

REPORT

To: Invasive Plant Committee Report Number: ENV-IPC-019

From: Environmental Services Date: February 13, 2025

Subject: 2025 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan and Profile

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Invasive Plant Committee receive and forward the '2025 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan', which outlines the 2025 detailed workplan for the regional invasive plant program, to the Regional Board.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Invasive Plant Strategic Plan and Profile outlines a detailed work plan for PRRD invasive plant management and program activities that 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 2025 Invasive Strategic Plan and Profile document at their meeting on December 2, 2024. Committee members provided feedback, and the document was revised to reflect the comments. The 2025 strategic plan is relatively unchanged from the 2024 plan, except for an additional work task to support 'Coordination and Partnership Building'. If the PRRD is successful in receiving provincial funding, the Invasive Plant program will utilize the additional funds to provide invasive plant control and awareness grants to regional First Nations interested in the prevention and control of invasive plant infestations in their communities.

Included in the strategic plan is the invasive plant categorization list. The list is reviewed and revised every three years. The last revision was completed in 2022. The list is set to be reviewed this fall for implementation in 2026.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Invasive Plant Committee provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

☑ Organizational Effectiveness

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The draft 2025 Invasive Plants budget is reflective of the outlined work within the 2025 Invasive Plant Strategic Plan and Profile. The draft budget is included in this February 13, 2025 agenda as '2025 Function 520 Invasive Plants Draft Budget ENV-IPC-017'.

Staff Initials: DG Dept. Head: KB CAO: Shawn Dahlen Page 1 of 2

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, the 2025 Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan' will use. Regional District website.



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PRRD STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS



Our Role:

The PRRD plays a vital role in providing a variety of regional, subregional and local services that are valued by our residents and contribute to a high quality of life. We collaborate with other local governments, First Nations, agencies and volunteer organizations to deliver services and address challenges and needs in the region. As a regional government, we provide leadership and use our influential, collective voice to advocate on behalf of our residents, businesses and industry in support of a prosperous economy, a healthy natural environment and resilient, inclusive and livable communities.



Our Commitments:

As we fulfill our obligations and responsibilities as a regional government, the PRRD will:



COMMUNICATE AND ENGAGE with our residents and stakeholders.



COLLABORATE AND COOPERATE with our partners.



Be **CONSISTENT** in the application of our policies and decisions.



The Invasive Plant Program's goal is to protect our economy, environment, and social values from invasive plants and to ensure that existing infestations are managed using an integrated pest management approach.



Sociocultural

Why Care About Invasive Plants?

A **weed** is any plant growing where it is not wanted, often competing with cultivated plants. In British Columbia, invasive plants are species that are not native to the province, or are outside of their natural distribution, and can negatively impact British Columbia's environment, people and/or economy. (IMISWG 2014). Once established, invasive plants can:

Endanger public health and safety by increasing allergies or by having toxic properties harming humans, pets, livestock, and wildlife.

Outcompete native vegetation and destroy natural habitats.

Reduce agriculture forage yields and hay quality.

Increase wildfire hazards and interfere with the regeneration of forests.

Decrease land values and impact recreation areas.

Accelerate soil erosion and cause stream sedimentation with negative impacts on water quality.

Noxious weeds are invasive plants referred to in the provincial *Weed Control Act 2024*. Noxious weeds are also referred to in local government bylaws. Legislation requires that all occupiers of lands manage infestations of noxious weeds, as they negatively affect our economic, environmental, and social values. The list of provincial noxious weeds is found in Appendix 6.

All invasive plants currently a concern for the PRRD are listed in the four categories outlined in the Plant Species Invasiveness on page 16 of this plan. The lists also contain native plants that trouble the agriculture sector. These plants are prioritized to assist land managers working within the PRRD, focusing on invasive plants of concern within the region. Detailed information for identification and management strategies for each plant can be found in the PRRD Invasive Plant List and Descriptions document on the PRRD website.

Legislation, Compliance & Enforcement

Legislation Involved

Invasive plant management is enforced by federal and provincial legislation, and through local bylaws. In the PRRD, there are two main pieces of legislation used to enforce invasive plants: the PRRD Invasive Plant Control Amendment Bylaw No. 2482, 2022, which is enforced on privately owned lands, and the

Weed Control Act and its regulations, which are enforceable on both publicly and privately owned lands. The owner or occupier of real property must control any listed invasive plants on the property.

The Weed Control Act, section 2 states:

"An Occupier must control noxious weeds growing or located on land and premises and on any other property located on land and premises, occupied by that person."

Bylaw No. 2482, section 3 states:

"No person who is an Owner or Occupier of Real Property shall allow any Invasive Plant or Noxious Weed to grow on that Real Property"

The General Manager of Environmental Services, the Environmental Services Manager, and the Area Controller are designated as Weed Inspectors / Weed Control Officers and are responsible for enforcing these two pieces of legislation.

Compliance and Enforcement Regime

The Invasive Plant Program strives to ensure the compliance and enforcement (C&E) model is fair, objective, & transparent. The progressive model consists of three steps:

- 1. Outreach and Education
- 2. Warning Notice

3. Refer the file to Ministry-appointed Compliance & Enforcement Officers.

C&E decisions rely on reports from stakeholders, Report Invasives and Invasives BC data, and physical evidence collected during the inspection process. To remain objective in decisions, the PRRD relies on the detailed policies and procedures outlined in the Compliance & Enforcement Manual.

