



EAST KOOTENAY INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Our Mission, Our Purposes

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

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

“The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are the ones who do.”

— Steve Jobs

Native Arnica
Photo: Jessie Paloposki



Message to Our Community

From Staff and Board

On behalf of the EKISC staff I am pleased to present this Annual Report for 2017. Please note the updated design of the report to better display our achievements thanks to the branding efforts of our Education & Communications Coordinator! This report summarizes some of the work completed through the Field Operations and Education programs; for more detail you can review those respective reports on our website.

Our organization is successful due to the strategic vision of the board of directors, which has been skillfully implemented and refined by our knowledgeable staff. We have set some lofty objectives and goals, and have met many of these through innovative projects such as industry engagement, landscape-level weed management, research trials, and targeted outreach. We are constantly assessing how to be more efficient with one example being the creation of an internal weed management crew that was trialled in 2017 and will be expanded in 2018. Through extensive aquatic surveys the field crew has not detected any non-native plants, mussels, or bullfrogs!

One of EKISC's purposes is to foster expanded support of invasive species management initiatives. This would not be possible without strong partnerships. We achieve this by asking how EKISC can support the purpose of the other organization while still meeting our own. These relationships continue to grow even as we enter our tenth year of establishment.

See you in the field,

Todd Larsen

 Todd@ekisc.com

2017 was EKISC's ninth year of operations and we continue to learn and expand our operations. Our mission and goals remain the same, but efforts are more defined, focusing on invasive plant control in the field and education and outreach on the ground.

Our weaknesses remain in lack of sufficient, dependable funding, and integrated planning. Invasive plant management is fragmented between funders, agencies, private landowners, and enforcement operations. Although EKISC is well equipped to manage invasive species; integrating the goals of 23 funding sources, their policies, priorities, and funding limitations, precludes treating some species or infestations. Funding seldom comes without direction on its use and we do not have a pooled funding model, as we had in 2008, to address local needs based on local input.

EKISC is a non profit, non government delivery agent that has to carry out best management of invasive species with the direction given to us and the resources granted. That said we have introduced new initiatives to better address our goals:

- The Board is taking a more active role, incorporating administrative duties and oversight on operations into their positions.
- The Operations team continues to hire temporary staff to take on invasive plant treatments and inventories.
- The Education team is focusing on standardized delivery methods and high priority behaviour modification messaging.

Randy Harris

 Chair@ekisc.com

Field Operations

27 HAND PULL LOCATIONS

18,875 SQUARE METERS HAND-PULLED

36 SITES RE-SEEDING WITH NATIVE GRASS

3 MAJOR INVASIVE PLANT INVENTORIES

56 RESEARCH PLOTS ESTABLISHED

3 PROVINCIAL PRIORITY SPECIES ERADICATED



American Bullfrogs are still not present in the East Kootenay region



There are still no known invasive zebra or quagga mussel infestations in British Columbia

The 2017 field season was an exciting time for EKISC. Increased resources were dedicated to field operations: inventory, hand pulls, research, restoration, and a new internal spray crew. Field staff treated high priority species in several of the EKISC treatment areas for more effective delivery.

The field crew also monitored for Aquatic Invasive Species (plants, mussels, and bullfrogs): none were found!

EKISC implemented several research objectives:

- Invasiveness of roadside weed species
- Assessing the timing of herbicide management for effective control
- Long-term monitoring of plant response to treatments

To read the reports visit www.ekisc.com

9 Water bodies surveyed for aquatic invasive plants

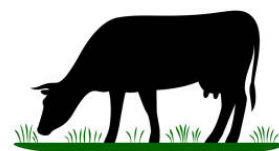
0 Aquatic invasive plants found in water bodies surveyed



2653
INVASIVE PLANT SITES
SURVEYED

11,500+
Invasive Plant Sites

As of 2017 there are over 11,500 locations with recorded invasive plant species in the East Kootenay.



