

Impacts of Water Levels on Upper Yahara River Wetlands

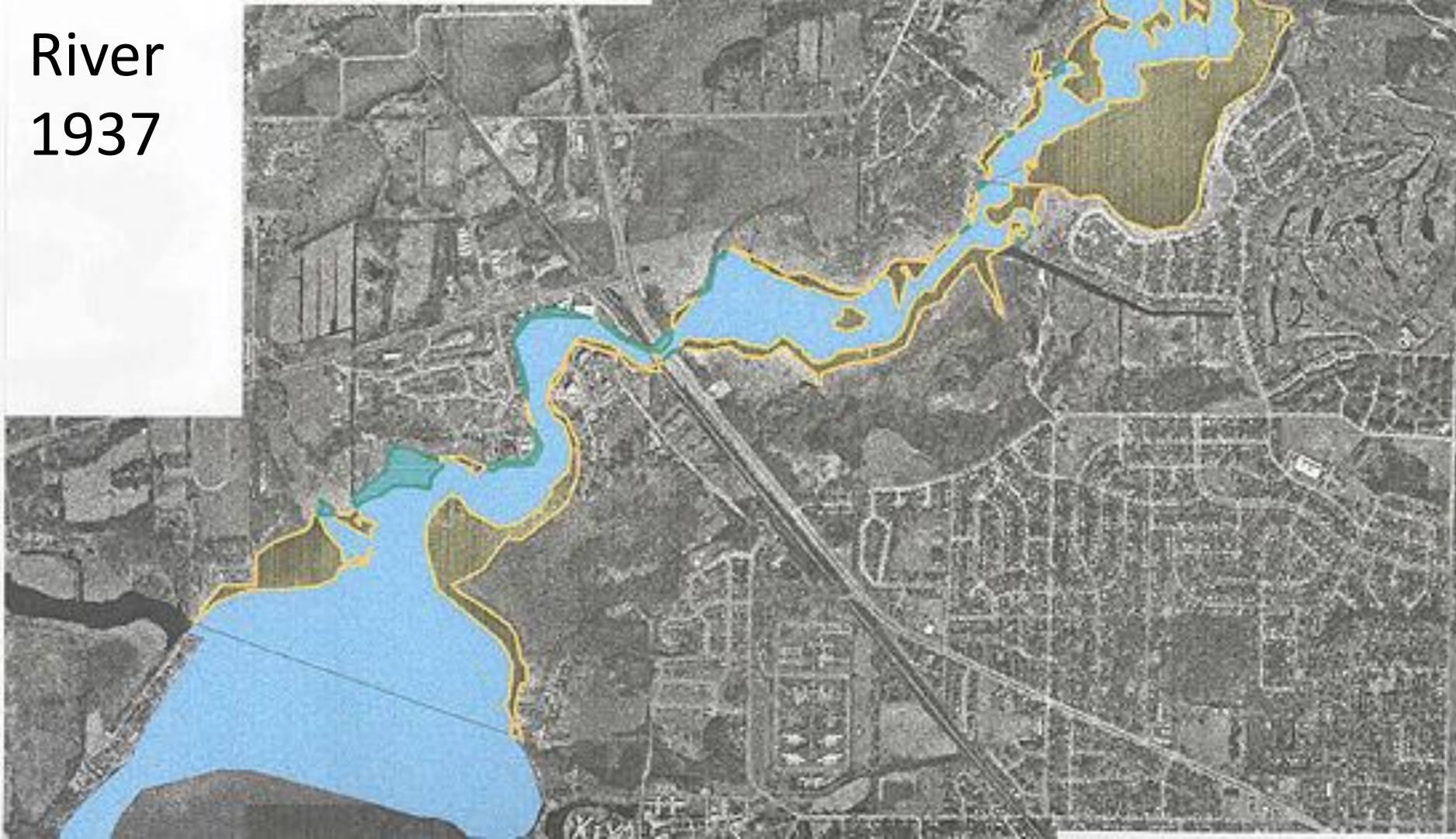
conserve
**MADISON
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