

NORTHEAST INVASIVE PLANT COMMITTEE, NEIPC

PINE PASS INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT AREA **REPORT: 2008**

Submitted to the PP IPMA Steering Committee meeting, Feb 2nd, 2009

BACKGROUND:

- Invasive plant management east of the Rocky Mountains in BC is organised through the NorthEast Invasive Plant Committee, NEIPC. NEIPC is subdivided into Invasive Plant Management Areas, IPMAs. Pine Pass is an IPMA within NEIPC.
- The main in flow of invasive plants to NEIPC is through the Pine Pass making the Pine Pass IPMA a critical area for invasive plant for NEIPC. In 2006 it was decided to start the Pine Pass Project which is now known as the Pine Pass IPMA. The Pine Pass IPMA is developing techniques and management systems like a steering committee, IPMA Work Plan and a pooled resource delivery model to increase efficiency and effectiveness so that goals can be reached with the limited resources available.
- Invasive plant management within IPMAs is directed by the NEIPC Strategic Plan and Profile from which the IPMA work plan is developed. Strategies are basically:
 - to categorises invasive plants based on their invasiveness and prioritises sites based on opportunity for control to generate a treatment decision matrix.
 - to integrate awareness, reporting, inventory, treatments and monitoring to accomplish Early Detection Rapid Response, EDRR, containment and rehabilitation goals. (A definition for containment is contained in the NEIPC Plan).
- EDRR is practiced for species not currently in northern BC such as yellow star thistle, crupina, scotch thistle, sulphur cinquefoil, etc.
- Containment is practices on species that have been found but have not spread in northeast BC and, with adequate resources, can be prevented from spreading. Examples of species under containment are knapweeds, spurges, hawkweeds, oxeye daisy, marsh thistle, common tansy, dalmation toadflax, etc.
- In order to manage across a complex of jurisdictions and mandates the Pine Pass uses a 'Pooled Resources' delivery model. Various partners and stakeholders contribute funds to a pool and those funds are used to implement and focus work on the agreed upon strategies. A contractor is retained to implement the program and conduct treatments for most partners and coordinate activities for those partners, e.g. Spectra Energy and First Nations, which field their own crews.

SUMMARY & TABLES:

- When looking at summary tables and assessing work it is important to note that the boundaries of the Pine Pass IPMA have changed each year with the change between 2007 and 2008 being minor.
- The location of the containment line has also changed over the years and is now set at the summit of the Pine Pass or Regional District, NEIPC / NWIPC, boundary. The containment line was held in 2008 with efforts continuing on the problem oxeye daisy infestations along Highway 97 east of the containment line.
- In its third year of operation under a pooled resources model and with the same IPMA contractor efficiencies and effectiveness of delivery showed a marked improvement, (see the attached report from Spectrum Resources Group and note the area treated).
- There needs to be an increase in resources particularly from those stakeholders operating in the Pine Pass currently not contributing to the pooled funds or fielding crews. The contribution level from the Ministry of Forests and Range also needs to be reviewed given the level of work done and required under MFR jurisdiction.
- The Pine Pass Steering Committee recommends to NEIPC that the IPMA continue to operate as a pooled resources model with an IPMA contractor for 2009.
- TABLES:
 - as critical sites need to be visited several times over the growing season sites = site visits, i.e., the sites noted in the table are not the total number of sites but rather the number of site visits that the contractor made.
 - The information is taken from IAPP and not all of the work done in the Pine Pass IPMA has been entered into IAPP at the time of drafting this report. In particular the information from the contractor working for Spectra Energy has not been entered.
 - In 2008 many of the sites along Highway 97 were merged reducing the reported number of sites.

