



CKISS Aquatic Invasive Species Strategic 5-Year Action Plan 2014-2019

PURPOSE

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are nonindigenous species that threaten the diversity or abundance of native species, ecological stability, and any commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters. The purpose of this Plan is to prioritize activities for AIS prevention, early detection, control, monitoring and outreach within a five-year time frame and to ensure that AIS activities are coordinated and collaborative.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the Aquatic Working Group (AWG) is that:

The waterways and associated riparian areas in the Central Kootenay are protected from aquatic invasive species but where they do occur, their adverse impacts are minimized.

MISSION

The mission of the AWG is provide a forum for discussion, coordination and action with respect to aquatic invasive species including prevention, early detection, control, monitoring and outreach in the CKISS region.

SCOPE

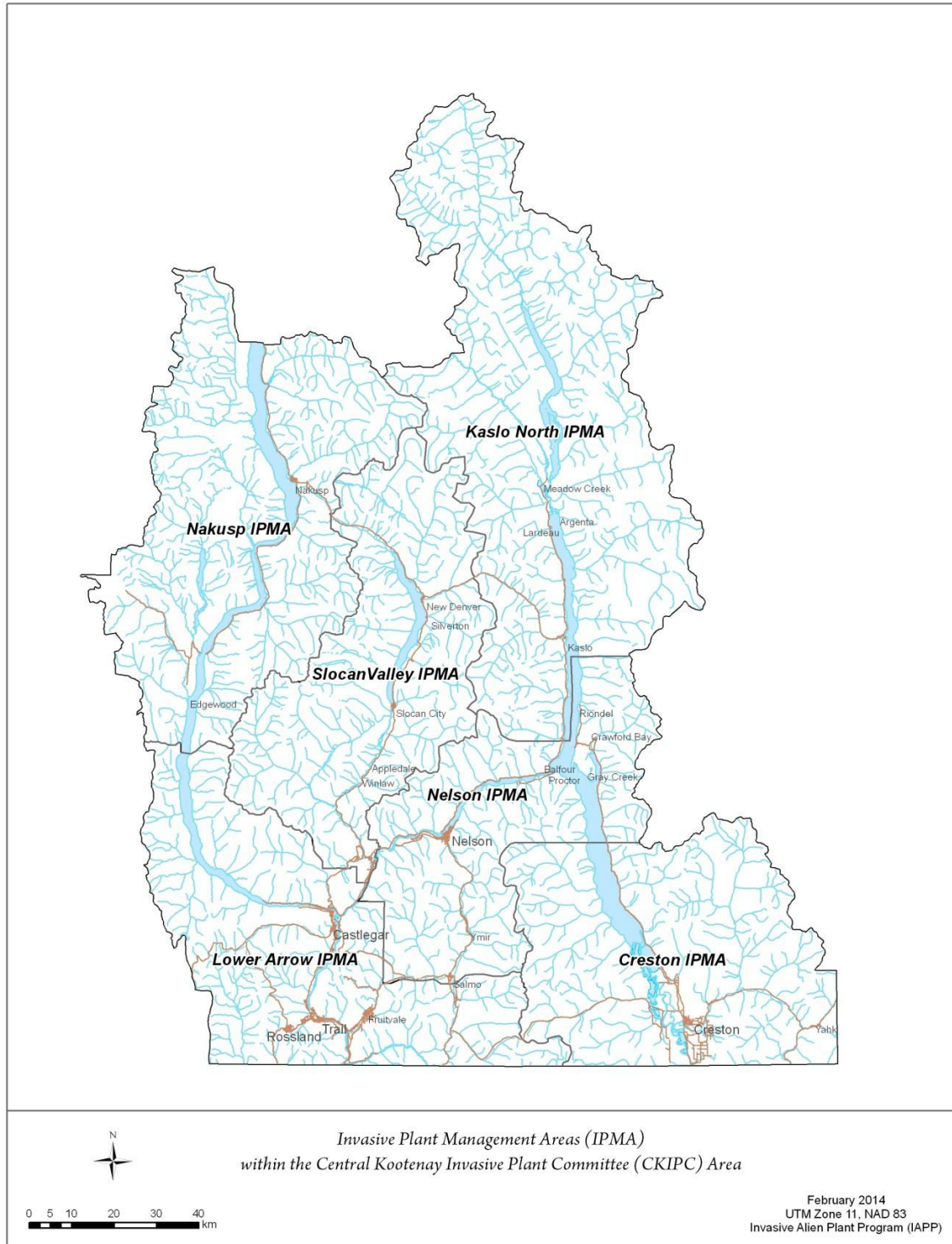
This strategic action plan refers to the geographic area encompassed by the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS). Aquatic Invasive Species are those defined by the CKISS AWG on its Priority List. Recommendations for strategic action are for both CKISS and its partners and specific tasks will be delegated on the CKISS Annual Workplan.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- i. Prevention is the best course of action.
- ii. There are many pathways of introduction and spread, virtually all of which are related to human activities, both accidental and intentional.
- iii. New introductions and the spread of existing infestations have many associated costs.
- iv. There are few control methods available once AIS become established.
- v. The spread and impacts of AIS transcend jurisdictional boundaries.
- vi. Coordinated planning and implementation with key stakeholders provides the greatest likelihood of long-term success.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA

This strategy refers to the geographic area encompassed by the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS).





GOALS AND STRATEGIES

The goal of the CKISS Aquatic Working Group (AWG) is to provide a forum for discussion, coordination and action with respect to aquatic invasive species including prevention, early detection, control, monitoring and outreach in the CKISS region. The following actions may be undertaken by CKISS staff and contractors and/or AWG partner organizations. The agency responsible for each task will be designated in the CKISS Annual Workplan.

GOAL 1: PROMOTE A COOPERATIVE AND COLLABORATIVE AIS PROGRAM IN THE CENTRAL KOOTENAY

- 1) Continue to **identify, seek and engage partners** and stakeholders in the AWG
- 2) Continue regular meetings of the **CKISS Aquatic Working Group** to communicate about current activities, ensure efficiencies, and collaborate on projects.
- 3) Maintain the **priority species table** and cross-reference with Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG), Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC), Idaho and Washington.
- 4) Participate in **cross-border conferences and provincial** workshops
- 5) Maintain a **list of relevant reports and projects of all partners** on the CKISS website.
- 6) Maintain **contact with organizations involved in AIS** in the Central Kootenay and report back on their activities to the AWG.

GOAL 2: PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION AND SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- 1) Follow and promote the use of **best management practices** such as Equipment Disinfection Procedures¹ throughout the region, particularly when moving between water bodies.
- 2) **Promote and expand new and existing campaigns** (e.g., Clean, Drain, Dry and Plant Wise) that have a proven track record of raising awareness and fostering behavior change among target audiences
- 3) Promote the installation and use of **boat washing stations** throughout the region and access expertise for their installation and use
- 4) Identify **target audiences** in the Central Kootenay for each of the key pathways of AIS introduction and spread including aquariums and water gardens, commercial and recreational watercrafts and equipment, and angling and diving gear:
- 5) Annually **visit aquarium and pond stores** in CKISS region to monitor species being sold and provide list of "most unwanted" pets and **promote voluntary codes of conduct**
- 6) Install **posters or signs at key locations** including "No Dumping" and "Clean, Drain, Dry"
- 7) Promote **education (e.g. posters, brochures) and local border crossings**

¹See: Equipment Disinfection Procedures (MOE, Matthias Herborg):

