



Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia

Summary of the First Annual Forum

January 25, 2005
Richmond, BC

1. Welcome and Introductions

Duncan Barnett welcome the 87 registered participants and thanked the Fraser Basin Council for helping to launch the Invasive Plant Council of BC. He introduced the members of the interim Board of Directors and pointed out the *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia*. Duncan encouraged people to sign the Memorandum of Support if they haven't done so.

The purpose of the forum is to:

1. Set the Council's priorities for the next year.
2. Hold working sessions to develop the priorities through two sessions for perspectives and committees.
3. Determine the Board of Directors.
4. Share information, meet new people and enjoy the day.

Gail Wallin reviewed the agenda and the contents of the forum binder. The binder includes final versions of key documents for the Invasive Plant Council.

2. Building a Coordinated Framework for Invasive Plant Management

Randy Westbrooks from Whiteville, South Carolina is the Invasive Plant Coordinator with the Biological Resources Division of the US Geological Survey. His presentation was titled **Weeds Won't Wait! New Synergistic Approaches for Early Detection and Rapid Response.**

Randy talked about how public awareness of invasive plants needs to be raised. The public generally doesn't understand the importance and impacts of "weeds." The entire topic of invasive plant management needs public buy-in.

Some of his other points included:

- We need to ask if we are using plants for our needs, or are they using us? For example, bringing new species from other parts of the world can create a heavy cost to trade.
- Invasive species are costing the United States \$138 billion annually and are the #2 threat to biodiversity.
- Effectively addressing invasive plants requires political champions and an engaged public.

- People nowadays are largely removed from agriculture or land management, with only 2% left in this lifestyle and line of work. Farmers may be a good sector for starting to increase public understanding.
- Biological pollution is worse than chemical pollution because chemicals degrade over time, whereas biological invaders multiply and spread. We need to reprogram the public thinking about biological pollution.
- He predicts that on the 100th anniversary of the Invasive Plant Council the public will find our current thinking very limited about invasive plants. Managing invasive plants is the last great environmental frontier.

Randy's key "Lessons Learned" for forum participants were:

1. Managing a pathway is more effective than looking for pests. The first line of defense, such as import inspection, will always have its cracks, but managing the pathway won't receive the praise that finding invasive bugs and seeds will.
2. Never say never ... introduced alien species adapt, multiply and spread—if not now, then in the future (e.g., fire ants). And global warming will improve habitat for many invasive species.
3. Biological pollution is an insidious problem, worse than chemical pollution.
4. Invasive plants are plants out of place. They are kept in control in their natural habitats.
5. Regulatory exclusion is about 5% effective. There is virtually no defense for invasive species at the border.
6. Develop capacity for interagency partnerships. e.g., local and regional weed committees.
7. Tear down barriers to cooperation!
8. Focus on resources at risk, encourage citizen scientists.
9. Stop Crupina at the Washington State border.
10. There is strength in numbers! ... as through an invasive plant council.
11. This is everybody's problem ... teach the children well.

3. Invasive Plant Council ... up and running!

Carla Fraser presented an overview of Council progress since the June 24, 2004 meeting.

- From the "Weeds Know No Boundaries" workshop in May, 2002 to the production of the *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia*, the Invasive Plant Council of BC was launched in June, 2004.
- At that meeting, over 80 participants provided direction on short-term priorities for the action plan and input on governance. An interim Board of Directors was established with five committees to support the Board.
- The Board of Directors uses direction from the members and works by consensus. The Board is selected from each perspective involved in invasive plant management.
- The Invasive Plant Council of BC is now registered as a society, with over 100 signatories to the Memorandum of Support. The interim Board of Directors has been active, and the Council has a logo, website and first newsletter. Three committees

have been active, and today is the Council's first forum. The Board is looking for input from members on Council priorities and what to achieve in next 1-5 years.

4. Working Session

The perspectives met to discuss:

1. How to select a Director, and who will be recommended?
2. Should there be Directors-at-Large and alternates?
3. What are the top three issues for that perspective?

The perspectives' issues and recommended actions were discussed and summarized in the afternoon workshop.

