



Taseko Prosperity Gold-Copper Project

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Taseko Mines Limited – Invasive Plant Management Strategy

1 Introduction

Invasive plants are plants that spread extensively and rapidly and, by virtue of some unique attribute, are undesirable and very difficult to control. Invasive plants are sometimes referred to as ‘weeds’, ‘introduced’ or ‘exotics’ as they are typically non-native species, which have been introduced, either accidentally or intentionally, to a new ecosystem thereby escaping their usual control agents. As such, these new plant populations are not subjected to natural checks and balances like insect pests or plant pathogens that control the populations of other species in their native habitats (BC MoF 2005a).

Invasive plants can permeate any terrestrial habitat, but they tend to invade disturbed areas, such as sites with barren soil, postfire disturbance, drought or following herbicide application, logging or landscape-scale changes such as tree die-offs as observed with the mountain pine beetle infestation (Davis et. al, 2000).

In recent years, the issue of invasive plants and their management has caught the attention of land managers as they are confronted with the task of and costs associated with their control, the mitigation of their detrimental effects and, optimally, the prevention of their spread.

Non-native plants that can spread to such an extent have the potential to replace or overwhelm natural vegetation assemblages, change ecosystem properties such that ecosystem function is reduced or altered and can have significant economic implications with respect to agriculture, forestry and rangeland (Myers and Bazely, 2003; Klinkenberg 2004).

1.1 Invasive Plants in BC

British Columbia is host to many invasive plant species, both in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (e.g., Meidinger et al. 2004). Some of these plants have been listed on a Provincial Noxious Weed list which is regulated under the *Weed Control Act*. In British Columbia the *Weed Control Act* imposes a duty on all land-occupiers to control designated noxious plants. An inspector may issue a notice requiring control of noxious weeds and it is an offence to fail to comply.

Two other provincial pieces of legislation having provisions for invasive plant management are the *Forest and Range Practices Act* (FRPA) and the *Ministry of Forest Act*. These acts provide legislation for forestry and range-related projects but can also provide guidance to other activities occurring in crown lands.

The Province is divided into three forest regions, the proposed Prosperity project being within the Southern Interior Forest Region. An Invasive Alien Plant Pest Management Plan has been created for this region which details the framework for prioritizing sites for weed control (Ministry of Forests, 2007).

B.C. is further divided into Regional Districts, the Project being within the bounds of the Cariboo Regional District (CRD). The CRD has also initiated a noxious weed control program to control the spread of noxious weeds throughout

the range lands and grasslands of the Cariboo-Chilcotin. In addition to the CRD, the new weed committee, the Coast Cariboo-Chilcotin Invasive Plant Committee (CCCIPC) coordinates and facilitates invasive plant-related activities for the region which includes the area surrounding the proposed Prosperity Mine site.

1.2 Purpose and Objectives

The overall purpose of the Invasive Plant Management Plan is to control the spread of existing invasive plant infestations and prevent new infestations from establishing in the Project area while managing project activities so as to eliminate the risk of spreading invasive plants from the Project area to other sites in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region.

An ecosystem approach should be applied to managing the site's development, operation and restoration such that the differences between ecosystems are recognized and each ecosystem is treated individually to suit the natural geologic, geographic and climatic conditions (Fraser Basin Council, 2003).

To further promote the most effective way of managing for invasive plants, this ecosystem approach should be applied to the principles set forth in an Integrated Weed Management (IWM) program. These consist of a coordinated approach to:

- prevention;
- proper identification and knowledge of species;
- inventories, mapping and monitoring;
- educated control decisions based on knowledge of potential damage, cost of control method and environmental impact of the weed and control decision;
- combining weed management methods;
- evaluation of the effectiveness of the strategies used and adjusting if need be

This approach should occur throughout all stages of construction, operation, and reclamation (BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, 2003; Cranston *et al.* 2002).

Objectives of the management plan are to:

1. Develop and maintain an inventory of invasive plants in the Project area.
2. Prevent the introduction of invasive plants that are not currently in the Project area and surrounding region.
3. Prevent or minimize the spread of invasive plants from populations known to be present in the Project area and surrounding region.
4. Control the spread of existing invasive plant populations using an Integrated Pest Management approach.
5. Monitor the effectiveness of invasive plant control measures and adapt as necessary.

These objectives will be discussed in further detail in the Discussion portion of the report.

