



Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia 2nd Annual Forum and Annual General Meeting January 24-25, 2006



The second annual forum of the Invasive Plant Council of BC was held in Richmond in January 2006. This forum consisted of a number of components, and it began with three workshops and a joint government meeting on early detection and rapid response. The formal portion of the forum was initiated with an evening meeting and speaker, followed the next day by breakfast meetings for each of the perspective groups in the Council. The forum opened with keynote speaker, Mandy Tu, and was followed by committee workshops and other relevant speakers. The annual general meeting was held over the extended lunch hour.

The second annual forum attracted a total of 143 registrants, reflecting significant growth from the initial forum in 2005 of 87 attendees. Participant feedback on the forum was very positive. Many people wished, however, that more time had been available to attend multiple workshops and to network with others.

1. Evening Reception – Updating Provincial Weed Control Laws

Glennis Lewis, University of Ottawa is both a lawyer and a plant ecologist. At the evening reception on January 24, Glennis' presentation, "**Updating Provincial Weed Control Laws: It's Time to Teach These Old Dogs Some New Tricks**", covered:

- Why law is important.
- An historical perspective on provincial weed control law (the first weed control act was enacted in Nova Scotia in 1758).
- Current provincial and territorial laws addressing invasive plants.
- The current provincial legal landscape—**lack of coherence between provinces**, and often a complicated tangle of laws within provinces).
The commonalities and differences among the provincial weed control acts relate to species designation by regulation, legal duties and prohibitions, mechanisms for compliance, penalties and delegation to local governments.
- Updating the weed control acts is a partial remedy. Weed control acts require a clear statement of objectives, designation with expert advice and public comment, appropriate provisions for invasive plants in natural ecosystems, appropriate legal duties, emergency response, monitoring powers, removal of archaic provisions, strong powers to enforce and appropriate penalties.

Her conclusion was:

1. Law is an important tool in invasive plant management.
2. Weed control legislation is some of the oldest law in Canada.
3. The current applicable law for invasive plants is often complex and confusing.

4. Provincial Weed Control Acts offer a partial remedy but need considerable revisions.
5. Law reform is not easy!

2. Perspectives Meetings

Forum participants met with others from their key perspective, as defined for the IPCBC, over breakfast on January 25. Each perspective group met with the related director(s), appointed a new director (if required) and discussed potential directions for the Council in 2006. The perspectives groups' input will be considered by the Board for drafting the 2006 Action Plan.

3. Welcome

Duncan Barnett, chair of the Invasive Plant Council of BC, opened the forum at 8:40 am after participants finished their perspectives meetings and joined the plenary area. He noted how the registration number exceeded expectations.

- Duncan gave a brief description of the Council's background, beginning with "Weeds Know No Boundaries" held in Williams Lake in 2002, which led to the development of an invasive plant strategy by a writing group and the recommendation to form the Invasive Plant Council of BC. The Council was established as a non-profit society in late 2004.
- Membership to the Council is open to those who sign the Memorandum of Support. As a coordinating body, the Council works to influence and exert pressure to improve invasive plant management. The Council's Board of Directors bring different perspectives to the Council, and Board members are working for province-wide coordination by the Council.
- Duncan reviewed the day's agenda and introduced the 2005 Board of Directors and the Council staff who assist the Council's Board and committees.

