



*building communities together*

## 2024 Business Plan Invasive Plant Management Program (1010)

*Peter Hughes  
Manager of Environmental Services*

***Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.***

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### **Department/Function Services**

The Invasive Plant Management function provides the following services:

- Coordinating and cooperating with other organizations, both public and private, to ensure that effective and acceptable invasive plant control measures are carried out;
- Providing landowner assistance programs to assist in the management of invasive plants on private property;
- Undertaking public education initiatives aimed at raising awareness about invasive plants and the problem they create;
- Managing invasive plant species on private and public land following an integrated pest management approach to protect regional ecological, economic, and societal values;
- Enforcing the Invasive Plant Management Regulation Bylaw No. 4949, 2015 on private lands.



The Cariboo Regional District's Invasive Plant Management function has been in operation since 1979. The function was originally initiated to manage land against knapweed. Since that time, it has evolved to respond to the increasing threat invasive species are imposing. In fact, the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee has currently

prioritized 36 invasive alien plant species within their Regional Strategic Plan. Those 36 plants are threatening the region’s economic, environmental, and societal health. The program implements the services listed above to mitigate the impacts of these species.

The Invasive Plant Management function operates under the authority of the Cariboo Regional District Weed Control Extended Service Establishment Bylaw No. 3483, 1998.

The service is provided throughout the entire district. All members of the Board are responsible for the governance of this service excluding the District of 100 Mile House and City of Quesnel.

Taxation is collected by way of assessment on land and improvements. There is no limit on taxation.

### **2024 Goal**

The invasive plant function plans to deliver a business-as-usual program for 2024 and has no major goals planned that would impact service delivery, staffing, or capital expenditures.



### **Overall Financial Impact**

The 2024 requisition remains unchanged from the 2023 level.

A significant portion of the invasive plant function budget is derived from federal and provincial grants and contracts. The provisional budget assumes that we will receive a portion of these provincial funds; however, they could be eliminated at any time. If funding is not provided, then the budget and program will be revised accordingly.

Capital reserves at the end of 2023 are \$58,871. Presently, current taxation levels are adequate.

## Significant Issues & Trends

As has been the case in recent years, it is anticipated that insufficient contract funding will have a significant effect on the Invasive Plant Management Program. This is particularly the case for operational treatments. The Invasive Plant Management Program works collaboratively with other agencies responsible for a mosaic of jurisdictions within the region. The Cariboo Regional District Invasive Plant Management Program budget receives a significant portion from federal, provincial, and private grants and contracts. Budgetary cuts will both directly and indirectly impact the Invasive Plant Management Program. Directly, in our ability to secure adequate funding to treat other agency's jurisdictions and augment our budget and indirectly, as other jurisdictions will



not be able to maintain the level of management efforts previously held. Without adequate funding, invasive plant management programs will be forced to prioritize invasive plant species and sites for treatment. This prioritization process will unfortunately leave areas and species without treatment. Thus, agency funding constraints will in turn increase the cost to private landowners as uncontrolled infestations

will be free to expand by 14% annually (BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, 2005) until resources are available to put towards expensive containment strategies.

The escalating effects of climate change and movement of organisms through human activity will influence the Invasive Plant Management Program over the term of this plan. Disaster events (like wildfires, floods, and pest outbreaks) are occurring with increasing severity and frequency, causing widespread disturbance on the landscape, and creating opportunities for invasive species establishment. In conjunction, the likelihood of establishment within these disturbed areas is also increasing as intensifying human activity on the landscape creates opportunities for invasive species to be moved into new locations. Thus, it can be expected that the region will experience rising invasive species incursions as the amount of area vulnerable to invasion and the number of invasive species available to invade increases. As a result, the Invasive Plant Management Program will be challenged to stretch management resources that are already limited to address the rising threat.

The Cariboo Regional District is a signatory to the Clean BC Climate Action Plan (formerly the Province of BC/UBCM Climate Action Charter) and has committed to continuing work towards carbon neutrality in respect of corporate operations.

### **Measuring Previous Years Performance**

The invasive plant function delivered a business-as-usual program for 2023.