Table 1 – PARTNERS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 2 - BUDGETS

Table 3 – SITE VISITS BY JURISDICTION

Table 4 - SITES VISITS BY SPECIES

Table 5 - MANUAL TREATMENTS

Table 6 – CHEMICAL TREATMENTS

TABLE 1 PARTNERS	CONTRIBUTIONS			NOTES
	2006	2007	2008	
BC Hydro		\$3,000	\$5,000	
BCTC		\$10,000	\$10,000	
CN Rail		\$10,000	\$10,000	
MoFR	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	+ in kind information mngt, monitoring & reporting
MoT	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	
PRRD	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	+ in kind service of coordination via Dennis Meier & oxeeye daisy study
MAL	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	+ in kind extension and reporting services
Spectra Energy others - mining companies, etc		\$7000		in kind services on steering committee, helicopter time for surveys & contract time with Asplundh
TOTALS	\$70,000	\$93,000	\$112,500	PRAD & Talisman funding

TABLE 2 ITEM	2008	
	BUDGET	ACTUAL
extension and awareness - in kind MAL & New Invaders	(est at \$7,000) in kind	\$7000
First Nations Partnerships	\$10,000	\$2,500
Overall Program management and coordination - in kind	(est \$20,000) in kind from PRRD	\$10,000
IPMA Contract – coordination, Inventory & Treatments, (other contracts as well)	\$85,000 + Spectra Crew + First Nations	\$85,026
evaluation and reporting - in kind	(est \$6,000) – in kind and in IPMA contract	\$6,000
TOTAL	\$95,000, (\$128,000 w in kind)	\$110,526

TABLE 3 – SITES VISITS BY JURISDICTION			
JURISDICTION	#SITES		AREA
	2007	2008	2008
HYDRO	0	1	0.25
BCTC	6	13	12.978
CN	13	5	1.13
MoFR	215	213	104.622
MoT	73	75	35.31
Municipality - private land	14	0	0
private land	13	2	3.5
West Coast Energy	36	0	0
TOTAL SITE VISITS	370	309	157.79

TABLE 4 - SITES VISITS BY SPECIES (some sites have multiple spp present)		
SPP	2007	2008
narrow leaved hawksbeard	0	1
Bull thistle	19	0
burdock	2	0
Canada thistle	52	6
common tansy	8	1
goat's beard - tragopogan	2	2
hawkweeds	29	67
Mullen	1	0
oxeye daisy	296	196
scentless chamomile	45	34
Sow thistle	9	2
spotted knapweed	5	0
Toadflax	1	0
TOTAL	469	309

TABLE 5 - MANUAL TREATMENTS						
	2006		2007		2008	
SPP	# SITES	AREA	# SITES	AREA	#SITES	AREA
Bull thistle	4	0.773	0	0.212		
Canada thistle	8	0.061	1			
Common tansy	1	0.01	0			
Hawkweeds	4	0.014	4		1	0.1
oxeye daisy	29	0.317	13	0.651	16	2.565
scentless chamomile	7	0.793	1	0.001	2	0.1
Sow thistle	5	0.012	1	0.001		
spotted knapweed*	2	0.051	0			
Tragopogon	1	0.01	0		0	
TOTAL	61	2.041	20	0.865	19	2.765

TABLE 6 – SITE VISITS FOR CHEMICAL TREATMENTS						
	2006		2007		2008	
	# SITES	AREA	# SITES	AREA	#SITES	AREA
bull thistle	0	0	4	0.162		
Burdock	0	0	2	0.002		
Canada thistle	26	7.366	7	0.533	6	1.31
Common tansy	3	1.371	2	0.15	1	0.85
Hawksbeard	0	0	2	0.007	1	0.05
Hawkweeds	2	1.7	22	6.571	65	41.763
Mullen	0	0	1	0.001		
oxeye daisy	56	47.948	104	25.627	181	91.904
scentless chamomile	12	0.55	16	4.519	33	17.803
sow thistle	8	2.7	2	0.002	2	0.015
Toadflax	1	0.05	0	0		
Tragopogon	0	0	1	0.001	2	0.2
TOTAL	109	62	163	38	291	154

REPORT FROM THE IPMA CONTRACTOR, Spectrum Resources Group

2008 PINE PASS IPMA SUMMARY NOVEMBER 2008

The 2008 season had started out with the same goal as 2007 and that was to stop the spread of Oxeye Daisy in the Pine Pass corridor. In the end of the 2007 season we also saw Hawkweeds showing up and they also need to be stopped from spreading throughout the South Peace. The Pine Pass IPMA boundary was revised again in 2008, from the Peace River Bridge crossing at the lower dam by Hudsons Hope to the Sukunka River, and all the way to Azouzetta Lodge in the Pine Pass. With the money that is provided to treat this large area the task is formidable. The Monkman Park area was included in the 2007 Pine Pass IPMA budget but in 2008 funding for Monkman came out of the South Peace IPMA budget.