5. What's Happening

5.1 Federal Government Update

Karen Prange of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency spoke about "Invasive Alien Species: A Federal Perspective." She covered:

- The national invasive alien species strategy, which is intended to minimize the risk of invasive alien species to the economy, environment and society.
- The Terrestrial Plants and Plant Pests Working Group and its proposed action plan. Some immediate goals are to coordinate across sectors and jurisdictions, and draft a national action plan. Includes a preliminary pathway analysis of ornamental plants, viable seeds and grain, forest products and packing materials; and a risk analysis. There are also many international initiatives in managing invasive alien species with coordination developing.
- Next steps include developing implementation plans, which should dovetail well with the Invasive Plant Council, e.g., the national plant health network (PlantProNet). Engagement of partners is very important.

5.2 BC Provincial Government Update

Dave Chutter, MLA and chair of the Invasive Plant Advisory Panel, talked about the panel, which was formed with the uplift in funding for provincial Crown land announced in June, 2004.

- The panel's purpose is (1) make recommendations to government (Cabinet Committee on the Economy and Environment) on revenue generation for long-term stable funding for invasive plant management and (2) delivery of a control system (governance throughout BC and delivery options).
- The Panel's principles will be to establish a long-term provincial government program, rather than taking the past "project" approach. The Panel wants to avoid duplication with IPC and develop mutual support.
- The IPC's activities have been instrumental to the Panel's work in increasing awareness among provincial politicians who notice when coordinated groups work together cooperatively.

Leslie MacDonald presented a provincial overview of invasive plant management (notes are available in forum binder).

- The focus has been on initial attack on first invaders.
- The inventory will be available by April for a provincial database, with password access and a reference manual.
- Funding made available for biocontrol implementation and research, and grants made to local weed committees.
- The “No Rest From New Pests” brochure accompanied the widely distributed “Garden-Wise” directory. Raise awareness with gardeners to show how they have a role in not buying invasive plants and in detecting new sightings.
- Species at Risk legislation to protect critical habitat through existing legislation and recovery teams.
- The Canada–BC Environmental Farm Plan Program includes recognition of invasive plant in best management practices.
- The Inter-Ministry Invasive Plant Committee was formed in Spring, 2004 to coordinate weed management planning on Crown land. In 2005 it will work with the Invasive Plant Council and the Advisory Panel to seek long-term solutions, fund projects to enhance local delivery, promote inventory, do database work and continue coordination.

5.3 Overview of Local Cooperative Approaches Across BC

Edi Torrans presented initiatives by the regional weed committees.

- The structure of the committees covers a broad range of interest groups and agencies. The committees began with people who saw the need for increased education and coordination. They are usually formed as non-profit societies, funded through annual grants and donations, and have a hired coordinator to oversee management.
- The committees' goals are generally to increase awareness among the public and all resource users, facilitate coordination, assist with local inventories, work for increased support, and promote integrated vegetation management to comprehensively manage invasive plants.
- Education and extension activities include field days and workshops, extension materials and press releases, community events, presentations to local schools and community groups, site visits and recommendations to landowners.
- Edi outlined each weed committee's geographic area, goals and key projects. Weed committees include Boundary, Central Kootenay, Okanagan–Similkameen and Southern Interior, and the Northwest and Northeast Invasive Plant Committees.
- In addition, many regional districts have their own weed committees.

5.4 Alberta Invasive Plants Council

Marian Jones presented the Alberta Invasive Plants Council and its background.

- The Council was established in 2004 and has a diverse membership from government, industry, community development, and associations such as fieldmen, vegetation management and landscape nursery trades.

- Goals include increasing awareness with the Alberta public of the impacts of invasive plants, foster and facilitate cooperation among stakeholders and provide information on IPM.
- Consistent core and secondary key messages were developed by the Council.
- The communication strategy was produced to improve understanding of the scope of the problem, as well as impacts, accurate identification of plants. They are working to improve knowledge and then increase awareness, which is key.
- The Council helps people get involved in inventory and monitoring.

