



Strategic Plan 2011-2015

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Vision.....	2
3	Mission Statement	2
3.1	Guiding Principles and Values	2
3.2	Purpose of the Strategic Plan	2
3.3	Challenges.....	2
4	Goals and Objectives.....	3
5	Priorities.....	3
5.1	Priority 1	3
5.1.1	Task 1: Partnership development	3
5.1.2	Task 2: Provide expert advice to stakeholders in invasive species management.....	3
5.1.3	Task 3: Maintain active role in partnerships.....	3
5.2	Priority 2	4
5.2.1	Task 1: Research.....	4
5.2.2	Task 2: Survey and monitor	4
5.2.3	Task 3: Data sharing.....	4
5.3	Priority 3	4
5.3.1	Task 1: Explain the importance of YISC and the need for continuity	4
5.3.2	Task 2: Develop projects identified by this plan	4
5.4	Priority 4	5
5.4.1	Task 1: Public awareness and outreach planning	5
5.4.2	Task 2: Develop, maintain and distribute educational and promotional materials.....	5
5.4.3	Task 3: Increase YISC and invasive species profile.....	5
5.5	Priority 5	5
5.5.1	Task 1: Stay informed about policy and initiatives in Canada (and Alaska).....	5
5.5.2	Task 2: Promote need for regulations in Yukon	5
	Appendix A: Complete Listing of Major Goals, Objectives and Specific Actions	6
	Appendix B: YISC 2007 Strategic Plan	10
	Appendix C : Strategic Planning Session October 19, 2010.....	13

1 Introduction

The Yukon Invasive Species Council (YISC) was formed on December 18, 2009. Previously, the council existed as an ad-hoc committee, formed in 2004.

As defined in the YISC constitution, the purposes of the Council are:

- To coordinate invasive species management in Yukon.
- To prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Yukon.
- To inform, educate and advise the public and professionals about invasive species and their risk to ecosystems and economies through activities such as workshops, seminars, and newsletters.
- To collaborate with other jurisdictions on invasive species issues.
- To encourage, promote and support research on invasive species that will contribute to the achievement of the social and economic goals of the people of Yukon.

YISC has a broad membership with members from municipal, territorial, federal, and First Nation governments, non-profit organizations, industry, and private citizens. It is the council's intent to keep membership open and facilitate discussion between different groups and governments in Yukon and outside. This open forum promotes fulfilling YISC's mandate because successful management of invasive species (IS) requires cooperation of a variety of agencies, organizations, user groups and individuals. YISC provides a forum to discuss and carry out cooperative and innovative solutions.

Invasive species in Yukon are proportionally not as widespread or abundant as in most other North American jurisdictions. This unique position is likely a result of the limited human footprint on the landscape. This footprint is increasing and although there is an acceptance that human presence on the landscape leads to change, YISC believes this change can be managed in a way that the introduction or spread of invasive species can be limited or stopped. This would require more emphasis on early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to restrict the spread of invasive species. YISC can provide the necessary leadership, expertise, and support; a forum to engage, collaborate and enable; and action on invasive species issues to keep them from becoming problematic in Yukon.

Note:

An invasive species is defined as an organism (plant, animal, fungus, or bacterium) that is not native to an ecosystem or region and has negative effects on the economy, the environment, or ecosystem health. Not all species introduced from other places have detrimental impacts. The term "invasive" is reserved for the most aggressive species that reproduce rapidly and cause major changes to the areas where they become established.

2 Vision

Coordinated, collaborative and adaptive invasive species management across Yukon lands.

3 Mission Statement

Prevent the introduction and manage the spread of invasive species in Yukon.

3.1 Guiding Principles and Values

The YISC strategic plan is developed to:

- Improve territory-wide guidance on invasive species management;
- Complement, support and develop ongoing activities in invasive species management;
- Protect Yukon's environment and economy by minimizing the negative impacts caused by the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive species.

