



**Northwest**  
INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL

## **2008 ANNUAL REPORT**

**March 2, 2009**

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## Executive Summary

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) operated in 2008 as a pooled resource, non-profit society implementing invasive plant management from Atlin in the north to Hixon in the south, and from the Alberta border to Haida Gwaii. The 2008 accomplishments were:

- Strategic Plan and Profile updated and approved by NWIPC membership.
- Goals in strategic and work plans were accomplished.
  - Marsh thistle & scabious containment lines held.
  - The decision to remove the containment line for marsh thistle in the Prince Rupert area was tested and proven okay so far.
  - Containment line in Terrace area for common tansy was tested.
  - Spotted knapweed was prevented from spreading with all known sites visited.
- 14 partners contributed \$780,000 to the pooled resources, up from our start in 2005 of 7 partners contributing approximately \$542,000.
- The continuing awareness work and successes brought in three new partners.
- Implemented recommendations from the External Review<sup>1</sup> including the clarification of long-, mid- and short-term goals via NWIPC 2008 Work Plan that included the 2008 budget; presented to the membership at the spring AGM; this additional planning process provided an improved manner for presenting, discussing and approving annual budget and with links between goal types.
- Intensive IAPP training was provided to IPMA contractors and data quality and management is showing improvement.
- A new tactical planning process was developed whereby each contractor prepared an IPMA plan for their area.
- A new monitoring plan was developed and tested that checked contractor performance, treatment efficacy, and meeting our strategic goals.
- NEIPC was assisted with their containment program through the 'Pine Pass Project'. This project directed approx \$13,000 worth of work to management of species spreading through the Pine Pass to the east side of the Rockies.
- Six partnerships with First Nations were in place and discussions with three other First Nations on partnerships are underway. A First Nations Partnership Assistant was retained under contract.
- The FN Assistant presented on First Nation Invasive Plant Programs and partnerships at the IPC Forum in Richmond, Weeds Across Borders Conference in Banff and the Yukon Invasive Plant Seminar.
- Launched web site.

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<sup>1</sup> Wikeem, B., Solterra Resources Inc. 2007. Northwest Invasive Plant Pilot Project Review. Produced for the Inter-Ministry Invasive Plant Working Group, Victoria, BC; and, NWIPC, Prince George, BC. pp. 37.

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## **GOAL OF THE NORTHWEST INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL**

**To prevent further damage to the ecosystems of northwest and central BC from invasive alien plants and begin to rehabilitate ecosystems that have been degraded by invasive alien plants.**

### **OPERATING PRINCIPLES OF NWIPC**

(Revised April 19, 2007)

- Encourage the public to report invasive plant sightings. (This requires adequate and prompt feedback to persons who report invasive plants).
- Inform the public about invasive plant programs so they can provide relevant comment.
- Develop and maintain a shared invasive plant inventory.
- Assess problems and threats that various invasive plants present to the environment and economy of the area. Categorize invasive plants and prioritize sites for control.
- Prevent the establishment of invasive plants not currently in the region. Prevent or minimize the spread of the invasive plants present in the region.
- Conduct invasive plant programs in the northwest and central BC using Integrated Pest Management principles as described in the 'Invasive Plant Strategy for BC'.
- Encourage all landowners, agencies and organisations operating in northwest and central BC to develop and implement invasive plant management programs.
- Manage and coordinate the activities and responsibilities of the various agencies and private landowners to ensure NWIPC goals are met.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) operated in 2008 as a pooled resource, non-profit society. Funding for program delivery and invasive plant management within the seven Invasive Plant Management Areas (IPMA; Fig. 1) came from partners who contributed through grants, agreements, and contracts.

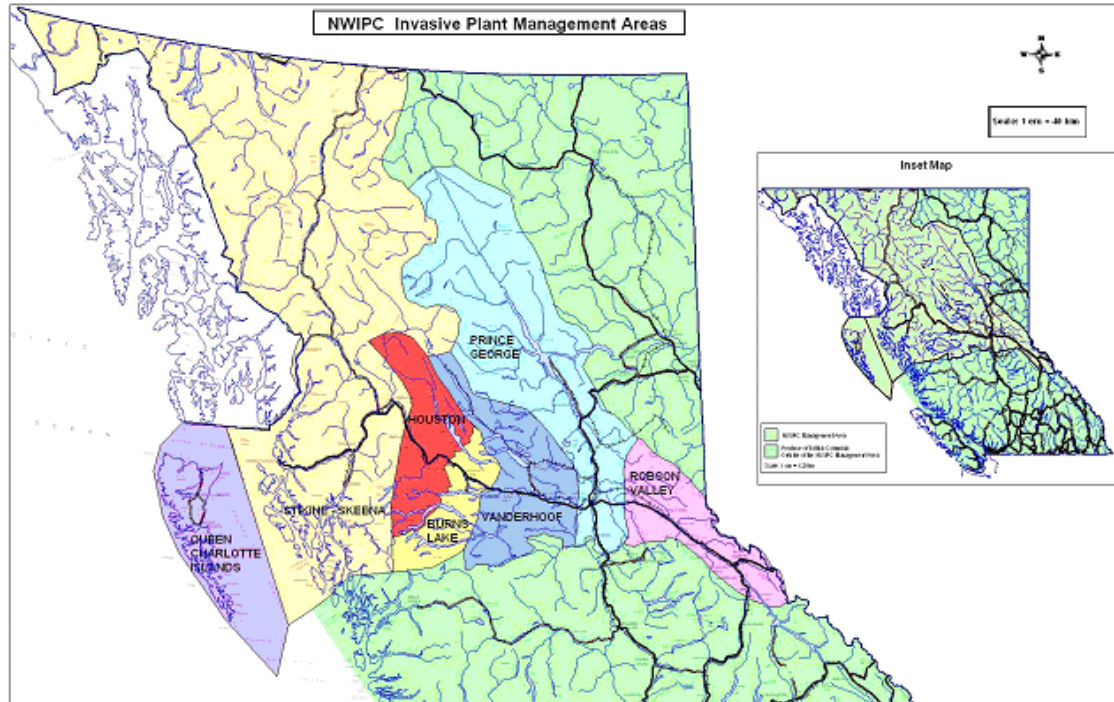


Figure 1.

Map showing the seven IPMAs used by the NWIPC to contract and execute invasive plant management activities of inventory, treatment and public awareness.

### 1.1. ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLAN & PROFILE

The Annual General Meeting was held April 12, 2008 at the Tweedsmuir Rod and Gun Club, Burns Lake, BC. Thirty-five members were in attendance. The members, currently at 517 people, discussed and approved the Annual Work Plan and the NWIPC 2008 Strategic Plan & Profile. These documents provided direction and strategies for directors, staff, and IPMA contractors in decisions and activities for the year. The 2008 Fall Meeting was held in Fort Fraser on November 25th and was attended by 30 members. Species were discussed in terms of observations made in 2008. Several species were identified by the membership to be changing and therefore require research this winter in order to update the draft 2009 plan & profile for review prior to the 2009 Annual General Meeting.

## 1.2. FINANCIAL REVIEW

The 2007 NWIPC accounts were reviewed (unaudited) by Deloitte & Touche LLP, Chartered Accountants, Prince George, BC. Their final report of March 29, 2008 was reviewed and signed-off by the board of directors. The report was made available to members upon request. The directors appropriated dollars to specific reserve funds at the beginning of 2008 based on their desire to meet future planned activities, and these are mentioned below. The reserve funds were the result of savings during the start-up year of the 3-year pilot to develop and test the pooled resource approach to invasive plant management.

Tables 1 and 2 provide a summary of all expenditures by activities and revenue as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands for their year-end report from each weed committee across the province. The categorizing of expenditures in NWIPC's Table 3 differs from the categories used in Table 1. Footnotes have been used in Table 1 to assist in making comparisons with Table 3.

**Table 1. Weed Program Total Expenditure Summary 2008**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Expenditures*(\$)</b>
1. Inventory <sup>1</sup>	\$143,727
2. On-the-Ground Treatments <sup>2</sup>	\$442,017
3. Administration & Coordination <sup>3</sup>	\$203,650
4. Education & Awareness <sup>4</sup>	\$19,863
5. Compliance & Enforcement	0
6. Research <sup>5</sup>	\$12,277
7. Funded Projects	\$27,049
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$848,584</b>

\* Combined funding sources utilized for each specific activity

<sup>1</sup> Inventory completed by IPMA contractors

<sup>2</sup> Includes all activities by IPMA contracts excluding inventory, plus costs of First Nations Partnerships, 50:50 Programs, and Community Weed Pulls

<sup>3</sup> Contract staff and overhead

<sup>4</sup> Newsletter, Weed of the Week, website and extension activities

<sup>5</sup> Targeted grazing trial

We also managed project budgets by tracking expenditures and reimbursements within a project; for example the 'Actual' dollar value of \$195.00, "BF2008-7 Merci Hillis (Gitxsan) speaker expenses" under Projects Allocation (Table 3) is the expenses incurred by NWIPC, minus the reimbursement from the Yukon Government and the Alberta Invasive Plant Council (Table 2).

