

Portage Island cottonwood field trial

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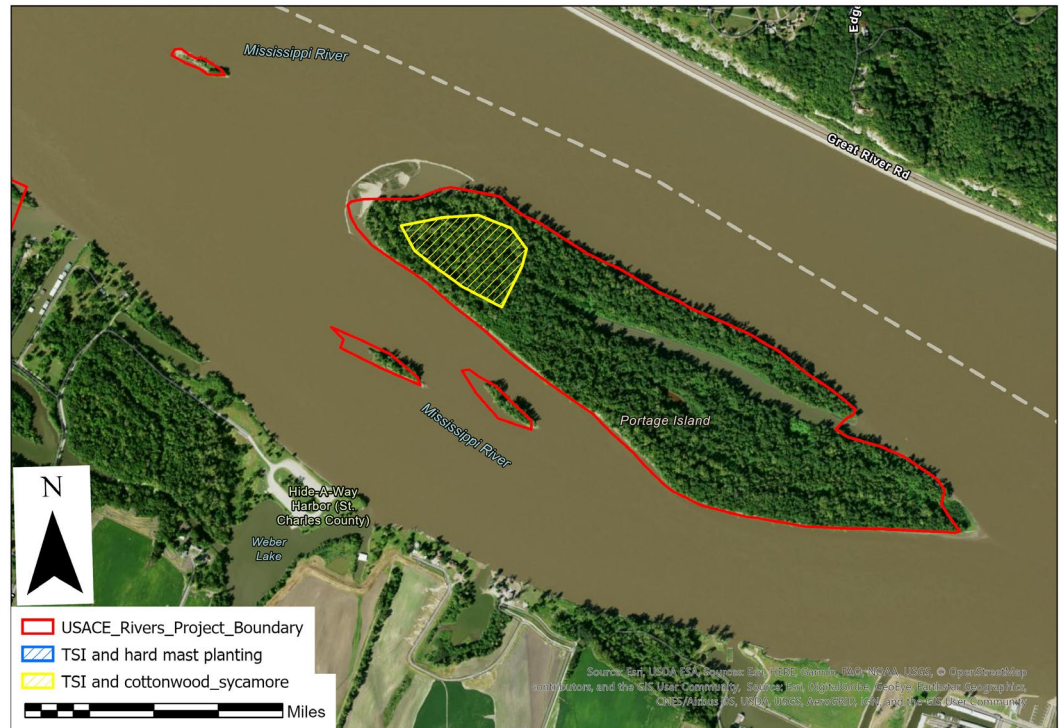


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Portage Island

- Co-managed with USFWS Two Rivers NWR
- Forest Management Plan written in 2017
 - ▶ Included 10 acre seed tree harvest
 - ▶ Goal to regenerate cottonwood
 - ▶ Cottonwood needs bare soil and full sun

Portage Island Cottonwood/Sycamore work



Ducks Unlimited

- NAWCA grant funded
 - Looking to improve bat habitat
- Bat Habitat
 - ▶ Indiana, Gray, and Northern Long-eared bats
 - ▶ Will roost in floodplain forest areas during summer for breeding and foraging
 - ▶ Like large cottonwoods with cavities or sloughing bark



