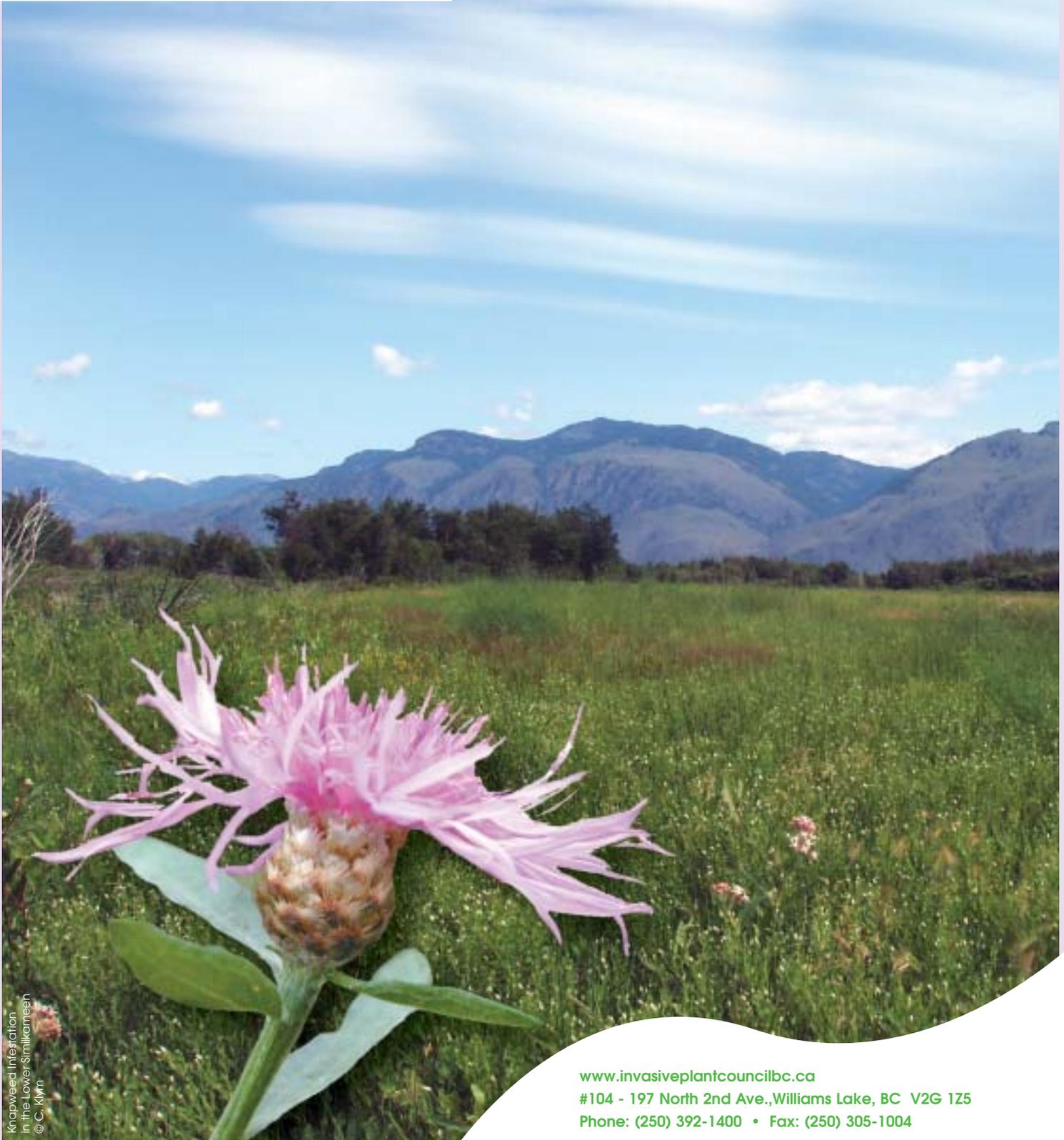




Annual Report *2007*



Knapweed infestation
in the Lower Similkameen
© C. Klym

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The purposes of the Council are:

1) To educate the public and professionals about invasive plants and their risk to ecosystems and economies through activities such as workshops, seminars and newsletters.

2) To fund research relating to invasive plants and make this available to the public.



Purple Loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria

See page 9 for information on the latest bio-control research.

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Background

Through province-wide cooperation and coordination, the IPCBC is working to minimize the negative ecological, social, and economic impacts caused by the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive plants.

The IPCBC is a registered society and charity whose members are involved in all aspects of invasive plant management. Members include technical specialists working for government and industry, weed committee coordinators, First Nations representatives, foresters, forest technologists, biologists, ranchers, horticulturists, recreationists, gardeners, and other concerned individuals. Membership is open to everyone willing to work collaboratively with others.

The Council's Board of Directors and five committees are working to:

- Increase public awareness of invasive plants;
- Secure long-term, stable funding for invasive plant management and the work of local committees;
- Review current legislation on invasive species to find areas needing attention;
- Build linkages among current invasive plant inventories and databases; and
- Identify and promote coordinated research on invasive plant management.

Recognition of Funders for Key 2007 Projects

The IPCBC wishes to acknowledge the financial assistance of Dow AgroSciences, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, BC Ministry of Transportation, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, BC Ministry of Environment, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, City of Victoria, Canadian Forest Service, Environment Canada (Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program), Gibraltar Mines, Real Estate Foundation, Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, Vancouver Foundation, Fraser Basin Council, and many individuals.



Message from the Chair



Duncan Barnett

Entering our fifth year, we have come a long way in raising public awareness about the negative impacts of invasive plants, and increasing acceptance of invasive plants as a legitimate issue for society as a whole. This year saw the Council taking a lead role on the provincial, national, and international stage working towards increased collaboration and communication. These advancements are particularly important given current concerns about biodiversity and climate change.

