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**Joint Media Release**

## **Greenview and County of Grande Prairie Partner with Community for Fourth Annual Common Tansy Attack**

On August 21, the MD of Greenview and the County of Grande Prairie will partner with dedicated volunteers to respond to infestations of Common Tansy along the Smoky River. 2019 marks the fourth year of the project, and the second year with the County and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry as partners.

Due to Common Tansy's invasive nature and tendency for seeds to spread with spring runoff, this plant has the potential to infest and outcompete native vegetation anywhere downstream. Watersheds that could potentially be impacted include the Peace River, Slave River, Great Slave Lake and beyond. By being proactive, Greenview and the County of Grande Prairie hope to save large areas of native vegetation along the water's edge.

Community groups and industry partners have also stepped up to lend their support, including the Grande Prairie River Rats, Seven Generations Energy, Canadian Natural Resources Limited, Stojan's Power Sports and Marine, Barda Equipment, Brandt Tractor, Kelt Exploration and Dans Water Hauling. The Alberta Invasive Species Council, Alberta Environment and Parks and community volunteers will also join in the effort.

Greenview Agricultural Services became aware of the Common Tansy problem on the Smoky River during a routine inspection in 2015. Clean-up efforts have taken place since 2016, resulting in an estimated reduction of 25 percent of the invasive species in this area.

Along with the control efforts, the purpose of the clean-up is to bring awareness to Common Tansy along the Smoky River. With increased awareness of the plant and its potentially harmful effects, Greenview hopes to start moving control efforts up river targeting new infestations as well as ongoing control work at the previous clean-up sites. The Common Tansy problem will need to be addressed over multiple growing seasons. Due to its location along the water, the tansy is being controlled through manual labour by hand pulling and digging out the plants one by one and burning the plants to minimize the opportunity for the seeds to spread. This labour-intensive process relies on the help of many hands. Should water levels or weather prevent safe river travel, the project will be rescheduled.

MD of Greenview Reeve Dale Smith acknowledged the importance of the volunteers: "We want to extend our sincere appreciation to the Grande Prairie River Rats, Seven Generations Energy, Canadian Natural Resources Limited, and Alberta Invasive Species Council, along with all of our new and returning corporate and community partners for being part of the Common Tansy control project. A project of this magnitude wouldn't be possible without the dedicated work of many people, and we are so pleased that these community-focused organizations and businesses were able to join us again this year."

"The County is proud to partner with Greenview again on this important initiative to help preserve our environment," said County of Grande Prairie Reeve Leanne Beaupre. "Thank you to the helping hands from returning government and industry partners as well as dedicated community volunteers who make this clean-up possible."



**Media Contacts:**

Stacey Sevilla  
Manager, Communications and Marketing  
MD of Greenview  
780-524-7600  
[stacey.sevilla@mdgreeview.ab.ca](mailto:stacey.sevilla@mdgreeview.ab.ca)

Sonja Raven  
Agricultural Fieldman  
County of Grande Prairie  
780-532-9727