



2018 Annual Summary Report



Working Together to Prevent the
Spread of Invasive Species

ckiss.ca

From the President

When I joined the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) in 2006, it was a very different organization than it is today. Our focus was on terrestrial plants, or weeds as people referred to them. Today, our scope of work is broader and more complex. Aquatic invasive species such as zebra and quagga mussels, bullfrogs, and cross-border invasive species movement are high up our list of concerns and annual work plans. Climate change impacts and adaptation is a key consideration in our work and planning. The growth in scope has resulted in growth in CKISS staff, budget and operational activity in the region. CKISS is now much more diverse and delivers a much broader program of effective work.

None of our accomplishments could occur without the dedicated and passionate CKISS staff, our 34 funders and stakeholders and our many contractors who help implement the operational and logistical work of CKISS. The Board thanks everyone for their efforts and contributions to the success of CKISS.

A major transition also took place inside our organization this year. Jennifer Vogel, our Executive Director since 2015, moved to a position in the private sector late in 2018. Jen successfully managed a period of amazing growth for CKISS, and we all wish her the best of success at “the new job”. We will still be working together on quite a few files. As a result, Erin Bates transitioned from CKISS Operations Program Coordinator to Executive Director in January 2019. Erin brings tremendous personal skills and an intimate knowledge of CKISS operations to the Executive Director position. The transition went smoothly and CKISS is ready for the upcoming season. Thank you to Jen for all you did, and thank you to Erin for all you are doing!

The CKISS Board has a productive mix of long standing members and new voices. The Board is stronger with diverse experiences and perspectives represented, and has a start on generational succession. The Board is proud of the accomplishments of the CKISS team. Thank you to the following Board members who have volunteered their time and wisdom in guiding CKISS forward.

Heather Myers, Vice-President

Terry Anderson, Treasurer

Malcom Fitz-Earle, Secretary

Allan Freeborn

Dale McNamar

Alan Stanley

Lisa Tedesco

Janine Dougall

Eleanor Duifhuis

Graham McKellar



Tom Bradley
President, CKISS

From the Executive Director

2018 was an eventful year for CKISS on many fronts, with staffing changes, increased revenue and projects, and the development of a new Strategic Plan.

Most notably, Jen Vogel decided to move on from her position as Executive Director, which she had held since 2015. CKISS saw significant growth and success during her tenure, and she deserves a great deal of credit for where the organization is today. Jen has our thanks and best wishes for her future endeavours!

We welcomed two new core staff members in 2018-19, Laurie Carr and Kalenna Olynyk. A long-time resident of Nelson, Laurie brings a history of ecological consulting as well as experience on the CKISS Board to her new position as Development Coordinator. Kalenna comes to us from Squamish, where she worked with one of our sister organizations, the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council. We are lucky to have both of these talented ladies working with us!

Our Aquatics Program expanded significantly in 2018, with increased partner investments in Zebra-Quagga Mussel Monitoring as well as American Bullfrog Eradication. Aquatics Program Coordinator, Khaylish Fraser, worked extremely hard to deliver a successful program.

Thanks to support from the Columbia Basin Trust, the CKISS spent most of 2018 and early 2019 working with a consultant to develop our new Five Year Strategic Plan for 2020-2025. We are excited to present our new Strategic Plan in early 2019, and we are looking forward to implementing the direction that this new plan will provide.

I need to thank the CKISS Board for the many volunteer hours that they dedicated to the Executive Director hiring process and strategic planning last year. In addition to regular meetings, committees, and supporting the CKISS staff in a myriad of ways, the CKISS Board worked selflessly to ensure the organization's continuity and success.

I would like to also personally thank the CKISS staff team, who completed much of the on the ground work that took place in 2018-19:

Khaylish Fraser, Aquatic Program Coordinator

Laurie Frankcom, Education Program Coordinator

Laurie Carr, Development Coordinator

Kalenna Olynyk, Operations Program Coordinator

Invasive Species Technicians: Liam Barnes, Nerissa Abbot

Bullfrog Technicians: Carley Dolman and Tash Olsoff

Looking forward to a successful 2019-20!



Erin Bates
Executive Director, CKISS

What is CKISS?