Across BC, a growing number of invasive plant committees are developing partnerships, enabling joint communication and awareness projects, and coordinating on-the-ground treatments. Federal and provincial government, local governments, industry, First Nations, horticulturists, gardeners, ranchers, and utility companies are just some of the many groups working together to make a difference at the local level. These collaborations have already resulted in a more coordinated and effective approach to invasive plant management in BC.

The Council was invited to join several national initiatives to share our experience as a foundation for strengthening linkages within provinces, across Western Canada, within the Pacific Northwest, and amongst the provinces of Atlantic Canada. On the world stage, the Council's inclusive approach was highlighted at the *9th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions in Perth, Western Australia*. There is no doubt that our work is being recognized at all levels.

As Chair, I am focused on establishing a province-wide invasive plant program that is coordinated and comprehensive, effective and efficient, successful and sustainable. I believe that there are two fundamental elements necessary to support such a program:

1. Long-term funding, which is stable and secure, for all land tenures.
2. Regulatory mechanisms that encourage voluntary compliance, with a backstop of consistent enforcement.

Thank you to the Board of Directors, committee members, Council staff, and contractors for their excellent work as well as to contributors and volunteers who have helped the IPCBC reach its goals. Special thanks go to Gail Wallin, Executive Director, who has helped to significantly advance the Council since its inception, and to Leslie MacDonald with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands for her perseverance in improving understanding and building partnerships both with government and across many other agencies, including the Invasive Plant Council. Additional thanks to Jodi Romyn for her tireless dedication and management to ensuring completion of many of our challenging projects.

Duncan Barnett
Chair, Invasive Plant Council of BC

Message from the Executive Director



Gail Wallin

As 2007 comes to a close, it is a time to look back at the paths taken and the opportunities ahead. There is no doubt that the awareness of and momentum for invasive plant management will continue to steadily increase. Over the past year, the Council received more invitations to speak, provided more interviews to media, and developed more resources than ever before. From national radio to provincial television and local newspapers, continual requests were received to explain the impact of invasive plants and what

people can do about them. In fact, in the *Vancouver Sun*, the August article on invasive plants received acknowledgement as the 'Best Reader's Response' in 2007. Thanks to all the writers, researchers, and practitioners for your solid advice and direction for the diverse outreach in 2007!

While we might wonder what triggered this increased demand for information, the time is right to improve understanding across BC. Thanks both to climate change and Mountain Pine Beetle (and other forest health pests), there is a clear potential for invasive plants to exponentially spread across the province. The warmer winters forecast for BC will enable plants from the south to find new habitats further north. Couple this with more disturbed ecosystems due to the growing level of forest pests and increased land-base activities and conditions are ripe for further invasive plant infestations. There is no doubt that working together to stop the introduction of new invasives (either intentionally or accidentally) is the most cost effective and practical approach to undertake. As a result, the Council will continue to encourage that preventative actions are taken to stop unnecessary introductions into the province, and that these actions are accompanied by a coordinated and collaborative response to high-risk plants that cross our borders.

In these first years, our goal was to increase awareness across the province, support local weed committees and their key priorities, and help improve management activities on the ground. Especially over the past year, the Council has worked in many partnerships to deliver on each of these priorities. Local weed committees now service almost the entire province, and Coordinators have met to discuss key shared issues, especially communications. The Council has now launched a publication series on species-specific and activity-based invasive plant management, T.I.P.S., and is developing on the ground training programs.

Next year, the Council aims to further expand understanding of invasive plant issues, help ensure an effective listing of invasive species, and facilitate processes for more diversified funding for invasive plant management across all tenures and groups. Once again, timely investment can be clearly shown to decrease funding needs in the future and increase effectiveness on the ground today.

Gail Wallin
Executive Director, Invasive Plant Council of BC

Special Highlights of 2007

From supporting community weed pulls to providing practical field management information to forest resource managers, it has certainly been a busy year for the IPCBC and we couldn't have done it without your support and collaboration!

THANK YOU
to all of our members,
contributors, and
supporters!

Included in this year's Annual Report is a synopsis of Council activities and accomplishments in 2007 as well as proposed priorities for 2008. We also encourage you to get to know our dedicated Board of Directors by perusing the Director Profiles provided at the back of this report.

3rd Annual Forum and Annual General Meeting – Aliens Beware!



"Aliens Beware!" was the theme of the IPCBC's 3rd annual forum, held in Richmond on January 23rd and 24th, 2007. A total of 109 people attended and the feedback on the forum was very positive. Participants attended sessions on best management practices, bio-control, and responsible gardening; learned about operational projects and success stories; contributed ideas to the Council's priorities for 2007 and beyond; and viewed a 10-minute video on the IPCBC to be used for promotional and educational purposes. The forum also included the IPCBC's 2007 annual general meeting, which included approval of the Council's Board of Directors for 2007 and revision of the Constitution.

A special forum on **responsible gardening** was held to reflect the growing desire by nurseries and gardeners to work to a shared goal with local weed committees. Speakers provided their perspectives on making invasive plant management a priority for the horticulture industry at national, provincial, and local levels. They stressed the importance of voluntary measures by citizens and businesses to reduce invasive plants, and the role of the media in increasing public awareness. Building joint solutions was seen as vital to stopping the introduction of new invasive plants to BC.

