

OISC Meeting

Flowering Rush Update

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Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Flowering Rush *Butomus umbellatus* Detected in the Columbia River Umatilla County Oregon 2014



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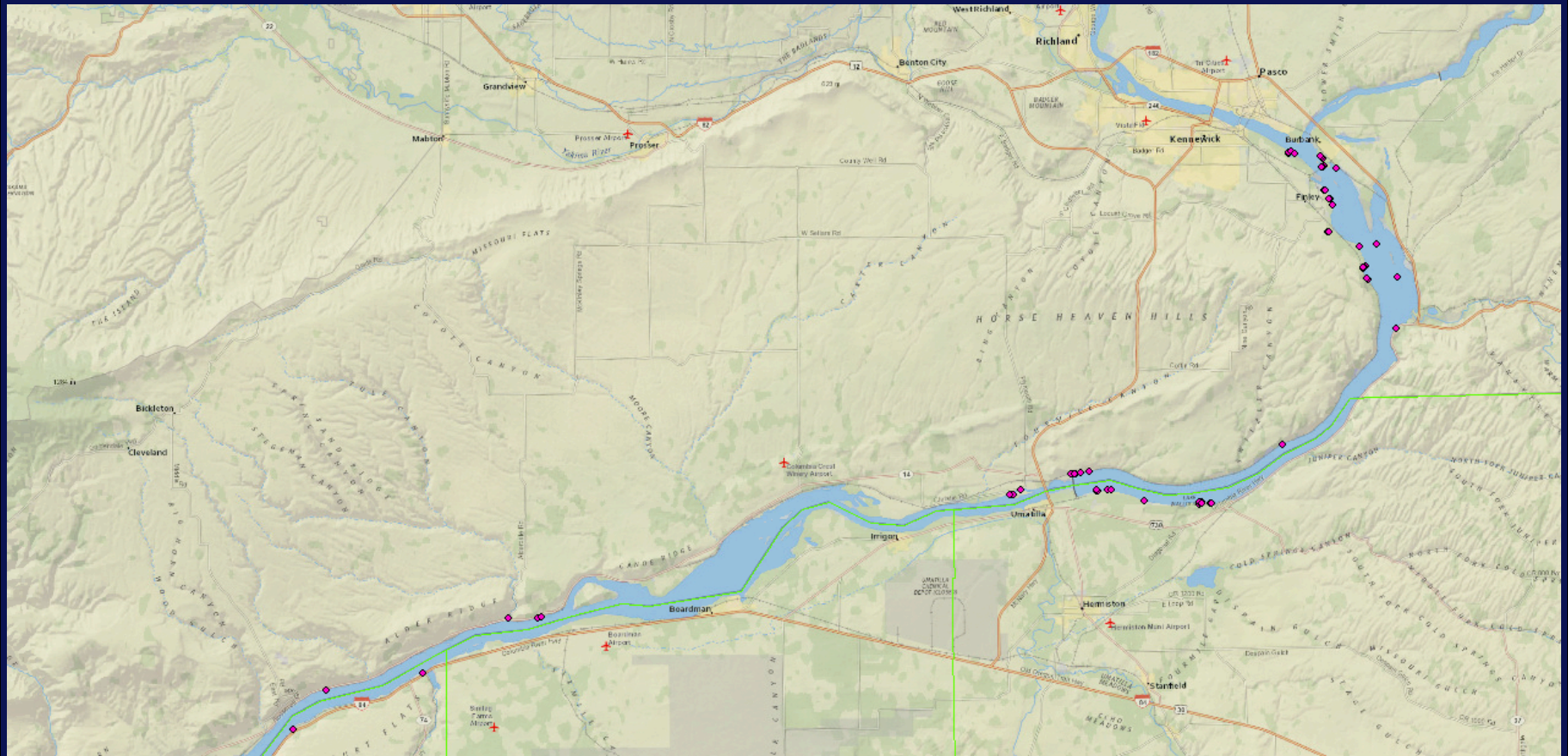


Flowering Rush *Butomus umbellatus*



- Only member of its family
- Native to Eurasia
- Emergent flower cluster
 - 20+, pinkish
 - Taller than leaves
- Triangular stems

Flowering Rush *Butomus umbellatus* Distribution



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Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)
East Bay Flathead Lake MT



Paralysis by analysis delays pulling weeds

Whoever coined the term “paralysis by analysis” must have worked for the federal government. That’s exactly what comes to mind in the case of the flowering rush. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials put the brakes on efforts to get rid of the weed, which is taking hold along the Columbia River.

Flowering rush is a nightmare for irrigators in parts of the Pacific Northwest. It grows so thick that it blocks water flowing through canals. It has now appeared along the Columbia River, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture wants to get rid of it sooner rather than later. Department managers want to send divers into the water to pull out the weed.