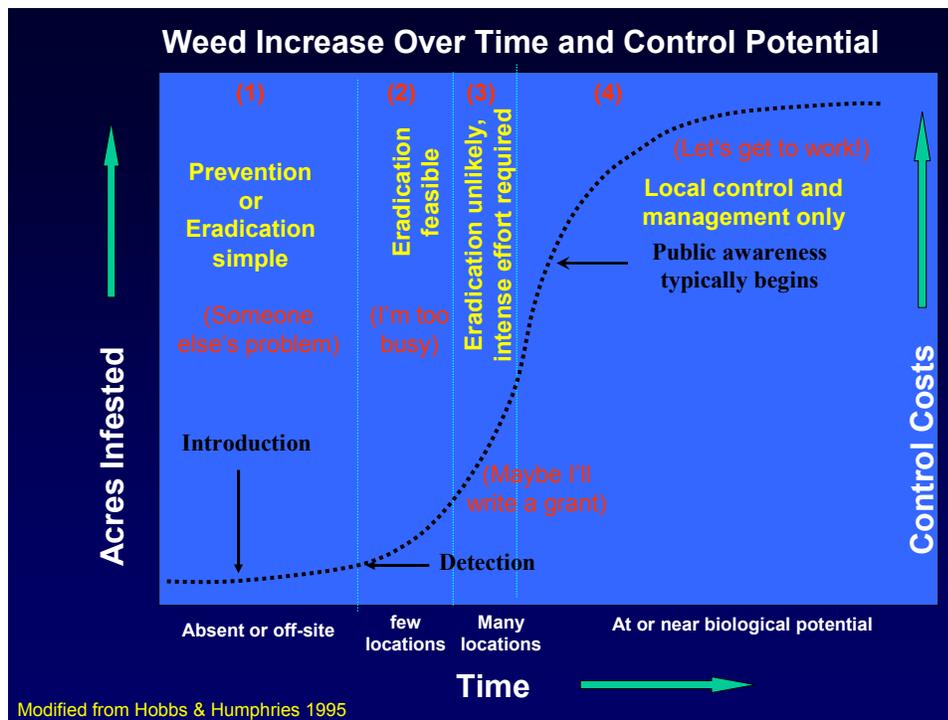
4. Partnering Together ... Against Invasive Plants

Keynote speaker, Mandy Tu, from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Portland, Oregon began by saying she hopes to motivate the audience to work on early detection and to collaborate with the Invasive Plant Council of BC.

- The TNC's Global Invasive Species Initiative addresses invasive plants because of their many effects on ecosystems.
- By the time an invasive species receives public awareness, the plant is near its biological potential and control costs are very high. This is not an effective approach; prevention and **early detection/rapid response** (EDRR) is far better. The website <www.fws.gov/ficmnew/> sets up a framework for an EDRR system.
- The TNC supports a **Weed Watchers/Weed Busters** Program as the best approach to locate and manage recently emerged infestations of invasive exotic plants on high-priority sites. Trained Weed Watchers notify TNC staff who then deploy the Weed Busters. Their "hit list" of invasive plants determined the most threatening species.

Volunteers are an essential resource. This is strategic, targeted control, not just local control. See <incweeds.ucdavis.edu/outreach.html>.

- On a regional scale, the **Invasive Plant Atlas of New England** (IPANE) EDRR Network involves six northeast states (professional, agencies, wildflower enthusiasts, etc.). There is an interactive regional database and website for viewing occurrences, the extent of species and weed identification information, and Early Detection watch of new species. IPANE also includes curriculum for volunteers, for more eyes on the ground, and involves local action. It really works at the regional scale!



Lessons Learned from Early Detection and Rapid Response

1. It's a long-term commitment and requires dedication.
2. Work with many many many partners!
3. Continue doing weed management and control at the site level, but ...
4. Put significant resources towards prevention and early detection and rapid response, at both the site and larger scales.

Prevention

1. Small-scale measures: Clean shoes before entering clean sites, clean equipment, do not move weed-infested soils, do not drive through weed-infested areas into clean areas. Provide boot brush under sign.
 2. At the large scale: Policy, legislation, risk assessments, targeted education and outreach
- Introductions may be accidental (contaminant in hay/feed or seed, packaging material, seeds carried in) or intentional (erosion control, etc. and ornamental/horticulture use).

- Fewer than 5% of ornamental plants become invasive, but most invasive plants (82%) come from landscape or horticulture use.

Solutions

- Fully engage the nursery and ornamental industry.
- Focus on only those few species with negative environmental impacts.
- Develop non-invasive alternatives.
- Don't impact the industry economically.

Develop Volunteer Codes of Conduct

- See example from the Missouri Botanical Garden at: centerforplantconservation.org/invasives/codesN.html
- A code is available for each sector – nurseries, gardeners, etc. Promote wide endorsement of the codes.
- Calls to 1-866-INVADER in Oregon go to the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Many reports are actually incorrect, but this method for public reporting has been helpful for locating new invaders.
- Encourage businesses to implement and test the voluntary codes of conduct and publicize through what is selling and the economic impacts to them, and then this information can be publicized about what the industry is doing.

Can we prevail against invasive plants? YES!