The second set of concurrent presentations addressed **bio-control** programs of the federal and provincial government and research projects

The Honourable Iona Campagnolo with IPCBC staff team



The Lieutenant Governor of BC, **The Honourable Iona Campagnolo**, welcomed participants to the 3rd annual forum and provided many examples of the impacts of invasive plants on BC's environment and economy, explaining that much change is required in all aspects of our society to minimize their establishment and spread. Her Honour stressed that we need to look to the knowledge among First Nations about native plants that are more suitable to our landscapes than invasive species. Climate change may be shaping new ecosystems for us, and we must watch for outbreaks of invasive plants, particularly after the mountain pine beetle outbreak in the Interior. The Lieutenant Governor believes that the IPCBC and its impressive Board of Directors has everything required to influence change.



Special Highlights of 2007

at universities. Bio-control agents are ideal for such research because they can be tightly controlled. Speakers discussed the importance of working interactively with other researchers at all levels, including international, and the need for committed, long-term funding and capacity for bio-control.

Speakers on **best management practices** addressed three key invasive plant species: **hawkweeds**, **giant hogweed**, and **oxeye daisy**. They covered each plant's background, introduction to North America, characteristics, preferred habitat, and impacts in BC. Specific regimes for control were also provided, along with, where available, a useful website on best management practices.

More information on the presentations and video highlights can be found by visiting the IPCBC website at www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca.

The Council Goes National ... and International!

The IPCBC was a guest speaker at the **9th International Conference on the Ecology and Management of Alien Plant Invasions** (EMAPI9) in Perth, Western Australia, where the Council highlighted the collaborative approach used in BC at the local and province-wide level. There was strong interest in our BC model which is built on collaboration and is inclusive of government. An Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) workshop held at the conference provided the Council with the opportunity to share expertise in the development of BC's EDRR framework.



The Council provided input into the **Crown of the Continent Ecosystem (CCE) Invasive Plant Field Guide Project** where the team is collaboratively developing information and a guidebook for the CCE region. The team includes representatives from Montana, Alberta, and BC.

IPCBC joined the **Weeds Across Borders 2008 conference** planning team and provided input for designing the international conference being held in Banff, Alberta from May 27th to 30th, 2008. The team includes representatives from Montana, Washington, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, and BC.

Brandon University's Rural Development Institute (Manitoba) is leading an initiative to strengthen linkages between invasive plant managers in **Western Canada**. IPCBC has joined this team with representatives' from BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

The Invasive Plant Council thanks the following for sponsoring the Aliens Beware! forum and AGM: Fraser Basin Council, Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, Dow AgroSciences, Taseko Mines Ltd., the Provincial Government of British Columbia, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Environment Canada (Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program), and the Canadian Forest Service.

The Council was also invited as a guest speaker to **Ontario** and to **Atlantic Canada** to provide guidance and thoughts on how to build provincial collaboration across and within provinces. Due to this interest and recent growth of provincial councils, representatives have been invited to attend the 2008 Annual forum to discuss improved networking across the country.

Invasive Plants and Horticulture

The Council worked collaboratively with the **BC Landscape and Nursery Association (BCLNA)** to ensure inclusion of invasive plants in the **BC Landscape and Nursery Standards**. An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) section was drafted for the Standard's Glossary in partnership with the Institute for

Special Highlights of 2007

Community Weed Pull Pilot Project



The Council partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands to coordinate a pilot expansion of the Community Weed Pull program to four additional regions of BC: Central Kootenay, Cariboo, Northeast, and Northwest. The Council developed

materials and templates for use by pilot regions and coordinated recommendations for program improvement in 2008. The Council will continue to be involved with further expansion of the program in 2008.



Sustainable Horticulture. In addition, IPCBC presented at a **BCLNA invasive plant workshop**, held in November as part of their annual training program. IPCBC and Kwantlen School of Horticulture partnered to provide invasive plant content to an IPM Module for the BCLNA.

Minimizing the Impacts of Invasive Plants in Horticulture (IPC Report #4)

is a reference document intended to provide further information for those interested in current initiatives addressing invasive plant invasions through horticultural pathways. The report provides a wealth of information and references, and is available for download from the Council's website.



The Council recently secured funding to host a **joint planning forum** with representatives from the **horticulture industry** to determine next steps for the development of voluntary codes of conduct for BC, or alternative joint actions to minimize the spread of invasive plants. Stay tuned for more information in 2008!

2007 Board Meeting and Field Tour

The IPCBC Board of Directors held their June Board meeting and field tour in the Cariboo. The Field Tour began in Williams Lake and provided directors with the opportunity to observe and discuss:

- Invasive plant management on reserve lands;
- Recreation areas as invasive plant establishment and dispersal sites;
- Orange hawkweed management and related concerns;
- Forestry research and harvesting operations; and
- The dispersal of invasive plants and their seeds in transported soil.

The Council would like to express its thanks to the **Williams Lake Indian Band**, **UBC/Alex Fraser Research Forest**, and **Phil Augustine Ranch** for participating in our educational tour. A special thanks to **Dave Ralph**, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, for organizing such an informative tour!



Committee Reports

Communications and Awareness Committee

The objectives of the Communications and Awareness Committee are to implement a strong provincial-level invasive plant awareness program with the necessary resources for both external and internal communication, such as newsletters, the Council's website, and a range of print materials.

Accomplishments in 2007

Collaborations across North America! The IPCBC participated in a number of events in 2007 including:

- Terrestrial Plant Working Group (national meeting);
- Carpet Burweed Forum (Victoria);
- Pacific Agriculture Show (Abbotsford);
- National Landscape Awards (Vancouver);
- Western Canada Turf Association (speaker, Victoria);
- National Invasive Plant Framework regional meeting (Vancouver);
- Ontario Department of Natural Resources workshop (speaker, Guelph);
- BC Society of Landscape Architects AGM and Trade Show (Richmond);
- Northwest Invasive Plant Council AGM (Prince George);
- Coastal Invasive Plant Council Filling the Gaps workshop (speaker, Victoria);
- Provincial Plant Health Emergency Response Plan planning meeting (Richmond);
- Atlantic Canada meetings (speaker, Nova Scotia); and
- Western Canada Turf Association - Training Workshop (Quesnel).

