

Thompson-Nicola
INVASIVE PLANT
management committee

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

tnipmc.com



THOMPSON-NICOLA
REGIONAL DISTRICT
The Region of BC's Best

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

After its initiation in 2017, 2018 was the first full year of operations for the Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee (TNIPMC). It was a busy year with many accomplishments as highlighted in this summary.

The Strategic Plan, which includes specific objectives and strategies for achieving our primary goals, was wrapped up in time for our spring meeting. We then moved through contracting and monitoring for the treatment season while engaging with our partners on ongoing programs. There were significant efforts made in getting the TNIPMC established as the coordinating

agency for invasive plant management, which culminated in an excellent field day at Lundbom in late July with participation across many sectors.

As we wrap up the 2018 program we look forward to bigger and better efforts in invasive plant control and education. 2019 will see an Education and Outreach Specialist and a Wildfire Recovery Manager for IP prevention and control added to the TNIPMC team. We look forward to improved and expanded IP services within the TNIPMC with this extra capacity.



TNIPMC Field Day, Lundbom BC - July 23, 2018

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR, DIRECTOR KEN GILLIS

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2018 Annual Report of our new Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee.

While we have met our new responsibilities to a large extent, it is obvious that a much more robust attack on invasive plant species is necessary. We were very fortunate to receive financial support provided by the Red Cross; however, that was a one-time response to the threat posed by the aftermath of the 2017 wildfire season. The broader scale action on invasives will require ever-increasing funds, so we must continue to press for provincial, federal and private dollars to continue and intensify our efforts.

I have been honoured to chair this committee for the past several years, and I credit the knowledgeable and dedicated people in our group with making such significant progress. Unfortunately, the weeds continue to make progress too. I wish the new committee every success and I promise my continued support at the Board table.



BACKGROUND & HISTORY

In 1976, the TNRD created a noxious weed control program and established its first Invasive Plant Committee. In 1997, The Southern Interior Weed Management Committee (SIWMC) was created as a non-profit society and provided the valuable function of coordinating and implementing invasive plant control and education throughout the TNRD. Both groups were amalgamated into one new comprehensive committee in 2017.

To get the TNIPMC started, the Fraser Basin Council was hired to develop a Strategic Plan. In February of 2018, the TNRD hired a full time invasive plant management coordinator. The

coordinator is now the main point of contact for the TNIPMC. 2018 marked the first full year of operations on the new Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee (TNIPMC).

The BC Government's *A Strategy for Crown Land Invasive Plant Management in the Thompson -Nicola Region* from March 2017, brought \$2.2 million in funding to a number of agencies over three years to allow development of multi-year plans to better accomplish invasive plant management goals. This increased the capacity of many of the TNIPMC partners to conduct treatments, education and research.

Funding

In 2018, the TNIPMC was funded by coordination and education grants from the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) and Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD). The TNRD also provides funding to the committee as in-kind contributions in the form of staff time, administration, and meeting/office expenses. Carry-over funding from the dissolved Southern Interior Weed Management Committee was also utilized in 2018.

Weed Control Bylaw 2529

"Every owner or occupier of Real Property within the Noxious Weed Control Service Area must ensure that his or her property is cleared of and remains free of all Invasive Plants listed in schedule "A" attached to this bylaw." The TNRD enforces this bylaw on a complaints basis. It can be an effective tool, especially for new invaders.

Strategic Plan

One of this year's priorities for the new committee was to create a Strategic Plan. In early 2018, a working group was created and met for three planning sessions which resulted in a draft of the plan. With further input from the full TNIPMC, the Strategic Plan was adopted in spring 2018. The plan includes five goals, each with specific objectives and strategies for how the goals might be achieved.

Goals of the TNIPMC Strategic Plan

1. Improve regional invasive plant knowledge
2. Coordinate invasive plant management across the TNRD
3. Improve efficacy of invasive plant management in the TNRD
4. Protect indigenous values
5. Influence operational policy development and change for invasive plant management



Parks crew pulling Spotted knapweed in Tunkwa Lake Park

Committee Members & Representation

The TNIPMC has 11 members with representation from a broad range of groups. The committee structure and membership is based on including land managers as well as groups with direct involvement in education and outreach. Each committee member is appointed by the organization/sector they represent.

2018 TNIPMC Committee

1. TNRD Electoral Area Director (Chair) – Kenneth Gillis, Electoral Area “L”
2. TNRD Electoral Area Director – Herb Graham, Electoral Area “N”
3. TNRD Municipal Director – Jack Jeyes, Village of Ashcroft
4. BC Cattlemen’s Association – Kevin Boon (Alternate: Vacant)
5. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRORD) – Sheryl Wurtz (Alternate: Rachel Whitehouse)
6. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) – Donna Olsen (Alternate: Grahame Gielens)
7. BC Parks – Vacant
8. Shuswap Nation Tribal Council – Dwayne Paradis, Tk’emlúps te Secwepemc (Alternate Jim McGrath, Tk’emlúps te Secwepemc)
9. Nicola Tribal Association – Sara Martin, Nicola Watershed Stewardship and Fisheries Authority (Alternate: Tracy Wimbush, Nicola Watershed Stewardship and Fisheries Authority)
10. Grasslands Conservation Council – Agnes Jackson (Alternate: Phil Youwe)
11. Thompson Rivers University – Peggy Broad, Faculty of Natural Resource Science (Alternate: Wendy Gardner, Faculty of Natural Resource Science)