In summary:

1. Invasive species issues are complex and best addressed by diverse groups and many partners.
2. Voluntary codes of conduct may help prevent new introductions.

5. Committee Work: Looking at IPC and Next Steps

The five Invasive Plant Council committees met in separate break-out sessions. Committee members and other interested participants (including some potential new members) met to review the committee's achievements in 2005 and discuss key actions for 2006. The committee summaries are provided in Appendix A. Highlights are provided below in this meeting summary.

6. 2005 Annual General Meeting: Looking Back, and Proposed Next Steps for the Council

Duncan Barnett convened the group after lunch for the annual general meeting of the Invasive Plant Council of BC.

6.1. Board Report to Members

Duncan reviewed highlights of the 2005 Annual Report (with updates from the committee meetings at the forum) as follows:

- The *Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia*, its origin and Council role.
- Highlights of activities by the Board of Directors, the five committees in 2005 and proposed actions for 2006.
- Outreach by the Invasive Plant Council, including presentations, publications, funding proposals, and contact with Communities in Bloom.

Some of the highlights of the Perspectives meetings included: expand awareness and involvement, increase understanding of obligations and regulations, harmonize management across jurisdictions, and share on-the-ground beneficial management practices.

The 2005 Annual Report was provided to all attendees and will be available on the IPC website.

6.2. 2005 Financial Report

The financial report to September 2005 and the draft 2006 budget were presented. Duncan reviewed the 2005 financial report and asked members if they had any questions or feedback. He called three times for any objections or concerns with the report, and no objections were noted.

6.3. 2006 Board of Directors

The 2006 Board of Directors was presented as a result of the earlier perspective meetings. There were a few changes made to the Board from 2005. Thanks go to Tim Caton (local weed committee), Angelo Dalcin (transportation), Jennifer Grenz (outdoor recreation and tourism), Gaye LePage (federal government) and Dave Holden (federal government) who were Board directors in 2005 but will not be rejoining for the upcoming year. The 2006 Board of Directors includes:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| • Agriculture | Duncan Barnett |
| • Conservation and wildlife | Ernie Sellentin |
| • Federal government | Brent Postlethwaite |
| | Brian Reader |
| • First Nations | Kristy Palmantier |
| | George Desjarlais |
| • Forestry | Carla Fraser |
| • Local government | Joe Post |
| | David Turner |
| • Mining | Dave Polster |
| • Provincial government | Henry Benskin |
| | Michael Betts |
| • Recreation and tourism | Dawn Hanna |
| • Regional weed committees | Denise McLean |
| | Edi Torrans |
| | (Becky Brown) |
| • Transportation | To be confirmed |

- Utilities Gwen Shrimpton
- Director-at-Large (nursery) Rod Nataros

Officers will be selected by the Directors. The 2006 Board will work to implement the actions determined from this forum, the strategy and committees. IPC members were invited to contact the staff or directors for input or feedback on the Council's activities.

6.4. Highlights of 2006 Committee Priorities

Communications and Awareness Committee

1. Contact Communities in Bloom judges and inform candidates about invasive plants.
2. Initiate and maintain personal contact with gardening writers and journalists, and provide information to them on the Invasive Plant Council.
3. Include measures for invasive plant management in new highways maintenance contracts.
4. Send information package to elected officials (local, provincial and federal) to inform them that "Invasive plants are an issue!"
5. Conduct general outreach on invasive plants that includes a baseline survey, billboards and an IPC slogan. Additionally contact a variety of audiences, including both commercial and non-commercial outdoor recreation groups.

Finance and Fund Development Committee

1. Develop an inclusive membership fee structure.
2. Diversify funding sources for the Invasive Plant Council.
3. Develop a trust fund business case.

Regulation, Compliance and Enforcement Committee

1. Begin the regulatory review process, focusing first on local government.
2. Improve compliance by developing a legislation "guidebook" for local governments, and then additional levels of government.
3. Address the issue of land tenure and agency jurisdiction.

Technical and Operational Support Committee

1. Select a provincial inventory database (Invasive Alien Plant Program) and relate it to relevant invasive plant issues.
2. Produce a matrix of Best Management Practices for the province, including for the prevention of invasive plant outbreaks.
3. Investigate how to establish an Early Detection/Rapid Response program.

