

Thompson-Nicola
INVASIVE PLANT
management committee

2023
TNIPMC
ANNUAL
REPORT

tnrd.ca/invasiveplants

Queen Anne's Lace
(*Daucus carota*)



THOMPSON-NICOLA
REGIONAL DISTRICT
The Region of BC's Best

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee (TNIPMC) would like to thank the following organizations for their continued support:

- Agrowest Consulting Scientists
- Government of Canada
- Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
- Ministry of Forests
- Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
- Purity Feed Co Ltd
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District



MEET THE TNIPMC TEAM

TNIPMC Committee Members

Jill Hayward, TNRD (TNIPMC Chair)
Doug Haughton, TNRD (TNIPMC Vice Chair)
Herb Graham, TNRD
Holly Campbell, Kamloops Stockmen's Association
Sheryl Wurtz, Ministry of Forests
Derek Hogan, Ministry of Forests (Alternate)
Grahame Gielens, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Morgan Jumbo, Scw'exmx Tribal Council
Kristi Gordon, Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
Mike Dedels, Grasslands Conservation Council of BC (Alternate)
Peggy Jo Broad, Thompson Rivers University
Wendy Gardner, Thompson Rivers University (Alternate)
Stephanie Russell, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

TNRD Staff

Jamie Vieira, General Manager of Operations
Kevin Skrepnek, Manager of Community & Emergency Services
Coleen Hougen, Invasive Plant Management Coordinator
Jollee Perrier, Invasive Plant Technician
Anna Bilouzenko, Invasive Plant Summer Student

Contracted Support Staff

Catherine Tarasoff, Education & Outreach Coordinator
Alicia Nightingale, Education & Outreach Assistant
Autumn Smeltzer, Education & Outreach Assistant



Yellow flag iris

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

2023 was another successful year for the Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee (TNIPMC). Our success is directly linked to the hard work of our committee members and staff. I'd like to personally thank every team member for their energy, commitment and consistency in driving our invasive plant programs forward. I would also like to thank the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (BC Parks) and the Thompson-Nicola Regional District for their financial support. Without these resources we wouldn't be able to deliver such an amazing and effective invasive plant education and outreach program.

Some of the highlights this year include directly reaching over 2,340 residents with invasive plant messaging. This was achieved through attending over 105 events across the region as well as implementation of the following education and outreach programs: Earth Kids School Program, Earth Kids BC Parks Program, and the Community Weed Pull Program. Other noteworthy events include our annual field day, which was hosted at the rodeo grounds in Pritchard. Over 42 participants learned about key invaders in the area. We also continued to partner with the Thompson-Nicola Library's mobile library. This provided the opportunity to chat with mobile library patrons about invasive plants. We also worked hard to expand our social media efforts and were able to indirectly reach 45,770 people through weekly invasive plant themed campaigns delivered on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

The TNIPMC made further efforts to promote the need for increased and continuous funding for invasive plant management on Crown land in the Thompson-Nicola Region. The Committee also encouraged the need for stronger provincial regulations around the import, cultivation, sale and trade of invasive plants and seeds within British Columbia.



These needs were corresponded through letters to, and meetings with, select provincial ministers, as well as putting forth recommendations to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services during their 2024 budget consultation process.

Thank you all for another excellent year. I look forward to seeing what more we can accomplish in 2024 as we continue to work towards an 'Invasive Plant-Free TNRD'.