2018 INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL – ON-THE-GROUND TREATMENTS

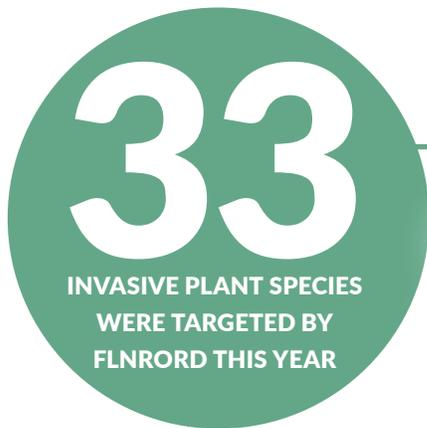
The TNIPMC does not conduct on-the-ground invasive plant control treatment work; however, many agencies represented on the committee conduct control work on land within in their jurisdiction. The following are the operational invasive plant control summaries from partner agencies.

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD)

Beginning in 2017, FLNRORD expanded their invasive plant control work within the TNRD under the Provincial Pilot Program and the District was divided into seven contract regions in 2018. The Range Program administering these contracts which also include some treatments for MOTI, BC Parks and Fortis.

In addition, there were seven smaller direct award contracts administered by Cascades District, including three to First Nations and four to ranchers for treatment of Crown lands within their tenure areas.

928 km of forest service roads were covered, which included treatment of 557 ha of weed infested lands. In total, over \$470,000 in treatment funding was delivered by FLNRORD in 2018.



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REGIONAL EARLY DETECTION RAPID RESPONSE (REDRR) SPECIES:

- Yellow flag iris
- Black knapweed
- Bohemian knotweed
- Brown knapweed
- Common bugloss
- Field scabious
- Giant knotweed
- Himalayan knotweed
- Japanese knotweed
- Rush skeletonweed
- Scotch broom
- Scotch thistle
- Tansy ragwort
- Teasel
- Whiplash hawkweed
- Wild chervil
- Poison hemlock

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HIGH PRIORITY SPECIES:

- Common tansy
- Hoary cress
- Orange hawkweed
- Spotted knapweed
- Sulphur cinquefoil
- Blueweed
- Hoary alyssum

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MEDIUM AND LOW PRIORITY SPECIES:

- Leafy spurge
- Baby's breath
- Burdock
- Chicory in grassland areas
- Plumeless thistle
- Policemans helmet
- Russian knapweed
- Yellow hawkweeds

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)

New for 2018, the TNRD administered the MOTI roadside invasive plant control within the Regional District. \$200,000 has been provided for 2018 and for 2019 under agreement between the two parties.

The treatment work completed in 2018 by the TNRD on MOTI areas was focused in the following six contract areas:

2018 MOTI Contract Areas

1. Highway 5A and side roads
2. Tranquille/Red Lake
3. Tunkwa/Mamit/Kane Valley
4. Lower Nicola
5. Martin/Robbins (Pritchard)
6. Good Neighbors (roadside treatments adjacent to private land treatments)



Recreation and noxious weeds, boat trailer at Nicola Lake rest stop



Treated Spotted knapweed on Goose Lake Road

The goal was to have all chemical treatment work completed by July 31st, 2018 so that most treatments would be applied during the growing season. Despite challenging spring weather, over 95% of all contracts were completed within that timeframe. TNRD staff regularly monitored treatment contractors for efficacy and contract compliance.

The areas reported below include also roadside management of high priority species administered by MOTI and MFLNRD.

- A total of approximately 45 ha of invasive plants were treated along 248 km of roadways.
- Primary species targeted were Spotted knapweed, Diffuse knapweed, Common tansy, Hoary alyssum, Burdock and small amounts of Sulphur cinquefoil.
- \$159,266 expended on contracts administered by the TNRD on MOTI right-of-ways.
- Additional 43 km were surveyed in planning for future control work (cursory surveys also occurred to aid and planning for conducting weed control on the Coquihalla highway in 2019).



Hoary Cress in Knutsford

TNRD

Landowner Rebates

The TNRD provides assistance funding to landowners conducting invasive plant control on private lands. Rebates are issued for up to 50% of the cost of herbicide treatments done by a certified applicator. In addition, 100% rebates are issued for control of select species identified as high priority new invaders.

\$99,000

was paid out in rebates between 60 landowners under the 50/50 program.

\$452,000

was the total amount spent on control of invasive plants on private lands in the TNRD (many landowner spend beyond the 50% maximum rebate of \$3000).

\$13,000

was utilized to cover 100% of the treatment cost of the new invader species Scotch thistle found on 6 different private properties.

Equipment Loan-Out

The TNRD owns a fleet of sprayers and seeding equipment that is available to landowners to borrow free of charge. This program is administered through Purity Feed Ltd.

