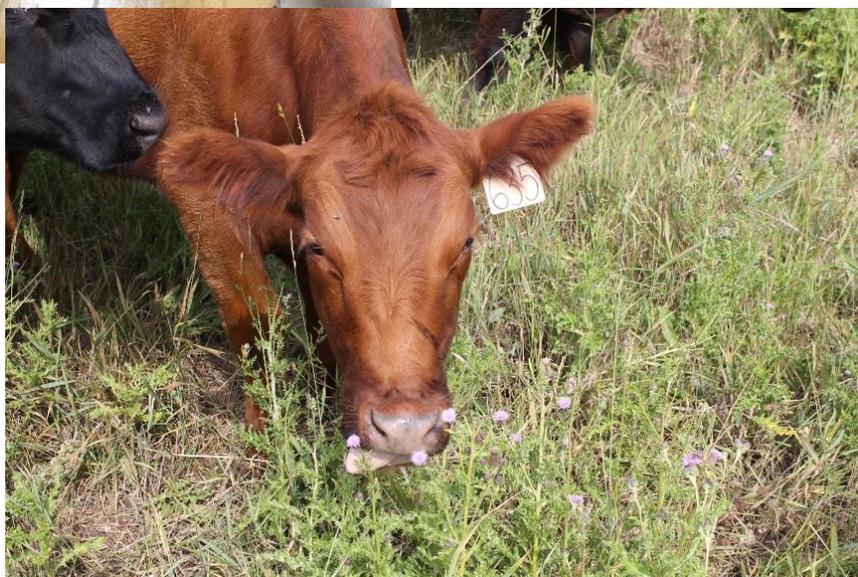




PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

## Invasive Plant Program 2015 Annual Report



diverse. vast. abundant.

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## A Letter from the Program Manager

2015 brought a lot of new and exciting relationships, partnerships, and projects to the Invasive Plant Program. Not only have we welcomed a new Chair to our Invasive Plant Committee, Director Leonard Hiebert, we also welcomed Director Brad Sperling and Director Karen Goodings to our committee as well. In addition, the program embraced a new full time coordinator position in which Denise Booy was employed.

The 2015 year bloomed many new and exciting projects. We partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Peace River Forage Association to launch a program to teach livestock to eat Canada thistle with Kathy Voth of Livestock for Landscapes as our coach and mentor. Additionally, we supported the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations in their development of a Rancher Contract to enable community pasture members to treat priority invasive plant species and additional invasive plants within their Crown grazing pasture.

Our Invasive Plant Program Team partnered with Sauleau First Nations to hand pull pesky invasive plants from resident's yards and to dig out Burdock plants from the horse corrals. In addition, our Area Controller provided much needed assistance for the control of Canada thistle in the pastures.

Our education and outreach activities including invasive plant identification, compliance and enforcement tactics, integrated pest management planning, ecosystems and biodiversity, and best management practices.

Compliance and enforcement issues were addressed in a timely manner and included the receipt of weed reports, communication with the appropriate land occupant, and dialogues around appropriate action.

The Invasive Plant program is grateful for the continued efforts of the many different organizations, youth groups, professional organizations, industrial sectors, First Nations communities, and government representatives.

I look forward to a new and exciting year in 2016 with many new activities planned to engage members of the community through outreach activities, program enhancements, and a fresh new look.

**Together • Prevent • Report**



Kari Bondaroff, P.Ag

## Key Initiatives

### Weed Reports

The Invasive Plant Program relies heavily on weed reports in order to understand where the infestations of invasive plants are in the region. It also allows for further inquiries, by the Invasive Plant Manager, of the plant species that are grabbing the attention of the public. Weed reports also offer opportunities for outreach and education of the invasive plant species, discussions on treatment opportunities, and timely treatment of infestations.

There were 54 weed reports received and documented within the PRRD.