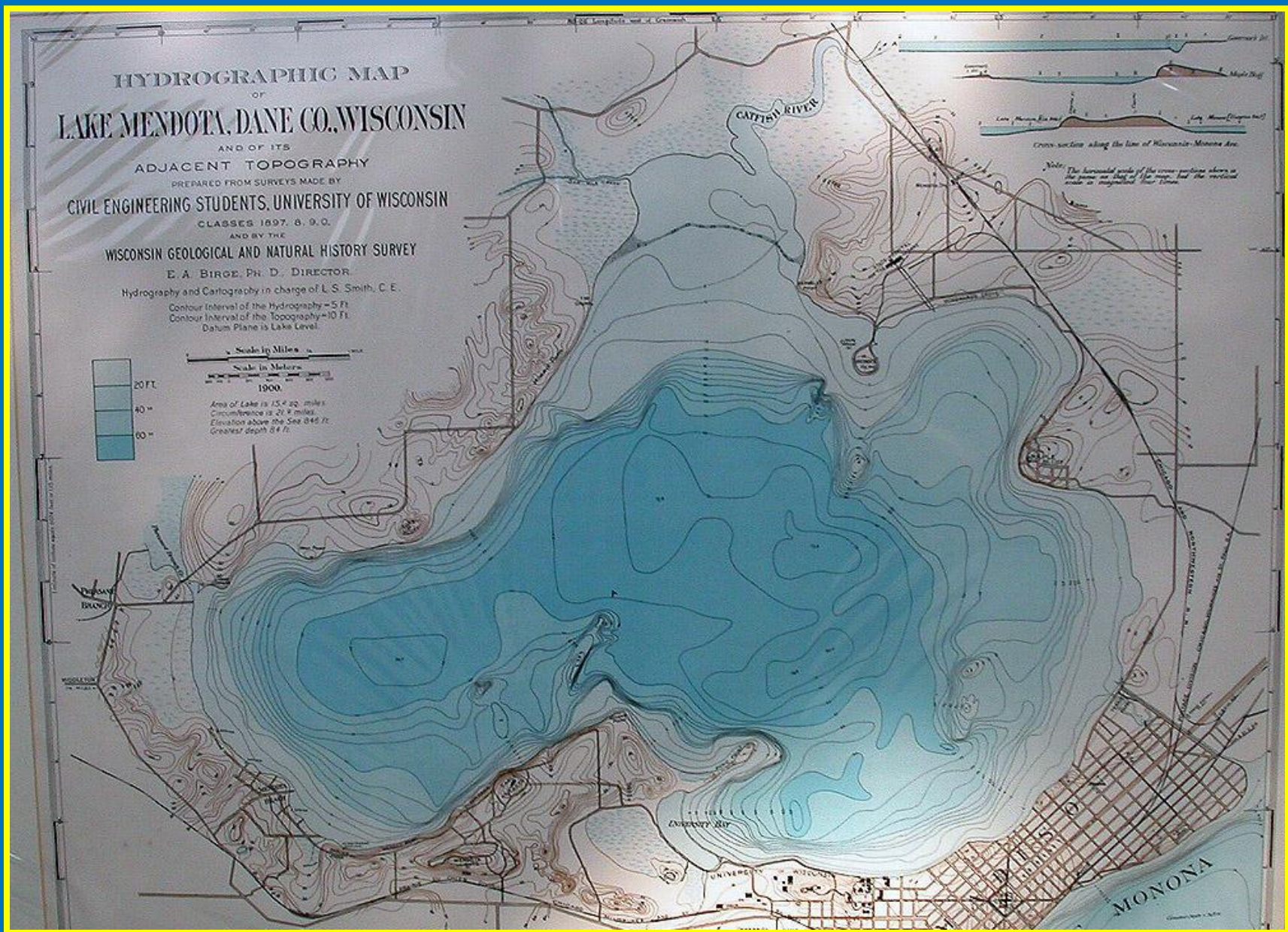
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Upper Yahara River 1937