Invasive Plant Committees of the Peace River Regional District

Structure

The Invasive Plant Program is a part of the PRRD's Environmental Services Department. The program has two separate committees that provide advice and direction to operations. The first is the Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plants Monitoring Committee (SPPIP), and the second is the Invasive Plant Committee of the Peace River Regional District (IPCPRRD), respectfully.

The SPPIP is comprised of stakeholders and individuals, interested in invasive plant management within the Regional District. The terms of reference for this committee found are in Appendix 1.

The IPCPRRD is a Regional Board Advisory Committee with three directors appointed by the Chair of the Regional Board. The General Manager of Environmental Services and the Manager of Environmental Services support the IPCPRRD, and together consider issues that affect the constituents within the Regional District and provide operational direction for the invasive plant program. The terms of reference for this committee are in Appendix 2.

Area of Operations

The Strategic Plan's area of application covers BC east of the Rocky Mountains to the Alberta border, and north from Kakwa Provincial Park to the 58th parallel, south of Fort Nelson. The area covers both private and Crown Land and is divided into three Invasive Plant Management Areas (IPMA): North Peace, South Peace, and Pine Pass. The provincial government agencies which have jurisdiction over the Crown land portion include:

Ministry of Forests

Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship

Mining and Critical Minerals

BC Energy Regulator

Ministry of Environment and Parks

Ministry of Transportation and Transit

Membership

Membership in the Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plants Monitoring Committee (SPPIP) is open to the public and there is no membership fee. To become a member, send an email to: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca. This group represents all perspectives and land-related perspectives including, but not limited to:

Concerned citizens.

All levels of government (federal, provincial, interprovincial, & local)

Environmental and ecological organizations

Local communities in the Region

Industrial and resource sector (forestry, mining, & oil & gas)

Youth groups & educational organizations

Horticulture / gardening clubs and organizations

Guide outfitters, trappers, tourism, clubs and organizations

Agriculture producers, Agri-business, and support companies



Invasive Plant Management Strategies

Management Strategy Overview

The invasive plant strategy is designed with the following five components for all PRRD-owned and operated lands:

Prevention

Eradication / Suppression

Containment / Rehabilitation

Restoration / Surveying

Compliance & Enforcement

The most effective and efficient management of invasive plants is to **prevent** their arrival. After invasive plants have arrived, the most efficient and effective management strategy is to **eradicate** them before they become established through early detection and rapid response. If establishment occurs and the invasive plant population expands, the population should be contained until eradication strategies can be initiated. Implementing long-term goals of decreasing the infestation is important to do on an annual basis. Containment involves aggressive management of high vectors of spread within the defined infestation as well as any satellite infestations outside of the containment area. Infestations should be managed with an integrated pest management approach which may include mechanical, chemical, or biological techniques. For species that have been established on a broad-scale, the focus is on **surveying** to determine which sites have the highest likelihood and value for **rehabilitation** and which species and sites are suitable for biocontrol release.

Many invasive plant species are or could establish themselves in the region. Given the resources available, it would not be feasible to eliminate all occurrences of each species. Therefore, a system has been developed to guide and prioritize management efforts. The prioritization system involves a decision-making grid or matrix of three(3) plant **invasiveness categories** and four(4) **site conditions** as described in Table 1 in Appendix 4. Plants are placed in categories by reviewing the literature on the habitat range and

aggressiveness of invasive plants, technical advice and incorporating substantial expertise and experience of the membership.

The categories and Invasive Plant Profile are reviewed and updated every three years or as needed based on new information. Appendix 6 includes the BC Provincial Prohibited Weeds list and a link to the document for additional invasive species of concern.

Site Prioritization

As well as plant species, the strategy considers site conditions. There are numerous factors to consider for sites. This strategy focuses on:

Susceptibility of sites and areas for invasion.

Loss or risks if invasion occurs; and,

Feasibility and costs of managing the species on the site.

Site conditions are divided into four groups in decreasing potential for control, see Table 1 in Appendix 4. Site conditions ranked #1 have the highest potential for effective control. A site ranked as #4 has lower potential or opportunity for eradication or control. Costs are incorporated into the ranking where #4 has the highest cost/benefit ratio.

IPCPRRD Treatment Matrix and Thresholds

Tables 2 and 3 in Appendix 4 utilize the site priority categorization laid out in Table 1 with the invasive plant categorization to determine treatment thresholds for regional infestations.

Implementing Invasive Plant Management Strategies

The following actions are undertaken to implement the IPCPRRD Strategies:

Encourage the public to report invasive plant sightings through the Report Invasives app.

Reply to invasive plant-related communications promptly and provide information regarding economic, social, and environmental threats, and available integrated pest management and compliance and enforcement options.

Inform the public about invasive plant programs and incorporate feedback for continuous program improvement.

Prevent or minimize the spread of invasive plants in the region through programming such as free invasive plant disposal, invasive plant resources for identification, and sharing information about invasive plants and management.

Conduct invasive plant programs in the region based on Integrated Pest Management principles.

Collaborate with various agencies and private landowners to meet the Goals of the PRRD

Support EDRR initiatives at the federal, provincial, and regional levels.

