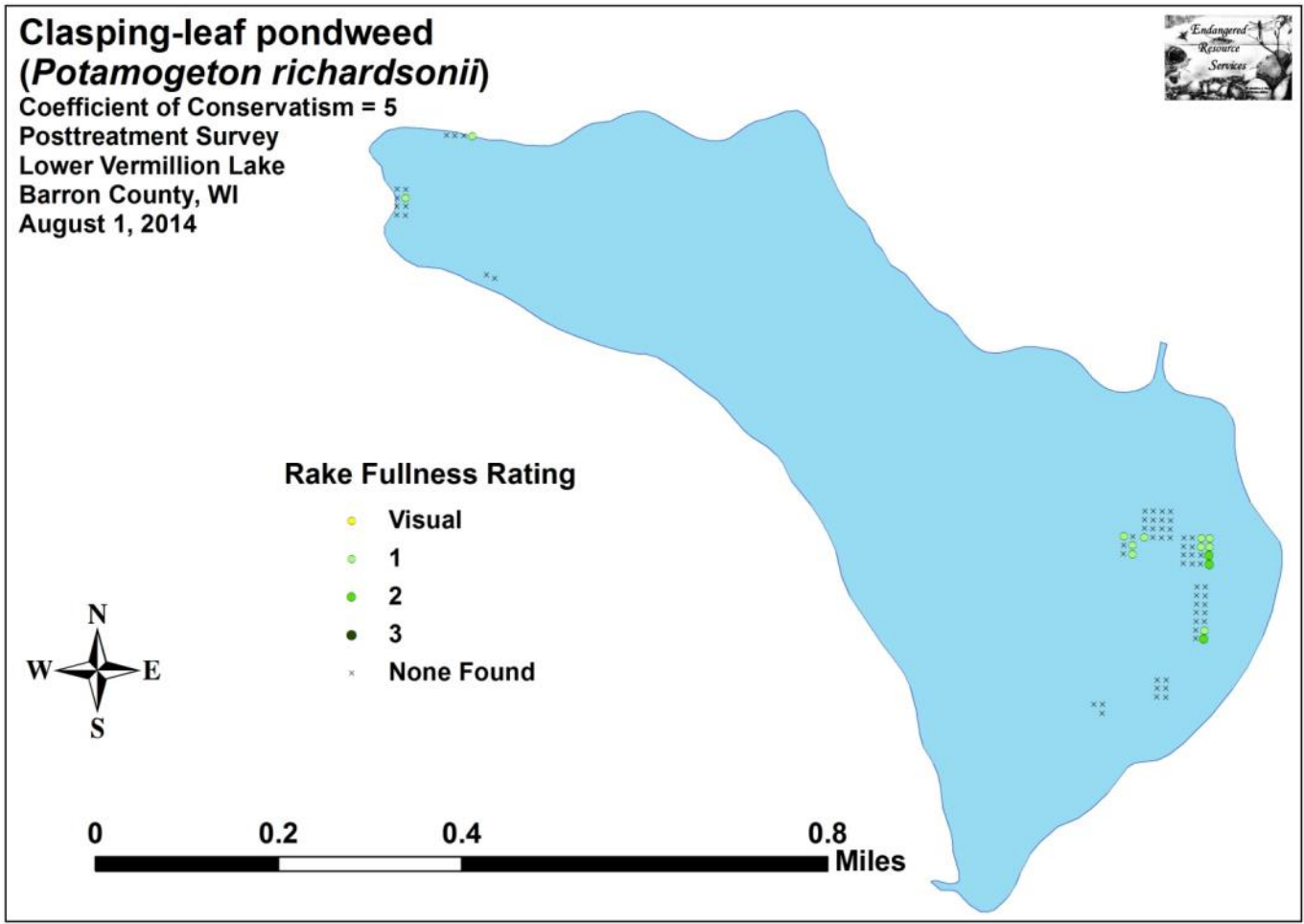


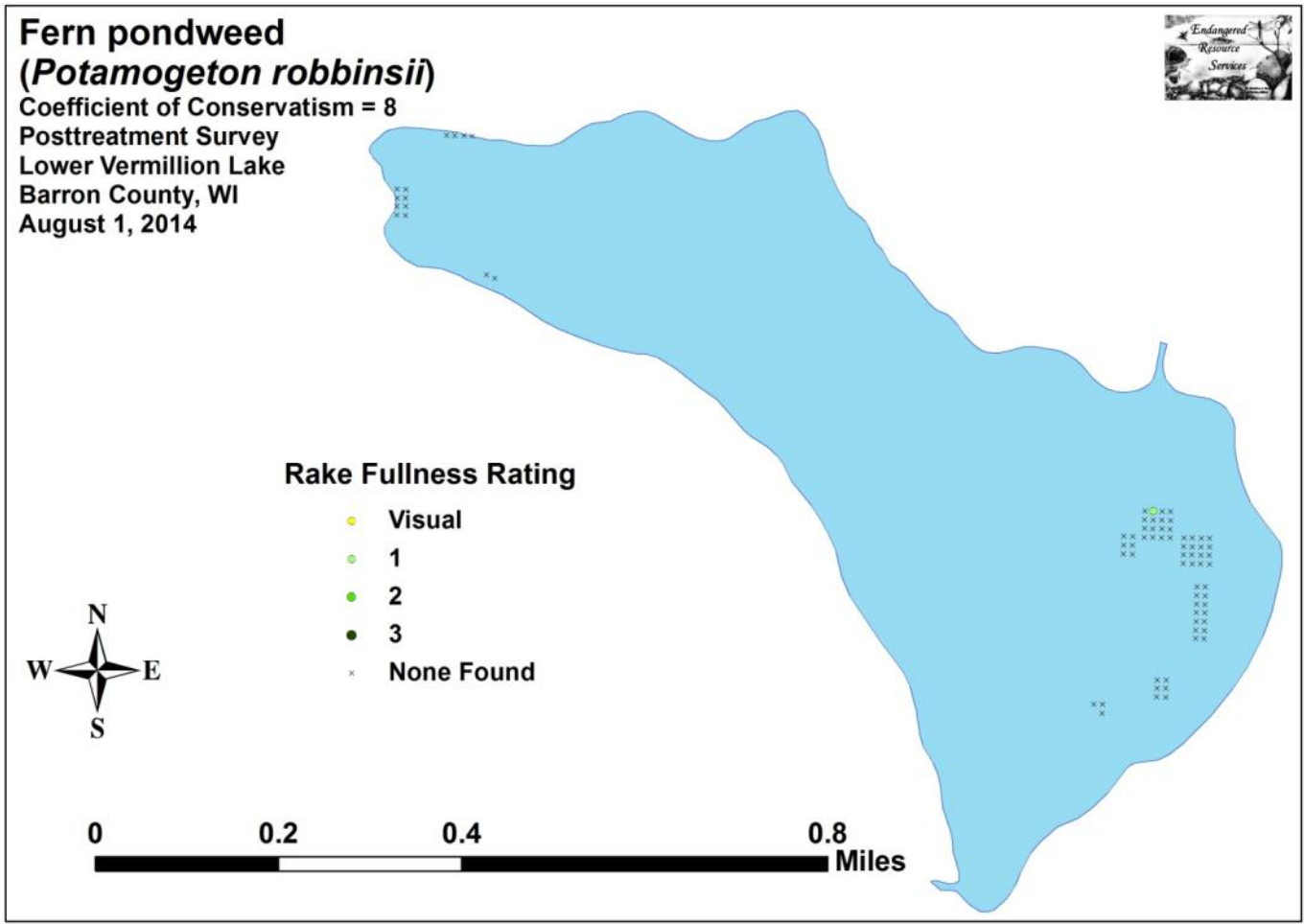