British Columbia is the most ecologically diverse province in Canada, making the Kootenays a beautiful place to work, live and play. The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) strives to keep our lakes pristine, forests lush, mountains healthy and economies thriving through education and managing invasive species in an effective way.

Mission Statement

To protect ecosystems and communities by preventing and reducing the harmful impacts of invasive species.

An invasive species is a species that is not native to a specific location, and that has a tendency to spread to a degree that causes damage to the environment, human economy or human health.



Purposes

The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society is a non-profit society that was formed by a group of residents and company/agency representatives in 2005 who were interested in promoting collaborative approaches to invasive species management. The Society includes representatives from the community, non-profit societies, local companies, and government agencies.

The purposes of the Society (as per the Committee'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:

1. To raise awareness and educate the public, government agencies, and other land managers about invasive species and their impacts in the area;
2. To prevent the further introduction OR spread of invasive species in the area through education and awareness, early detection and control, and coordinated integrated weed management efforts;
3. To promote coordinated and collaborative management of invasive species between agencies and land occupiers;
4. To work towards the control/containment of highly invasive non-native species; To provide a conduit for information and a source of expertise on invasive species; and
5. To develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory of invasive species within the area of responsibility.
6. To provide a conduit for information and a source of expertise on invasive species.



Our Vision

Ecosystems, communities and the regional economy are healthier because the harmful impacts from the spread of invasive species have been reduced. The Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society (CKISS) educates, works with, and calls to action area residents, visitors, and a diverse range of communities and organizations.



Invasive Plant Management Highlights

60

PRIORITY
INVASIVE
PLANTS
SURVEYED OR
MANAGED

1347_{Ha}

TOTAL
LAND
AREA
SURVEYED

135_{Ha}

TOTAL
LAND
AREA
TREATED

Species under eradication or annual control

baby's breath

blueweed

Himalayan blackberry

brown knapweed

field scabious

purple loosestrife

rush skeletonweed

scentless chamomile

scotch thistle

teasel

Photo Credits: Wikimedia Commons: B Stewart, JCo, R Mueller, NWIPC B Stewart, no photo credit, R Mueller, R Mueller, no photo credit, R Mueller, R Mueller, R Mueller, R Mueller, Commons Wikimedia, no photo credit, L. Mehrhoff Wikipedia, Commons Wikimedia, Leslie J.

High priority species to contain

knotweeds

scotch broom

wild chervil

New high priority species found

tansy ragwort

poison hemlock

wild parsnip

High priority species NOT found in the CKISS region

- common bugloss
- flowering rush
- garlic mustard
- gorse
- longspine sandbur
- Russian knapweed
- wood sage

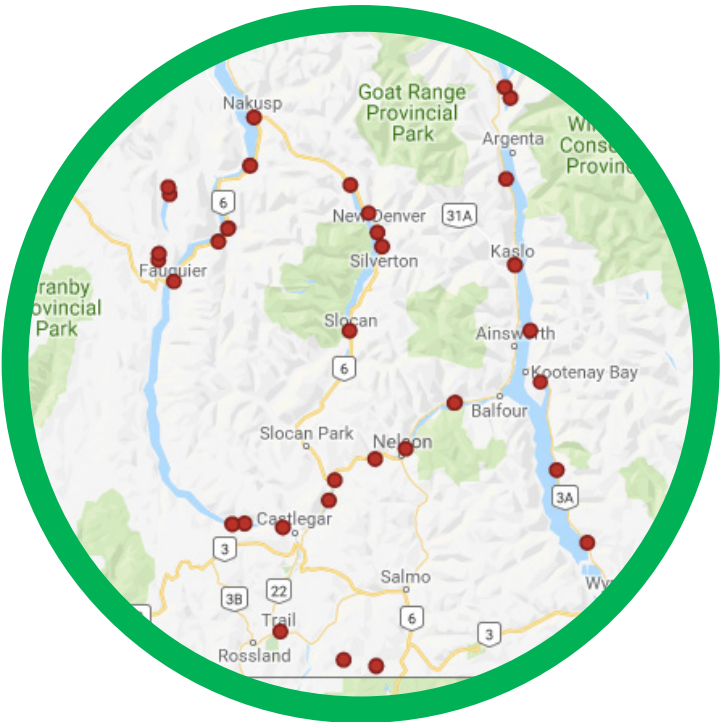


Zebra and Quagga Mussel Monitoring Program Highlights

We are still invasive mussel free!