Prevention

Prevention of invasive plant problems requires an outreach and education program focused on all population sectors. Managing susceptible sites and taking actions that prevent the movement of invasive plant seeds and propagules is complementary to education. Some of the actions IPCPRRD supports and encourages are:

Farming and grazing practices that prevent invasive plant establishment.

Seeding all disturbances as quickly as possible using native and agronomic seed choices on a site by site basis using the Peace Forage Seeding Tool: https://upick.beefresearch.ca

Use of local clean or weed free seed, referring to the Certificate of Seed Analysis and adherence to the Seed Act.

Inter-ministry Invasive Species Working Group Early Detection Rapid Response Plan found here: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/guidance-resources/final_imiswg_bc_is_edrr_plan_nov_2014.pdf

Best practices based on various industries within the region, such as cleaning equipment between sites, tarping or covering grain, hay and other agriculture loads when transporting and harvesting hay before weed seeds are viable. Although tarping is not viable for large scale removal of hay and straw, tarping and covering of hay is suggested to eliminate the potential of spreading seeds through transport.

Using locally grown weed free forage when taking livestock into the wilderness.

Using locally grown weed free straw for rehabilitation and rehab of erosion areas.

Controlling invasive plants at chronic sources of seed and spread vectors.

Reporting Invasive Plants

To ensure that appropriate and timely action is taken regarding invasive plants, it is important to understand what you can do. Take note of any changes in the plant composition in areas that you frequent. Changes often indicate the presence of an invasive plant. These sightings must be reported to the

appropriate jurisdiction for treatment. Be aware that native and rare plants, like some invasive plants, may appear sporadically. Some of these may be listed as "Species at Risk". For more information on Species at Risk:

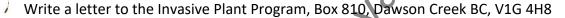
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/species-ecosystems-at-risk.

There are many ways to report invasive plants. To ensure correct identification, collect the plant, roots and press them in a book. Bagged samples wilt quickly and are difficult to identify. Photographs are excellent; please take time to ensure the plant is on a plain background such as the hood of a truck and to note the size and location of the infestation.

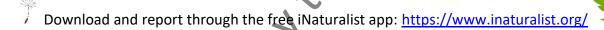


Bring a sample to the Peace River Regional District Office.

Call the PRRD office at 250-784-3200 or toll-free at 1-800-670-7773







Eradication, Containment, Rehabilitation, and Inventory

- 1) Canada's invasive species strategy: https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection 2014/ec/CW66-394-2004-eng.pdf
- 2) The Invasive Species Strategy for BC: https://bcinvasives.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Invasive-Species-Strategy-for-British-Columbia-2024-2028-WEB.pdf
- 3) The Provincial Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group strategy:

 https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/imiswg/prov is strategy.pdf

Federal, provincial, and regional EDRR strategies must be activated promptly. For Provincial EDRR species, the plant must be reported to the Province of BC via the Report Invasives mobile application, or by email to invasive.plants@gov.bc.ca, or through the online form at

https://forms.gov.bc.ca/industry/report-an-invasive-species/. Alternatively, EDRR species can be reported. to the invasive plant program and the details will be forwarded to the appropriate Provincial or Federal EDRR contact. Following initial containment and eradication steps, a management strategy with the land occupier must be prepared and followed annually.

Efficient and effective management of invasive plants requires integration of awareness to prevent unintentional introduction, planning, inventory, and integrated pest management treatments. Public and stakeholder support is needed to locate invasive alien plant sites, particularly remote sites started from de invasive che in activities like backcountry recreation, transport of industrial equipment and distribution of wildlife, livestock, and weather. The public is encouraged to contact the invasive plant program to report any

Invasive Plant Program Annual Work Plan

Planning



Update the list of PRRD-owned/occupied properties and cross-reference the properties for historical invasive plant infestation using the Report Invasives data.



Create a schedule of treatment months to ensure proper timing of treatment



Inventory current outreach materials and update/purchase as required.

Inventory and Surveys



Visit one-third of PRRD owned/occupied sites.

Treatment



Treat all invasive species surveyed/inventoried on PRRD owned/occupied lands using the designated three pass system.

Treatment Monitoring



Conduct invasive plant monitoring as part of scheduled facility and site inspections outlined in the PRRD Inspection policy.

Data Entry



Enter 100% of inventory, survey, or treatment documentation into the InvasivesBC database.

Education and Awareness



Offer Regional support to stakeholders through invasive plant ID, outreach materials, integrated pest management planning information, and best management practices.



Utilize "Weedy Wednesday" Facebook posts to promote events, highlight invasive plant species, and offer information about integrated pest management techniques.



Update educational materials to reflect the PRRD Invasive Plant Prioritization list which is current from 2022-2025.



Purchase and/or share new educational materials as they become available and if they are applicable within the PRRD.



Attend professional development activities pertaining to Invasive Plants and or new treatments.



Develop new and useful materials to deliver to PRRD residents.

Coordination and Partnership Building



Hold one SPPIP and a minimum of two IPCPRRD meetings annually.



Continue to support the ISCBC programs.



Participate in provincial coordination meetings and interprovincial meetings as requested and applicable.



Continue to partner with industry to promote Best Management practices by offering plant identification resources and offering free commercial dumping of invasive plants at regional landfills.



Continue to work with all levels of government and municipalities to increase awareness of invasive plant species through sharing of outreach materials.