Held in May, the IPCBC **Communications Workshop** provided a forum to discuss shared communications priorities for the IPCBC and regional invasive plant committees. The workshop featured three excellent speakers who discussed approaches to landowner communication, options to increase youth awareness, and current initiatives in the United States. The workshop's final speaker delivered an engaging half-day session on social marketing and invasive plants. An

Media Coverage

One of the goals of the IPCBC is to promote **media coverage** of invasive plants to increase public awareness and the summer of 2007 was certainly a success! Invasive plants found their way onto the radio and the news as well as various newspapers locally, provincially, and nationally.

- **CTV Channel 9** covered carpet burweed and the IPCBC on June 26.
- **CHTV** covered invasive plants again on July 24. The Curator of Botany at the Royal BC Museum, Kendrick Marr, talked about several species, including Scotch thistle, poison hemlock, and Daphne.
- **The Province** newspaper carried an article ("BC's War on Extinction") on August 5 covering the impact of invasive species on endangered species. Gail Wallin, the IPCBC Executive Director, described giant hogweed as an example of an "ornamental gone wild". In the **Vancouver Sun**, the similar article received the recognition of "Best Readers Response" in 2007!
- **The Globe and Mail's** gardening columnist, Marjory Harris, presented the perils of goutweed and Himalayan balsam on August 10th in an article entitled "Tough love for toxic beauties." The article ended with the following quote: "Only constant vigilance will help us get rid of (these species)".
- **The Victoria Times-Colonist** ran an article on August 11th entitled "Space Invaders" that described how gardeners can reduce the introduction and spread of invasive plants, based on background information provided by the IPCBC.
- **CBC Radio (Victoria)** invited the IPCBC for an interview on August 9th.
- On **CBC Radio**, the national program **Sounds Like Canada** featured regular coverage on weeds for two weeks from August 13th to 24th. Gail Wallin was one of three invasive plant specialists interviewed about the impacts of invasive plants to Canadians and debated the seven worst weeds in Canada. Invasive plants certainly created debate!

Committee Reports

evening workshop covered how best to host, promote, and deliver community weed pulls through a pilot project. The workshop was preceded by a regional committee coordinator meeting, which enabled sharing of information, project updates, and discussion of joint ventures. All aspects of the workshop were very successful.

The Council has undertaken the development of a provincial **Communications Plan** for invasive plants that will identify key target audiences and future communications and awareness actions.

IPCBC has developed informational displays to increase the awareness of **nursery retailers, gardeners, and recreationists** about their role in reducing the spread of invasive plants. Our goal is to make the display information available to interested partners across British Columbia.

Revisions to the Council's **website** have begun! The intent is to expand and update the website to include more information on the activities of the Council, as well as more information on invasive plant management. The framework is currently under re-construction and will have a refreshed look by early 2008.

Four **IPCBC Newsletters** were produced and are available for download from the Council's website. In addition, bi-monthly updates on Council activities were electronically distributed to the IPCBC mailing list. Make sure you are on the distribution list!

In partnership with regional weed committees, **carabineers with invasive plant identification cards** were produced and distributed across the province.



Proposed Priorities for 2008

- Build on 2007's unprecedented media attention to help further increase public awareness and ultimately help the IPCBC and its members reach their objectives;
- Complete the provincial Communications Plan for invasive plants and develop a priority Action Plan for 2008;
- Expand and update the IPCBC's website, including revisions to IP-InfoSource;
- Continue to participate in relevant workshops and trade shows to educate about the Council and invasive plants in BC; and
- Facilitate regular communications between the Council and regional invasive plant committees across BC.

Regulation, Compliance, and Enforcement Committee

The Regulation, Compliance, and Enforcement Committee was formed to address two of the key actions outlined in the Invasive Plant Strategy for British Columbia: to aim for improved compliance with existing policy and to recommend legislative and regulatory changes where compliance has been unsuccessful.

Accomplishments in 2007

A Legislative Guidebook to Invasive Plant Management (IPC Report #3)

provides an in depth overview of the current legislative framework governing invasive plant management in BC, including a description of agency jurisdiction and land tenure. The Guidebook and associated user-specific



Committee Reports

Guidebook Modules (to be developed in 2008) are intended to:

- Clarify the existing legislative framework governing invasive plant management in BC;
- Illustrate the issue of land tenure and agency jurisdiction in BC;
- Provide the tools necessary to understand and voluntarily comply with the existing legislative framework, thereby improving compliance; and
- Empower land managers to undertake informed invasive plant management.

Achievement of the above objectives will improve education of land managers and increase the coordination of invasive plant management in BC. Further, a voluntary increase in compliance, created as a result of clarification of the existing legislative framework, could potentially reduce the need for enforcement activities throughout BC.

The Guidebook and **IPCBC Legislation Compendium**, which was completed in 2006, are available for download from the Council's website.

Proposed Priorities for 2008

- Initiate the development of user-specific Guidebook Modules to accompany the more generic Legislative Guidebook. The first Module scheduled for development is the Local Government Module, which will be followed by Modules for First Nations and Invasive Plant Coordinators and Contractors.
- Review the IPCBC Legislation Compendium to maintain accuracy of information.

The IPCBC Legislation Compendium lists over **14** international, **19** federal, **21** provincial, and **31** local government laws, regulations, and policies that influence invasive plant management in BC, Canada, and beyond.

