

CLEAN

Before leaving the launch site, check your kayak or canoe and remove any aquatic plants or animals and mud, leaving them at the site. Make sure to wash your boat with hot, soapy water. Get into all the tight spaces including within compartments, under and around seats, and at inflation chamber joints. Don't forget to clean your clothes, oars, shoes and all other gear as well. Scrubbing with a stiff brush can help remove any mud. Once thoroughly cleaned, rinse with hot water, preferably.

DRAIN

Drain standing water by inverting or tilting your boat, opening any compartments, and removing seats.

DRY

If possible, leave your boat in the sun to dry completely before your next outing. You can also use a towel to dry everything out completely. The most important thing is that the kayak or canoe is not wet and contains no standing water before your next trip.

Columbia Slough
Watershed Council

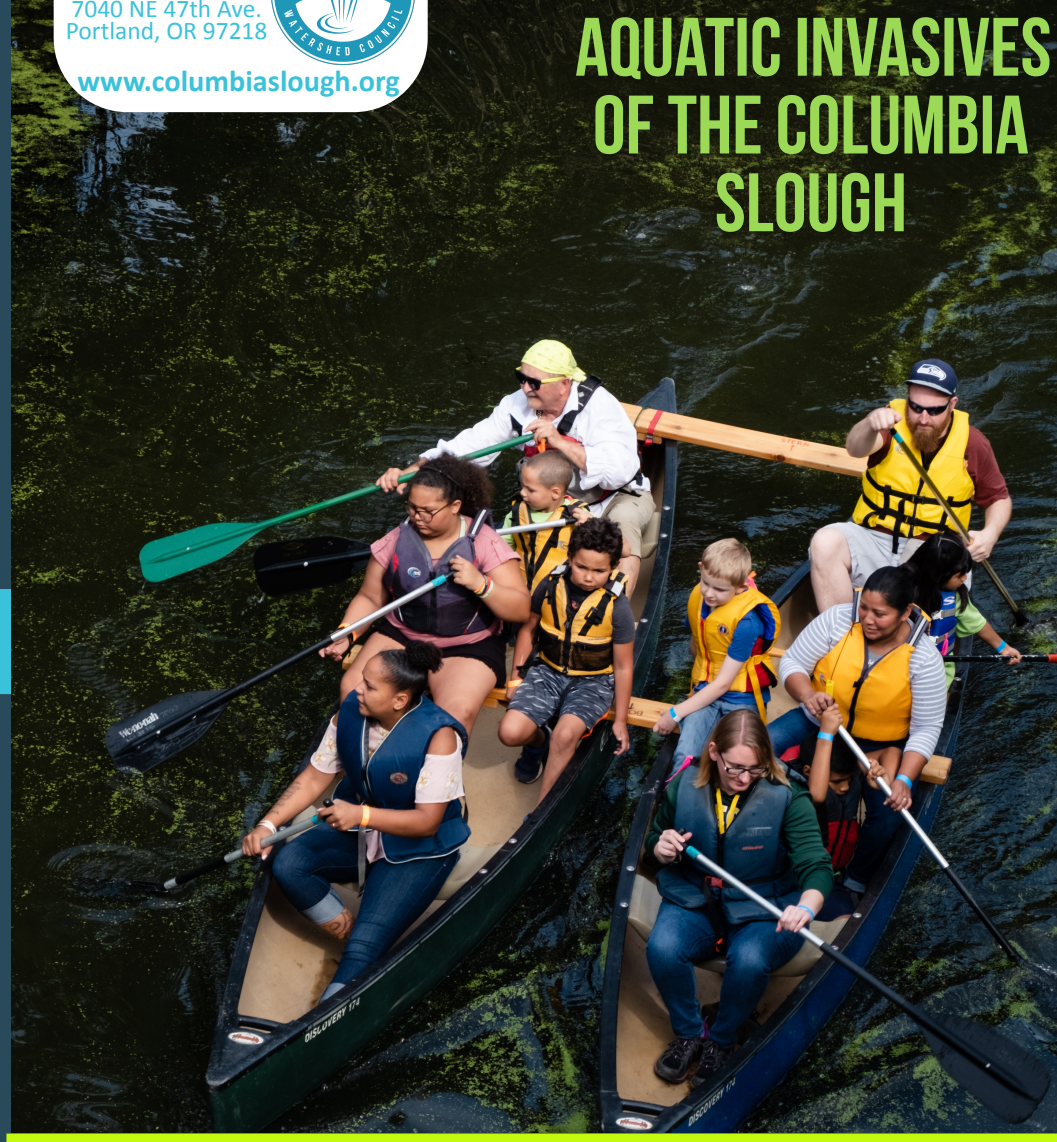
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IDENTIFICATION AND PREVENTION GUIDE

AQUATIC INVASIVES OF THE COLUMBIA SLOUGH



STOP THE SPREAD! CLEAN BOATS AND TRENDS.

Paddlers can be a major source of invasive species spread through the unintentional transport of seeds or living organisms attached to boats, or in standing water or debris trapped in the boat.

Paddlers are welcome and encouraged at the Columbia Slough, however please follow these three simple steps to help protect the Columbia Slough from aquatic invasives. These steps should be repeated before and after every adventure!

EDUCATION: RESTORATION: RECREATION

INVASIVES

PROFILE

Creates dense mats on water's surface and inhibits light and oxygen availability, disrupting healthy ecosystem functioning and native plant growth. Spreads through seeds and stem fragments.

IDENTIFICATION

Stems float on water's surface. Yellow flowers with five petals. Blooms from July to August. Smooth edges with leaves alternating on stem.



Water Primrose

PROFILE

Attach to surfaces like rocks, docks and boats. Zebra Mussels can outcompete native species for habitat and nutrients. These efficient filter feeders can deplete critical plankton populations in the ecosystem.

IDENTIFICATION

Striped "D" shaped shells the size of a thumb nail. Lighter Zebra Mussels may not have a visible pattern. Commonly misidentified as invasive Quagga Mussels.



Zebra Mussels

PROFILE

Fairly common along the Lower Columbia Slough. They provide food for many waterfowl, shorebirds, and geese. Wapato tubers are an important traditional food for indigenous people in the Pacific Northwest.

IDENTIFICATION

Aquatic perennial, rising above water level to a height of 3 ft. Found in shallow wetlands. The leaves are arrowhead shaped and the flowers have white petals. Blooms from July through September.

Wapato

NATIVES



Broadleaved Pondweed

PROFILE

Pondweed provides valuable grazing for ducks, geese, beavers, and deer. The shade and foraging opportunities that this species provides makes for good fish habitat as well. It is known as an oxygenator of ponds.

IDENTIFICATION

Submersed leaves and long and narrow, floating leaves are slightly heart-shaped at the base. Tightly packed nutlets at the tip of the weed rise above the surface of the water. Mats of leaves form aquatic beds on the surface. In flower from May to September.

PROFILE

Crowds out native plants. Promotes harmful algae growth thus reducing water oxygen content. Also increases water pH. Spreads through fragments.

IDENTIFICATION

Can root to streambed, or grow as a floating plant. 4 – 8 leaves arranged in a whorl pattern around stem. Serrated "sawtooth" edge leaves. Peanut-sized white to yellowish tubers on the ends of roots.



Hydrilla