3.2 Purpose of the Strategic Plan

To establish a base for further development of the council by prioritizing and organizing actions for the next five years.

3.3 Challenges

YISC has identified a number of key challenges in advancing invasive species management in Yukon including a need for:

1. Territorial-wide leadership to coordinate among all levels of government, landowners and land users. This need is reflected by the fact that people in general and governments in particular tend to be reactive to problems. Planning for potential problems appears to be lacking.
3. Increased public awareness. As invasive species are not a large problem yet, there is a lack of recognition of possible impacts if not properly managed or controlled.
4. Development of legislation and guidelines regarding the introduction, spread and control of invasive species, policy, mandates, and strategies, and the coordination of actions to fulfill them.
5. A coordinated system for the early detection and rapid response of new invasive species and to monitor existing populations' impacts and spread.
6. A comprehensive territorial inventory of invasive species.
7. Coordinated research to increase knowledge and awareness about invasive species biology, ecology and management options and ecosystem restoration.

4 Goals and Objectives

The goals, objectives and actions presented in Appendix A build on earlier work completed in 2007 (Appendix B). The goals of the organization are summarized into three major categories:

1. Create and maintain a functional council
2. Prevent the introduction of invasive species
3. Manage the spread of invasive species

Under each of the major goals, the objectives and the specific actions are listed that are necessary to accomplish that goal. The prevention and management of invasive species require similar actions and this has resulted in considerable overlap.

5 Priorities

From the goals and objectives detailed in Appendix A, the council has selected five priorities. For the next five years the council recommends focusing its efforts on: (a) enhancing collaboration and coordination of invasive species work in Yukon, (b) increasing research, (c) securing funding for the council's operation and projects, (d) increasing public awareness and outreach, and (e) initiating and recommending guideline and legislative changes.

5.1 Priority 1

Enhance collaboration and coordination to strengthen invasive species work in Yukon

5.1.1 Task 1: Partnership development

Action: Establish a list of existing partnerships, identify type of relationship, and identify gaps.

Action: Actively develop new and maintain current partnerships.

Action: Present YISC to potential partners (at their meetings).

Action: Establish mutually beneficial partnerships where opportunities arise.

5.1.2 Task 2: Provide expert advice to stakeholders in invasive species management

Action: Develop and promote Best Management Practices to prevent introduction of and manage invasive species.

Action: Promote YISC recommended guidelines.

Action: Maintain information flow (e.g. through contact person, website, phone, email).

Action: Conduct and evaluate a survey to assess membership needs.

5.1.3 Task 3: Maintain active role in partnerships.

Action: Participate in regional (including Alaska, B.C., N.W.T) working groups.

Action: Participate in national working groups.

5.2 Priority 2

Increase invasive species research and monitoring in Yukon

5.2.1 Task 1: Research

Action: Identify research and data gaps.

Action: Promote coordinated research.

Action: Support invasive species research and the communication of results/information.

Action: Actively initiate research projects focused on the identified research or data gaps.

Action: Initiate assessment of future invasive species threats.

Action: Make institutions/universities aware of potential cooperation.

5.2.2 Task 2: Survey and monitor

Action: Work with key partners to identify protocols as needed.

Action: Establish survey protocols and maintain consistency in surveys.

Action: Facilitate surveys based on the needs assessment.

Action: Establish and maintain a list of invasive species in Yukon.

Action: Establish a monitoring protocol.

Action: Facilitate regular monitoring.

Action: Develop a reporting system.

5.2.3 Task 3: Data sharing

Action: Promote data sharing with one of the existing database systems.

Action: Submit data in compatible format.

Action: Develop data management and data sharing protocols.

5.3 Priority 3

Secure funding for council operation and projects

5.3.1 Task 1: Explain the importance of YISC and the need for continuity

Action: Apply for secure core funding that allows hiring a coordinator who provides continuity for the organization i.e. maintains a consistency in contact information, web page, media exposure, etc.