**Table 2. Weed Program Total Revenue Summary 2008 – Breakdown by Funding Agency**

<b>Agencies Funding the Committee</b>	<b>Revenue (\$)</b>
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	\$255,000
Ministry of Forests and Range	\$210,000
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	\$251,161
Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	\$19,096
British Columbia Transmission Corporation	\$10,000
Town of Smithers	\$3,459
City of Prince George	\$5,000
District of Houston	\$3,443
Village of Valemount	\$2,000
Village of Telkwa	\$190
Canadian National Railway	\$16,116
Carrier Lumber Ltd. for Valemount Mill	\$2,059
Kinder Morgan Canada Inc. (TMX Anchor Loop Project)	\$1,605
Kinder Morgan Canada Inc. Operations Division	\$435
Revenue Canada GST rebate for 2007	\$36,491
Coastal Invasive Plant Committee (re-imburement of speaker expenses)	575
Invasive Plant Council of BC (workshop stipends)	\$2,100
District "C" Farmer's Institute	\$300
AB Invasive Plant Council (re-imburement of speaker expenses)	\$650
Yukon Government (re-imburement of speaker expenses)	\$2608
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$822,288</b>

Note: includes accounts receivable.

The \$26,296 difference in total expenditures and total revenue, as seen between Tables 1 and 2, was covered by the previously mentioned reserve funds ear-marked for: Pine Pass IP Management, First Nations Assistant and Partnerships, and Awareness Projects and Research (see Table 3).

The total expenditures for the year were \$848,584 (Table 3), an increase of \$136,610 over the previous year. Details in section 2.0 and 3.0 below correspond to the numbering in the first column of Table 3 for easy reference to each income and disbursement activity as planned in the NWIPC 2008 Work Plan.

The NWIPC also received numerous in-kind contributions of supplies, room charges, and volunteer time as described in Table 4. We are grateful for the corporate support and dedication of our volunteers.

**Table 3. NWIPC 2008 financial review, budgeted to actual, by activity.**

Annual Report Item No.	Activity	Budget	Actual
<b>2.0</b>	<b>OPERATIONAL INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT</b>		
<b>2.1</b>	<b>INCOME - OPERATIONAL POOLED FUNDS</b>		
	Ministry of Forests and Range	\$200,000	\$200,000
	Ministry of Transportation	\$195,000	\$251,161
	Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako	\$30,000	\$19,096
	Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako MAL MOU	\$17,250	\$17,250
	British Columbia Transmission Corporation	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Canadian National Railway	\$3,300	\$16,116
	Town of Smithers	\$4,000	\$3,459
	City of Prince George	\$5,000	\$5,000
	District of Houston	\$3,500	\$3,443
	Village of Valemount	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Carrier Lumber Ltd.	\$4,500	\$2,059
	Kinder Morgan Canada Inc. - TMX Anchor Loop Project	\$4,000	\$1,605
	Kinder Morgan Canada Inc. - Operations Division	\$0	\$435
	Village of Telkwa	\$0	\$190
	Reserve Funds: Pine Pass IP Management	\$10,000	\$10,000
	<b>POOLED FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$502,354</b>	<b>\$541,814</b>
<b>2.2</b>	<b>DISBURSEMENT - OPERATIONAL POOLED FUNDS</b>		
2.2.1	Burns Lake IPMA	\$75,000	\$75,000
2.2.2	Haida Gwaii IPMA	\$45,000	\$44,812
2.2.3	Houston IPMA	\$45,000	\$45,008
2.2.4	Prince George IPMA (includes Pine Pass IP Management)	\$135,000	\$135,145
2.2.5	Robson Valley IPMA	\$83,500	\$83,500
2.2.6	Stikine-Skeena IPMA (paid Graeme for work outside of his plan)	\$56,000	\$57,993
2.2.7	Vanderhoof IPMA	\$72,000	\$70,622
	Robson Valley IPMA Sally Wall IP Control Crew	\$10,000	\$10,428
	Robson Valley IPMA Hagen Manual IP Control Crew	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Materials and Supplies	\$2,000	\$1,264
	Overrun on BF2008-1 - FREP Plant ID cards		\$4,399
	<b>POOLED FUNDS TOTAL</b>	<b>\$533,500</b>	<b>\$538,171</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>PROGRAM MANAGEMENT</b>		
<b>3.1</b>	<b>INCOME - MANAGEMENT FUNDS</b>		
	Ministry of Agriculture & Lands/IMIPWG	\$232,750	\$232,750
	District "C" Hotline	\$0	\$300
	MAL - Corrections Crew Support Contract	\$0	\$5,000
	Ministry of Forests and Range FREP project	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Reserve Funds: First Nations Assistant and Partnerships		\$10,986
	Reserve Funds: Research		\$5,310
	<b>MANAGEMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$242,750</b>	<b>\$264,346</b>

<b>3.2</b>	<b>DISBURSEMENT - MANAGEMENT FUNDS</b>		
3.2.1	Program Management Contract	\$106,500	\$113,465
3.2.1	Program Assistant's Contract	\$32,000	\$31,964
3.2.1	Bookkeeping	\$3,475	\$3,770
3.2.1	First Nation Program Assist	\$0	\$10,986
3.2.1	Promotion & Awareness Assistant Contract	\$22,500	\$18,143
	<b>CONTRACT STAFF SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$164,475</b>	<b>\$178,328</b>
3.2.2	<b>Overhead Expenses:</b>		
	Board Meeting Expenses	\$12,000	\$9,265
	Spring Annual General and Fall Meeting	\$1,500	\$2,006
	Training expenses	\$1,000	\$49
	Travel, meals & accommodation	\$5,000	\$3,992
	Accounting & Legal	\$5,000	\$4,525
	Insurance	\$750	\$752
	office supplies, shipping, etc. and postage	\$10,500	\$1,180
	Interest & Bank Charges	\$205	\$508
	Misc.	\$500	\$371
	<b>OVERHEAD SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,455</b>	<b>\$22,648</b>
3.2.5	<b>NWIPC Projects Allocation</b>		
	MAL Corrections Crew Support Contract	\$5,000	\$3,178
	Community Weed Pulls (target of 10 events)	\$1,500	\$717
	NWIPC 2008-03 Newsletter	\$4,650	\$4,624
	MAL Grazing Weeds Speaker Support (08)	\$3,229	\$3,229
	BF2008-1 - FREP Plant ID cards	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Weed of the Week	\$4,000	\$3,588
	MAL Student Photo Contest	\$0	\$70
	BF2008-7 Merci Hillis (Gitxsan) speaker expenses	\$1,087	\$195
	Potted Weed Display	\$500	\$500
	Buck Flats	\$1,650	\$1,650
	Fort Fraser 50:50	\$5,250	\$1,047
	BF2008-3 - Targeted Grazing of Field Scabious	\$0	\$12,277
	<b>PROJECTS SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$36,866</b>	<b>\$41,076</b>
3.2.6	<b>First Nation Partnerships</b>		
	Gitxsan MidSkeena Watershed	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Gitga'at Hartley Bay Knotweed	\$9,600	\$9,775
	Saik'uz First Nation	\$10,000	\$9,996
	Nadleh Whut'en	\$10,000	\$8,939
	Nisga'a-New Aiyansh	\$10,000	\$9,299
	<b>FIRST NATION PARTNERSHIP SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$49,600</b>	<b>\$48,009</b>
3.2.7	<b>NWIPC Programs</b>		
3.2.7.1	50:50 Weed Control Program	\$30,000	\$8,326
3.2.7.2	Telephone Hotline 1-866-44WEEDS	\$1,000	\$376
3.2.7.3	Education, Promotion and Awareness	\$15,000	\$11,621
3.2.7.4	Web site (annual fees)	\$270	\$30
	<b>PROGRAMS SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,270</b>	<b>\$20,352</b>
	<b>MANAGEMENT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$333,666</b>	<b>\$310,412</b>

**Table 4. In-kind contributions to the Northwest Invasive Plant Council in 2007.**

Organization	Description of in-kind contribution
City of Prince George	Staff to prepare maps and locate landowner contact information in BCR and Danson areas; staff work closely with NWIPC staff in plant identification, reporting new sites, treatment options and weed complaints.
Bulkley-Nechako Regional District	Shared display booth expenses and man-power for Houston Trade show; radio ads promoting NWIPC; two NWIPC directors.
Ministry of Forests and Range	Range Branch staff; Bob Drinkwater, Christine Friedrichsmeier and Bob Fowler provided monitoring of invasive plant treatments; Smithers staff, Marc Schuffert, assisted with IP inventory and reporting in the northwest and took NWIPC display to Atlin Music Festival; provided IAPP training and support by Laura Kristiansen throughout our region; provided a director to the board, and provincially provided IP expertise; numerous reports of invasive plants were submitted by staff; Resource Stewardship Monitoring Program training was provided to ministry stewardship staff and they now complete invasive plant reports as part of their inspections; this information is entered into IAPP.
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands	Representation at IPC; provincial support for all weed coordinators; assisted with organizing and staffing displays; summer student help with displays and events; large mail outs, photocopying, etc.; provided corrections program for on-the-ground treatment at their cost of \$22,540.00; provided a director to the board; provided weed booklets for our distribution
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	Developed and assisted in delivery of invasive plant management workshops, Weeds and Roads, to ministry contractors and staff in cooperation with the BC Invasive Plant Council; Daryl Nolan provided treatment monitoring.
BC Invasive Plant Council	Assisted in providing training and meetings for weed coordinators; Weeds and Roads workshops; forums; development and distribution of best practices and invasive plant T.I.P.S.
NWIPC members	Hours of time on the display booths; reporting, digging, pulling, bagging, disposal of invasive plants. Thank you!
IASPP (Federal Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program)	Received recreational T.I.P.S. brochures from federal funded project organized by other IP coordinators
First Nations Bands: Gitga'at, Gitxsan Midskeena, Nadleh Whut'en, Nisga'a, Saik'uz, Tl'atz'en	Bands provided in-kind support to the NWIPC funded partnerships in terms of tools, equipment, and extra labour; office space; advice from elders; provided two NWIPC directors.
BCTS Vanderhoof and Fort St. James	Provided facilities and amenities, advertising and registration, for invasive plant training to BCTS staff and contractors
Spectrum Resources Group	Organized and sponsored herbicide workshop in Prince George, open to all contractors and partners; participate on sub-committees; representation at IPC and IVMA.
Industrial Forestry Service Ltd.	Supported staff to attend NWIPC meetings and weed events; labour.

