



Squam Lakes Watershed 2018 Milfoil Report: Squam River

The Squam River continues to require a high priority of focus in efforts to remove variable milfoil from the Squam Lakes Watershed. In 2018, the dive crew spent about 60% of their time in the Squam River. Due to successful past year removal efforts, we were able to spend time focusing further downstream towards the dam in Ashland. In 2018, 2,017 gallons of milfoil were removed from the river, 1,669 of which were removed from the section of the river closest to the dam (See figures 1 and table 2).

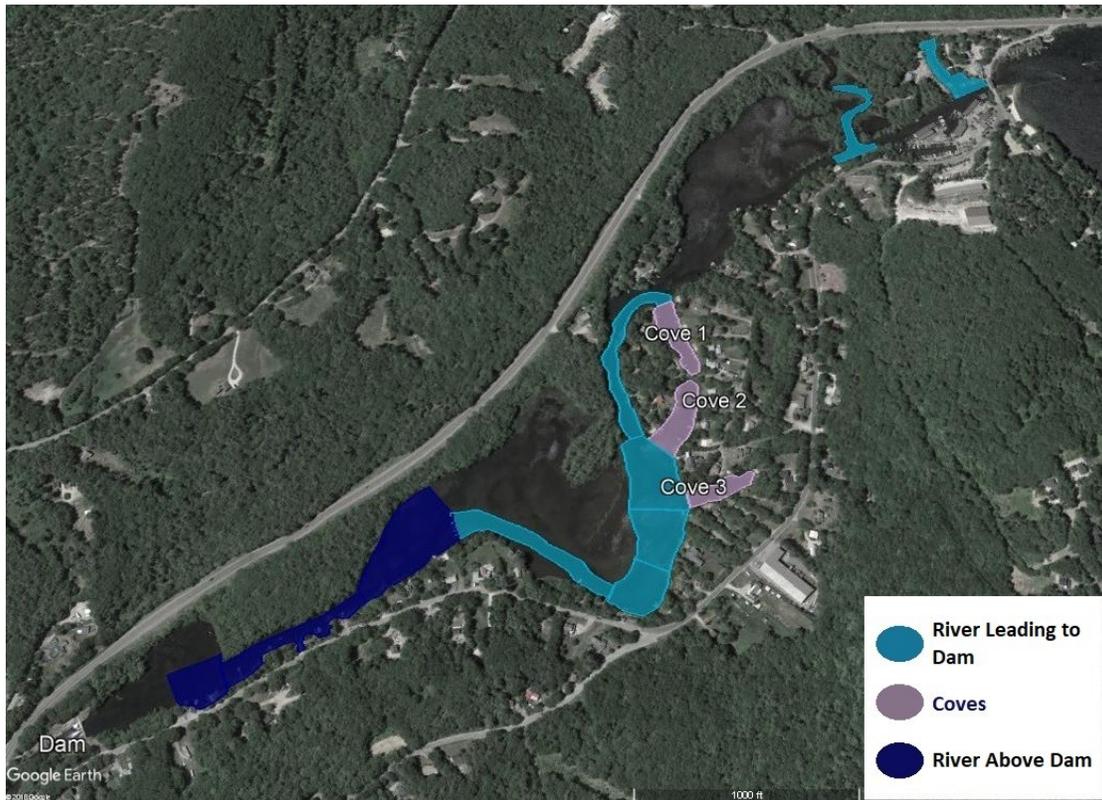


Figure 1. 2018 Squam River Management Sites

| | River Leading to Dam | | Coves | | River Above Dam | |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Gallons | Staff Hours | Gallons | Staff Hours | Gallons | Staff Hours |
| 2013 | 259.5 | 42.6 | 1629.0 | 249.4 | 16.0 | 72.0 |
| 2014 | 1741.5 | 285.0 | 2098.5 | 426.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2015 | 230.0 | 258.0 | 729.0 | 375.6 | 885.5 | 293.5 |
| 2016 | 429.5 | 150.0 | 757.0 | 260.5 | 2184.0 | 409.0 |
| 2017 | 793.5 | 358.0 | 336.5 | 295.3 | 931.0 | 209.5 |
| 2018 | 327.6 | 296.5 | 21.0 | 87.3 | 1669.0 | 360.0 |

Table 1. 2013-2018 Squam River Milfoil Gallons Removed and Staff Hours

We continued to use the Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH) to tackle large infestations of milfoil. In 2018 the DASH system was required less than in previous years. DASH usage peaked in 2014 when efforts were focused on removing 3,839 gallons of milfoil from the coves and areas of the river leading to the dam. Figures 2 and 3 show that in the following years removal efforts have steadily been shifted downstream as milfoil growth has decreased in areas furthest upstream of the dam. In 2018 we used the DASH system to remove milfoil from areas closest to the dam.