The plan was to visit every Oxeye Daisy site at least 3 times and the Hawkweed sites at least 4 times if possible. We started the season at the back end of our boundary (Lower Dam) and tried to push the containment line to the Azouzetta Lodge, in the Pine Pass. The containment line in the Pine Pass has only been pushed to the Clearwater FSR, primarily due to constantly “backtracking” to clean up previously identified sites and the odd new site. This season we were successful in treating almost every single Oxeye Daisy and Hawkweed that was visible to us. This is because we had excellent communication with every one involved in the Invasive Plant Program. We did not make it to every site 3-4 times, but there has been solid progress increasing the total amount of area that is very close to completely invasive plant free. There were a lot of late season hawkweeds that showed up in 2008 and this prevented us from pushing the containment line to the PRRD boundary (just north of to Azouzetta Lake Lodge). Spectrum feels it is possible we could attain this goal in 2009.

The 2008 season was a perfect year for the weeds, so some of the sites that we identified and treated in 2007 had more oxeye daisy growing at them and around them then they had in 2007. The total hectares of treated area in 2008 almost tripled over 2007. This was due to the spread of hawkweeds, and better communication. One of the major problems in the Pine Pass is that we treat invasive plants on the highway, right of ways and extension roads to the north and south but there are invasive plant issues on pipelines that are not being addressed. This will results in us returning to the same area repeatedly. These proximal infestations continue to grow and are being fueled by the seed source and lack of control. The pipeline and mine properties that are in the Pine Pass need to be onboard with what we are doing. As it stands they have been sympathetic but not advantageous to our cause.

If we want to achieve a containment line at Azouzetta Lake Lodge in the Pine Pass we will need to increase our budget, and get better cooperation with pipeline and mining interests.

The breakdown for the contributors in the Pine Pass IPMA Project are as follows:

Ministry of Forests and Range

- treated 57.57 hectares

Ministry of Transportation

- treated 25.315 hectares

BCTC

- treated 9.135 hectares

BC Hydro

- treated 0.25 hectares

CN Rail

- treated 2.09 hectares

Private

- treated 3.5 hectares

Total hectares

- **97.86 hectares treated in 2008**

The chemicals used in the 2008 season were Round up, Tordon 22K, and Milestone.

This number of hectares treated does **not** include the **7-9** hectares that were hand pulled along the Pine River and other water bodies that needed to be hand pulled.

Ministry of Agriculture and the PRRD have also contributed to the pool. Without their contributions these total hectares would never have been reached.

The hectares treated validate that we do have an invasive plant problem and need to stay on top of it. Spectrum fully believes that we can hold back the hawkweed species and Oxeye Daisy as long as all parties continue to contribute.

Note: Jurisdictionally speaking the Ministry of Forests and Range, and the Ministry of Transportation appear to have the most invasive plants. Oil and Gas Companies are using these roads. Forestry Companies use these roads. Mining Companies use these roads. These parties need to contribute to the funding of this project and understand that they are also spreading the problem.

For the 2009 season we hope to get at least the same amount of dollars for the project, if not more, to ensure that we stop the spread of these highly invasive plants. It was such a good growing season for invasive plants in 2008 seed production was high, in spite of our efforts, and we believe there will be a lot of sites cropping up in 2009, although we hope they will be of a much smaller area size. Spectrum is confident that while the number of sites may increase in 2008 the groundwork has been laid to minimize the size of each individual site. Also, it would be beneficial to get on board with CRS and spray any area that they are going to grass mow. This is not a huge problem in the Pine Pass, but in some areas it has affected us. As well we had spent a good deal of time down on the Pine River hand pulling Oxeye Daisy, hawkweed species and Tansy (approximately 50 giant garbage bags). This is very time consuming but needs to be done. It would be nice if we could treat them with something besides Round Up (to within 1 meter of the high water mark).

All weeds that were hand pulled in 2008 were taken to West Fraser Mills in Chetwynd and consumed in their beehive burner.

Spectrum is looking forward to 2009 season. Communication between concerned parties has improved substantially and we have a very thorough handle on the task at hand. We think that we have a good chance to stop the spread of these invasive plants. We need to just keep plugging away and n