## 2. OPERATIONAL INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

### 2.1. INCOME – OPERATIONAL POOLED FUNDS

Thirteen partners contributed financially to the pooled funds that were used to provide invasive plant management work in each of the seven IPMAs (Table 3). Partners provided lump sum grants or paid upon receipt of invoices. New partners for 2008 were Carrier Lumber Ltd., Kinder Morgan Canada Inc., and the Village of Telkwa.

### 2.2 DISPURSEMENT – OPERATIONAL POOLED FUNDS

Tables 5 and 6 were generated from the Weeds Database in MSAccess that is populated with the contractors' data from their tracking sheets submitted in support of their invoices. This year the contractors were more consistent in putting time and kms to activities through training and instructions in the contractor binders as follows:

- **Inventory and Monitoring:**  
Includes field time related to:
  - inventory of a new site
  - monitoring previous treatment
  - sign removal (part of monitoring)
  - crew training in the field doing real sites
  
- **Treatment:**  
Includes time in the field applying treatments, as well as preparation and clean-up:
  - digging, mowing, pulling, spraying, etc.
  - bagging and disposing of plants
  - site clean-up
  - mixing chemicals
  - cleaning tools
  - crew training in the field on real sites
  
- **Awareness:**  
Includes time spent:
  - talking to the public about the program while doing field work
  - hotline call responses up to the point of giving them a 50:50 application
  - meeting with agencies involved with the program (eg. Range riders)
  - helping at awareness events outside of volunteer hours
  - representing NWIPC during presentations, tours, etc.
  - contacting partners and landowners in regards to treatment
  
- **Administration:**  
Contractors must spend some time preparing for the season and these activities do not lend themselves to being spread among a dozen jurisdictions, or more. Use "NWIPC" in the "Field Jurisdiction" column for administration activities that includes:
  - pre-work with NWIPC
  - invoicing
  - meetings with program manager
  - training crews other than field work
  - preparation and planning for the season

The IPMA contractors use the code 'NWIPC' where there is no single partner that we can charge for the expense. The costs are shared among all contributing partners based on their level of contribution.

- **Data Entry:**

Data entry is an activity that can span numerous jurisdictions during a single session. The time spent on data entry must be coded to a field jurisdiction, and to keep it simple, use the same logic employed in splitting costs for herbicides and materials; that is, record the most common jurisdiction during a session, and over the season, spread the data entry hours among all jurisdictions you did work for. The time recorded for data entry must also include the time verifying and other internal data check systems you may use.

Seventy-eight percent of the operational costs were for treatment and inventory, and of that, 9% was for expenses including herbicides, mulch, ferry and boats, and large equipment (Tables 5 & 6). Data entry as a separate cost has not been reported before for NWIPC, and was 5% of the total cost.

The costs associated with contractor administration time and kms coded to NWIPC totaled \$26,329. Treatment on private property not paid for by the landowner, but necessary to treat according to the strategic plan and profile, increased from last year by almost \$10,000. The total cost on private land this year was \$29,446; \$26,456 for treatment and inventory; \$2,249 on awareness; and, \$741 on administration and data entry.

The total cost for contractor administration time and private land treatment was \$55,775. These costs are split between the major contributing partners (those contributing over \$2,000). The expenses are divided among the partners as a percentage based on their level of contribution. Expenses due to jurisdictions treated with no contribution from owner are assigned to contributing partners with money left in their contribution. This is termed "adjacency" where partners pay now to have weeds treated on adjoining sites to prevent them having to pay to treat the same sites year after year without eliminating the invasive plant infestation source. The adjacency costs used to be charged to contributing partners as the season progressed, but the system was unsatisfactory, and was changed to year-end.

The concept of pooled resources is employed so that strategic approaches can be applied rather than expenditures dictated solely by jurisdiction. Pooled resources delivery means that in any given year the work done for a partner may exceed or be deficient of their contributions. By applying strategic approaches, all partners benefit by improving the efficiency and effectiveness of their resources in preventing the spread of invasive plants and in particular spread from critical sites across the various jurisdictions.

**Table 5. Operational invasive plant management costs by jurisdiction from work done by IPMA contractors in our seven areas.<sup>1</sup>**

JURISDICTION	EXPENSES	INVENTORY	TREATMENT	AWARENESS	ADMIN	DATA	TOTAL COST	CONTRIBUTION \$	DIFFERENCE
BC Transmission Corp.	\$84.73	\$584.16	\$1,760.08	\$44.98	\$533.63	\$121.90	\$3,129.47	\$10,000.00	\$6,870.53
Bulkley Nechako Regional District	\$1,930.57	\$4,689.24	\$12,475.24	\$3,135.94	\$4,388.24	\$829.55	\$27,448.79	\$36,346.00	\$8,897.21
Carrier Lumber Ltd. for Valemount Mill site	\$90.68	\$0.00	\$804.70	\$79.65	\$668.85	\$415.00	\$2,058.88	\$2,058.88	\$0.00
Canadian National	\$69.76	\$5,484.04	\$10,878.61	\$105.83	\$207.50	\$300.88	\$17,046.61	\$16,115.65	(\$930.96)
Endako Mine	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$426.82	\$0.00	\$126.53	\$0.00	\$553.36	\$0.00	(\$553.36)
FFGRD	\$0.00	\$248.35	\$338.67	\$291.75	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$878.77	\$0.00	(\$878.77)
First Nations	\$0.00	\$428.07	\$1,423.33	\$18.50	\$35.58	\$49.17	\$1,954.65	\$0.00	(\$1,954.65)
Kinder Morgan Operations Division	\$0.00	\$44.50	\$390.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$434.54	\$434.54	\$0.00
Kinder Morgan TMX-Anchor Loop Project	\$37.86	\$0.00	\$909.50	\$0.00	\$315.40	\$342.38	\$1,605.14	\$1,605.14	\$0.00
Kitimat-Stikine Regional District	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$138.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$138.80	\$0.00	(\$138.80)
Ministry of Forests and Range	\$4,380.83	\$27,122.53	\$56,312.21	\$13,979.91	\$18,990.04	\$6,388.93	\$127,174.44	\$200,000.00	\$72,825.56
Ministry of Environment – Omineca Region	\$0.00	\$943.61	\$1,727.18	\$155.63	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,826.41	\$0.00	(\$2,826.41)
Ministry of Environment – Skeena Region	\$19.35	\$748.73	\$4,320.54	\$277.97	\$386.68	\$480.19	\$6,233.46	\$0.00	(\$6,233.46)
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	\$6,451.61	\$95,905.95	\$160,672.27	\$15,404.67	\$25,648.46	\$15,751.96	\$319,834.93 <sup>2</sup>	\$251,161.00	(\$68,673.93)
Fraser Lake	\$0.00	\$263.20	\$45.29	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$308.49	\$0.00	(\$308.49)
Fort St James	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,279.89	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,279.89	\$0.00	(\$1,279.89)
Houston	\$1.30	\$1,076.48	\$1,585.18	\$568.79	\$374.81	\$376.89	\$3,983.45	\$3,443.00	(\$540.45)
McBride	\$0.00	\$206.16	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$58.50	\$0.00	\$264.66	\$0.00	(\$264.66)
Masset	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$117.51	\$0.00	\$195.85	\$0.00	\$313.36	\$0.00	(\$313.36)
Prince George	\$12.09	\$2,566.27	\$4,356.24	\$869.63	\$1,169.16	\$1,722.25	\$10,695.63	\$5,000.00	(\$5,695.63)
Prince Rupert	\$0.00	\$244.80	\$1,146.80	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$109.00	\$1,560.60	\$0.00	(\$1,560.60)
Port Clements	\$0.00	\$535.40	\$70.34	\$47.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$653.69	\$0.00	(\$653.69)
Queen Charlotte City	\$0.00	\$411.33	\$528.45	\$203.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,143.58	\$0.00	(\$1,143.58)
Smithers	\$0.00	\$618.60	\$3,429.60	\$127.40	\$263.29	\$40.50	\$4,479.39	\$3,459.00	(\$1,020.39)
Telkwa	\$0.00	\$45.00	\$376.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3.00	\$424.60	\$190.00	(\$234.60)
Terrace	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$23.00	\$343.00	\$0.00	(\$343.00)
Valemount	\$0.00	\$1,279.52	\$5,455.73	\$912.35	\$1,780.90	\$501.28	\$9,929.78	\$2,000.00	(\$7,929.78)
Vanderhoof	\$0.00	\$131.38	\$440.80	\$58.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$630.79	\$0.00	(\$630.79)
Mines	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$89.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$89.45	\$0.00	(\$89.45)
SQCRD	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$216.79	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$216.79	\$0.00	(\$216.79)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$13,078.78</b>	<b>\$143,727.32</b>	<b>\$271,638.41</b>	<b>\$36,511.59</b>	<b>\$55,223.44</b>	<b>\$27,455.86</b>	<b>\$547,635.40</b>	<b>\$531,813.21</b>	<b>(\$15,822.19)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data are from the NWIPC Weeds Database populated with tracking sheet records from contractors; includes costs from contractors of approximately \$15,000 not paid because over contract limit or owed dollars and was not charged to partners

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$10,000 from Reserve Funds for work done in our area in support of the Northeast Invasive Plant Committee's Pine Pass IPMA.

