

Northwest Invasive Plant Council Strategic Plan 2024-2029

Introduction

This strategic plan is applicable to northwest and central British Columbia. Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC) target area is roughly west of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, including Haida Gwaii, and north from Hixon to the Yukon border – approximately 1/3 of BC's land base (33 million hectares).



Purpose

The purpose of the NWIPC Invasive Plant Strategic Plan is to provide a structured approach to managing invasive plant species that threaten the ecological balance, economy, and public health in BC's northwest by:

1. Coordinating the management of invasive plants on public and private lands in BC's northwest and Haida Gwaii using an integrated pest management approach.
2. Educating about invasive plants and their impacts.
3. Preventing the introduction and spread of invasive plants in BC's northwest.
4. Fostering expanded support of invasive plants management initiatives in the NWIPC region.

This plan supports our mission by outlining the long-term goals, objectives, and actions to effectively manage invasive species from 2024 to 2029.

Mission Statement

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.

Long Term Goals

1. Prevention: Prevent the introduction of new invasive plant species.
2. Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR): Quickly identify and respond to new infestations.
3. Control and Management: Manage and reduce the spread of existing invasive plant populations.
4. Restoration: Restore native habitats affected by invasive plant species.
5. Education and Outreach: Increase public awareness and stakeholder engagement.

Objectives and Actions

Objective 1: COORDINATE Invasive Plant Species Management

- Develop and maintain an operational framework for prioritizing invasive species and associated management activities.
- Continue to seek and engage partners for collaborative planning and management.
- Promote and maintain lead role and central contact for coordination of invasive species management in the NWIPC region.
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory and accessible data of species locations, partners' activities, and control methods.
- Maintain communications with neighbouring regional invasive species committees.
- Promote information transfer to organizational partners through activities such as newsletters, forums, presentations, and meetings.
- Use a web-based platform for joint sharing of information (e.g., Google drive, Dropbox).
- Develop and distribute a quarterly e-newsletter to partners.
- Coordinate and deliver operational activities on behalf of partners to ensure collaborative and efficient management.
- Provide information on treatment methods, biology of species and mechanisms of spread.
- Support the development and implementation of Invasive Plant Management Areas (IPMAs) Operational Plans.

Objective 2: EDUCATE About Invasive Plant Species

- Focus on behavioural change through targeted education and outreach programs.
- Engage youth, including youth groups and school children.

- Identify target audiences and maintain updated contact information
- Appeal broadly to the public by promoting positive messaging (e.g., “controlling invasive plants is a positive contribution to the environment”).
- Provide education and information transfer on all aspects of invasive plants including identification, impacts, prevention, and management options.
- Provide clear messaging on the detrimental impacts of invasive plants (e.g., ecosystems, health, recreation, agriculture, species at risk) to improve public understanding and promote buy-in.
- Use a wide array of technology, including social media and multimedia tools and partnerships, for information sharing.
- Use the NWIPC website as a source of relevant and recent information.
- Advocate for Best Management Practices (BMPs) among land managers and users.
- Connect with all levels of government – provincial, municipal, regional.
- Deliver consistent communication.

Objective 3: PREVENT the Introduction of Invasive Plants

- Focus on behaviour change programs to promote best management practices for preventing the spread of invasive plants such as “Play Clean Go” and “Clean, Drain, Dry” Canada-wide programs.
- Promote the sale of native and non-invasive plants at garden centres.
- Provide training programs on BMPs for forestry, horticulture, recreation, road maintenance, and other activities with potential sources of introduction (e.g. reseeding, limiting soil disturbance, not spreading contaminated soil, etc.).
- Promote proper disposal of invasive species.
- Recognize and mitigate threats from adjacent boundaries and pathways of introduction.
- Provide training workshops to key audiences such as naturalist groups, district and municipal maintenance staff, agriculturalists, and forestry workers, for the identification and reporting of high priority invasive species.
- Implement the rapid response protocol for regional and provincial EDRR.
- Advertise and promote the use of the reporting apps, such as *BC Invasives* and *iNaturalist*, through outreach activities.
- Install signs at target locations to encourage the prevention of invasive plant spread and reporting (e.g., Play Clean Go signage at rest stops, tourist info, trail systems, view points).
- Support provincial and regional reporting and early detection and rapid response programs.

Objective 4: PROVIDE SUPPORT For Regional Invasive Plant Management Efforts

- Develop containment areas for species that can be limited to certain portions of the region.
- Promote treatments of high priority species and sites.
- Provide landowner support and outreach for invasive plant management.
- Monitor efficacy of treatments and adopt adaptive management approach.
- Identify mechanisms and audiences that spread/cause invasions in order to reduce introduction and spread.
- Review research and remain up-to-date on best management practices (e.g. re-seeding disturbed sites).
- Promote and implement integrated invasive plant management techniques.
- Identify sources, promote benefits, and increase availability, of native plant species in the region.

- Identify, seek, and develop partnerships and stakeholders.
- Seek and maintain funding from multiple sources.
- Ensure ongoing Board of Directors development, governance structure, and succession planning.
- Advocate for and support local and provincial government policy development and implementation.
- Provide the opportunity for stakeholders to regularly meet to identify opportunities, challenges, and strategies to address them.
- Maintain and strengthen neighbouring provincial/territorial, regional, and multi-agency collaborations.
- Recognize and acknowledge partners for contributions.
- Advertise successes.

Objective 5: Ensure PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY

- Seek funding from a variety of sources.
- Encourage the province, municipal, and regional governments to support our mandate, and provide funding for our programs.
- Develop products and services to provide ongoing revenue (e.g., provide invasive plant management services to industries such as mines, and pipeline companies).
- Maintain connections and collaboration with other stewardship groups such as the BC Regional Invasive Species Organizations, Nature Trust of BC, First Nations' Land Guardians, etc.
- Continue to foster communication between stakeholders.
- Self-assess and monitor program effectiveness.

Conclusion

This strategic plan provides a long-term approach to managing invasive plant species in our region. Through coordinated efforts, collaboration, and public engagement, the NWIPC aims to protect our natural ecosystems and maintain biodiversity.

Resources supporting the NWIPC Strategic Plan:

[*Invasive Species Strategy for British Columbia 2024 – 2028*](#)

[*Invasive Plant Early Detection and Rapid Response \(EDRR\) Plan*](#)

[*Province Of British Columbia Invasive Species Web Site*](#)