

Thompson-Nicola
INVASIVE PLANT
management committee

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

tnipmc.com



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



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2019 marks the 2nd operational year for the Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee (TNIPMC). Our program has grown extensively over the past year, with implementation of an enriched education and outreach program, continued efforts to foster existing partnerships and build new ones, and enhance collaboration among land managers on invasive plant management and related initiatives.

The BC Provincial Government's "Protecting Ecosystem Health and Agricultural Values: A Strategy for Crown Land Invasive Plant

Management in the Thompson Nicola" brought \$2.2 million to the region for invasive plant management over 3 years (2017-2019). These funds increased the capacity of many TNIPMC partners to conduct invasive plant management, education, outreach and research. Many of the accomplishments achieved with this funding are outlined in this report.

With more experience, resources and strategic planning under our belt, we are ready to move forward into 2020 and expand on the work completed this past year.

1. Purity Feed invasive plant workshop in Barnhartvale.
2. IAPP/QGIS Training.
3. Grasslands Conservation Council participates in the TNIPMC Weed Pull Challenge.
4. AgroWest's Yellowflag iris workshop at Dutch Lake.
5. Invasive plant training- Cache Creek area.
6. Purity Feed invasive plant workshop.



PROTECTING LAND VALUES:

ON-THE-GROUND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

\$400K
*allocated to
invasive plant
management*

1. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

The Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) continued operational treatment of invasive plants on Crown Land. They actively carried out invasive plant control in seven management areas, which collectively covered the entire TNRD. They also continued administering contracts with ranchers and First Nations, who managed invasive plants within their tenure areas and reserve lands. The Good Neighbour Program continued into its third year. Through this program, MFLNRORD treated invasive plants on Crown land adjacent to private lands where invasive plants were being actively managed.

**Ministry of Forests,
Lands, Natural
Resource Operations
and Rural
Development**

*Over
300 SITES
surveyed and
treated*

***20 Crown
land invasive
plant contracts
administered***

2. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) continued to deliver invasive plant control along their road right of ways and gravel pits.

Through the Provincial pilot funding, MoTI was able to treat a large portion of HWY 5, between Kamloops and Merritt. This was the first time a major highway has been treated in several years. Additional roadside treatments were carried out through the Good Neighbor program, where rights of way were treated adjacent to private lands that were actively being managed for invasive plants. These programs were administered in partnership with the TNRD.