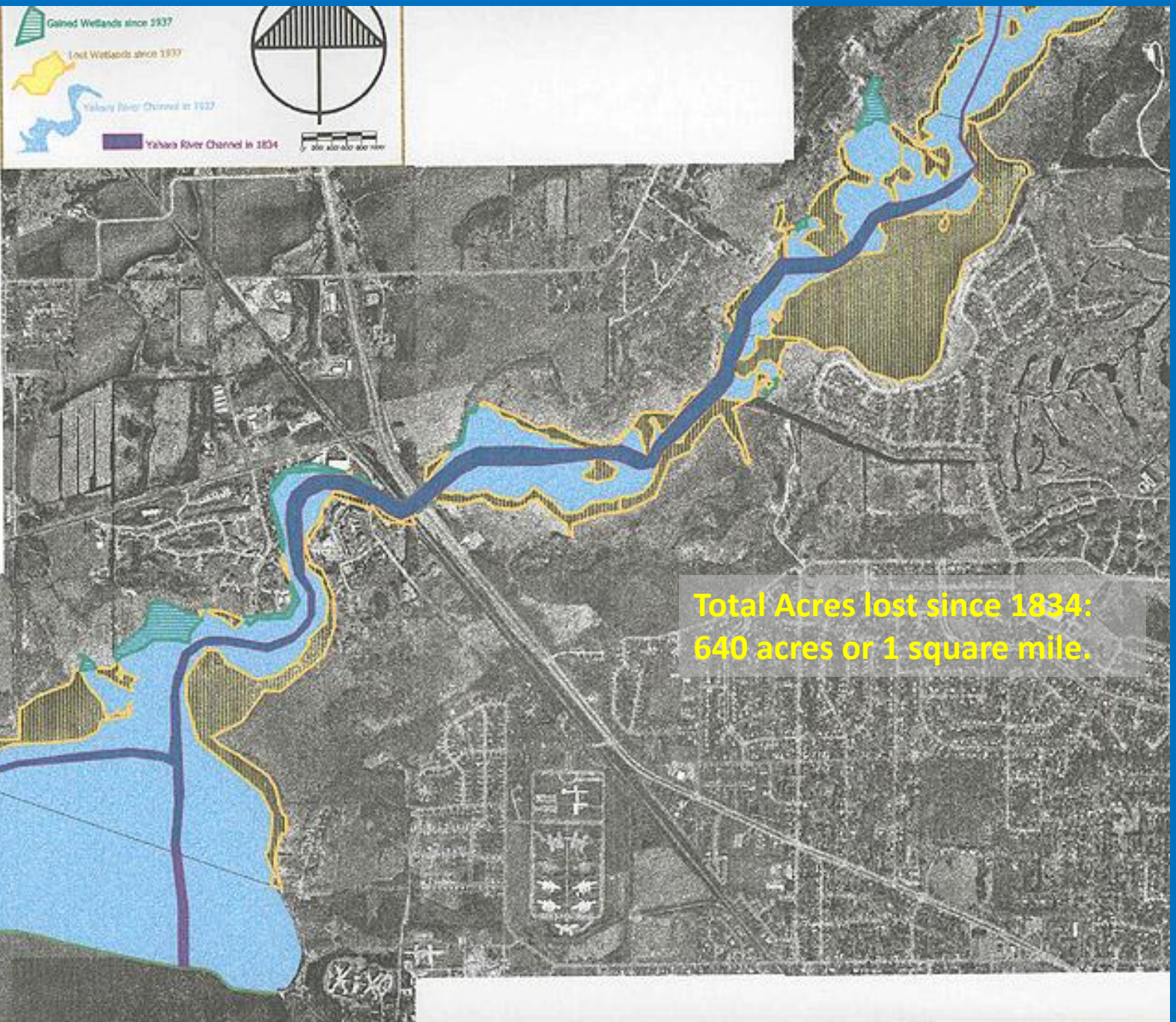
Lake Mendota in 1900

Close-up of 1900 Map



Upper Yahara River - 1834

Map and
data based
on 1834
land survey
records



**Total Acres lost since 1834:
640 acres or 1 square mile.**

97.1 1-62

WU-300-23

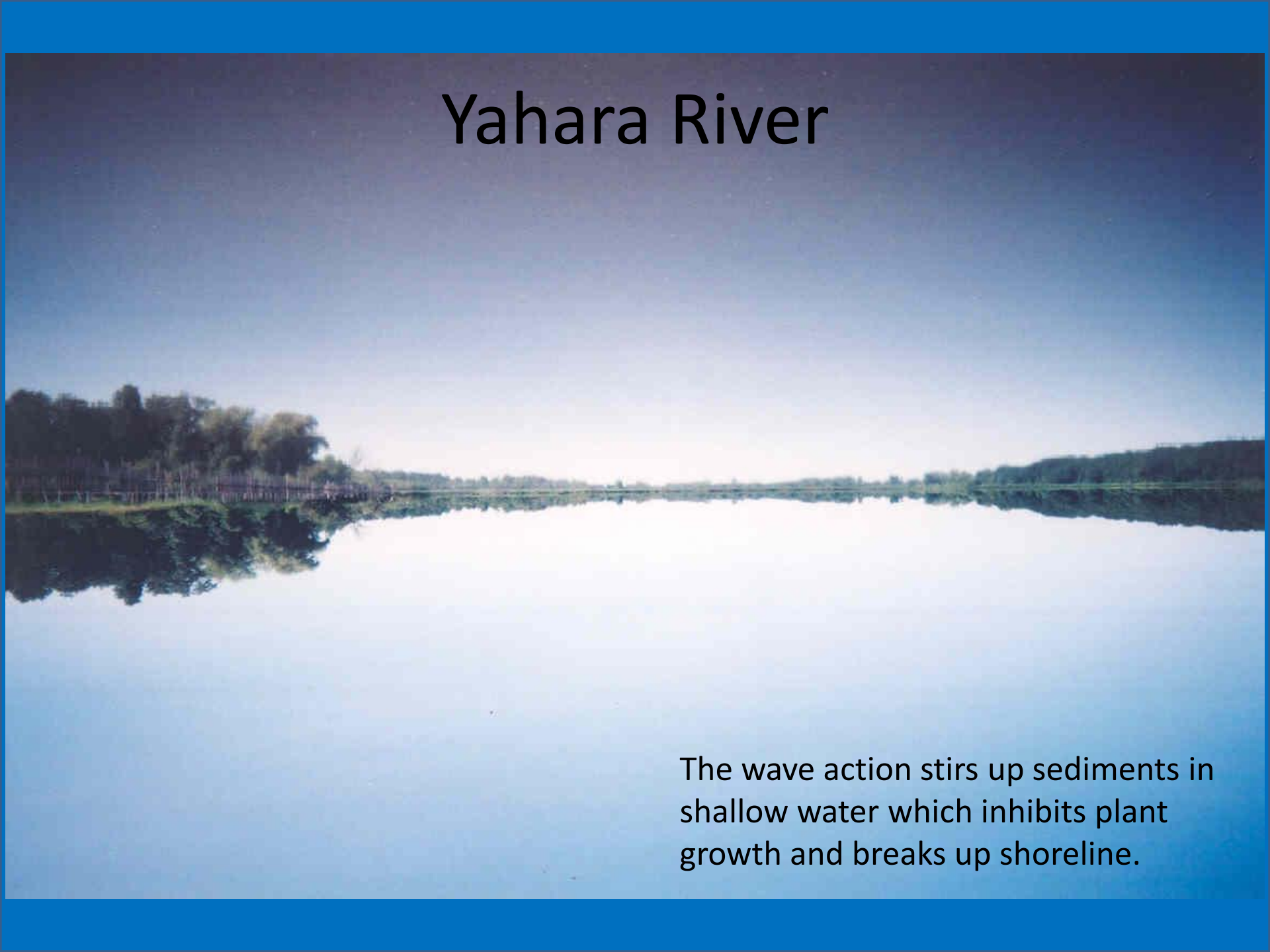


Cherokee Lake - 1962

Cherokee Lake - 1968



Yahara River

A wide, calm river reflecting the sky and surrounding trees. The water is very still, creating a clear mirror image of the blue sky and the green foliage on the banks. The horizon is flat, and the overall scene is peaceful and serene.