**Table 6. Operational invasive plant management costs by Invasive Plant Management Area from work done by IPMA contractors.<sup>1</sup>**

IPMA	EXPENSES	INVENTORY	TREATMENT	AWARENESS	ADMIN	DATA ENTRY	TOTAL COST
Burns Lake	\$1,999.28	\$36,877.18	\$23,812.82	\$3,553.61	\$7,066.25	\$2,549.10	\$75,858.24
Haida Gwaii	\$993.24	\$2,946.64	\$33,377.71	\$939.33	\$4,964.88	\$1,589.77	\$44,811.56
Houston	\$61.89	\$12,713.93	\$23,018.98	\$3,336.50	\$5,747.76	\$2,304.50	\$47,183.56
Prince George <sup>2</sup>	\$3,585.52	\$44,117.71	\$56,031.32	\$13,700.43	\$12,288.90	\$7,604.88	\$137,328.75
Robson Valley	\$2,466.10	\$17,783.66	\$57,888.91	\$4,923.20	\$18,122.31	\$3,978.52	\$105,162.69
Stikine-Skeena	\$0.00	\$16,765.90	\$32,812.18	\$5,992.10	\$4,400.00	\$6,698.50	\$66,668.68
Vanderhoof	\$3,972.75	\$12,522.30	\$44,696.49	\$4,066.43	\$2,633.35	\$2,730.60	\$70,621.92
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$13,078.78</b>	<b>\$143,727.32</b>	<b>\$271,638.41</b>	<b>\$36,511.59</b>	<b>\$55,223.44</b>	<b>\$27,455.86</b>	<b>\$547,635.39</b>

<sup>1</sup> Data are from the NWIPC Weeds Database populated with tracking sheet records from contractors; includes costs from contractors of approximately \$15,000 not paid because over contract limit or owed dollars and was not charged to partners

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$10,000 from Reserve Funds for work done in our area in support of the Northeast Invasive Plant Committee's Pine Pass IPMA.

**Table 7. Area (ha), number of sites, and number of contractor visits for invasive plant sites managed by NWIPC by Invasive Plant Management Areas in 2008.**

Invasive Plant Management Area	Area (ha)				Number of Sites				Number of Visits
	Chemical	Mechanical	Inventory Only	Total	Chemical	Mechanical	Inventory Only	Total	
Burns Lake	15.57	1.32	2.39	19.28	99	33	25	157	211
Haida Gwaii	na	65.11	4.20	69.31	0	105	7	112	207
Houston	16.48	47.08	7.02	70.58	174	89	133	396	585
Prince George	27.41	23.03	58.72	109.16	132	194	263	589	728
Robson Valley (includes manual crews)	24.21	37.59	0.65	62.45	115	243	8	366	425
Stikine-Skeena	13.63 <sup>1</sup>	34.23	0.28	48.141	151 <sup>1</sup>	211	13	375	527
Vanderhoof	103.66 <sup>2</sup>	31.25	66.73	201.642	44	167	20	231	382
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>200.96</b>	<b>239.61</b>	<b>139.99</b>	<b>580.563</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>1042</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>2226</b>	<b>3065</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes 15 sites totaling 0.06 ha treated by Ministry of Forests and Range

<sup>2</sup> Five large sites were treated with fixed boom totaling 76 ha.

Table 7 was generated from extracts out of the Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP). There are still data quality issues in IAPP, both in the historical data and in data entered this year. Contractors, partners, and the program manager have had difficulties in capturing all the data for certain administrative areas, for example the Burns Lake IPMA. We are continuing to work with IAPP personnel and contractors to resolve this issue. The IPMA boundaries are not available as a layer in IAPP and this increases the chance of missing sites from an IPMA.

The data represents work done solely by the IPMA contractors except for a small amount of treatment work done by Ministry of Forests and Range staff as noted in Table 7. The area and number of sites labeled "inventory only" are sites with no treatment. Usually the IPMA contractors inventory and treat sites at the same visit, so all treated sites were also inventoried. A total of 440.57 ha were treated; 46% with herbicide and 54% using manual and mechanical methods. Many sites require both chemical and manual treatments as the best treatment regime for eliminating invasive species. All figures are either the same or up compared to 2007 except for hectares inventoried and total. This is due to the inclusion of a large site inventoried in 2007 by ministry personnel. The total number of visits in 2008 was less compared to the 3,556 reported last year. Number of visits per site ranged from 1 to 13 in 2008.

The seven IPMAs all saw renewal of contracts with the 2007 companies except for Haida Gwaii. The contract renewal process included the development of a new tactical planning process. Plans were prepared by each contractor for their respective IPMAs for directors to consider along with evaluation of the previous years performance. The plans included a summary of work to be done, crew rates, critical level program, containment level program, timing, awareness and integration and IAPP. As the contractors assisted in the development of the procedure, they had ownership in the process. The IPMA work plans will be a good tool for tendering or renewing IPMA contracts and will form the basis for future RFP submissions.

The plans were new but proved to be valuable throughout the season as a communication tool between the field contractors and the directors. The following is a brief summary on each IPMA condensed from their annual reports provided at the fall meeting.

### **2.2.1 Burns Lake IPMA**

Field work was completed between May 28<sup>th</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup> by Spectrum Resources Group Ltd. A total of 418 site visits were completed (from their tracking sheets, not reflected in extracts from IAPP in Table 7) and approximately 80% of the total budget was for inventory, treatment and monitoring. One new site of field scabious was identified and treated for a total of two sites in this area. The spread of hawkweed along Hwy 35 and into the Francois Lake area was slowed with only small clusters found, especially south of the lake. All known spotted knapweed sites were located with help from locals and visited at least three times. These sites are now all in the Invasive Alien Plant Program database. Monitoring of common tansy sites treated with Milestone or Tordon late in the 2007 season indicated better control than anticipated with most of the sites being clean or with a much reduced population.

### **2.2.2 Haida Gwaii IPMA**

This IPMA had a new contractor for 2008 and a name change from Queen Charlotte Islands to Haida Gwaii based on a closer working relationship between NWIPC directors and the locals. Two visits early in the year provided opportunities to meet, learn, and assist the new contractor to develop a plan for the season. The successful contractor was Marine Toad Enterprises. Inventory and treatment work was completed on 69 ha even though they had a late start. All treatments of bull and Canada thistle, common burdock, gorse, knotweed, marsh plume thistle, orange hawkweed, oxeye daisy, scotch broom, sowthistle and yellow iris were manual and mechanical.

### **2.2.3 Houston IPMA**

The contract for this area was with Graeme's Agricultural Services but the field work supervised by two local Professional Agrologists. Four local, part time people were added to the two crews operating in the area resulting in more inventory and control. There were fewer "official hotline" calls but just as many "directed to contractor" queries, plus more of the queries led to participation in the 50:50 program. Public IP education is still paying off because reports are more accurate as to IP identification. Canada thistle, oxeye daisy and hawkweeds are the main IP threats to area parks. Oxeye daisy and hawkweeds were found moving along Forest Service roads into the backcountry and we recommend a bigger effort in 2009 to push both back into the Highway 16 corridor. Field scabious – found more sites in 2008 and did more control work along Buck Creek between Houston and the Buck Flats Containment area because it is moving down the creek along the sandbars, getting established and then spreading out into the crown land adjacent to the riparian areas. A few new spotted knapweed sites were found and treated. Many are linked back to the historical Donaldson Pit site that has been treated for years. A large amount of gravel from the Donaldson Pit site was used in new paving projects between Telkwa and Smithers this year so monitoring for "pop-ups" of knapweed along these road shoulders will be required for the next few years.

