

**Subject** Environmental Services

**Month** February 2020

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### **SOLID WASTE**

The Environmental Services Department Staff have been preparing for the Recycle BC Depot Launches on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Fernie Transfer Station, February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Elkford Transfer Station, and March 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Sparwood Transfer Station.

Wood grinding at the Columbia Valley Landfill and Central Subregion Landfill will begin in early February. Green wood grindings will be hauled to Skookumchuck Pulp Mill.

All solid waste facilities are under typical winter conditions. Sites are sanded and plowed as needed.

### **PARKS AND RECREATION**

The Recreation & Control Services annual report has been completed and submitted to Board for review.

Winter park, trail and recreation facility inspections have been completed in order to assess winter damage/vandalism for budgeting.

A grant through Columbia Basin Trust for an energy project at the Eddie Mountain Memorial Arena has gone to the second phase in the application process. The energy advisor is looking into improving current efficiencies with utilities at the building.

### **INVASIVE PLANT**

The Invasive Plant Program annual report has been completed and submitted to Board for review.

In 2019, the RDEK Weed Control Officer received numerous invasive plant complaints on Crown land adjacent to private land in rural areas. These complaints were forwarded to the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council who indicated that MFLNRORD's direction for the past couple years has been 'backcountry out' approach for all invasive plants, and only high priority plants in the front country. There are numerous large and small area low priority invasive plants infestations (i.e. spotted knapweed) throughout the RDEK that are adjacent to private land in rural areas not considered to be backcountry. This is problematic for private landowners attempting to controlling species on their lands adjacent to Crown land infestations and for enforcing private landowners with infestations adjacent to Crown land infestations.