The wave action stirs up sediments in shallow water which inhibits plant growth and breaks up shoreline.

“Floating Bog”



Large Bog



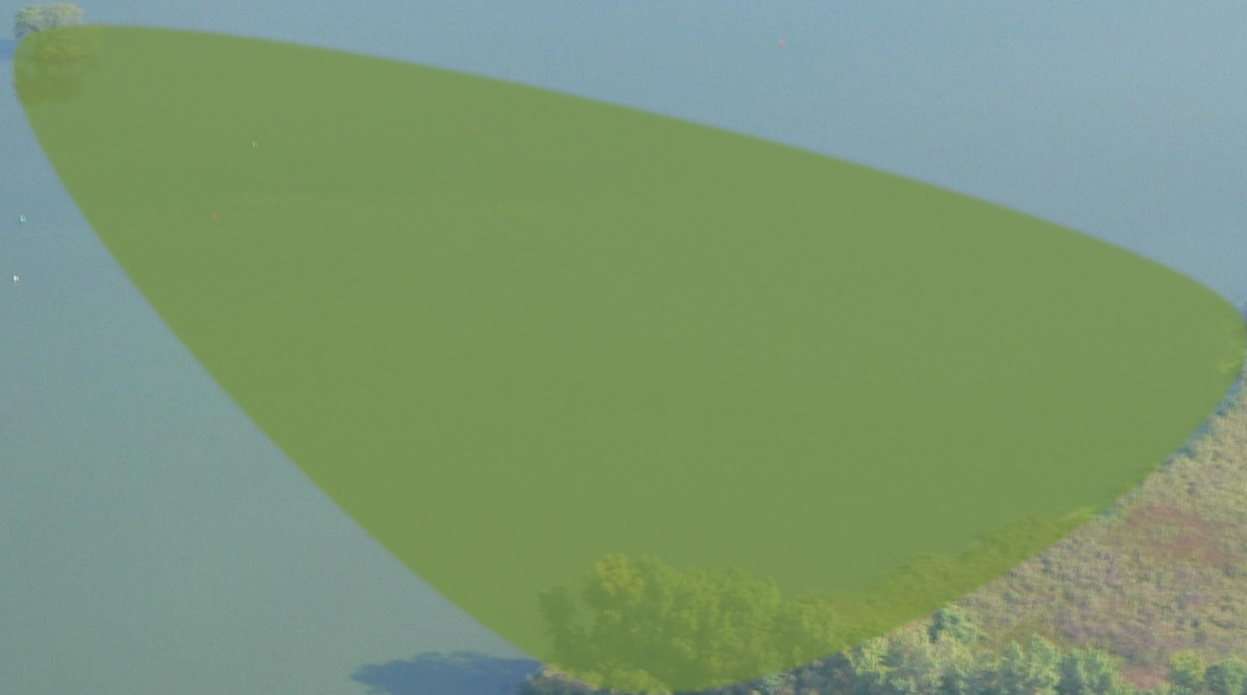
Close up of dislodged bog



Tamarack Stump



Peninsula that was lost in 1993



An aerial photograph showing a large, flat, green and brownish peat wetland in the foreground. In the middle ground, a residential development with many houses and a marina with numerous sailboats are visible. A road and some commercial buildings are also present. The background shows more green fields and trees.

