



East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council 2014 Annual Report

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the work completed in the 2014 calendar year by the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council (EKIPC). It was an exciting period with refocused objectives, more experienced staff, a strategic board of directors, and a diversity of initiatives to meet our goals. EKIPC's outreach program reached a broader range of audiences focusing on the effects of invasives and actions to reduce those impacts. The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program was expanded and a strategic plan was implemented involving collaboration with a variety of partners. Field operations were efficient concerning priority setting, contract management, treatments, monitoring, reporting, and data entry. One of the perpetual challenges is securing adequate funding to maintain EKIPC's role as a crucial supporting organization in the region. With an enhanced governance structure and plans in place for more strategic outreach and operations delivery, EKIPC is poised for many successes in the future.

EKIPC Foundations and Direction

In late 2014, the EKIPC board of directors re-evaluated the fundamental aspects of the organization. These values will aid in guiding work throughout the year and for long-term plans.

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

Proactive

Collaborative

Objectives and Strategies:

1. Improve our priority-setting, planning, assessment and reporting
 - a. *Inventory the risk from invasive species*
 - b. *Develop a multi-year strategy*
 - c. *Identify measures for assessing and reporting key performance indicators (KPIs)*
2. Enhance governance
 - a. *Determine governance structure*
 - b. *Recruit and orient directors*
 - c. *Update Constitution and Bylaws*
 - d. *Adopt governance policies*
 - e. *Engage members*
3. Increase public commitment
 - a. *Advocate and lobby*
 - b. *Educate to create awareness and engage action*

EKIPC Team

- Program Manager: Todd Larsen (full time)
- Field Operations Coordinator: Katie Young (full time)
- Outreach & Field Crew: Linda McVetty and Cathy Conroy (full time seasonal: June - November)
- A variety of individuals and companies were contracted for work as area controllers, rancher sprayers, and monitors.
- Board of Directors, see Table 1. As determined at Annual General Meetings in April.

Table 1. EKIPC’s Board of Directors in 2014.

2013/14	2014/15	Name	Organization
Chair		Chris Bosman	Regional District of East Kootenay
Vice-Chair	Vice-Chair	Stephanie Daniels	Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Secretary	Chair	Pam Turyk	Kootenay Livestock Association
Treasurer	Treasurer	Darrell Smith	Ministry of Agriculture
Director	Director	Catherine MacRae	Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations
Director	Director	Peter Davidson	Rocky Mountain Trench Ecosystem Restoration Society
Director	Director	John Jackson	Teck Coal
Director	Director	Karen Lassen	Parks Canada
	Secretary	Allana Oestreich	Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations
	Director	Sandra Loewen	Meadowbrook Community Association
	Director	Pat Wray	Regional District of East Kootenay
	Director	Melissa Brown	Teck Coal

Education and Outreach: *Objective 3b*

- See "EKIPC 2014 Outreach Crew Summary Report" for more details
- Outreach & Field crew worked from June 8 to November 15
- The crew were present at nine boat launches, four school presentations, three provincial park presentations, and several other general events throughout the region.
- Collaboration with other groups
- Invasive Species Week events in June
- Press releases, social media updates, interviews, videos, and more
- New website launched

Aquatics

- Clean Drain Dry ambassadors with the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC)
- Boat Inspection Blitz August 1-3: Partnership with Conservation Officer Service (COS) and Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to inspect boats coming into the region –the first of its kind in BC!
- Collaboration with lake stewardship groups regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
- Developed "EK AIS Strategic Plan"

Terrestrial

- PlantWise ambassadors with the ISCBC to engage with gardeners
- Five Community Weed Pulls: Wildsight (Radium), Wildsight (Fernie), Cranbrook Community Forest, Kimberley Nature Park Society, and Kimberley Independent School.
- Cranbrook Garden Club Tour
- Field Tour of Industrial Vegetation Management: July 24th
- Pesticide Applicator's Certificate Course: April 28-30

Advocacy: *Objective 3a*

- MLA Bill Bennett
- MLA Norm MacDonald
- MP David Wilks
- Partnership building

Field Operations

Aquatic:

- Preliminary sampling of aquatic plants at five lakes (Columbia, Premier, Larchwood, Whiteswan, and Moose)
- Yellow Flag Iris dig-it day to remove 10 bags of plant fragments at the only known Yellow Flag Iris site in the East Kootenay along the Spring Brook in Skookumchuck.