NO ZEBRA OR QUAGGA MUSSELS DETECTED IN ANY SAMPLES OR SUBSTRATES

Zebra and quagga mussel sampling sites in the CKISS region:



350

PLANKTON
SAMPLES

5

SUBSTRATE
SAMPLES

34

SITES
SAMPLED

9

WATERBODIES
SAMPLED



American Bullfrog Eradication Highlights



591 Juvenile and adult American bullfrogs eradicated

75 American bullfrog tadpoles eradicated



The bad news...bullfrog populations continue to grow and are established in the Creston Valley, home of one of two populations of the endangered northern leopard frog in British Columbia.

Aquatic Invasive Plant Highlights

YELLOW FLAG IRIS & FRAGRANT WATER LILY



- Yellow flag iris was treated at Erie and Nancy Greene Lakes, and fragrant water lily was treated at Erie Lake and Champion Pond. Fragrant water lily was not present for the second consecutive year on Nancy Greene Lake, at a site that has been manually treated for three years.
- No riparian or aquatic invasive plants were discovered during full littoral surveys of Box, Summit, and Upper Little Slocan Lakes, and high-risk areas such as boat launches, marinas, and recreation sites on Upper Arrow, Slocan, and Whatshan Lakes.
- Existing infestations of aquatic and riparian invasive plants were monitored on Erie and Nancy Greene Lakes, Champion Pond, and the Brilliant head pond portion of the Kootenay River.
- Presence of both yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife has increased on Kootenay River.

Education and Outreach Highlights



27
NEWS STORIES



14,432
PEOPLE REACHED



168
VOLUNTEERS



22

OUTREACH BOOTH
AT COMMUNITY
EVENTS

985
YOUTH
INVOLVED



5,567
RESOURCES
DISPENSED



680
CKISS N'TELL
NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS



44,237
WEBSITE VIEWS



221

MEMBERS CAN
VOTE AT THE
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

Special Projects

Citizen Science Program

Thanks to funding from Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) PromoScience Program, CKISS developed a ‘Citizen Science: Frog Watching & Invasive Plant Survey Program’ that was delivered to 121 students in our region. The objective of the program was to provide teachers and students with a hands-on and interactive experience that will give them the knowledge, tools and resources they need in order to make vital contributions to invasive species early detection, monitoring and management by becoming citizen scientists.



Restoration at Summit Lake

Thanks to funding from BC Parks and Columbia Basin Trust restoration efforts continued at Summit Lake Provincial Park. Volunteers and schools groups assisted CKISS with invasive plant removal, planting of native species and seeding the area.



Special Recognition

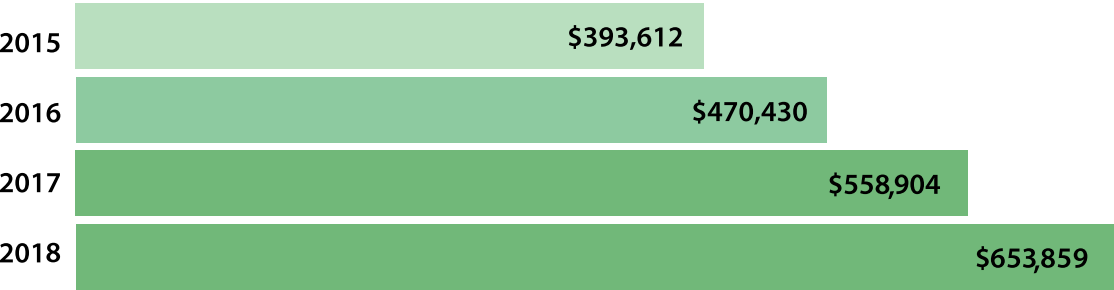
2018’s Volunteer Award went to Sam Quigley who hand watered the new native plants and shrubs at the Summit Lake Provincial Park restoration site.



