



Reference: 277844

2024-03-04

**VIA EMAIL: [bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca](mailto:bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca)**

Brian Thomas, President  
BC Cattlemen's Association  
4 – 10145 Dallas Drive  
Kamloops, British Columbia  
V2C 6T4

Dear Brian Thomas:

Thank you for your letter of February 2, 2024, to Ministers Fleming and Ralston, requesting funding for effective invasive plant management to protect grasslands and other rangelands in British Columbia. As this issue resides under the Ministry of Forests' Range Branch, I have been asked to respond.

You expressed concern that invasive plant expansions will increase following wildfires and that the rancher contract process to support treatment by ranchers on their tenured range areas is inefficient. It is recognized that disturbances caused by wildfires, and actions to control them, have created opportunities for increased invasive plant establishment and spread. To reduce this risk, disturbed soil along fireguards and staging areas are seeded with monitoring plots established to determine if these actions are working. If high-risk species are detected post-fire, these sites are added to the annual treatment workplans and controlled as funding becomes available. The rancher contract concern is long-standing; however, herbicide treatment on provincial public lands must comply with the *Integrated Pest Management Act* and the ministry Pest Management Plan. Additionally, the best timing for treatments is often in conflict with ranch-based priorities such as haying, leading to both administration and delivery challenges.

Ministry Invasive Plant Program staff continue to engage in local/regional invasive plant planning tables each year. These sessions provide opportunities for all land managers to participate and identify areas where high-risk species need active control including areas for cross-jurisdictional efforts to buffer and support treatment investments. I encourage ranchers to participate in these planning opportunities to have their concerns recognized and to identify opportunities for "across-the-fence" treatments of adjoining lands.

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I commend the BC Cattlemen's Association and its members for your continued recognition and actions to reduce the impacts of invasive plant species, and I assure you the province recognizes the threat invasive species pose to all ecosystems. We will continue to pursue effective solutions while balancing these needs against other government priorities.

If you have any further questions, please contact Val Miller, Provincial Invasive Plant Officer, by email at [Val.Miller@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Val.Miller@gov.bc.ca) or by phone at (250) 505-4129.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns and support for ongoing invasive plant management.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Melissa Sanderson  
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure  
Danielle Cuthbertson, Acting Director, Range Branch  
Val Miller, Provincial Invasive Plant Officer, Range Branch