### **2.2.4 Prince George IPMA**

Field work was completed between May 16<sup>th</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup> by Spectrum Resources Group Ltd. A total of 1029 site visits were completed and approximately 75% of the total budget was for inventory, treatment and monitoring. All known spotted knapweed sites were visited four or more times this season. New sites still were found along both main highways (Hwy 97 and 16) and within Prince George city limits. Found one of the main seed sources of common tansy in the area at the BCR Industrial site. Common tansy was treated in a large section of the area owned by the City of Prince George, CN Rail, and BCTC. Treatment of marsh plume thistle capitalized on the gains made from the previous two seasons. Marsh thistle is breaking out of the containment area and work will be increasing to hold the containment line. Worked cooperatively with the Cariboo Regional District, Ministry of Forests and Range Southern Interior Region, Dunkley Lumber Ltd. and the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee (CCCIPC) to find and treat marsh plume thistle in the southern portion of the IPMA, define boundaries and develop treatment plan; used the Corrections Crew provided through the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to limit seed spread out of the containment area; continued to treat up to and beyond the containment line along the N. Fraser FSR and establish a small buffer along the N. Fraser FSR by treating along the roads and through open cut blocks; maintaining control over the Blackwater sites. Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*) was found and treated for the first time.

### **2.2.5 Robson Valley IPMA**

Field work was completed between May 19<sup>th</sup> and Sep 18<sup>th</sup> by Spectrum Resources Group Ltd. A total of 1060 site visits were completed and approximately 70% of the total budget was for inventory, treatment and monitoring. Administration and awareness costs were higher than normal because NWIPC began working closely with Kinder Morgan Canada Inc. and Carrier Lumber Ltd. to prevent spread of spotted knapweed during the completion of the pipeline construction. New sites of spotted knapweed, common tansy and chicory found and treated. Spotted knapweed continues to be the most invasive species in this area as it moves in through Hwy 5 from the south. All known marsh plume thistle sites outside the containment area were treated with a focus on preventing spread into the adjoining Prince George IPMA. The Robson Valley continued to benefit from the work done by two manual crews organized independently by Beryl Hagen and Sally Wall. They continue to employ young people in the valley and pass on their years of experience in identifying and treating invasive plants using non-chemical methods.

### 2.2.6 Stikine-Skeena IPMA

Graeme's Agricultural Services started in Prince Rupert on May 12<sup>th</sup>, and ended mid-September. The season was challenging due to heavy rain and storms month after month. Excellent progress has been made in driving marsh plume thistle back to Prince Rupert, however new sites were found and one will require hip waders to treat! The containment line for marsh plume thistle in the eastern portion of the NWIPC area is coming down as it is now possible to treat all sites. Knapweeds are much reduced in population after more than a decade of treatment. New sites of brown knapweed were reported as well as two spotted knapweed sites where there has never been an occurrence illustrating the need of continual monitoring of the highways for both knapweeds and tansy. Common tansy continues to increase with many large infestations in remote sites that are difficult and expensive to access.

Oxeye daisy and hawkweeds are moving into the Cassiar region and there not enough resources, both financial and human, to adequately work on this. It is hoped that the Tahltan First Nation will partner with NWIPC. Knotweed and Himalayan balsam were found at critical sites in the Terrace area. The sites were found late in the season and there will need to be a ramp up of the program in that area for 2009.



Graeme and Chris Johnstone of Graeme's Agricultural Services taking the pick-axe to thriving common tansy in Nisga'a Memorial Lava Bed Provincial Park.

### **2.2.7 Vanderhoof IPMA**

The contract in this area was completed by Matt Harder. Early treatments were on field scabious followed by common tansy and repeat treatments on both throughout the year. The Telegraph Road/Fort Fraser containment area was inventoried, treated and monitored and there is now the opportunity to remove this containment area. All field scabious sites outside the Saik'uz lands containment area were treated including some boom-spraying treatments on private property. There is still risk of the spread of field scabious to private and public lands and the Saik'uz containment line may need to be re-drawn in order to protect them. Common Tansy site at Endako mine metal scrapyards [approx. 6.75 ha ] is being addressed by mine crews. Two sites (one field scabious and one common tansy) were treated by machine removal of plants and soil that was later burned. The sites were top-dressed with soil and grass seeded. All spotted knapweed sites were treated and all sites had zero seed production. There is a threat of knapweed establishing a seed base in remote areas of the Vanderhoof IPMA and yearly inventories are needed at the flowering stage. Brown Knapweed is on the watch list here as a few new sites were inventoried and treated along Hwy 16.

### **2.2.8 Monitoring Treatment Efficacy and Contractor Performance**

A monitoring plan for NWIPC operations was developed and tested this year by Bob Drinkwater, MFR, and Andrea Eastham, NWIPC. The plan is posted on the NWIPC web site at: [http://www.nwipc.org/documents/nwipc-monitoringplan\\_08.doc](http://www.nwipc.org/documents/nwipc-monitoringplan_08.doc) . The reasons for monitoring were threefold:

- Ensure that treatment crews are adequately surveying, inventorying and treating areas to attain the goals outlined in the plans.
- Adjust containment lines and associated goals to meet realities of resources and conditions.
- Adjudicate rationale for rehabilitation work.

NWIPC partners and members were enlisted to assist in monitoring sites across our large geographic area. Training and assistance was provided to volunteers and their efforts are greatly appreciated. There were three monitoring sessions: first time out to make sure that contractors were working and address any of their issues early; second time focused on a sample of spotted knapweed sites as the goal was to have none go to seed; the late season monitoring included more knapweed sites and specific sites identified by partners as critical. All of our IPMA contractors monitored treatment effectiveness on their own sites. The plan will be modified for the 2009 season based on the experience gained.

### **3. PROGRAM MANAGEMENT**

#### **3.1. INCOME – MANAGEMENT FUNDS**

Funding for running the NWIPC program for 2008 came from grants provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Ministry of Forests and Range, and District “C” Farmer’s Institutes located in the Prince George area (in support of the weed reporting hotline only).

#### **3.2. DISBURSEMENT – MANAGEMENT FUNDS**

##### **3.2.1 Program Contract Staff**

The program manager for 2008 was Andrea Eastham, P.Ag. Andrea was assisted by: Technical Assistant, Amy Barnes; Extension and Awareness Coordinator, Luke Wichrowski; First Nations Partnership Assistant, Merci Hillis; Data Management, Alvina Derksen; and, Grace Stevens, Accutech Bookkeeping. Together they assisted the board of directors in implementing the action plan for the year including: financial reporting, board meeting organization, supporting NWIPC members and partners, partner development, invasive plant and IAPP training, First Nations partnership development, contractor training and monitoring of contracts, data management, invasive plant inventory and treatment, reporting, and organization of NWIPC display and extension materials for fairs, events, and farmer’s markets with help from volunteers. Luke, Amy and Andrea were able to work with others across the province by: attending spring and fall meetings of adjoining committees, the Northeast Invasive Plant Committee (NEIPC) and the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee (CCCIPC); attending provincial weed committee coordinators meetings in Richmond and the coordinator’s workshop and field trip held in Kamloops.

##### **3.2.2 Overhead Expenses**

Less than 3% of the total 2008 expenditures were for overhead (Table 3). The overhead included necessary fixed costs for insurance, etc., plus the two annual membership meetings and expenses required to have a functioning board of directors with representatives from across our area.

##### **3.2.3 Board of Directors**

The NWIPC board of directors met face to face 10 times and had two other conference call meetings. Five of the 11 directors are volunteers and not financially supported by the affiliation that they represent. NWIPC provides a modest honorarium for each meeting they participate in, plus travel assistance. Meeting locations were moved around our area from Hazelton to Prince George. The meeting in Hazelton was made possible by Sadie Harris of the Gitxsan Midskeena Watershed and provided directors with the opportunity to hear Merci Hillis give her NWIPC and First Nations presentation used at conferences in BC, AB and the Yukon. Plus, several representatives from the other watersheds attended the presentation and met with NWIPC directors over lunch. Most of our business is conducted on a daily basis via email, fax and phone. The directors also reviewed the external review of the three-year pilot project prepared by Brian Wikeem<sup>2</sup> and instituted his recommendations.

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<sup>2</sup> Wikeem, B., Solterra Resources Inc. 2007. Northwest Invasive Plant Pilot Project Review. Produced for the Inter-Ministry Invasive Plant Working Group, Victoria, BC; and, NWIPC, Prince George, BC. pp. 37.

**Table 8: NWIPC Directors for 2008.**

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Environmental, Conservation & Naturalist Groups	Paul Glover	Northwest BC Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides
First Nations	Ron Winser	Tl'at'zen First Nation
First Nations	Myrtle Muldoe	Gitksan First Nation – Mid- Skeena Watershed
Livestock and Guide Outfitters Associations	John Davidson	Smither's Cattlemen's Association
Livestock and Guide Outfitters Associations	Trevor Tapp	Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Association
Local Government	Ian Hayes	Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
Local Government	Ralph Roy	Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
Membership at Large	Ron Anthony	Members at large & District "C" Farmers Institute
Provincial Government	Denise McLean, <b>Chair</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Provincial Government	Bob Drinkwater, <b>Secretary</b>	Ministry of Forests and Range
Transportation and Utility Companies	Geoff Helfrich	BC Transmission Corporation

### 3.2.4 NWIPC Committees

#### Pesticide Issues

The committee did not meet in 2008 mainly due to the move to Victoria by the chairperson; it will be important to appoint a new chairperson in 2009 and resume activity on these important issues. Critical in the coming year will be the need for Pest Management Plans (PMP) by Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Forest Range as the current ones expire at the end of the 2009 field season. The possibility of a multi-agency PMP under the name of a lead Ministry will be considered for NWIPC.