Warmest Regards,

Jill Hayward
TNIPMC Chair
TNRD Director- Electoral Area O



ABOUT THE TNIPMC



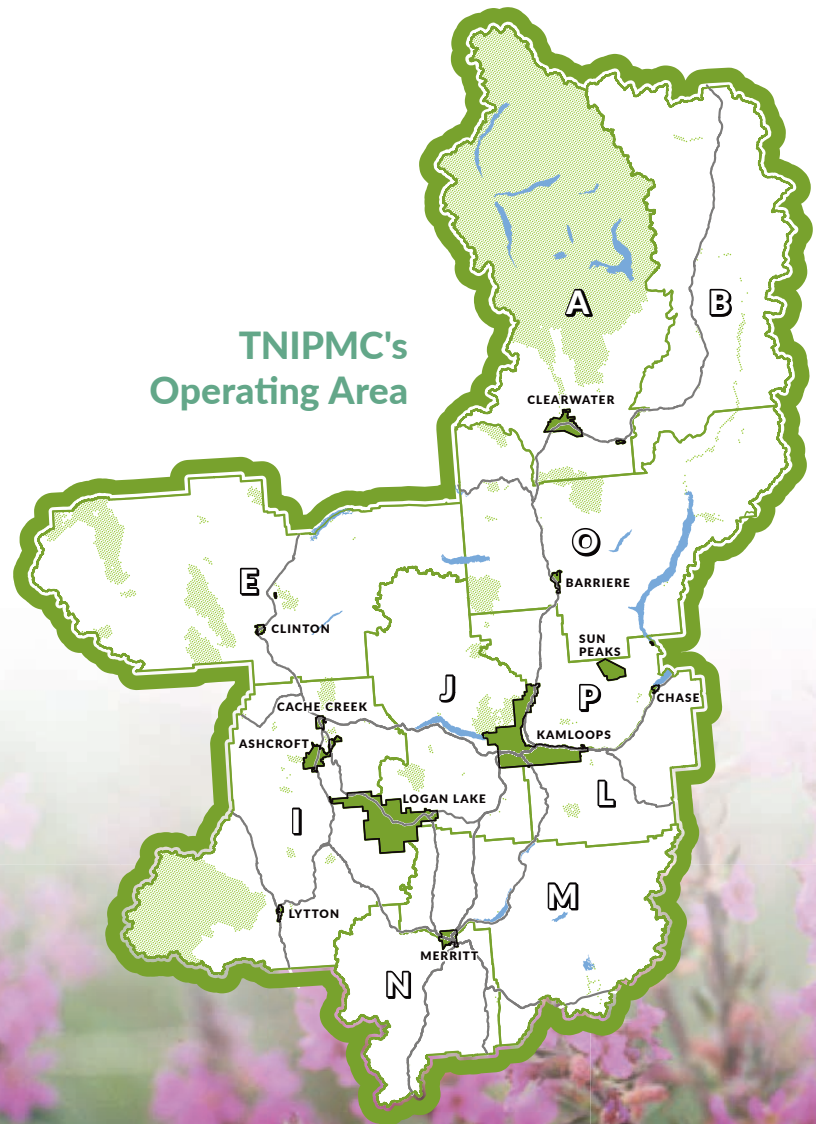
VISION

AN INVASIVE PLANT FREE TNRD

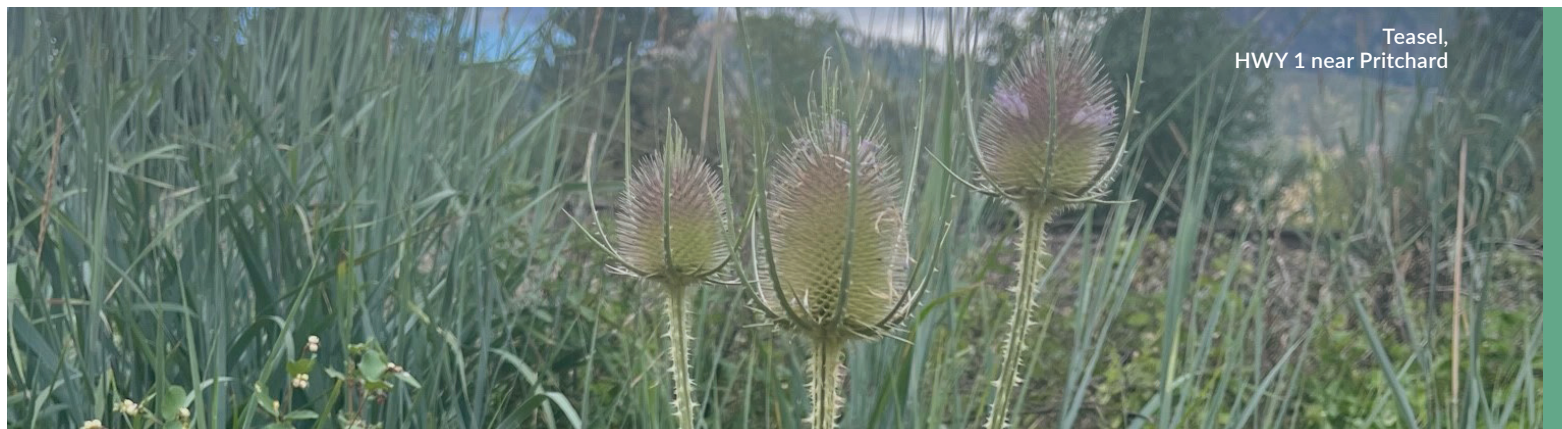
Our mission is to facilitate partnerships with government agencies, First Nations, stakeholder groups and the public to reduce the adverse economic, social and environmental impacts of terrestrial invasive plants within the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.