Type of Report	#
Peace River Regional District Private Land Reports	28
Crown organization reports (MoTI, FLNRO, BC Hydro)	26
2015 weed reports	54

### Ways for the Public to report weeds:

- Call the PRRD toll free and ask for the Invasive Plant Program 1-800-670-7773
- Call the Invasive Plant Manager or Coordinator at 250-784-3200
- Go to the PRRD office in Dawson Creek or Fort St John to complete a paper weed report.
- Send an email to [denise.booy@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:denise.booy@prrd.bc.ca), please include pictures or a scan of the plant after pressing it in a heavy book.
- Use the Report a Weed BC App
- Call the provincial hotline at 1-800-WEEDSBC (933-3722)

**To “Report-a-Weed” using your smartphone, turn your GPS on. Go to maps and record the location on your map, email the GPS point to: [kari.bondaroff@prrd.bc.ca](mailto:kari.bondaroff@prrd.bc.ca) along with pertinent information, a picture or a description of the plant. We will work hard to get back to you within 36 hours.**

### Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR)



The provincial government, through the Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG), leads the implementation of B.C. Invasive Species Early Detection Rapid Response (EDDR). This is in partnership with federal agencies and cooperation and participation of key land managers and stakeholders throughout B.C. and adjacent jurisdictions.

<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/invasive-species/edrr.htm>

The Peace River Regional District Invasive Plant Program Strategic Plan and Profile has added a section regarding EDRR. This section includes plants that are currently not present in the PRRD.

### Treatments

The PRRD is responsible for regional parks, sewer utility lands, solid waste sites, and community centres. The program requires that the Area Controller survey, inventory, and if necessary, treat invasive plants on all Regional District occupied lands. During the 2015 growing season, 113 sites were visited, inventoried, and treated. Records of these actions were documented in the Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) database. The program also requires the Area Controller to investigate weed reports, inventory private lands, and educate the public as they go about their daily tasks.

- ✓ 51 of the 113 sites were infested with one or more species of invasive plants.
- ✓ 19.3 Ha of land was chemically treated
- ✓ 1.7 Ha of land was mechanically treated

### Disposal

The Peace River Regional District waives tipping fees for private land owners to dispose of invasive plants at the Chetwynd, Bessborough and North Peace Regional Landfills. The following table reports the total weight of invasive plant material accepted at the landfills from May 1-Oct 31, 2015.

Total Weight from Private Landowners (kg)	660
Total Weight from Industrial Companies (kg)	6840
<b>Total Weight (kg)</b>	<b>7500</b>

## Outreach and Education Highlights

Presentation and Events	
Title	Number of Attendees
School District 59/60 Classroom Outreach Activities	675
Peace River Forage Association Seminars	120
North American Invasive Species Management AGM	150
South Peace Fall Fair	1,000
North Peace Fall Fair	300
Grant and Aid Presentations	100
Weed Pull Professional Agrologists	15
Waterworks Splash Event	50
Horticulture Society Presentation	10
Saulteau First Nations Weed Pull	12
Workshops	
Peace River Forage Association Seminars	120
Weed ID with Municipal Bylaw Officers	12
Teaching Livestock to Eat Weeds	30
Publications	
Educational Activities for Classrooms	10 new activities
PlayCleanGo Boot Brushes	600 purchased
Invader Ranger Booklets	Purchased 600, 300 distributed
Weed Out the Invaders Playing Cards	Purchased 300, distributed 75
Oil and Gas Best Management Practices	Distributed 75
Grow Me Instead Snapshot Brochures	1500
Communications/Media	
15 Weedy Wednesday Facebook Posts	Average of 92 views
YouTube Video's	4
Western Producer Article	Recipients of the Western Producer and online
Farm Show Magazine Article	Recipients of the Farm Show Magazine and online (North American distribution)

**Classroom Outreach Activities**, Education and outreach was successful this year with many classrooms touched by exciting new activities such as building fairy gardens, kaleidoscopes, geocaching, plant ID, relay races, weedy art projects, and ecology games.

**Fall Fairs** in Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, August 2015. The Invasive Plant Manager and the Invasive Plant Coordinator pulled a little red wagon filled with educational materials and giveaways around the Rodeo grounds. She visited 4-H booths, kid's corner, horticulture displays, and livestock barns and show rings. Many requests were made for the "little green ID booklets" and the feedback was very positive regarding the carabineers and colouring books.