2 Methodology

2.1 Background Literature

The first step in conducting an invasive plant survey is to review available literature in order to understand the potential for invasive plants in the project area. Several sources were reviewed prior to conducting the fieldwork component including examining invasive plant publications from the Ministry of Forests and Range, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, the British Columbia *Weed Control Act*, Fraser Basin Council, the Invasive Plant Council of British Columbia, the Cariboo Regional District and the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC. These sources were used to assess the susceptibility of sites to invasive plant incursion, review potential prevention and mitigation techniques and to generate a list of potential invasive plants in the Cariboo-Chilcotin region.

The Provincial Noxious Weed list is a list of plants which are required, under the *Weed Control Act*, to be controlled by the landowner. These plants are typically agricultural weeds and the list is not an exhaustive list of the plants that are considered to be invasive throughout the province. Another invasive plant list is included in the Forests and Range Practices Act (FRPA). This list deals with plants that affect forested and range lands in the province and overlaps to some degree with the *Weed Control Act's* Invasive Plant List (Table 1).

The Southern Interior Forest Region's Invasive Alien Plant Pest Management Plan follows the principles of Integrated Pest Management for prioritizing infestations of invasive plants and, under the Integrated Pest Management Act, is required for directing the use of pesticides on Crown Lands. The framework uses a decision making matrix based on the invasiveness of the species and the susceptibility and potential for control, of a site (B.C. MoF, 2007).

The CRD has also created a list of non-native plants that are more specifically invasive to this region (Table 1). Of these plants, knapweed is of special concern because of its ability to rapidly spread and infest grasslands and rangelands, which compose a vast majority of the Cariboo area (CRD 2006). Knapweed invasion of rangelands in the Cariboo region has caused extreme economic loss to rangelands, and environmental degradation to grassland ecosystems (CRD 2006).

Interior grassland ecosystems are particularly sensitive to invasive plants, due to their sparse ground cover and lack of canopy which allows pioneer species to proliferate with ease. As native bunchgrasses are replaced by knapweed and other invasive plants, there is an increase in surface water runoff, a loss of soil, and a consequential sedimentation of watercourses. In addition, displacement of native grassland plant species affects wildlife foraging and lack of palatable range forage for domestic cattle (Fraser Basin Council 2003).

For the purposes of this plan, "invasive plants" are plant species that have the potential to pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on humans, animals or ecosystems within the Taseko Prosperity Project area and include, but are not limited to, those listed on the noxious weed lists (Table 1).

Table 1 - Invasive Plants Lists in BC

Provincial Weed Control Act: Noxious weeds legislated for control within all regions of BC

Common Name	Latin Name	Common Name	Latin Name
Annual sowthistle	<i>(Sonchus oleraceus)</i>	Purple nutsedge	<i>(Cyperus rotundus)</i>
Canada thistle	<i>(Cirsium arvense)</i>	Rush skeletonweed	<i>(Chondrilla juncea)</i>
Crupina	<i>(Crupina vulgaris)</i>	Scentless chamomile	<i>(Matricaria maritima)</i>
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>(Linaria genistifolia ssp. dalmatica)</i>	Spotted knapweed	<i>(Centaurea maculosa)</i>
Diffuse knapweed	<i>(Centaurea diffusa)</i>	Tansy ragwort	<i>(Senecio jacobaea)</i>
Dodder	<i>(Cuscuta spp.)</i>	Velvetleaf	<i>(Abutilon theophrasti)</i>
Gorse	<i>(Ulex europaeus)</i>	Wild oats	<i>(Avena fatua)</i>
Houndstongue	<i>(Cynoglossum officinale)</i>	Yellow nutsedge	<i>(Cyperus esculentus)</i>
Jointed goatgrass	<i>(Aegilops cylindrica)</i>	Yellow starthistle	<i>(Centaurea solstitialis)</i>
Leafy spurge	<i>(Euphorbia esula)</i>	Yellow toadflax	<i>(Linaria vulgaris)</i>
Perennial sowthistle	<i>(Sonchus arvensis)</i>		

Forest and Range Practices Act: Invasive plants prescribed for control within all forest and range regions of BC