Terrestrial:

- Hand-pulling of weeds at eleven sites, covering at least 1,220 m².
- Restoration with grass seeding over 1,200 m² using four 14 kg bags of grass seed
- Biocontrol inventory, collection, and releases across the region to assess agent populations.

Funding for invasive plant herbicide treatments is summarized in Table 2. Several of these projects supplement work done on crown land and show the need to leverage support from other sources beyond provincial ministries. Regardless, the amount of funding and area treated tend to increase over the years, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. Figure 3 displays which species are treated, with spotted knapweed and blueweed being the most common.

Table 2. Overview of EKIPC herbicide treatments in 2014.

Funding Partner	# of Sites	Amount of Herbicide Used		Hectares treated (ha)	Funding (\$)*
		(L)	(kg)		
BC Hydro	115	15.87	4.16	41.94	17,600
Columbia Lake Tower	5	4.19	0.53	5.67	3,960
Columbia Valley Cons. Fund –SIPCOLS				6.65	4,840
Crown of the Continent - Flathead	41	5.54	0	5.88	4,400
Fish & Wildlife Comp Program	77	0.83	1.76	10.38	13,500
FortisBC	40	11.12	1.58	10.01	10,120
Grassland & Rangeland Enhancement Program	516	33.14	4.17	86.69	50,000
Madera	36	0	0.56	4.14	3,520
MoE Parks	22	1.60	0.06	4.27	4,400
MFLNRO	986	165.62	16.01	146.56	127,600
MOTI	406	86.32	13.23	150.50	88,000
Nature Conservancy of Canada	46	5.53	1.10	18.96	18,000
RDEK transfer stations	24	22.23	0.39	13.59	12,496
Rocky Mt Trench Ecosystem Restoration	58	6.82	2.19	14.67	8,800
TransCanada PipeLines	68	7.51	2.27	11.94	8,800
Total	2,440	366.32	48.01	531.85	376,036