**Peace River Forage Association**, teaching livestock to eat Canada thistle was an incentive that the PRRD and the Ministry of Agriculture supported through the Peace River Forage Association. Six cooperators livestock (cattle, sheep, and goats) were trained to eat Canada thistle using a proven method developed by Kathy Voth of Livestock for Landscapes. Monitoring of the impacts of grazing on this pesky plant will continue into the 2016 growing season.

**Professional Development and Training Sessions** Opportunities to work with professional staff and industry contractors continued through the 2015 growing season. Plant ID, weed pulls, and compliance and enforcement training was offered. The increase in the desire to implement invasive plant prevention into operational activities within industry is increasing and the results are evident in the increased interest to learn more about invasive plant in our region.

## Coordination and Partnership Building

### **Invasive Plant Committee of the Peace River Regional District (IPCPRRD)**

The IPCPRRD continues to be an integral part of the Invasive Plant Program. With continued input to program delivery and strategies it ensures that residents and occupiers of PRRD lands are informed, protected, and accountable to the effect of the introduction and spread of invasive plants.

### **Invasive Species Council of BC**

The Annual AGM and Forum was held in January, 2015 and was attended by the Invasive Plant Manager. This event proves to be a great avenue to network, stay informed, and collaborate with other provincial committee's involved with invasive plants and species.

### **Rancher Contracts**

The PRRD supported the implementation of one Rancher Contract in the PRRD on Sunset Community Pasture through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations. This contract allowed a license pasture member to chemically treat high priority invasive plant species located on the pasture and to chemically treat Canada thistle. The PRRD would love to see more uptake of this program to enable occupiers of crown grazing land to monitor and treat invasive plants.

## Saulteau First Nations

On a very hot and dry day, the Invasive Plant Manager and the Invasive Plant Coordinator joined 12 members of the Saulteau First Nations in the biological control efforts to eliminate invasive plants from the properties of residents and the centralized horse corrals. In addition to the hand pulling, the PRRD offered assistance in the treatment of Canada thistle within the pastures.

## 2016 Objectives for the Invasive Plan Program

- I. Survey and treat all Regional District occupied lands
- II. Engage First Nations in education and outreach events
- III. Continue to collaborate with stakeholders, federal and provincial governments, and municipalities
- IV. Engage the horticulture community in “Grow Me Instead” activities
- V. Continue to support the implementation of Rancher Contracts for Crown Grazing areas.
- VI. Continue to partner with the Peace River Forage Association and the Ministry of Agriculture to teach our livestock to eat weeds.
- VII. Engage with educators on the importance of incorporating invasives into the existing curriculum at all grade levels.
- VIII. Participate at local science fairs with small activities for students to participate.
- IX. Continue to support the use of IAPP for industrial companies.
- X. Engage with stakeholders and the Weed Free Forage and Straw Program.
- XI. Waive the tipping fees for all users of the Invasive Plant Bins at the local landfills.
- XII. Incorporate PlayCleanGo into PRRD Parks, BC Parks, and Recreation sites for the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations.
- XIII. Establish a Healthy Lawn tip guide to target small lot agriculture and municipal residents.
- XIV. Coordinate and partner with the Ministry of Transportation and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to monitor invasive plant treatment within the PRRD.
- XV. Character creation for strategic marketing strategy for education and awareness and compliance and enforcement efforts within the PRRD.

## Thank You Funders

Ministry of **Forests, Lands and  
Natural Resource Operations**



## Budget 2015

**PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT  
Income Statement By Function**



GLS240 Page : 1  
Date : 02 Mar,2016 Time : 1:59 pm

As of : 31-Dec-2015  
Fiscal Year : 2015  
Period : 12  
From Category : 6423 To Category : 6423  
Account Code : ??-?-????-??? To : ??-?-????-???