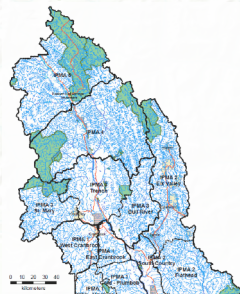
11
RANGE UNITS TREATED

HECTARES TREATED

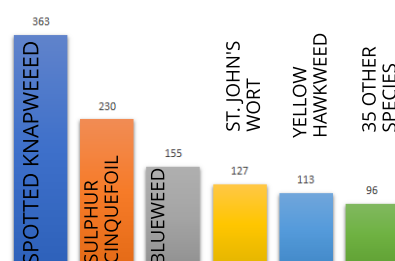


Hand-pulled Chemical

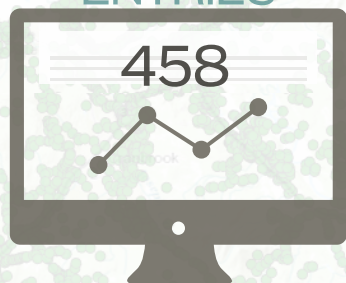
13
MANAGEMENT AREAS



WEED SPECIES TREATED (HA)



REPORT-A-WEED
ENTRIES



50+
INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES
IN THE REGION



3 Priority
SPECIES

Known locations of **black henbane**, **bighead knapweed**, and **perennial pepperweed**; all with limited provincial distribution

“I'm not telling you it's going to be easy - I'm telling you it's going to be worth it.”

- Art Williams

Education & Communication



Followers



347



161



43



FACEBOOK REACH

44820

6986

TWITTER IMPRESSIONS

285

FACEBOOK POST
ENGAGEMENTS

50

TWITTER POST
ENGAGEMENTS

"It looks like
something out of
a nightmare!"

@friendly_forager



BRAND
NEW
OUTREACH
BOOTH



Full education summary available at www.ekisc.com

2017 saw re-branding from 2016 settle in; concluding the year with a new website.

Education resources were consolidated and standardized to deliver more streamlined and standardized approaches to education and outreach.

A major focus was to creating a well-balanced approach to education and outreach through a variety of events and presentations throughout the RDEK.

4

BOOT BRUSH KIOSKS
INSTALLED IN THE
CRANBROOK
COMMUNITY FOREST



44
EDUCATION &
OUTREACH EVENTS
ATTENDED



2701
PEOPLE REACHED*

* Indirect/Direct combination through events.

14 COMMUNITY WEED PULLS

10 SPECIAL EVENTS

16 FARMERS' MARKETS

5 TARGETED WORKSHOPS

1 INDUSTRY TRAINING DAY



39.5%

Of people opened the e-Newsletters that were sent out in 2017.



40%

Approximate workload spent on delivering messaging for PCG, PW, CDD, & DLIL*



GIVE INVASIVE SPECIES THE BRUSH OFF.

Shoes can carry the seeds of invasive plants like spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe* spp. *micranthos*). Please brush them off before entering and leaving this area.

What's The Problem?

- Spotted knapweed releases a toxin into the soil that prevents the growth of neighboring plants.
- Non-native seed and plant parts are carried from one place to another on our shoes, vehicle tires, by the wind and flowing water.
- Spotted knapweed is a non-native invasive plant—one of many that were accidentally or intentionally introduced to the East Kootenay's.

Other Invasive Plants On The Move...

St. John's wort
(*Hypericum perforatum*)

Although St. John's wort has become a popular herbal remedy, it spreads aggressively by a lateral-rooting root system that can form new buds that are separate from the parent plant. This plant can cause neurological and other health problems if consumed in high quantities by livestock.

Sulphur cinquefoil
(*Potentilla recta*)

Due to its unpleasant taste, elevations decrease available forage for grazing animals, as well as decrease local plant biodiversity.

Dalmatian toadflax
(*Lupinus dalmaticus*)

Dalmatian toadflax competes with native plants and can quickly crowd out wildflowers and tree seedlings.

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR TRACKS.

PlayCleanGo.org

Clean Your Gear Before Entering And Before Leaving This Area

EAST KOOTENAY INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Funding for this project generously donated by RDEK

East Kootenay

CRANBROOK COMMUNITY FOREST SOCIETY

*Other messaging was non-specific through weed pulls, workshops, and industry.



Finances & Funders

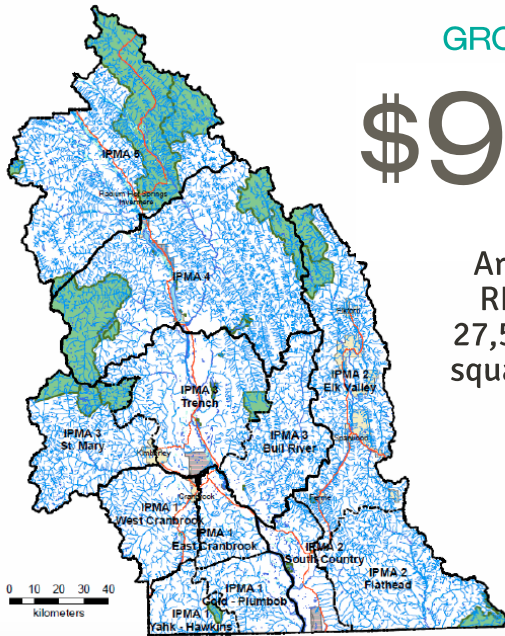
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FUNDERS SUPPORTING EKISC IN 2017

ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS (AANDC)
BC HYDRO
BC PARKS
BC PARKS -PARKS ENHANCEMENT FUND
CANADA SUMMER JOBS
CENTRAL EAST KOOTENAY COMMUNITY DIRECTED FUNDS
COLUMBIA VALLEY LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND
COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST
COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST -NON PROFIT ADVISORS
CP RAIL
ENVIRONMENT CANADA: CANADIAN WILDFIRE SERVICE
FORTIS BC
GRASSLAND & RANGELAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
MADERA RANCH
MFLNRORD (COORDINATION & AWARENESS, OPERATIONS,
CONSERVATION PROPERTIES)
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA
REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY -LANDFILLS
ROCKY MT TRENCH ER PROGRAM
THE NATURE TRUST OF BC
TECK COAL

"Never doubt
that a small
group of
thoughtful,
committed
citizens can
change the
world. Indeed,
it's the only
thing that ever
has."

Margaret Mead



GROSS REVENUE IN 2017

\$973,989

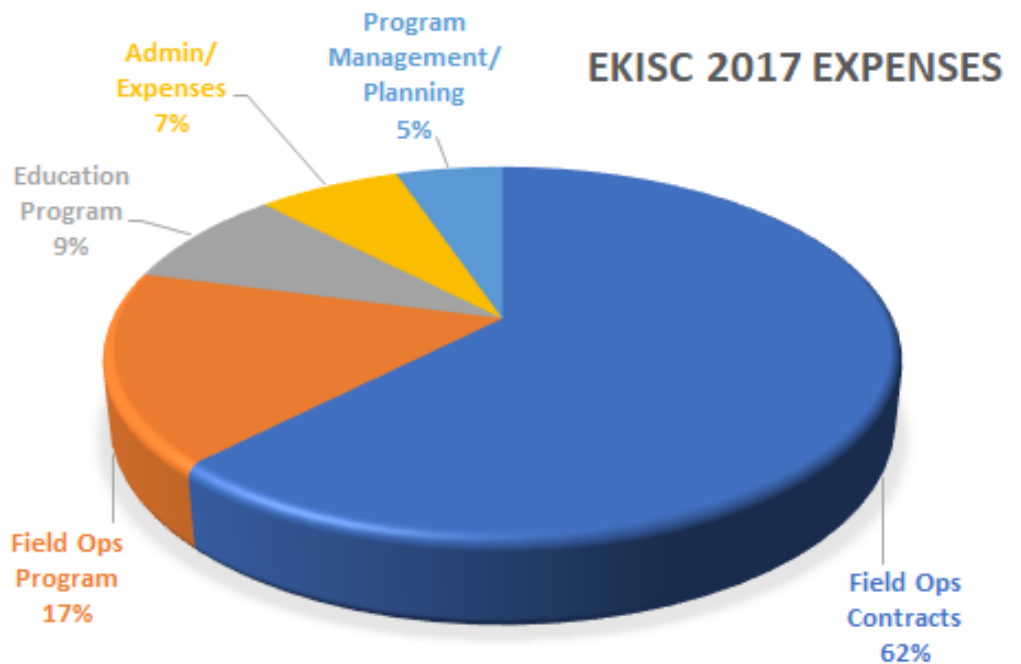
Area of
RDEK:
27,542.69
square km

Supporting
local jobs,
contractors,
ranchers



4 FULL
TIME STAFF

4 SUMMER
STUDENTS



Herbicide costs:
\$127,315



Largest funder:
MFLNRORD
\$258,200

Our Staff & Board

Todd Larsen

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Pat Wray

FIELD OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Katie Reid

FIELD OPERATIONS MANAGER

Katie Grady

EDUCATION ASSISTANT

Mark Davies

PROGRAM MANAGER

Breanna Klein

FIELD ASSISTANT

Brett Hutchinson

EDUCATION ASSISTANT

Josie Barker

FIELD ASSISTANT

Alex Ibbotson

EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Jessie Paloposki

EDUCATION COORDINATOR
(NOT PICTURED)



GOLDEN SHOVEL AWARD

Since 2010, the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council has selected an organization and/or individual who has made significant contributions to invasive plant management efforts in the region. We call this the Golden Shovel Award.