6. Recommended Key Actions for the Action Plan

The perspectives groups and the five committees met and listed their top priorities for the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia. These priorities and other input will be used for the Council's next action plan. A synthesis of key actions recommended by forum participants for the Invasive Plant Council (in no order of priority) is as follows:

1. **Increase signatories to the Memorandum of Support** by industry partners (railways, chemical companies, forestry companies, mining) and other perspectives with low numbers of signed support. Hold one-on-one meetings between Council representatives and potential signatories to gain their support.
2. **Expand membership** and involve Environment Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.
3. **Work with inter-ministry agencies** to ensure there is **adequate, stable funding** for invasive plant management and the Council's coordinating role.
4. Include a new **Board member** for **nursery trades/horticulture**, and consider adding **youth**.
5. **Expand the Council's communications** program to include both an **outreach** program that addresses the media, and an **education** program that fits into the school curricula and learning objectives.
6. Ensure that **100% of BC's area is covered by regional weed committees**.
7. **Focus on prevention, early detection and rapid response**, and increase the number of qualified people through training and awareness.
8. **Organize local events**, such as invasive plant management for forestry and mining in Cranbrook in September, 2005 and **link with related conferences**, including the International Weed Science meeting.
9. **Increase First Nations awareness** of the Council and the importance of invasive plant management through presentations to the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, First Nations Summit, Tribal Councils and independent bands. Seek better funding and support for invasive plant management on all federal lands.
10. **Increase public awareness** of invasive plants by installing signs at popular trailheads, monitoring boat ramps and communicating with boaters about aquatic species, and working with wildlife and conservation groups to prevent further loss of biodiversity from invasive plants due to recreation experiences.

ACTION #1: Prepare a revised action plan from the above input and the notes in Appendices A and B for review and comment by the Council membership.

7. Council Business

7.1 *Inclusion of Directors at Large*

ACCEPTED: Members accepted in principle the inclusion of Directors at Large on the Board of Directors using the draft wording from the forum binder as an enabling action (not mandatory).

ACTION #2: Members interested in becoming a Director at Large are asked to submit their name by completing a green form. Members not at the forum are also welcome to submit their name.

- Members also suggested that the Board consider a youth sector or additional First Nations representatives.

7.2 *Use of Alternates for Board Members*

Forum participants discussed the use of alternates for Board members.

- The Director would be responsible to update the alternate, and alternates would receive all information as Board members do to ensure the alternate is equally informed.
- Each perspective will decide if it wants an alternate.

AGREED: Members agreed to allow alternates to Board members for those perspectives that wish to do so.

7.3 *Forum Timeframe and Format*

Comments from participants included:

- Hold the next forum between late fall and early spring.
- The agenda needs more time, and people don't mind staying another night. The next forum could be one and a half days long. Holding it on Wednesday would allow for business before or after with no need for weekend travel.

7.4 *Feedback on Progress to Date*

Participants are satisfied with the direction the Invasive Plant Council has taken.

Jennifer Grenz thanked participants, in particularly Gail Wallin for her facilitation and organizing work for the Invasive Plant Council, Jane Perry for writing and supporting the Board and committees, and the Fraser Basin Council for its ongoing support. She adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

8. Appendix A. Top Three Issues by Perspective

The following issues were listed by participants at the morning break-out sessions for the different perspectives. (Some perspectives comments were not submitted in time for inclusion here.)

Perspective(s)	Top Issues	Key 3 Issues for Next 1–5 Years	Recommended Actions
Agriculture and Utilities (combined)	a. Public education b. Risk assessment with field tools c. Coordination of programs d. Multi-jurisdiction coordination e. Political issues in industry f. Industry resistance to signing the Memo of Support	1. Industry resistance to signing the Memorandum of Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold one-on-one meetings between representatives of the Invasive Plant Council and non-signing industry partners. Obtain legal advice.
		2. Public education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile all information Marketing/branding of the issue
Conservation and wildlife	a. Research through an advisory science panel making recommendations b. Funding c. Communication d. Education e. Prioritizing mgmt tasks, species and threatened ecosystems f. Integrating Council functions and results of IPC activities g. Nursery trades rep on Board h. Ministry of WLAP rep on Board i. Legislation – in place, removing barriers to embracing legislation	1. Communication	Communicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> between agencies with the public with politicians to gain their support with more specifics and tangibles to the communications plan with a distribution strategy for materials and messages using a message that includes invasive plants and wildlife
		2. Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of curricula. Involve youth For industry, such as the nursery trades and consumers
		3. Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund on-the-ground groups Encourage government to allocate budgets to invasive plant management.

