Forest and Range Practices Act
Invasive Plant Measures:
Considerations for Plan Preparers and Approvers

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to provide voluntary guidance to preparers and approvers of forest stewardship plans (FSPs), range use plans (RUPs), and range stewardship plans (RSPs) on measures for invasive plants.

As per section 47 of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, section 17 of the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, and section 15 of the Range Planning and Practices Regulation, a person who prepares an FSP, RUP or RSP must specify measures in the plan to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive plants specified under the Invasive Plants Regulation, if the introduction or spread is likely to be the result of the person's forest or range practices:

A measure must specify an action that will effectively achieve its intended result. The measure must be enforceable.

Voluntary considerations for plan content:

Provincial invasive plant specialists suggest the following example measures, sorted by objective, when providing advice to plan preparers, plan reviewers, and affected stakeholders. These example measures are voluntary guidance.

Objective: Ascertain known locations of invasive plants prior to any site or soil disturbance.

Example measures:

- The licensee will determine priority invasive plant species within the plan area by conducting an invasive plant survey (using the Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP[1]) application), and will include the survey results in the site plan.
- Regional priority invasive plant species and sites within the plan area will be determined through discussions with FLNRO Invasive Plant Specialists and regional invasive plant committee(s). Identified sites will be included in the site plan.

Objective: Educate staff and contractors to identify priority invasive plants that exist or threaten to establish within the plan area.

Example measures:

- All staff and contractors will be trained to recognize a minimum of ten priority invasive plant species located within or adjacent to the plan area.

[1] See: http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/application.htm

- Annual invasive plant identification training will be provided to all staff and contractors at the start of field activities.

Objective: Report new infestations of priority invasive plant species.

Example measure:

- All staff and contractors will report new invasive plant infestations through the Report-A-Weed app (www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species).

Objective: Prevent the establishment and spread of invasive plants

Example measures:

- Equipment and vehicles will not be parked on invasive plant infestations.
- Work will begin in un-infested areas before moving to infested locations.
- Clothing and vehicle/equipment undercarriages will be regularly inspected for plant parts or propagules if working in an area known to contain invasive plants.
- Prior to moving to a new work site or region, mud and invasive plant parts will be removed from clothing and/or equipment by dislodging and containing dirt, mud and/or associated water on-site or at designated cleaning stations.
- Infested sites will be avoided for staging, parking, and log sorting, both in the bush and storage yards.
- Soil, subgrade or surfacing material that is being moved during road construction will be maintained free of invasive weed plants or seeds.
- Equipment yards and storage areas will be kept free of invasive plants using appropriate treatment methods.
- The licensee will inspect and ensure fill and erosion-control materials are free of invasive plants before transport and use.
- The licensee will manage grazing to maintain healthy, proper functioning plant communities that are resistant to invasive plant establishment and spread.
- The licensee will revegetate disturbed areas that have exposed mineral soil within one year of disturbance by forage seeding using Common #1 Forage Mixture or better. Always request the certificate of seed analysis and reject lots of seed that contain weed seeds of listed invasive plants and/or invasive plants that are high priority to the area. Seeding should occur as: a) part of road, landing and skid trail construction, maintenance, or site preparation; b) after woody debris piles are burned, c) following timber harvesting of fence or fence-line clearing; and, d) around range developments and areas of cattle congregation where bare soil is exposed.

Objective: Implement effective invasive plant treatment plans should invasive plants establish and spread as a result of forest or range practices.

Example measures:

- The licensee will develop an invasive plant treatment plan with assistance from the FLNRO Invasive Plant Specialist, and implement it on invasive plant sites that become established or spread as a direct result of the forest or range practice.
- The licensee will monitor the revegetated areas, repeating revegetation as necessary until exposed soil is eliminated.
- The licensee will enter monitoring and invasive plant treatment information into the IAPP application.

Further Information:

- Invasive Plants Regulation http://www.qp.gov.bc.ca/statreg/reg/F/ForRangPrac/18_2004.htm
- Best Practices for Preventing the Spread of Invasive Plants During Forest Management Activities http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/land-based-investment/forests-for-tomorrow/forestry-bp-09-11-2013-web.pdf
- Do You Know What is Hiding in Your Seed https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/invasive-species/Publications/Do_you_know_what_is_hiding_in_your_seed.pdf
- Invasive Plants Identification Field Guide https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external/!publish/frep/indicators/IP-Identification-Field-Guide-June2008.pdf
- FLNRO Invasive Plant Program https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/plants/
- FRPA http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/rco/pfit/index.htm;
- Stewardship Plans and "Measures" http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timten/AGFSP/index.htm.
- Range Practices https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Practices/index.htm

Contacts:

If there are any questions about this information, please contact:

Val Miller, Invasive Plant Program (250) 825-1166 val.miller@gov.bc.ca
Jodie Kekula, Range Legislation & Policy (250) 861-7627 jodie.kekula@gov.bc.ca