5.3.2 Task 2: Develop projects identified by this plan

Action: Identify appropriate projects and apply for project funding.

Action: Facilitate and support projects initiated by partners.

5.4 Priority 4

Increase awareness about the impacts of invasive species on the environment, economy, society and individuals

5.4.1 Task 1: Public awareness and outreach planning

Action: Create a communications plan.

Action: Maintain and update a website as an information exchange forum.

Action: Engage the media to relay key messages.

Action: Present at meetings/events organized by partners.

5.4.2 Task 2: Develop, maintain and distribute educational and promotional materials

Action: Maintain existing YISC publications, including Why should I care? and Invaders brochures.

Action: Tailor existing educational outreach materials to Yukon needs.

Action: Publish a newsletter regularly (3-4 times a year).

Action: Create awareness signage and place this in key public locations.

Action: Utilize other educational items as opportunities arise (e.g. fridge magnets, hats).

5.4.3 Task 3: Increase YISC and invasive species profile

Action: Attend stakeholder events to maintain rapport and increase profile.

Action: Host events such as weed pulls, seminars.

5.5 Priority 5

Initiate and recommend regulations and legislative changes

5.5.1 Task 1: Stay informed about policy and initiatives in Canada (and Alaska)

Action: Provide input in legislative development at a national level.

5.5.2 Task 2: Promote need for regulations in Yukon

Action: Establish a list of current legislation, regulation and guidelines.

Action: Identify key areas of concern and improvement needs.

Action: Provide appropriate input to key policy initiatives on invasive species.

Action: Find ways to implement invasive species control and management activities within the existing Yukon legislation.

Appendix A: Complete Listing of Major Goals, Objectives and Specific Actions

Goal	Objective	Actions	Timeline
1. Create a functional organization			
	A) Council operations		
	Strategic planning	1. Write the plan	Completed
		2. Review and evaluate the plan	Each fall
		3. Identify actions and priorities for next year	Each fall
	Clarify YISC role as advisory rather than government	1. Evaluate overlapping mandates between YISC, government and other organizations	
	Governance of the council	1. Explore board governance	Completed
		2. Establish a board	Completed
		3. Write director's handbook	Completed
	Board protection	1. Provide liability protection through insurance coverage	Completed
	B) Promote board and membership participation		
	Active board and membership	1. Hold monthly meetings	Ongoing
		2. Hold Annual General Meeting	Spring each year
	Partnership development	1. Establish a list of current partnerships	Ongoing
		2. Identify gaps	
		3. Build new partnerships to fill gaps identified in partnership list	
	Maintain membership	1. Information sharing (through staff position, website, meetings, newsletter)	
		2. Communicate and coordinate among YISC's diverse membership	
		3. Conduct web based membership needs survey/assessment	
	Volunteer participation	1. Organize events and engage member ship	
	C) Establish funding		
	Ensure funding to cover operational cost	1. Find funding sources and apply for core funding	
	Ensure funding for project development	2. Identify projects specific funding and apply.	
	D) Raise awareness about YISC		
		1. Promote Media exposure	
		2. Participate in public events	
		3. Create a generic a YISC display explaining the organization	

2. Prevent the introduction of invasive species			
	A) Education		
	Raise general awareness about IS	1. Promote media exposure	
		2. Maintain existing brochures	
		3. Modify resources from other jurisdictions to suite our needs	
		4. Maintain and update website regularly	
		5. Participate in public events	
		6. Enable the sharing of technical information, such as how to organize symposia and workshops	
		7. Develop a variety of public displays: general YISC, subject specific	
	B) Collaboration		
	Enhance coordination and collaboration	1. Identify partners	Ongoing
		2. Identify information and specialist knowledge gaps (e.g. entomology, pathology)	
		3. Develop collaboration with specialists	
		4. Develop prevention and management programs for partners in government and industry/developers	
	Keep current	1. Participate in programs with other jurisdictions (e.g. Borders North)	
	C) Survey		
	Analysis of current and future IS	1. Establish survey protocols	
		2. Develop regular survey programs	
	Inventory	1. Establish a list/establish current state of affairs	
		2. Present data in GIS format to improve data sharing	
		3. Share data with neighbouring jurisdictions (BC, Alaska, NWT)	
		4. Identify possible future threats	
		5. Establish a list of high priority species	
		6. Explore joint program development with other organizations or study types (e.g. CWS, breeding bird survey)	
	D) Monitor		
	Keep track of changes	1. Develop monitoring protocols	
		2. Develop a reporting system	
		3. Collect and report data for information sharing with surrounding jurisdictions	