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

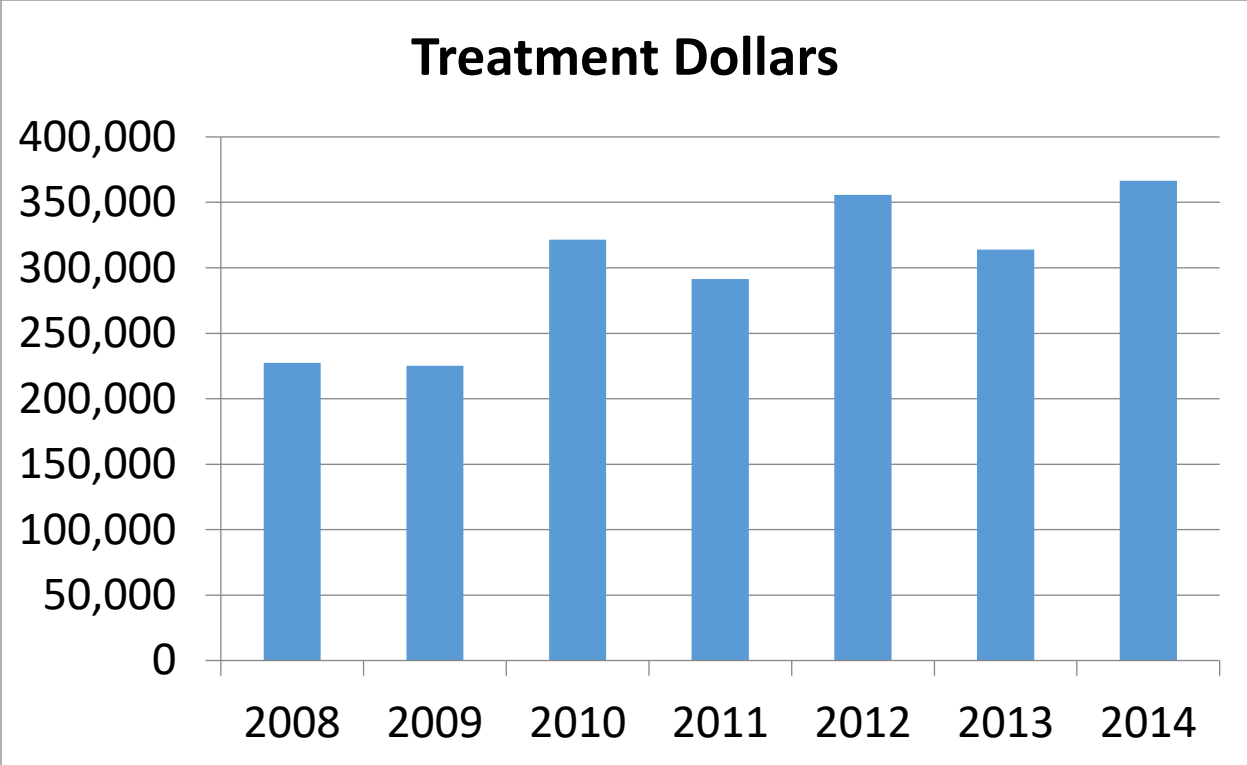


Figure 1. Total amount spent by EKIPC on herbicide and contract work per year.

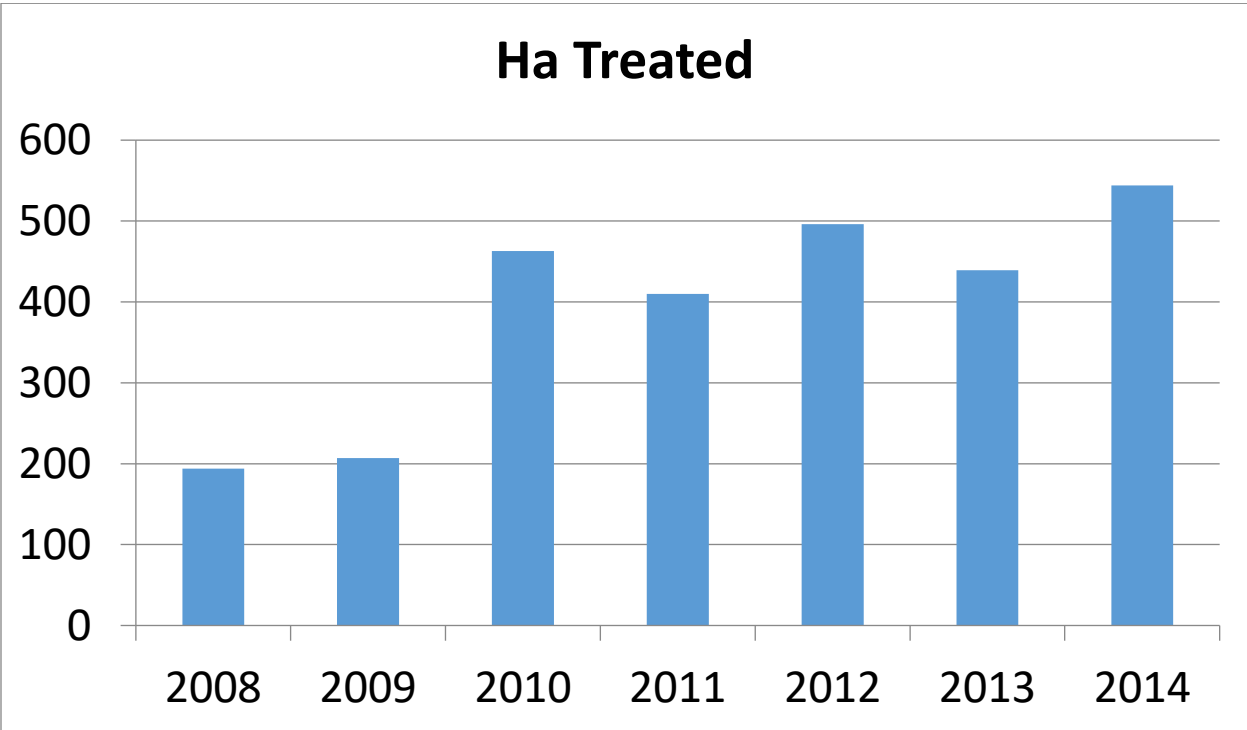


Figure 2. Total number of hectares (ha) treated by EKIPC per year.

