



EAST KOOTENAY INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2028

PURPOSES

The East Kootenay Invasive Species Council (EKISC) is a non-profit organization established in June 2008 by a group of individuals and representatives from various organizations dedicated to promoting collaborative approaches to managing invasive species. According to the EKISC Constitution, the Society's objectives within the Regional District of East Kootenay are:

- 1. To COORDINATE** invasive species management on both public and private lands in the East Kootenay region using an integrated pest management approach;
- 2. To EDUCATE** the public about invasive species and their impacts;
- 3. To PREVENT** the introduction and spread of invasive species in the East Kootenay;
- 4. To FOSTER** increased support for 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, mitigation, treatment and long-term impact measurement.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Effective Knowledgeable Innovative Strategic Collaborative

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The East Kootenay Invasive Species Council will continue to play a pivotal role in coordinating efforts to address the threat of invasive species. By actively engaging, educating, and supporting a network of organizations and citizens, EKISC aims to foster a collaborative and comprehensive response to invasive species management. The following objectives and strategic priorities outline our approach:

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, ensuring transparency and trust.
5. Maintain communications with neighboring 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 a contact list.
8. Use a web-based platform for joint sharing of information (e.g., Google Drive, Dropbox).
9. Coordinate and deliver operational activities on behalf of partners to ensure collaborative and efficient management.
10. Contract experienced herbicide contractors to aid with chemical treatments.
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.
13. Maintain a long-term history of treatments across past and present systems (IAPP and InvasivesBC).
14. Support initiatives under the Invasive Species Council of BC and the RDEK's Neighbourhood Invasive Plant Program.



OBJECTIVE 2: EDUCATE ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES

1. Focus on behavioral change through targeted education and outreach programs.
2. Engage younger people, including youth groups and school children, and hire youth to support their development in the environmental science field.
3. Identify target audiences and maintain updated contact information (e.g., recreation, fishing, and hunting groups).
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, water, economy, species at risk) to improve public understanding and promote support.
7. Use a wide array of technological tools for information transfer and engage social media and multimedia tools and partnerships.
8. Use the EKISC website as a source of relevant and recent information.
9. Advocate for Best Management Practices among land managers and users.
10. Connect with all levels of government.
11. Engage and support local First Nations, building strong and meaningful connections, and applying two-eyed seeing whenever applicable (western and traditional knowledge).
12. Connect with local colleges and university institutions to support our mission and vision.
13. Use impact assessment tools in the education department.

OBJECTIVE 3: PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES

1. Focus on behavior change programs to promote best management practices for preventing the spread of invasive species (e.g., "Clean, Drain, Dry" or cleaning equipment between sites).
2. Promote the sale of native and non-invasive species at garden centers.
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).
4. Promote proper disposal of invasive species.
5. Recognize and mitigate threats from adjacent boundaries regarding species and pathways of introduction.
6. Provide training workshops to key audiences (e.g., 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 the "Report Invasives BC" app and reporting through the BC Government's website through outreach activities and link to website.



10. Aid with sign design, sourcing and installations at target locations to encourage reporting (e.g., rest stops, tourist info, trail systems, viewpoints, marinas).
11. Support provincial and regional reporting and early detection and rapid response programs.
12. Stay up-to-date on emerging invasive news locally and in neighboring areas.

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 the efficacy of treatments and adopt adaptive management approaches.
5. Identify mechanisms and audiences that spread/cause invasions to reduce spread.
6. Promote safe harvesting of useful non-native plant species (e.g., foraging, fishing, hunting).
7. Continue to research and remain up-to-date on best management practices.
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 neighboring, provincial, and multi-agency collaborations.
18. Develop performance measures and monitor the effectiveness of programs.
19. Recognize and acknowledge partners for contributions and advertise successes.
20. Assure maximum representation of and on EKISC to ensure maximum community engagement and EKISC voice at decision-making tables.
21. Advertise successes.