



**Invasive Species  
Best Management Practices**  
Chinook Business Area  
May 2024

## Operating areas covered by the Chinook Invasive Species (IS) BMP

1. BCTS Operations in the Chilliwack, Sea to Sky, Sunshine Coast, and Haida Gwaii Natural Resource Districts.
2. BCTS Operations in TFL's within the 4 districts noted above.
3. Any other land tenure in which BCTS operates as a forest land management partner with 3<sup>rd</sup> party entities, e.g., Community Forests, First Nation Woodland Licenses, disposition agreements, etc.

## Reference sources for BMP development

This BMP reflects the best science and information to date related to controlling the spread and/or introduction of invasive species. Knowledge used to guide the development of this BMP is based upon information obtained from the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC); "[Best Management Practices for Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species During Forest Management Activities](#), 2024 edition," the Provincial Government Invasive Species Program, and the BC Timber Sales, Chinook business area Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP).

## Legislative and policy requirements concerning Invasive Species

- [Weed Control Act](#)
- [Forest and Range Practices Act \(FRPA\)](#)
- [Integrated Pest Management Act](#)
- [Controlled Alien Species Regulation Under the Wildlife Act](#)

## Limitations

Due to the extensive range and diversity of existing invasive species within BCTS' operating areas it is not feasible to stop the spread/introduction of every species. However, following the best management practices below ensures due diligence is taken to mitigate further spread/introduction.

## Primary Objectives of the Invasive Species BMP

1. To identify and report IS that occur or potentially occur within the BCTS Chinook Business Area
2. To mitigate the spread and/or introduction of IS to meet legal and 3<sup>rd</sup> party certification requirements.



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3. To educate staff and licensees, permittees, and contractors about how to mitigate the spread and/or introduction of IS.

**Planning obligations to mitigate the introduction and spread of Invasive Species**

1. Specify and implement measures in operational plans Forest Stewardship Plans/Forest Landscape Plans that prevent the introduction or spread of IS, in accordance with section 47 of FRPA.
2. Cite any known IS in site plans and provide measures to mitigate the spread and introduction of IS.
3. Conduct a field review to determine if any new IS are present and report in the Invasive Species Tracking Form.

**Field Operation procedures to mitigate the introduction and spread of Invasive Species**

1. Work in un-infested sites before moving to infested sites.
2. Clean equipment and vehicles of any seeds or plant parts before moving to new sites or regions.
  - a. When washing with water, direct run-off into current infestations or designated wash sites.
  - b. All watercraft, vessels, used moorings or any other materials follow the Clean, Drain, Dry approach whenever removing the boat from the water.
3. Minimizing soil disturbance while maintaining native vegetation cover.
4. Disturbed soils will not be grass seeded when;
  - a. Soils are occupied by seedlings as part of the Net Area to be Reforested, and
  - b. Soils where there are no known invasive plants within 500m of disturbed soils.
5. Grass seeding is necessary where;
  - a. Disturbed soils are created due to forest harvesting or road construction/maintenance activities when section 4 above does not apply.
  - b. Where disturbed soil has been created within 20 m of the high-water mark of any stream, wetland, or lake.
  - c. The forest harvesting or road construction/maintenance activity is within the RMA of



adjacent water bodies that can transport reproductive plant material downstream.

6. Grass seeding mixtures:
  - a. The minimum standard for grass seed is Common Number 1 Forage Mixture specifications as defined by the Canada Seeds Act.
  - b. The grass seed must be of native origin, ecologically suitable or compatible with the sites being seeded and a 'sod grass' mixture should be used.
  - c. In Haida Gwaii, grass seed will consist of a Haida Gwaii reseeding mixture (in accordance with Canada's Seeds Regulation, or better)
7. Timing of grass seeding:
  - a. Occurs during the first available spring or fall and within 12 months of mineral soil exposure.
  - b. Inspect for grass seeding germination success in early spring of the following year to ensure a viable grass seed source prior to the spring flush of plants in the area.
  - c. Where germination levels cover less than 80% of the treatment area, one additional grass seeding will occur.

#### Example grass seeding scenarios.

1. A TSL Holder is building a new road into a proposed block location off an existing mainline with established invasive species along the mainline network and the tenure requires the maintenance of the existing road:
  - a. The Licensee must grass seed where the new construction has occurred.
  - b. The Licensee does not have to grass seed along the mainline in this case, even though grading, etc. can create new disturbed soil (seed beds). The invasive species are already established so there may be a redistribution of existing invasive species along the mainline that is unavoidable.
2. A TSL Holder is using an existing mainline to access his timber. Under his permit/road tenure he is required to maintain the road including grading, culvert maintenance, etc, but there will be no new construction activities. There are established invasive species along the mainline, but the maintenance activities are not introducing or spreading new species but may redistribute existing species. Grass seeding is not required.
3. A Contractor is replacing a bridge/culvert along a mainline and that has established invasive



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species along it. To prevent the spread of this established species grass seeding is required. The contractor must grass seed the new disturbed soil related to the bridge/culvert replacement project.

### **Licensees, Permittees and Contractors obligations**

1. Always grass seed as per examples above if creating disturbed soil unless otherwise directed in Site Plans or by ministry staff.
2. Ensure that you are fully appraised of invasive species within your proposed area of operations by your ministry representative during pre-works.
  - a. Report any new occurrences in the Invasive Species Tracking Form
3. Ensure that you are fully appraised of your grass seeding requirements by your ministry representative during pre-works.
4. Follow the scenarios above to understand where grass seeding should occur if not discussed at your pre-work(s) and/or documented with Site Plans.
5. Ensure that your staff are fully aware of problematic invasive species and any grass seeding requirements for the operating area.
6. Review:
  - a. The Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) [Best Management Practices for Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species During Forest Management Activities](#)
  - b. BC Timber Sales Business Area Environmental Management System (EMS) and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) [Chinook Business Area Invasive Species Program](#)
  - c. ISCBC Forestry Operations [Factsheet](#)
  - d. [BC Timber Sales Forest Stewardship Plans](#) for the Chinook business area.
  - e. The ISCBC free [forestry training course](#).