Provide invasive plant control and awareness grants to regional First Nations interested in prevention and control of invasive plant infestations in their communities.

Provincial EDRR Support



Support the efforts of the Provincial EDRR program in verifying reported infestations and coordinating any further actions required, as requested.

Report Invasives Verification



Promote the Report Invasives app through PRRD communications.



All invasive plant reports received by the PRRD will receive follow-up within five working days of the report.

Reporting and Data Management



Provide updates to the PRRD Board on operational program activities, as requested.



Compile a 2025 annual report.



Maintain the Strategic Plan and Profile to reflect current operations and ensure IPCPRRD committee approval and referral to the Regional Board for final approval.



Post operational plans on the PRRD website for shareholders to utilize.



Follow all policies and procedures set by the Regional Board.

Special Projects

Relaunch the Destroy Daisy and Eye on Hawkweeds campaigns to increase public awareness these invasive plants.

Hire two seasonal staff for the field season from May 1 - Nov 30, 2025, to assist with the implementation of the program in coordination with the workplan of the Community Services Department.

Provide free invasive plant dumping for all users (residential and commercial) at all manned transfer stations and landfills within the PRRD.

community of the line of the l Strengthen partnerships with neighbouring First Nation communities through collaboration and

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Plant Species Invasiveness within the Peace River Regional District

Regional Early Detection Rapid Response (REDRR)

Regional EDRR species are a significant threat and are new to the area. The management objective is eradication. This list includes brand-new incursions and high-risk invasive plant species that are extremely limited in extent (i.e., have less than 10 very small sites) in the area under consideration. Bolded plants are BC provincially listed noxious weeds enforceable through the *Weed Control Act*. Some of these species may not be present within the PRRD but are found in adjacent areas and are at risk of being introduced to the region as outlined in Table 4.

Category A

These invasive plants are highly competitive, can spread rapidly, and pose a significant threat. They have been aggressively managed over time and their populations are minimal at the community level. These plants require continued persistent treatment over-time to achieve eradication and are listed in Table 5.

Category B

These plants have established themselves at the community level and are aggressively treated by the agriculture sector to protect crop yields and the production of other agricultural products. These plants are expected to be managed where they threaten environmental, social, or economic values and are listed in Table 6.

Education and Awareness Lis

These plants plague the agriculture industry. This includes native plants that are poisonous, difficult to control or cause harm to livestock and are listed in Table 7.

Table 4 – Regional Early Detection Rapid Response (REDRR)

le 4 – Regional Early Detection i	Rapid Response (REDRK)
Common Name	Latin Name
Baby's breath	Gypsophila paniculata
Big Head knapweed	Centaurea macrocephala
Black Henbane (Provincial EDRR)	Hyoscyamus niger
Blueweed	Echium vulgare
Bohemian knotweed	Fallopia x bohemica
Brown knapweed	Centaurea jacea
Cheat grass	Bromus tectorum
Chicory	Cichorium intybus
Creeping bell flower	Campunaula rapunculiodes
Cypress spurge	Euphorbia cyparissias
Diffuse knapweed	Centaurea diffusa
Field Scabious /Blue button	Knautia arvensis
Giant knotweed	Polygonum sachalinense
Himalayan balsam/Policeman's Helmet	Impatiens glandulifera
Himalayan knotweed	Polygonum polystachyum/Persicaria wallichii
Hoary alyssum	Bereroa incana
Hoary cress	Cardaria draba
Hound's tongue	Cynoglossum <u>officinale</u>
Japanese knotweed	Fallopia japonica
Leafy spurge	Euphorbia esula
Marsh plume thistle	Cirsium palustre
Meadow goat's-beard or salsifly	Tragopogon pratensis
Mountain bluet	Centaurea montana
Nodding thistle	Carduss nutans
Plumeless thistle	Carduus acanthoides
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum spp.
Queen Anne's lace	Daucus carota
Rush skeletonweed	Chondrilla juncea
St. John's Wort	Hypericum perforatum
Sulphur cinquefoil	Potentilla recta
Tansy ragwort	Senecio jacobeae
Tartary buckwheat	Fagopyrum tataricum
Wild Chervil	Anthriscus sylvestris (L.)
Wild parsnip	Pastinaca sativa
Wormwood/Absinthium	Artemisia absinthium
Yellow archangel	Lamiastrum galeobdolon

Table 5 - Category A - High Priority for Eradication and Containment

Common Name	Latin Name
Burdock	Arctium spp.
Comfrey	Symphytum spp
Common tansy	Tanacetum vulgar
Green foxtail	Sertaria viridis
Orange hawkweed	Heiracium aurantiacum
Russian thistle	Salsola kali
Spotted knapweed	Centaurea stoebe L.
Invasive yellow hawkweeds	Pilosella spp.

