



Invasive Species Interdepartmental Working Group (ISIWG)- Update



Invasive Species Management in YT

- ▶ Formation of informal working group on invasive species in 2004 (involved YG technical personnel)
 - ▶ Yukon Invasive Species Council formed 2006 – a registered non-profit society
 - ▶ ISIWG formed in January 2012, in response to a YISC request for core funding from YG
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- ▶ **Invasive Species Interdepartmental Working Group (ISIWG)**

ISWIG: Membership

- ▶ Program representatives from Yukon government departments whose regular programs and mandates can be affected by or contribute to invasive species;
- ▶ Membership includes the following departments:
 - ▶ Energy Mines and Resources: Corporate Policy & Planning, Forest Management, Mining Lands, and Agriculture Branches
 - ▶ Environment: Policy, Planning and Aboriginal Relations Branch, Animal Health Unit, and Fish & Wildlife Branch
 - ▶ Highways and Public Works: Transportation Engineering Branch, Transportation Maintenance Branch
 - ▶ Executive Council Office: Office of the Science Advisor (the Science Advisor would participate on the ISIWG in an advisory role)
- ▶ The ISIWG has a rotating chair (HPW, EMR, ENV), as there is no single lead department.

Terms of Reference (TOR) - 2013

- ▶ Issue: Invasive species are a growing issue. Yukon government has recognized that invasive species are a problem and that there is a role to play in invasive species management.
- ▶ ISIWG Mandate: to fill the need for interdepartmental and external cooperation and communication, and ensure that gaps and overlaps are addressed in response to invasive species challenges.

- ▶ Broad Definition of Invasive Species

A species of plant, animal, aquatic life or micro-organism that is not native (to Yukon/an ecosystem) and whose introduction or spread is likely to have net negative effects on our society, our economy, our environment, or our health.

- ▶ TOR Included a list of potential projects to be considered for an annual workplan:
 - ▶ information/knowledge exchange and collaboration;
 - ▶ Assess and coordinate resources allocated for invasive species work;
 - ▶ Determine how to track invasive species;
 - ▶ Assess regulatory requirements;
 - ▶ Conduct a preliminary risk assessment (including potential economic, environmental and social impacts) and report on results;
 - ▶ Make recommendations to management regarding priorities and programs based upon risk assessment results;

Responsibility of Members

- ▶ Attend the meetings, or if a member is sending an alternate;
- ▶ Review and finalize the terms of reference on behalf of their department (Note: Sign-off will be by the ADMs for divisions represented);
- ▶ Provide information on legislation, regulation, policy and mandates as it pertains to the member's department; (identify regulatory and policy gaps)
- ▶ Provide knowledge and expertise in areas and programs relevant to the member's department;
- ▶ Provide advice on issues, interests, and options leading to the final recommendations report;
- ▶ Review key products developed/commissioned by the ISIWG and provide timely feedback;
- ▶ Seek the advice of their department's senior management or domain experts as required so that the member can accurately reflect departmental perspectives;
- ▶ Keep their respective departments up-to-date on the ISIWG activities as appropriate.

Responsibility of Chair- Rotating

- Call meetings as required (monthly at first, quarterly on an ongoing basis), or at the request of ISIWG members or delegates;
- Prepare and circulate agendas and minutes, monitor and track action items, and establish a set of records;
- Keep the ADMs apprised of the status and progress of the ISIWG on a regular basis;
- Provide ISIWG members the opportunity to review and comment on related draft material;
- Ensure that the departmental mandates and interests of the membership are acknowledged and represented in the process, and in the final recommendations paper where appropriate;
- Resolve conflicts or disagreements within ISIWG membership as they arise;
- Coordinate the development and review of any recommendations to management;
- Represent YG corporate perspectives as *ex-officio* delegate at YISC Meetings.




Strategy Planning Workshop - 2014

- Gain more clarity on the roles and overall goals of both ISIWG and YISC
- YISC in attendants to better define the roles separating each group
- Develop objectives and actions for ISIWG – both short term and long term workplan
- Help reposition YISC's strategic plan in lieu of ISIWG's developing role in IS management
- The strategic planning session was used to update Terms of Reference



ISIWG Role: outcome of strategic planning session

- Provide interdepartmental cooperation of IS management
 - Review and compile information on invasive species
 - Conduct risk assessment and implement risk-based management
 - Determine and address regulatory gaps
 - Clarify the policy and decision-making process in determining response to new invasive species
 - Coordinate containment decisions
 - Develop a rapid response management process across multiple stakeholder groups and land tenure types based on a risk management framework
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ADM Support 2014/15

- ▶ ISIWG chair and representative met with ADM's and presented an updated TOR, a workplan, and a list of "Top 12" Yukon Invasive Species (endorsed by YISC and ISIWG)
 - ▶ The "top 12" are species intended to be reported, tracked, and, where possible, removed from the Yukon landscape. As well, where relevant, these species are identified in order to discourage the use of them for horticultural, landscaping and reclamation purposes.
- ▶ ADM Endorsement of the following:
 - ▶ On-going roles exist for both ISIWG and YISC
 - ▶ ISIWG Terms of Reference
 - ▶ ISIWG Work Plan
 - ▶ Top 12 Invasive Species List
- ▶ Support for \$5,000 funding from each department per annum towards ISIWG/YISC IS work.

ISIWG Workplan

▶ Completed Actions

- ▶ IS Roles and Responsibility
- ▶ Summary of legislative environment
- ▶ Terms of Reference, with a definition of IS
- ▶ Established a “Top 12” invasive species list
- ▶ Strategic planning exercise with YISC

▶ Current Actions

- ▶ Ranking Form - Develop process for establishing an invasive species list – based on Alaska's form
- ▶ Risk Assessment Matrix – In process of developing to allow us to conduct risk assessments and implement risk-based management

Next:

- ▶ Establish an Invasive species list

Departments

HPW

- Mowing Program (TMB) – Timing to cut prior to Sweet Clover going to seed
- Seeding/ Fertilizing (TEB) - Seeding to prevent sweet clover from moving
- Dormant Seeding -Airport
- BMP for Contractors, (washing vehicles prior to moving into different regions, parking away from sweet clover)
- Weed Pulls – Y2C2 / YISC

HPW/EMR/ENV

- Interdepartmental information sharing - Seed certificates –review for invasive
- Heather Mulligan (Environment)
- Bruce Bennett (Environment)
- Randy Lamb (EMR)

Funding- YESAA Implementation Fund (YIF)

- ▶ YISC - Funding – YIF – Invasive Species Survey of Yukon – Repeat of 2007 Survey- HPW Program Manager - \$32,000
 - ▶ Map – status of IS in Yukon
 - ▶ Provided to YESAA to help inform the process on areas of concern and that require mitigations to help stop the spread of IS.
- ▶ YISC - Funding – YIF – Invasive Species & ... Environment Program Manager – \$10,000
 - ▶ Jurisdictional review of IS management in other areas
 - ▶ Update “why should I care” ?