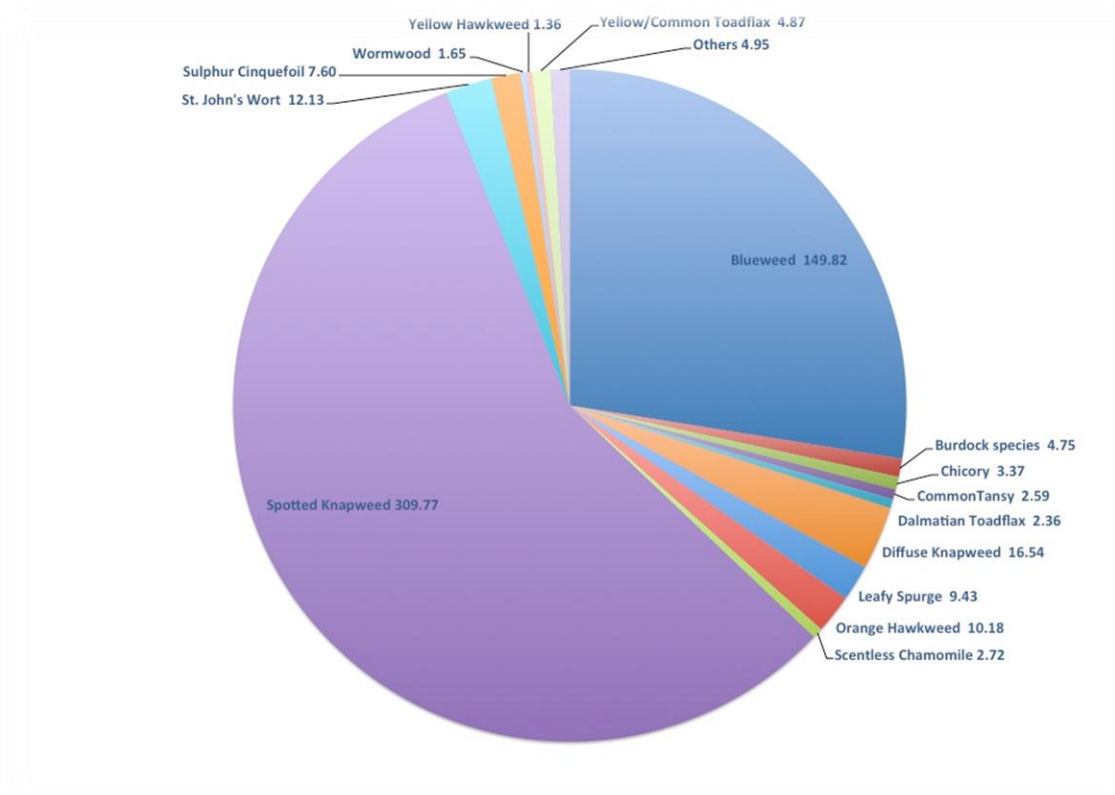


Figure 3. Invasive plant species treatment breakdown in 2014.

Additional Projects

- See "EKIPC 2014 Annual Operating Plan"
- BC Hydro
- BC Parks
- Columbia Basin AIS Partnership
- Columbia Lake tower: CBC/Shaw/MFLNRO
- Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund (CVLCF): Strategic Invasive Plant Control Of Leafy Spurge (SIPCOLS)
- Crown of the Continent –Flathead Valley
- Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP): Management & Restoration of Invasive Plants in Protected Areas (MRIPPA)
- FortisBC
- Grassland & Rangeland Enhancement Program (GREP): Crown Range Treatments
- Madera Ranch
- Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)
- Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program (NIPP): 22 approved applicants, 18 received assistance
- RDEK Transfer Stations
- Rocky Mt Trench Ecosystem Restoration Program (RMTERP)
- TransCanada Pipeline

Funding

Revenue for 2014 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 1 charts annual revenue since the pilot program began in 2005. See "2014 EKIPC Financial Statement".

