

Successful Collaborative Multi-stakeholder Grant Project

COUNCIL NAME

Snowy Valleys
Council

WEB ADDRESS

www.snowyvalleys.nsw.gov.au

SIZE

8960 square metres

POPULATION

14,953

Overview

In 2010 an infestation of Chilean Needlegrass (CNG), a declared class 3 noxious weed and weed of national significance was discovered in Tumut Shire near Adelong Gap. Initially the infestation was managed as a part of an in-house weed control program that lacked a strategic regional focus. Subsequently the ranger/noxious weeds inspector from Snowy Valleys Council prepared a successful multi-stakeholder grant funded project for the management of CNG.

Background

Council had the opportunity to expand their existing weed control program through grant funding to address this infestation, and through both in-kind and actual contributions from multiple stakeholders working collaboratively. These stakeholders included:

- Snowy Valleys Council
- Australian Rail Track Corporation
- John Holland Group
- National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Local Land Services
- Roads and Maritime Services
- Private landholders
- Rural Fire Service



Photo: Chilean Needlegrass

Implementation

The project created efficiencies as the overall cost to each participating organisation was significantly reduced by sharing work across sites and taking a tenure neutral approach to project works. In this manner, less cost was incurred to each organisation than if they were dealt with separately.

Costs associated with the project were offset through significant participation and contributions from organisations working across boundaries. For example, one organisation provided a whole of project service for activities which included: slashing, spraying and purchasing on behalf of all project partners.

The weed infestation was managed more strategically with the coordinated effort of all parties. A number of longer term changes in roadside management practices were also adopted for a range of activities including:

- asset management protocols
- vegetation management methods
- site hygiene
- dedicated signage and community awareness programs

REFERENCES

Tumut Shire: Chilean
Needlegrass
Recognition Guide
and Land Managers
Information guide

The project also demonstrated a link to the following higher order council plans:

- Roadside management plans
- Work Health Safety system
- Contractor management system
- Council environmental plans

Outcomes

The expected goal through its initial (3 year) phase was a 40-60% decrease in CNG infestation in areas under management and containment to prevent further spread. However, the project saw 95-97% decrease of CNG in treated areas, and more than 2000 native tree species planted to assist in habitat recovery processes.

Key Learnings

The coordination of project activities created project efficiencies in both cost and implementation, however challenges were faced and needed to be addressed to ensure success. These included:

- the need to overcome in-house institutionalised 'silos' in adopting an innovative multi-agency approach to managing roadside weeds; and
- additional staff training and awareness required to co-ordinate work programs with other land management organisations and to adopt changed practices.

Contact

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