



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Baltimore District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Water Chestnut Control Research and Demonstration Project Lake Brittle, Virginia Draft Environmental Assessment

May 7, 2025

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE), is releasing a draft environmental assessment (EA) that evaluates the potential environmental effects of conducting a demonstration project to determine the effectiveness of three U.S. Environmental Protection Agency-approved aquatic herbicides, flumioxazin, imazamox, and florpyrauxifen-benzyl, in controlling the invasive two-horned water chestnut (*Trapa bispinosa*) in Lake Brittle located in Fauquier County, Virginia. This draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended.

Treatment will be conducted in early summer 2025 prior to flowering of the two-horned water chestnut to prevent mature seed production. The results will help determine the most effective herbicide, best treatment timing, potential effects on non-target species, and proper herbicide exposure times. Findings will inform future management practices and will be shared with state, regional, and local agencies, as well as nonprofits, to support broader efforts to control two-horned water chestnut in Virginia and Maryland.

Impact to local residents and the recreating public at Lake Brittle during this work is expected to be minimal and temporary. Treatment areas are small and will be reopened within approximately two hours, once the foliar application is complete and the chemicals have dried. In the long term, the work will have positive effects by reducing the spread of two-horned water chestnut, improving access for recreational activities, and enhancing the lake's overall aesthetic value. Based on the preliminary findings in the draft EA, USACE prepared a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) located in the referenced draft document.

The draft EA and FONSI are available for review at the following location:
<https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Two-Horned-Water-Chestnut/>.
Comments may be submitted using the fillable form provided on the website, or by emailing the project manager, Jacqueline Seiple, at jacqueline.a.seiple@usace.army.mil. Public comments will be accepted through June 6, 2025.

Daniel Bierly, P.E.
Chief, Civil Project Development Branch
Planning Division