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landowners took advantage of borrowing the equipment to conduct weed control on their property in 2018.

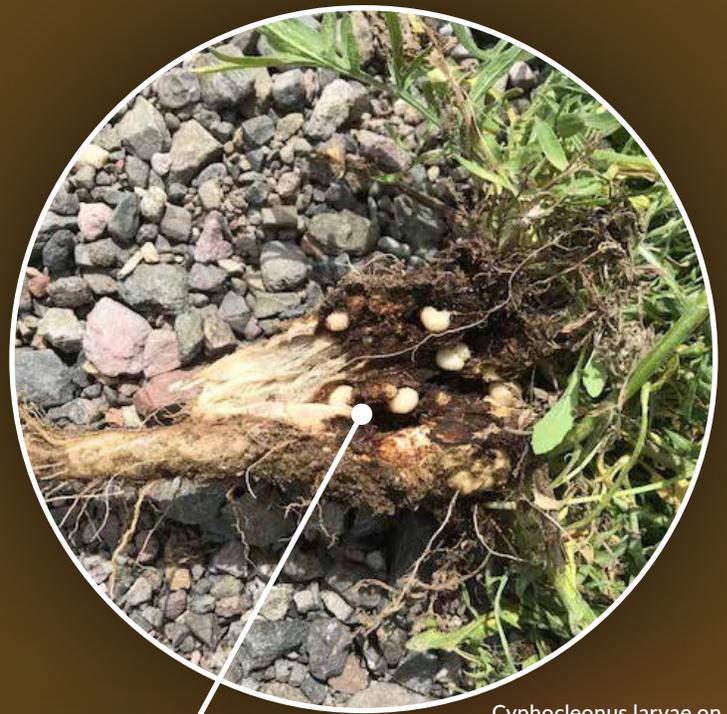


Bio-Control

The TNRD continues to fund a bio-control program that entails the collection and redistribution of bio-agents (insects) to private landowners on a by request basis. Collection of insects has been challenging over the past couple of years, and we suspect that the heavy wildfire smoke has had an influence on the insects' habitat and population. This program will continue in 2019.

2018 Bio-Control Highlights:

- 35,000 *Cyphocleonus* insects (target spotted knapweed) were collected and redistributed to private lands.
- Assessed 12 historic release locations for collection suitability
- Maintained a Google Maps and Excel digital inventory for housing and accessing all the biocontrol release information
- Maintained *Cruciger* weevil (target Hounds tongue) propagation site at Chase



Cyphocleonus larvae on Spotted knapweed

Cyphocleonus Achates



OTHER JURISDICTIONS

This report is not a comprehensive account of all invasive plant control occurring within the TNRD. We are working on including other agencies and jurisdictions in this report in subsequent years, including:

- Utility companies (i.e. pipelines)
- Railways
- First Nations
- Municipalities
- Provincial Parks



Tree of Heaven in Ashcroft

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Invasive Plant coordination and education involves direct public education initiatives such as hosted field days and attending public & special interest group meetings (i.e. stock associations, community events, etc.). It also includes working with land managers to ensure prevention and treatment efforts are being done in the most effective and efficient way possible.

The TNIPMC received a three year commitment of \$40,000/year (\$120,000 total) from FLNRORD, plus \$10,000 from the MOTI for invasive plant coordination and education to be delivered as part of the TNIPMC activities. This funding is used for initiatives of the TNIPMC, including implementation of the newly created Strategic Invasive Plant Management Plan.



TNRD staff at the Kamloops Green Expo

Highlights - TNIPMC education activities

- Invasive Plant assessments and advice to one hundred private landowners
- Community group events
- Merritt Invasive Plant Field Day
- K-7 Educational program
- Kamloops “Green Expo” in April
- Press releases highlighting biocontrol and weed species to avoid in the garden
- CFJC Midday show appearances
- Over 130 different local contacts made through phone or e-mail with members of the public from all over the TNRD

- Outreach to member Municipalities and local First Nations
- Updates to the TNIPMC website
- BC Parks Student Ranger program training
- TNIPMC newsletter, highlighting Knapweed control efforts
- Tailgate field days in Barriere and Pritchard
- Report on the extent of Yellow Bedstraw

For 2019 the TNRD is contracting an Invasive Plant Education Specialist to increase the presence of the TNIPMC at community events, implement a Knotweed action plan and expand social media efforts.

Wildfire Invasive Plant prevention and Control

In the spring of 2018, the TNRD applied for funding from the Red Cross in order to treat private lands and MOTI rights-of-way within the Elephant Hill wildfire area. Funding for \$990,000 over three years was approved in the fall of 2018, and the TNRD is planning for work on the ground in 2019. This funding is expected to have a large impact on invasive plants within and adjacent to the fire area, and will build on work by MOTI in 2018 to seed over 23 ha of fire impact right of way in the TNRD. The priorities are:

1. Seeding of private land with severe fire impacts;
2. Control of noxious weeds on burned areas on private and highways; and
3. Control of noxious weeds adjacent to the burn.

This program will also involve extensive education and outreach throughout the northwest part of the TNRD.



Elephant Hill fire in Back Valley





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