



Invasive Plants and Forest Management

Presentation Prepared for the Lillooet
Regional Invasive Species Society AGM

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Introduction - A little about me, Marisa.



Marisa Carr, RPF
marisa.carr@gov.bc.ca
236-425-9253

- Registered Professional Forester (RPF) with the Forest Professionals of British Columbia (FPBC)
- Work history: Senior Forest Technologist for Forsite Consultants in the Southern Interior
- Currently: Planning Forester at BC Timber Sales (Ministry of Forests) for the Cascades District
- Role at BCTS:
 - design and plan forestry projects with the consideration of social,

2361 Dalhousie Drive, Kamloops, BC V2C
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economic, and environmental
values

- work with our Indigenous Relations Team to collaborate with communities on projects to implement strategies to best manage the land
- assist with coordinating referrals
- to understand how Invasive Species impact the environment; I am not a subject matter expert

Current Project as per the 2025 Referral

Initial Referral Period to Interest Holders

- Occurs annually, February to March (30+ day comment period)
 - preliminary plans that are proposed 5-6 years before a project is ready to harvest
- Interest Holders are identified through a GIS spatial overlay
- Includes road deactivations, new road construction, engineering projects, and proposed timber harvest
- The past few years we have implemented a WebMap referral process
- This year we have also included one-page information sheets to define activities



Esri, USGS

50 km Powered by Esri

TKA Referrals Web Map Experience 2025

URL: <https://arcg.is/1bCaqb1>

Username: PX.SIGG.V Password: SIGGagoV@BCTS25

Forest Operations Map - Public Review Period

- Second commenting period occurs bi-annually (June and December) for projects ready for sale
 - these projects have been developed and proposed for sale within the next 6-12 months. A 30-day commenting period is made available to all public via the Forest Operations Map (<https://fom.nrs.gov.bc.ca/public/projects>)

Higher Level Measures to Address Invasive Species

Legislation and Regulation:

- B.C. Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA - Section 47)
 - requires managers of Crown forests to specify measures in their Stewardship Plans that they will implement to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive plants listed in the Invasive Plants Regulation.

FSP #109 (Cascades) - Section 7.1
(Invasive Species) Definitions

- B.C. Weed Control Act (WCA)
 - requires all landowners or occupiers of non-federal lands to control designated noxious weeds
- Integrated Pest Management Act (provincial)
- Seeds Act (federal)
- Local Government Act (regional districts)
- Community Charter Act (municipalities)
- Forest Stewardship Plans
 - Cascades amendment 12 (extension approved to June 2028)

Non-Regulatory Policies:

- Sustainable Forestry Initiatives (SFI) 2022
- BCTS Environmental Management System builds on the SFI
 - properly implemented EMS program meets the requirements of the SFI
 - Bi-annual audits to ensure the TSL Holder is aware of the identification, prevention and monitoring of invasive species during forestry activities
- Resources:
 - Best Management Practices (Pocket Guide for BC Forest Workers)
 - Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP)
 - Invasive Species Council of BC FactSheet - Forestry Operations
 - Got-a-Weed
 - Northwest Invasive Plant Council
 - Regional Group education programs
- BCTS external Website:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/bc-timber-sales/forest-certification/ems-sfm#TKA>

Stand Level Measures to Address Invasive Species

Planning:

- Recce contractors utilize the Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) application to query results for a given area and within 100m of new construction or harvesting
- Recce contractors are required, as part of the contract, to complete annual e-learning training through BCTS EMS
- Field truth the outputs from the IAPP during their walk-throughs and site visits, and report accordingly

Development:

- Handoff meetings between Planning (Recce) and Development (Layout) discuss any adjacency/encroachment concerns with invasive species
- During the layout phases, contractors are obligated to report any previously unidentified invasive species
- BCTS provides all the guidance and best management documents to the multi-phase contractors

Engineering:

- Grass seed banks on road construction or deactivation
- Use the "Guide to Invasive Plants" document from the Northwest Invasive Plant Council when doing FSR (Forest Service Road) inspections and Project Monitoring contracts.

Harvesting and TSL Holder:

- If the Holder of FSP exposes mineral soil related to FSP noted activities, they are required to seed the area with a seed or forage mixture that meets or exceeds Canada Common Number 1 Forage Mixtures (defined in the Canada Seeds Act and Regulation)
- BCTS Harvesting Team compiles information for the TSL Holder into a "Highlights Document" that gets provided

with the sale of timber

- TSL Holders or Engineering Contractors engaged in road building activities and agreement holders are provided with an information package regarding the identification and reporting of invasive plants
- Compliance and enforcement is challenging:
 - we do not have the capacity to be in all places at once and rely on the due diligence of our contractors/TSL Holders to uphold the highest of standards, regardless if it falls under BCTS or their own policies and procedures.
 - only a mechanism if something goes wrong; i.e. BCTS is an avenue for informing C&E of incidents of non-compliance (such as rinsing trucks after exposure to invasives)

Reporting:

Where field staff and other key personnel identify new invasive plant infestations outside of known infestation areas, those are to be entered into the Ministry of Forests Report-a-Weed* reporting system within 30 days of discovery

*The FSP references "Report-a-Weed" app, however this app has since been phased out and we now use the "Report Invasives" app.

Certifications Standards Officer (CSO):

- Responsible for keeping training and information packages updated and available to contractors, TSL Holders, and other government staff
- Report new sites as they are discovered to the applicable regional

invasive species organization

PowerPoint Slide taken from
BCTS training presentation

- Implementing and ensuring the SFI program is being followed

In Summary:

- Our staff (government and contracted) understands the importance of managing invasive plants on an ongoing basis
- We continue to strive for proper training and identification of priority species
- Continuous improvement is ongoing to prevent spread
- Best management practices incorporate the monitoring of sites to ensure appropriate measures are implemented where and when necessary