



East Kootenay Invasive Species Council 2016 Annual Report

Executive Summary

In 2016 the East Kootenay Invasive Species Council (EKISC) experienced organizational growth through a strategic governance model with input from the board of directors and implemented by staff. Partnerships continued to be developed with new and existing relationships. EKISC maintains a diverse portfolio with various terms and partners. The program delivery structure of EKISC was redesigned from previous years. The education team was adapted to focus specifically on education and outreach for both aquatic and terrestrial programs. The field operations crew was expanded with a detailed work plan for the summer to implement an integrated weed management plan across the region. These various initiatives supported EKISC's constitutional purposes and organizational strategic plan.

EKISC Foundations and Direction

Purposes:

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

EKISC Team

- Executive Director: Todd Larsen (full time)
- Field Operations Manager: Katie Reid (full time)
- Field Operations Supervisor: Pat Wray (full time May - December)
- Field Assistants: Hope Blissett & Maddie Thomsen (full time June – August)
- Education Coordinator: Jessie Paloposki (full time May - December)
- Education Assistants: Brett Hutchinson & Brooklynn Braconnier (full time June – August)
- Communications Coordinators: Colleen Bailey & Merrin Ozols (part time May -December)
- A variety of individuals and companies were contracted for work as area controllers, rancher sprayers, research consultant, and book keeping services.
- Board of Directors, see Table 1. As determined at Annual General Meetings in April.

Table 1. EKISC’s Board of Directors in 2016.

2015/16	2016/17	Name	Organization
Chair	Chair	Pam Turyk	Kootenay Livestock Association
Vice-Chair	Vice-Chair	Stephanie Daniels	Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Secretary	Director	Allana Oestreich	Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations
Treasurer		Pat Wray	Regional District of East Kootenay
Director		Peter Davidson	Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration Society
Director		Sandra Loewen	Meadowbrook Community Association
Director		Melissa Brown	Teck Coal
Director	Treasurer	Randy Harris	Independent Consultant
Director	Director	Bill Coy	Windermere District Farmers Institute
Director	Director	Lily Durham	Waldo Stockbreeders Association
	Director	Lanny Amos	Teck Coal
	Director	Jamie Davies	Regional District of East Kootenay
	Director	Frank Hastings	Rocky Mountain Naturalists

Education Program

- > 70 outreach events reaching approximately 1800 people
 - 13 weed pulls
 - 15 special presentations
 - 18 special events
 - 11 farmers’ markets
 - 7 municipal Open Houses
 - 6 targeted workshops
- Industry Engagement: Best Management Practices, Forest Stewardship Plans, surveys to measure success of education events
- Aggregate Certification pilot program
- Horticulture partnerships to promote PlantWise designation
- Municipal worker weed workshops in Fernie, Cranbrook, and Kimberley
- Pet trade industry encouraged to stop the release of invasives

- Workshops: forestry, municipal workers, educators, park rangers
- Presentations: recreation, horticulture, Wild Ideas, teacher Pro-D Day
- Field Tour in the Columbia Valley
- Developed and implemented EKISC Education Strategy
- Communication strategy

*See 2016 EKISC Education Report for more details

Field Operations

Aquatic:

EKISC field staff conducted a second year of an AIS monitoring program within the framework of the new Ministry of Environment (MoE) monitoring and reporting protocols. A risk assessment matrix was developed and implemented to triage which waterbodies are at risk of AIS introduction

- Surveys for non-native aquatic plants at 40 lakes. None were found!!!
- Yellow flag iris plants were removed from the only known site in the East Kootenay
- Purple loosestrife sites were surveyed and hand pulled at Jimsmith lake and Bummers Flats wetland
- Invasive mussel veliger (larvae) sampling at four lakes (Tie, Wasa, Windermere, Kooconusa), in addition to the 10 other lakes sampled by MoE staff, with negative results
- Monitored Upper Halgrave Lake west of Radium for a suspected American bullfrog invasion. None were detected following visual, auditory, and environmental DNA survey techniques.

Terrestrial:

- Hand-pulling of 12 weed species at 26 sites, covering at least 12,815 m²
- Restoration with grass seeding over 6.5 ha using three 14 kg bags of grass seed
- Biocontrol inventory at 66 historical release sites across the region to assess agent populations.
- Invasive plant inventory and plan for Ecosystem Restoration sites

*See 2016 EKISC Field Activities Report for more details.

Research:

EKISC staff implemented past research recommendations from 2015 which evaluated:

- Invasiveness of roadside weed species
- Assessing the timing of herbicide management for effective control

*See 2016 EKISC Research Summary Report for more details.

