

THOMPSON-NICOLA INVASIVE PLANT
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - STRATEGIC
INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN
2018 - 2020



Prepared for: Thompson-Nicola Regional District
Prepared by: Fraser Basin Council
Approved April 18, 2018

Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee

Strategic Invasive Plant Management Plan

Vision Statement

Healthy, weed free ecosystems in the TNRD

Mission Statement

Agencies, organizations, and the public working together to stop the spread and introduction of invasive plants in the TNRD through treatment, education, coordination, and communication

Background

The service to fund the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) noxious weed control program and the Invasive Plant Committee was created in 1976. The Southern Interior Weed Management Committee (SIWMC) was created as a non-profit society in 1997. In April 2017, it was agreed by committee members and the board of directors of the SIWMC to amalgamate the functions of both the existing TNRD committee and the SIWMC into one new comprehensive committee, the Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee (TNIPMC). See the TNIPMC Terms of Reference in Appendix 1. See a map of the TNRD in Appendix 2.

Planning Process

The TNIPMC agreed to form a working group to guide the development of the Strategic Invasive Plant Management Plan. The TNIPMC provided direction to the working group as seen in Appendix 3. The working group included members of the TNIPMC as well as representation from other groups and organizations that practice invasive plant management in the TNRD. The working group membership is as follows:

TNIPMC Representation:

- Agnes Jackson, Grasslands Conservation Council
- Grahame Gielens, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Peggy Jo Broad, Thompson Rivers University
- Rachel Whitehouse, MFLNRORD
- Sheryl Wurtz, MFLNRORD

Additional Representation:

- Dave Ralph, Invasive Species Council of BC
- Jenny Mingo, FortisBC Energy Inc. (receiving updates)
- Mark Haywood-Farmer, BC Cattlemen's
- Kirsten Wourms, City of Kamloops

- Rhonda Kariz, BC Hydro
- Marino Bordin, Interfor Corporation
- Brian Holmes, Upper Nicola Indian Band/Douglas Lake Ranch

The working group met for three strategic planning sessions in January, February, and March resulting in the development of the draft Strategic Invasive Plant Management Plan.

Plants

There are dozens of terrestrial invasive plant species in British Columbia. There are also multiple lists of local or regional terrestrial plant species developed by agencies and organizations in BC to aid in the prioritization of treatment. The TNIPMC is deferring to the [Provincial Noxious Weed](#) list and the Provincial [Early Detection and Rapid Response](#) (EDRR) plant list. If the need arises to add local invasive plants to the provincial plant lists, the TNIPMC will do so via the [TNIPMC website](#).

Goals, Objectives & Strategies

**The goals and respective objectives and strategies included in this plan are not in order of priority*

**Strategies will be completed by the TNIPMC, respective members of the TNIPMC, or by consultants, groups, or individuals as directed by the TNIPMC*

Goal 1 – Improve regional invasive plant knowledge

Objectives

- Educate qualified environmental professionals, Indigenous groups, decision makers, and future professionals/decision makers – high priority (need to highlight the negative impacts including cultural and medicinal plants, the damage across ecosystems)
- Promote and support existing youth education programs designed by other agencies and organizations
- Coordinate education programs across agencies and organizations

Strategies

- Provide curriculum updates to post-secondary institutions (programs including biology, forestry, agriculture etc. where ecosystem reclamation/mitigation/management are taught) – 2018/19
- Provide oversight to best management practices updates across sectors – ongoing as needed
- Host invasive plant management workshops – annual

Goal 2 – Coordinate invasive plant management across the TNRD

Objectives

- a. Improve reporting of new invasive plant infestations
- b. Ensure that invasive plant management programs are not duplicating efforts

Strategies

- a. Coordinate treatment plans – annual
- b. Develop a communication plan – 2018/19

Goal 3 – Improve efficacy of invasive plant management in the TNRD

Objectives

- a. Ensure planned results are met
- b. Utilize research to improve invasive plant management
- c. Consider new strategies for invasive plant management