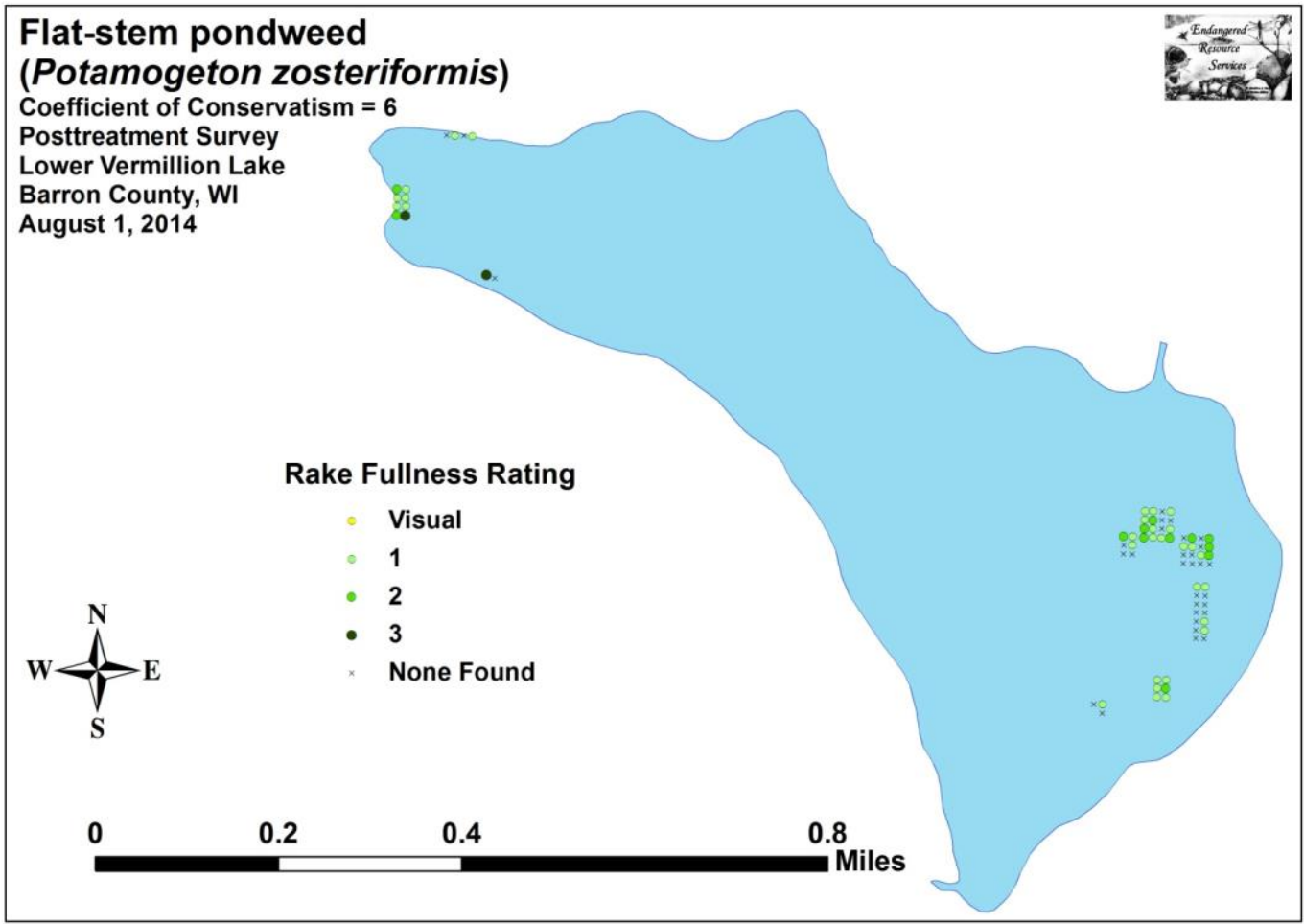


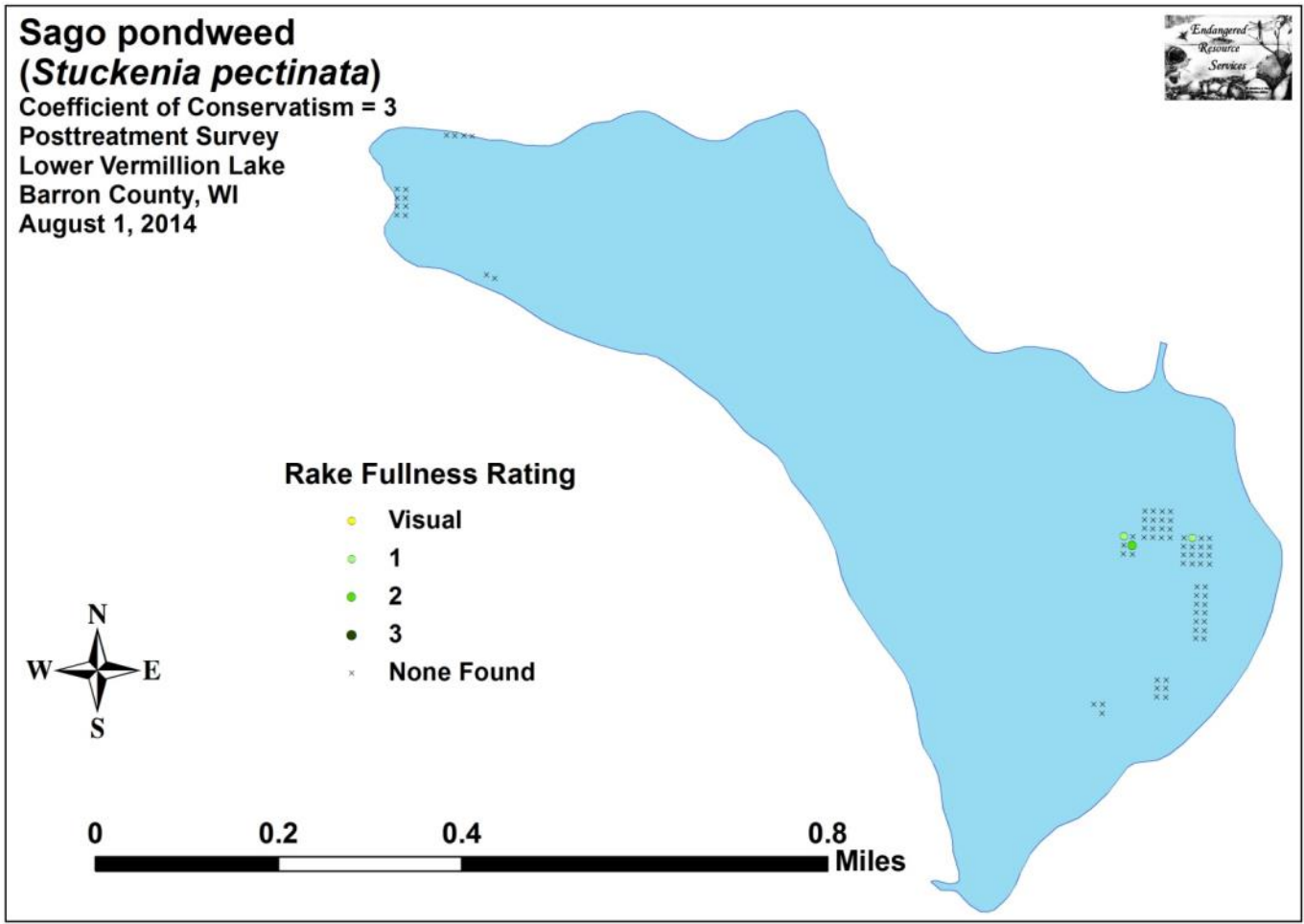