We take action by coordinating invasive plant management efforts, and we prevent further invasive plant introduction and spread through education and outreach.

TNIPMC's Operating Area



Purple Loosestrife



Teasel,
HWY 1 near Pritchard

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The TNIPMC continued to engage with regional residents and educate them on invasive plants and their impacts. The education and outreach program team worked hard to inspire people to change their behaviors and carry out key actions to prevent further introduction and spread of invasive plants.



SCHOOL PROGRAM

21 presentations
394 students reached



EARTH KIDS - BC PARKS

10 presentations
46 recreationalists reached



COMMUNITY EVENTS

36 events
1,650 people reached



WEED PULL PROGRAM

9 weed pull events
107 volunteers



MOBILE LIBRARY PARTNERSHIP

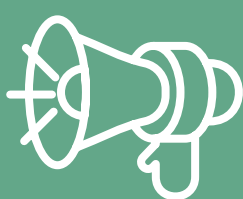
28 stops
128 people reached



Regional Education & Outreach Outcomes



105 events
attended



115 general
inquires



2,341 people
reached



45,775 people
reached



DID YOU KNOW?

Whiplash hawkweed reproduces by seeds, rhizomes, stolons and root fragments, making it an excellent invader.

INVASIVE PLANT SURVEYS

Whiplash Hawkweed Surveys

The TNIPMC carried out focused surveys for whiplash hawkweed along Highways 5 and 24. These surveys were completed upon request from the provincial Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group. Whiplash hawkweed is known to occur north of Blue River but has limited distribution elsewhere within the TNRD. There are currently 92 confirmed whiplash hawkweed occurrences in the region. The majority are located along highway 5, between Little Fort and Blue River, and along Loakin Bear Creek FSR, north of Neskonlith Lake.



Whiplash Hawkweed
HWY 5,
South of Blue River

The TNIPMC also carried out surveys to help ground truth the regional containment areas established for orange hawkweed. This included inventory along the following roads: 3300, Eagan Lake, and North Bonaparte. Orange hawkweed was intermittently present in the areas surveyed.

Surveys were also completed for St. John's Wort near Gillis Lake, located southwest of Merritt. There is an extensive St. John's Wort infestation in the area that extends across multiple jurisdictions.



St. John's Wort
Maka-Murray FSR



Known whiplash hawkweed
infestations within the
Thompson-Nicola region.



Crater Lake Provincial Park

ON THE GROUND MANAGEMENT

Within the TNIPMC's operating area, there are numerous agencies and organizations that are dedicated to carrying out annual operational invasive plant management. The collective coordinated efforts of these groups is moving us jointly towards the goal of keeping the Thompson-Nicola region free of invasive plants. The information below summarizes key regional initiatives being administered by land managers in the region.



Russian Olive Treatment Trials



Provincial Government

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MoECCS)- BC Parks carried out management activities in 9 BC Parks: Big Bar, South Green Lake, Chasm, Downing, Churn Creek, Copper Johnny, Crater Lake, Monte Creek, Lac du Bois and Epsom.