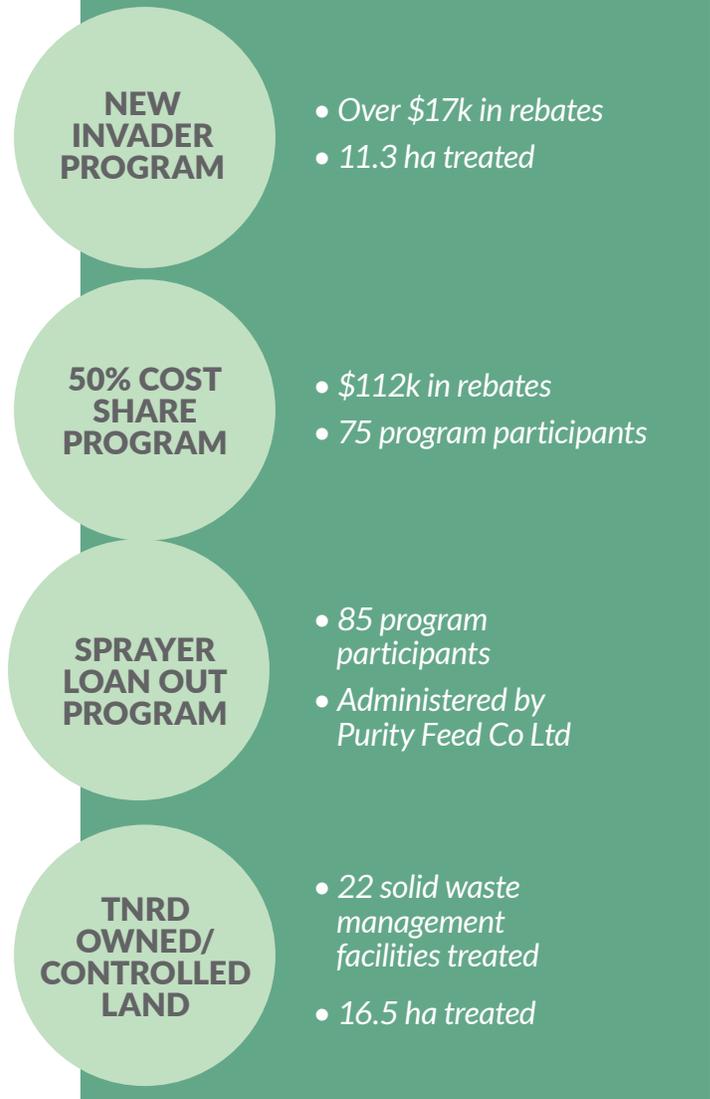
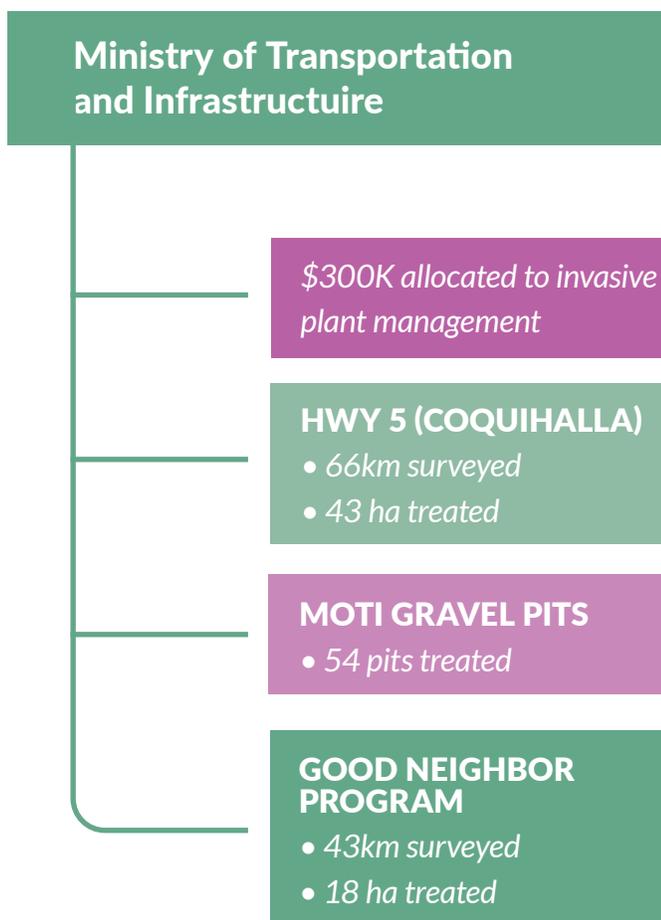
In addition, MoTI worked in partnership with MFLNRORD to deliver a regional early detection and rapid response program, where noted occurrence of high priority invasive plants were managed.

They also partnered with the Invasive Species Council of BC to carry out treatment in MoTI owned gravel pits.



3. Thompson-Nicola Regional District

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) continued to administer their invasive plant assistance programs for landowners in the region. This program offers free equipment loan outs, rebates for chemical control of invasive plants and insects for biological control. The TNRD also managed invasive plants on TNRD owned/controlled land. Collectively, the TNRD allocated over \$200k for invasive plant management in the region.



Did You Know?

The TNRD Weed Control Bylaw 2529 requires landowners to keep their property free of invasive plants.



Canadian Red Cross

In the spring of 2018, the Canadian Red Cross provided \$990,000, over 3 years, to the TRND to treat invasive plants on private lands and MOTI rights-of-way within the Elephant Hill wildfire area.

During this first year of the Elephant Hill Wildfire Invasive Plant Management program, achievements were made engaging affected landowners, seeding bare and disturbed ground on private land and controlling invasive plants on private land and along road right of ways throughout the burn area.

7 community events to promote the program

Over 200 invasive plant surveys completed

17ha of invasive plant treatments on private land

859 ha of bare ground aerially seeded on 84 properties

6.5ha of invasive plant treatments on road right of ways



Purity Feed Co.

