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File: Draft Pest Management Plan for Provincial Public (Crown) Lands in Southern and Coastal British Columbia

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To whom it may concern:

This letter is to inform you that the Ministry of Forests (FOR) has collaborated with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Conservation and Recreation Division (CARD), Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) to renew a multi-agency Pest Management Plan (PMP) for Invasive Plant Management on Provincial Public (Crown) Lands in Southern and Coastal BC. This plan replaces current multi-agency PMP's which expire in April 2024 and builds on previous versions which incorporated input and feedback from numerous Indigenous communities throughout the PMP area as well as public consultation through posting of newspaper ads over the years in addition to specific feedback received on this version through the consultation period. The plan supports and enables comprehensive invasive plant management on all provincial public lands within the boundaries of the Plan. FOR is the lead agency on development of the plan and is the PMP holder as described in the *Integrated Pest Management Act Regulation*.

The PMP Area will be specific to Provincial Public Land under the jurisdiction of FOR, MOTI, and BC Parks within the following geographical areas:

1. Vancouver Island, the Southern Coast and Haida Gwaii including the following Regional Districts: Capital, Cowichan Valley, Nanaimo, Alberni-Clayoquot, Comox Valley, Strathcona, Mount Waddington, Central Coast, and North Coast (Haida Gwaii only).
2. South Coastal Mainland including the following Regional Districts: Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley, Squamish-Lillooet, Sunshine Coast and Quathet.
3. Southern Interior including the following Regional Districts: Okanagan-Similkameen, Central Okanagan, North Okanagan, Kootenay Boundary, Central Kootenay, East Kootenay, Columbia-Shuswap, Thompson-Nicola and Cariboo.

The Provincial Public (Crown) lands within the above area include, but are not limited to, highway rights-of-ways, gravel pits; grasslands; provincial parks; conservancy, protected, and forested areas; ecological reserves, wildlife management areas; and watersheds.

The PMP outlines strategies to protect indigenous, ecological, social, and economic values on public land, and outlines an Integrated Pest Management approach to invasive plant management. The plan addresses prevention of new incursions or prohibited species, elimination of new invaders through early detection and rapid response; and presents options for the containment of existing invasive plant populations. Tools to accomplish invasive plant management include surveys and inventories, manual/mechanical treatment methods, biological and cultural controls, and the use of herbicides.

A draft PMP document is posted on the website page entitled "Invasive Plant Pest Management Plans and Pesticide Use Permits" at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/integrated-pest-management/pmp-pup>.

If you have questions regarding the PMP please contact me at the above PMPrespond@gmail.com or 604 996 4683

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Art Guité". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Art Guité B.Sc., M.P.M., P.Ag.