
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Forests and Range

\$800,000 IN GRANTS AWARDED TO FIGHT INVASIVE PLANTS

VICTORIA – Annual project grants of over \$800,000 will help fight invasive plant species and protect British Columbia’s natural environment, Forests and Range Minister Pat Bell announced today.

“Invasive plants pose an economic threat to B.C.’s forestry and ranching sectors and we’re committed to efforts to control their spread,” said Bell. “We need to do whatever we can to maximize the growth of our trees, and that includes fighting anything that affects the health of our forests.”

This year, 13 organizations throughout the province received funding for the delivery of invasive plant projects and activities, including a grant of \$170,000 to the Invasive Plant Council of BC.

“Thanks to this contribution, British Columbia will be able to move forward on confirming the key invasive alien plants of concern in the province,” said Gail Wallin, executive director, Invasive Plant Council of BC. “We’ll also be able to improve how we inventory and track the spread of invasive plants and share this with our stakeholders.”

This announcement coincides with the International Research Forum that the Invasive Plant Council of BC is holding Oct. 29 and 30 in Richmond. The intent of the forum is to discuss research currently underway in the province, and research priorities and next steps for invasive plant research in British Columbia.

Invasive plants push out native plants that sustain our wildlife and ecosystems. Globally, invasive plants pose to a threat to our native environment and are recognized as the second-greatest threat to biodiversity. Controlling these plants can be expensive. Timber and ranching industries depend on native species, and loss of these species due to the spread of invasive species that are less valuable, or even toxic, puts these industries at risk.

Ministry of Forests and Range staff work closely with all the various invasive plant committees and councils throughout the province and considers applications for funding every year. This year, all submitted requests were successful in receiving funds.

Other organizations that received funding this year include:

- Peace River Regional District - \$25,000
- Northern Rockies Regional District - \$40,000
- North-West Invasive Plant Council - \$200,000
- Cariboo Regional District - \$50,000

- Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Committee - \$8,000
- Southern Interior Weed Management Committee - \$30,000
- Coast Invasive Plant Committee - \$15,000
- South Okanagan Similkameen Invasive Plant Society - \$10,000
- Boundary Weed Management Committee - \$18,000
- Kootenay-Boundary Regional District - \$150,000
- UBC E-Flora/Invasive Alien Plant Program - \$20,000
- University of Northern Cariboo - Okanagan Biocontrol Invasive Plant Research - \$43,000

Results of the projects, most of which are now completed, will be reported through annual reports and next year's grant applications.

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