Technical and Operational Support Committee

Although the IPCBC is not directly involved in on-the-ground management, there are valuable resources and information needed to enable effective and efficient treatments and management. The Technical and Operational Support Committee aims to support the work of tenure holders, contractors, local weed committees, and others by providing useful field-based resources and information. Through the work of this committee, the Council supports the development of a shared approach to inventory, monitoring, and listing of invasive plants. Since weeds know no boundaries, it is important that all parties work together to build effective lists of key plants of concern, share current inventory information, and work towards a common management approach.

With funding from the Ministry of Environment, a Forestry Technical Committee was formed to develop a series of nine **T.I.P.S.: Targeted Invasive Plant Solutions** for forestry and resource managers. **T.I.P.S.** have been completed for forestry operations (activity-based **best management practices**) and for the following species: spotted knapweed, orange hawkweed, blueweed, marsh plume thistle, oxeye daisy, sulphur cinquefoil, gorse, and common tansy. Soon to be added to the T.I.P.S. series are activity-based and species-specific best management practices for recreation and transportation (highway right-of-ways). These species- and activity-based **T.I.P.S.** are being completed in partnership



Committee Reports

with a number of regional invasive plant committees (recreation) and the Ministry of Transportation (transportation). Visit the Council's website today to download your copy of the T.I.P.S!

The Council partnered with the Ministry of Forests and Range and regional invasive plant committees to facilitate the delivery of **Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP)** Application Module 2 training workshops in 2007. Overall, eleven events were held in the Fall of 2007 and additional events are scheduled to occur in early 2008.

The Council developed a **summary of invasive plant lists** in BC, including the criteria used for each listing. This summary identified over 50 invasive plant lists in use across BC, including over 200 different invasive plant species! The Council has initiated work with provincial government and industry to develop a common set of criteria that will be used to inform the development of provincial and regional invasive plant lists for BC.

The IPCBC's Board and Inter-Ministry Invasive Plant Working Group (Provincial Government) are currently working to refine the draft **Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Framework**. The framework was designed to build a collaborative approach across all agencies in the early detection and effective response to high-risk new invaders. Next steps include working with provincial government on the development of a Plant Health Emergency Response Plan, which will include invasive plants as one component, and completing the EDRR framework for BC. A key step will be ensuring that all levels of government agree to a clear set of expectations. Development of a finalized list of invasive plants – both at the province-wide level and regional levels – will be fundamental for implementation of the complement EDRR Framework.

Proposed Priorities for 2008

- Improve collaboration to support rapid and effective responses to new invaders across BC, including clarity around roles and responsibilities of key agencies and organizations;
- Collaborate with provincial government and industry to develop standard criteria for listing of invasive plants; and
- Continue to expand the T.I.P.S. series with best management practices related to recreation, transportation, and seed mixes.

Finance and Fund Development Committee

Stable, long-term funding for coordination and on-the-ground operations is fundamental to effective invasive plant management. Over the years, operational funding has varied based on fiscal year priorities of government agencies and others. However, invasive plants continue to enter and expand their settlement within BC whether or not coordinated operations are in place. Research shows that invasive plant management programs must span fiscal year budgets and reflect the plants' potential to expand once established. Regional weed committees require stable 'base' or 'core' funding to enable them to effectively bring groups together and develop and implement shared communication or operational plans.

Accomplishments in 2007

It is official - The IPCBC was granted **charitable status** by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency in 2007! With this recently acquired status, the Council will need to initiate a process and campaign to invite contributions to the Council in return for both recognition and a tax receipt. This will be part of a strategic fund development plan that will be completed in 2008.



Committee Reports

Tax deductible receipts provided for all donations!

Thanks to the diversity of funders, the IPCBC was able to undertake a higher level of critical projects that focused on increasing awareness of smart practices on the ground. In 2007 the Council leveraged 'base' funding of \$125,000 to over \$500,000 thanks to project based funding. The Council aims to continue to diversify funding using this approach in 2008. The financial report for 2007 will defer much of this revenue for specific projects, which were simply initiated in 2007 but not completed. As a non-profit organization, this ability to demonstrate leveraging of funds by at least 4:1 provides incentive for encouraging new funding.

With the base contribution, the Council was successful in recruiting **funding partners for many key initiatives**. Thanks to federal government support, many new communication initiatives were completed including designing educational displays and hosting a communication workshop and a provincial forum. Support was also received to continue with carpet burweed removal at high risk sites with the goal of moving towards zero tolerance of this plant in southwestern BC. In addition, provincial government funds enabled the development of T.I.P.S for forestry and transportation and initiated an economic impacts study of invasive plants to BC. Contributions by the Vancouver Foundation, Real Estate Foundation, Dow AgroSciences, Environment Canada (Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program), Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, City of Victoria, and Gibraltar Mines all helped contribute to completion of these 2007 accomplishments.

On November 30, the Council hosted a full day, multi-stakeholder **financial think-tank**. This funding forum brought in speakers from throughout the Pacific Region to share expertise and experience in establishing solid revenue management. Based on the forum's recommendations, specific revenue sources will be identified, a Trust Fund will be established, and the 'rationale' for funding will be clearly articulated. The need to ensure that businesses, foundations, and governments clearly understand the prudence and cost-savings in investing early in invasive plant management will be vital to attract revenue.

In addition to funding recruitment, the Council has undertaken **key meetings** to discuss **stable long-term funding** for invasive plant management in BC. These included all levels of governments, foundations, and private business.

Proposed Priorities for 2008

- Establish the Trust Fund and determine revenue options;
- Develop a solid base case and fund development strategy that will attract key funders; and
- Diversify the IPC funding base.

Research and Development Committee

Adaptive and effective management of invasive plants is based on understanding and applying new and existing scientific information. The IPCBC recognizes the need to improve the extension and outreach of current outcomes and to help ensure long-term support for ongoing research. Currently, there are many research initiatives underway that may not be well-known by all resource managers and local committees across BC. There are also an increasing number of universities and colleges whose students could undertake research on invasive species issues. The need to develop a shared understanding of key research priorities and to increase awareness of current and proposed research will benefit all invasive plant managers.

