

Appendix C

1 INVASIVE PLANTS AND SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

RMR is expanding their summer mountain biking, hiking and sightseeing into the alpine bowls of Mount Mackenzie, and though this area is already accessed, RMR expects an increase in visitors to this area during its sensitive growing months.

In accordance with BC Ministry of Agriculture's Weed Control Act, and in support of BC Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations Invasive Plant Program, RMR has developed operational plans to control the spread of designated noxious plants as well as protect the sensitive alpine environment.

1.2 INVASIVE PLANTS

Invasive species that enter and establish in BC bring harmful impacts to our environment, economy and society. To manage invasive plants, RMR will take a prevention approach, having boot cleaners and bike wash stations for guests, as well as posting educational signs and posters to increase public awareness.

In addition to these prevention methods, RMR will actively minimize plant dispersal by removing and properly disposing of invasive plants before flowering, re-vegetating disturbed soils with native grasses and wildflowers, and ensuring guests and their equipment stay on designated routes. Controlled access points at the lifts and active summer mountain patrol are planned and will ease monitoring of guests as well as informing guests of the sensitive nature of their surrounding environment. Through identification and monitoring, if noxious weeds are found they will be recorded and reported to 1-888-WEEDSBC or online at www.reportaweedbc.ca and removed. Upon removing invasive plants, they are to be placed in a plastic bag and disposed of in proper refuse containers.

1.3 SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTS

The primary areas of this proposed summer tenure are located in the Alpine Tundra (AT) and Englemann Spruce – Supalpine Fir (ESSF) and Interior Mountain Hemlock Alpine (IMA) biogeoclimatic zones. Alpine vegetation has adapted to the harsh effects of wind, cold temperatures, short growing seasons, dry condition and UV rays. Trampling destroys the fragile tundra plants and initiates soil erosion. Specific trail and routes will be selected that maximize the use of wildlife trails and bare rock zones. Bike trails will be built using a cut-in method to ensure users stay on the tread. Minimal cutting will be done while constructing trails and RMR will utilize its recreation area to minimize any trampling effect of hikers.