THE INFLUENCE OF MOWING ON CHANGES IN THE REED OVERGROWING SEDGE MEADOW

Key words: mowing resumption, reed expansion, sedge meadow

Summary

Expansion of reed (Phragmites australis Trin. ex Steud.) is a serious threat to natural wetland ecosystems in the Biebrza National Park. In the years 1999-2002 autumn mowing (combined with biomass removal) of intensively overgrowing by reed moss-sedge communities near Grobla Hon-czarowska was resumed after 40 years break. The experiment was carried out in plots - a control one (without mowing) and plot mowed (by hand) every year.

Results of the four years study did not confirm the limiting effect of mowing on reed (Phragmites australis Trin. ex Steud.) expansion. Mowing restricted, however, the rate of other unfavourable changes in community structure which accompanied reed domination - it mainly limited the elimination of less competitive species. Due to every year mowing, plant biomass did not accumulate in winter which enhanced the reconstruction of moss layer of the community.

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