Committee Reports

SAVE THE DATE!
The Invasive Plant Council is hosting a Research Forum on October 29th and 30th, 2008 at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond, BC.

Accomplishments in 2007

The Research and Development Committee partnered with Sharon Gillies, Ph.D. candidate at the University College of the Fraser Valley, to support **research** on the effectiveness of purple loosestrife bio-control in the Fraser Valley. The project team is working to develop a better understanding of *Galerucella californiensis* through the identification and quantification of previously released **bio-control** agents and identification of potential native bio-control agents. Their work is expected to help invasive plant managers faced with purple loosestrife achieve better control.

Assessment of Models for the Collation and Communication of Information on the Economic Impacts of Invasive Plants (IPC Report #2) summarizes the benefits of improved awareness of economic impact information for invasive plants, provides examples of available economic impacts information as well as its effective use around the world, and identifies gaps in the existing knowledge base for BC.

In response to the recommendations outlined in Report #2, the Council has partnered with the Provincial Government to undertake **Economic Impacts Research** that will quantify the economic impacts of invasive plants and invasive plant management in BC. This research will occur in two distinct phases. The first phase, **State of Weeds in BC**, will quantify the current state of invasive plant management activities in BC and will be completed in January of 2008. The second phase, **Economic Impacts of Invasive Plants and Invasive Plant Management in BC**, is more research-intensive and will include development of a report on economic impacts of invasive plants and invasive plant management to BC. This research project began in December 2007, and results will be available in the spring of 2009.

Invasive Plant Research in British Columbia: Current Projects and Future Trends

The IPCBC will be hosting an International **Research Forum** on **October 29th and 30th, 2008** at the **Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel** in **Richmond, BC**. The intent of this forum is to discuss: (1) research that is currently underway in the Province (and the Pacific Northwest that relates to the Province); (2) research that is required to inform successful invasive plant management in BC; and (3) next steps for invasive plant research in BC. More information will be available on the IPC website in early 2008. Stay posted for more information!

Proposed Priorities for 2008

- Develop and host the **Invasive Plant Research in British Columbia: Current Projects and Future Trends Forum** on October 29th and 30th, 2008;
- Continue monitoring completion of bio-control research project; and
- Develop specific knowledge of economic impacts of invasive plants and invasive plants in BC through completion of the **State of the Weeds** project and progress towards completion of the larger **Economic Impacts** study.

Other Council Priorities for 2008

- **Horticulture:** Host a joint planning forum with representatives from the horticulture industry. Determine some of the most unwanted nursery plants and recommend suitable alternatives.
- **Aquatic Invasive Plants:** Initiate multi-stakeholder discussions to determine actions to reduce the impacts of aquatic invasive plants to ecosystems.
- **Cross Borders:** Build linkages across borders to improve sharing of information and expertise.
- **Regional Committees:** Host at least one regional invasive plant committee coordinator's meeting.
- **Carpet Burweed:** Recruit and manage funding for removal of carpet burweed from southwestern Vancouver Island.

Board of Directors

Duncan Barnett, Chair (Agriculture)

Duncan and his family raise forage and beef cattle on their ranch at Miocene, near Williams Lake. Duncan is a professional agrologist. He divides his time between family, ranching, consulting, and local government duties. Much of his consulting work focuses on policy and strategic issues for the ranching and forestry sectors. Duncan is an elected Director of the Cariboo Regional District and President of the Cariboo Cattlemen's Association. He is also very active in several community organizations including 4-H and the Fraser Basin Council.

David Borth (Provincial Government)

David Borth is the Director of Range Branch, Ministry of Forests and Range and sits as one of two provincial government representatives on the IPCBC Board of Directors. He has a degree in Agriculture from the University of British Columbia, specializing in Agricultural Economics and Range Management. His career has been primarily associated with the Forest Service, working in the Vanderhoof Forest District from 1985 to 1999 in multiple roles as Range, Planning, and Timber Officers. He also served as General Manager of the British Columbia Cattlemen's Association in Kamloops from 1999 to 2005 before joining the newly reconstituted Range Branch in 2005.

**Alternate: Val Miller,
Ministry of Forests and Range**

Barry Gibbs, Treasurer (Transportation)

Barry is the Product Registration Manager based in the Canadian head-quarters (Calgary) of Dow AgroSciences. In over 30 years

2007 Cariboo Field Tour



Left photo: IPCBC Board Members Val Miller and Leslie MacDonal at the 2007 field tour.

Right: 2007 Cariboo Field Tour participants

The IPCBC's Board is comprised of Directors from different perspectives. Each Director is selected by a specific perspective to work collaboratively in providing strategic direction for the Council. The perspective represented by each Director is noted behind each name.

with Dow AgroSciences, Barry has held numerous positions in Sales, Management, Marketing, Finance, and Research. He has a degree in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan and is a member of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists. Barry and his wife Judi live on a small sheep ranch near Longview Alberta and grow durum, peas, and hay on their Saskatchewan farmland.

Alternate: Al Planiden, Ministry of Transportation

Peter Goetz (Recreation & Tourism)

Peter has recently relocated from Williams Lake to Prince George where he spends his time recreating in the vast northern wilderness and working as a Protected Areas Section Head for BC Parks. Peter is an expedition paddler and avid outdoor enthusiast, enjoying the many hiking and canoeing opportunities BC has to offer.

Alternate: Glen Davidson

Denise McLean (Regional Weed Committees)

Denise has been involved with the Northwest Invasive Plant Council since 1995 and has been the Chair since 2003. She currently represents northern weed committees on the IPCBC's Board of Directors. Denise has worked for the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands since 1992 and holds both a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Agriculture from the University of Saskatchewan.

