

A base line map of the entire infestation was created in 2005 and will be used for monitoring and evaluation. The project was expanded in 2006 with the Chehalis Tribe adding a removal project to the efforts of 2005.



A boat full of Elodea -2005.



Chehalis Tribe removing Elodea.



Water being separated from Elodea.



Elodea removed from the river

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The Chehalis River Brazilian Elodea Removal Project



What is Brazilian Elodea?

Brazilian Elodea (*Egeria densa*) is a non-native submersed freshwater aquatic plant.

It is found in both still and flowing waters, in lakes, ponds, pools, ditches and streams.



Brazilian Elodea creates beds of floating vegetation that restricts water movement.



This plant displaces native submersed plants, such as native elodea, pondweeds, and coontail.

Where did it come from?

Brazilian Elodea is native to South America. It has been a popular aquarium plant, the sale of this plant in Washington State is prohibited.

It was found in 1998 in the Chehalis River while surveying for purple loosestrife and parrotfeather. It is the only infested site in Thurston County.

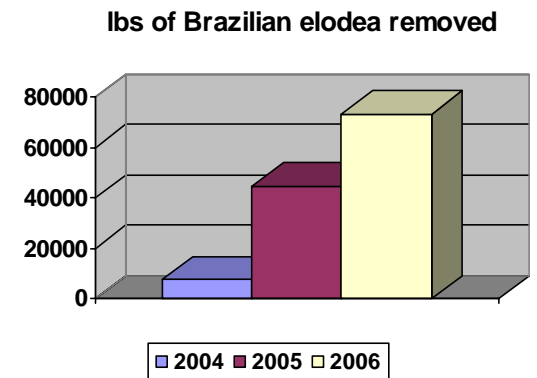


It was most likely introduced into the river by someone dumping the contents of their home aquarium into Plummer Lake, in Centralia. The plant has spread 15 river miles downstream from the point of introduction.

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In Thurston County, the Noxious Weed Control program began removing individual plants as early as 1999. Hand removal continued to 2003 when the infestations became so large that individual hand removal was no longer practical. Funding was provided by D.N.R. .

The Elodea Removal project began with a pilot project funded by D.N.R. in 2004. The project was expanded in 2005 with funding from U.S Fish and Wildlife. In 2006 the Chehalis Tribe joined the project by contributing to the removal in Thurston County, and performing removal of elodea in the Chehalis River near Centralia.



Washington State Department of Natural Resources continues to contribute, as well as Thurston County.

The goal of this project is to remove as much Brazilian elodea from the Chehalis River as possible, which will prevent new infestations. Removal will increase water movement resulting in higher dissolved oxygen and lower water temperatures. Removal will also decrease sediment retention. The method of removal includes diver suction dredging to remove the entire plant and root structure. The plants are then transported away from the river and disposed of in an approved upland location.