Over 105 invasive plant observations and 59 treatments were completed, including treatment trials for Russian olive in Monte Creek Provincial Park.

Regional Operational Efforts



1,987
Observations



\$1,072,500
Invested



46 Hectares
Treated

The Ministry of Forests (MoF) prioritized efforts towards managing provincial and regional early detection and rapid response (EDRR) species. This involved finding, identifying, and controlling new invasive species before they established, spread and caused significant impacts to the province and region. This approach is one of the most cost-effective means for controlling invasive species.

On the ground management of EDRR species was administered through partnerships with the TNRD and cost share agreements with local Indigenous groups. The Ministry also integrated the Good Neighbor management approach where they treated the Crown land adjacent to land actively being managed by other land managers.

The MoF also provided in-kind support to partners in the form of herbicide. This herbicide was available for use on Crown land, including MoF, MoTI and MoECCS jurisdictions. This additional support enabled more resources to be allocated towards on the ground management.

This year, there were over 137 invasive plant observations and over 40 treatments completed on Ministry of Forest jurisdiction. All provincial EDRR species found were either treated or plans for treatment are underway.

**REPORT
ALL
SIGHTINGS!**

PROVINCIAL & REGIONAL EDRR SPECIES

Below are a few **PROVINCIAL** and **REGIONAL** EDRR species managed by the Ministry of Forests, and other land managers, in the Thompson-Nicola Region.



Black henbane
(*Hyoscyamus niger*)



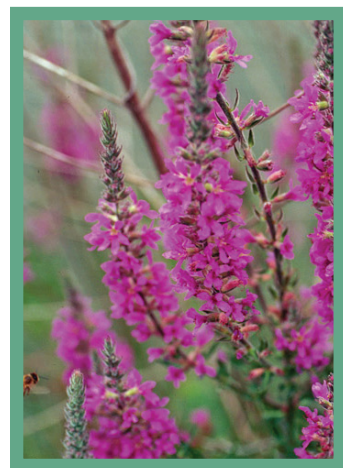
Black knapweed
(*Centaurea macrocephala*)



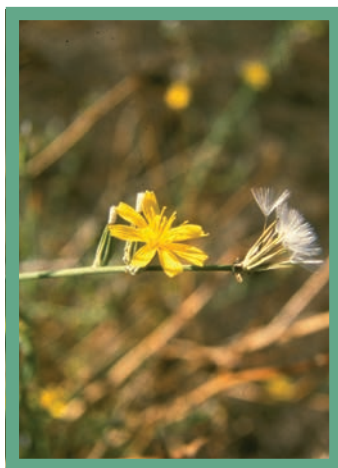
Common bugloss
(*Anchusa officinalis*)



Perennial pepperweed
(*Lepidium latifolium*)



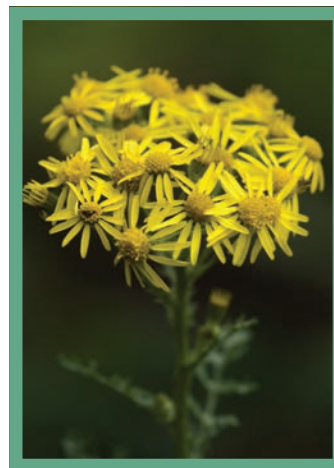
Purple loosestrife
(*Lythrum salicaria*)



Rush skeletonweed
(*Chondrilla juncea*)



Scotch broom
(*Cytisus scoparius*)



Tansy ragwort
(*Scenecio jacobaea*)

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) continued its partnership with the TNRD to administer roadside invasive plant treatments. Efforts focused on treatment of provincial and regional priority plants and continuing the Good Neighbour program. Through this work, 989 invasive plant observations were made and 430 treatments were completed. New invasive plants of concern found this year on MoTI right of ways include evening primrose, Queen Anne's lace and wild caraway.

In addition, the MoTI partnered with the Invasive Species Council of BC to administer management in gravel pits. The ISCBC surveyed over 1,107 hectares of gravel pits, treating the majority of the priority invasive plants found.

**Evening Primrose
HWY 5, near Barriere**



DID YOU KNOW?