Table 6 - Category B - Medium Priority for Eradication and Containment

Common Name	Latin Name
Common toadflax	Linaria vulgaris
Creeping (Canada) thistle	Cirsium arvense
Dalmatian toadflax	Linaria dalmatica
Kochia	Kochia scoparia
Night-flowering catchfly	Silene noctiflora
Oxeye daisy	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum
Scentless chamomile	Matricaria perforata
Tall/Meadow buttercup	Ranunculus acris
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Table 7 - Education and Awareness List

Common Name	Latin Name
American dragonhead	Dracocephalum parviflorum
Arrow Grass	Triglochin maritime
Bladder campion	Silene cucubalus
Bluebur western	Lappula spp
Buckwheat, wild	Polygonum convolvulus
Bull thistle	Cirsium vulgare
Chickweed, mouse eared	Cerastium spp.
Cleavers	Galium aparine
Corn spurry	Spergula arvensis
Curled dock	Rumex crispus
Dame's rocket	Hesperis matronalis
Flixweed	Descurainia sophia
Flowering rush (aquatic) (Provincial EDRR)	Butomus umbellatus
Foxtail barley (native)	Hordeum jubatum
Groundsel, common	Senecio vulgaris
Hawksbeard, narrowleaf	Crepis tectorum
Hemp nettle	Galeopsis tetrahit
Lamb's quarters	Chenopodium album
Mallow	Malva neglecta
Mullein	Verbascum thapsus
Mustard, dog	Eruscastrum gallicum
Mustards	Sisymbrium spp.
Pineapple weed	Matricaria matricarioides
Prickly lettuce	Lactuca serriola
Quackgrass	Agropyron repens
Sea Buckthorn	Hippophae rhamniodes
Shasta daisy	Leucanthenum x superbum
Sheep sorrel	Rumex acetosella
Smartweed	Polygonum spp.
Sow thistles	Sonchus spp.
Stinking mayweed, dog	Anthemis cotula
Stinkweed or pennycress	Thlaspi arvense
Stork's bil	Erodium spp.
Tarweed (native)	Madia glomerata
Western water hemlock (native)	Cicuta douglasii
White cockle	Lychnis alba
Wild caraway	Carum carvi
Wild mustard	Sinapsis arvensis
Wild oats	Avena fatua
Yellow clematis	Clematis tangutica
Yellow floating heart (aquatic) (Provincial EDRR)	Nymphoides pelata

Terms of Reference for the Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plants Monitoring Committee
(March 2014)

Chair: Director Leonard Hiebert, Appointed by the Committee in 2023.

Goal



To complement the Vision, Mission, and Goals of the Regional District by: "protecting our economy, environment, and social values from invasive plants and ensuring that existing infestations are managed with integrated pest management."

Purpose



To act as a forum to network and provide feedback to the Invasive Plant Committee of the Peace River Regional District (IPCPRRD) regarding:

- a) the Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plants
- b) the effects of noxious/invasive plants in the region
- c) advice regarding best practices for industries operating within the Region
- d) noxious/invasive plant occurrences
- e) information on matters referred by the IPCPRRD
- f) any other matters related to noxious/invasive plants

Accountability

- a) Roberts Rules of Order apply
- b) Recommendations will be made to the IPCPRRD as required

Committee Organization

- a) A Chair and Vice Chair will be appointed by the IPCPRRD
- b) Secretarial services will be provided by the PRRD
- c) Members may be chosen to form an Advisory Committee and provide technical advice

Membership



Membership is open to all who are interested in noxious/invasive plant management

Membership will be continuous

APPENDIX 2:

Terms of Reference for the Invasive Plant Committee

Goal



To complement the **Vision, Mission, and Goals** of the Regional District by: "protecting our economy, environment and social values from invasive plants and ensuring that existing infestations are managed with integrated pest management."

Purpose



The general purpose of the Invasive Plant Committee of the Peace River Regional District (IPCPRRD) will include, but not limited to the following:

• To act as the conduit between the Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plants Monitoring Committee (SPIP) and the Peace River Regional District Board regarding matters relating to noxious/invasive plants in the region

Accountability and Committee Organization



The committee will be comprised of:

- a) A minimum of three directors appointed by the Chair of the Regional Board
- b) The General Manager of Environmental Services
- c) The Environmental Services Manager



Provisions for a Standing Committee are in the PRRD Board Procedure Bylaw as amended from time to time. These provisions can be found here: https://prrd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/bylaws/board-procedure-bylaw/Board-Procedure-Bylaw-No.-2490-Consolidated.pdf.

Roles and Responsibilities



To ensure regulatory provisions are appropriate to program delivery and recommend amendments to the Board and staff.

- a) Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plants
- b) Program delivery
- c) Compliance and Enforcement Policy
- d) Budget

The above are intended to be reviewed annually.

APPENDIX 3:

History of Weed Control in the Peace River Regional District

Invasive plants were first introduced to the northeast corner of BC with the arrival of fur traders, homesteaders, and agriculture. Fur traders were expected to live off the land and developed gardens and livestock pastures around their posts. Along with the garden and forage plants, invasive alien plants were introduced. As settlement and development of agriculture, resources, transportation and utilities continued, introduction and spread of invasive alien plants occurred. Invasive alien plants or weeds have long been recognized as indicated by the *Thistle Prevention Act* of 1877 followed by the *Noxious Weed Act* of 1888.

In 1973, the *Noxious Weed Act* was replaced by the *Weed Control Act* which imposes "a duty on all land occupiers to control designated noxious plants." It also provides for regional districts and government agencies to appoint weed inspectors; this led to the formation of the Peace River Regional District Weed Control Committee in 1973.