Alternate: Dennis Meier, Peace River Regional District

James Manuel (First Nations)

James is a member of the Secwepemc (Shuswap) Nation and the Kamloops Indian Band and has been working as the Range Management Officer with the Kamloops Indian Band since 2004. In addition to his role with the IPCBC James is involved at the regional level as a Director of the Southern Interior Weed

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Management Committee (SIWMC). In addition to his role with the IPC, James is involved at the regional level and is on the Southern Interior Weed Management Committee's (SIWMC) Board of Directors. James implements a variety of IPM tools in his program including a bio-control release program, which was established with the help of the SIWMC and the Ministry of Forests and Range. James is dedicated to furthering his professional growth by attending IPCBC forums and other events as well as attending range management and grassland ecology courses at Thompson Rivers University.

Peter Mohammed (Forestry)

Peter began his silviculture career as a tree planter and planting foreman during the 1981-1984 seasons. During this time, Peter joined Falcon Viewing and Silvics Ltd. and expanded his silviculture experience to include surveys, herbicide application, stand tending, and harvesting. Peter helped form Bugbusters and then Spectrum and has continually supervised large scale projects covering a wide range of silviculture activities. Peter was the General Manager of the organization from January of 2002 to October 2006. Peter is currently the president of the Integrated Vegetation Management Association (IVMA) of BC.

Alternate: Marty Hafke, Elk Valley Coal Corporation

Rod Nataros (Horticulture)

Rod founded NATS Nursery Ltd. in 1988 following a life long interest in gardening and after achieving his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Trinity Western University. For over 19 years, NATS Nursery has been supplying high

quality plants, including plants native to the Pacific Northwest, to the restoration and land reclamation industries. Rod has been involved in many innovative initiatives including the green roof program in Vancouver and, until recently, served as Environment Chair with the BCLNA. Besides running a dynamic and growing business, Rod and his family of 5 children are very active and participate in a variety of triathlons.

Kristy Palmantier, Vice-Chair (First Nations)

Kristy is a member of the Secwepemc (Shuswap) Nation and is presently employed with the Ministry of Environment as their Aboriginal Program Specialist. Kristy has led many projects bringing provincial government and First Nations' interests together in a mutually beneficial way. Kristy is a past President of the Secwepemc Natural Resources Society for the 17 Bands of the Secwepemc Nation and is currently the Vice-Chair of the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Invasive Plant Council. She and her family run both a cow/calf/custom haying operation, the Bearclaw Ranch on the Sugar Cane reserve, and BC Custom Wood Caskets.

David Polster (Mining)

Dave Polster has been involved in mine land reclamation, environmental impact assessments, and impact mitigation studies for over 30 years. For the past 20 years Dave has been involved in the development of innovative strategies for vegetation management (steam treatment of railway weeds) and invasive species control (carpet

burweed and other invasive plants). He has also served as the president of the Canadian Land Reclamation Association and is currently the treasurer of the BC Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration. He was recently appointed to the advisory committee for the restoration of the storm damage in Stanley Park. Dave is a professional biologist.

David Ralph (Provincial Government)

David began working for the BC Ministry of Agriculture as a summer student in 1977. From 1981 to 1983, he took the position of Weed Technician in Kamloops. From 1983 to 1987 David was the Southern Provincial Knapweed Coordinator for the Western Indian Agricultural Corporation. In 1987 he became the Provincial Weed Technologist for the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, based in Cloverdale. In 1993, David transferred to Kamloops and has retained the same position as Provincial Weed Technologist, Invasive Plant Management Unit, Food Safety and Quality Branch, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, to present. Dave lives in Kamloops with his wife, Susan, and son, Clayton.

Alternate: Leslie MacDonald, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Brian Reader (Federal Government)

Brian has worked for Parks Canada since 1987 and has worked within seven national parks across western Canada. In addition to being the Species at Risk Ecologist based on Vancouver Island, Brian has spent extensive time in Iqaluit managing Canada's most northern national parks. Much of his time is spent working with various species at risk recovery teams, including marbled murrelet, sharptailed

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snake, seaside centipede lichen, and killer whale. He also currently chairs the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team.

Jamie Richardson **(Federal Government)**

Jamie has a Master of Science in Entomology and has worked for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for the last 15 years as an Inspector and Program Officer at the Vancouver harbour office. Jamie is currently the Network Specialist for Invasive Alien Species in Western Canada and deals with invasive plant pests as well as invasive plants. He is also involved in various national projects.

Ernie Sellentin **(Conservation & Wildlife)**

Ernie's primary work since 2000 has been with the Comox Valley Naturalists Society as supervisor/contractor of their wetland restoration project. Since 2006 Ernie has been the Ministry of Forests and Range as the Invasive Plant Technician for the coast region. Born and raised on Texada Island, Ernie holds both a Diploma in Environmental Assessment from North Island College and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from Royal Roads University.

Lisa Scott, Secretary **(Regional Weed Committees)**

Lisa has been the primary contractor for the Okanagan-Similkameen Weed Education and Coordination Program for the last 11 years. Lisa represents the southern invasive plant committees on the Board of Directors. Lisa is a Registered Professional Biologist and is the proprietor of Eco-Matters Consulting in Summerland. The principal components of her work include private land stewardship, habitat assessments, habitat

restoration and enhancement, environmental impact assessments, and invasive plant management.

Alternate: Barb Stewart, Boundary Weed Management Committee

Tom Wells (Utilities)

Tom is Vegetation Program Manager with the British Columbia Transmission Corporation (BCTC). Tom oversees the implementation of vegetation management programs on the provincial transmission system which is owned by BC Hydro and planned, operated, and maintained by BCTC. Tom was a founding member and served on the executive of the Native Plant Society of British Columbia in its formative years.