Through the Good Neighbour Program, MoTI will treat right of ways adjacent to properties that are being actively managed for invasive plants!

**BC Hydro Surveys
near Blue River**



BC Hydro partnered with the TNRD to carry out invasive plant management on BC Hydro right of ways in the region. Efforts largely focused on improving the current invasive plant inventory. Surveys were completed on right of ways near, or adjacent to, regional invasive plant containment areas.

This was done to ensure infestations within the containment areas have not spread onto the right of ways. Over 77 invasive plant observations were made through these efforts.

BC Hydro also worked directly with select landowners, treating infested right of ways that intersect private land.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT



The **City of Kamloops** continued to implement their invasive plant management program within municipal boundaries. The goals of the program included eradicating new invaders, controlling priority species, and containing existing invasive plants. Priority plants controlled this year

included teasel, thistle species, hoary cress, hoary alyssum and common tansy.

The **Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD)** partnered with BC Hydro, Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and BC Parks and administered invasive plant management activities throughout the region for these organizations. In addition, the TNRD has continued delivering its invasive plant program services to TNRD residents, and residents of select member municipalities that opted into the program. There were 175 program participants, making use of treatment rebates, free sprayer loan outs, private land consultations and biological controls. This year, private landowners invested over \$385,000 in invasive plant management on their private lands.

In addition, 17 solid waste disposal facilities were surveyed and treated for invasive plants; a total of 138 invasive plant observations and 148 treatments were completed. The TNRD continued to waive disposal fees for invasive plants and now has designated invasive plant bins at the following facilities: Lower Nicola, South Thompson and Heffley Creek.

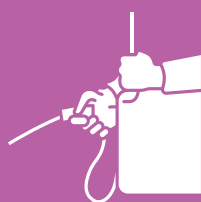


**34
METRIC
TONS**

of invasive plants were disposed of in TNRD solid wastes facilities!

Leafy Spurge
Biological Control Release

TNRD Invasive Plant Program Services Outcomes



**66 sprayer
loan outs**



**52 land
consults**



**\$385,000
private land
treatments**



**\$76,850
in rebates**



**2,840
biological
control agents**

INDIGENOUS PARTNERS



T'kemlups te Secwepemc (TteS) continues to manage invasive plants on Indian Reserves 1 through 6. They successfully administered invasive plant treatments on 100 hectares of reserve land. In 2024, it is anticipated that the Kamloops Indian Band's ranch will takeover management of Indian Reserve #1. TteS is also

anticipating reduced field crew size, limiting their ability to carry out treatments to the same capacity as in previous years.

Purity Feed Summer Student at TNIPMC Annual Field Day



Non Profit Organizations & Others

Purity Feed Ltd continues to be heavily involved in invasive plant management in the region. This year, they administered another successful heli-spray program, where they were able to assist landowners to treat approximately 950 hectares of private land. They continued to coordinate and deliver the TNRD's sprayer loan out and private land consultation programs. Purity Feed also supported the TNIPMC at select education and outreach events.

The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) continued to work towards reducing the threat of invasive plants on their ecologically important properties.

NCC conducted site visits to their conservation areas where they surveyed and inventoried all invasive plants, developed management plans, coordinated treatments, and carried out post treatment monitoring.

NCC successfully treated ~11.42ha of invasive plants on their properties this year. Priority invasive plants that were managed include field scabious, leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, burdock and diffuse knapweed.

NCC's Lac Du Bois Conservation Area



COMMUNICATION



The TNIPMC made efforts to communicate with select provincial government agencies, including the Ministries of Forests, Transportation and Infrastructure and Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Efforts included

participating in the annual provincial budget consultation and communicating with provincial Ministers by letter and in person.