	E) Research		
	Enhance understanding of IS	1. Identify research needs	
		2. Fill identified gaps in research	
	F) Legislation		
	Support IS work through promoting legislation	1. Establish list of current legislation regarding invasive species	
		2. Identify gaps and develop plans to close these	
	Promote legislation to strengthen IS prevention and management	1. Define the need for legislation	
		2. Promote and assist with the development of invasive species specific legislation	
		3. Review new legislation	
	Recommend guidelines	1. Develop BMP to prevent the introduction of invasive species	
3. Manage the spread of invasive species			
	A) EDRR		
	Coordinated approach to early detection and rapid response (EDRR)	1. Develop EDRR Plan	Draft is done
		2. Implement EDRR Task	
		3. Reevaluate EDRR Task and refocus direction if needed	
		4. Set up a reporting system	
	B) Management		
	Coordinated approach to management	1. Maintain list with invasive species infestations and prioritize	
		2. Produce a list of invasive species requiring management	
		3. Recommend management options	
		4. Initiate and organize weed pulls	
		5. Develop BMP for different users	
		6. Promote contact person	
	C) Research		
	Enhance understanding of IS	1. Identify research needs	
		2. Initiate research (e.g. changes in land use, climatic)	
	D) Survey and monitor		
	Improve knowledge of current status of IS	1. Conduct regular surveys	
		2. Establish IS database with species and location	
		3. Present data in GIS format to allow for interactive web application	
		4. Collaborate with existing data sharing program (IBC or Alaska)	
		5. Establish monitoring protocol for known invasive species infestation	

E) Education		
Increase public awareness	1. Develop Info sheets for user groups	
	2. Maintain and update website	
	3. Promote media exposure	
	4. Provide relevant content on website	
	5. Initiate interpretive signage on public trails	
	6. Initiate educational program – identify priority target audiences	
Create profile (branding)	1. Create a generic YISC display	
	2. Develop workshops, symposium	
Increase outreach	1. Partner with organizations (piggy backing on their events)	
	2. Present YISC to various partners	
	3. Develop outreach programs tailored to specific groups	
F) Collaboration		
Enhance coordination and collaboration	1. Identify partners	
	2. Identify gaps (e.g. entomology, pathology)	
	3. Develop new collaboration with specialists	
	4. Support partners in management of invasive species	
Keep current	1. Participate in programs with other jurisdictions (e.g. Borders North, National Working Group)	
G) Research		
Enhance understanding of IS	1. Identify research needs	
H) Legislation		
Support IS work through promoting legislation	1. Establish list of current legislation regarding invasive species	
	2. Identify gaps	
Recommend needed legislation	1. Identify the need for legislation	
	2. Promote and assist with the development of invasive species specific legislation	
	3. Review new legislation	
Recommend guidelines	1. Develop Best Management Practices (BMP) to manage the introduction of invasive species	

Appendix B: YISC 2007 Strategic Plan

This document was developed in 2007 by the Yukon Invasive Species Committee and forms the basis for the goals and objectives described in the 2011 strategic plan.

The goal is to prevent the introduction and manage the spread of invasive species in Yukon. YISC's objectives apply to invasive species. At the time of writing this document invasive plants were the main objective which is reflected in the list above.

