

FLOWERING RUSH

Butomus umbellatus
Butomaceae, the flowering rush family
Category: Control

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Flowering rush is an aquatic plant that is extremely productive and can overtake natural ecosystems, displacing native species.
- It can tolerate a wide range of temperatures and infestations will impede recreational opportunities and interfere with water distribution systems.

Description

- Submerged and/or emergent aquatic perennial.
- Can grow up to 5 feet tall and survive in 20 feet of water.
- Leaves are fleshy, lanceolate, and triangular at cross-section.
- 3-petaled, pink to white flowers that form umbels and sit atop long cylindrical stalks.
- Roots are thick, fleshy, and rhizomatous.
- Seeds can float, are brown and contained in an indehiscent capsule.

Introduction and Movement

- Flowering rush is native to Eurasia and was likely introduced as a garden plant for ornamental purposes.
- It inhabits wetlands, canals, lakes, streams and can grow in fast or slow moving water. The plant reproduces through seed production and rhizomes, and can be easily dispersed by water flow and hitching a ride on recreational equipment.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify flowering rush and eradicate infestations on your property.
- When gardening, always research plants before planting and only purchase seeds from licensed nurseries.
- Dispose of unwanted vegetation by burning, composting, or drying out completely.
- When boating, make sure to clean off any vegetative materials when leaving each waterbody and before launching into another.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW AND CLEAN & DRAIN & DRY**

Sources

- Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species information System Fact Sheet: <https://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/greatlakes/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=1100&Potential=N&Type=0>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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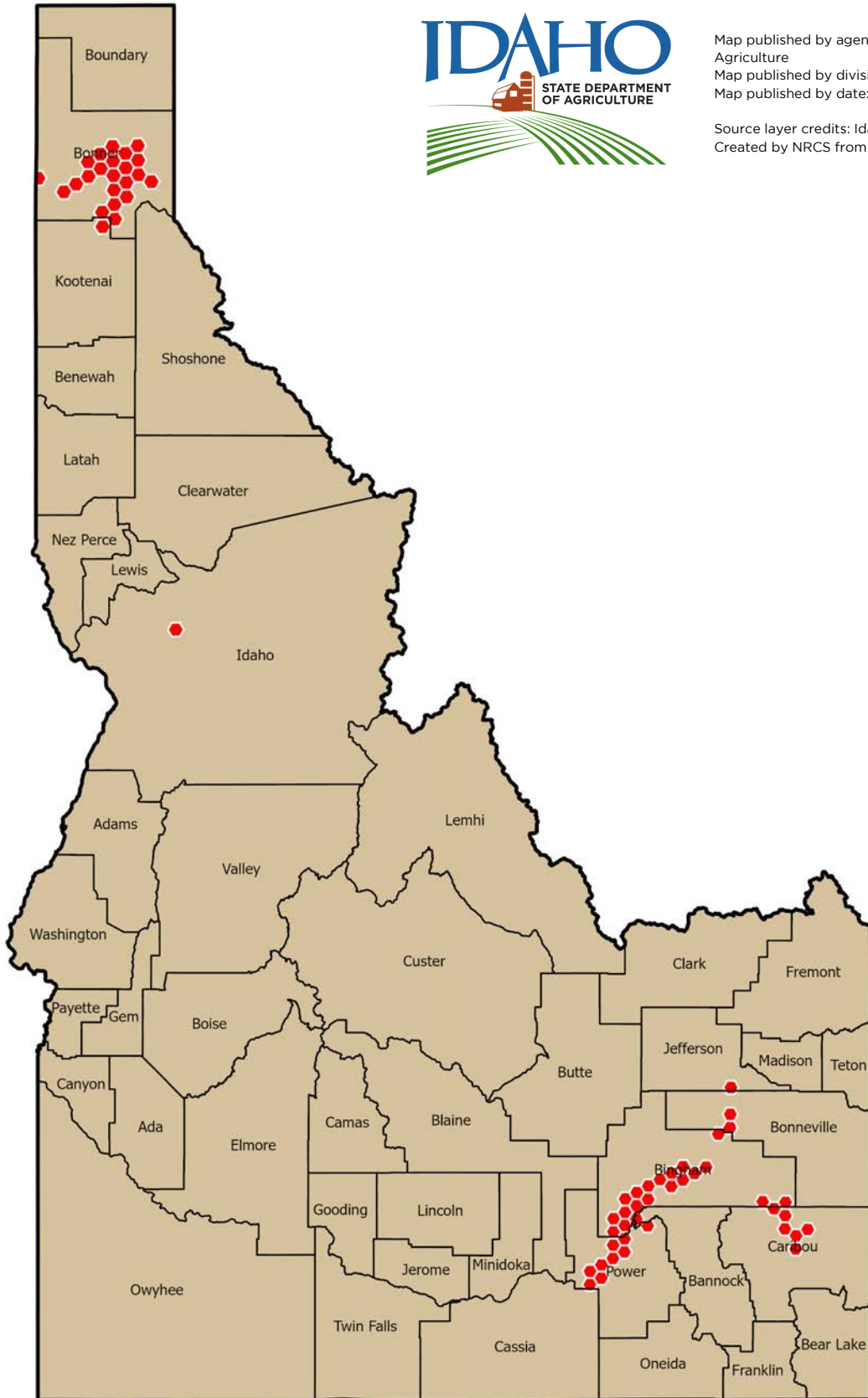


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FLOWERING RUSH DISTRIBUTION MAP



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