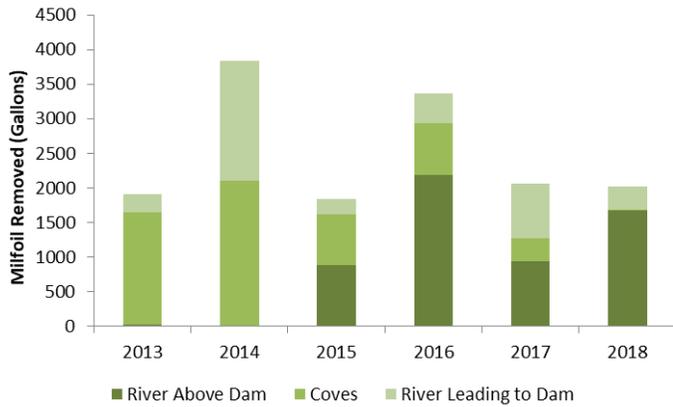


Figure 2. 2013-2018 Squam River Milfoil Management

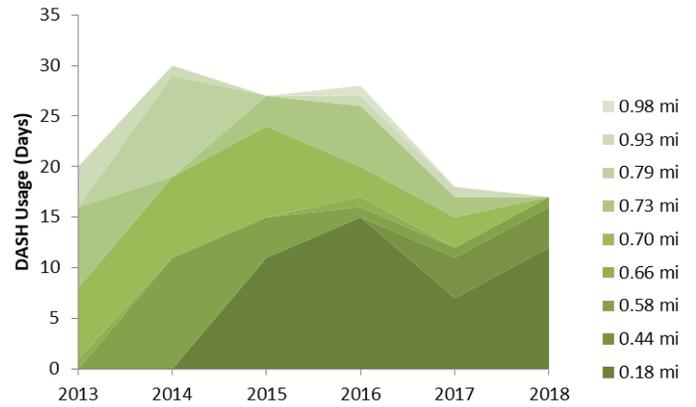


Figure 3. 2013-2018 DASH Usage Distance from Dam in the Squam River

Areas in the river which were previously infested with large areas of milfoil were frequently surveyed by the dive crew throughout the growth season. These areas include the river coves which have seen continuous improvement throughout the years (Figure 4). In 2018, grow back was limited to single plants or small patches which were removed by hand pulling. Collectively, 21 gallons of milfoil were removed from the coves in 2018.

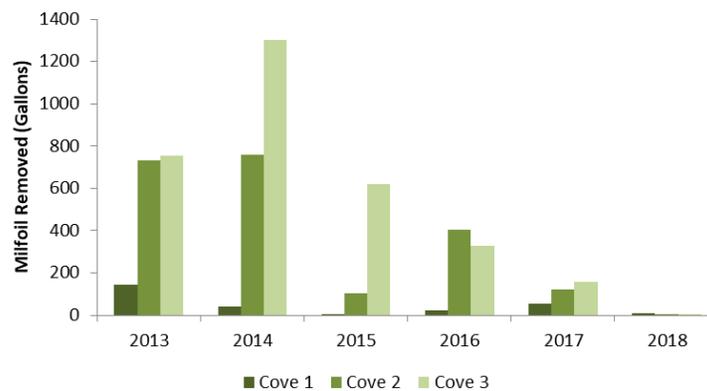


Figure 4. 2013-2018 Squam River Coves Milfoil Management

The decreased use of the DASH system, and the shift to hand pulling milfoil indicates significant improvement in the Squam River. In 2019, we will continue to remove large areas of milfoil leading to the dam, and frequently survey areas with past occurrences of milfoil to minimize future growth.

Neighborhoods, organizations, or individuals interested in protecting the Squam Lakes from invasive species can learn more by participating in a Weed Watcher training provided by the SLA. The Weed Watcher program plays a crucial role in milfoil management by finding undetected growth. To learn more, or to sign up to become a volunteer Weed Watcher visit <https://www.squamlakes.org/volunteer/weed-watching-squam-lakes>.

To learn more about our Milfoil Management Program visit: <https://www.squamlakes.org/milfoil-management-squam>