

The ENEMY: Flowering Rush (*Botomus umbellatus*)

STRATEGY: This perennial plant invades waterways and was recently added to Idaho's Noxious Weed list. This plant has triangular stems and produces pink to white flowers that are shaped like an umbrella. This rhizomatous plant needs to have its bulbous roots in water or mud and can grow 3 to 5 feet above the water surface. The leaves of this plant will spiral toward the tip but are normally not noticed as the plants stems dominate the appearance. This plant is found locally along our canals and ditches (mostly in south Bingham County).

ATTACK: The plant can grow into thick vegetative pockets thus prohibiting the water from flowing as well as interfere with motor boats. The plant can wind itself around propeller shafts and plug jet boat motor intakes. When it appears in marshy areas, it normally dominates as it is undesirable for food and the wildlife selects out the forageable plants which leaves the rush behind to grow. It also causes an increase in mosquitoes due the amount of undisturbed water.

DEFENSE: The greatest defense for this weed is to not spread it around. It has been found in some ornamental ponds, so don't plant it or move it to another site. Ensure that your watercraft is clean of plant material when leaving the launching site (throw the plants onto the ground, not into the water). Once established digging this plant is difficult but may be your only option. Herbicides are a challenge as this plant has very little leaf surface and herbicides may not be used in many situations. Most groups use mechanical control as either chaining or possibly a specialized trackhoe. Help stop the spread of the weed by not moving the plant to new sites.

