



REPORT

To: Invasive Plant Committee

Report Number: ENV-IPC-018

From: Environmental Services

Date: February 13, 2025

Subject: Invasive Plant Program 2024 Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Invasive Plant Committee receive and forward the 'Invasive Plant Program 2024 Annual Report', which outlines the 2024 annual work plan and what was accomplished by the Peace River Regional District invasive plant management program activities, to the Regional Board.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Invasive Plant Strategic Plan and Profile outlines a detailed annual 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.

Each year, progress for the work plan activities is summarized in an annual report and provided to the Invasive Plant Committee for information.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Invasive Plant Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Collaboration and Cooperation with First Nations
- Interprovincial Collaboration

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

The 2024 Invasive Plant Program Report will be posted on the Invasive Plant page of the PRRD website after the report is received by the Regional Board.








OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):










None at this time.







Attachments:








1. Invasive Plant Program 2024 Annual Report

2024 Invasive Plant Program Work Plan Priorities and Results

Priorities	Results
Planning	
 Update the list of PRRD owned/occupied properties and cross-reference the properties for historical invasive plant infestation using the Report Invasives data.	An updated list was created for the Area Controller contract including the removal of several relinquished solid waste sites and a community park.
 Create a schedule of treatment months to ensure proper timing of treatment.	Treatments occurred from June-September 2024 by MGP Contracting.
 Inventory current outreach materials and update/purchase as required.	Purchased 1000 Invasive Plant Books and shared with community groups and events as requested.
 Amend all accompanying legislation and ancillary documentation to be consistent with the current strategic plan direction.	There were no changes to legislation or ancillary documents that required updates in 2024.
Inventory and Surveys	
 Site visits required for 1/3 of PRRD owned/occupied lands.	Area Contractor visited all PRRD sites as per the contractual obligations. 63 sites were treated, and all parks and Solid Waste and wastewater sites were monitored for efficacy.
Treatment	
 Treat all invasive species surveyed/inventoried on PRRD owned/occupied lands using the designated three pass system.	All PRRD sites were visited and infested sites were treated an average 1-4 times as necessary.
Treatment Monitoring	
 This is the first year of the Area Controllers contract, 30% of the PRRD sites will be monitored for treatment in 2024.	Sites were visually inspected for treatment efficacy during site inspections throughout the season during scheduled or routine facility and property inspections by PRRD Field Services staff.

Data Entry	
 Enter 100% of inventory, survey, or treatment documentation into the InvasivesBC database.	100% of the collected inventory, survey and treatment documentation was entered into the InvasivesBC database by the area controller.
Education and Awareness	
 Continue to offer Regional support to stakeholders through invasive plant ID, outreach materials, integrated pest management planning information, and best management practices.	Provided inserts for the Peace River Forage Association summer newsletter, provided invasive plant identification and treatment documentation as requested by landowners and oil and gas operators.
 Update educational materials to reflect the 2022 changes in the PRRD Invasive Plant Prioritization lists.	In 2024, there were 34 posts, 50 likes, and 58 shares with 20 posts having comments.
 Purchase and/or share new educational materials as they come available and if they are applicable within the PRRD.	Materials were provided during a Peace River Forage Association Field Day and to the Dawson Creek Gardening Club.
 PRRD staff will continue to attend professional development activities as per their work plans.	Staff attended professional development outlined in their annual workplans.
 PRRD staff will continue to develop new and useful materials to deliver to PRRD residents.	No new materials were created this year.
Coordination and Partnership Building	
 Provide invasive plant control and awareness grants to regional First Nations interested in prevention and control of invasive plant infestations in their communities.	No were requests were made for support.
 Hold one SPPIP and a minimum of two IPCPRD meetings.	An IPCPRD budget meeting was held in January of 2024 and a planning meeting is scheduled for December 2024.
 Continue to support Invasive Species Council of BC programs.	“Plantwise,” “Don’t let it loose,” “Clean Drain Dry,” “PlayCleanGo” are all communicated through the PRRD.

 Participate in provincial coordination meetings and interprovincial meetings as requested and applicable.	<p>No meetings were requested.</p>
 Continue to partner with industry to promote Best Management practices by offering plant identification resources, offering free commercial dumping at the three local landfills, and partnering in outreach events.	<p>Free dumping was offered at the three landfills this season (North Peace, Bessborough, and Chetwynd) for both residential and commercial users. Bessborough received 4,570kg (2270 residential, 2300 commercial), Chetwynd received 23,820kg (280 residential, 23,540 commercial), and North Peace received 9,830kg (6560 residential, 3270 commercial) and manned transfer sites Dawson Creek 3160 kg (Residential 3140, Commercial 20) Prespatou 1199 kg (all residential), Cecil Lake 8 bags, Rolla 35 bags, Rose Prairie 14 bags, Pink Mountain 120 bags, Tomslake 1 bag.</p>
 Continue to work with local governments and municipalities increase residents' awareness of invasive plant species through joint inspections and sharing of outreach materials.	<p>No support was requested from other local governments in 2024.</p>
<p>Provincial EDRR Support</p>	
 When requested, invasive plant program staff will support the efforts of the Provincial EDRR staff in verifying reported infestations and coordinating any further actions required.	<p>No EDRR support was requested in 2024.</p>
<p>Report Invasives BC Verification</p>	
 Staff will continue to promote the Report Invasives BC app through PRRD communication.	<p>Staff continued to promote the Report Invasives BC app when in contact with residents discussing invasive plants.</p>
 Follow-up within five working days of receipt of all invasive plant reports received by the PRRD.	<p>22 weed reports were received via phone call, and email. Invasive plant occurrences outside PRRD jurisdiction or bylaw parameters were forwarded to the Ministry for action.</p>
<p>Reporting and Data Management</p>	

 Provide updates to the Regional Board on operational activities conducted through the program as requested.	As per requests.
 Write a 2024 annual report	The deadline is January 31, 2025.
 Maintain the Strategic Plan and Profile to reflect current operations will be approved by the IPCPRRD committee and referred to the Regional Board for final approval.	Suggestions for improvements and updates will be presented at the December 2024 meeting.
 Post all operational plans on the PRRD website for shareholders to utilize.	Completed April 2024.
Special Projects	
 Continue to promote the Destroy Daisy Campaign to increase public awareness of invasive daisies such as scentless chamomile and oxeye daisy.	The campaign was not run in 2024, due to a communication staffing shortage.
 Free invasive plant dumping for all users (residential and commercial) will continue at the three local landfills (Bessborough, Chetwynd, and North Peace) and expand to include manned transfer stations with a compactor bin.	In 2024, 42,579 kg of invasive plants were received at the local landfills and transfer stations, 29,130 kg from commercial/industrial sources, and 13,449 kg from residents. A decrease of 431 kg from 2023.
 Hire two seasonal staff for the field season from May 1 – September 1 cost shared with Parks.	Two seasonal staff were hired to support the Invasive Plant Program. They handed out materials and visited weed complaint sites to verify complaint details.

Referred Feb 13, 2025 by the Invasive Plant Committee