Budget Type : APPROVED BUDGET

Account Code	Account Name	Current Period	Year to Date	Committed	Budget Amount	Variance
<b>1--&gt; General Operating Fund</b>						
<b>6423--&gt; WEED CONTROL ~ #</b>						
<b>1--&gt; REVENUES</b>						
01-1-6423-110	Requisition - electoral (WEED	0.00	-113,198.00	0.00	-113,198.00	0.00
01-1-6423-111	Requisition - municipal (WEED)	0.00	-63,543.00	0.00	-63,543.00	0.00
01-1-6423-120	Grants-In-lieu (WEED)	-40.26	-17,145.43	0.00	-7,500.00	9,645.43
01-1-6423-156	Sponsorships (WEED)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-1-6423-157	Recovered costs/Misc Admin Fee	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-1-6423-158	Compliance & Enforcement Chrg	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-1-6423-169	Coordination Prov Weed Act (WE	0.00	-46,900.00	0.00	0.00	46,900.00
01-1-6423-190	Unappropriated surplus (WEED)	0.00	-157,024.00	0.00	-157,024.00	0.00
<b>Total REVENUES</b>		<b>-40.26</b>	<b>-397,810.43</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-341,265.00</b>	<b>56,545.43</b>
<b>2--&gt; EXPENDITURES</b>						
01-2-6423-200	Wages (Weed Control)	16,611.01	113,768.57	0.00	143,926.00	30,157.43
01-2-6423-205	Benefits (Weed Control)	4,336.08	26,195.79	0.00	37,611.00	11,415.21
01-2-6423-206	WCB (Weed Control)	141.49	1,368.62	0.00	1,728.00	359.38
01-2-6423-210	Trave/Train/Conf/Wrkshp (WEED)	85.67	2,755.99	0.00	7,500.00	4,744.01
01-2-6423-211	Travel, Use of RD Vehicle (WEE	0.00	2,900.00	0.00	2,900.00	0.00
01-2-6423-212	Mileage In-Region (WEED)	0.00	79.83	0.00	0.00	-79.83
01-2-6423-215	Meals In-Region (WEED)	0.00	230.41	0.00	2,000.00	1,769.59
01-2-6423-216	Meetings (WEED)	1,828.63	2,212.36	0.00	10,000.00	7,787.64
01-2-6423-218	Memberships	0.00	400.00	0.00	400.00	0.00
01-2-6423-230	Comm. - telephone & internet (	164.80	1,789.35	0.00	1,500.00	-289.35
01-2-6423-240	Advertising,Promotions,Educati	3,227.60	6,061.35	0.00	30,000.00	23,918.65
01-2-6423-243	Invasive Plants Video	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
01-2-6423-244	Compliance & Enforcement	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
01-2-6423-250	Legal	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
01-2-6423-252	Consulting (WEED)	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
01-2-6423-260	Insurance (WEED)	0.00	2,875.74	0.00	2,900.00	24.26
01-2-6423-261	Administration fees (WEED)	0.00	20,800.00	0.00	20,800.00	0.00
01-2-6423-298	Bad Debts (WEED)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
01-2-6423-299	Miscellaneous (WEED)	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
01-2-6423-361	Supplies - shop (WEED)	395.78	458.33	0.00	1,000.00	541.67
01-2-6423-362	Supplies - Office&Computer(Wee	112.84	246.54	0.00	2,000.00	1,753.46
01-2-6423-431	Weed Disposal Bins (WEED)	54.28	1,390.79	0.00	3,000.00	1,609.21
01-2-6423-433	RD Properties Inspections & Wo	4,851.00	41,239.65	0.00	50,000.00	8,760.35
01-2-6423-544	Contract-First Nations Partner	0.00	1,408.75	0.00	0.00	-1,408.75
01-2-6423-670	Weed Warrior & Weed Free Forag	0.00	5,000.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
<b>Total EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>31,809.18</b>	<b>231,202.07</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>341,265.00</b>	<b>110,062.93</b>
<b>WEED CONTROL ~ # Surplus/Deficit</b>		<b>31,768.92</b>	<b>-166,608.36</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>166,608.36</b>
<b>Report Total --&gt;</b>		<b>31,768.92</b>	<b>-166,608.36</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>166,608.36</b>