1977-1997 - PRRD's Weed Control Program Summary:

Delivered according to the B.C. Weed Control Act and Regulations

Varied from one or two inspectors and up to fourteen inspectors working in three different regions –North Peace, South Peace, and West Peace

In the latter years, summer employees were hired to inspect within designated areas throughout the Peace, with weed notices being issued to the land occupier to control and subsequent enforcement, if there was no compliance.

The Ministry of Agriculture was a key player in the program, whereby the Field Crop Agrologist was required to provide technical advice for the means of control on agriculture properties.

A Weed Control Committee made up of five members, designated according to the *Weed Control Act* with various representatives from regional agriculture associations, municipalities, railways, Crown lands, and the resource sector (forestry, oil, and gas) developed recommendations that guided the program.

Program files are archived by the Peace River Regional District (PRRD).

The Weed Control Program was discontinued in 1997 by the PRRD due to a lack of provincial funding.

1998-2008 - Invader Weed Control Program and Weed Warrior Program

The Ministry of Agriculture, in conjunction with the PRRD, initiated the "New Invader Weed Control Program" to ensure that known sites of new invasive weed species, such as knapweeds and hawkweeds, would be controlled. It not only involved the control of invasive plants but included

the release of biological agents for scentless chamomile, identification of weeds, displays at the local fairs, and coordinating a Weed Warrior Program.

The main objectives of the program were accomplished through contracts to appoint spray contractors and a coordinator.

2003-2011 - Formation of the Northeast Invasive Plant Committee (NEIPC)

Development of a shared regional strategic plan between the Fort Nelson and Regional district boundaries resulted in the formation of NEIPC.

The first "pooled resource delivery model", established for the Pine Pass, brought together key stakeholders to integrate funding, awareness, reporting of sites, inventory work and treatments based on a common strategic approach across land jurisdictions.

This model involves the various stakeholders contributing to a funding pool that is used to integrate awareness, reporting of sites, inventories and treatments based on a strategic approach across land jurisdictions, previously managed by environmental departments within each jurisdiction.

Leveraging the success of the Pine Pass project model, the Fort Nelson Invasive Plant Management Area Steering Committee was developed to address the susceptible habitats and expansion of resource industry activities in the area.

NEIPC continued developing the pooled resource delivery model and as of 2011 there were four IPMAs: Fort Nelson, North Peace, South Peace, and Pine Pass.

2011-2013 - Peace River Regional District: Invasive Plant Program Manager Position

In May 2011, the PRRD created a full-time position to manage the Invasive Plant Program, under its Environmental Services function.

The PRRD established an invasive plant disposal pilot in 2012. Disposal bins were set up at the Chetwynd, Bessborough and North Peace landfills. The PRRD waived tipping fees for private landowners. This was a regular service for the public in the fall of 2013.

Dismantling of the NEIPC happened in fall 2011. The PRRD delivers an independent weed management program within their boundaries while continuing to collaborate with the Fort Nelson group.

In the fall of 2012, the NEIPC made a recommendation to the board of the PRRD to re-name the advisory committee to the Invasive Plant Committee of the Peace River Regional District (IPCPRRD). The PRRD passed the recommendation.

2014-2015 The Peace River Regional District explores a Progressive Compliance and Enforcement Regime

In 2013, the Regional District's Agriculture Advisory Committee expressed concern over invasive plants and noxious weeds in agriculture settings.

- The pooled delivery model was reviewed by the PRRD staff to ensure broad objectives of the program were being accomplished.
- A bylaw was proposed using powers from the *Local Government Act* which will allow issuance of a warning ticket and a monetary penalty to be available as enforcement tools prior to engaging the authority of the *Weed Control Act*.
- Education and Outreach will remain the focus of the program to achieve prevention through increased awareness.
- The structure of the committee was altered to create a Standing Committee (IPCPRRD) to guide operational delivery of the program. Member representing stakeholders within the Region remain an integral part of the program and will continue to monitor the landscape for new species, share knowledge and have input regarding the strategic plan, the broad group is the Peace River Regional District Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plants Monitoring Committee (Monitoring Committee).
- Municipalities are supported and encouraged to partner with the Regional District for assistance in identifying invasive plants, determining appropriate treatments and to employ regulatory powers to create invasive plant bylaw.
- Dissolution of the pooled delivery model occurred in May 2014.

2016-2019 – Efficacy Monitoring for the Province (FUNRORD and MoTI)

- The PRRD hired 2 seasonal Invasive Plant Assistants to monitor treatments on Crown land. \$25,000 was annually paid to the PRRD to monitor 10% of treatments within the 3 IPMA's on FLNRORD and MoTI jurisdiction.
- In 2019, a Bylaw Officer designated to Invasive Plants was hired for three months.

2020 - 202 - Field Services Assistants

- For the 2020-2024 season, two seasonal field services assistants were hired from June until November. Their main roles were to support the compliance and enforcement officer in hand-pulling invasive plants in areas of concern, such as riparian areas and on private land where residents were struggling to manage on their own and requested support. These roles were shared amongst the park's maintenance responsibilities.
 - The PRRD adopts Invasive Plant Control Amendment Bylaw No. 2482, 2022 which focuses on education and pushes compliance and enforcement of the Weed Control Act back to the Province of BC. Invasive Plant disposal sites are expanded to include invasive plant disposal at manned transfer stations with compactor bins.

