



Milfoil Treatment Pilot Project

Presentation to the Lake Tapps Community Council

January 10, 2023

Today's Purpose

1. Provide information about Cascade's annual milfoil treatment program.
2. Present pilot project idea that enables HOAs to pay Cascade's applicator (Aquatechnex) for more milfoil treatment in Lake Tapps Reservoir.

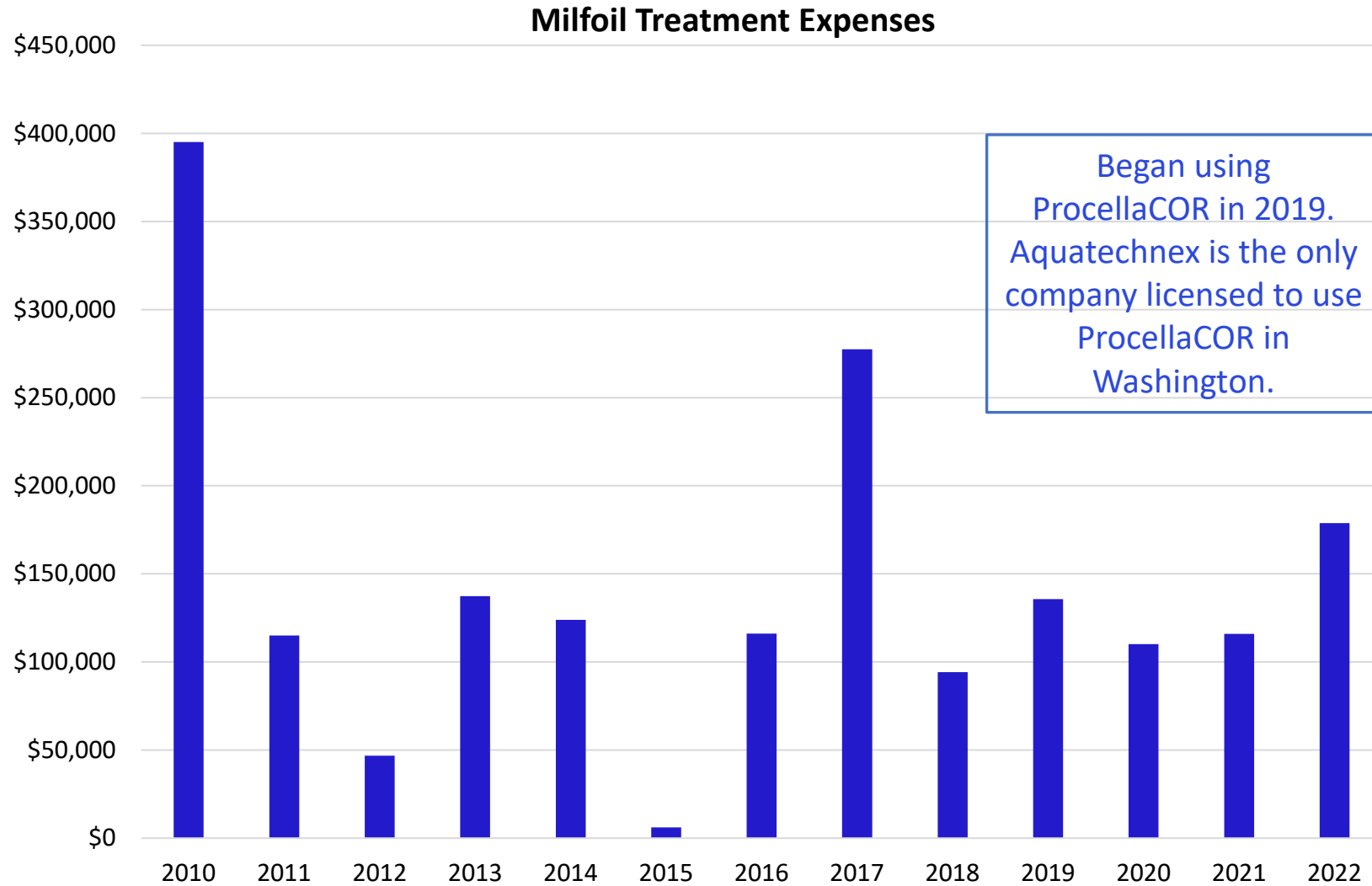


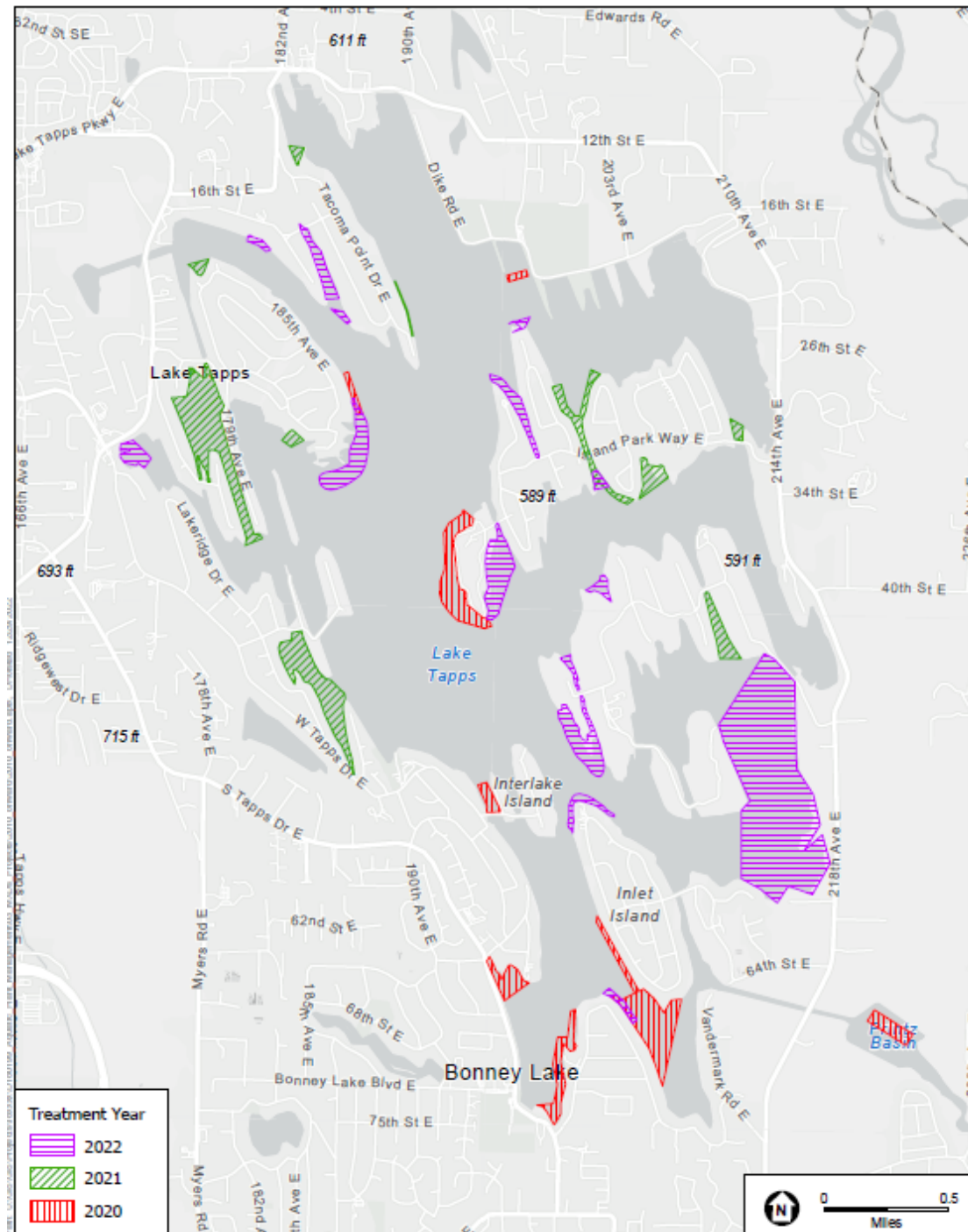


Background

- Milfoil has been a persistent challenge that precedes Cascade's ownership and operation of Lake Tapps Reservoir.
- Per Ecology, only Cascade is permitted to chemically treat milfoil in the Reservoir.
- State and Pierce County initially classified milfoil as Class B noxious weed – control required.
- Milfoil is no longer regulated – Pierce County encourages voluntary control measures.
- Cascade chemically treats the most heavily concentrated areas of milfoil to meet its operational needs. Treatment areas based on:
 - Boat surveys (prior and current years)
 - Prior and current year homeowner reports
- Treatment lasts for 1-3 years.
- Historically, treatment occurred in mid-July and August; Ecology clarified that treatment can start earlier.

