



# CROWN LAND INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT IN THE THOMPSON NICOLA 2017 PROGRESS REPORT

## Background

Significant progress is being made to manage invasive plant species in the Thompson Nicola region, as part of a \$2.2-million pilot project that began this spring and will continue into 2020. *Protecting Ecosystem Health and Agricultural Values: A Strategy for Crown Land Invasive Plant Management in the Thompson Nicola* is being implemented by the B.C. government in partnership with the B.C. Cattlemen's Association, the Thompson-Nicola Regional District and the newly formed Thompson Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee (TNIPMC). The three-year project helps support B.C.'s ranching industry and rural communities in the region affected by the spread of non-native plants. These species can inhibit the growth of native plants and have a negative impact on grazing areas and the health of grassland ecosystems.

## 2017 Accomplishments

- Over 1,200 kilometres (779 hectares) of Forest Service Roads were surveyed and treated where invasive plants were found.
  - 962 kilometres were in the Nicola
  - 336 kilometres were in the Thompson
- Over 220 kilometres of TRAN right-of-way was managed and 168 hectares of invasive plants were treated.
- Year 1 of the Good Neighbour coordination approach resulted in 30 kilometres of TRAN and FLNR lands adjacent to treated private lands being managed with 13 hectares of invasive plants treated.
- 39 gravel pits within the Thompson-Nicola region were also surveyed and treated with 15 hectares of invasive plants managed in priority pits.
- Over 750 additional sites of high risk and new invader species were also surveyed and treated through joint contracts on FLNR, TRAN, BC Parks and FORTIS jurisdictions.
- More than 30 Invasive Plant species were targeted and considered for treatment throughout the TNRD:



**Over \$675,000 was spent on Crown land invasive plant management in 2017 (FLNR, TRAN and BC PARKS), plus an additional \$100,000 will be allocated to support research on invasive plant management at Thompson Rivers University.**





## 16 Regional Early Detection Rapid Response (ie. new invaders to the region)

- Yellow flag iris, black knapweed, brown knapweed, bohemian knotweed, giant knotweed, Himalayan knotweed, Japanese knotweed, common bugloss, field scabious, rush skeletonweed, scotch broom, scotch thistle, tansy ragwort, teasel, whiplash hawkweed, wild chervil.

## Eight High-Priority Species in some areas

- Common Tansy, hoary cress, orange hawkweed, spotted knapweed, sulphur cinquefoil, blueweed, hoary alyssum and in some cases burdock.

## Eight Medium and Lower-Priority Species in some areas

- Leafy spurge, bachelors button, baby's breath, chicory, plumeless thistle, policemen helmet, Russian knapweed, yellow hawkweed complex.
- Treatment areas were selected for the presence of new invaders, high priority species and spotted knapweed and all Invasive Plants on our list were treated in each area. Priority was also given to potential vectors of spread like recreation sites, roadside pullouts and gravel pits, and where adjacent land owners were also treating their lands.
- Total of 13 Crown land contracts administered including seven joint contracts with FLNR, TRAN, BC Parks and FORTIS sites, four linear treatment TRAN contracts, one joint FLNR/MOTI Good Neighbour contract and one agreement with the Invasive Species Council of BC for gravel pit management.

## Successes

- Significant treatments of priority species successfully completed
- Improved engagement with Thompson Nicola stakeholders affected by invasive plants

- Conducted broad linear treatments along roadways for complete treatment of established species like spotted knapweed, in addition to spot treatments of new invaders.
- Participated in the establishment of a new, multi-stakeholder TNIPMC, which will help co-ordinate invasive plant management for the region, develop a strategic plan, help educate stakeholders and others about invasive plants, and serve as the public's primary source of invasive plant information.
- Protecting substantive invasive plant control investments on private land adjacent to Crown land, through targeted treatments of buffer areas and a co-ordinated "Good Neighbour" approach
- Great coordinated effort by FLNR, TRAN, BC Parks, and a number of stakeholders and private land holders resulted in increased treatment and inventory work completed.

## Challenges

- Forest fires restricted access to some areas throughout the growing season.
- Limited contractor capacity to take on increased treatment contracts in a timely manner.

## Next steps

- Holding earlier planning sessions, in cooperation with the new TNIPMC, will allow for earlier contract sign off. Treatments beginning in May and extending until the fall is the goal for the most successful treatment window possible.
- Ongoing coordination with stakeholders and interested First Nations to ensure a coordinated approach across all lands within the TNRD.