2017 Recipient:

Dan Murphy, Rocky Mountain Trench Society



Randy Harris

CHAIR

Pam Turyk

VICE CHAIR

Allana Oestreich

DIRECTOR

Stephanie Daniels

TREASURER

Lily Durham

SECRETARY

Jim Campbell

DIRECTOR

Jamie Davies

DIRECTOR

Bill Coy

DIRECTOR

Not pictured

Lanny Amos

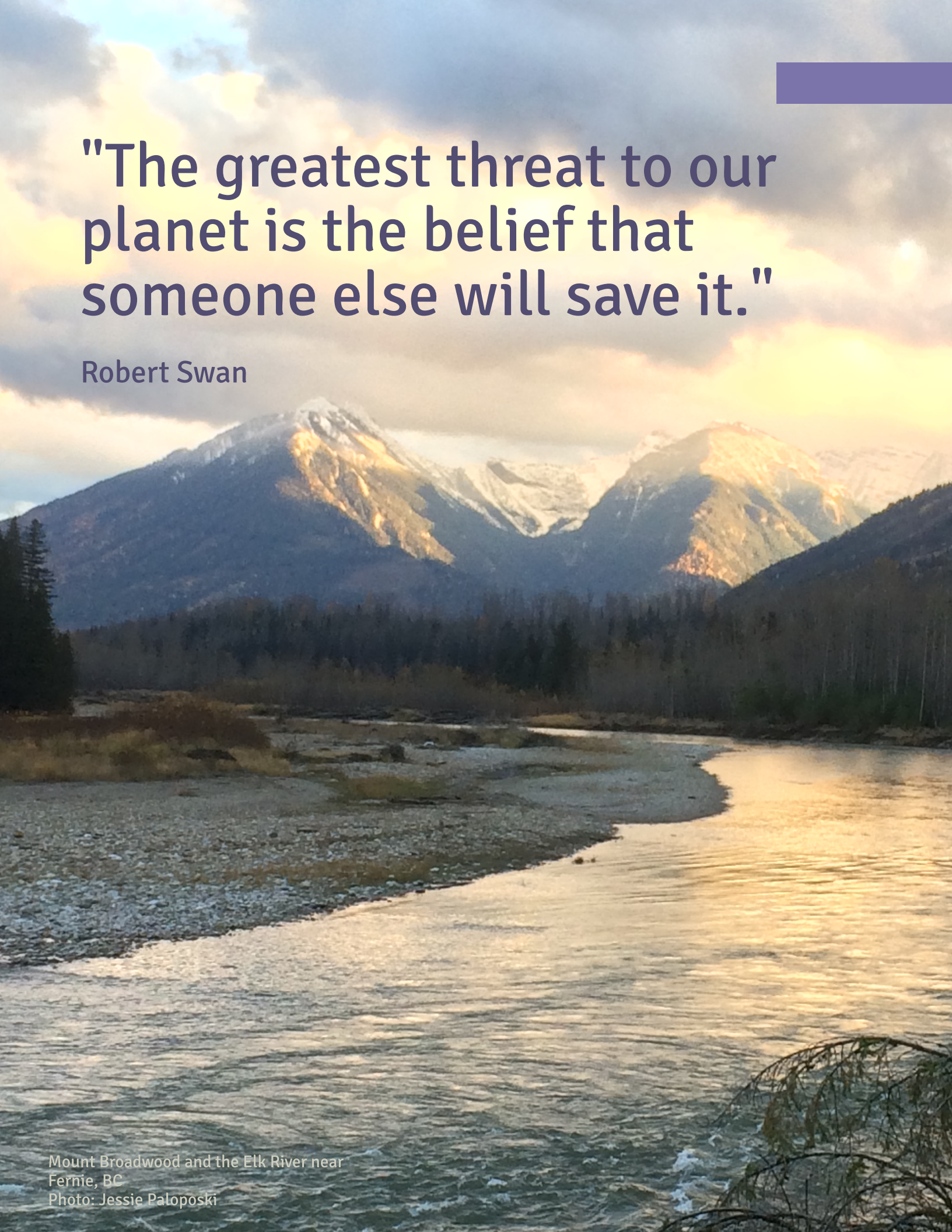
DIRECTOR

Not pictured, Term ended in 2017

Frank Hastings

DIRECTOR

Not pictured, Term ended in 2017



"The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it."

Robert Swan



EAST KOOTENAY
INVASIVE SPECIES
COUNCIL



www.ekisc.com



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@EastKootenayInvasives



@EK_Invasives