Funding for invasive plant herbicide treatments is summarized in Table 2. The total amount of area treated per year is shown in Figure 1 with 767 ha in 2016. Figure 2 displays which species were treated, with spotted knapweed and blueweed being the most common.

Table 2. Overview of EKISC herbicide treatments in 2016.

Funding Partner	# of Sites*	Amount of Herbicide Used		Hectares treated (ha)	Funding (\$)**
		(L)	(kg)		
BC Hydro	54	15.72	1.38	33.45	\$18,000.00
Columbia Valley Cons. Fund – SIPCOLS	42	9.83	0	2.19	\$4,500.00
Crown of the Continent - Flathead	1	1	1	1	\$4,500.00
Conservation Properties: NCC, FWCP, TNT, MOE	116	13.01	3.45	36.47	\$66,240.00
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development - old Flathead Border Crossing	8	4.63	0	15.96	\$2,700.00
FortisBC	29	14.1	0.71	18.08	\$10,350.00
Grassland & Rangeland Enhancement Program	316	65.59	8.94	99.73	\$49,500.00
Madera	36	8.62	2	8.48	\$7,200.00
MoE Parks	11	2.9	0	4.14	\$4,500.00
MFLNRO	639	99.3	7.18	121.45	\$138,600.00
MOTI	271	235.62	33.03	284.64	\$153,000.00
RDEK transfer stations	23	18.7	3.14	23.49	\$22,275.00
Rocky Mountain Trench ER	36	0.25	1.76	8.38	\$13,500.00
Total	1,581	488.27 L	61.59 kg	656.46ha	\$494,865

*Several sites were treated more than once, bringing the number of site-visits to 2,569.

**Most of these funding partners provided more funding than listed here but was allocated to other areas such as outreach and administration.

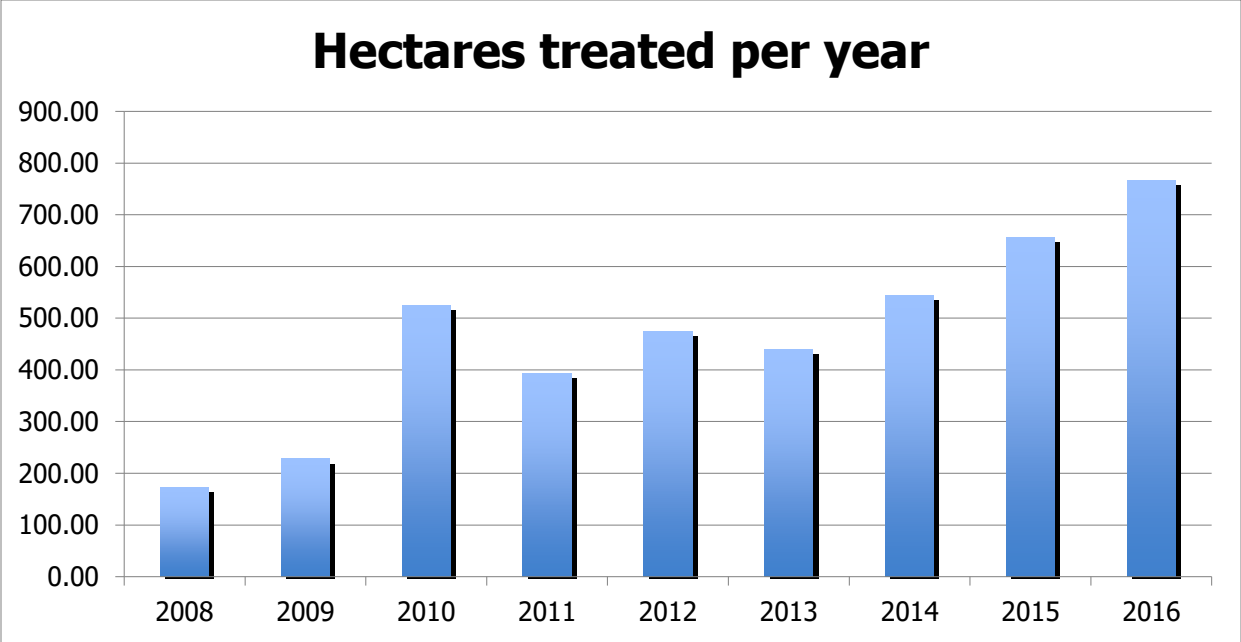


Figure 1. Total number of hectares (ha) treated by EKISC per year.

