

Breadcrumb

1. [Home](#)
2. Print
3. Pdf
4. Node
5. Entity Print

# **APHIS Seeks Comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Release of the insect, *Bagous nodulosus*, for the biological control of Flowering Rush in the Continental United States**

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is making available to the public the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the release of the insect *Bagous nodulosus* for the biological control of flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) in the Continental United States.

The EA analyzes the potential environmental effects of *Bagous nodulosus* to reduce the severity of flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) infestations, an invasive aquatic perennial plant. We are making the EA available for public review and comment.

Anyone wishing to view or comment on the EA can at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). Enter APHIS-2024-0032 in the Search field. Select the Documents tab, then select the Comment button in the list of documents. Comments can also be sent to Docket No. APHIS-2024-0032, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

All comments received will be considered and may result in changes to the proposed actions. For further information contact: Dr. Jinbo Wang, Assistant Director, Pests, Pathogens, and Biocontrol Permits, Permitting and Compliance Coordination, PPQ, APHIS, 4700 River Road Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238; (301) 851-2327; email: [Jinbo.Wang@usda.gov](mailto:Jinbo.Wang@usda.gov).

Comments will be accepted until October 3, 2024.