

Invasive Plant Program Summary 2007

Prepared By: Lisa Tedesco, Ecosystem Biologist
Ministry of Environment, Okanagan Region
Environmental Stewardship Division



1.0 Overview

The mission of the Environmental Stewardship Division (ESD) includes maintaining and restoring the natural diversity of provincial ecosystems and fish and wildlife species and their habitat; and to providing park, fish and wildlife recreation services and opportunities to British Columbians and visitors. Designing and implementing an effective invasive plant program within the Okanagan Region is critical in fulfilling this mission and to ensure the long-term protection of our natural spaces.

Invasive plant management within Okanagan Region provincial parks, protected areas, ecological reserves and lease back lands is coordinated by the Ecosystems Section of the ESD. Each year ESD and Parks and Protected Area (PPA) staff undertake an integrated pest management program which includes the completion of inventory, monitoring and treatments. Treatment methods include mechanical, biological and chemical. All chemical treatments are completed under Pest Management Plan #807-0002-2007/2012. All data and records collected are entered into the Ministry of Forests and Range Invasive Alien Plant Program database.

Ministry staff works collaboratively with other agencies where possible to increase program effectiveness and to optimize all agencies available resources. Partners in 2007 included the Boundary Weed Management Committee and South Okanagan Similkameen Invasive Plant Society and their partners.

2.0 Invasive Plant Program Financials

In 2007 all funding came from regional base budget and included a transfer agreement to The Nature Trust to facilitate the operation of a BC Conservation Corp crew.

Table 1. Details of Invasive Plant Program expenditures for 2007.

Project	Funding Source/Partnership	Date of Implementation	Project Details	Funding
The Nature Trust / BCCC	Ministry of Environment The Nature Trust of BC	April-October	Mechanical control	\$10,000.00
Chemical Control	Ministry of Environment: Regional Base Budget	May-October	Chemical spot-treatment of invasive plants throughout the Okanagan Region	\$10,000.00
TOTAL IP Program Costs - 2006				\$20,000.00

3.0 Invasive Plant Inventory

A key to successful prevention and management of invasive plant species is regular inventory and monitoring. Monitoring trends over multiple years helps managers identify changes in species composition, density and distribution. All invasive plant inventory records have been entered into the Invasive Alien Plant Program database.

Inventories were completed by ESD staff in:

- Anarchist PA
- South Okanagan Grasslands PA
- Inkaneep PP
- South Okanagan WMA
- Vaseux PA
- Campbell Brown ER
- E.C. Manning PP
- Cathedral PP
- Kalamalka Lake PP

4.0 Biological Control

Table 2. Record of biological control agent releases in the Okanagan Region for 2007.

Weed Species	PP/ER/PA	Agent	# of agents	# of releases
Canada Thistle	Kekuli Bay PP	Larinus planus	300	3
	Whitelake Grassland PA	Larinus planus	330	1
Dalmatian Toadflax	E.C. Manning PP	Mecinus janthinus	200	2
Diffuse and Spotted knapweed	Cathedral PP South Okanagan Wildlife Management Area	Cyphcleonus achates	100	1
		Cyphcleonus achates	100	1
TOTALS			1030	8

5.0 Chemical Control

Chemical control treatments were completed by Cormier Vegetation Control Ltd. under Pest Management Plan confirmation # 807-0002-2007/2012. Additional treatments were completed by the Ministry of Forests and Range in what is now Gilpin Grasslands Provincial Park.

Table 3. Summary of chemical treatments completed under PMP #807-0002-2007/2012.

Product Name	Pesticide (AI)	Target Weed Species	Total Chemical Used (L)	Application Rate (L chemical/ha)	Quantity of AI Used (Kg)	Area Treated (ha.)	Date	Location of Treatment
Tordon	picloram	Sulphur Cinquefoil	1.01	3.0	0.24	0.34	21-Jun-07	Mahoney Lake Ecological Reserve
Tordon	picloram	Sulphur Cinquefoil	6.17	3.0	1.48	2.06	23-Jun-07	White Lake Grasslands PA (McIntyre Bluff)
Tordon	picloram	Sulphur Cinquefoil	2.72	3.0	0.65	0.91	27-Jun-07	Cambell Brown Ecological Reserve
Tordon	picloram	Scotch Thistle	0.75	2.5	0.18	0.30	6-Sep-07	Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park
Tordon	picloram	Sulphur Cinquefoil	0.17	3.0	0.04	0.06	27-Jun-07	Ellison Provincial Park
TOTALS			10.81		2.59	3.65		

6.0 Invasive Plant Program Recommendations for 2008

A proposed Invasive Plant Program Work Plan, which is subject to change pending funding and priorities, will be completed in January 2008. Broad invasive plant program recommendations and program goals include:

- Undertake amendment to PMP for inclusion of dicamba and Milestone pesticides
- Focus auxiliary and senior ranger efforts on completing a few priority tasks as opposed to providing an overwhelming “wish-list” of tasks
- Complete hands on training with rangers from each park area
- Maintain collaborative efforts with the Boundary Weed Management Committee and South Okanagan Similkameen Invasive Plant Society
- Improve coordination of management priorities and activities with the Regional District of North Okanagan’s Noxious Weed and Insect Program