

Maintaining our pipeline right-of-way

Westcoast Energy Inc. (Westcoast), an Enbridge company, operates the major natural gas transmission pipeline system in British Columbia (BC), known as the Westcoast system, which delivers natural gas to markets throughout BC, Alberta and the U.S. Pacific Northwest. This natural gas is used to heat homes, hospitals, business, and schools. It is also used as a fuel for electric power generation and is a staple in a number of industrial and manufacturing processes that produce hundreds of products that improve our lives.



To maintain this pipeline system, Westcoast is required to ensure that its pipeline right-of-way—the land area above the pipeline—is clear of large trees and vegetation that could hinder access for maintenance and inspections, emergency response, and other necessary operations. This is achieved through its Integrated Vegetation Management Plan (IVMP).

What is an IVMP?

Westcoast's IVMP outlines the control methods used to manage vegetation and invasive plant species along the pipeline right-of-way. These methods include biological, chemical, mechanical and manual approaches. All control methods are applied in a way that aims to minimize unwanted impacts and ensure safety of people and the environment.

Healthy vegetation management supports the maintenance of native plant species, wildlife populations, and diverse ecosystems throughout BC. If not properly managed, vegetation on a pipeline right-of-way and facilities sites may:

- Impact safe system operations and reliability
- Increase the risk of fire hazards
- Interfere with leak detection methods
- Spread noxious or invasive weeds to nearby land

Why do we need an IVMP?

The IVMP is regulated under the provisions of the Integrated Pest Management Act and Integrated Pest Management Regulation. This legislation requires vegetation management plans to be reviewed and updated every five years.

Westcoast's IVMP is renewed accordingly, incorporating revised vegetation management goals and practices, while continuing the safe and effective control of vegetation and invasive weeds on Westcoast's pipeline right-of-way and facilities sites.

The IVMP ensures that the best treatment is selected for each location, based on the specific conditions and local input.



Vegetation control methods

Herbicide applications

Herbicide application is regarded as the most effective treatment method for controlling the spread of invasive and noxious weeds. Westcoast only uses herbicides registered and approved by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency.

All herbicide treatments on Westcoast's right-of-way and facilities sites are applied by certified operators. Most herbicide treatments are done by hand with backpack sprayers, ensuring the application goes to the targeted invasive species, while limiting impacts to surrounding vegetation.

Biological control

A biological control method refers to the use of herbivores or insect species that feed on invasive plants or weeds. While this approach does not eradicate the targeted vegetation, it helps weaken its population over time.



In 2023, Westcoast piloted a multi-year [Goat Grazing Project](#), which employed about 30 goats to browse the pipeline right-of-way along the Pine Pass in northern BC. The use of goats and other herbivores illustrates how Westcoast considers all innovative options for vegetation management.

Mechanical management

Mechanical methods, such as mowing and mulching, remove the surface portion of plants and do not target the root networks.

Manual management

Manual removal, such as hand pulling plants, is labour intensive and may only remove some root material.

Public and Indigenous engagement

Westcoast is committed to engaging and working with Indigenous groups, landowners, municipalities/regional districts, and the public who may be impacted by its vegetation management activities. By understanding local and Indigenous interests, Westcoast can incorporate feedback into its IVMP and operations.

Your feedback is welcome

Westcoast values meaningful engagement and collaboration with the communities near our operations and activities. You can get in touch with us at any time with your questions or comments about the IVMP.

Call us toll-free at: 1-833-267-2220 or email Westcoast.IVMP@enbridge.com. For more information visit enbridge.com/BC or scan the QR code below.

