Tackling a Single Invasive Species:
Perspective from the Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

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Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

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Overview

- Catalyst for the development of the LSSG and structure
- Influence of LSSG on policy, practice and research
- Lessons Learned from focusing on single species
Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group

- Created in 1998
  - Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association spearheaded initiative
  - Coordinated by RDI (Brandon University)

- Broad coalition
  - agricultural and conservation organizations
  - all 3 levels of government
LSSG Members

- Agricultural Crown Lands
- Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
- Association of Manitoba Municipalities
- Canadian Forces Base Shilo
- Canadian Wildlife Service
- Critical Wildlife Habitat
- Dow AgriSciences, Range & Pasture
- Ducks Unlimited
- Invasive Species Council of MB
- Keystone Agricultural Producers
- Manitoba Agriculture & Food
- Manitoba Cattle Producers Association
- Manitoba Conservation
- Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
- Manitoba Transportation & Government Services
- Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs
- Manitoba Sheep Association
- Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association
- Mid-Assiniboine River Conservation District
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Agency
- Rural Development Institute
Purpose and Objectives

- Increase awareness of leafy spurge
- Examine the issues and impacts of leafy spurge
- Transfer the knowledge of leafy spurge research
- Coordinate communications among agencies
Structure

- Chair
- Steering Committee
- Ad hoc committees (as required)
  - Research Committee
- LSSG is coordinated by RDI
Influence on Policy, Practice and Research
Influence on Practice

- Development of knowledge resources and tools
- Training and capacity building
- Communication tools
- Partnerships and relationships
Influence on Policy

- Participated in CFIA discussions on developing an Canadian Invasive Plant framework
- Asked to make presentations and comment on policy documents
- Invited to make presentations to MAFRI
- Developed relationships with Association of Manitoba Municipalities
Influence on Research

- Field research / demonstration plots
- Hosted leafy spurge forums
- Relationships with Ag Canada research stations in Brandon and Lethbridge
### Total Direct and Indirect Economic Impacts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Grazing Land</th>
<th>Public Land</th>
<th>Rights of Way</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct Annual Impacts</strong></td>
<td>&gt; $5 M</td>
<td>$0.8 M</td>
<td>$0.4 M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Annual Impacts</strong></td>
<td>&gt; $11 M</td>
<td>$1.7 M</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Annual Impacts</strong></td>
<td>&gt; $16 M</td>
<td>$2.5 M</td>
<td>$0.4 M</td>
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<td><strong>Over $19 M per year</strong></td>
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Moving Forward and Lessons Learned

- Single species focus has allowed:
  - Coordinated effort focused on leafy spurge
  - Build necessary relationships with key stakeholders
- Funding opportunities have influenced the direction of the group
- Leafy spurge is not the sole responsibility of a single provincial government department
- Need to attract the right people from organizations to participate in collaboration
- Need for inter-provincial efforts
- Changing priorities
- Capacity
- Need strong champion