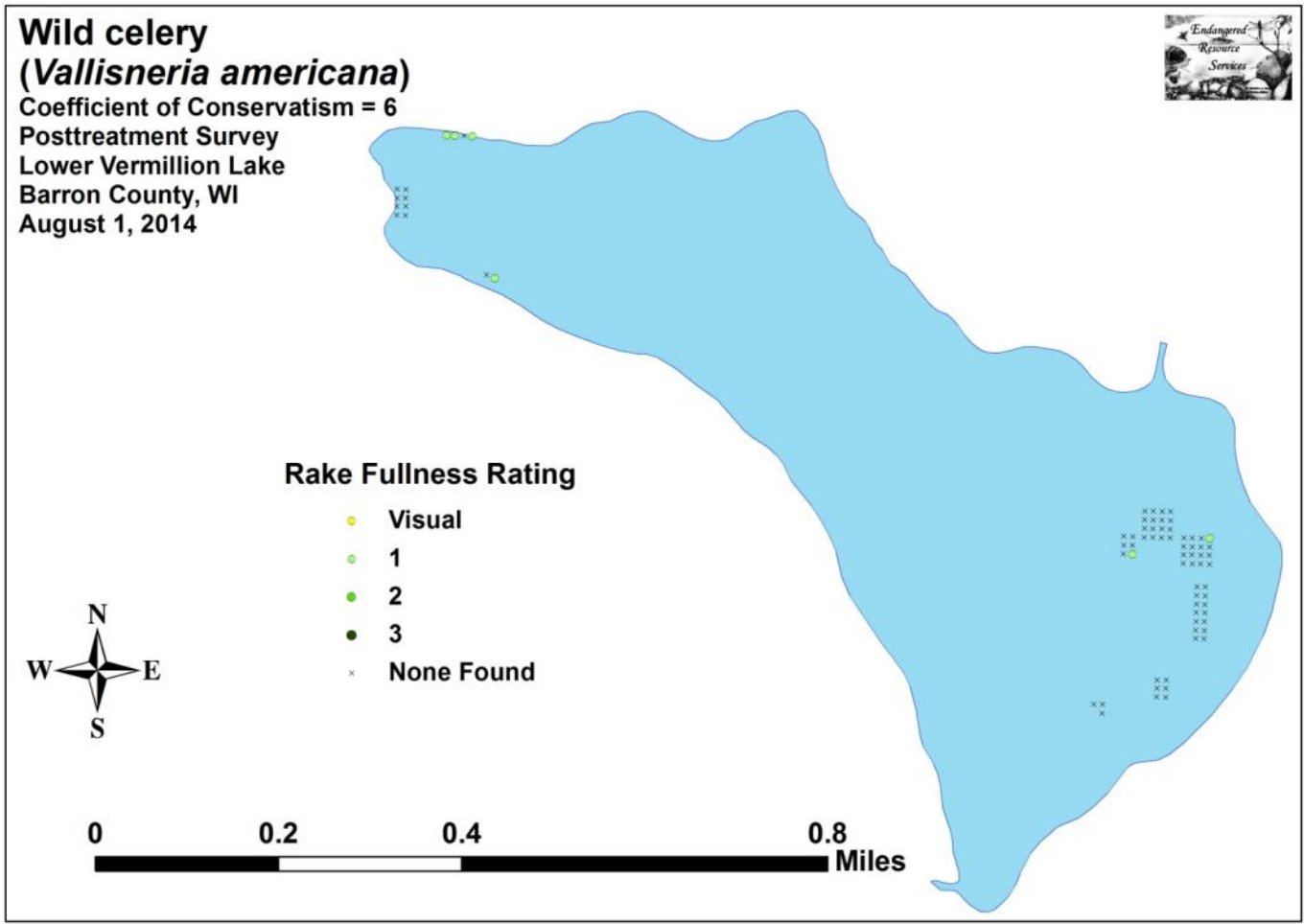




