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## 2009 Pine Pass IPMA Summary

The 2009 season was slow to get started. A late spring curtailed the start of treatments until June 14<sup>th</sup> with the vast majority of the work starting in July. We began the season by extracting some Hawkweed sites from IAPP and proceeding to check these sites. Once treatments commenced we were waist deep in Hawkweed.

### Moberly and Johnson FSR's

The first place that invasive plants started to present themselves in this IPMA in 2009 was on and around the Johnson Creek FSR (north and west of Chetwynd) and the Moberly FSR (south of the Johnson FSR at Moberly Lake running west). It was much easier to keep up with locating and treating in the early part of the season but as the season progressed it became very difficult. We were finding Hawkweed all over the IPMA. We found large infestations on the BCTC transmission lines near the partially completed wind farm on the Moberly FSR. This infestation ran all the way to the Johnson Creek FSR along the transmission line corridor linking the two roads. Also on the Johnson Creek FSR from 50km to 100km there was a non-stop infestation that covered both sides of the road.

### Clearwater and Silvers Sands FSR's

The Clearwater FSR has been a hotspot for Hawkweeds for the past 2 seasons from 0km to 25km where the road was deactivated. The original infestations were found at bridge abutments where it appeared backfilling work had occurred. The Clearwater FSR from 0km to 25km was almost weed free this year. This year the deactivation was pulled at 25km and the road reopened. This opened up access for an infestation that went from km 26 all the way to km 68 at Williston Lake, where a boat launch is located. All of the side roads, landings, and access roads to cut blocks were infested with Hawkweed, and some Oxeye Daisy. Obviously limiting the access to these areas in the past had helped to reduce the spread of these invasive species. The Silver Sands FSR only had a few weeds at the very beginning of the road. Silver Sands use to have some Hawkweed and a lot of Oxeye Daisy.

### Hasler FSR and Others

Other FSR's in the IPMA have all been showing an improvement as far as the amount of visible Oxeye Daisy and Hawkweeds are concerned. The exception would be the highly traveled Hasler FSR (access to Spectra Energy Gas Plant) and all of the FSR's that branch off



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of this road (the main branch being the Brazion FSR which makes it's way all the way to Lemoray).

### **BCTC**

Spectrum also made progress on BCTC jurisdictions in the Pine Pass IPMA. The BCTC power lines from the Clearwater FSR that run towards Chetwynd have historically had an abundance of Oxeye Daisy. Now this stretch is almost cleaned up, with only the odd Oxeye Daisy plant being found. During the course of carrying out treatments on the BCTC corridor we found another access to a BCTC transmission line that has not been previously inventoried or treated. This access was found at the back of Crassier Creek FSR and the site was quite large in size. This year we had managed to push the Oxeye back about 2.5km from the access point. This was only possible due to extra funding the PRRD (Shannon Anderson and Dennis Meier) were able to solicit from ~~BCTC~~ <sup>IPMA</sup>. At this point in time the infestation is off the beaten track, although it has been recorded in IAPP and will require a fair bit of treatment in 2010.

### **Report- a-Weed, Hawkweed Infestations and IAPP**

There were a lot of sites called in on the Report-a-Weed. Some of these sites were entered into IAPP, and some were not. This was due to the size of the infestation. We were traveling to the location that was called in to us and treating non-stop Hawkweeds. In most cases this included the site called in and well past the original location. These infestations were on the Hasler FSR, Caron Creek FSR, and Lower Burnt FSR.

Monitoring has shown that good progress has been made controlling Hawkweeds and we believe that all 2009 sites will be able to be located and treated using the existing entries in IAPP for 2010. The process of controlling and defining the extent of Hawkweed infestations will be further refined in 2010, as the size and length of the infestations are reduced. An aggressive, recurring monitoring and treatment regime will be key to ensuring an acceptable level of control is maintained. This must include multiple site visits.

An example of this reduction and refinement process are the FSR's adjacent to the Monkman Park area south of Tumbler Ridge. A significant Hawkweed infestation control program was undertaken in 2008 and at the time it was very hard to determine where to start and stop any particular site. In 2009 we were able to use 2008 IAPP entries and then further define infestation pockets to record more quantifiable information in IAPP.



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## **Overall Summary**

**SRG did a lot of monitoring this year just by driving up and down the FSR's and highways (at 5-10km / hr). This was due to the large infestations of the past and present and the fact that almost every time we drive on an FSR we found new invasive plant pocket infestations to treat.**

**Overall there were 120 hectares of Hawkweed and Oxeye Daisy treated this year, most of that treatment happening on FSR's. As far as progress is concerned monitoring has shown that every area that we have treated in the past is much cleaner. The highway corridor is almost Oxeye Daisy free all the way to the Clearwater FSR. We were able to treat all the highway edges for Oxeye Daisy and Hawkweed from the Clearwater FSR to the PRRD sign near Azouzetta Lake Lodge (mind you that the BCTC transmission line and CN Rail line will now need to be treated between these two points). The main corridor, being the highway, is showing marked improvement in the diminishing occurrence of invasive plants.**

**Spectra Energy has endless amounts of invasive plants scattered through the Pine Pass IPMA on their pipelines. We need to try and interest Spectra Energy to treat their pipelines for invasive plants on a recurring basis. The Pine River did not have as many invasive plants this year, but we all know they are there, and they will need some attention in the future. At this time there are not any major concerns of Hawkweeds growing along the river and we feel that we may be able to keep it that way now that we have made some headway on the highway corridor. Some hand pulling of Oxeye Daisy along the bridges on the highway is also required just to keep the seed bank from growing.**

**Overall the IPMA is starting to look much better as far as the Oxeye Daisy is concerned, but we are fighting a wave of Hawkweed that is fast and furious. Once again constant vigilance is required.**

**It is highly probable that in 2010 we will be able to have every single invasive plant treated all the way to the PRRD boundary, except for the Pine River and Spectra Energy pipelines. It will be a challenge but monitoring has shown that we are making progress. 2010 will be a year where all IAPP Hawkweed entries will be further refined and outstanding large infestations (Crassier Creek BCTC transmission lines) will be fully treated.**

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