Gail Wallin, Executive Director

Gail has been involved with the Council since its inception under the Fraser Basin Council. With a background in non-profit management, biology, and resource management, Gail has got to know communities (and plants) in all corners of BC. Williams Lake is home to Gail and her daughter Kyla and a base for their canoeing, skiing, and camping adventures across the Cariboo and BC.

Jodi Romyn, Coordinator

Jodi Romyn is the Coordinator of the IPCBC. Jodi first began working with the Council part time in March 2005 as Coordinator of the Regulation, Compliance, and Enforcement Committee. She joined the Council full time in December 2006 to coordinate an additional three IPCBC committees (Research and Development, Technical and Operations Support, and Communications and Awareness) and assist with project management and delivery. As Coordinator of the

IPCBC, Jodi works with a broad range of land managers and stakeholders across BC to coordinate invasive plant management. Jodi holds a Bachelor of Natural Resource Science Degree from Thompson Rivers University.

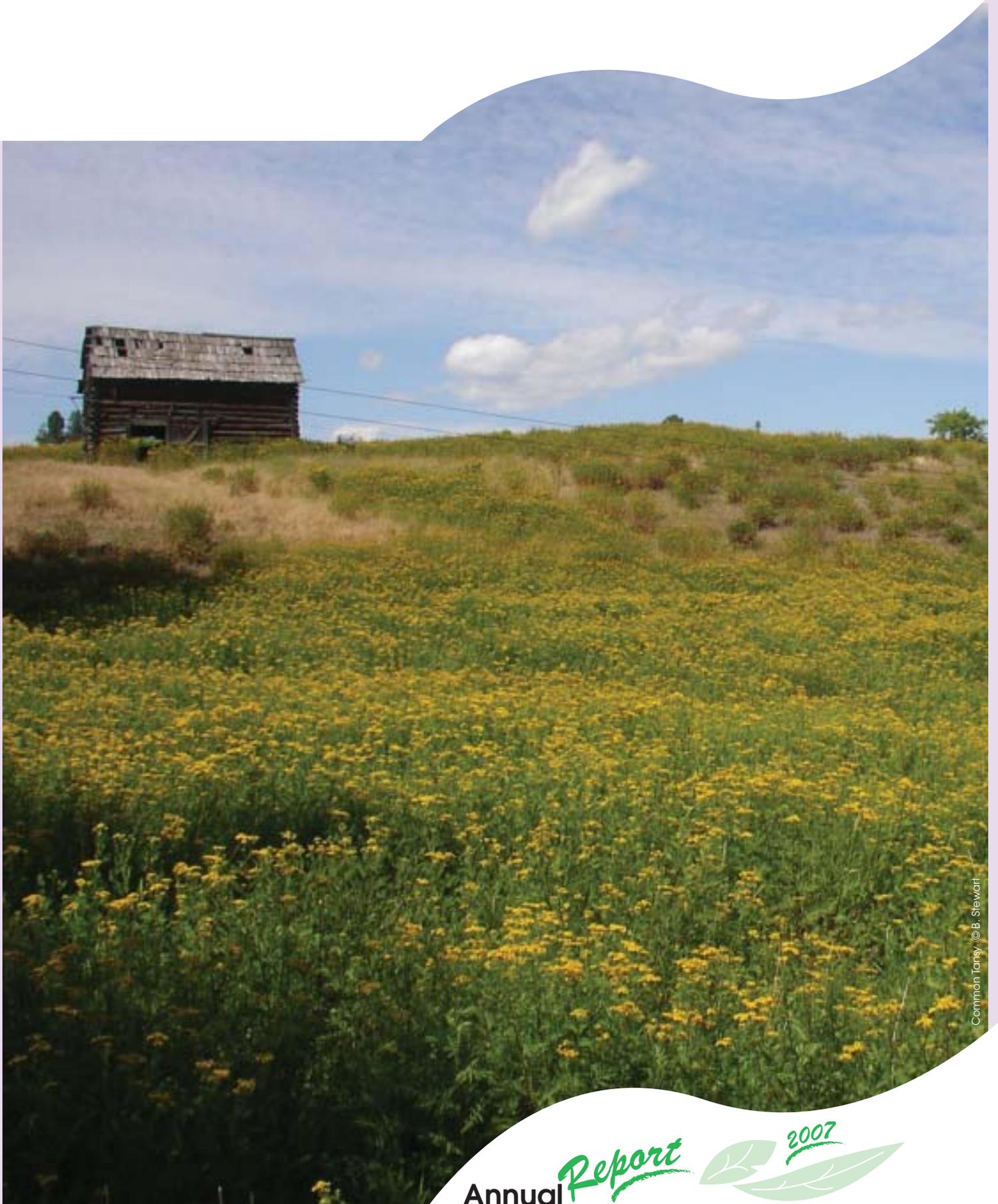
Crystal Klym, Assistant Coordinator

Crystal recently joined the Council as the Assistant Coordinator. Since 2000, Crystal has worked for a variety of organizations in the areas of invasive plant management, outreach and education, outdoor recreation, communications, and mine land reclamation. She currently serves as a Director on the Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance's Board and is an active member of the South Okanagan Bike Club. Crystal has a Diploma in Integrated Environmental Planning Technology from Selkirk College and is currently working towards her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management from Royal Roads University.

Behind the Scenes

Under the direction of Gail Wallin and Jodi Romyn, many of the IPCBC's projects were accomplished through the efforts of the following individuals:

- Joel Grenz, Motiontide Media;
- Julianne Leekie, Fairwinds Design;
- Gail Lucier, Fraser Basin Council; and
- Jane Perry, J.Perry Resource Communications.



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