Purity Feed continued to offer its Aerial Spray program, treating ~1900ha of private land. They also continued offering private land consultations. A total of 83 properties were visited and assessed. Invasive plant and land management recommendations were provided to each landowner based on the assessment outcomes.

In addition, they hosted 2 invasive plant workshops in Chase and Barnhartvale, where local areas residents learned about Hoary alyssum and Leafy spurge. Staff also carried out a road-side Scotch thistle inventory in the Barnhartvale and Pritchard areas, with no new plants found.





Invasive plant inventory and treatment along HWY 5A.

Invasive Species Council of BC

The Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) is a registered charity and non-profit society whose mission is to take action to build healthy landscapes, including habitats and communities, through education and responsible practices to prevent the spread of invasive species. The ISCBC carried out 2 primary invasive operational programs this year:



JCP participant carrying out mechanical control at MoTI gravel pit.



Good Neighbour treatments along Dixon Creek road, Barriere.

JOB CREATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

- 100 priority site visits
- 300 ha surveyed for invasive plants
- 35 ha of invasive plants controlled

MOTI GRAVEL PITS

- 38 pits treated by certified contractors
- 16 pits controlled by JCP participants

The Job Creation Partnership (JCP) program provides community benefits, while creating jobs to assist unemployed EI eligible clients with opportunities to gain meaningful work experience.

GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT:

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee

The TNIPMC, administered by the TNRD, delivered its first fully operational education and outreach program and continued its efforts to enhance invasive plant management coordination within the region.



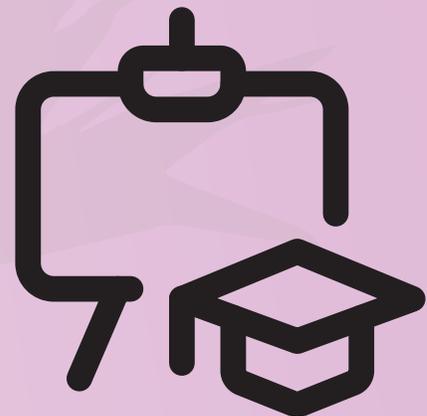
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

- MFLNRORD (\$40K)
- MoTI (\$10K)
- TNRD (\$10k)
- Total operating budget of \$60k



COMMUNICATION

- Issued 5 press releases on various invasive plant topics with over 15 media responses
- Facebook page established: 15 followers, 108 likes, reached over 3,000 people with invasive plant messaging
- Over 170 public inquiries in invasive plant related topics



EDUCATION

- Visited 12 different schools
- Delivered 39 classroom presentations
- Reached over 920 students
- Participated in SD 58 field day at the Laurie Guichon Memorial Grassland Interpretive Site educating over 60 students on invasive plants.
- Developed comprehensive invasive plant education guide for K-7



TRAINING

- Offered 2 training session
 - Invasive Alien Plant Program and QGIS training for land managers
 - Introduction to invasive plants for First Nations
- Reached 32 people

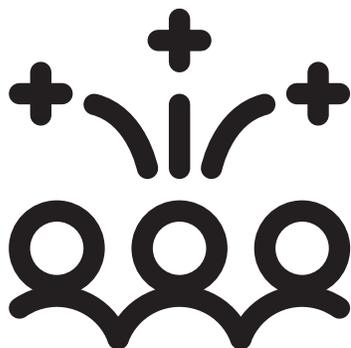


OUTREACH

- Attended 31 different outreach events (work shops, field tours, fairs, markets etc)
- Reached an estimated 1,300 people
- Hosted the TNIPMC annual field tour in the Lower Nicola where over 60 people received information on Blueweed management
- Weed Warrior Weed Pull Challenge implemented with participation from 7 organizations, over 150 community stewards, who collectively pulled a total of 1,120kg of Spotted knapweed
- Knotweed management strategy developed to help guide invasive knotweed management in the region

