Managing Invasive Species in the Region

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

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Sustainability Breakfast – April 17, 2019
Outline

• What are ‘invasive’ species?
• Impacts
• How do they spread?
• Regional management
  • Metro Vancouver’s role
What is a ‘native’ species?

• Has lived and evolved in an area for a long time and part of the native ecosystem; and

• Adapted to local conditions and has co-evolved with other species, predators, diseases and climate factors.
What is a ‘non-native’ species?

- Does not naturally occur in an area
- Has not evolved as part of the native ecosystem

NOTE:
Not all non-native species are invasive!
What is an ‘invasive’ species?

A non-native species that can cause *significant social, economic, and/or environmental harm*.

‘Invasive’ characteristics include:

• Prolific offspring production/spreads rapidly
• Can out-compete native species
• Predators and diseases from their native areas are not present to keep them in check, and
• Challenging to control
Impacts on the Environment

• Reduce biodiversity and alter ecosystem function
• Degrade wildlife habitat and forage
• Degrade water quality through soil erosion and sedimentation
• Alter soil nutrients

*Invasive species are the second most significant threat to global biodiversity, after habitat loss.*
Impacts on Human Health and Safety

- Displace traditional food or medicinal species used by First Nations
- Obstruct sightlines or road signs along highway corridors
- Dermatitis or allergic reactions
- Increase tree fall and fire hazard
Impacts on the Economy

- Damage to infrastructure
- Reduce crop yields
- Damage to lawns and gardens

Local governments in this region spend over $2 million annually managing 11 invasive species.

Invasive plants cost BC farmers $50 million annually by reducing crop yields and forage quality.
How do they spread?

• Wind and water
• People
  • Travel and shipping
  • Recreation
  • Gardening
  • Maintenance activities
  • Soil movement
  • Pet releases
Climate Change
Warmer temperatures allow species from further south to migrate and populate northern environments
Regional Collaboration

Many organizations play a role:

• Federal and Provincial governments
• First Nations
• Municipal governments
• Metro Vancouver
• Utilities
• Stewardship groups/Non-profit organizations
• Businesses
• And more…
Metro Vancouver’s Regional Planning Function

• Provide a strategic, long-range, cross-boundary, interdisciplinary lens
• Responsible for developing, implementing and stewarding *Metro 2040*, the regional growth strategy

Core Services
• Data and monitoring
• Policy research
• Convene on planning issues of regional interest
• Advocacy
• Provide a planning resource
• Leadership and Innovation
Metro Vancouver’s Role

• Develop best practices, employ them on Metro Vancouver lands, and promote their use
• Ensure disposal options
• Increase awareness about invasive species and non-invasive garden plant options
• Provide a forum for regional coordination and collaboration
Regional Collaboration

Several groups provide support:

- The Regional Planning Advisory Committee-Invasive Species Subcommittee
- The Invasive Species Councils of Metro Vancouver (ISCMV) and British Columbia (ISCBC)
Thank you
2019 Invasive Species Subcommittee

Members
City of Burnaby
City of Coquitlam
City of Delta
City of Langley
City of Maple Ridge
City of New Westminster
City of North Vancouver
City of Pitt Meadows
City of Port Coquitlam
City of Port Moody
City of Richmond
City of Surrey
City of Vancouver
District of North Vancouver
District of West Vancouver
Metro Vancouver – Electoral Area A
Township of Langley

Associates
BC Hydro
BC Ministry of Environment
BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Bowen Island Municipality
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Canadian National Railway
Canadian Pacific Railway
City of Abbotsford
City of Chilliwack
City of Mission
Diamond Head Consulting
District of Squamish
Fortis BC Energy Inc.
Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society
Fraser Valley Regional District
Green Admiral Nature Restoration
Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver
Invasive Species Council of British Columbia
MATCON Civil Constructors Inc.
Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council
Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
Vancouver Airport Authority
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority