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## Media Release

For Immediate Release

DATE: August 18, 2021

### **SUMMERLAND—Giant’s Head Mountain grassland & weed walk**

Nature Lovers, please join the District of Summerland and the Grasslands Conservation Council of BC to learn more about the important role of healthy grasslands in a changing climate and one of the major threats to them: weeds!

On Wednesday August 25 from 8:30 – 10:30 am, participants will join event hosts, Summerland Mayor Toni Boot, Grasslands Conservation Council of BC Chair Bob Haywood-Farmer and General Manager Karen Raven, Habitat Biologist Jessica Hobden and District staff on an interactive walk on Summerland’s Giant’s Head Mountain. Learn about grasslands, the trails redevelopment project and three common weeds and strategies on how to control them.

“The importance of the grasslands cannot be overstated,” said Bob Haywood-Farmer. “This stunning habitat is limited to a mere 0.8% of the BC landscape and yet it provides a home for 30+ percent of the endangered species that are blue or red listed. As a soil builder and sequester of carbon, the grasslands are number one - no other habitat comes close to grasslands in that respect. The top soils in the world are all grassland soils.”

“In the summer of 2020 the District, Summerland Rotary Club, and provincial funding partners celebrated the completion of Phases 1 & 2 of the Giant’s Head Mountain Trails Redevelopment Project,” said Mayor Toni Boot. “This work was done to both enhance the trail system and the safety of its users, and to protect the sensitive grasslands ecosystem that provides habitat and food sources to a variety of species. While some trails were decommissioned and reseeded to assist with rehabilitation, other redevelopment disturbed the soil, making it vulnerable to invasive weeds. The Grasslands & Weed Walk is an opportunity to learn about the value of the grasslands, why it is important to protect it and how park users can help restore it.”

The event is free but pre-registration is required by phoning 250-494-0447 or online at [www.summerland.perfectmind.com](http://www.summerland.perfectmind.com). The event will start at the lower parking lot of Giant’s Head Mountain (9296 Milne Road).

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