Research and Development Committee

1. Promote and encourage more federal biocontrol scientists.
2. Quantify the impacts of invasive plants.
3. Demonstrate efficacy of existing biocontrol agents.

7. Canada's Invasive Alien Species Strategy

Lesley Cree, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

Lesley gave an update on the national Invasive Alien Species (IAS) strategy, talked about the action plan for Terrestrial Invasive Alien Plants and Plant Pests, and covered implementation in the CFIA and next steps.

- The IAS strategy has a leadership and coordination committee with thematic working groups, one of which is Terrestrial Plants and Plant Pests. IAS is a priority for the government of Canada, from the biodiversity strategy in 1995 through to the 2005 budget.
- The IAS strategy has federal, provincial and territorial approval. Its scope includes both intentional and unintentional introductions as well as all alien species from other countries, that move across provincial and territorial boundaries and to new ecosystems within a region.
- Priority actions for invasive alien plants and plant pests are consistent with Invasive Plant Council priorities.
- The IAS Partnership Program received about 400 applications in November, 2005 (~250 for plants or plant pests). Environment Canada will fund \$2 million for projects in the next fiscal year because of the delay this year by the election. The technical review is tentatively scheduled for mid-February.
- The IAS communications strategy includes public opinion research, educational kits for school curricula and informational packages.

8. Update on Current Activities in British Columbia

Leslie MacDonald, Inter-Ministry Invasive Plant Committee

The Inter-Ministry Invasive Plant Committee (IMIPC) consists of representatives from the ministries that manage Crown land in BC: Agriculture and Lands, Environment, Forests and Range, and Transportation.

- The IMIPC reviewed the report prepared for the Cabinet Committee on Natural Resources and Environment and made recommendations. There is a need to maintain a consistent message about invasive plants.
- Minister Pat Bell (Agriculture and Lands) addressed the Treasury Board about funding for invasive plants; will know results from the budget letters in February.
- The Invasive Plant Council is key to maintaining political attention on invasive plants.
- Local weed committees cover almost all of BC now. They need tools to do their job.
- Over \$8 million was budget for invasive plant management in the last two years, the highest amount ever.
- Two pilot projects are determining models for local delivery of invasive plant management on Crown land: Northwest Invasive Plant Council and Regional District of East Kootenay.
- Inventories are improved for early detection. For example, tansy ragwort on the Queen Charlotte Islands and velvetleaf in Oliver were eradicated.
- Also important are inventory and plant removal in parks, expanded control on critical highway right-of-way sites, post-fire recovery and research (Okanagan fires),

24,000 field guides, Gitksan Nations "Weeding out the Invaders" program, staff support for IPC, strategic plan for IMIPC.

9. Managing Invasive Plants on the Ground

Denise McLean spoke about the **Northwest Invasive Plant Council Pilot Project**, a single agency regional delivery model.

- The purpose is to test that model, increase support to Council members and to engage other agencies. The goals are to test the model, provide single contact for weed control (toll-free number) and deliver effective control.
- The 2005 pilot project includes data management through the Invasive Alien Plant Program, invasive plant control in nine contract areas with an additional student crew on 546 ha (1605 sites), toll-free number for public reporting and contractor response, promotion and public education through a promotional plan that also kept the membership engaged in promotion and implementation – brochures, fridge magnets, bumper stickers, table-top display, and the mobile potted weed display for fall fairs.

Kevin Paterson presented the Regional District of East Kootenay pilot project, a new delivery model on Crown lands.

- The regional district coordinates all provincial ministry invasive plant management activities. Five regional invasive plant management areas are designated under the pilot project.
- The pilot project activities are helping to prioritize invasive plant species and treatment strategies, encourage participation by agencies and community organizations, develop management plans for the invasive plant management areas, and monitor and evaluate pilot effectiveness.
- The pilot project is for three years, and project priorities will be implemented afterward.
- Core activities include area controllers, rancher controllers and a controller monitor, herbicide inventory and dispensing, data entry into the provincial MOFR database, community and riparian weed warriors, and a toll-free number.
- A total of 280 ha were treated in 2005, with more area inspected.
- Over 400 volunteer weed warriors worked at 30 events and received a \$250 honorarium for their club. Many community groups participated with strong support through in-kind donations by local businesses. There was a successful media campaign. The report includes a "System for Success" checklist.

