



Interview with Becky Brown on the corrections crew field days

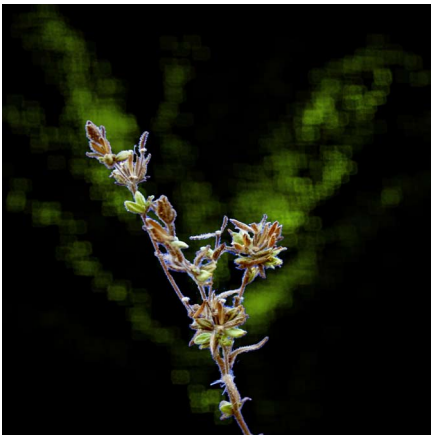
Corrections Crews are made up of inmates participating in the treatment of invasive plants. Heading this BC government initiative is Becky Brown, Invasive Plant Coordinator for the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. This is the first year such a large-scale program has been done, involving 6 different facilities. Now nearing the end of this year's corrections program, we interviewed Becky about her experiences. NWIPC: How is the corrections program organized? Brown: Each facil-

ity consults its region's stakeholders, and a program is developed to suit their capabilities. We try and help fill in the gaps by complementing existing invasive plant programs. NWIPC: Who can work on the crews? Brown: An inmate that has the will to work and is a low risk to himself or others. NWIPC: what tools do the crews use? Brown: We keep it to a minimum: shovels and hand tools, and occasionally a brush saw for thick infestations. NWIPC: Is there any training? Continued on next page.



Putting weeds behind bars

Weed of the Month



Sinking Tarweed; just stinking

This plant gets its name because of its sticky, glandular texture. Tarweed is an annual (or occasionally a biennial). It has dense foliage, yellow flowers in clusters at the tips of the stems, the end of branches, and in the angle where leaves meet branches. Leaves are narrow, lance-shaped, and have partially enclosed flowers. The plant is sticky, hairy, and has a strong, pungent odor. It is also a prolific seed producer; seeds

are slender, light grey or black. The stems in a mature plant are erect, leafy and branching and can range from 0.2m to 1.0m tall. Stinking tarweed is considered to be a poisonous plant for grazing animals even though most animals will avoid the plant due to its odor. It is still a concern to farmers and landowners. Hand-pull with gloves or mow before seeds are produced. Clean off equipment on-site when finished.

NWIPC Fall Meeting

Come meet the people who make it all happen. Please join us for our annual Fall Meeting.

When: Tuesday, November 20, 2007 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Where: Elks Hall, Vanderhoof

Itinerary:

10:00 a.m. - noon: Contractors' Forum (all welcome)

Noon - 1:00 p.m.: Lunch provided by District C Farmer's Institute

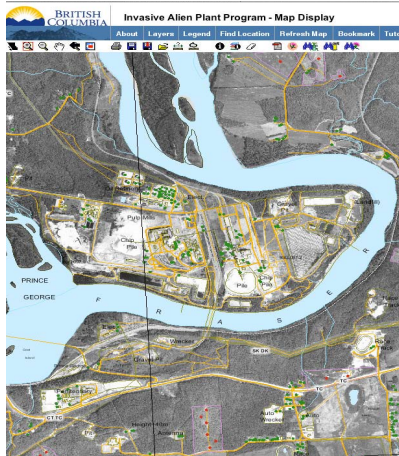
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.: IPMA reports by contractors; funded project reports; recap of season; plans for 2008.

RSVP at 1-866-44WEEDS or e-mail nwipc@indforserv.bc.ca

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Bright Idea!
Get my
friend a
NWIPC mem-
bership

The Invasive Alien Plant Program Application (IAPP)



In IAPP map view the green dots are known IP sites

This awesome program is located at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/invasive/IAP_01.htm. The Ministry of Forests and Range created this to help groups like the NWIPC manage invasive plant data. It has a Map Display module that shows the data contained within the IAPP application. The interactive mapping system lets the user create custom maps for locating and monitoring invasive plant communities all over BC. There is a

reference guide that will help you understand what invasive plant management is all about. The website is user friendly, with interactive tutorials, and field forms that you can print off and use to help monitor an invasive site. You will need a GPS device because GPS is used to anchor the weeds on the map. You can send your information to the NWIPC who may enter the data into the application. Check out this informative website yourself.

Inmates gaining valuable experience

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Brown: Yes, we educate them about the invasive plants and how to prevent their spread. We hope to certify the crew member so they have an employable skill when they leave jail. NWIPC: What preventative measures are taken to stop the spread of seeds? Brown: Before a crew leaves the site, they clean all tools, and wipe down clothes and vehicles. We are especially careful around rivers to limit spread downstream. NWIPC: What are the main benefits of this program? Brown:

Access to lots of manpower gets infestations under control; the inmates get employable experience. NWIPC: How do the inmates feel about it? Brown: They are happy to get skills and training, and they enjoy the outdoor work. Crews know they are benefiting society and get a sense of accomplishment when they see an infestation all treated. NWIPC: What do you see for the future of this program? Brown: Three additional years of funding that will prove that this is a beneficial

and effective investment. Better coordination between facilities will get even more sites treated. NWIPC: Thanks to Becky and all the crews for your hard work and initiative. We hope that the crews' work will lead them to an appreciation of the beauty of our province and the desire to protect it from invasive plants. Brown: Thanks to all regional stakeholders, especially the regional weed committees, for their support in developing and implementing this year's program.

We'd Say

Let me plant a seed. It all stems from one seed. One of the big advantages that invasive plants have is their innumerable seeds. They float around not knowing where they will land. Once they land in their womb they grow. Invasive seeds can grow on disturbed ground very well. Be aware that seeds can travel with you, on your clothes and on the soles of your shoes. I received a call on the weed hotline one day about an invasive plant, that normally grows in the Williams Lake area, spotted in front of the "Welcome to Ft. St. James" sign. Just one plant standing tall—it was located right where you would stand if you wanted to take a picture of the sign. Even though most plants are frostbitten now, the seeds are flying all around. Walking through the park today I came across dead thistles still spreading seeds. So my sister and I put a bunch of native seeds on the ground around them. We say, "Fight seeds with seeds and hope that your seeds will germinate first."



We were spreading good seeds

The Northwest Invasive Plant Council
www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca
 Report Invasive Plants
 1-866-44WEEDS (1-866-449-3337)

Bright Idea!
 Go to the
 IAPP
 Website