Major Objective	Working objectives
Educate	<p><i>Educate, make aware, and inform the public, governments, and practitioners.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness and sense of urgency of what is happening in YT; as well as in comparison to other jurisdictions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pamphlets and information leaflets based on species, location of problem, and what is or can be done about it (readily available to the public) – Website, Posters – Portable information displays – Roadside signage and interpretive panels • Provide periodic educational updates to remind and refresh invasive species awareness and status of progress and developments. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Newspaper articles – Newsletter updates (i.e.: Ag's Infarmation Newsletter) – Radio adds and talks – PowerPoint presentations and public talks (should be specific to target groups such as government managers, environmental assessors, youths, etc...) – Other available forums • Develop and/or deliver educational programs and activities to the above-mentioned groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify target groups to cater programs to – Workshops (ex: Dave Polster) – Specialized courses – Master Gardener Course – Weed-pull Day! Weed Awareness Week! • Target land user groups with information about land ethic and stewardship principles to prevent the spread of invasive plants.
Cooperate, Coordinate, and Integrate	<p><i>Cooperation, coordinate, and integrate with other groups/stakeholders, governments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a territory-wide body to coordinate all activities relating to invasive species (<i>cf.</i> B.C. Invasive Plant Council). • Hire a Yukon Invasive Species Specialist who would be given a budget and support staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Manage and co-ordinate activities and responsibilities of the various agencies and private landowners to ensure the Yukon Invasive Species Strategy goals and objectives are being met (jointly with YISC). – Hire students to do summer survey work. • Arrange annual meetings to update all stakeholders on the status of invasive plants in Yukon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Arrange regional meetings on a more frequent basis (<i>eg.</i> 4 x annually) to keep stakeholders informed of recent findings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruit community members/agencies (satellite YISC members). - Meeting with bordering jurisdictions (eg: Southern Lakes and North BC). - Teleconferencing, online forums, AGMs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult with wildlife officials (Biologist, CO's, FN, other agencies) to develop an inventory of invasive animal species and/or those of concern.
Plan	<p><i>Provide recommendations and review legislation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a comprehensive invasive plant strategy for the Yukon, following the examples of neighbouring jurisdictions (eg. AK, BC) • Encourage the Yukon Government to enact Invasive Species Legislation that covers not only 'noxious' invasive species, but all invasive species (note: other jurisdictions have 'Noxious weed legislation' that they are finding inadequate to deal with the bigger problem). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage government to provide base-funding for this committee. • Promote Federal Legislation and other levels of government including municipal bylaws and First Nations that prevents introduction of new invasive species into Canada and/or provinces and territories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote voluntary compliance with legislation regarding introduction, spread and control of invasive plants • Establish Best Management Practices/Guidelines and recommendations for use by all Yukoners, and promote voluntary implementation while the legislation is not in place. • Target land user groups with information about land ethic principles to prevent the spread of invasive plants.
Inventory	<p><i>Survey, inventory invasive species, create comprehensive lists, build capacity to do this work</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain a shared inventory of all invasive species present in the Yukon (including aquatic plants). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult with wildlife and habitat specialists to develop an inventory of invasive animal species. - Categorize the invasive plants according to their aggressiveness and ability to dominate disturbed and undisturbed habitats. - Update the inventory annually. - Ensure that the inventory is maintained, stored safely and is accessible. • Develop maps of the locations of invasive plant sites that are available to everyone and are updated regularly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritize the sites (for treatment). • Conduct regular surveys of the Yukon for existing and new invasive plant sites (coordinate system for early detection and eradication of new species). • Establish 'alert' programs around high-risk areas for the establishment of new invasive species • Publish the inventory and maps on the website • Encourage the public to report invasive plant sightings.
Coordinate control efforts	<p><i>Promote, prevent and manage the spread of invasive species</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent the establishment of invasive plants not currently in Yukon and prevent or minimize the spread of invasive plants already present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop methods to reduce /minimize the importation of weed filled feed for livestock.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop methods to reduce/minimize importation of seed (agricultural and horticultural) containing invasive species. - Develop advisories to control access to the back country (eg. vehicular traffic, including, all terrain vehicles and cyclists, livestock grazing etc. all potentially transport seeds). - Develop guidelines to reduce or prevent importation and sale of horticultural species known to readily escape and become invasive • Prioritize existing invasive species and sites for treatment/control by focusing on invasive species that will have the biggest environmental and socio-economic impacts in YT. • Promote the minimization soil disturbance during land use activities both front and back country and maintain healthy ecosystems (most invasive species prefer disturbed soils; healthy ecosystems are more resilient). • Promote an ecosystem-management approach • Identify, promote and coordinated research and awareness about invasive plant biology, ecology and management options and ecosystem restoration. • Increase management of invasive plant species in YT.
Restore	<p><i>Manage invasive species, prevent spreading, maintain/restore ecological integrity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt and develop integrated management with ecosystem approaches. • Reduce or minimize damage to ecosystems • Develop methods or BMPs to restore and rehabilitate disturbed/damaged sites or ecosystems to their natural state as soon as possible OR seed with temporary cover to prevent invasion by undesirable invasive species. • Identify and promote coordinated research and awareness about invasive plant biology, ecology and management options and ecosystem restoration. • Target land user groups with information about land ethic and stewardship principles to prevent the spread of invasive plants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Educate back country users (resources extractors, recreationists etc.) on their roles. - Where machinery is transported into the back country (e.g. mining) or hay for horses, make sure that it is clean. • Promote appropriate reclamation techniques specific to sites and/or projects reclaimed and clarify considerations to be taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natural revegetation vs. seeding. - Indigenous flora vs. agronomic varieties.
Research	<p><i>Understand invasive species</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess problems that various invasive plants present to the environment and economy of the Yukon. • Develop risk assessment (ex: NWT) and determine funding criteria for related projects (Federal strategies on managing invasive species) • Identify, promote and coordinated research and awareness about invasive plant biology, ecology and management options and ecosystem restoration. • Investigate the feasibility of various methods of control of invasive plants (hand pulling, mowing, herbicide application, release of biocontrol agents) and assign suitable method to prioritized sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decisions on which control method to use will be based on amount of existing or potential damage, cost of control method, and environmental impact of both the invasive plant and the control method employed. - Promote integrative management. - Evaluate the effects of the control decisions made.