Stephen Godwin cover the **City of Surrey**'s pilot project to control invasive plants on natural areas in Surrey's 719 parks.

- The parks were prioritized for treatment, with inventories of invasive plant species conducted and displayed on ArcView.
- Project staff distributed brochures to increase awareness and use an integrated pest management policy for plant control.

- Removal methods for English ivy, blackberry, lamium, Scotch broom, policeman's helmet and Japanese knotweed were presented.
- Unit costs can be used with efficacy results to determine species control success. It is important to replant with desired species after invasive plants are removed. Costs for plant material and installation range from \$5.00 to 21.50/m². Plantings must be maintained (\$5 - \$11.15/m²/year). There is a summary cost matrix by species before that invasive species can be considered permanently controlled.
- Education and early detection are very important. Public awareness makes it a funding priority for the city councilors. Removal is only half the task; replanting is required after.
- Pesticides are a valuable tool, and the only control method for some species. Pesticide regulations must be current.
- Proactive park development is helping to reduce the urban interface and potential for invasive plant invasion.

10. Integrated Pest Management in Local Communities

Stephen Jenkins covered the implementation of integrated pest management within the **District of West Vancouver**.

- Implementation now excludes pesticide use on public lands through a new bylaw. Residents are encouraged to actively control invasive plants on their property, and they can get technical assistance in eradication techniques. The bylaw includes five invasive plants designated as noxious.
- Hogweed control is done for worker and public safety. Deep mulching after cutting controls fairly well. Challenges and opportunities include continued discontinued use of pesticides, number of entry points for spread, new development of Sea-to-Sky highway, high number of absentee homeowners, coordination of the North Shore and adequate funding.
- Have to think about source and symptoms of the invasive plant program—treat exposed areas quickly, and mulch heavily. Use technology to help illustrate your situation (mapping is key), set workplans according to budget and be realistic about yearly achievements, talk to your neighbours—share information, try different techniques.

Michelle Gorman from the **City of Victoria** talked about the wide range of options used for a long list of invasive plants that the city addresses (some of which were intentionally planted before known to be invasive).

- Carpet burweed is a new problem that can be controlled with a large heating device that burns the plants, and then grasses are planted and kept long to prevent reinvasion. Sportsfields are vulnerable to invasive plants and particularly between pressures from user groups versus pressure from anti-pesticide groups. Curbs and gutters can clog with plants, which leads to house flooding during heavy rain.
- The range of control methods starts with people identifying and reporting new outbreaks. Killed invasive plants are replaced with appropriate plant material. All plants coming into parks are inspected and may be quarantined or returned.

- Isolated areas of outbreaks are being treated. It's wise to post signs and ask public to report any new sightings of this species. Education and public relations are important programs in an integrated pest management approach.

Edi Torrans reviewed the 2005 noxious weed control program in the **Thompson Nicola Regional District** (TNRD).

- For private land and public lands managed by the TNRD, the program covers education, biological control, sprayer loan-out free of charge, 50/50 cost-sharing of treatment rebated in part by the TNRD, and rebate programs for treating new invaders of designated species and reseeding wildfire areas.
- Each component in the program uses a comprehensive and inclusive approach to maximize the potential for success. Support grew last year for biocontrol releases on private property, as well as for both the sprayer loan-out and 50/50 cost-shared programs.

11. 2nd Annual Forum Summary

Duncan Barnett wrapped up the forum by thanking the speakers for their fascinating presentations. He also appreciated the continuing support for the Council by the federal and provincial governments, as well as the Council's staff.

Duncan adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.

12. Appendix A. Committee Reports

The five committees met for 1½ hours in break-out groups on January 25 and produced the following summaries. Each committee reviewed the activities that occurred during 2005 and then discussed the proposed activities for 2006.

12.1. Communications and Awareness Committee

2005 Review

The Communications and Awareness Committee reviewed the 2005 report and decided to list the potential components of a public outreach plan during the committee meeting. Their input would be used for the development of the plan after the forum.

