**Guidelines for Using Herbicides Safely and Effectively for Invasive Plant (IP) Control**

Applying herbicide to targeted plants can be an effective way to control unwanted invasive plants. Here are the steps to follow when using herbicide:

**1. Identify the target plants:** Before applying herbicide, it's important to correctly identify the plants you want to target. Make sure you know what the target plants look like and where they are located.

**2. Choose the right herbicide:** There are different types of herbicides available, so it's essential to select the appropriate one for your specific needs. Consider factors such as the type of plants to be controlled, the size of the area, and any environmental considerations. The NWIPC may tell you what herbicide to use.

**3. Read and follow the label instructions:** Herbicides come with detailed instructions for use and safety precautions. Take the time to carefully read and understand the label before applying the herbicide. Follow the instructions regarding dosage, mixing, application methods, and safety guidelines.

**4. Prepare the herbicide mixture:** If required, mix the herbicide according to the instructions provided on the label. Use the appropriate dilution ratio and ensure the mixture is well-mixed before applying.

**5. Choose the right equipment:** Depending on the size of the area and the type of plants being targeted, you may need different equipment for applying the herbicide. Common options include handheld sprayers, backpack sprayers, or larger equipment for larger areas. Make sure the chosen equipment is clean, in good working condition, and suitable for the herbicide you are using.

**6. Apply the herbicide:** When applying herbicide, it's important to be precise and avoid overspray or drift onto desirable plants. Follow the recommended application method, which may include spraying, spot treatments, or directed application. Take care to cover the target plants thoroughly without excessive runoff.

**7. Observe safety precautions:** Herbicides can be harmful to humans, animals, and the environment if not used properly. Wear protective clothing, including gloves, goggles, and appropriate clothing to minimize contact with the herbicide. Follow all safety guidelines provided by the manufacturer.

**8. Dispose of containers and leftover herbicide properly:** After finishing applying the herbicide, dispose of any empty containers according to regulations. If there is any leftover herbicide, store it in a secure, safe place designated for herbicide storage. Do not pour unused herbicide down drains or into bodies of water.

**9. Monitor and evaluate results:** After applying the herbicide, the NWIPC Field Operations Coordinator (the FC) will monitor the target plants over time to assess the effectiveness of the treatment. If necessary, a repeat the application will be requested and done according to the herbicide's label instructions and within a specified time to ensure efficacy.

Herbicides can have both positive and negative impacts, so it's important to use them responsibly and in accordance with provincial and federal regulations. If you have any doubts or concerns, consult with the NWIPC FC.