



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

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Hon. Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Email: Minister.MOTI@gov.bc.ca

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BCCA File: 2024-04
SENT BY EMAIL

Hon. Bruce Ralston
Minister of Forests
Email: FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Fleming and Minister Ralston,

RE: Invasive Species Control on Crown Land, Right of Ways and Gravel Pits

As the government prepares for annual budget planning, we urgently request that your ministry includes funding for invasive species management and eradication on Crown lands, right-of-ways and gravel pits. Invasive plants suppress the growth and survival of beneficial plants and negatively impact biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

Prioritizing funding for on-the-ground weed control (spraying) to prevent/control the spread of noxious weeds is essential to ensure the longevity and health of BC's grasslands and ranges. Many ranchers invest their own time and resources into combating weeds on their land, but efforts to control the spread can be ineffective if lack of invasive control on adjacent lands is not addressed.

At present enforcement for invasive plant control on rights-of-way, and vacant lands is inadequate. The present "Rancher Contract" process is long and tedious, often preventing ranchers from controlling invasives on their crown tenures at the optimum time for control to be effective. With the recent wildfires, the further spread of invasive plants is inevitable.

Ranchers are stewards of the land, who help to enhance the ecosystems and biodiversity on many landscapes. Our natural BC landscapes, be they grasslands or forests, are what we are known for worldwide. We appreciate the continued proactive approach to invasive species control.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Best Regards,

Brian Thomas,
President
BC Cattlemen's Association