Appendix 4:

Site Prioritization, Treatment Matrix, and Thresholds

Table 1. Site Prioritiz	ation		
Priority/Opportunity for Control	Site condition / management intent or goal		
	A small infestation (up to 0.25 ha or 0.5 acre) likely to spread to large highly susceptible areas or high value crops.		
1 Extremely High	Intent is to prevent establishment or spread and to eradicate the infestation quickly and efficiently.		
	Effective treatment (eradication or containment) is critical.		
2 High	Moderate sized infested area (0.25-0.50 ha or 1.25 ac) in susceptible areas and an expectation that control will be effective.		
Ü	Goal is to quickly reduce the population of the invasive plant, contain the infested area and reduce impacts on agriculture and susceptible habitats and ecosystems.		
	Larger infested area (greater than 0.50 ha or 1.25 ac), not adjacent to		
	agriculture or delicate habitats and ecosystems that require protection.		
3 Moderate	*		
	Expectation that control will be effective.		
	Goal is to contain the infestation.		
	Infested areas larger than 5 ha or 12 ac where control would require high		
	investment of resources.		
4 Low Opportunity for Control	Areas are not adjacent to agriculture or susceptible high value habitats and		
TOP CONTROL	ecosystems that require protection.		
	Goal is to reduce the damage from the infested area, record changes to the		
	Osize and treat all vectors of spread.		
Table 2. IPCPRRD Trea			
Plant Species Invasive			
Site Priority	A B		
1			
3			
4			
· C			

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Table 3. Prograi	Table 3. Program Thresholds			
Invasive Plant Category	Site Priority	Program Level	Control Objective or Requirement	
A/R-EDRR	1	REDRR • Regional Early Detection Rapid Response	Immediate Regional or local eradication: Identify and eradicate the local population, prevent new invaders, see the Provincial EDRR process at https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/guidance-resources/prov edrr is plan.pdf Stop the spread of recently established invaders	
Α	1		Treatment or some form of management is mandatory:	
Α	2	ED A DICATION	Immediate requirement to prevent newly arriving	
Α	3	ERADICATION and	invasive plants, or those with low population, from	
В	1	CONTAINMENT	establishing or spreading. Mid- and long-term goal is to eliminate the population from within the region.	
А	4		Treatments are mandatory for sites outside of containment lines or where values are threatened:	
В	2	CONTAINMENT	Within containment areas, treatments occur when protection or rehabilitation of social, environmental, or	
В	3	and REHABILITATION	economic areas is required; or, A need is indicated and approved by funders or, Landowner or occupier has other reasons for containment or rehabilitation.	
В	20	REHABILITATION and SURVEYING	Control and rehabilitation will be attempted when biological control agents are available and effective: Specific issues and requests are made, whereby an analysis of risks and/or cost-benefit indicates control is required to protect or rehabilitate agriculture areas or critical habitats.	

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Appendix 5:

List of Regulated Invasive Plants in BC (January 8, 2024)

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REGULATION: PROVINCIALLY NOXIOUS

NIV	Bur Chervil (Anthriscus caucalis)
NV.	Canada Thistle (Cirsium arvense)
1	Common Reed (Phragmites australis subsp.

- Cordgrass, Dense-flowered (Spartina densiflora)
- Cordgrass, English (Spartina anglica)
- Cordgrass, Saltmeadow (Spartina patens)
- Cordgrass, Smooth (Spartina alterniflora)
- Common Crupina (Crupina vulgaris)
- Dodder (Cuscuta spp.)

australis)

- Flowering Rush (Butomus umbellatus)
- Garlic Mustard (Alliaria petiolata)
- Giant Hogweed (Heracleum mantegazzianum)
- Giant Mannagrass/Reed Sweetgrass (Glyceria maxima)
- Gorse (Ulex europaeus)
- Hound's-tongue (Cynoglossum officinale)
- Jointed Goatgrass (Aegilops cylindrica)
- Knapweed, Diffuse (Centaurea diffusa)
- / Knapweed, Spotted Centaurea stoebe)
- Knotweed, Bohemian (Fallopia x bohemica)
- Knotweed, Giant (Fallopia sachalinensis)

- Knotweed, Himalayan (Polygonum polystachyum)
- Knotweed, Japanese (Fallopia japonica)
- Leafy Spurge (Euphorbia esula)
- Milk Thistle (Silybum marianum)
- North Africa Grass (Ventenata dubia)
- Nutsedge, Purple (Cyperus rotundus)
- Nutsedge, Yellow (Cyperus esculentus)
- Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria)
- Rush Skeletonweed (Chondrilla juncea)
- Scentless Chamomile (Matricaria maritima)
 - Sow-thistle, Annual (Sonchus oleraceus)
- Sow-thistle, Perennial (Sonchus arvensis)
- Tansy Ragwort (Senecio jacobaea)
- Toadflax, Common / Yellow (Linaria vulgaris)
- Toadflax, Dalmatian (Linaria genistifolia)
- Velvetleaf (Abutilon theophrasti)
- Wild Oats (Avena fatua)
- Yellow Flag Iris (Iris pseudacorus)
- Yellow Starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis)

REGULATION: REGIONALLY SPECIFIC NOXIOUS (Peace River)

Burdock (Arctium spp.)