Anchusa	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	Meadow knapweed	<i>Centaurea pratensis</i>
Baby's breath	<i>Gypsophila paniculata</i>	Nodding thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>
Black knapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Orange hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>
Blueweed	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemem</i>
Brown knapweed	<i>Centaurea jacea</i>	Perennial pepperweed	<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Plumeless thistle	<i>Carduus acanthoides</i>
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Puncture vine	<i>Tribulus terrestris</i>
Common burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	Purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Common tansy	<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Rush skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Russian knapweed	<i>Acroptilon repens</i>
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Scentless chamomile	<i>Matricaria maritima</i>
Field scabious	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Scotch broom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Giant knotweed	<i>Polygonum sachalinense</i>	Scotch thistle	<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>

Gorse	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Spotted knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>
Hoary alyssum	<i>Berteroa incana</i>	St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>
Hoary cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i>	Sulphur cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla recta</i>
Hound's-tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Tansy ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Japanese knotweed	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i>	Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>
Leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Yellow starthistle	<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>
Meadow hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>

Regional Weeds: Noxious weeds within the Cariboo Regional District

Annual Sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Orange Hawkweed	<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>
Blueweed	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Oxeye daisy	<i>Chrysanthemum leucanthemum</i>
Burdock	<i>Arctium</i> spp.	Parasitic Dodder	<i>Cuscuta</i> sp.
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Perennial Sow thistle	<i>Sonchus arvensis</i>
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria dalmatica</i>	Rush Skeletonweed	<i>Chondrilla juncea</i>
Diffuse Knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Scentless Chamomile	<i>Matricaria maritima</i>
Hound's Tongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Spotted Knapweed	<i>Centaurea maculosa</i>
Leafy Spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Yellow Toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>

Other non-native species that may be introduced in the Project area include: white clover (*Trifolium repens*), red clover (*Trifolium pratense*), dandelions (*Taraxacum* sp.), smooth brome grass (*Bromus inermis* ssp. *inermis*), crested wheatgrass (*Agropyron cristatum*), quackgrass (*Agropyron repens*), perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*), orchardgrass (*Dactylis glomerata*), downy brome grass (*Bromus tectorum*), timothy (*Phleum pratense*), yellow sweet-clover (*Melilotus officinalis*), white sweet-clover (*Melilotus alba*), Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) and Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*) (Parish et al. 1996).

2.2 2006 Field Survey Methods

The scope of the invasive plant survey was focused along the transmission corridor, mine site and access road and was conducted in conjunction with TEM and rare plant surveys. During these surveys, vegetation ecologists looked for incidental invasive plants, especially within disturbed areas such as roadways, cattle holdings, forestry landings, and old mining settlements. At each plot, vegetation, site characteristics and location were recorded, along with the species name and degree of spread of any identified invasive plants.

3 Results

Two invasive, noxious plant species, both legislated under the BC *Weed Control Act*, were observed within the RSA during the 2006 field season. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), which is legislated as noxious within all regions of BC, was found in small numbers and isolated locations within the transmission corridor, mine site, and access road. Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*), which is legislated as noxious within the Cariboo Regional District, was found along the access road. Refer to Appendix E Prosperity Project Vascular and Non-vascular Plant Species List.

Additionally, five non-native, weedy plants have been observed in the RSA (see Table 2 below). These species, although not listed in any of the weed lists, should also be inventoried and monitored.

Table 2 - Weedy Species in the Project Area

Scientific Name	Common Name	Minesite	Transmission Corridor	Access Road
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	alfalfa		x	x
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	yellow sweet-clover		x	
<i>Poa pratense</i>	Kentucky bluegrass	x	x	x
<i>Salsola kali</i>	Russian thistle		x	
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	common dandelion	x	x	x

4 Discussion

Of the three areas surveyed, the access road has the lowest potential for invasive plant species, since the road has already mostly been established and will therefore be subjected to less soil disturbance than in the minesite and the transmission corridor. However, given the fact that a) the access road is the only access to the mine and b) an increase in activity at the mine site will result in a much greater volume of vehicular traffic along the access road, the potential for introductions of invasive and weedy plants along the road and into the surrounding natural area will certainly be increased. Currently, orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) and Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) have already been observed by JW-AXYS personnel.

The mine site has a higher potential for invasive plants due to the exploration and logging roads in the north and small mining settlements in the south. Within the mine site, Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvens*) has been observed. However, with further plant inventories, and increased human disturbance and construction, additional species will most likely surface or spread.

The potential for invasive plant spread is highest throughout the grasslands of the transmission corridor due to abundant cattle ranches, human access, and the sensitivity of grasslands to disturbance. Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvens*) was observed within the transmission corridor.

Taseko Mines should adapt the following Invasive Plant Management Plan in order to identify, prevent, treat, and monitor invasive plants throughout the development, operation and decommissioning stages of the Prosperity Gold-Copper Project.

