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FLOWERING RUSH MANAGEMENT TIPS

Flowering rush, the only member of the family Butomaceae, is a perennial forb. The roots consist of creeping rhizomes. Reproduction is by buoyant rhizome fragments. The stems and leaves are triangular in cross section. The pink to white colored flowers have three petals and are one inch in diameter. The flowers grow in umbrella-shaped clusters. This plant is typically found in shallow-water areas such as irrigation ditches, wetlands and lake shores. Flowering rush can impede water flow and adversely affect Cutthroat Trout and Bull Trout habitat.



Long-term management and control efforts must be planned at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge. This plant is not known to be present in Gallatin County. If it is observed, please contact the Weed District.

Prevention and education are the main priorities for managing flowering rush. Thoroughly wash all watercraft and other recreational equipment and remove any plant parts that are attached to boat trailers, boat props, and other watercraft and dispose of the plant material away from the shore of the water body. This will help minimize the spread of aquatic noxious weeds from one water body to another.

Effective control measures for the management of flowering rush include:

- 1. Mechanical (digging):** Digging up plants to remove all root fragments may be effective on very small infestations but must be done carefully and diligently. Repeated digging will probably be required. Properly installed and maintained bottom barriers can effectively restrict flowering rush growth around docks.
- 2. Herbicide:** Herbicides are being researched at this time. The herbicides Habitat and Clearcast have shown relatively good season-long control, but have not provided significant rhizome kill. Consult the label for specific herbicide rates and other information. Herbicide treatments in water require the proper permits.
- 3. Cultural (revegetation):** Flowering rush tends to quickly fill in areas without aquatic plants; areas with existing aquatic vegetation are invaded more slowly. Management that promotes native plants and reduces the available habitat for flowering rush is recommended.
- 4. Integrated management:** Management of flowering rush is more effective when more than one strategy is used.