Strategies

- a. Monitor disturbed sites, development sites
- b. Develop site specific reclamation guidelines
- c. Develop site specific seed mixture guidelines
- d. Work with Thompson Rivers University (TRU) to conduct operational based literature reviews of invasive plant research
- e. Provide feedback to TRU regarding invasive plant research project development

Goal 4 – Protect Indigenous values

Objectives

- a. Minimize negative impacts resulting from invasive plant management on the landscape as it relates to Indigenous historical ongoing use of the land for hunting and gathering.
- b. Improve understanding of the importance and sensitivities of traditional plant communities and culturally important ecosystems
- c. Increase Indigenous involvement and integration of Indigenous values in invasive plant management

Strategies

- a. Work with Indigenous groups to identify rare plant communities, Traditional Use Sites and other sensitive sites
- b. Incorporate identified Indigenous sites into vegetation management prescription planning processes

Goal 5 – Influence operational policy development and change for invasive plant management

Objectives

- a. Make recommendations for policy changes to governing agencies and organizations – ongoing as needed

Strategies

- a. Expand the tools available for treating terrestrial invasive plants and simplify the process
- b. Update existing reclamation plan guidelines, remediation plan guidelines, and seed mix requirements

Appendix 1 - Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee Terms of Reference

PREAMBLE

The service to fund the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) noxious weed control program and the Invasive Plant Committee was created in 1976. The Southern Interior Weed Management Committee (SIWMC) was created as a non-profit society in 1997. In April 2017, it was agreed by committee members and the board of directors of SIWMC to amalgamate the functions of both the existing TNRD committee and the SIWMC into one new comprehensive, cohesive committee.

DEFINITIONS

Land Manager – A person that manages land on behalf of the following (including but is not limited to): all orders of government (local, provincial, federal, First Nations); private landowners; conservancies; and industry sectors that manage land such as agriculture, forestry, mining, utility companies, tourism, developers and others.

Program Manager – TNRD staff or contractors who carry out or cause to be carried out the key functions to achieve the purpose of the committee.

AUTHORITY

This committee is established under the authority of s.218 of the *Local Government Act* and is a standing committee of the TNRD board of directors.

PURPOSE of COMMITTEE

The purpose of the committee is to encourage multi-party collaboration on invasive plant management, to minimize the spread and impact of invasive plants on environmental, economic and social values, and to prevent and eradicate new invaders. The committee will provide oversight and direction for the program manager to deliver the key functions below.

KEY FUNCTIONS or OBJECTIVES

1. Coordination
 - a. Within the TNRD, work collaboratively to coordinate land managers with a responsibility to manage invasive plants to ensure:
 - i. Consistent treatment of species priorities by management area, through creation and implementation of an invasive plant strategic plan
 - ii. Treatments are coordinated in a timely manner across all jurisdictions on individual sites using all tools and management techniques available
 - iii. Land managers are regularly utilizing existing inventory systems (Invasive Alien Plant Program) for Crown and private land

- iv. All parties are effectively working together to achieve the purpose of the committee
 - b. Outside the TNRD, coordinate with neighbouring jurisdictions
 - c. Outside the TNRD, advocate for effective invasive plant management
- 2. Communication
 - a. Within the TNRD, communicate with land managers with a responsibility to manage invasive plants to:
 - i. Receive input on annual priorities
 - ii. Communicate what is being done
 - iii. Encourage communication and coordination amongst land managers
 - b. Within the TNRD, work cooperatively with Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) and others to communicate with various audiences of the public to inform them of what invasive plants are, why they should care and what they can do
 - c. Outside of the TNRD, communicate with and learn from neighbouring jurisdictions and province-wide organizations
- 3. Education and outreach
 - a. Within the TNRD, work cooperatively with ISCBC and others to communicate with various audiences of the public and other industry sectors to inform them of what invasive plants are, why they should care, what they can do and the various management techniques including herbicides
 - b. Develop a landscape wellness/ecosystem resilience/land stewardship concept, that is science based and promotes the concept of landscapes as an ecological system, the risks of invasive plants and other factors, and the need for various tools or management techniques to maintain wellness and resilience
 - c. Outside of the TNRD, communicate with and learn from neighbouring jurisdictions and province-wide organizations about education resources and initiatives
- 4. Research
 - a. Advocate for research for applied management of species, including integrated pest management, adaptive management and reclamation/restoration
- 5. Financial management and accountability
 - a. Leverage funding from other sources
 - b. Maximize accountability of treatments and return on investments

SCOPE

The scope is limited to terrestrial invasive plant species.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

The geographic area is the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.