#### Enforcement and Compliance

The Invasive Plant Council's release of "A Legislative Guidebook to Invasive Plant Management in BC" met the needs of NWIPC for enforcement and compliance information. The document is Report #3 and available on their website. The committee was retired at the Fall Meeting.

#### Awareness and Extension

The committee makes recommendations and decisions regarding promotional material and events to attend. Change in committee chair from Denise McLean, MAL, to Ian Hayes, Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. They are looking for more committee members.

#### Mountain Pine Beetle and Invasive Plants

The committee emailed the following document April 15, 2008 prepared by Bob Fowler and Christine Friedrichsmeier in consultation with Bob Drinkwater. The committee has been retired as there is no more work for them at this time.

**Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC)  
MPB – Invasive Plants Impacts**

MPB within the province of BC is at a level never seen before in recorded history. The biological and environmental impacts have yet to be seen on the land base and how these impacts will affect the ecosystems both terrestrial and aquatic is yet to come. There has also been a devastating impact to the social and economic fabric of many communities within the province. These long term impacts can only be guessed at and are impacting communities already. The MPB epidemic is not only impacting the land base with respect to timber resources but it is and will impact the make up of various habitats within the province through the introduction of invasive plant (IP's) species to the various ecosystems.

Invasive plants are defined by the Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPC) as any invasive alien plant species that has the potential to pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on humans, animals or ecosystems. Invasive alien plants spread and dominate habitats because they arrived in BC without the natural agents, insects and diseases that regulate their populations' in their native habitats. The ability of invasive Alien plants to establish and cause serious degradation to habitats in BC is the reason that the Northwest Invasive Plants Council (NWIPC) works so diligently to prevent these species from establishing and spreading. Once established these plants are able to compete for nutrients, water and sunlight often crowding out native vegetation.

Typically IP's establish best on sites that have been disturbed by some kind of activity resulting in exposed mineral soil or the removal of the native vegetation. The MPB epidemic in the province has resulted in attempts to remove dead standing pine forests to allow for new forests to be planted. This activity is opening the over story canopy on vast tracts of land. The removal of this canopy is both by man and by nature. Living pine stands provide shade to the under story and most IP's are not shade tolerant, therefore they do not easily establish on healthy closed canopy forests. Once dead, the pine loses its needles and the under story is no longer shaded allowing IP's to establish. With the forest industry's attempt to utilize this dead resource, not only is the canopy removed but existing ground cover is also disturbed. This two-fold impact on the land creates an even more suitable environment for IP's to establish.

The NWIPC takes the position that the MPB epidemic is a snowball on the top of the hill. How this epidemic is managed and the consideration of all resources in the impacts of that management will determine whether the snowball rolls down a small or a large hill thus determining the magnitude of the snowball or impacts in the future. IP's are a potential long term ecological disaster unless they are kept in check. At present there are IP's such as hawkweeds, Canada thistle and oxeye daisy that have established in central and northern BC and will spread into unharvested and harvested stands of pine. This will in turn alter the plant community within these areas which will in turn impact all levels of species diversity, from plants to insects to wildlife in our ecosystems. All is not lost though with these threats from IP's.

In order to mitigate the impacts of IP's on our ecosystems there must be cooperative efforts from all. This includes the timber industry, the mining sector, agriculture, government (local, municipal, regional, provincial and federal), local residents and recreational users of our land base. The NWIPC connects these different users in a strategic approach that attempts to prevent the establishment of new invasive plant species contain those species that have established and work towards restoration of habitats that have become infested with invasive plants. Unfortunately there are situations where things should be done on the ground by different groups to mitigate the spread of IP's but they are not done.

The MPB epidemic and the consequent activity by the timber industry is rapidly becoming the largest source for the spread of IP's in central and northern BC. The MPB epidemic and attempts to

make use of the dead and dying timber have resulted in a large increase in the Annual Allowable Cut, AAC. Industrial activities from both local and outside interests are competing for this wood fibre. This competition causes the movement of logging equipment and operations throughout BC are hauling dirty or contaminated equipment on low beds and are a concern. Dirt and plant parts from other areas are hitching a free ride on this equipment and then being distributed on newly disturbed sites. Unknown to the operators is the fact that this dirt and plant material may contain IP's. If this process is not managed some IP sites may not be found for years. These sites potentially can become uncontrollable if not detected at an early stage of establishment. Even more importantly these IP infestations could have been avoided if equipment owners and operators were to clean their equipment prior to leaving a site and moving to another. The cleaning of this equipment is a cheap price to pay in comparison to potentially dealing with an IP site establishing and requiring treatments for anywhere from 1-25 years depending on the site and the species.

During harvesting operations it is impossible for a contractor not to create disturbed ground. These may be as small as a landing or they could be landings, skid trails and other disturbances caused by the movement of heavy equipment across a site. Preventative measures can be taken on these sites to minimize the introduction and spread of IP's. Typically this would involve seeding of the disturbed sites with a suitable vegetative cover to eliminate any exposed soil. It is the sites that are disturbed that are readily infested with IP's because of the lack of competitive vegetation. Although this is a cost it is also a cost that industry can have a cost recovery on through the appraisal system attached to the removal of timber from crown land. These preventative measures should not be up for interpretation but should be mandatory whether IP's are in the area or not. It may be the hunter, the fisherman the outdoor recreational user that brings the IP's in to an area but it is the harvesting of the timber that provide the seedbed for the IP's to easily establish.

It is important that those involved in these activities take advantage of the services and strategies offered by NWIPC. Preventing or slowing the spread of IPs can be accomplished by minimizing disturbances and seeding those disturbances that do occur. NWIPC has a reporting system and threatening, newly arriving and contained invasive plants like the hounds tongue, Himalayan balsam, knapweeds, marsh thistle and field scabious can be reported to NWIPC and contractors will be dispatched to assess and take action on reports. Using the Invasive Alien Plant Program, IAPP, NWIPC is continuing to develop its inventory of invasive plants and using that inventory to refine its strategies to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive plants and begin long term planning for restoration of habitats degraded by invasive plants. It is important that NWIPC and those involved in the management activities resulting from the MPB epidemic work to integrate and coordinated plans and actions.

As professionals in the fields of Agriculture, Forestry, Mining and Wildlife management it is our responsibility professionally, ethically as well as through our due diligence to insure that the MPB epidemic does not turn into an epidemic of IP's.

Bob Fowler  
Chair  
NWIPC MPB Committee

### Common Tansy Containment

The purpose of the committee was to delineate a containment area for Tansy in the Terrace area of the Stikine-Skeena IPMA. Contractors, Graeme Johnstone and Chris Johnstone, and program manager, Andrea Eastham, worked the southern portion of the proposed area and determined that the line should be drawn at Little Cedar Bridge. Graeme will work this winter with Marc Schuffert, Ministry of Forests and Range, to close the polygon and produce a map that can be shared with the membership.

### **3.2.5 NWIPC Projects**

- MAL Corrections Crew Support: funding was provided to hire a contractor to work closely with the corrections staff at the start-up of their season. See Table 4.
- Community Weed Pulls: Two community weed pulls were held in 2008. Volunteers from Alpha Theta Phi Sorority in Prince George dug and pulled Himalayan balsam, mountain bluet and hawkweed in a residential greenbelt in Prince George. Remediation techniques were applied to the hawkweed infested areas where volunteers spread grass seed and fertilizer. The second community weed pull targeted common tansy on the banks of Mud River. The BC Interior Agility Handlers were faced with digging extensive root systems and removing abundant flowerheads. Both community groups received a \$250 honorarium for their hard work. Feedback from participants was positive with many respondents appreciating the opportunity to learn about invasive plants and to benefit the community. Canadian Springs continued to sponsor events this year by donating water and pumps for each event. In the fall of 2008, invasive plant coordinators across the province agreed to a common branding of the community weed pull program. The new program title is "Pulling Together" and it will be supported by a modified weed warrior logo FREP Plant ID Cards: The Ministry of Forests and Range provided funding that gave NWIPC staff the opportunity to work with them to develop plant identification cards for use by their stewardship foresters.
- Six newsletters were produced and distributed.
- MAL Grazing Weeds Speaker: NWIPC shared the expenses with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to have Dr. Kathy Voth speak at the forage seminars in northern BC.
- The NWIPC was fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the MFR staff in Victoria to produce invasive plant identification cards for use by their stewardship staff in resource monitoring. See Table 4.
- Weed of the Week: Is an invasive plant contest run through the newspaper. The contest was originally run by the District "C" Farmer's Institute in the Prince George Citizen. The contest was expanded to appear in local papers throughout our area. This resulted in more calls from people over a wider coverage area and was very successful in promoting NWIPC in more remote areas.
- MAL Student Photo Contest: NWIPC provided prizes to the top three entrants in the student photo contest category for invasive plants. This provides MAL and NWIPC with access to excellent photos for use in education and awareness project.
- Gitxsan Speaker Expenses: Merci Hillis, the NWIPC First Nations Partnership Assistant, was invited to speak at three conferences this year. The board paid expenses up front for two of the events and then we were reimbursed by the conference organizers. The three events were: Invasive Plant Council of BC 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum, January 22-23; Weeds Across Borders, May 27-30 in Banff, Alberta; and, the Yukon Symposium, held in Whitehorse.
- Potted Weed Display: The potted weeds were cared for by a home-schooled child in Prince George when they were not on the road at various events. The potted weeds traveled long and far this year and often required some tender loving care. The potted weeds are an excellent tool in teaching the public what the invasive plants are and how to recognize them.