Cleavers (Galium aparine)

Green Foxtail (Setaria viridis)

Kochia (Kochia scoparia)

Night-Flowering Catchfly (Silene noctiflora)

Oxeye Daisy (Chrysanthemum leucanthemum)

Quackgrass (Agropyron repens)

Thistle, Russian (Salsola kali)

Tartary Buckwheat (Fagopyrum tataricum)

White Cockle (Lychnis alba

Wild Mustard (Sinapsis arvensis)

ADDITIONAL UNREGULATED INVASIVE PLANTS OF CONCERN IN BC

Baby's Breath (Gypsophila paniculata)

Bachelor's Button (Centaurea cyanus)

Bladder Campion (Silene cucubalus)

Bull Thistle (Cirsium vulgare)

Butterfly Bush (Buddleja davidii)

Chicory (Cichorium intybus)

Cluster Tarweed (Madia glomerata)

Common Mallow (Malva neglecta)

Common Periwinkle (Vinca minor)

Creeping Buttercup (Ranunculus repens)

Curled Dock (Rumex crispus)

Daphne (Daphne laureola)

Didymo (Didymosphenia geminate)

English Holly (Ilex aquifolium)

English Ivy (Hedera helix)

Eurasian Watermilfoil (Myriophyllum spicatum)

Field Bindweed (Convolvulus arvensis)

Foxtail Barley (Hordeum jubatum)

Goatsbeard - Western (Tragopogon dublus)

Himalayan Blackberry (Rubus discolor)

Himalayan Balsam (Impatiens glandulifera)

Knapweed, Brown (Centaurea jacea)

Mountain Bluet (Centaurea montana)

Nightshade (Solanum spp.)

Nodding Thistle (Carduus nutans)

Russian Olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia)

Scotch Broom (Cytisus scoparius)

St. John's-Wort (Hypericum perforatum)

Tamarisk (Tamarix chinensis, T. ramosissima)

Teasel (Dipsacus fullonum)

Water Hemlock (Cicuta douglasii)

Yellow Archangel (Lamium galeobdolon)

APPENDIX 6:

Provincial Priority Invasive List January 8, 2024)

These are subject to change on an on-going basis and the current list can be accessed here:

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/guidance-resources/edrr_candidate_invasive_plants.pdf

PREVENT PROVINCIAL EDRR

Camelthorn (Alhagi maurorum)	African rue (<i>Peganum harmala</i>)
Clary sage (Salvia sclarea)	Black helbane (<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>)
Common crupina (Crupina vulgaris)	Brazilian Elodea/Waterweed (Egeria densa)
Eggleaf spurge (Euphorbia oblongata)	Dyer's woad (Isatis tinctoria)
Goatsrue (Galega officinalis)	European common reed (Phragmites australis)
Halogeton/Saltlover (Halogeton	Flowering rush (Butomus umbellatus)
glomeratus)	
Hydrilla (<i>Hydrilla verticillata</i>)	Giant reed (Arundo donax)
/ Iberian starthistle (<i>Centaurea iberica</i>)	Invasive cordgrasses (Spartina spp.)
Italian thistle (Carduus pycnocphalus)	Maltese starthistle (Centaurea melitensis)
Johnsongrass (Sorghum halepense)	Mouse-ear hawkweed (Hieracium pilosella)
Jointed goatgrass (Aegilops cylindrical)	North African grass (Ventenata dubia)
Kudzu (Pueraria montana var. lobate)	Perennial pepperweed) Lepidium latifolium)
Meadow clary (Salvia pratensis)	Shiny geranium (Geranium lucidum)
Mediterranean sage (Salvia aethiopsis)	Slender false brome (<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>)
Medusahead (<i>Taeniatherum caput-</i>	Water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes)
medusae)	Water letture (Disting strationes)
Red bartsia (Odontites serotine)	Water lettuce (Pistia stratiotes)
Silverleaf nightshade (Solanum	Yellow floating heart (Nymphoides pelata)
elaegnifolilum)	*Y-II
Slenderflower thistle (Carduus	Yellow starthistle (<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>)
tenuiflorus) Slender/Meadow foxtail (Alopecurus	
myosuroides)	
Spring milletgrass (Milium vernale)	
Spurge flax (Thymelaea passerine)	
Squarrose knapweed (<i>Centaurea virgate</i>	
spp. Squarrose)	
Syrian bean-caper (Zygophyllum fabago)	
Texas blueweed (Helianthus ciliaris)	
Water soldier (Stratiotes aloides)	
(1111)	1

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APPENDIX 7:

Noxious Weeds in Alberta

The following plants are designated as Noxious in Alberta. Control of these plants is required. (All plants listed in **Bold** have been found within the County of Grande Prairie).

https://www.alberta.ca/provincially-regulated-weeds.aspx

Bellflower, creeping Baby's Breath, common Blueweed Bindweed, field Brome, Japanese Burdock, great Brome, downy Burdock, common (lesser) Buttercup, tall (Ranunculus Burdock, woolly (Arctium tomentosum) Clematis, yellow (Clematis Chamomile, scentless (Tripleurospermum tangutica) inodorum) Cockle, white (Silene latifolia) Daisy, oxeye **Dame's Rocket** Henbane, black Hound's-tongue Hoary Cress spp. Mullein, common Pepper-grass, broad-leaved Scabious, field Sow thistle, perennial Spurge, leafy (Euphorbia esala) Tansy, common Thistle, Canada Toadflax, Dalmatian Toadflax, yellow

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