MEMBERSHIP, COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE

The committee will be composed of the following members (11 total):

- TNRD Electoral Area Director – two members
- TNRD Municipal Director – one member
- BC Cattlemen’s Association – one member, one alternate
- Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) – one member, one alternate
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) – one member, one alternate
- BC Parks – one member, one alternate (possibly MFLNRO ecosystems or wildlife)
- Shuswap Nation Tribal Council – one member, one alternate
- Nicola Tribal Association – one member, one alternate
- Grasslands Conservation Council – one member, one alternate
- Thompson Rivers University – one member, one alternate

TNRD members will be appointed by the TNRD Board Chair on a calendar year basis. Other organizations will appoint their own members on a calendar year basis. At the first committee meeting of the calendar year, a chair will be elected (eligible candidates are Electoral Area directors), and vice chair will be elected by the committee membership.

Lack of attendance at 3 consecutive committee meetings for a member or their alternate will be reviewed by the committee and appropriate follow up action may be taken.

Subcommittees may be struck for a limited term (up to 6 months) to address specific topics. Subcommittees do not have delegated authority from the committee; they may only make recommendations back to the committee.

ROLE OF MEMBERS

The role of the members is to:

- Provide direction, coordination and oversight to the committee and its activities
- Promote and work to achieve the purpose and objectives the committee
- Attend meetings and work collaboratively with all other members
- Communicate to and from your respective organization, government or industry sector regarding the committee (i.e., report back on committee meetings; bring forward information from your organization to future meetings)

MEETINGS, LOGISTICS AND PROGRAM MANAGER ROLE

The Committee will meet at least twice per year, or as needed, as determined by the committee.

Agendas will be circulated one week in advance of meetings, and meeting summaries will be circulated following meetings. Meeting summaries will be approved at the subsequent meeting.

The program manager shall develop and circulate agendas, coordinate meeting logistics, lead discussions and seek consensus at meetings, prepare meeting summaries, and provide support for the committee which will include funding applications and external communication.

Regular workshops and planning sessions inviting land managers and interested parties from throughout the Thompson-Nicola will be held to achieve the coordination and communication functions and objectives. This workshop will review new inventory data, receive input from land managers, review the past season's treatments, and provide content to prepare an invasive plant strategic plan for the following season.

QUORUM

Quorum for a committee meeting will be 5 members plus the chair, or vice chair if the chair is absent.

DECISION MAKING PROCESS

The committee will operate on a consensus* decision making model wherever possible, with the identification of no consensus for issues, which parties dissented and why. *A consensus decision making process is based on understanding multiple perspectives, for moving from individual positions to common interests; consensus may not necessarily be unanimous agreement with all elements by all parties, but simply the absence of objection.

In the event that consensus cannot be reached, a vote will take place with a simple majority determining the result.

The following decisions must be made by the TNRD Board of Directors: budget approval of TNRD funds; entering contracts in which TNRD is a party (subject to TNRD delegated authority bylaw); and approving or amending these terms of reference.

The committee has delegated authority on all key functions or objectives to achieve the purpose of the committee.

BUDGET AND FINANCES

Funding for the committee is anticipated to come primarily from the TNRD and provincial government members, and secondarily from other land managers and interested parties and organizations. The program manager will prepare an annual work plan of tasks and activities,

which will include a budget. The committee will submit a detailed annual budget request to TNRD each year, with a four year projection.

Other than catering for meetings, committee members or their respective organizations will fund their own expenses to participate in the committee (e.g., mileage, accommodation, per diems).

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

The Chair and the program manager will be the key contact for the committee. Each member has their own communication roles for their organization; refer to roles of members if speaking about the committee.