<http://kdfga.ca/11%2011%2020%20Didymo%20gear%20disinfection%20procedures.pdf>



GOAL 3: INCREASE PROBABILITY OF EARLY DETECTION THROUGH A COORDINATED MONITORING PROGRAM

- 1) Identify existing high risk **upstream infestations** of AIS to identify priority downstream areas for monitoring
- 2) Develop a **monitoring plan** for the CKISS region including high priority sites, species, and timing
- 3) Identify **permanent sample locations** for annual monitoring
- 4) Where possible, **follow standardized monitoring procedures** so data can be shared between agencies. Standard Monitoring Procedures include: (e.g. Plankton Collection Protocol (Portland State University, Steve Wells))
- 5) Identify **centralized, long-term data storage options** for sharing information (Ask Mathias about web mapping site)
- 6) Increase stewardship group **volunteer opportunities for monitoring** for AIS by providing training workshops, sampling packages, and key resources
- 7) Promote use of a **“hot-lines” for reporting** AIS sightings (1-888-WEEDSBC or 250-352-1160)
- 8) Seek existing tools or develop additional tools to **support identification** of high priority species (e.g. AIS Alerts, posters, brochures, etc.)
- 9) Provide **annual training opportunities** for people who work in aquatic systems for identification of key species
- 10) Create a network of **taxonomic experts** for each group of organisms to identify samples

GOAL 4: REDUCE IMPACTS OF EXISTING INVASIVE SPECIES INFESTATIONS

- 1) Maintain a **priority species table** with management objectives by species
- 2) **Remove riparian and aquatic invasive species** where possible
- 3) **Encourage restoration** of areas following AIS eradication and control efforts
- 4) Promote **training in control methods** for AIS
- 5) Participate in the development of **rapid response protocols** for AIS detections

GOAL 5: ACCESS AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION TO ALL LEVELS OF STAKEHOLDERS

- 1) Utilize and update the **CKISS website** to link to AIS management, best management practices, TIPS, stakeholder management plans, current locations of AIS infestations, and other information
- 2) Utilize existing and develop additional **educational activities and products** aimed at target audiences regarding specific actions that can be taken to prevent, detect, and control AIS
- 3) Utilize **social media as well as traditional media** sources to disseminate information and promote awareness
- 4) Support **research** on AIS in the region including potential impacts, mitigation techniques, and prevention strategies
- 5) Develop a list of **high priority research topics and opportunities for student projects**
- 6) **Develop a presentation** that can be delivered by members of the CKISS Aquatic Working Group, stewardship groups or other people
- 7) **Participate in public events** (e.g., conferences, shows, derbys) to reach a broad range of the public.
- 8) **Disseminate brochures and other information** to key audiences.



GOAL 6: ENSURE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY

- 1) Seek opportunities to **leverage funds** for AIS activities that support this Strategic Action Plan
- 2) **Recognize and acknowledge partners** for contributions
- 3) **Advertise successes** through an Annual Report, media, and social networking
- 4) **Provide regular updates** to elected officials about the importance of AIS
- 5) **Promote fiscal and intellectual support** to continually improve programs

GOAL 7: SUPPORT PROVINCIAL, FEDERAL AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

- 1) Promote **increased enforcement** including adequate capacity, awareness, cooperation, and coordination of enforcement activities
- 2) Support and promote **proposed federal legislative changes and border inspection stations**
- 3) Encourage **policies supporting harvesting activities** (such as not release invasive fish that are caught in electrofishing and stock assessment surveys or establishing “no catch limits” for invasive fish)
- 4) **Promote AIS messaging** as an insert into fishing or boating regulations
- 5) Support regional efforts that **further international, federal and provincial priorities** and ensure CKISS AWG activities are consistent with these higher-level priorities
- 6) Promote a **felt wading-boot ban in BC**
- 7) Promote **provincial on-line reporting tools** for AIS in BC (e.g. report-a-weed)

ASSESSING PROGRESS

Progress will be monitored annually based on completion of tasks in the annual work plan. Every five years, longer-term success can be evaluated by monitoring indicators.

- 1) Develop a “monitoring for success” spreadsheet to identify and track indicators such as:
 - # hits on CKISS website/Facebook page
 - # AIS calls into CKISS hotline
 - # blank squares on CKISS AIS Priority List (e.g. un-infested waterways)
 - # monitoring sites
 - # of CKISS AWG Partners
 - # of species that have been eradicated or contained
 - # sites where control activities have occurred
 - # of Annual Workplan tasks that have been completed