

# Brazilian Elodea

## Are we ready to respond?

- ✓ **INITIAL DETECTION**  
Do standards exist for verification and are experts known?
- ✓ **THREAT-RISK EVALUATION**  
Have threats and risks to Washington been identified?
- ✓ **AUTHORITY-RESOURCE INVENTORY**  
Is the responsible agency known and is funding available?
- ✓ **DECISION TO ACT**  
Has agency approval and funding been provided?
- ✓ **RESPONSE DEVELOPMENT**  
Are control strategies known? Is an action plan in place?
- ✓ **OUTREACH TO DECISION MAKERS**  
Is the process for outreach known and ready for implementation?
- ✓ **OUTREACH TO PUBLIC**  
Is the process for outreach known and ready for implementation?  
Are key stakeholders known?
- ✓ **LEGAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL-PERMITTING PROCESS**  
Are permits in place or readily secured?

## After response actions and monitoring has occurred.

- ✓ **FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**  
Has the agency allocated funds for follow-up response actions informed by monitoring?



# ARE WE READY?

## Rapid Response Elements that are in place for **Brazilian Elodea**

### **INITIAL DETECTION. Do standards exist for verification? Are experts known?**

Yes. Brazilian elodea is easy to identify and there are many people in Washington that could identify and verify this species.

### **THREAT-RISK EVALUATION. Have threats and risks to Washington been identified?**

Yes. Brazilian elodea is listed on the Washington's state noxious weed list as a Class B noxious weed. It is also on WSDA's quarantine list.

### **AUTHORITY-RESOURCE INVENTORY. Is the responsible agency known and is funding available?**

Yes. Funds for projects targeting Brazilian elodea are available from WA Department of Ecology's Aquatic Weeds grant program. There are some site-specific eradication efforts underway in Washington (e.g., Chehalis River). Early infestation funding is available for early infestation projects targeting this species.

### **DECISION TO ACT. Has agency approval and funding been provided?**

Yes. WA Department of Ecology has an Aquatic Weeds Program that has a dedicated fund source for aquatic plant management. Ecology has made it a priority to fund Brazilian elodea eradication in the Chehalis River as it is a high priority habitat. Unfortunately, Brazilian elodea is in Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish so it is unlikely that it can be eradicated from the state (unlike hydrilla and variable-leaf milfoil). That's why it is a Class B designate rather than a Class A weed.

### **RESPONSE DEVELOPMENT. Are control strategies known? Is an action plan in place?**

Yes. Brazilian elodea is more difficult to control than some other aquatic weeds. However, there are two effective herbicides available and grass carp can also be used for control. Thurston County Noxious Weed Board used diver hand removal in the Chehalis with effective results. There is no written state plan in place for Brazilian elodea, but there are a number of site-specific integrated aquatic plant management plans for Brazilian elodea projects throughout western Washington.

### **OUTREACH TO DECISION MAKERS. Is the process for outreach known and ready for implementation?**

Yes. Ecology has a decision process in place to evaluate grant projects for funding. Brazilian elodea projects go through this decision process.

### **OUTREACH TO PUBLIC. Is the process for outreach known and ready for implementation? Are key stakeholders known?**

Yes. Outreach is handled on a site-by-site basis and generally by the local government.

### **LEGAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL – PERMITTING PROCESS. Are permits in place or readily secured?**

Yes. Permits are in place for chemicals and other permits are readily available (e.g., fish stocking permits for grass carp, Hydraulic Project Approval for hand pulling, etc.)

### **ACTION.**

### **MONITORING.**

### **FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS. Has the agency allocated funds for follow-up actions informed by monitoring?**

Yes. Brazilian elodea will continue to be a priority weed for funding in the Aquatic Weeds Program via the competitive grants cycle. Except for the Chehalis River project, Brazilian elodea projects have not been as high a priority as the Class A noxious weed eradication projects.