



**RDOS Area “D” Governance Study
Fact Sheets
January 2016**

INVASIVE PLANTS & PEST CONTROL

► **What services are provided?**

Invasive plants and pest control services within the RDOS are comprised of the following:

- **Noxious Insect Control Program** – includes monitoring, verification of infestations and public education to ensure bylaw compliance for the control of noxious insects (fruit tree pests) delivered to the Town of Oliver, Village of Keremeos and all but 1 electoral area (Area “H”) within the RDOS. The scope of this program was reduced with the introduction of the Sterile Insect Release Program in 2001 (described below) – it now focuses on pests not addressed by the Sterile Insect Release Program (outlined later in this section), such as the Western Cherry Fruit Fly, Spotted Wing Drosophila, Clear Wing Moth and Fire Blight. Within Summerland and Penticton, the services is limited to enforcement of pest control bylaws.
- **Mosquito Control Program** – includes seasonal site monitoring of up to 281 properties and application of non-toxic, organic spray to control nuisance mosquitos in all but 1 electoral area (Area “E”) and all but 2 member municipalities (Village of Keremeos and Town of Princeton).
- **Invasive Plant Species Program** (formerly noxious weeds) – includes removal of invasive plant species both land-based and aquatic, prevention, education and public relations delivered on a region-wide basis.

The RDOS also participates in and contributes to two related pest control partnership programs that are delivered on a multi-regional basis:

- **Nuisance Starling Control Program** – includes a starling control (juvenile trapping)

program for the protection of agriculture and native bird species delivered in partnership with the BC Fruit Growers’ Association, the BC Cherry Association, BC Grapegrowers Association, Okanagan Tree Fruits Cooperative, the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) and the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO).

- **Sterile Insect Release Program** – exists to protect tree fruit from the codling moth population and includes monitoring, education, enforcement and population control measures (sterile moth release, mating disruption, blossom/fruit removal, cardboard banding and/or pesticide application) in partnership with the RDCO, RDNO, Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSR) and growers throughout participating regions. All of the RDOS participates in the program except for Area “H”, the Town of Princeton and Apex in Area “D.”

► **Who delivers the service?**

The Noxious Insect Control and Mosquito Control programs are delivered on a seasonal basis to the participating electoral areas and member municipalities by the RDOS Public Works department. The service employs 2 part-time, seasonal labourers and 1 part-time, seasonal Pest and Mosquito Control Coordinator who reports to the Manager of Public Works. The delivery of the Invasive Plant Species is contracted out to the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society.

The Nuisance Starling Control program is funded jointly by the program partners, and is overseen by a Management Committee that includes representatives from the RDOS, BC Fruit Growers’ Association, the BC Cherry Association, the BC Grapegrowers’ Association, BC Ministry

of Agriculture, landowners whose properties are typically used for trapping and an environmental/naturalist club representative. The program is delivered on a year-round basis through the BC Grapegrowers' Association, which administers the program on behalf of the program partners. Trapping is carried out by a team of 5 contracted trappers – 3 in the RDOS, 1 in the RDNO, and 1 in the RDCO.

The Sterile Insect Release (SIR) program was established in 1992 as an independent corporation, governed by an autonomous Board of Directors which includes 1 representative from each of the 4 participating regional districts; 3 grower representatives and 2 non-voting senior government representatives – 1 from Agriculture Canada and the other from the BC Ministry of Agriculture. The program employs and is delivered by a General Manager along with approximately 16 full-time staff and 70 seasonal staff. SIR offices are located in Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon and Osoyoos.

➤ **Who makes decisions?**

Operational decisions related to the programs delivered by the RDOS (Noxious Insect Control, Mosquito Control and Invasive Plant Species programs) are made by the RDOS directors representing the participating areas with input from the Manager of Public Works and Chief Administrative Officer. Decisions regarding budget matters, the financial plan, regulatory bylaws or borrowing are made by the full Board of Directors.