Public Outreach Plan

The key audiences for the plan are:

1. Media
2. Elected government officials (local, provincial, national and First Nations)
3. Land managers working in landscaping, range, forestry, mining, agriculture and real estate
4. Horticulturists, including gardeners, nurseries, retailers and Communities in Bloom
5. Outdoor recreation users and groups
6. Elementary schools and youth

Recommendations for 2006

The committee's top priorities for 2006, listed below, are all intended for the public outreach plan:

1. Contact Communities in Bloom judges and inform candidates about invasive plants.
2. Initiate and maintain personal contact with gardening writers and journalists, and provide information to them on the Invasive Plant Council.
3. Include measures for invasive plant management in new highways maintenance contracts.
4. Send an information package to elected officials (local, provincial and federal) to inform them that "Invasive plants are an issue!"
5. Conduct general outreach on invasive plants that includes a baseline survey, billboards and an IPC slogan. Additionally contact a variety of audiences, including both commercial and non-commercial outdoor recreation groups.

12.2. Finance and Fund Development Committee

2005 Financial Report and 2006 Budget

Gail Wallin reviewed the 2005 financial report for the first nine months and explained that the actual audited reports would be available in March. The group discussed the funding sources for the Council and the proposed role for the trust fund. The group

reviewed the 2006 proposed budget including the special project funding. A number of funding applications have been submitted and notification of approvals was expected in February or March. A proposal to seek partners to help leverage current funds, such as biocontrol research, has been proposed.

Fund Development

The Invasive Plant Council has applied for charitable status as a key tool to seek funding for a stable Invasive Plant Trust Fund. Over the past year, work has been underway through meetings with the Vancouver Foundation and the Agriculture Investment Foundation regarding the establishment of a permanent stable fund.

Key Recommendations for 2006

The group discussed the potential actions to help provide stable funding for the long-term coordination and management of invasive plants in BC. The key actions that were identified include:

1. Establish the Invasive Plant Trust Fund, including obtaining charitable status and seeking investments.
2. Develop a business case for the Trust Fund.
3. Develop an inclusive membership fee structure.

12.3. Regulation, Compliance and Enforcement Committee

Recommendations for 2006

The break-out session included group brainstorming on a management tool for local government and a gap analysis.

The "legislation guidebook" should have the following:

- A note of caution on the terminology, as Best Management Practices imply necessary guidelines or a management book, which is not the case here.
- Contact list (local, provincial, federal, regional, international) and list of local government bylaws in place in BC.
- A targeted audience – possibly start with local governments and First Nations.
- Information for regional districts that do not have programs in place but would like to. Take feedback from local governments – possibly go back to respondents from questionnaire.
- Education and awareness component (generic sections) that explains "Why should you have a program?"
- Federal jurisdiction with First Nations and local governments should include a guide that refers to leveraging with other agencies.
- A decision-making matrix (possibly) with a focus on control options.

Possible actions to produce the guidebook include:

- Review the Environmental Farm Planning guide for the possibility of including this information to see if the format may be appropriate for a legislative section regarding invasive plants.

- Involve more local government representatives to help outline the key issues and opportunities at the local level, as well as to develop draft bylaws that would be acceptable and adoptable. Encourage similar bylaws across the province.
- Develop an interactive web-based should be interactive, but also available in PDF format for download and ease of reading.

A gap analysis of legislation compendium must:

- Also include a conflict analysis and overlap analysis as well as gaps.
- Be clarified for presentation to government

Other Issues identified for consideration:

- Federal government funding is not available for weed control by First Nations, so until this issue is addressed they have no capacity to address the issue of invasive plants. A guidebook would be helpful, but funding is required to implement its guidelines.
- Determine what local governments can do to help First Nations regarding political support, relationship building, joint funding and communications.
- Improved effectiveness monitoring by agencies should include reporting out to user groups.
- Work with the Invasive Alien Species strategy on a review of federal legislation.

The Invasive Plant Council can raise the profile of the issue to leverage long-term funding from the federal and provincial governments.

Prioritization Summary

- Regulatory focus is needed before a guidebook can be created. There is a distinction between private and public land legislation, so there is the opportunity to focus on private issues to produce a guidebook specific to local governments and possibly First Nations (compliance focus). This would allow for flexibility at the local level.
- While developing the local government guidebook, the federal and provincial levels can be under review.
- Work with the Communications and Awareness Committee to provide information when necessary.

12.4. Technical and Operational Support Committee

2005 Review

A brief review of the committee's activities in 2005 was presented, followed by a brief question period.