Annual Milfoil Treatment Program

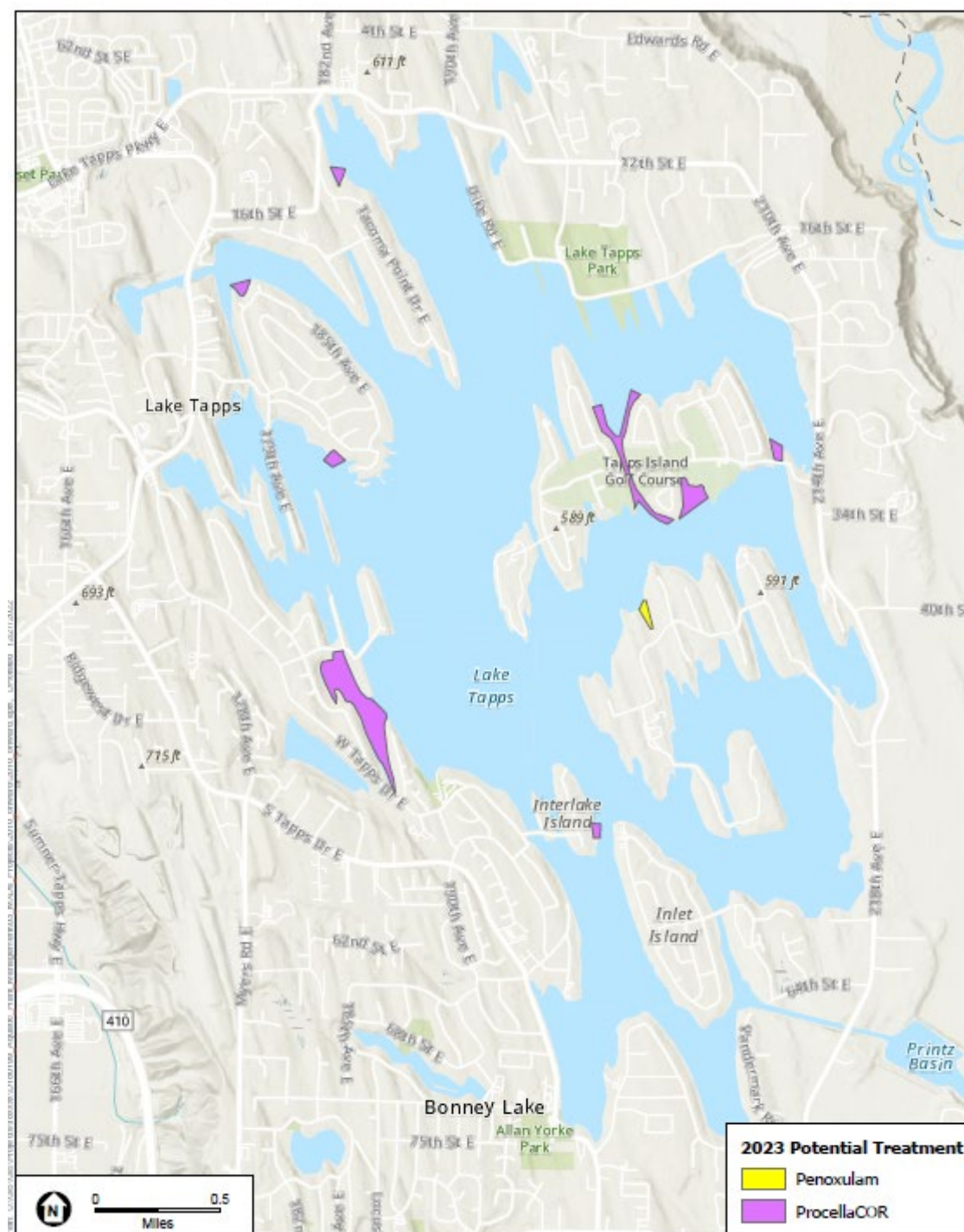




2020-2022 Treated Areas

2023 Planned Treatment Area for Phase 1

(subject to change based
on spring boat survey)





Background Continued

- Summer 2022 community meeting – some homeowners offered to pay for more treatment.
- Cascade researched and determined that Lake Management District (LMD) is not viable in short term:
 - Extensive and complex process for formation
 - Cascade not authorized to create an LMD – likely to be created and governed by Pierce County
 - Pierce County would ultimately control assessment and use of funds
- In response to the community, Cascade is exploring a pilot project that enables HOAs to pay Aquatechnex for more milfoil treatment, subject to Resource Management Committee and Board approval.



Pilot Project Concept

- In addition to Cascade's annual treatment program:
 - HOAs that participate in the pilot would request service from and pay Aquatechnex for milfoil treatment (no native plants).
 - Aquatechnex would handle all administrative duties (e.g. routes, billing, record keeping) and work directly with HOAs.
- Cascade's Board's interests:
 - Minimize costs to and involvement by Cascade.
 - Reduce risk of homeowners doing own chemical treatment.
 - Address equity issues (access to treatment).
 - Reinforce message that this is a pilot and is not a commitment to an on-going program.

Pilot Project Concept Continued



Issues to be addressed:

- Which HOAs will participate? (must have active corporate status) Not all 7 HOAs need to participate.
- How will HOAs determine which homeowners will participate and which areas to treat?
- HOAs to verify that all parcels in the participating areas have dock numbers.
- How will HOAs collect payments from homeowners and make payment to Aquatechnex?
- Timeline for signing up for treatment and for treatment.
- Equity (access) issues.
- Agreement between Cascade and participating HOAs (similar to Cascade's licensing program) – indemnification to Cascade.

Pilot Project Concept Continued



- Estimated treatment costs:
 - About \$4 per foot of shoreline
 - Lower costs if treatment is by the acre
- Treatment is more effective if treated parcels are contiguous.
- Milfoil growth tends to be less problematic in areas deeper than 15 feet.
- Aquatechnex can assist HOAs and homeowners determine how much area to treat.

Next Steps

- Identify which HOAs are interested in participating as soon as possible.
- Meet with interested HOAs to discuss logistics (based on issues on prior slides).
- Develop a detailed implementation plan by March 31 with participating HOAs.
- Present proposed implementation plan to Cascade's Resource Management Committee and Board and get approval to do the pilot in late April.
- *Note: Regardless of the outcome of the pilot, Cascade will continue with its annual treatment program.*

