



**Date:** 20/02/2020

**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\_Mar06\_2020

**File:** 5280-01

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## **Short Summary:**

2019 Year End Report for the Invasive Plant Management Program

## **Voting:**

Corporate Vote - Unweighted

## **Memorandum:**

[Click here to view an interactive map depicting 2019's Invasive Plant Management activities](#)

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 2019, 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 2,753 invasive plant sites over the 2019 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 three independent invasive plant management contractors conducted treatments. All 1,226 sites treated this year received an initial survey, site assessment, and at least one treatment. Twenty privately owned lots within the CRD were surveyed and treated, 400 insects were provided to private landowners for knapweed control, 107 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. 619 acres of private land was treated through the 50/50 cost share program at a cost

of \$13,466 to the CRD. 2020 is anticipated to be equally as successful. Treatment efficacy monitoring was conducted on 26% of the 1,226 sites treated.

Based on survey and treatment summaries for 2019, 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 numbers of sites, size of infestations, or impacts to residents. A considerable quantity of available resources is spent in 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. 2019 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 communities.

There were many successes in 2019 including increased landowner assistance participation, and increased community partnerships that complimented and augmented the program. However, there were also many challenges including unfavorable weather conditions, new invasive plant management contractors, a continued need to increase education and awareness within the region, a lack of landowner participation in management activities, insufficient funding, and increased landscapes susceptible to invasion because of wildfires and flooding.

### **Attachments:**

2019 Invasive Plant Management Report

### **Financial Implications:**

None

### **Policy Implications:**

None

### **Alignment with Strategic Plan:**

- ☐ **Communication:** Facilitate communication strategies throughout the entire Cariboo Regional District that meet the needs of residents, community stakeholders, and other levels of government.
- ☒ **Planning:** Intentionally plan services and activities of the CRD to prepare for future needs of residents and community stakeholders.
- ☒ **Economic Sustainability:** Foster an environment to ensure the economic sustainability of CRD communities and the region.
- ☐ **Governance:** Ensure that CRD governance policy and practices are intentional, transparent, and respectful.

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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 February 20, 2020, regarding the 2019 Year End Report for the Invasive Plant Management Program as attached, be received.