



YISC Meeting Minutes October 17, 2011

Haines Junction, Shelter at Kathleen Lake

Attendees:

Bruce Bennett ENV, Lloyd Freese KNPR, Kirstie Simpson EMR.
Chris Toleman HPW, Saleem Dar EC, Andrea Altherr coordinator.

Regrets: Jim Dillabough YAA, Toos Omtzigt YCE, Millar Nathan ENV, Jeanne Burke, Aynslie Ogden ECO, Heather Clarke ENV, Randy Lamb ENV, Sonja Leverkus E FLNR:EX, .

Field trip 2PM-4PM

West of Haines Junction, along Haines Highway

For our field trip the weather was in our favour, we had blue sky and no snow on the ground yet! It was easy to pick out the invasive plants along the Haines Road even without getting out of the car. It was striking: This time of the year the only plants still green along the roads are the introduced ones! Therefore they are easily being picked out among the native plants which are brown and dried up by now. We stopped at several locations along the road where Lloyd showed us some of the invasive species he is monitoring and managing since he lives in Haines Junction.

Species found:

Invasive

Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*)
Smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*)
Lucerne (*Medicago falcata*)
Quackgrass (*Elytrigia repens*)
Crested wheat grass (*Agropyron pectiniforme*)
Narrowleaf hawksbeard (*Crepis tectorum*)
Oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*)
Scentless chamomile (*Tripleurospermum perforata*)
Creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)
Yellow and white sweetclover (*Melilotus officinalis*)

Introduced and persistent – potentially invasive

Alsike clover (*Trifolium hybridum*)
Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*)
Red fescue (*Festuca rubra*)
Alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*)
Cicer milkvetch (*Astragalus cicer*)

Rapidly spreading - potentially native

Narrow-leaved hawkweed (*Hieracium umbellatum*)

American vetch (*Vicia americana*)

Didymo, may be native here

Lloyd explained that during the road construction and maintenance soil from the experimental farm just outside of Haines Junction was used and most likely seeds of invasive plants were brought in this way. Others, such as the grasses smooth brome and red fescue were seeded.

The patch of creeping thistle is approximately 20m x 10m. Bruce added that only female plants are growing here so far. This explains why the patch is not getting bigger. If ever a male comes along they will start producing viable seeds and then take off!

Narrow-leaved hawkweed and American vetch are two examples of natives gone wild. Both species are native to Yukon but have started to show invasive traits and are expanding their range tremendously.

Thank you Lloyd for getting us out there!

Meeting 4:15PM - 5:15PM at the Kathleen Lake shelter:

Chair: Bruce Bennett

Minutes: Andrea Altherr

1. Round of introductions

Everybody introduced themselves.

2. Changes to the agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes September meeting

The attendees approved the minutes.

4. Funding update:

- Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program (IASPP) for 2011-2012: The contribution agreement is signed. We are waiting for the first payment.
- Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program (IASPP) for 2012-2013: The call for proposals is out; deadline for submission is November 21, 2011. Saleem pointed out, that a multiyear proposal usually has benefits such as a faster cash flow in the consequent years and may be worthwhile the extra effort during the proposal writing phase.
Action: Andrea in lead, Saleem and Bruce will help with the proposal.
- Other projects: YISC submitted a proposal to the Community Development Fund (CDF) and the City of Whitehorse Environmental Grant to seek financial support for the planned workshop in February.

5. Planning of the workshop February 2012

The one day workshop will consist of a morning presentation session and an afternoon guided session which will incorporate a participatory method in solution seeking. Andrea explained a few expenses in the budget and how they can be financed. One of the biggest expenses is the professional facilitator. The workshop will benefit from the planned guidance by a facilitator who will be involved in the planning stage and help us to meet our goals for the workshop. Andrea has included a request to finance the facilitator in the CDF application. We were collecting ideas for presentation for the morning session. The attendees felt that the workshop should focus on the local perspective with local speakers talking on local issues. Kirstie suggested exploring possibilities of a presentation by a member of a first nation with a topic e.g. "Plant value from a first nation perspective". Another idea is to see if we can find a miner who is acting as a steward. Chris suggested seeing if we find someone in BC to talk about negative effects on the tourism industry.

A core group should plan the project. It was decided to wait with forming the group until we have confirmation of the funding money (this is expected end of November).

Action: Andrea to contact the membership to find help for the planning team.

Actions: Bruce to contact possible speakers from outside the territory and to set a date.

Below is the link to the schedule of the Symposium held in 2008 in Whitehorse.

<http://www.env.gov.yk.ca/wildlifebiodiversity/YukonInvasiveSpeciesSymposium.htm>

One of the expected outcomes of the workshop is an increase in members and partners. It would make sense to approach possible partners well before the workshop to get them informed and engaged.

The membership list shows gaps. From these gaps a list will be established and passed out to the board for categorization. A strategy on how to approach the different organizations has to be developed. Saleem mentioned that he may be able to help us getting started on connections to some of the First Nations.

6. Directors's update

Kirstie has completed the paperwork for Corporate Affairs and we are in good standing again.

Bruce and Chris discussed responsibility of treatment of invasive species along the BC portion of the Haines and South Klondike Highways. A species with a limited expansion like the spotted knapweed patch on the South Klondike Highway should be treated before it starts to expand.

Another example is orange hawkweed found near Pleasant Camp on the BC portion of the Haines Highway. Chris explained that the MOU with BC has expired. BC has a Weed Control Act which includes the species orange hawkweed, oxeye daisy, perennial sow-thistle, creeping thistle and spotted knapweed. The whole issue was brought up by a letter from Marc Schuffert (BC Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations).

Action: Bruce and Kirstie to follow up with a response letter.

7. Coordinator's update

Survey monkey: A reminder will go out this week. So far 20 people have participated.

Weed list: Andrea is still collecting data to finish a list of activities of the past summer.

Geo science forum: A draft for a rack card to be inserted in the delegates' bags has been circulated to the board members for their input. Deadline to submit the printed rack card is November 1.

8. Round Table

Postponed to the next meeting

9. Next meeting

November 10, 2011 from 11:30AM - 1PM at Environment Yukon (Main Boardroom).

Meeting adjourned: 5:15pm