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these terms of reference may be made from time to time, according to the decision making process outlined above. Amendments must be approved by the TNRD Board of Directors.

Appendix 2 – Thompson Nicola Regional District Map



Appendix 3 - Direction for the Thompson-Nicola invasive plant management strategic plan provided to the technical working group from the TNIPMC

Plan Requirements:

- Easy to follow
- Accessible
- Flexible – the ability to respond to emerging issues
- Identifies accountability and social licence – all land managers sign onto this plan, and collectively are responsible to implement and achieve it
- Enables focus where the ecological need is to prevent or manage invasive plants
- Identifies that education and prevention are important and cost-effective
- Identifies education component, different groups that can be engaged
- Identifies new solutions to invasive plant management
- Builds on existing communication and education opportunities with different land users
- Identifies a process and timeline for how different land managers create their annual operational treatment plans
- Prioritizes actions within the region
- Enables coordination and communication between land managers
- Identifies roles and responsibilities of different organizations
- Identifies an inclusive list of invasive plant species to manage
- Has the ability to expand scope once initial goals are reached

Caveats

The Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Strategic Plan cannot:

- Dictate individual land managers responsibilities (it's not a bylaw); and
- Override individual provincial agency mandates.

Measures of Success

- Improved public awareness of invasive plants, committee, strategic plan
- Reduction of area infested
- Number of treatments e.g. biocontrol releases, area treated
- Amount of funding spent (private land owners)
- Increased native plants/biodiversity, higher forage value
- Number of direct engagements with different people
- Number of education opportunities provided
- Communication and partnerships between invasive plant management agencies and organizations
- Seeing this approach adopted elsewhere

- More Secwepemc, Nlaka'pamux, Syilx, and St'at'imc bands in the region engaged in invasive plant management

Possible Methods

- Society hired summer students to talk to people and tracked over 5 years; ISCBC JCP crews track direct and indirect engagement
- Conduct specific case studies, where we've received complaints – monitor photo points.
- Redirect resources and efforts on different things; acknowledge that some plants are here to stay, eradication won't be possible.
- Encouraging healthy grazing on small parcels of land,– utilize economics as an incentive
- It was suggested to add components of communication/communicating out, coordination and accountability
- Encouraging other groups to get involved – engaging other industries; partnerships; other sectors (railways, TransMountain)

Time Frame

- Develop the plan to align with the end of the three year pilot project – **March 31, 2020**

Reviews and Updates

- Do a quick annual review at a TNIPMC meeting in late winter/early spring each year
- Every three years, do a more fulsome review (e.g., half day meeting)

Funding

- Planning and FBC contract paid for with SIWMC funds
- Three year pilot project funds – not available for this

Process (how) – collaboratively develop a strategic invasive plant management plan for the Thompson-Nicola Regional District that is carried out by all agencies and organizations that manage invasive plants in the region

Product (what) – a strategic invasive plant management plan for the TNRD

Values

- Maintain healthy landscapes, soils and ecosystems
 - Special management zones such as OGMAs, wildlife habitat areas, etc.
 - Grasslands ecosystems and Bunchgrass and Interior Douglas Fir biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification (BEC) zones in particular due to their connection with agriculture, grazing and development
 - Riparian systems, watershed values
- Reduce negative economic impact to grass, range, agriculture, wildlife

- Enhance or retain/maintain biodiversity, improve resilience of grasslands and all ecosystems (all ecosystems, erosion risks, safety, etc.)
- Protect Indigenous values, traditional use plants
- Maintain sightlines on highways, streets, roads – safety
- Maintain soil values, fertility and minimizing invasive seeds in the seedbank
- Reduce fire hazard (i.e., cheatgrass)
- Maintain recreation areas free of IPs – all recreation areas, including provincial parks.
- Protection of infrastructure (i.e., knotweed)
- Protection of real estate values (ag land, also knotweed)
 - Consider categorization of values under environmental, economic, social
 - How do we prioritize values? Do we overlap them to identify geographic areas with multiple values? Is that the best place to start? Or the best opportunity to have the highest effectiveness for actions? Over the longest period of time?