

**IMPACTS OF TERRESTRIAL WEEDS ON AQUATIC HABITATS
AND THE ANGLERS AGAINST WEEDS PROGRAM^{AFS}**

Robert H. Wiltshire
Federation of Fly Fishers
215 East Lewis St., Livingston, MT 59047
iffc@fedflyfishers.org

Invasive weeds infest millions of acres in the Western U.S. resulting in diminished ecosystem diversity, loss of productivity and expensive control projects. Although no studies have been conducted that directly measure the impacts of terrestrial weeds on riparian and aquatic habitats, existing data suggests that the impacts may be significant. Increased water

runoff, increased sediment transport and loss of native vegetation can all be expected from noxious weed infestation. Control of weeds in riparian areas is problematic. Few herbicides can safely be used in these areas and biological control is often not effective. Anglers Against Weeds is a program that enlists outdoor recreationists in riparian control efforts to create weed free access sites. This program results in healthier riparian areas, an informed sporting public and improved landowner/ angler relations.

Note: Results from this study were published in the Int. J. Sci. 9(2/3):59-61.