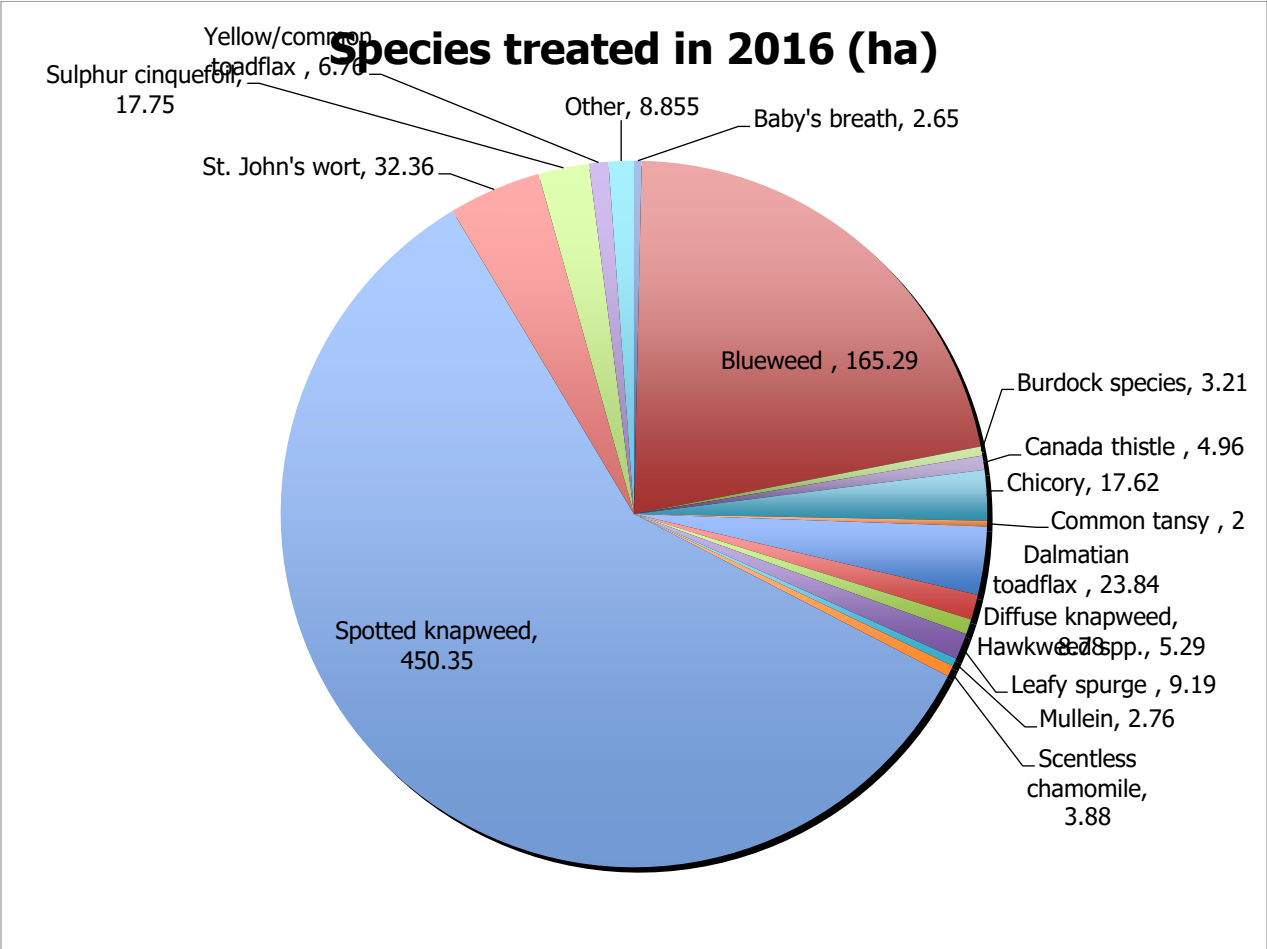


Figure 2. Invasive plant species treated in 2016.

