

# Managing the Spread of Invasive Species

## Yukon Invasive Species Council

### Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species

#### What are invasive species?

An invasive species is not native to a particular ecosystem and has the potential to pose negative impacts on humans, animals, ecosystems or the economy.

#### Ecological impacts of invasive species

- ⇒ Spread and establish quickly in new areas.
- ⇒ Cause biodiversity loss and change in ecosystem processes.
- ⇒ Alter wildlife habitat, accelerate soil erosion and stream sedimentation.
- ⇒ Reduce productivity and compete with and replace native vegetation, including rare and endangered species.

#### Economical consequences

Invasive plants can increase the cost of closing down an industrial site or be costly to manage when road sides or right-of-ways are affected.

#### How they spread

Invasive species can be introduced in soil, as seed-mixes, as erosion control mixes, or in plant products.

Once introduced, species can spread further from one region to another. Seeds and viable plant parts can be distributed on equipment, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, boats and in bilge waters.

This can especially become a problem as areas formerly not exposed to human activities become exposed to resource extraction and development.

## Recommended Practices

- ⇒ Learn to recognize invasive species and report any occurrences to land managers as soon as possible.
- ⇒ Minimize disturbance of the natural vegetation and exposure of mineral soils as much as possible.
- ⇒ Avoid unnecessary compaction of soils.
- ⇒ Avoid disturbing weed infested soil from road sides or remove and contain the soil to avoid spreading the weed seeds.
- ⇒ Clean equipment thoroughly before moving to a new site, particularly high seed and soil catchment areas like tracks, wheel wells, mulching blades etc.
- ⇒ Use native species (or consider using natural succession) to reclaim your site.
- ⇒ Have your seed mix tested for weed content and don't use the seed if there are invasive plants present in the mix.
- ⇒ If clearing or mowing, cut weed-infested crops prior to seed formation.
- ⇒ Ask for guidelines for collection and disposal of invasive plant material.
- ⇒ Talk to knowledgeable local experts.

**Report** invasive species findings with GPS-coordinates or exact location to: [info@yukoninvasives.com](mailto:info@yukoninvasives.com)

#### For more information contact:

**Yukon Invasive Species Council**

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