

2010 Pine Pass Invasive Plant Management Area (PIIPMA) Contractor Summary

The 2010 season was an unusually dry one. A dry spring curtailed the start of treatments until June 26th with the vast majority of the work starting in July. We began the season by extracting some Knapweed, Hawkweed and Oxeye Daisy sites from IAPP and proceeded to monitor and treat these sites.

Moberly and Johnson FSR's

Over the past two seasons the first place invasive plants started to present themselves in this IPMA 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). Due to dry conditions and previous successful treatments the FSR itself was fairly weed free. The highest distribution and density of hawkweeds and oxeye daisy found around in this area was limited to the power line ROW running from the Moberly FSR at 40.5km to Johnson Creek FSR at 17km.

The Moberly had increased traffic volumes in 2010 due to road construction and maintenance associated with the tower construction at the Dokie Wind Farm (operated by Plutonic Power). The Dokie Wind farm does not have herbicide use as an option to control invasive plants within their operations plan. In addition to wind farm traffic there was also active logging on and around the Moberly FSR during the summer of 2010. We will have to be vigilant in monitoring this area in the upcoming years.

Alvin Creek - Oxeye Daisy Update

Over the past 5 years there has been a large oxeye daisy infestation on the Alvin Creek FSR. Each year the size of the infestation has been reduced. During the 2009 season Spectrum treated very little Oxeye Daisy in this area. There were only a few individual plant sites on the Alvin Creek FSR, which runs south off the Moberly FSR at +/- 20km. In 2010 no invasive plants were located. Sections of the Moberly Lake FSR were also moderately to heavily infested with Oxeye Daisy in previous years, but in 2010 it was also clean. The Alvin Creek FSR is not very active but monitoring must continue in 2011 and beyond.



Sukunka FSR, Blind Creek FSR and Lower Burnt FSR

Brule Mine (Canadian Western Coal) @ Blind Creek

Spectrum located a few patches of invasive plants in the area this year but we will need to keep a good eye out in upcoming seasons. It has a lot of activity and is going to need additional treatments in future.

Sukunka FSR 60km South to the CNR tracks and tunnel coming from the west side of the Rockies

There is a large and continuous infestation of yellow hawkweed, orange hawkweed and oxeye daisy on this stretch of road. It would appear as though the infestation came through the tunnel, carried by rail cars, and established itself in the large open, disturbed areas that were created to build the tunnel at the end of Sukunka FSR. It has begun to work its way back (in a northerly direction) to the main high traffic area of the Sukunka FSR. We have treated some of the infestation and tried to maintain separation from the heavy traffic area of the Sukunka to the lighter traffic area and the end of the Sukunka . To have achieve full containment of this infestation a surplus in funds would have to be allocated.

Hasler FSR

The Hasler, as with most FSR's this season, was almost weed free. We found a few oxeye daisy plants on the Hasler and some of the side FSR's. There was a discrepancy as to the ROW jurisdiction on the Caron Creek FSR just past the Spectra Energy Gas Plant (1km to 3 km) where roadside invasive plant treatments were carried out by Spectrum's crews.

Clearwater and Silvers Sands FSR's

The Clearwater FSR has been a hotspot for Hawkweeds for the past 3 seasons. This season saw a short period of growth in early August and a small window for treatment before seeding began. By mid August the Hawkweed had seeded and plants had dried up which made for difficult monitoring. We did 4 passes on the main FSR and it's associated side roads during the season. Although dry conditions contributed to a considerable reduction in infestation, Spectrum would still consider this area to be a hot spot due to high concentration of plants in previous years and the seed bank it left behind. Will need to be monitored thoroughly in upcoming years.

Pipeline Crossing at Silver Sands

This crossing was highly infested in the past few years. It was again this year. Highway 97 between Chetwynd and Azouzetta Lake Lodge saw great improvements. The highway had only small patches of primarily oxeye daisy with the exception being near pipeline crossings and bridges, where infestations have been primarily treated by hand pulling. The progress that has been made in controlling roadside infestations over the last few years in this corridor (Chetwynd to Azouzetta) may be jeopardized by the pipeline and oil and gas infrastructure along the highway that has been for the most part left untreated for invasives.

Power Lines

Spectrum also made progress on BCTC jurisdictions in the PPIPMA. 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. In 2009 we had found another access to a BCTC transmission line that had 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. The treatment seemed to have been quite effective as there was very few invasive plants found in follow up monitoring and treatment in 2010.

Report- a-Weed, Hawkweed Infestations and IAPP

There were a lot of sites called in on Report-a-Weed. Some of these sites were entered into IAPP, and some were not. This was due to the size and location of the infestation. We were traveling and visited all sites forwarded to us by Bob Drinkwater (MOFR Invasive Plant Specialist) and Dennis Meier (Regional Weed Inspector).

Monitoring has confirmed that good progress is being made controlling Hawkweeds. Spectrum believes that all 2009 and 2010 sites will be able to be located and treated using the existing entries in IAPP for 2011. The process of controlling and defining the extent of Hawkweed infestations will be further refined in 2012, 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 containment is maintained. This must include multiple site visits.

Overall Summary

Due to the dry conditions in the corridor heading east from Azousetta Lake right through to the Alberta border, and beyond, Spectrum was able to cover a lot of ground monitoring this year. This was due to the fact that many of the large infestations of the past have been greatly reduced due to treatment and the fact that conditions were less than ideal for large infestations to flourish. However, almost every time we drove on an FSR we found a new invasive plant infestation pocket to treat.

The chemical usage for this season was statistically the lowest we have recorded in our five years delivering this program. It was a full 85% less than in 2009. This no doubt coincided with the drought that was recorded throughout most of the South Peace in the spring and summer of 2010. Due to dry weather conditions the FSR rights of way (ditches) were, for the better part of the season, weed free. We found occasional plants and some rare pockets of invasive plants but for the most part we thoroughly monitored previous IAPP sites and all FSRs within the PPIPMA.

Highway 97 also saw a great reduction in invasive species. The concentration of invasives, mostly oxeye daisy and some hawkweed, were around bridges and along the Pine River (PFZs) and near oil and gas infrastructure. We treated all PFZs with glyphosate up to 1m of the high water mark and hand pulled the remaining 1m. We think this will have a positive outcome in upcoming years.

We will have to be vigilant with the section of Hwy between Mt-Solitude and Azousetta in the future as there was major road construction in this area. The ground disturbance and abundance of heavy machinery will surely have repercussions with the invasive population.

Spectra Energy has endless amounts of invasive plants scattered through the PPIPMA on their pipelines. As a committee 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.

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.



The challenges that will have to be faced in 2011 might directly be attributed to the seed banks that were not treated this year due to the drought. With the progress made over the last 5 years and the reduction in heavy infestations we are confident that every single invasive plant will be treated all the way to the PRRD boundary, except for the Spectra Energy pipelines.

Potential Issues for 2011

- 1/ Activity in Sukunka, infestation at back end of Sukunka*
- 2/Power lines between the Johnson Creek FSR and Moberley FSR*
- 3/ Dokie Wind Farm (Plutonic Power)*
- 4/ Highway ditch control options and handpulling*
- 5/ Wet 2011 and potential seed bank*
- 6/ Herbicide rotation (mode of action)*

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