

## **Provincial ATV Jamboree and Invasive Plant Prevention**

### **Introduction**

Many land management activities in remote areas involve moving vehicles and equipment to off road locations. Vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), pick up plant seeds and transport them over long distances (Fleming 2005, Taylor, Mangold and Rew 2011). If some of the hitch-hiking seeds are invasive species, vehicles can contribute to the expanding range of infestations. Seeds can remain attached to vehicles for more than 250 km in dry conditions (Taylor, Mangold and Rew 2011). Off road vehicle use increases the risk of spreading invasive plants because greater numbers of seed are picked up off road and off trail (Taylor, Mangold and Rew 2011). An ATV riding off trail can pick up 20 times more seed than when riding on trail (Taylor, Mangold and Rew 2011). Washing vehicles focusing on the problematic areas, such as wheels, wheel wells, drive train, and bumpers, is an effective solution for removing seeds from vehicles preventing their transmission to other areas (Fleming 2005, Taylor et al. 2011)

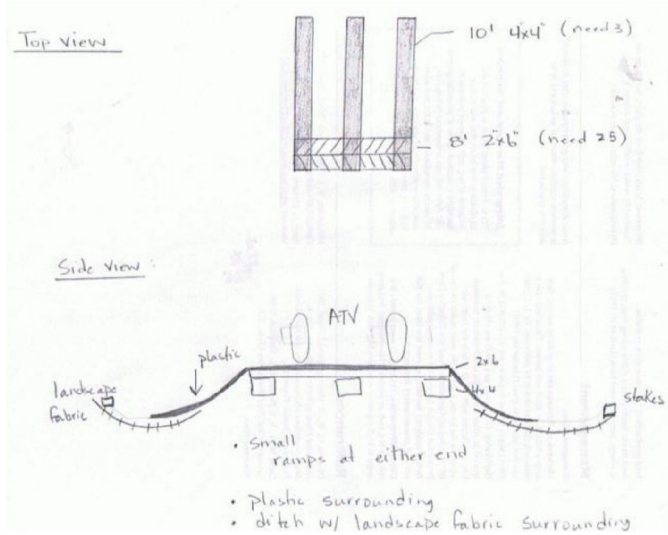
In August 2011, the Northwest Invasive Plant Council was invited to participate in the provincial ATV Jamboree in Prince George by operating an ATV wash station as well as an information booth. The wash station benefited the local area by preventing the transmission of invasive plant seeds into the area as well as ensuring locally invasive species were not spread on leaving ATVs. The Jamboree was expected to draw over 300 riders from all areas of the province.

### **Materials and Methods**

The design for the two ATV wash stations was intended to be durable and portable (see Figure 1).

#### **Site considerations**

1. Water availability.
2. Power availability.
3. Site had good drainage and some slope to prevent ponding.
4. Each washing platform was leveled and dug slightly into the ground for stability.
5. The ground was ramped up to the wash platforms to prevent rips in the geotextile cloth.
6. A berm was build around wash platforms with soil and geotextile to form a catch basin.



**Figure 1.** Original NWIPC ATV wash station design.

### Materials Used

- Wooden 4X4 posts as platform bases,
- 10' 2x4 lumber for platform supports,
- 2x6 lumber, spaced 1/4" to 1/2" apart, for the platform surface. Board spacing allowed for drainage without debris building up on the platform,
- 2-1/4 to 3" screws,
- 36 m geotextile fabric cut larger than the wash platforms,
- Anchors for geotextile (rocks, spikes, etc),
- Water hoses,
- Extension cords,
- Electric portable 1500 PSI pressure washers (low PSI requested by ATV riders),
- Detailed instructions for riders on how to use the wash station.

### Costs

Material	Cost (without taxes)
Lumber	296.44
36 m Non woven geotextile fabric	278.21
2 1500 PSI pressure washers	158.00
2 Water hoses	95.98
Extension cord	109.00
Misc, (hose connectors, screws etc)	22.25
	<b>\$959.88</b>

NWIPC received generous donations from Canadian Forest Products Ltd. and Spectra Energy to support purchasing ATV wash station materials.

NWIPC provided Jamboree organizers with copies of the pocket book *Best Management Practices for Motorized Recreation on BC's Grasslands* developed by the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC. These pocket books were included in each participant's "goodie bag" that they received at registration. The pocket books had been updated with NWIPC contact information and re-printed for this event. The total cost of printing 200 copies was \$503.29 (not including taxes or shipping).

## **Operation**

NWIPC staff selected the wash station site adjacent to available water and power outlets, built the wash stations and set up the information display. Jamboree staff were familiarized with the operation of the wash stations and took responsibility for securing pressure washers at night and setting them up in the morning. NWIPC volunteers staffed the information booth during peak riding times throughout the weeklong event. Volunteers stressed the link between invasive plants and off road vehicle use. NWIPC staff dismantled the wash stations and information booth after the Jamboree. The used geotextile was rolled upon its self, removed to a local landfill and buried.

## **Recommendations for Future Events**

- NWIPC volunteers should staff the wash station and information booth throughout the event and give invasive plant ID and awareness talks during meal times or as a "camp fire" sessions to reinforce the link between why the wash station is at the event and invasive plant prevention.
- Wash platforms were too large. There was more than enough room for side-by-sides and ATVs. Wash platform size could be cut in half.
- Wash stations were completely dismantled after the event. Smaller platforms could remain built and be transported "as is" to future events saving building and dismantling time.

## **Conclusion**

The wash stations were enthusiastically received by Jamboree organizers and participants. NWIPC volunteers observed the wash stations being well used, with riders patiently waiting in lines 3-4 machines long. Line-ups provided good opportunities for volunteers to discuss invasive plant awareness with riders. Many riders were not aware of the connection between invasive plant prevention and the presence of the wash station before talking with NWIPC volunteers.

Jamboree organizers expressed a strong desire to have NWIPC and the ATV wash stations present at future local club events as well as recommending wash stations be set up at all provincial events.

## Pictures from the Event



## Acknowledgements

This project was completed with financial support from Canadian Forest Products and Spectra Energy. Sheila Kennedy, NAWMA provided suggestions on wash station design. Jeff Mohr and many other ATV riders help organize NWIPC involvement in the Provincial Jamboree as well as ensuring the wash station ran as flawlessly as possible. Spectrum Resource Group and Industrial Forestry Service provided much appreciated help during take down. Thank you - to all the NWIPC volunteers who staffed the booth throughout the weeklong event.

## References

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