



EAST KOOTENAY INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN

2016 TO 2020

PURPOSES

The East Kootenay Invasive Species Council (EKISC) is a non-profit society that was established in June 2008 by a group of individuals and organizational representatives who were interested in promoting collaborative approaches to invasive management. The purposes of the Society (as per the EKISC Constitution), within the geographic area of the Regional District of East Kootenay, are:

1. To coordinate the management of invasive species on public and private lands in the East Kootenay region using an integrated pest management approach;
2. To educate about invasive species and their impacts;
3. To prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in the East Kootenay;
4. To foster expanded support of invasive species management initiatives in the East Kootenay.

VISION

An East Kootenay free of invasive species.

MISSION

Mitigating the negative environmental, social and economic impacts of invasive species.

GOALS

- Public commitment to our Vision and Mission.
- Coordinated management of invasive species on public and private lands using an integrated and collaborative approach.
- Adequate, stable and timely funding for education, prevention and treatment.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Effective

Knowledgeable

Innovative

Strategic

Collaborative



OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The East Kootenay Invasive Species Council will sustain its coordinating role to engage, educate and support a network of organizations and citizens in their responses to the threat of invasive species by the following objectives and strategic priorities.

OBJECTIVE 1: COORDINATE INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- (1) Develop and maintain an operational framework for prioritizing 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 East Kootenay region.
- (4) Develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory and accessible data of species locations, partners' activities, and control methods.
- (5) Maintain communications with neighbouring regional invasive species committees.
- (6) Promote information transfer to organizational partners through activities such as newsletters, forums, presentations, and meetings.
- (7) Identify one contact person for each partner organization and maintain contact list.
- (8) Use a web-based platform for joint sharing of information (e.g. google drive, dropbox).
- (9) Develop and distribute a quarterly e-newsletter to partners.
- (10) Coordinate and deliver operational activities on behalf of partners to ensure collaborative and efficient management.
- (11) Provide information on treatment methods, including visual instruction on how and when to remove/treat, biology of species, and spreading mechanisms.
- (12) Support the development and implementation of Invasive Plant Management Areas Operational Plans.

OBJECTIVE 2: EDUCATE ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES

- (1) Focus on behavioural change through targeted education and outreach programs.
- (2) Engage younger people including youth groups and school children.
- (3) Identify target audiences and maintain updated contact information (e.g. recreation, hunting, recreation).
- (4) Promote broad appeal to "the public" by promoting positive messaging (e.g. "controlling invasive plants is a positive contribution to the environment").
- (5) Provide education and information transfer on all aspects of invasive species including identification, impacts, prevention, and management options.
- (6) Provide clear messaging on the detrimental impacts of invasive plants (e.g. ecosystems, health, recreation, agriculture, species at risk) to improve public understanding and promote "buy-in".



- (7) Use wide array of technological tools for information transfer.
- (8) Engage social media and multi-media tools and partnerships.
- (9) Use the EKISC website as a source of relevant and recent information.
- (10) Advocate for Best Management Practices among land managers and users.
- (11) Connect with all levels of government.
- (12) Develop template letters to facilitate consistent communication opportunities.

OBJECTIVE 3: PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES

- (1) Focus on behaviour change programs to promote best management practices for preventing the spread of invasive species (such as “Clean, Drain, Dry” or cleaning equipment between sites).
- (2) Promote the sale of alternative species at garden centres.
- (3) Provide training programs on best management practices for forestry, horticulture, recreation, road maintenance, and other activities with potential sources of introduction (e.g. reseeding, limiting soil disturbance, not spreading contaminated soil, etc.).
- (4) Promote proper disposal of invasive species.
- (5) Recognize and mitigate threats from adjacent boundaries (species and pathways of introduction).
- (6) Provide training workshops to key audiences (such as naturalist groups, district and municipal maintenance staff, agriculturalists, and forestry workers) for the identification and reporting of high priority invasive species.
- (7) Identify gaps in knowledge and conduct inventories.
- (8) Identify and implement a rapid response protocol.
- (9) Advertise and promote “Report-A-Weed” app through outreach activities.
- (10) Promote Invasive Alien Plant Program application (IAPP) and link to website.
- (11) Install signs at target locations to encourage reporting (e.g. rest stops, tourist info, trail systems, view points).
- (12) Support provincial and regional reporting and early detection and rapid response programs.

OBJECTIVE 4: PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

- (1) Develop containment lines for species that can be limited to certain portions of the region.
- (2) Promote treatments of high priority species and sites.
- (3) Provide landowner support and outreach for invasive plant management.
- (4) Monitor efficacy of treatments and adopt adaptive management approach.
- (5) Identify mechanisms and audiences that spread/cause invasions to reduce spread.
- (6) Promote safe harvesting of useful non-native plant species (e.g. medicines).



- (7) Continue to research and remain up-to-date on best management practices (e.g. re-seeding disturbed sites).
- (8) Promote and implement integrated species management techniques.
- (9) Where appropriate, consider ecosystem restoration during treatment of invasive species.
- (10) Support research activities that achieve program goals.
- (11) Identify sources, promote benefits, and increase availability, of native plant species in the region.
- (12) Identify, seek, and develop partnerships and stakeholders.
- (13) Seek and maintain funding from multiple sources.
- (14) Ensure ongoing Board development, governance structure, and succession planning.
- (15) Advocate for and support local and provincial government policy development and implementation.
- (16) Provide the opportunity for stakeholders to regularly meet to identify opportunities, challenges, and strategies to address them.
- (17) Maintain and strengthen neighbouring, provincial, and multi-agency collaborations (regional, BC, Alberta, Montana, and federal).
- (18) Develop performance measures and monitor effectiveness of programs.
- (19) Recognize and acknowledge partners for contributions.
- (20) Advertise successes.