



2009 CSREES National Water Conference; St. Louis, MO

An Integrated Approach to Determine the Biological Impacts of the Invasive Aquatic Plant, Flowering Rush

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Abstract:

Salish Kootenai College (SKC) is leading investigations to determine the biological impacts of the invasive aquatic plant, flowering rush (*Butemous umbellatus*). Flowering rush is invading shallow aquatic habitats in Flathead Lake, the Lower Flathead River, and is becoming established in the Columbia River System. SKC Extension has an integrated approach of research, education, and outreach to investigate flowering rush impacts, determine the genetic profiles of Columbia River infestations, test control and management methods, provide undergraduate educational opportunities, and educate the public and land managers along the Columbia River System to the threat of flowering rush. Sustaining natural systems that are habitat for native fish, wildlife, and plants are essential for tribal communities. SKC works with partner institutions, cultural preservation specialists, biologists, and environmental protection authorities. Our goal is to develop a long term, regionally based, scientific approach to address serious invader of native aquatic habitats along the thousand mile river system.

Impact Statement:

We have identified environmentally acceptable control methods to help contain the infestation. Outreach efforts have educated managers in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana and launched monitoring efforts downstream.

Category: Other Water Resource Topics
Type of Presentation: Poster Presentation