- Buck Flats Field Day: Another successful field day was held with even more 4H groups participating. The youth and their parents are starting to make a dent in the field scabious population in the area as we see the sites getting smaller and smaller. Good job guys!
- Fort Fraser 50:50: This program is organized and implemented by the local livestock association with financial support from NWIPC. 681 acres were treated, mostly in the form of spot spraying. Treated species included: orange hawkweed, Canada thistle, bull thistle, toadflax, wild oats, quackgrass, and cleavers.
- Targeted Cattle Grazing of Field Scabious in Vanderhoof, BC.: NWIPC fully sponsored an operational trial south of Vanderhoof, BC where 10 heifers were trained to eat field scabious, a very invasive plant that they normally avoided eating. After 10 days of training, the cattle would eat field scabious when it was hand clipped and fed in a trough and when it was standing in pasture. No negative health effects were observed as a result of eating field scabious. Grazed field scabious plants did show re-growth when checked 1 week after grazing and some of grazed plants had re-growth and were blooming 2 months after grazing. The nutritional analysis done for field scabious found that it is very digestible and has a good nutrient composition.



Cow 51 feeding on field scabious from trough during training period prior to field grazing.

### 3.2.6 FIRST NATION PARTNERSHIPS

**FIRST NATIONS PARTNERSHIP SUMMARY 2008**  
**Prepared by Merci Hillis, NWIPC First Nations Assistant**

This season has been an excellent one.

A floater plane trip to Hartley Bay was a first. It was not so pleasant to find out they had a possible 4 species of knotweed, but after Bob and I had an information session with Glen, Dave and Eddie, everyone was very enthusiastic to start treating the invasive plants. Glen seemed to go steady through the season. The biggest problem he had was with ordering parts for his pump. He wanted to try the salt water treatments on the knotweed but kept getting sent the wrong part. They still chopped down the knotweed and worked hard on the yellow flag iris which had a heck of a root. Glen said Dave and himself would be working on the data entry.

Everything seemed to happen so quickly after this. I traveled to Banff to present Gitxsan's Weeding Out the Invaders! This presentation describes the Gitxsan's start on Invasive Plants and their partnership with the NWIPC. I presented this earlier in Richmond for the IPCs AGM and later in Whitehorse. The response was excellent, in people wanting to know how to approach FN in partnerships.

To get back on track, just before Bob and I left for Hartley Bay, I signed the contract for First Nations Partnership assistant. When I got home from Hartley Bay, my work began. I researched, emailed and called people.

My first contact was Harold Alexis of Saiku'z First Nations. They had a history with the NWIPC so it was easy. We worked on the contract and off they went. Their problem plant seemed to be field scabious. We traveled to Vanderhoof and met up with Andrea and had a training session with them.

Next was Rose DeSilva of Nadleh Whuten. They jumped right on board. I had their contract drawn up over the phone and Andrea took over with the training from there.

I spoke with Ron Winser of TI'azt'en. Big problem with getting workers for the program, but he had other things in mind for the ips. He was in the midst of waiting for a reply to a proposal he had written for Wild life tracking. He faxed me a copy and it was very interesting. Highlighted was the section incorporating invasive plants into the project. He is waiting this spring for an answer on this.

2<sup>nd</sup> week in July, I drew up the contract for New Aiyansh. I spoke with Rod Moore and set up dates and times for info sessions and training. All went well; there is a lot of tansy there.

I had been trying to contact Nakzdli band for Fred Sam who referred me to Clara Jack. It took awhile to get through to her, the same with Kienan Carty at McLeod Lake Indian Band. I left messages and emails.

Throughout this time there was mega correspondence. August was the time I finally drew up MLIB's contract. The summer was just so busy and they weren't sure if they would have anyone available to work on the project.

Then with Clara Jack of Nakzdli, a lot of phone tag and time just flies through the season and before you know it, times up. Clara is still very open to an information session and joining up with NWIPC.

I met Naylene Morin of Thalthan through the phone. We almost had a meeting set up in October but it seems a lot of the council lives in Smithers or other areas and it is hard to get everyone together. We are still in touch, and will hopefully set up a meeting in the early spring if possible.

Bob and I have circulated a letter of funding for First Nations and their programs and we are starting to receive responses right away which are very positive.

I did not run into any major problems with this position. Everyone I spoke to was very welcoming and open to ideas of invasive plant programs of their own. I enjoyed this experience very much and look forward to working with all again in the future.



Merci Hillis, NWIPC First Nation Partnership Assistant, and Wesley Crow, Saik'uz Invasive Plant crew person, working together in field scabious containment area.

### 3.2.7 NWIPC PROGRAMS

#### 3.2.7.1. Weed Control 50:50 Program

The NWIPC 50:50 program is designed to help landowners recover some of their costs of treating invasive plants. Landowners may be eligible for a 50% rebate on what they paid a contractor to treat invasive plants on the NWIPC list (category 1 to 4) of eligible plants. Rebates were up to a maximum of \$500.00 per landowner and exclude contractor travel costs. Treatments were chemical and mechanical and used to control Canada thistle, bull thistle, hawkweeds, common tansy, oxeye daisy, common burdock, and tarweed. In 2008:

- 36 applicants
- 28 rebates
- 246 ha treated
- 21 landowners in Houston IPMA
- 1 in Burns Lake, 2 in Prince George, 4 in Stikine-Skeena IPMAs
- \$45,057 spent by landowners (not including costs for travel by contractor)
- \$8,326 reimbursed by NWIPC

Thank you to all the landowners who participated in our program in 2008. Your commitment to controlling invasive plants on your own acreage is commendable and furthers the NWIPC goal to prevent their establishment in the northwest.

#### 3.2.7.2. Weed Reporting Hotline: 1-866-44WEEDS

The hotline is one tool in our Early-Detection/Rapid-Response strategy. Through the education and awareness programs we increase the ability of local citizens to recognize invasive plants and report sightings. Invasive plant site reports are passed on to the IPMA contractor in the appropriate area two times per week during the field season.

Total calls were down by 18% compared to 2007. However, total calls in Robson Valley, Stikine-Skeena and Haida Gwaii IPMAs increased reflecting our expansion of education and awareness efforts in those areas. A number of sites were reported in the Houston and Stikine-Skeena IPMAs directly to the contractors in those areas and not reported to NWIPC.

**Table 9. Number of calls received in 2008 on the NWIPC hotline,1-866-44WEEDS, by type of call.**

IPMA	Requesting Information	General Comment	Reporting a Site	Total Calls
Burns Lake	5	0	21	27
Haida Gwaii	1	1	1	3
Houston	6	5	2	18
Prince George	14	4	34	52
Robson Valley	1	0	10	11
Stikine-Skeena	7	1	13	21
Vanderhoof	2	1	13	16
Out of Area	2	0	0	2
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>150</b>

### 3.2.7.3. Education, Promotion and Awareness

**Table 10. Invasive plant management education opportunities where NWIPC was present in 2008.**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>FIELD DAYS AND WORK BEES</b>			
26-Jun	Buck Flats Field Day	Houston	Organized by local 4H leaders; pull field scabious in riparian areas
05-Jul	Community Weed Pull	Prince George	Theta Beta Phi Stuart Dr. Him Bal, Hawkweeds, Mt. Bluet
17-Aug	Community Weed Pull	Prince George	BC Interior Agility Handlers worked on common tansy
24-Sep	Project Agriculture	Vanderhoof	Andrea Info booth & plant display & IP identification training
<b>FAIRS AND TRADESHOWS</b>			
8-9 May	North Central Municipal Association Tradeshow	Prince George	Attended by elected officials and staff from all northern regional districts and municipalities
14-15 June	Seafest	Prince Rupert	No charge from the Prince Rupert events society; 200+ people at display booth and 23 people signed up for NWIPC membership
21-Jun	Aboriginal Days Kispiox	Kispiox	Merci Hillis manned the display booth
11-13 Jul	Atlin Music Festival	Atlin	Marc Schuffert, MFR; manned booth with help from Graeme and Chris Johnstone, IPMA contractors
7-10 Aug	Prince George Exhibition	Prince George	Great attendance when weather was good; thanks for all the volunteers at the display
09-Aug	Pioneer Days	Hazelton	Merci Hillis manned the display booth
15-17 Aug	Nechako Valley Exhibition	Vanderhoof	Thanks to the volunteers from the Saik'uz First Nations
21-24 Aug	Bulkley Valley Exhibition	Smithers	
5-6 Sep	Houston Trade Show	Houston	Shared booth with RDBN
5-7 Sep	Lakes District Fall Fair	Burns Lake	Thanks to Ian Hayes (RDBN) for volunteer hours
<b>PRESENTATIONS &amp; TRAINING</b>			
22-Jan	Invasive Plant Council of BC 4th Annual Forum	Richmond	Weeding Out the Invaders' by Merci Hillis
22-Jan	Invasive Plant Council of BC 4th Annual Forum	Richmond	Containing the Spread of Field Scabious in Central and Northern BC' by Bob Drinkwater
26-Feb	Breaking Down Borders	Winnipeg	Single Agency Delivery Model' by Bob Drinkwater
04-Mar	IP training session	Skidegat	Bob Drinkwater and Andrea Eastham
05-Mar	QCI IPMA meeting	Tlell	Formation of a NWIPC Committee to assist with IPMA management in 2008
14-Mar	Lecture at UNBC	Prince George	Invasive Plant Management in Northern BC - an example of IPM' by Bob Drinkwater
26-Mar	Coastal Invasive Plant Council AGM	Nanaimo	Successful Cooperative IP Management in Northwest BC' by Andrea Eastham
31-Mar	City of PG IP Identification Training	Prince George	Amy Barnes

