



REPORT

To: Invasive Plant Committee

Report Number: ENV-IPC-007

From: Daris Gillis, Environmental Services Manager

Date: December 7, 2021

Subject: 2022 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Invasive Plant Committee recommend that the Regional Board approve '2022 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan' as presented, which includes concentration on treatment and control of PRRD properties, an amendment of Bylaw No. 2121, 2014 to focus on education, outreach and warning tickets, condensing the annual work plan to strategically focus on prioritization of lands within the PRRD and to support established programs throughout the province and sharing of educational materials and resources; further, that the "2022 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan" be published on the Regional District website.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

That the Invasive Plant Committee receive the report entitled "2021 Invasive Plant Program Annual Report" for information; further, that the report be placed on the consent agenda of the next Board meeting for the Board's information.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Invasive Plant Strategic Plan and Profile outlines a detailed work plan for PRRD invasive plant management and program activities which align with the PRRD's strategic focus areas as well as the overarching invasive plant program goal, which is to:

- Protect the region's economy, environment and social values from invasive plants; and
- Ensure that existing infestations are managed using an integrated pest management approach.

The Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plants Monitoring Committee (SPPIPMC) reviewed the draft 2022 Invasive Strategic Plan and Profile document at their meeting on November 30, 2021. At the meeting, Committee members provided comments and the document was revised to reflect the comments.

Included in the strategic plan is the invasive plant categorization list. The list is reviewed and revised every three years and was up for review in 2021. The SPPIPMC revised the plant list at the November 30th meeting. Revisions made to the list include the downgrading of some plants from the Regional Early Detection and Rapid Response (REDRR) category to a different priority and addition of other plants to the REDRR list.

This year staff are presenting two different options for the 2022 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan. The plan options reflect different detailed work plans and program activities. A summary of each of the strategic plan options are provide below.

Option 1

This recommended option is different from previous strategic plans. The plan still maintains a focus on education and awareness, however changes include:

- Concentration on treatment and control of PRRD properties including landfills, transfer stations, and lagoons.
- Amendment of Invasive Plant Control Bylaw No. 2121, 2014 to focus on Education and Outreach and warning tickets only, further actions will be reported to the Provincial ministry responsible for enforcing the *Weed Control Act*.
- The annual work plan is condensed to strategically focus on prioritization of lands within the PRRD.
- Support of established programs throughout the province and sharing of educational materials and resources.

The budget for this option is described in detail in the “2022 Invasive Plant Budget Pre-Approval – ENV-IPC-008” report and is significantly less than prior years.

Option 2

This option is similar to previous strategic plans with a comparable budget. This budget has an annual work plan like years previous. This option has a larger budget compared to Option 1 as it requires significantly more staffing.

This option is similar to previous strategic plans with a comparable budget. This budget has an annual work plan like years previous. This option has a larger budget compared to Option 1 as it requires significantly more staffing.

- Treatment and control of PRRD properties including landfills, transfer stations, and lagoons as well as support for other jurisdictions.
- Retain Invasive Plant Control Bylaw No. 2121, 2014 with the current compliance and enforcement structure.
- The annual work plan is the same as in previous years.

The budget for this option is described in detail in the “2022 Invasive Plant Budget Pre-Approval – ENV-IPC-008” report.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Invasive Plant Committee recommend that the Regional Board approve the “Option 2 -2022 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan” for publication to the Regional District’s website.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Partnerships

- ☒ Collaboration with Local and First Nations governments
- ☒ Inter-provincial collaboration with Alberta local governments

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The budgets details are provided in the “2022 Invasive Plant Budget Pre-Approval – ENV-IPC-008” report on the December 7th IPC Committee agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Each strategic plan option has an accompanying list to describe the actions that will need to be taken if the option is approved. The action list is on the cover page of each of the attached drafts of the 2022 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan.

Attachments:

1. Option 1 – Draft 2022 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan
2. Option 2 – Draft 2022 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan
3. 2021 Invasive Plant Program Annual Report