Elements of this plan are included below in Table 3.

Table 3 - Invasive Plant Management Plan Component Summary

Inventory	Prevention	Treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive invasive plant database 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean machinery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventories to follow IAPP¹ methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompt re-vegetation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation with the CRD weed control program efforts and the FBC invasive plant strategy roles and responsibilities for industry² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled reseeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring

4.1 Inventory Program

Detecting invasive plants early and accurately recording the details of each occurrence (including mapped locations) is the most important phase in directing efforts to prevent establishment (Cranston *et al.* 2002). An effective inventory program will provide population estimates (spatial extent and number of plants) and locations of invasive plant species as a basis for establishing the prevention, treatment, and monitoring programs and allocating resources to priority areas.

Objective 1: Develop and maintain a comprehensive invasive plant inventory.

Taseko Mines Limited will establish an inventory of invasive plants and invasive plant locations throughout the project area, including the mine site and transmission corridor, in accordance with the B.C. Ministry of Forests Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP¹) methods. Inventories will be recorded on Site and Invasive Plant Inventory Record forms (available from the IAPP website).

Resources for identifying invasive plants can be found online at several websites. The Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has a very inclusive list of weedy species

¹ BC Ministry of Forests Invasive Alien Plant Program
http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/invasive/IAP_01.htm

² BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands weed program
<http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/cropprot/weedguid/weedindx.htm>

³Cariboo Regional District
http://www.cariboord.bc.ca/Communities/Weed%20Control/noxious_weeds.htm

and their descriptions which can be found on their website². Another useful website for species which are specific to the Cariboo region is on the CRD website³.

A list of invasive plants and the locations of any outbreaks will be provided to provincial regulators as required. Invasive plant inventories will be conducted annually on all disturbed mine and transmission corridor land that has been seeded or left to recover naturally. These surveys are best performed in the late spring or early summer so that treatment measures can be applied prior to seed dispersal.

4.2 Prevention Program

Understanding the source of unwanted plants, minimizing soil disturbance, and promptly re-vegetating disturbed areas with appropriate seed mixes are key to the prevention program phase.

The most common means by which invasive plants can gain access to a site are: as seeds or plant parts in new fill and on vehicles; as weed seeds in impure seed mixes; from intentional plantings; and by less-controllable natural vectors such as animals, wind and waterways.

Some of the most likely areas of potential invasive plant problems in the Project area are: recently disturbed soil along roads, mine staging areas, and cleared grassland areas as well as along roadsides. Knowing if machinery is frequenting these areas and whether this equipment is potentially moving unwanted seed to other areas is crucial to preventing the spread of invasive plants.

Objective 2: Prevent the introduction and/or establishment of invasive plants that are not currently in the project area and surrounding region.

Taseko Mines is committed to preventing the spread or establishment of invasive plants during construction, operations, and reclamation, by:

1. Reducing dispersion;
2. Minimizing unnecessary soil disturbance; and
3. Re-vegetating as promptly as possible (ideally within two weeks) following soil disturbance.

1.) Reducing dispersion will require vigilant cleaning and adherence to consistent protocols. Dispersal of invasive plant seed by wind, water, and animal transport, will be reduced by removing known weed populations before flowering and covering or burning designated areas at appropriate times.

Potential introduction of invasive plants through seed spread by vehicles and equipment will be minimized through requirements for provision of clean equipment by suppliers and contractors. This will include checking vehicles and equipment for dirt and plant fragments transported from other areas and ensuring that all equipment coming onto the site is clean. Additionally, driving vehicles and machinery across open grassland, within the transmission corridor, should be avoided. Personnel should drive on established roads whenever possible to prevent further spread of seed.

2.) All unnecessary soil disturbance should be avoided to prevent soils from susceptibility to weed establishment. Any soil disturbance that results from construction or mining activity will be promptly re-seeded with a quick-establishing grass and legume seed mix for erosion protection and weed control. Areas requiring immediate seeding include soil stockpiles, bare soil (especially on slopes), waste management features such as ditches and sediment pond berms, gravel pits, cleared grassland areas, and road edges where weed infestation or erosion protection is of concern.