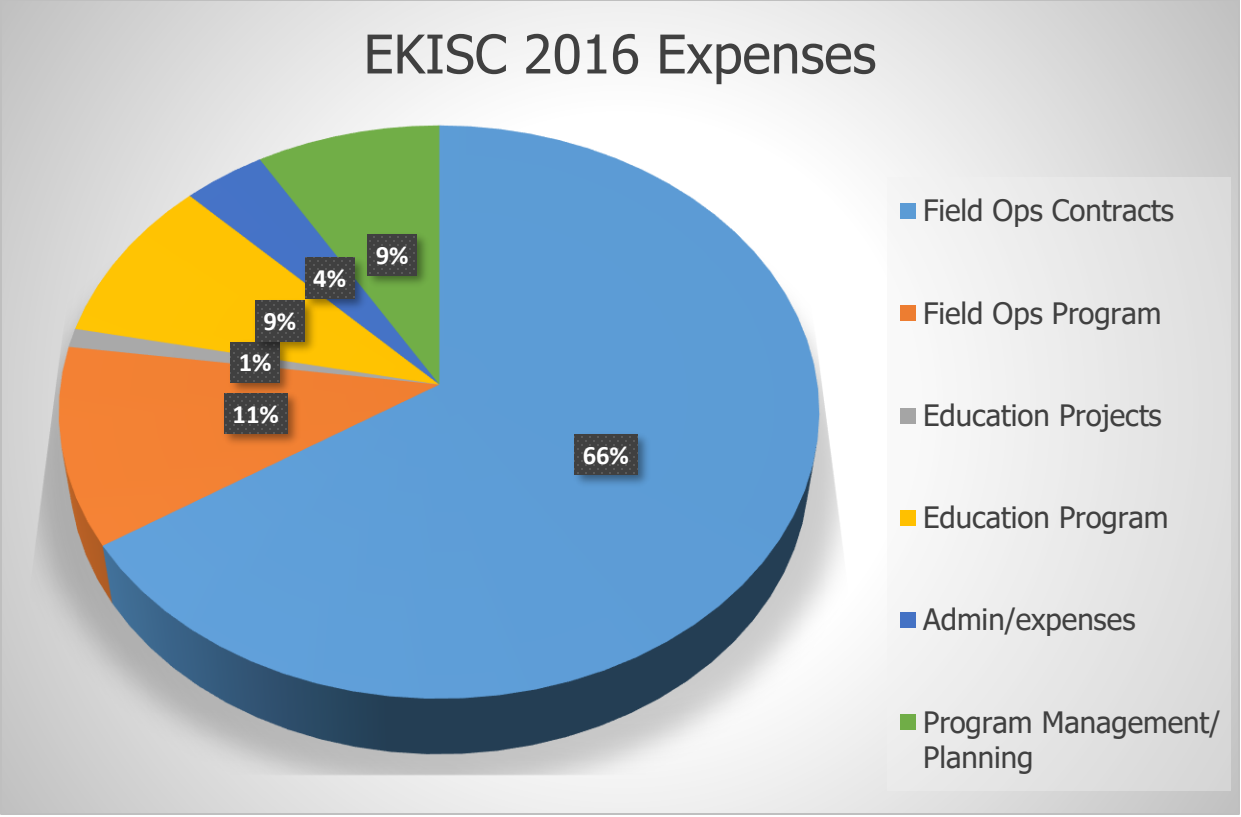


Figure 3. Overview of EKISC program funding allocations.

List of 2016 Projects

- Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada (AANDC): old Flathead border
- BC Parks & Park Enhancement Fund: Weed management & Play Clean Go messaging
- Canada Summer Jobs: Wage subsidy for two summer students
- Central East Kootenay Community Directed Funds (CEKCDF): Education, Planning, Industry Engagement
- Columbia Basin Trust: Core Funding for program coordination and Education
- Columbia Basin Trust -Non-Profit Advisors program: Review of EKISC operations
- Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund (CVLCF): Strategic Invasive Plant Control Of Leafy Spurge (SIPCOLS)
- Crown Treatments: Ministry of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO), Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) (Right-of-Ways and gravel pits), BC Hydro, FortisBC
- Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP) -Columbia Valley, Upper Kootenay Ecosystem Enhancement Program (UKEEP): Management & Restoration of Invasive Plants in Protected Areas (MRIPPA)
- Grassland & Rangeland Enhancement Program (GREP): Crown Range Treatments, rancher education, research program
- Madera Ranch
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO): Coordination & Awareness funding

- Ministry of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO): Conservation Properties
- Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)
- Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program (NIPP)/Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK)
- Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK): Transfer Stations
- Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resource Society (RMTNRS)
- Teck Coal: Community Weed Pulls
- The Nature Trust of BC (TNT)

Funding

Revenue for 2016 came from a variety of sources, with a majority of funds coming from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) and from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI). These funds are directed primarily towards herbicide treatments of invasive plants on provincial crown land within the Regional District of East Kootenay (RDEK). Other groups provide funding for other invasive plant management, certain projects, and/or general operations. Figure 4 charts annual revenue since the pilot program began in 2005, with \$924,578 in 2016. See "EKISC Financials, Dec 31 2016".