Simulated seed tree harvest Nov/Dec 2022



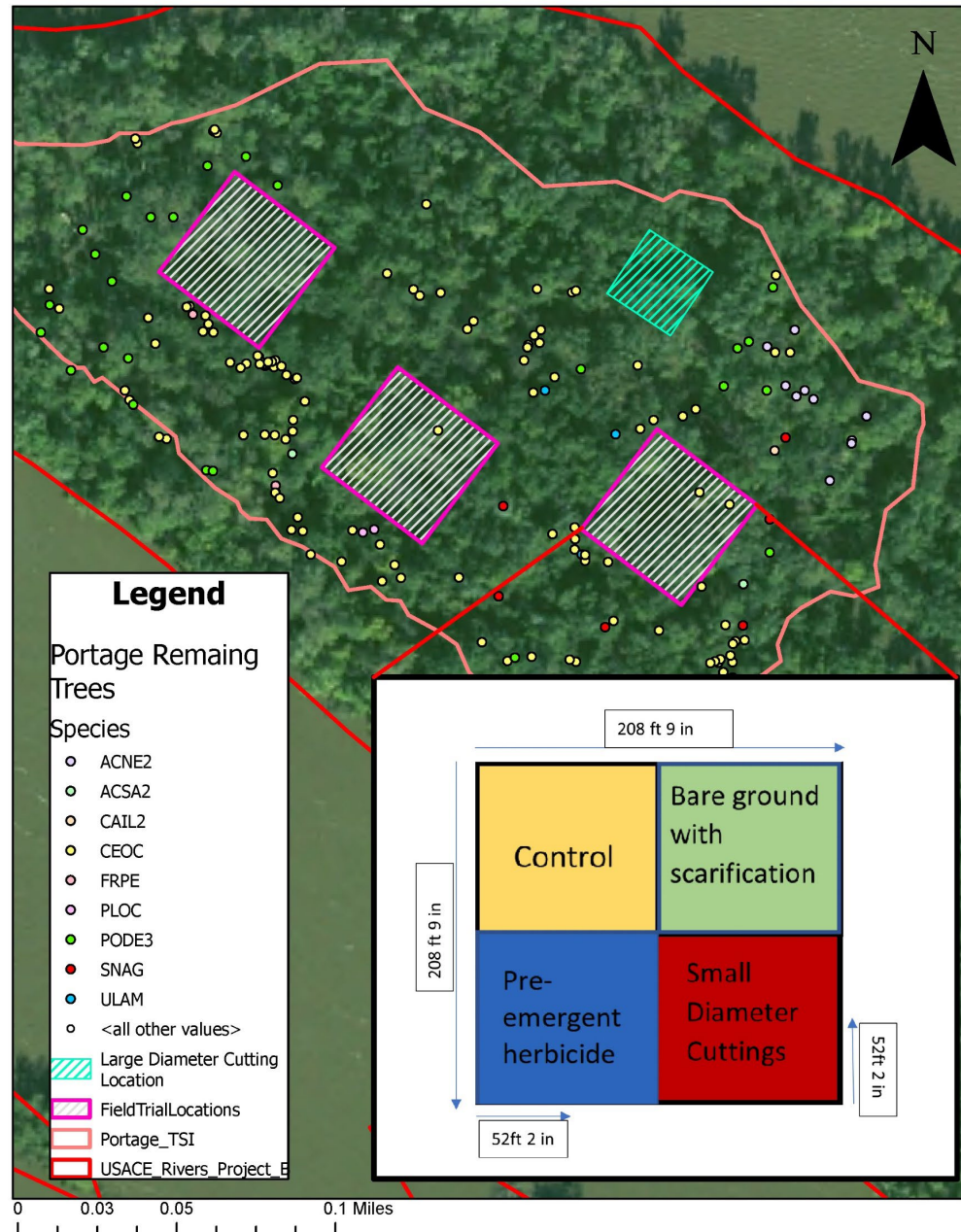
Simulated seed tree harvest Nov/Dec 2022



