

Invasive American Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) Friend or foe?

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Disturbance on an ecosystem may bring it to a different state than before the disturbance. Recovering from this disturbance could be a simple matter of time or may involve more complex situations. Some ecosystems develop stable alternate states from which they cannot easily be restored. American Bullfrog has been introduced in a many habitats affecting variety of organisms by preying on them and by outcompeting others. However the impact that they do in the ecosystem has seldom being quantified experimentally. In this contribution we eradicated Bullfrogs from a section of the Mora River and left another one unchanged and monitored the abundance of other aquatic organism in both sites to assess the impact of Bullfrogs. Bullfrogs exert top down control on many aquatic organisms. They negatively affect the abundance of Northern Crayfish (*Orconectes virilis*), another invasive, as well as fishes and keep fish parasites to a lower level. Elimination of Bullfrogs seems to be associated with an irruption of Northern Crayfish. While the data are preliminary and we expect the response to the eradication to take several years, at this point we are asking the question of whether eliminating Bullfrogs helped or hurt the ecosystem. Northern Crayfish are an aggressive invader that can make tremendous impact on the ecosystem. Monitoring this population in the long term will allow us to know if the Crayfish crashes after the initial irruption, or if it finds an alternate state where it is more harmful to the ecosystem than when the Bullfrogs were present.