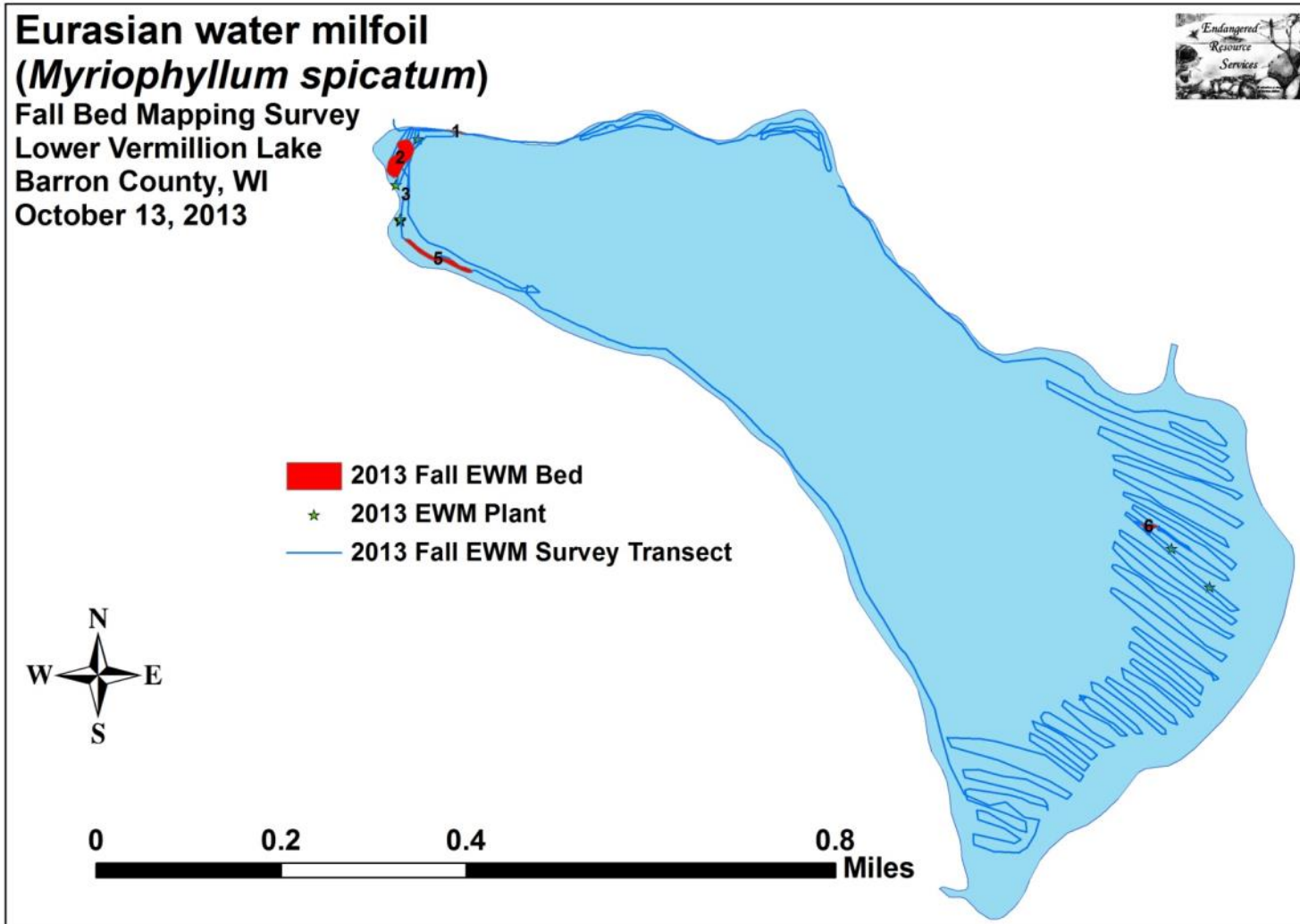








**Appendix VIII: Fall 2013 and 2014 EWM Bed Maps**



# Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*)

Fall Bed Mapping Survey  
Lower Vermillion Lake  
Barron County, WI  
October 11, 2014