COORDINATION EFFORTS

- February 14, 2019- an inter-agency coordination meeting was held to review and discuss invasive plant treatment activities for the region for 2019.
- September 23-25, 2019- TNIPMC attended the Regional Invasive Species Organizations (RISO) annual meeting and field tour in the Fraser Valley. Information on management techniques and education and outreach programs in other regions of the Province were shared.
- October 3, 2019- the TNIPMC coordinated a regional strategic planning meeting where discussion on priority invasive plants and invasive plant management areas were discussed
- The TNIPMC has been attending monthly RISO calls to stay current on invasive plant management activities, concerns and successes across the province



COLLABORATION

The TNIPMC works in partnership with numerous organizations, groups and agencies on invasive plant management initiatives within the TNRD. Additional efforts will continue to foster existing partnerships and explore new ones.



ISCBC Youth Volunteers pulling invasive plants at the BC Wildlife Park.

Invasive Species Council of BC

The Invasive Species Council of BC delivered education and outreach initiatives in the region through 2 distinct programs.

In addition to carrying out invasive plant control, the Job Creation Partnership Program participants delivered invasive plant messaging at 15 outreach events, reaching over 430 people.

The ISCBC also administered a Youth Volunteer program out of Kamloops. This program engages young people between 15 and 30 years of age to volunteer on invasive plant management, education and outreach initiatives. In return for their volunteer time, youth gain hands-on training and the opportunity to become part of a growing network of like-minded youth and young adults. In 2019, this program had 37 youth volunteers that participated in 12 community event, such as weed pulls.



JCP participants sharing PlantWise messaging at Highland Valley Copper's open house.



TRU students sharing research information during a Provincial Invasive Plant Field Tour.

RESEARCH

Thompson Rivers University

The Thompson Rivers University received \$150k, over 3 years, from the provincial pilot program "A Strategy for Crown Land Invasive Plant Management in the Thompson-Nicola. These funds were used to support 3 independent invasive plant research projects:

- Grassland Restoration Following Removal of Spotted Knapweed (Rachel Whitehouse, MSc Student, TRU)**- the project research objective was to control Spotted knapweed and establish desirable perennial grasses by using several combinations of commonly used weed management practices, including herbicide treatment and soil nutrient alteration.
- Cattle Grazing Management as a Rangeland Restoration Tool (Kristi Gordon, MSc in Environmental Science Candidate, TRU)** - research will quantify the effects of three cattle grazing management strategies on native rangeland health where focus will be largely on soil carbon sequestration, forage quality and quantity, plant biodiversity, and invasive plant management.
- Plant Response to Grazing: Observing Changes in Community Structure and Individual Characteristics (Sarah Bayliff, Undergraduate Researcher, TRU)**- a four-month undergraduate research project was carried throughout the summer of 2019 to examine how plants respond to grazing.





MEET THE TNIPMC TEAM

TNIPMC Committee Members

First Name	Last Name	Represents
Barbara	Roden	TNRD
Herb	Graham	TNRD
David	Laird	TNRD
Haley	Rutherford	BC Cattleman's Association
Sheryl	Wurtz	Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resources
Rachel	Whitehouse	Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resources (Alternate)
Donna	Olsen	Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Grahame	Gielens	Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (Alternate)
Dwayne	Paradis	Shuswap Nation Tribal Council
Jim	McGrath	Shuswap Nation Tribal Council (Alternate)
Morgan	Jumbo	Nicola Tribal Association
Agnes	Jackson	Grasslands Conservation Council
Mandy	Ross	Grasslands Conservation Council (Alternate)
Peggy Jo	Broad	Thompson Rivers University
Wendy	Gardner	Thompson Rivers University (Alternate)

TNRD Staff

- Coleen Hougen- Invasive Plant Management Coordinator
- Mike Dedels- TNRD Elephant Hill Wildfire Invasive Plant Coordinator
- Jamie Vieira- Environmental Services Manager
- Jake Devlin- Director of Environmental Services
- Denise Roberts - Environmental Services Program Assistant



THOMPSON-NICOLA
REGIONAL DISTRICT

Thompson-Nicola Regional District
#300 - 465 Victoria St.
Kamloops, B.C. V2C 2A9

Email: invasiveplants@tnrd.ca | Phone: 250-851-1699

tnipmc.com