Recommendations for 2006

The chair reviewed the proposed Action Plan for 2006 followed by a request for additions or omissions. The following suggestions were made:

- Although Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) is a "Best Management Practice" (BMP), it is also important enough to warrant its own category.
- A plant management matrix needs to be developed.

- Pest Management Plans are very important and must be considered in developing BMPs.
- The Technical and Operational Support Committee should encourage the IPC to use its website as a portal for weed committees to share information.
- The provincial government database, managed by the Ministry of Forests and Range, is extremely important and requires a full-time commitment by the ministry.
- The goal for provincial plant inventories should be "real time tracking".
- We should be moving towards a single database for all invasive plant managers.
- The committee should develop monitoring standards for members to use.
- The Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP) software needs to improve in the areas of:
 - Interfacing with handheld data logging devices.
 - Addressing the unique needs of other users and NGOs.
 - Resolving data uploading issues.
 - Making it more user-friendly for NGOs.

All of the above suggestions, with the exception of the EDRR, were covered in the earlier tabled Proposed Action Plan for 2006. The priorities topics for the committee are:

- Relate the inventory database to relevant invasive plant issues.
- Produce a matrix of Best Management Practices.
- Investigate how to establish an Early Detection and Rapid Response program.
- Develop criteria for plants to be considered invasive.
- Increase awareness of Best Management Practices.

12.5. Research and Development Committee

2005 Review

The committee's break-out session began with a review of the 2005 report which listed the key short-term priorities of the Research and Development Committee:

- a) *Determine economic and social impacts of invasive plants to British Columbia* – it is difficult for the IPC and others to develop awareness and secure resources and commitments for invasive plant management without quantitative data for social, environmental, economic and cultural impacts. Usually we use qualitative responses like "significant" or "critical."
- b) *Seek and recruit partners for biocontrol research on priorities as determined by current researchers* - \$100,000 funding is available. We need to identify priorities for biocontrol.

- Priority (a) is important for the Inter-Ministry Invasive Plant Committee as it seeks more funding for invasive plant management on Crown land and needs to make this link.
- Quantifying First Nations values is difficult, as these values change with the natural environment, i.e., a species that currently has cultural value may not be historically valuable and vice versa for future species (both plants and animals).
- Could include information such as the number of First Nations reserves affected by invasive plants, the type of problem, species present, nature of problem and effects on medicinal plants.
- It's important to quantify data, but we should work with existing studies; don't stall progress while waiting for quantitative results.

Review of Biological Control Process

1. Identify plant species – no checklist, developed by a push of interest from government officers.
2. Province commits funds into biocontrol consortium.
3. Researchers investigate the plant in its natural habitat and its natural enemies (those that feed and reproduce on the plant)
4. Choose insects and start a program with a consortium of funders.
5. Conduct screening test to determine if insect will feed on native plants similar to host.
6. Once an agent is through the process, the consortium reviews the findings and may release into field and monitor establishment.
7. If established, agents are circulated.

Currently, we only have 'before and after' photographs. We need funding to get quantitative data to determine if biocontrol is effective.

Recommendations for 2006

- The sub-committee is looking at existing programs and areas needing support for biocontrol.
- Consider using funding to support new researchers so that there is more staff for biocontrol.
- There are only two researchers in Lethbridge for all of Canada. They would be very supportive and appreciative if the IPC would push for more staff.
- The IPC should strongly endorse with the federal government the need for additional researchers.
- There is \$50,000 available through National Defense for Species-at-Risk related issues on National Defense lands. This is a potential source of matching funding if biocontrol research is related to Species at Risk and is conducted on this land.
- The IPC could link with invasive plant management at Simon Fraser University.
- Research money available through the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program which could be a potential area for partnering to fund a research position. The available \$100,000 from IPC, if used for three projects, is limited. More money could be accessed by partnering with NSERC (federal government) or researching an invasive plant impacting Species-at-Risk for Habitat Stewardship Protection funding.
- Consider other research options within biocontrol that include fungi and pathogens. Agri-Canada was involved in the past, but fungi and pathogens are not easy to use due to tangibility. To date, effective ones have not been identified.

Selection Criteria for \$100,000

- The request for proposals could go to a selected invitation to avoid excessive screening.
- Need to use the funds soon. Monitoring is lacking.
- Professor would like to have seed money with program.
- Add available funding information to the request for proposals (and a note about matching funding).