Simulated seed tree harvest Nov/Dec 2022



Portage Field Trial Locations



Results



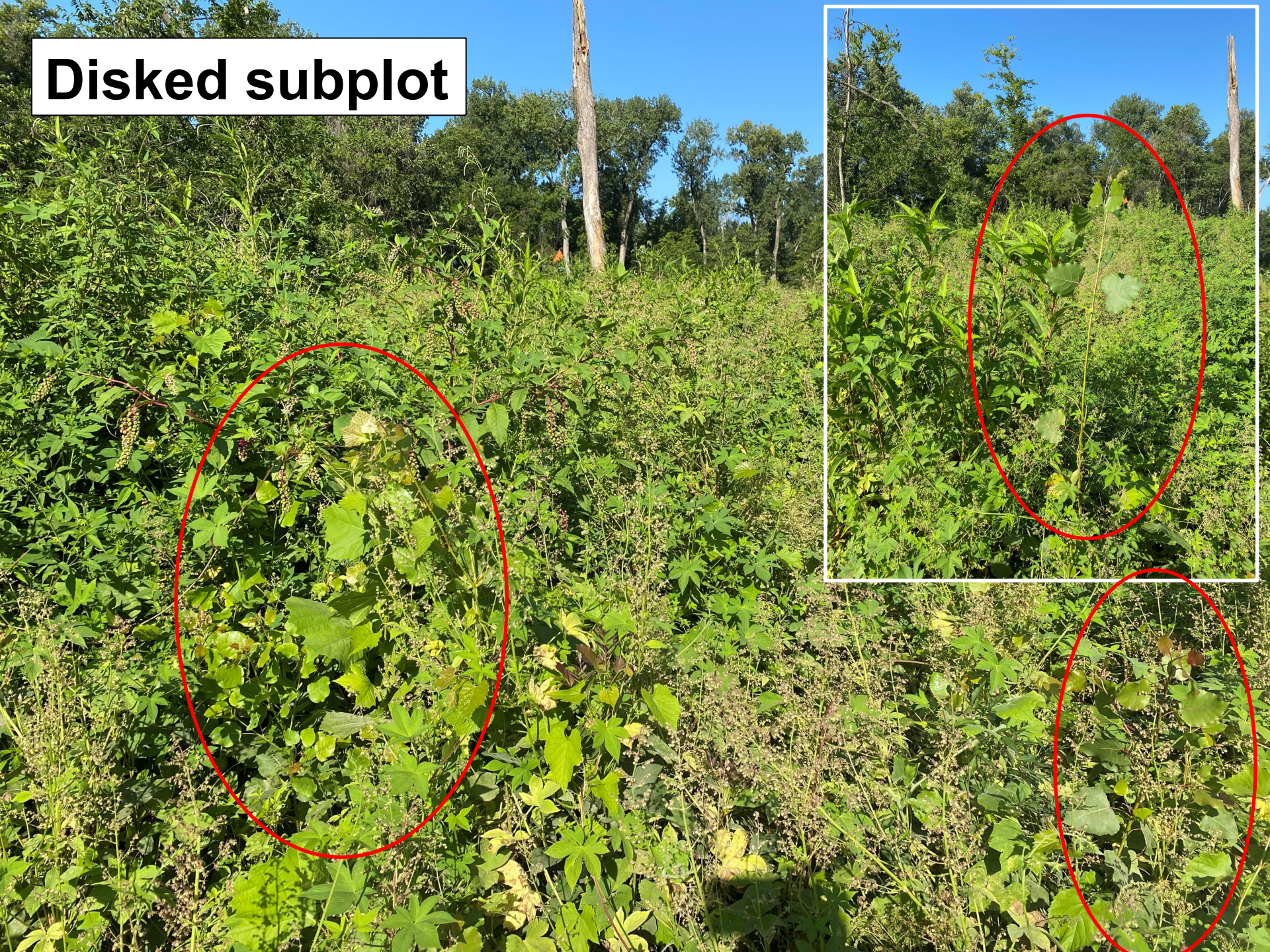
Control subplot



Disked subplot



Disked subplot



Lessons learned

- Early summer drought is bad for cottonwood recruitment
- Lack of spring flood pulse is bad for cottonwood recruitment
- Don't mulch trees on site
- Barging equipment is expensive
- Soil scarification after Japanese hops germination can be effective at reducing abundance
 - ▶ Entire area will be disked in early April 2024
 - ▶ Follow up spot treatment of Japanese hops will also take place



Questions?

