



CENTRAL KOOTENAY INVASIVE SPECIES SOCIETY STRATEGIC PLAN

2014 TO 2019

PURPOSES

The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society is a non-profit society that was formed by a group of residents and company/agency representatives who were interested in promoting collaborative approaches to invasive management in 2005. The Society includes representatives from non-profit societies, utility companies, government agencies, and local companies. The purposes of the Society (as per the Society's Constitution), within the geographic area of the Regional District of the Central Kootenay and Areas A & B of the Regional District of the Kootenay Boundary, are to:

- (a) Raise awareness and educate the public, government agencies, and other land managers about invasive species and their impacts in the area;
- (b) Prevent the further introduction and spread of invasive species in the area through education and awareness, early detection and control, and coordinated integrated weed management efforts;
- (c) Promote coordinated and collaborative management of invasive species between agencies and land occupiers;
- (d) Work towards the control/containment of highly invasive non-native species;
- (e) Provide a conduit for information and a source of expertise on invasive species;
- (f) Develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory of invasive species within the area of responsibility; and,
- (g) Hire and direct an Executive Director to fulfill the purposes of the Society, as required.

VISION STATEMENT

A network of partners collaborating to minimize the impacts of invasive species on the ecosystems, communities, and economy of the Central Kootenay region.

VALUES

The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society will:

- Be collaborative and democratic;
- Ensure the inclusion of multiple perspectives;
- Proactively promote and facilitate partnerships;
- Have a membership that is open and inclusive;
- Respect the values and perspectives of all stakeholders;
- Be transparent and accountable;
- Be independent and non-partisan;
- Operate as a non-profit organization; and
- Seek and accept funding from multiple sources.



GOALS AND STRATEGIES

The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society will sustain its coordinating role to engage and support a network of organizations and citizens in their responses to the threat of invasive species by the following goals and strategic priorities.

GOAL 1: IMPLEMENT A COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED PROGRAM

- (1) Prioritize invasive species and associated management activities.
- (2) Continue to seek and engage partners for collaborative planning and management.
- (3) Promote and maintain lead role and central contact for coordination of invasive species management in the Central Kootenay.
- (4) Maintain communications with neighbouring regional invasive species organizations.
- (5) Promote information transfer to partners through a variety of tools including personal contact, presentations and social media.

GOAL 2: EDUCATE, ENGAGE AND INSPIRE RESIDENTS AND PARTNERS TO PARTICIPATE IN INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- (1) Foster behavioural change through targeted education and outreach programs.
- (2) Engage youth groups, pre- and post-secondary schools.
- (3) Disseminate information on all aspects of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species including impacts, prevention, management, identification, and proper disposal techniques.
- (4) Provide clear messaging on the detrimental impacts of invasive species to improve public understanding and promote “buy-in”.

GOAL 3: PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION, ESTABLISHMENT AND SPREAD OF AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL INVASIVE SPECIES

- (1) Promote the use and sale of native and non-invasive ornamental alternative species.
- (2) Provide training programs on best management practices for forestry, horticulture, recreation, road maintenance, and other activities/user groups that may potentially unintentionally act as vectors for invasive species.
- (3) Promote proper disposal of invasive species.
- (4) Recognize and mitigate threats from adjacent boundaries and primary pathways of introduction.
- (5) Identify information and knowledge gaps, and conduct inventories as required.
- (6) Support provincial and regional reporting and early detection and rapid response programs.



GOAL 4: REDUCE THE IMPACTS OF EXISTING INVASIVE SPECIES POPULATIONS ON BIODIVERSITY, NATURAL RESOURCE VALUES, AND THE ECONOMY

- (1) Support the development and implementation of Invasive Species Management Areas Operational Frameworks.
- (2) Monitor efficacy of treatments and adopt an adaptive management approach.
- (3) Continue to research and remain up-to-date on best management practices.
- (4) Promote and implement integrated weed management techniques.
- (5) Promote ecosystem restoration on disturbed sites and post-treatment.
- (6) Support and encourage research activities.
- (7) Coordinate and deliver operational activities on behalf of partners to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.

GOAL 5: BUILD CAPACITY TO ENSURE PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY

- (1) Expand and develop partnerships, membership, and funding opportunities.
- (2) Ensure ongoing Board development and succession planning.
- (3) Support local and provincial government policy development and implementation.
- (4) Provide the opportunity for stakeholders to regularly meet to identify opportunities and challenges, and collaboratively develop strategies to address them.
- (5) Maintain and strengthen cross-border, multi-agency collaborations.
- (6) Develop performance measures and monitor effectiveness of programs.
- (7) Advertise successes to partners, members, and the general public.