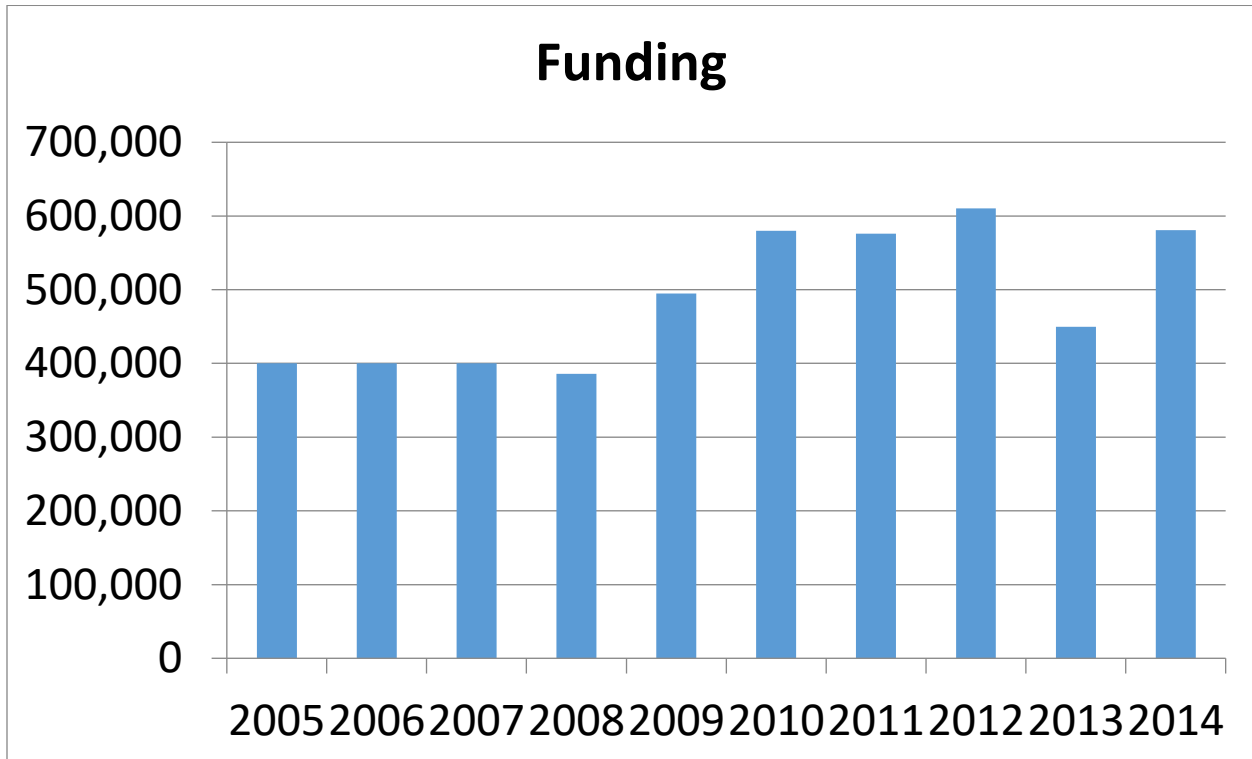


Figure 4. Total EKIPC revenue per year.

2014 Funders, Sponsors, and Partners (green were new partners in 2014)

EKIPC 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.

- Akisqnuq First Nation
- BC Hydro
- Blue Lake Centre
- Canada Broadcasting Corporation
- Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee
- Columbia Basin Trust
- Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund
- Crown of the Continent, Adaptive Management Initiative

- Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program
- Fortis BC
- Grassland and Rangeland Enhancement Fund
- Invasive Species Council of BC
- Kootenay Conservation Program
- Kootenay Livestock Association
- 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
- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Regional District of East Kootenay
- Regional Weed Committees of BC
- Rocky Mountain Trench Natural Resources Society
- Shaw Cablesystems
- Teck Resources
- The Nature Trust of BC
- TransCanada Pipelines
- Waldo Stockbreeders Association
- Windermere District Farmers Institute
- And others...