

Delegation Request to North Cowichan from Broombusters Invasive Plant Society 2023

In April, Qualicum Beach will be presenting a Resolution to AVICC regarding Scotch broom. This resolution is not asking that broom be classified as a Regional Noxious Weed but asking that local government and the Province take this very harmful plant seriously, and use local bylaws and policies to control its spread. We hope that North Cowichan Councilors will support this Resolution.*

Broombusters is not asking for a grant. Instead, we hope that the district will affirm a policy to remove the broom cut by volunteers. Broom removal is how more than 12 other participating municipalities support local volunteers' efforts. This is what makes Broombusters possible!

The information about the negative impacts of Scotch broom is only getting worse.

- **Re: BIODIVERSITY.** A 2021 assessment study for the Invasive Species Council of BC stated that **Scotch broom is the single invasive species doing the greatest harm to species at risk in BC.**

- **FIRE:** With longer drier summers, and as broom becomes denser and more widespread, the presence of Scotch broom **increases the risk of urban interface fires.**

“Test burns of this invasive noxious weed have proven to be highly flammable in large concentrations making a wildfire more volatile and difficult to extinguish.”

(A quote Fire Chief of Powell River, Terry Peters)

- **Scotch broom inhibits and prevents forest regrowth.** This loss is verified by statistics from Oregon and Washington: In 2014, (9 years ago) Oregon reported \$47 million in lost timber sales because of Scotch broom. In 2017, western Washington reported that widespread Scotch broom has the potential to cause \$142.7 million in lost timber sales.

The list of damage done by Scotch broom goes on. Fortunately, Scotch broom is one of the easier plants to eradicate in the early years - if we make the effort.

Thank you!

Joanne Sales and 600+ Broombusters volunteers

www.broombusters.org

* We will send you a copy of the Resolution after the words are finalized by Qualicum Beach.

Joanne Sales, Executive Director Broombusters Invasive Plant Society

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