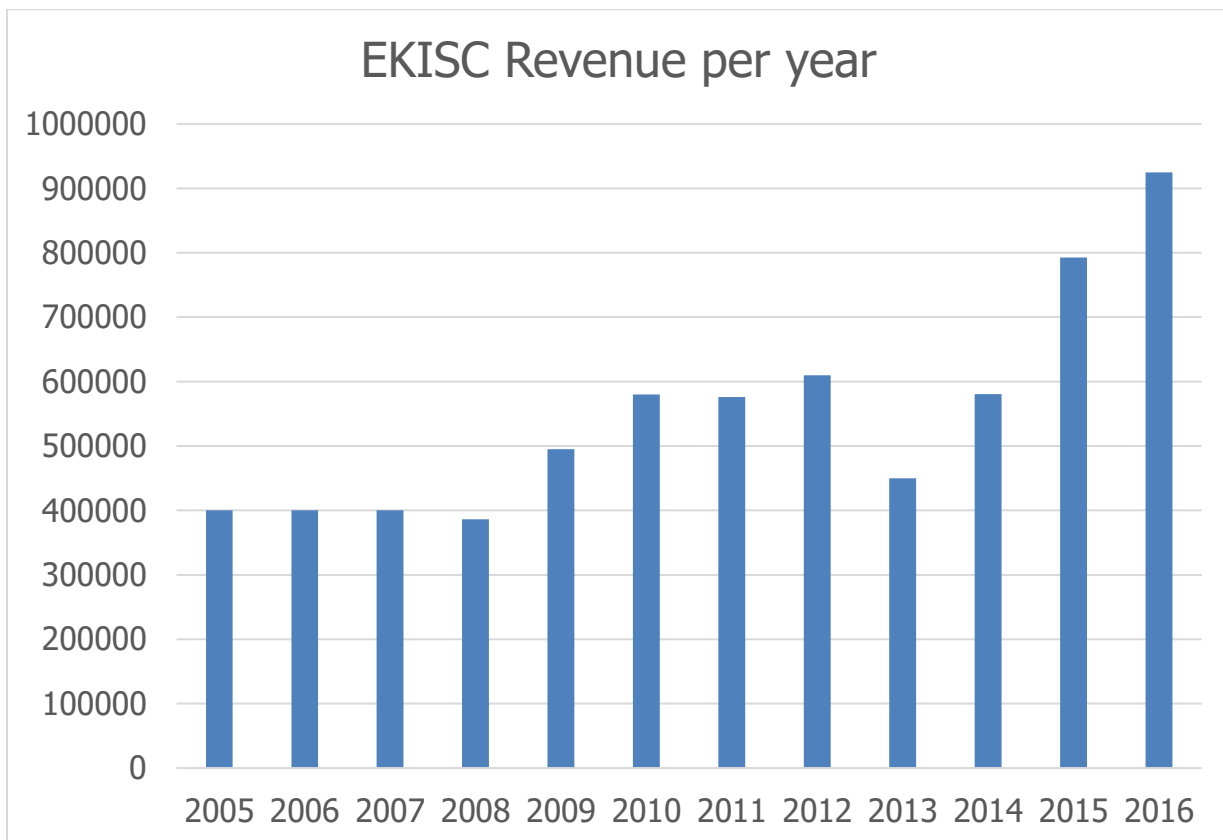


Figure 4. Total EKISC revenue per year.

2016 Funders, Sponsors, and Partners

EKISC greatly appreciates the support of our various partners. Invasive species affect all individuals and organizations, but it is only through collaborative efforts that we can have a chance to minimize these impacts.

- Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada
- BC Hydro
- Blue Lake Centre
- Canada Broadcasting Corporation
- Canada Summer Jobs
- Central East Kootenay Community Directed Funds
- Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Columbia Basin Watershed Network
- Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund
- Crown of the Continent
- Crown Managers Partnership
- Crown Roundtable
- Elk River Alliance
- First Nations: Akisqnuq, Aq'am, Tobacco Plains
- Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program & UKEEP
- Fortis BC
- Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement Program
- Invasive Species Council of BC
- Keefer Ecological Services
- Kootenay Conservation Program
- Kootenay Livestock Association
- Lake Stewardship Groups: Columbia Lake Stewardship Society, Jimsmith Lake Community Association, Lake Windermere Ambassadors, Wasa Lake Land Improvement District
- Madera Ranch
- Meadowbrook Community Association
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Ministry of Environment –BC Parks
- Ministry of Forests, Lands, & Natural Resource Operations
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Municipalities & Communities
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Regional District of East Kootenay
- Regional Weed Committees of BC
- Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society
- Teck Resources
- The Nature Trust of BC
- TransCanada Pipelines
- Waldo Stockbreeders Association
- Wildsight
- Windermere District Farmers Institute
- And many others...