



Date: 30/01/2019

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

To: Chair and Directors, Cariboo Regional District Board

And To: John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer

From: Emily Sonntag, Invasive Plant Management Coordinator

Date of Meeting: Cariboo Regional District Board_Feb08_2019

File: 5280-03-01 (2018)

Short Summary:

2018 Invasive Plant Management Annual Report

Voting:

Stakeholder – Weighted, All Electoral Areas, City of Williams Lake, District of Wells

Memorandum:

The Cariboo Regional District's (CRD) Invasive Plant Management Program is dedicated to protecting the region's environmental, social, and economic health from the threats posed by the spread of invasive plants. The program has evolved over many years, adapting to meet the ever-changing management needs of invasive plants. In 2018, the Program provided invasive plant management services on private, municipal, and regional district owned lands. Services were also provided on a fee for service basis for the City of Quesnel, BC Hydro, Fortis BC Energy Inc., Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Those services include on-the-ground treatment; surveying; treatment efficacy monitoring; administration; stakeholder coordination on a local, regional, and provincial level; data collection, management, and entry into the Provincial Invasive Alien Plant Program database; strategic planning; outreach; and landowner assistance.

Treatment crews completed surveys on 2675 invasive plant sites over the 2018 operational season that began in May. The CRD follows the concept of an integrated pest management program; employing a whole suite of tools to control invasive plant species dependent on the species and/or site conditions. Treatment activities included mechanical, chemical, and biological. One certified crew from the Williams Lake area and two independent invasive plant management contractors conducted treatments. All 1602 sites treated this year received an initial survey, site assessment, and at least one treatment. 28 privately owned lots within the CRD were surveyed and treated, 120 landowners participated in the dispensing program, and spray equipment was available for loan out through the services available in the CRD's Landowner Assistance Program. 752 acres of private land were treated through the 50/50 cost share program at a cost of \$25,458 to the CRD. 2018 is anticipated to be equally as successful. Treatment efficacy monitoring was conducted on 26% of the 1602 sites treated.

Based on survey and treatment summaries for 2018, Common Tansy, Field Scabious, Hoary Alyssum, Spotted Knapweed, and Yellow Hawkweed were the top 5 problematic invasive plant species. These species continue to increase in number of sites, size of infestations, or impacts to residents. A considerable quantity of available resources is spent managing them.

The successful management of invasive plants across large areas requires a cooperative approach. The CRD's Invasive Plant Management Program is strongly committed to fostering working relationships with fellow management agencies/individuals to facilitate coordination and collaboration. 2018 partners included the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee, Invasive Species Council of BC, MOFLNRORD, MOTI, Fortis BC, BC Hydro, City of Quesnel, Thompson Rivers University, landowners, community groups, and Indigenous groups.

There were many successes in 2018 including staff and contractor retention, increased landowner assistance participation, and increased community partnerships that complemented and augmented the program. However, there were also many challenges including a continued need to increase education and awareness within the region, a lack of landowner participation in management activities, a lack of sufficient funding, and increased landscapes susceptible to invasion as a result of wildfires and floods.

Attachments:

2018 IPM Annual Report

Financial Implications:

None

Policy Implications:

None

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

- ☐ Ensuring Sufficient and Sustainable Funding
- ☒ Building on our Relationships
- ☒ Providing Cost Effective High Quality Services
- ☐ Focusing on Being Well Governed

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CAO Comments:

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Options:

- 1.) Receipt
- 2.) Receipt and further action as directed by the Board

Recommendation:

That the agenda item summary from Emily Sonntag, Invasive Plant Management Coordinator, dated January 30, 2019, regarding the 2018 IPM Annual Report for the Invasive Plant Management Program as attached, be received.