3.) High quality grade seed mixes will be specified for reclamation plans. The seed included in the mix must be Canada Common #1 Forage Mixture (or better) and must be invasive-plant free. In conjunction with the Project reclamation plan, Taseko Mines will use two different seed mixes: one for the mid-upper elevation of the minesite and one for the low elevation transmission corridor. The seed mixes contain grass and legume species that are adapted to a wide range of environmental conditions.

Objective 3: Prevent or minimize the spread of invasive plants present in the project area and surrounding region.

In order to prevent the spread of invasive plants within and outside of the study area it is essential to reduce the dispersal of known invasive plants and seed by human transport. This can be enhanced by:

1. Using wash stations for machinery;
 2. Routinely cleaning workclothes;
 3. Using uncontaminated gravel and crushed rock; and,
 4. Informing personnel of the species of concern and prevention measures.
- 1.) Wash stations for cleaning machinery before entering work areas will reduce the incidence of seed transport, especially in the grasslands of the eastern project area. Wash stations at local gas bars can be used to clean machinery.
 - 2.) Work clothes should be cleaned routinely to reduce seed dispersal, especially after working near known invasive plant locations.
 - 3.) Gravel or crushed rock suppliers will be requested to ensure sources are not contaminated with invasive plant material (seeds or woody material).
 - 4.) As part of Taseko Mines' environmental orientation program for the project, information on invasive plants will be provided to personnel responsible for implementation of the Invasive Plant Management Plan. Relevant information can be found in the Field Guide to Noxious and Other Selected Weeds of British Columbia, a hard-copy of which is included with this management plan as well as on the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands web site³.

Treatment and prevention programs will need to be established for Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) to avoid

³ Ministry of Agriculture and Lands "Field Guide to Noxious and Other Selected Weeds of British Columbia"

further spread. Manual removal and burning may prevent and destroy these weeds, however monitoring and further treatment will likely be necessary.

4.3 Treatment Program

Treatment measures are initiated when invasive plants become established. The treatment depends on the stage of plant growth, size of the population, and species composition. In most cases, especially around active soil disturbances, invasive plants can be buried (2 metres below the soil surface) at the site to discourage growth and spread. However, if the plants have gone to seed or have become established, additional measures may be necessary to control regeneration.

Objective 4: Control and management of existing invasive plant populations using the principles of Integrated Vegetation Management

In the event of invasive plant outbreaks on the Project site, Taseko Mines will employ a range of treatment measures, depending on the plant species and stage of development and site conditions. Potential measures include:

- 1) Mechanical - For small populations prior to flowering, mechanical treatment measures such as hand pulling, burying, or burning can be used to eradicate invasive plants.
- 2) Chemical - Treatment measures include applying herbicides at specific growth stages. Any herbicide application will be in compliance with the Integrated Pest Management Act.
- 3) Biological - Regional programs⁴ to manage certain invasive species using biological methods will be supported by Taseko Mines. If biological control measures are used, a stringent protocol for releasing beneficial insects must be followed in order to measure the effectiveness of the program.

4.4 Ongoing Action

Monitoring Program

Monitoring will be conducted as required to assess treatment success, to gauge the efficacy of prevention plans, and track the spread of invasive plants.

Objective 5: Track the spread of existing invasive plant populations through monitoring.

Taseko Mines will monitor their operations to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive plant populations. Monitoring for invasive plants will be integrated into the monitoring program to assess reclamation success and identify corrective actions as necessary.

⁴ Cariboo Regional District, Fraser Basin Council, and Grasslands Conservation Council of BC

Rehabilitation and Restoration

Sites that have been altered to such a degree that the original native plant communities cannot re-establish themselves may require conditioning through nutrient and bulk addition before re-seeding. Site-specific conditions will be assessed and appropriate measures taken (e.g., topsoil amendment; fertilization).

Required Actions

- Identify invasive plant locations in the Project footprint in Spring 2007 and monitor yearly (i.e. disturbed soil, roads, landings, staging areas)
- Identify any outbreaks of noxious weeds listed under the *Weed Control Act* and report these to the onsite Environmental Monitor.
- Create a database of invasive plants and noxious weed locations for the annual monitoring program (using IAPP)
- Establish measures for construction and operation to avoid introduction of invasive plant seeds or material (e.g., contract specifications, establishment of vehicle and equipment cleaning stations, limiting driving across open grasslands)
- Include invasive plant monitoring in the reclamation plan monitoring program.
- Educate employees, contractors, and clients about managing invasive plants
- Treatment and prevention programs will need to be established for Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), and Orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) to avoid further spread, as per the *Weed Control Act*.

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