Perspective(s)	Top Issues	Key 3 Issues for Next 1–5 Years	Recommended Actions
Federal government	a. Legislation without a policy to prevent entry of weeds as propagated plants. b. Parks Canada has legislation but needs coordinating mechanisms. c. Environment Canada hosts Invasive Alien Strategy but needs stronger federal coordinating role and participation with the Council and implementation level in BC	Same as left-hand column.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite representative of DFO and Environment Canada to attend the next IPC meeting.
First Nations	a. Ensure that 100% of BC lands are covered (including FN lands and areas of interest) in the implementation of the strategy	1. Lack of effective FN participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire financial assistance to enable long-term FN participation.
		2. Lack of knowledge about issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement an education program beginning with a presentation on the need to address the issues and the importance of invasive plants. Include First Nations Summit, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, Tribal Councils and independent bands.
		3. Lack of qualified people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, fund and implement training programs
Forestry and Mining (combined)	a. Education b. Coordination	1. Education, increase awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a local sector forum (joint forestry and mining) addressing perspective groups. Present to the Elk Valley Integrated Forestry Task Force.
		2. Define responsibility for the coordination of management strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue current plans. Strive to get more forest industry members involved.
		3. Stable funding for operation control of invasive plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with inter-ministry agencies to ensure adequate stable funding.
		4. Legislation changes to ensure responsibilities/buy-in from all interests	

Perspective(s)	Top Issues	Key 3 Issues for Next 1–5 Years	Recommended Actions
Local government	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify priority invasive species and key management strategies 2. Restore natural areas 3. Produce list of plants that should be banned from nurseries 4. Increase regulations 5. Bring BC Landscape and Nursery Trades Assoc. to the IPC. 6. Develop and share model bylaws 7. Communication and education strategies 	1. Political awareness and education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fraser Basin Council presentation to elected officials. • Workshop at Lower Mainland Municipal Association and UBC AGM in May and Sept. • Establish regional priorities and strategies.
		2. Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional District level Invasive Plant Council
		3. Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional districts – if consensus difficult, then municipalities act individually to start. Can't be perceived as downloading.
Recreation and tourism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Degradation of trails from invasive plants b. Degradation of foreshores from invasive plants c. Loss of wildlife habitat and fewer opportunities to view wildlife. 	1. Signage and disposal system at trail heads about seeds sticking to socks, tires and dogs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey popular trailheads to monitor and identify invasive plant problems and their spread.
		2. Aquatic weed spread from recreational boating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor someone (e.g., students) for a key vacation weekend to monitor boat ramps and do outreach work.
		3. Loss of biodiversity reducing recreation experiences (decreased animal habitat and native plants, loss of trails, high maintenance costs).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with wildlife and conservation perspective to find solutions.
Regional weed committees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adequate, consistent funding b. Gaps in regional representation c. Jurisdictional coordination d. Examine legislation and enforcement e. Education and awareness – provincial campaigns f. Early detection and rapid response across jurisdictions and regions 	1. Consistent and adequate funding from year to year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage agencies to support operational weed control programs. • Encourage establishment of a trust and the funding for it.
		2. Gaps in representation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify gaps. • Promote and encourage establishment of regional committees.
		3. Province-wide education and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the establishment of province-wide campaigns and provincial curricula for schools. • Use consistent messages.

9. Appendix B. Committee Input

Committees listed the following key action items for the Council.

9.1 Communications Committee

1. Build a distribution database for all written materials. Define the format, appoint a manager, and ensure that recipients can use it.
2. Build external communications through a separate outreach/media plan. Expand media contact with distribution strategies, including TV coverage of invasive plant management as news items.
3. Address education and the school curricula. Support the regional weed committees who can best present information locally, and link with specific learning objectives for teachers.
4. Establish a website process for inputting future events.

9.2 Funding Committee

1. Before initiating a fundraising program, establish long-term, stable and non-operational funding through a trust fund with a role and accepted accountability structure in place. Help new committees with start-up financial services to help with carry-over and facilitating partnerships to leverage funds.
2. Confirm funding sources and get the risk-makers to pay because funding is currently optional—for example, the nursery industry, through a surcharge on timber harvested, ATV and license plate fees, property tax addition and stewardship tax credits for active invasive plant management.
3. Implement the trust fund and solicit contributions to it.
4. Appoint an auditor for the Invasive Plant Council to produce audited financial statements.
5. Produce a list of potential funding sources. Check on-line databases for information.

