



**BCTS**  
BC Timber Sales  
Skeena

**Standard Operating Procedures  
INVASIVE PLANTS  
Identifying and Reporting Sites and  
Prevention and Control Practices**

February 2017

Invasive plants are non-native species that can quickly establish and thrive in new areas and compete with native plant species for sunlight, nutrients and water. Invasive alien plants can also threaten biodiversity and reduce habitat and forage for wildlife and livestock. Forestry activities or operations that could potentially introduce or spread invasive plants include:

- road construction and maintenance
- landing and skid trail construction,
- harvesting related soil disturbance,
- site preparation,
- machine transportation and log hauling.

For any of the above activities, the BCTS project coordinator that is responsible for the activity will use the Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) web based computer application to support the management of invasive plants. The Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) is a database that contains invasive plant surveys, treatments and activity plans for the entire province. This application is located at: <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/application.htm>.

### **1. Site Identification**

Prior to the start of operations, the BCTS project coordinators will search the IAPP database for known invasive plant sites within or adjacent to proposed operations. Where invasive plant occurrences are noted, coordinators will document and review with LPCs the invasive plant list and any plans and/or treatments that may be recommended.

### **2. Site Management**

The BCTS project coordinator must review with the LPC, the measures that apply for invasive plants in accordance with the approved Forest Stewardship Plan for the area.

### **3. Prevention and Control Best Practices**

Site management best practices have been designed to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive alien plants and may include the following:

- Keep equipment storage yards free of alien invasive plants using mechanical, cultural or chemical treatments;
- Inspect for and remove any seed or propagules from clothing, vehicles and equipment, both before and after any work is done on site, controlling any dislodged soil, mud or water on site or at sites that may be designated as suitable for control purposes (these sites should be monitored periodically for invasive plant species);
- Do not transport soil known to contain invasive alien plants. Maintain soil, subgrade and surfacing material that is being transported (e.g. during road construction) as free as practicable of invasive weed plants or seeds;

- Re-vegetate disturbed areas adjacent or known to be at risk to invasive alien plant establishment using an appropriate combination of scarification, seeding (Canada No. 1 mix or better), fertilizing and / or mulching. Disturbance may be due to road, landing or skid trail construction, maintenance or deactivation activities. Soil exposure may also occur following debris pile burning or from timber harvesting.
- Seeding should occur in the next available seeding window after disturbance.

The BCTS project coordinator must ensure that any measures or practices that are to be the responsibility of the LPC are clearly specified in the License, contract or permit documents and are reviewed during the pre-work conference.

#### **4. Identification**

Provide sufficient training and identification resources to the LPC so that they will be able to identify and manage for the known species of invasive plants and noxious weeds.

LPCs may be provided with identification tools such as:

- *The Field Guide to Noxious Weeds and other Selected Invasive Plants of British Columbia*, and
- the *BCTS Skeena Invasive Alien Plant Carabineer*.

Additionally, LPCs may be provided with best management practices and strategies that can be applied during road construction, road maintenance, harvesting, and silviculture activities. These are available from the Invasive Plant Council of B.C. (<http://www.bcinvases.ca/resources/> and include;

- *Best Practices for Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants during Forest Management Activities* and
- *Best Practices for Managing Invasive Plants on Roadsides* for road work.

The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands provides additional resources for invasive plant identification and management (see the References and Further Information section of this document).

#### **5. Site Reporting**

Reporting new invasive plant sites is the responsibility of the LPC and can be done on-line or through a downloadable Smartphone app. at <http://reportaweedbc.ca/index.htm>. The reports of new occurrences are reviewed and prioritized by a FLNRO Invasive Plant Specialist, and where appropriate, added to the provincial IAPP application. New sites of priority invasive plant species will be shared with local invasive plant committees and incorporated into plans and treatment strategies.

## 6. References and Further Information

- *BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Weeds BC:*  
<http://www.weedsbc.ca>
- *E-Flora BC – Electronic Atlas of the Plants of BC:*  
<http://www.eflora.bc.ca>
- *Best Practices for Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants During Forest Management Activities: A Pocket Guide for British Columbia’s Forest Workers:*  
<http://bcinvasives.ca/resources/publications/best-practices-for-preventing-the-spread-of-invasive-plants-during-forest-m>
- *Field Guide to Noxious Weeds and Other Selected Weeds of British Columbia, eighth Edition, 2014:*  
[http://bcinvasives.ca/documents/Field\\_Guide\\_to\\_Noxious\\_Weeds\\_Final\\_WEB\\_09-25-2014.pdf](http://bcinvasives.ca/documents/Field_Guide_to_Noxious_Weeds_Final_WEB_09-25-2014.pdf)
- *Invasive Plants Regulation:*  
[http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/18\\_2004](http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/18_2004)
- *Invasive Species Council of British Columbia:*  
<http://www.bcinvasives.ca/>
- *Northwest Invasive Plant Council:*  
<http://www.nwipc.org>