KEY MESSAGES



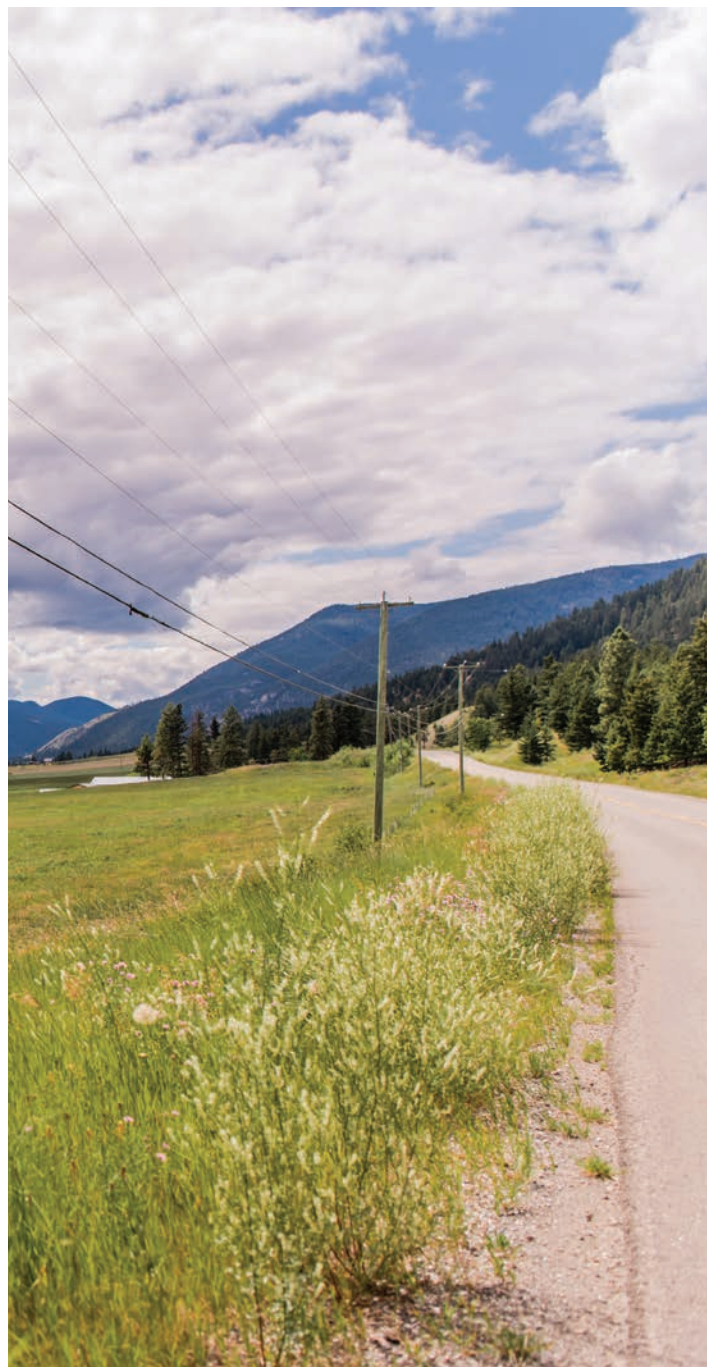
Increased and continuous funding for invasive plant management on Crown land in the Thompson-Nicola Region.



Provincial regulation for the import, cultivation, sale and trade of invasive plants and seeds within the Province of BC.

The TNIPMC also shared invasive plant messaging through letters to landowners with priority invasive plants on their land, issuing a community mail out to Cherry Creek residents advising to be on the look out for hoary cress, and addressing general invasive plant inquiries for the region.

Finally, the Committee strategically implemented its social media efforts and shared content through various platforms including Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. This proved successful with over 45,770 people being reached through social media efforts.



Social Media Outcomes



**740
followers**



**45,772
reached**



**2,104
engagements**



COORDINATION



The TNIPMC expanded its coordination efforts to ensure that invasive plant management activities across the region are being carried out in a coordinated manner amongst land managers and other stakeholders. Below are key initiatives the TNIPMC Coordinated and/or participated in to improve regional invasive plant management coordination:

Coordinated the annual review of the **Operational Plan for Terrestrial Invasive Plants in the Thompson-Nicola Region**. Key changes to the plan included removing green foxtail from the regional list because it has a wide distribution throughout the region. In addition, several new species were added to the regional priority list including chameleon plant, Italian arum, Japanese butterbur, meadow knapweed, Myrtle spurge, Persian cornflower, shiny geranium, and fern leaf yarrow.