9.3 Regulation, Compliance and Enforcement Committee

1. Assemble and evaluate all legislation involving invasive plants in BC and recommend improvements as required. Include the federal *Fisheries Act* (re: habitat protection), the *Onshore Pipeline Act* and requirements for powerlines and other linear disturbances.
2. Develop a template for a local government invasive plant management bylaw for direct application or modification.
3. Recognize the importance of training by the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for the new *Integrated Pest Management Act* and the timeliness concerns for implementation of Pesticide Management Plans.
4. Prevent the entry of invasive species by working with the Terrestrial Plants Working Group to address the appropriate regulations.

5. Clarify what chemical treatments options are allowed without a Pesticide Management Plan, and clarify timelines with the provincial government for obtaining PMPs.
6. Develop invasive plant legislation that provides a “one-window” approach to invasive plant management.

9.4 Technical/Inventory Committee

1. Select or develop one database (approximately five available now). Software is available from New England at no charge (www.ipane.org). Standardize collections, determine who will manage the database and decide how to manage sensitivity.
2. Train a volunteer network for early detection and rapid response. Have designated experts to help in plant identification.

9.5 Research and Development Committee

1. Change the committee name from “Research” to “Research and Development.”
2. Hire someone in 2005 to search for and summarize available research and conduct a gap analysis.
3. Continue bio-control and assessment of other methods. Encourage invasive plant research at UNBC.
4. Conduct applied research on the socio-economic, biodiversity and habitat impacts of invasive plants. Garner support and tie to the *Species at Risk Act*.
5. Establish a trust fund for research.
6. Prioritize research needs and form a scientific advisory panel (maybe a sub-committee of the Invasive Plant Council).
7. Organize a scientific meeting coordinated with the International Weed Science Society meeting.

10. Appendix C. Board of Directors

Perspective	Board Member	Alternate (optional)
Agriculture	Duncan Barnett	
Conservation and wildlife	Ernie Sellentin	
Federal government	Gaye LePage Brian Reader	
First Nations	Kristy Palmantier	James Manuel
Forestry	Carla Fraser	
Local government	Joe Post David Turner	Gerald Jolliffe Kristine Kelly
Mining	Dave Polster	
Provincial government	Henry Benskin Michael Betts	Brian Nyberg David Ralph
Recreation and tourism	Jennifer Grenz	
Regional weed committees	Tim Caton Edi Torrans	Denise McLean Lisa Scott
Transportation	Angelo Dalcin	
Utilities	Gwen Shrimpton	

11. Appendix D. Committee Members

Each committee chair and vice-chair is noted where known.

Committee	Council Members	Board Liaison
Communications	Brenda Costanzo Juliet Craig Maira Greaven Marie Mervyn Denise Philippe Karen Prange Bev Ramey Jacki Schneider Barb Stewart Susan Turner Norma Wilson	Jennifer Grenz Carla Fraser
Funding	Janis Bell Kathy Reinheimer Gerald Jolliffe James Manuel Kristy Palmantier Joe Post Edi Torrans David Turner	Duncan Barnett Michael Betts

Committee	Council Members	Board Liaison
Regulation, Compliance and Enforcement	Dean Cheras Kerry Clarke Michael Deliman Bob Fowler Brenda Harris Dave Ralph Michael Rose	Michael Betts Gaye LePage
Technical/Inventory	Dwaine Brooke Lisa Burgess-Parker Bob Drinkwater Percy Folkard Paul Goodkey Russ Horton Brian Klinkenberg Rose Klinkenberg Judy Millar Bev Ramey Susan Turner (chair)	Ernie Sellentin (co-chair) Tim Caton
Research	Caroline Astley Dwaine Brooke David Clements Brenda Costanzo Brian Klinkenberg Lisa Scott (vice-chair) Krista Thomas Susan Turner Norma Wilson Pamela Zevit	Henry Benskin Dave Polster Gwen Shrimpton