

Variable-leaf Milfoil



WASHINGTON STATE
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Washington Invasive
Species Council

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 have 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 **Variable-leaf Milfoil**

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

Yes. The WA State Department of Ecology has an aquatic botanist who can identify and verify variable-leaf milfoil. Because this species can be difficult to identify, Ecology can also use DNA analysis.

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

Yes. Variable-leaf milfoil is listed on the Washington's state noxious weed list as a Class A noxious Weed. It is also on WSDA's quarantine list.

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

Yes. Recently Ecology targeted some Class A noxious aquatic weeds for specific eradication funding. Variable-leaf milfoil has been identified as one of the species that are targeted. Ecology works in partnership with local governments (generally weed boards) to develop and implement eradication plans. Ecology and its partners have committed to eradicate variable-leaf milfoil from the five lakes where it is currently located.

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

Yes. Ecology has an Aquatic Weeds Program that has a dedicated fund source for aquatic plant management. Variable-leaf milfoil eradication is one of the Class A noxious weed eradication projects that Ecology has made a priority for funding and technical assistance.

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

Yes and no. Variable-leaf milfoil is reported to be difficult to control. However, some herbicide treatments seem to have been effective in Washington. Also hand pulling seems to work well on small infestations. The state and its local partners are using an adaptive management approach to develop eradication techniques. There is no written plan in place, but meetings are held several times each year to evaluate control efficacies.

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

Yes.

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

Yes. Local government handles public outreach for the current variable-leaf milfoil eradication project. Ecology can issue press releases and has professional information officers available.

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 response actions informed by monitoring?

Yes. Ecology has taken this on as a special eradication project and will continue to allocate funding for this purpose.