Appendix C : Strategic Planning Session October 19, 2010

This is a summary of a YISC board meeting held on October 19, 2010. During this meeting the board discussed the importance of controlling and managing invasive species in general, and what needs to be done in Yukon.

Attendees: Toos Omtzigt, Bruce Bennett, Lloyd Freese, Matt Ball, Kirstie Simpson, Nathan Millar, Andrea Altherr (coordinator).

Preparation for the meeting:

These questions should help us determine in a logical way how we want to shape YISC as an organization and what projects we might pursue.

1. Why do invasive species matter in general and to you?
2. Why should we care about invasive species in Yukon? What makes the problem unique here? Or, is there a problem here?
3. What do you see as the most important way to deal with the issue in Yukon?
4. What does YISC mean to you? Why are you on the board?
5. What should YISC be focusing on now and in the near future (1-5 years)? Focus on large picture pursuits, the details will come later.
6. What kind of organization do you see (size, importance, etc.)? Put it in the perspective of the importance to the Yukon.
7. What would it take to create the organization you would like to see?
8. What would it take to pursue these large-picture goals?
9. Are there any species we need to focus on? Why? What should be done?
10. Who is going to get the funds?
11. Who is doing the work, where/who is our volunteer base?

1. Why do invasive species matter in general and to you?

Economic loss in Agriculture

Cost to society (affecting taxpayer)

Environmental consequences

- Damage
- Biodiversity loss
- Aesthetics
- Pristine

Maintain ecosystem. Status quo = no change

Eradicate, turn the wheel of time back!