03-Apr	IAPP training for NWIPC contractors & partners	Burns Lake	Supported by MFR; training by Laura Kristiansen
18-Apr	Training session for returning Saik'uz crew	Vanderhoof	Amy Barnes and Luke Wichrowski
23-Apr	Robson Valley Invasive Plant Public Meeting	Dunster	10 community members attended
24-Apr	Sheep Vegetation Management AGM	Prince George	Info booth; presentation by Amy Barnes on Targeted Grazing Project
13-14 May	IAPP training for NWIPC contractors & partners	Tlell & Queen Charlotte	Supported by MFR; training by Laura Kristiansen
27-30 May	Weeds Across Borders Conference	Banff, Alberta	Weeding Out the Invaders' by Merci Hillis
27-May	IAPP training for BCTS Contractors & Staff	Vanderhoof	Organized by Bruce Middleton, BCTS; presenters were Andrea Eastham, Amy Barnes and Luke Wichrowski
04-Jun	Dow Agra Training	Prince George	Organized and sponsored by Spectrum Resources Group
04-Jun	IP ID Training	Vanderhoof	MFR staff training by Andrea Eastham
09-Jun	IAPP Mapview Module	Prince George	Full day training at UNBC attended by contractors, students and Ron Anthony, NWIPC Director; delivered by Andrea Eastham and Luke Wichrowski
25-Jun	IAP Training at Saik'uz First Nation Reserve	Vanderhoof	Merci Hillis and Andrea Eastham provided classroom and field instruction
11-Jul	Saik'uz IP Training	Vanderhoof	Student field crew training IP ID & NWIPC
11-Jul	Nisga'a Training	New Aiyansh Nadleh	Andrea Eastham & Merci Hillis
29-Jul	Nadleh Whut'en Training	Reserve	Amy Barnes and Luke Wichrowski
08-Sep	Lakes Dist Sec School	Burns Lake	Amy Barnes provided IP training to several high school classes
19-Sep	Presentation to Council, Kitimat Stikine Regional District	Terrace	Presentation by Andrea Eastham and Q&A with Graeme Johnstone
26-Sep	McLeod Lake Indian Band IP training to Silviculture crews	McLeod Lake	Andrea Eastham and Amy Barnes delivered the training
02-Oct	Society for Range Management	Williams Lake	Invasive Plant Management in BC & the Cariboo' by Bob Drinkwater & Geneve Jasper
08-Oct	Yukon Invasive Species Symposium - Pulling Together for Invasive Species	Whitehorse	First Nations Partnerships in Invasive Plant Management' by Merci Hillis
08-Oct	Yukon Invasive Species Symposium - Pulling Together for Invasive Species	Whitehorse	Invasive Plant Management in Northern BC' by Bob Drinkwater
16-Oct	Presentation to Council, Fraser Fort George Regional District	Prince George	Presentation by Andrea Eastham
20-Oct	Weeds and Roads	Prince George	Invasive Plant Council and Ministry of Transportation Training Course on Best Management Practices

21-Oct	Weeds and Roads	Smithers	Invasive Plant Council and Ministry of Transportation Training Course on Best Management Practices
29-30 Oct	IPC Research Forum	Richmond	Targeted Grazing poster presentation by Amy Barnes
<b>OTHER EVENTS</b>			
11-Jan	Bulkley Valley Cattlemen's Annual Meeting	Smithers	IP presentation by Graeme Johnstone
23-Jan	BC Forage Council Forage Seminar	Prince George	Info booth, Amy
24-Jan	BC Forage Council Forage Seminar	Vanderhoof	Info booth & bring & brag, Amy
24-Jan	BC Forage Council Forage Seminar	Burns Lake	Info booth & bring & brag, Bob Fowler; Very well attended and a number of businesses showing their interests.
25-Jan	BC Forage Council Forage Seminar	Smithers	Info booth & bring & brag, Graeme
23-25 Jan	"Cows as weed managers" presentation at BCFC seminars	All of the above	Kathy Voth guest speaker about training cows to eat weeds; NWIPC co-sponsored guest speaker.
26-Jan	Lakes District Cattlemen's Annual meeting	Burns Lake	IP presentation by Graeme Johnstone
12-Feb	Bulkley Valley Dairymen's Annual	Smithers	IP presentation by Graeme Johnstone
16-Feb	Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Asso. AGM	Vanderhoof	Info booth, Amy (door prize)
23-Feb	Seedy Saturday, Exhibition Place	Prince George	Info booth, Amy
17-Mar	Community Pastures Mtg., Ministry of Forests and Range	Vanderhoof	Andrea and Bob D. met with community pastures members to review 2007 and make plans for 2008
05-Apr	Horse Owners & Breeders Workshop	Vanderhoof	Well attended; got one new member; lots of booklets taken
22-Apr	MAL cheque presentation by Pat Bell	Prince George	Displays and info packages; attended by media and partners
31-May	Prince George Community Gardens Plant Sale	Prince George	Made contacts with other gardening organizations
06-Jun	FARM AGM	Prince George	Unmanned booth
07-Jun	District "C" AGM dinner.	Prince George	Thanks to Trevor Tapp, NWIPC Director; attended by 120 people
14-Jun	Terrace Farmers Market	Terrace	Amy and Merci had a booth setup. This event is bigger than the PG farmers market and so the exposure is good.....
15-Jun	Walk in the Park, REAPS	Prince George	Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society
05-Jul	Terrace Farmers Market	Terrace	with MAL
02-Aug	Prince George Farmers Market	Prince George	with MAL
22-23 Aug	Nadleh Whut'en Awareness Days	Nadleh	displays and materials to increase awareness; Andrea and Matt Harder
28-Sep	BC River's Day	Reserve	Andrea , Amy and Thomas Cheney
03-Oct	Shirley Bond Cheque Presentation to NWIPC	Prince George	Amy and Ron Anthony received cheque for NWIPC

### 3.2.7.4. Web Site

The NWIPC launched their first web site on April 11<sup>th</sup> at [www.nwipc.org](http://www.nwipc.org)! If you haven't checked it out yet, go and get great information on invasive plants, treatment options, NWIPC, etc. with links to interesting invasive plant web sites.

**Northwest**  
INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL

**WEED HOTLINE**  
TOLL FREE 1-866-44WEEDS  
(449-3337)

Home | Who is the NWIPC | News and Events | Weeds to Watch For | What You Can Do | Resources | Downloads | Contact Us

## Welcome to the NWIPC

**What are invasive plants and why are they a problem?**

Invasive plants are species that are able to quickly establish and flourish in new areas due to a competitive ability over other vegetation. Invasive plants are non-native and can quickly form extensive and dense infestations. Infestations in the natural environment can threaten biodiversity, reduce forage for wildlife and reduce habitat for rare or endangered species. Certain invasive plants also have undesirable traits such as toxicity to animals and humans or they can restrict recreation due to forming extremely dense infestations or containing spines. When invasive plants infest agricultural areas, they can reduce forage for livestock, contaminate seed stocks and reduce crop yields. Some invasive plants are known to affect regeneration of tree seedlings in the forest industry.

**Weeds to Watch For:**

Name: **Spotted knapweed**  
The "spotted" appearance of spotted knapweed is a result of black-tipped bracts on the flowerheads. Flowers are usually purple, but sometimes white, and found ...  
[Learn More](#)

**What can we do?**

Prevention of infestations is the most successful and cost-efficient method of dealing with invasive plants. Elimination may be possible for established infestations if the area is not too large and re-infestation by neighbouring plants is not likely. In some instances, infestations are too large to be practical for elimination, but must be controlled to prevent spread and new infestations. Control or elimination efforts generally have three options: mechanical, chemical or biocontrol methods.

## NWIPC - News and Events

February 10th, 2009  
[2008 Photo Contest Winners](#)  
Congratulations to our three winners of the 2008 Photo Contest! Stacey Barker, 1st prize for...

January 13th, 2009  
[NWIPC 2008 Fall Meeting Minutes](#)  
Minutes from the Fall Meeting and First Nations Forum held November 25, 2008 in Fort Fraser, BC...

April 22nd, 2008  
[NWIPC 2007 Annual Report](#)  
The NWIPC annual report for 2007 is now available for downloading from our site...

November 1st, 2007  
[Let the Bugs Do the Work](#)  
The NWIPC is always looking for new and better ways

[View all Recent News](#)

## NWIPC Projects:

**Potted Weed Display**

[View all NWIPC Projects | Community Weed Pulls](#)