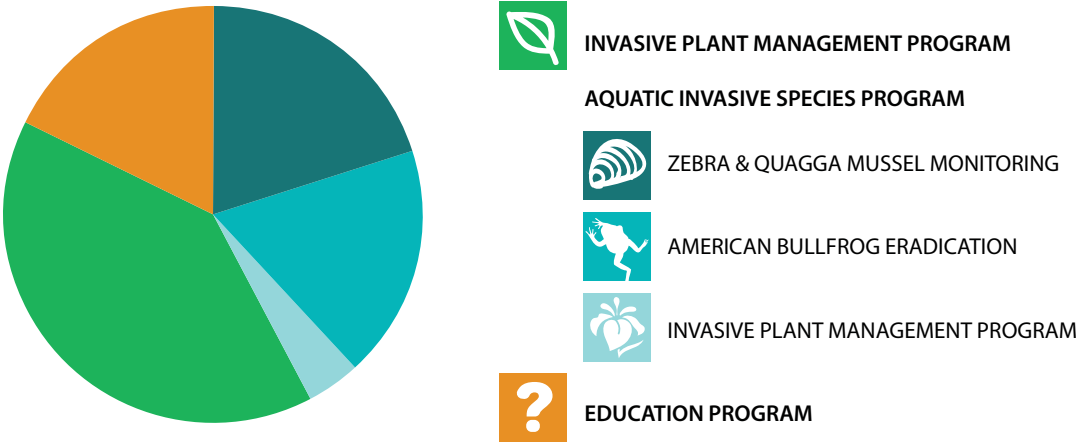
Congratulations: to the City of Rossland for passing a by-law to control specified weeds, specifically knotweed. The lucky residents of Rossland can also access a cost-share landowner incentive program to remove knotweed from their property. Let’s hope other municipalities follow their lead. Thanks Rossland!

Financial Update

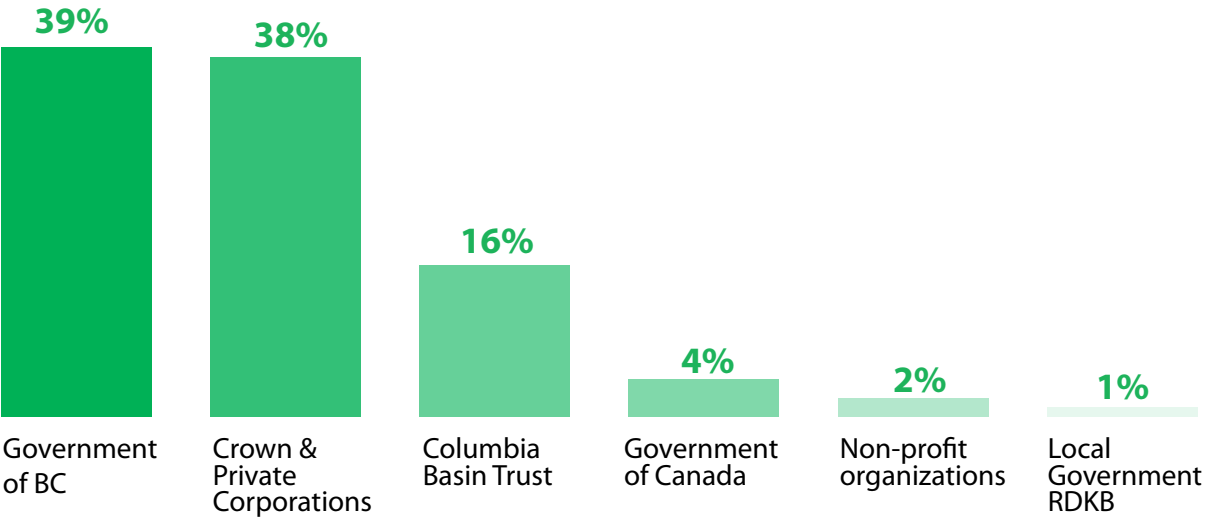
Funding History



2018 Program Budget



2018 Funding Sources





Funders

Thank you to our funders. We appreciate your continuing support!



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