

Vegetation Destruction of Rainbow River Aquatic Preserve Alarming

Submerged and emergent vegetation in the Rainbow River is essential to support the full aquatic community. If the native plants are lost, the life systems from benthic organisms and snails to fish and birds will be significantly reduced.

Dramatic expansion of recreational use of the Rainbow River has led to damage of the vegetation. The photos below, taken by J.P. Davis in mid July of 2009, show the floating of a single plant that later collects with others into large mats and finally covers the full river width at the convergence of the Rainbow and Withlacoochee Rivers.





Dense mats of vegetation gathering in eddies and snares



Uprooted aquatic vegetation covering the width of the Rainbow River at the Withlacoochee