

## **2021 Business Plan Invasive Plant Management Program (1010)**

*Charles Boulet,  
Manager of Environmental Services*

***Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.***

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### **Department/Function Services**

The Invasive Plant Management function provides the following services:

- Coordinating and cooperating with other organizations, both public and private, to ensure that effective and acceptable invasive plant control measures are carried out;
- Providing landowner assistance programs to assist in the management of invasive plants on private property;
- Undertaking public education initiatives aimed at raising awareness about invasive plants and the problem they create;
- Managing invasive plant species on private and public land following an integrated pest management approach;
- Enforcing the Invasive Plant Management Regulation Bylaw No. 4949, 2015 on private lands.



The Cariboo Regional District's Invasive Plant Management function has been in operation since 1979. The function was originally initiated to manage land against knapweed. Since that time, it has evolved to respond to the increasing invasive plant threat. In fact, the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee has currently prioritized 35 invasive alien plant species within their Regional Strategic Plan. Those 35 plants are threatening the Region's

economic, environmental, and societal health. The program implements the services listed above to mitigate the impacts of these species.

Since 2007 the Invasive Plant Management function has acquired the following capital assets:

- 2007 – 12 – Backpack Herbicide Sprayers
- 2008 – 1 – ATV Herbicide Spray Tank
- 2009 – 1 – 100 Gallon Spray Tank
- 2009 – 1 – Yamaha Grizzly ATV
- 2010 – 1 – Newmans ATV Trailer
- 2011 – 1 – Yamaha Grizzly ATV
- 2011 – 1 – ATV Herbicide Spray Tank

The Invasive Plant Management function operates under the authority of the Cariboo Regional District Weed Control Extended Service Establishment Bylaw No. 3483, 1998.



The service is provided throughout the entire district. All members of the Board are responsible for the governance of this service except the District of 100 Mile House and City of Quesnel.

Taxation is collected by way of assessment on land and improvements. There is no limit on taxation.

## **2021 Goal**

The invasive plant function plans to deliver a business as usual program for 2021 and has no major goals planned that would impact service delivery, staffing, or capital expenditures.

## **Overall Financial Impact**

The 2021 requisition remains unchanged from the 2020 level.

A significant portion of the invasive plant function budget is derived from federal and provincial grants and contracts. The Provisional Budget assumes that we will receive a

portion of these provincial funds; however, they could be eliminated at any time. If funding is not provided, then the budget and program will be revised accordingly.

Capital reserves at the end of 2020 are \$54,726. Presently, current taxation levels are adequate.



### **Significant Issues & Trends**

Over the term of this plan and in consideration of the provincial budgetary limitations expected as a result of COVID-19, it is anticipated that insufficient contract funding will have a significant effect on the Invasive Plant Management Program; particularly on operational treatments. The Invasive Plant Management Program works collaboratively with other agencies responsible for a mosaic of jurisdictions within the region. The Cariboo Regional District Invasive Plant Management Program budget receives a significant portion from federal, provincial, and private grants and contracts. Budgetary cuts will both directly and indirectly impact the Invasive Plant Management Program. Directly, in our ability to secure adequate funding to treat other agency's jurisdictions and augment our budget and indirectly, as other jurisdictions will not be able to maintain the level of management efforts previously held. Without adequate funding, invasive plant management programs will be forced to prioritize invasive plant species and sites for treatment. This prioritization process will unfortunately leave areas and species without treatment. Thus, agency funding constraints will in turn increase the cost to private landowners as uncontrolled infestations will be free to expand by 14% annually (BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, 2005) until resources are available to put towards expensive containment strategies.

The wildfire season of 2017 and 2018 will continue to have an effect as well on the Invasive Plant Management Program over the next number of years due to the widespread disturbance of the landscape and the high probability that firefighting equipment, imported livestock feed, vehicles, and personnel were contaminated with invasive plant seeds or material. Preventative measures will be critical over the next few years in monitoring fire-impacted areas for invasive plant presence and aggressively controlling any plants found to stop a population from establishing and spreading. An increase in funding and collaboration from the Province will be required for multiple years to initiate a positive response.

The Cariboo Regional District is a signatory on the Province of BC/UBCM Climate Action Charter and has committed to continuing work towards carbon neutrality in respect of corporate operations.

### **Measuring Previous Years Performance**

The invasive plant function delivered a business as usual program for 2020.