But wait a minute. The corps, which has jurisdiction over the river, needs to review the potential impact of pulling weeds. The federal Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act should be consulted. On top of that, an archeological assessment of cultural resources should be considered.

To pull out a weed.

Even though the corps has now decided NEPA and the cultural assessment can be skipped, it still must get the OK from the National Oceanic and Atmosphere



Rik Dalvit/For the Capital Press

Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act.

To pull out a weed. Meanwhile, the folks at ODA still hope to get rid of the weed before it goes dormant for the winter. If ODA doesn’t get the go-ahead, it might just put mats on top of the weeds to keep them from spreading.

That, however, might also require an Endangered Species Act review.

In the meantime, flowering rush has also become established upstream on the Columbia and Yakima rivers.

It may be impossible to enumerate all of the shortcomings of the Endangered Species Act

besides slowing the wheels of government, but we’ll list a few:

- Only a handful of species have recovered under the Endangered Species Act.
- More than 1,500 species are listed as threatened or endangered.
- It really doesn’t cover species so much as it covers populations. For example, 55,000 gray wolves are known to live in Canada, but right over the border in Washington state they are “endangered.” That’s nonsense. In fact, most of the wolves in Washington state appear to be overflow from Canada.
- There is no limit to the cost of species recovery. Billions of dollars have been spent in the name of the ESA.

Environmental groups use the ESA as a money tree. By suing the federal government every time it misses an ESA-mandated paperwork deadline, these groups rack up attorney fees so they can — wait for it — sue the government again.

Every time members of Congress try to make the ESA more workable, environmental groups — the main beneficiaries of the law — stop them.

Back to pulling weeds. We’re not sure which endangered species are protected while the federal agencies are doing their thing under the Endangered Species Act, but we do know that one species will continue to flourish: flowering rush.

Capitol Press
Editorial
November
2014

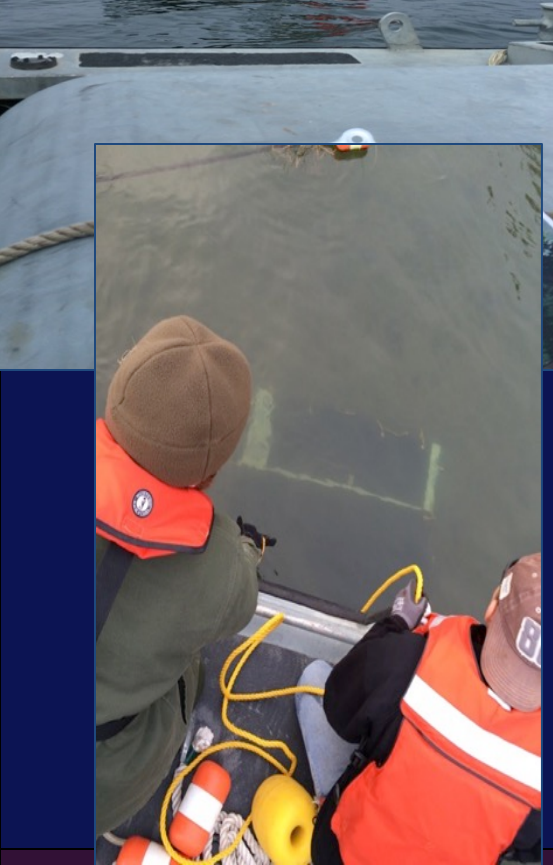


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USACE/ODA Flowering Rush Matting January 2015



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USAC Flowering Rush DASH August 2015



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Flowering Rush *Butomus umbellatus*

Accomplishments



- Formation of OR WA Workgroup
- Engaged ACE
- Implementation of Survey & Integrated Control
- WAISC Pulling Together Grant
- Formation of CB CWMA
- Congressional Funding
- Regional FR Plan



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Flowering Rush Accomplishments



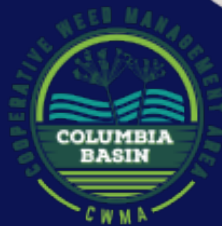
Aquatic Plant Control Program.—Of the funding recommended for the Aquatic Plant Control Program: \$1,000,000 shall be for activities for monitoring, surveys, and control of flowering rush; \$5,000,000 shall be for nationwide research and development to address invasive aquatic plants, within which the Corps is encouraged to support cost-shared aquatic plant management programs; \$5,000,000 shall be for watercraft inspection stations and rapid response, as authorized by section 1039 of WRRDA, as amended; and \$1,000,000 shall be for related monitoring

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COLUMBIA BASIN COOPERATIVE WEED MANAGEMENT
AREA

COLUMBIA BASIN FLOWERING RUSH MANAGEMENT PLAN



Questions?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDWChNwJMIM>



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