All matters related to the Nuisance Starling Control program are considered by the Management Committee, and any recommendations are referred to the BC Grapegrowers Association's Board of Directors for decision. The RDOS has 1 representative on the Management Committee. The total number of committee members fluctuates depending on the number of participating landowners.

The SIR Board of Directors is responsible for all decisions related to the SIR program, with input from the program's General Manager. As outlined, each of the 4 participating regional districts have 1 voting member on the Board of Directors which is comprised of 7 voting members and 2 non-voting members in total.

➤ **What is spent by RDOS on the services?**

The total cost of invasive plants and pest control services that impact Area "D" are shown in Figure 1. The amounts shown represent the total cost of these services, and not the portion that Area "D" residences pay for through taxes.

**Figure 1
Cost of Services
2015**

Service Component	Cost ¹
Noxious Insect Control Program ²	\$11,144
Mosquito Control Program	\$128,951
Invasive Plant Species Program	\$55,355
Nuisance Starling Control Program	\$25,500
Sterile Insect Release Program	\$886,121

1 Cost estimates are from adopted 2015 budget figures
2 Includes cost of pest control bylaw enforcement in Penticton and Summerland.

In addition to the service costs, there are also operating and capital reserve accounts created for future expenditures. Reserve totals are included in Figure 2.

**Figure 2
Reserve Totals
2015**

Service	Reserve Total ¹
Mosquito Control - Capital	\$4,578
Mosquito Control - Operating	\$40,961
Noxious Insect Control - Operating ²	\$5,937

1 Reserve totals are as at the end of 2014.
2 Reserve is for areas participating in the program. A separate operating reserve exists for pest control bylaw enforcement in Summerland only (\$3,345).

➤ **How are the costs recovered?**

Noxious Insect Control Program – the costs of this program are raised primarily through property taxes in the participating rural areas (on the basis of converted assessment for land and improvements). Contract revenue from participating municipalities pays for services in those particular areas.

Mosquito Control Program - the costs of this program are raised through property taxes in the participating areas (on the basis of converted assessment for land and improvements), transfers from reserves and prior years' surplus.

Invasive Plant Species Program – a region-wide service, the costs of this program are shared equally throughout the RDOS, and the costs are raised through property taxes (on the basis of converted assessment for land and improvements) and prior years' surplus.

Nuisance Starling Control Program - the RDOS participates on a region-wide basis and contributes approximately \$25,000 annually towards this program, the costs of which are raised through property taxes on the basis of converted assessment for land and improvements.

Sterile Insect Release Program – The costs of this program are raised through a combination of property taxes and parcel taxes in the participating areas. General taxpayers (including growers) pay property taxes on the basis of converted assessment for land and improvements, and growers pay through parcel taxes levied on a per acre basis. Grower parcel taxes pay for approximately 60% of the overall SIR program costs.

➤ **What is the cost to the typical resident?**

The tax impact on residents within Area “D” for invasive plants and pest control services is shown in Figure 3. The amount owing is based on a home valued at \$325,000.

In addition, under the SIR program, each parcel of property that is 0.3 acre or greater in size with 20 or more codling moth host trees (apple, pear, crabapple and/or quince) are also levied a parcel tax. In 2015, the parcel tax was set at \$139.26 per planted acre. All properties that are levied a SIR parcel tax are assessed for a minimum of 1 acre.

Figure 3
Cost Impact on Typical Residence
2015

Service	Tax Req. ¹	Res. Rate	Owing ²
Noxious Insect Control	\$1,867	0.0003	\$0.11
Mosquito Control	\$92,451	0.0057	\$1.86
Invasive Plant Control	\$20,355	0.0012	\$0.38
Starling Control	\$25,350	0.0015	\$0.47
Sterile Insect Release	\$363,453	0.0231	\$7.49
Total			\$10.31

1 Tax requisition amount excludes 5.25% Surveyor of Taxes fee
2 Impact is calculated on a home assessed at \$325,000