IS lead to other effects (ex. wildlife attractants).

Yukon's unique position can be seen as an economic advantage as well. We still have hay fields without weeds.

Accept the changing environment, although we have said we want to maintain status-quo.

Appreciation for our environment

There is an acceptance that our presence on the landscape leads to change, but that with some efforts, we can work to reduce the impacts on the environment.

2. Why should we care about invasive species in the Yukon? What makes the problem unique here? Or, is there a problem here?

Yukon has a minimal impact from IS

Advantages: Yukon can take preventative role.

Learn from IS experiences elsewhere.

Will Yukon stay this way?

IS are a problem when they start to spread into natural environment. Examples:

Sweetclover, ox-eye daisy, Altai wild rye

Our expectation: IS will increase, the problem will likely become bigger.

Reasons: The history shows, no IS are found on the North Slope except for places that have been reseeded. Roadsides are a good indicator for the spread of IS. There are examples of IS that have spread significant along roadsides in the last 15 years (example sweetclover)

Problem: YG is not proactive. Management is lacking (acting after the fact)

Agriculture: Main species of concern: *Hawksbeard (Crepis tectorum)* invasive, Shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursapastoris*) if left unchecked, basal leaves cover ground and push other plants out.

Foxtail barley (*Hordeum jubatum*) harmful for wildlife can cause infections, however this is a native species acting like an invasive!

These species just mentioned could be kept under control fairly easily through land management effort.

Birds and Fish: The problem species are known, they do not pose a big threat, and effects are not fully studied yet.

We do not know much about other potential threats such as insects or diseases. Yukon is lacking specialists working in these fields.

3. What do you see as the most important way to deal with the issue in the Yukon?

Key issues:

Make the distinction between

- Manageable
- Un-manageable threat

Prevention

Lack of knowledge

Lack of process: Network of scientists (YISC has a small network!)

Lack of distribution knowledge: detection, reporting

Lack of baseline data - we need to know the range/spread of the species

Lack of public awareness and knowledge

Identifying threats and pathways

Cooperatively working together (we are missing a few key partners) Hawaii can serve as a model

Regulations (targeted audience) Selling points are needed (example Didymo, Alaska, sweet clover mowing)

4. What does YISC mean to you? Why are you on the board?

Now that we are a non-profit, we can access funding for IS management
Better linkage with other organizations, network
A council is a model that works elsewhere too
Better linkage with national IS groups
(Aquatics are organized on their own)

5. What should YISC be focusing on now and in the near future (1-5 years)?

Define the role of the government vs the role of YISC

Don't be like government!

This means:

- Identify the threat
 - Deal with apathy
 - Jumpstart action from government
- Engage different sections of government on specific issues

Identify areas where YISC can take over responsibilities from government

To think about in future:

Should we request representatives of government/parks etc.?

6. What kind of organization do you see for YISC

Advisory council vs coordination role (is advisory mandate of government?)

Not so much focus on "dirty work" on the ground – we only have a few people actively involved in the council

We do not need a big volunteer base, it works to partner with other organizations and to draw on their volunteers and members

Stay broad for our membership.

Our strength is networking

We want to engaged other groups and the government to work together on issues

Our role as an organization we need to combine:

- Advisory / coordination role
- Network
- Generate interest

YISC is in the position to funnel the issues when they come up and to bring them forward.

YISC needs a presence so the issue and the organization stay in people's minds. Education (not in the meaning of developing school curriculum).

7. What would it take to create the organization you would like to see?

Coordinator position to provide some stability for organization

Linkage with other groups

Maintain knowledge base with experts

Network gaps: ex Forestry, Entomologist

Official recognition has to be built up; we need the support of key people (network gaps)

Branding

Capacity issue: Focus on key issues

Funding: Without core funding we will have to take on small projects to cover administrative costs.

Main goals:

Monitoring

Guidance (for industry) ex reclamation guidelines

Education

The planning session stopped here and was continued on November 9, 2010.