Peat Wetland

Mouth of Six Mile Creek



Six Mile Creek looking upstream



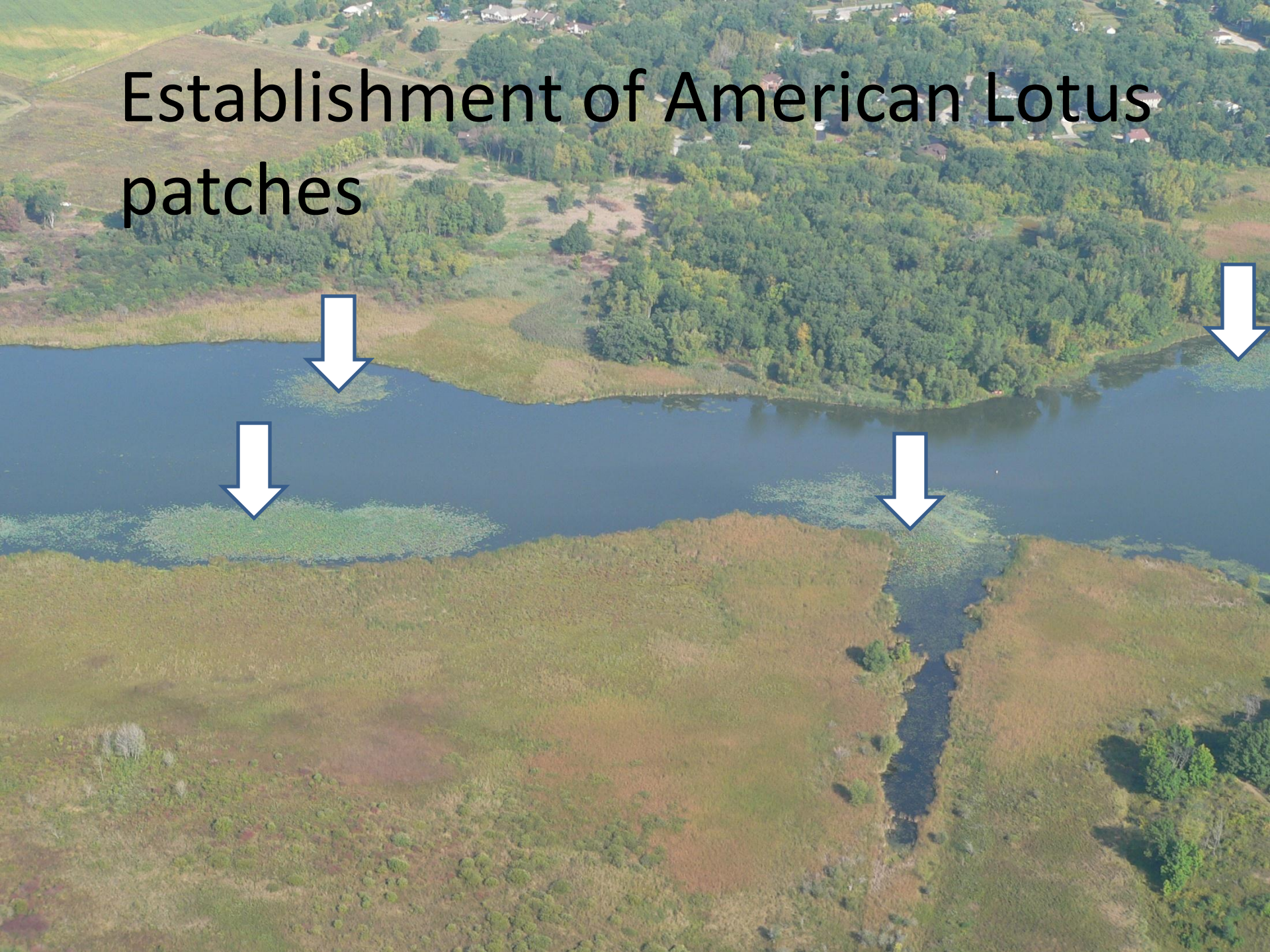
Sandhill Crane Nesting



Buffering floating shorelines with aquatic plants



Establishment of American Lotus patches



American Lotus plants reduce fetch distances





Bur Reed Spreading

Sediment transport and deposition



Cherokee
Lake

“Growing” Shoreline



An aerial photograph of a wide river system. The river flows from the top left towards the bottom right. On the right bank, there is a large, irregularly shaped area of green and brown vegetation that appears to be a 'floating bog' or a wetland area. The surrounding landscape includes dense green forests, open fields, and some residential or commercial buildings in the distance. The sky is clear and blue.

Summary

- Aquatic plant buffers have the potential to stabilize 'floating bog' shorelines.
- Aquatic plant communities trap sediment.
- A decrease in summer water levels would benefit emergent plant growth in the river bed.