Hosted the **annual land manager meeting** in February. The meeting brought together land managers from across the region providing an opportunity to share operational plans for 2023 and coordinate activities where possible. A total of 28 people attended the meeting with representatives from 22 different organizations.

Continued to actively participate in the **Regional Invasive Species Organization working group (RISOWG)**. This group met monthly to discuss invasive species topics, share ideas and take joint action where necessary. This year, the TNIPMC hosted the annual RISOWG in person meetings and field tour in Kamloops. The 3-day session focused on learning about the impacts of climate change on invasive species, media training, Indigenous reconciliation and current and past invasive plant management projects taking place in the region.

Photos (from top down)

- Integrating Cultural Awareness into Field Work
- Climate Change as a Catalyst for Spread
- Benthic Barrier Treatment on Reed Canary Grass
- Roadside Invasive Plant Management
- Invasive Plant Disposal/ Composting Knotweeds
- Fire and Invasive Plants
- Controlling Spotted Knapweed in BC's Grasslands
- 2023 RISOWG



NEW INVADERS

FOUND IN THE REGION IN 2023

REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS!



NEW INVADERS

are present in the region in very limited distribution



Cocklebur
(*Xanthium orientale*)
Area Found: Churn Creek



Evening Primrose
(*Oenothera biennis*)
Areas Found:
Kamloops,
Pritchard, Barriere



Japanese Butterbur
(*Petasites japonicus*)
Area Found: Little Fort



Phragmites
Area Found: Walhachin



Perennial Pepperweed
(*Lepidium latifolium*)
Area Found: Walhachin



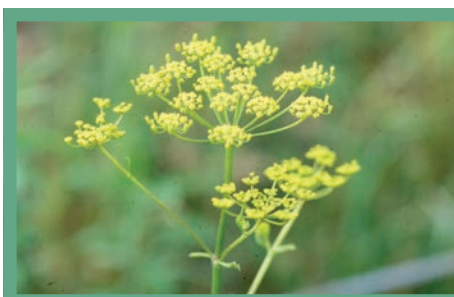
Queen Anne's Lace
(*Daucus carota*)
Areas Found: Merritt,
Kamloops, Agate Bay



Wild 4'O'clock
(*Mirabilis nyctaginea*)
Area Found: Cherry Creek



Wild Caraway
(*Carum carvi*)
Area Found: Little Fort



Wild Parsnip
(*Pastinaca sativa*)
Areas Found: Kamloops,
Darfield, Nooaitch IR

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!



INSPECT



Inspect and rinse off your trailers, off-road vehicles, and RVs to remove mud, plant parts, and hidden pests.

CLEAN



Clean, Drain, and Dry your watercraft and angling equipment to Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers

REMOVE



Clean your shoes, clothes, packs, and pets before and after exploring and stay on designated trails.

DON'T MOVE FIREWOOD



Buy it where you burn it, buy certified heat-treated firewood, or gather on site when permitted.



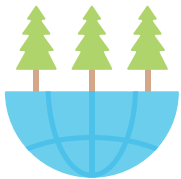
Plant native & non-invasive plants



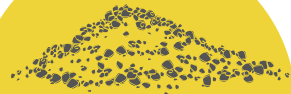
Know what's in your seed mix



Dispose with care



Keep equipment clean



Minimize Disturbance



Re-vegetate

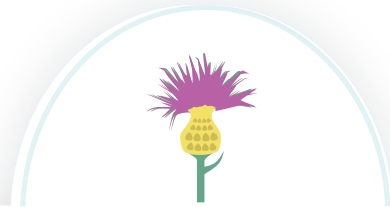
REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS!

Email: invasiveplants@tnrd.ca

Phone: 1-877-377-8673



Report Invasives



Thompson-Nicola
INVASIVE PLANT
management committee

Russian knapweed
(*Rhaponticum repens*)



THOMPSON-NICOLA
REGIONAL DISTRICT

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