



EAST KOOTENAY INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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



2018 Photo Contest Winner
Photo: Natasha Wilbrink



Message to Our Community

From EKISC's Program Manager and Chair

EKISC was formed in 2008 following a three year pilot project ending in 2007. Our 10 year anniversary was celebrated at the AGM in May 2018. Although we are still focused on a similar mission of mitigating the impacts of invasive species, a lot has changed in the last 10 years!

The board continues to drive the strategic vision of the organization through policy reviews, internal assessments, and input from stakeholders. This strategy is implemented by our brilliant staff with program work plans. In 2018 we hired five new staff and increased the capacity of the field operations crew. Licensed pesticide applicators, ranchers, and other specialists are contracted to deliver most of the weed management work using a regional priority plan to be as effective as possible.

EKISC has developed a diverse financial portfolio with various terms and partners. This requires a high degree of fiscal accountability which has been largely supported by our accountant. In 2018 EKISC managed over 28 projects from 22 funders, including some new partners who understand the value of working with EKISC for a landscape-level approach of invasive plant management.

Some programs of note in 2018 included:

- EKISC's weed management crew to manage high priority sites in the region;
- The purchase of a field truck for increased efficiencies;
- Enhanced workshops for industry professionals such as Forestry;
- Regular communications through a variety of outlets including an updated website;
- Organizing several field tours with partners: AB/BC Transboundary Tour; Grassland Ecology and Restoration; and the Annual Gathering of BC's Regional Invasive Species Organizations.

Of course, none of this work could be completed without the strong support of our various funders and stakeholders. These valuable partnerships contribute to invasive species management, strategic planning, educational events, and everything in between. Please keep them in mind as you read about EKISC's accomplishments in this Annual Report.

We have seen a large amount of change in 2018 - EKISC's tenth year of operations. In staffing we have seen the retirement of Pat Wray who was involved with our program for over half our history. 2018 also marks the final year that Todd Larsen, our Program Manager for the past five years, was with us before moving on to a job in the Rocky Mountain Resource District Range Program in early 2019. We wish both of them the best in their new endeavors. We are also pleased to welcome Katie Reid back from her well deserved parental leave.

We also grieve to note the passing, this last summer, of Jeannette Edwards who was a long time spray contractor and the first program monitor of the EKISC program in 2008; our thoughts are with her family and be assured that she will be missed.

As always, we face challenges in gaining stable predictable funding, and integrating the goals and objectives of 22 funding sources into one seamless operation that focuses on treatments based on need, not jurisdiction. We found that extra administrative duties are now being required of us, diverting resources from the field. Our focus is on eradicating weeds as per our stakeholders direction but we have, for the third year in a row, partnered with BC Environment to carry out Zebra mussel monitoring in 8 local lakes. We have little involvement with the boat wash stations, but keeping Zebra mussels out of BC is a huge priority for us locally and in our province.

We are also pleased to see a new website, on-line store, and a great variety of invasive species courses. Successful outreach and education can head an invasive species by ensuring a problem does not arise in the first place; it is a cost effective measure.

We are looking forward to another good year in 2019 with spray contractors, rancher sprayer contractors and our own in house crews, all working together for a weed free East Kootenay.

Todd Larsen
PROGRAM MANAGER

Randy Harris
CHAIR



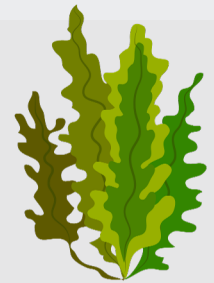
Field Operations

- 8 Water bodies surveyed for invasive mussels
- 10 Water bodies surveyed for aquatic invasive plants



- 3737 INVASIVE PLANT SITES SURVEYED
- 36 SITES RE-SEEDED WITH NATIVE GRASS
- 2 NEW INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT PLANS WRITTEN FOR BC PARKS
- 49 RESEARCH PLOTS MONITORED
- 12 NEW PLOTS ESTABLISHED

ZERO AQUATIC
INVASIVE SPECIES
FOUND



2018 saw the introduction of a new position - an invasive species technician - and the creation of the Rapid Invasive Plant Response Squad a.k.a. RIPRS!

The RIPRS gave EKISC the ability to quickly respond to high priority invasive plant sightings and manage all priority one species across the whole of the East Kootenay. They also had the capacity to treat private properties.

RIPRS

Rapid Invasive Plant Response Squad



Early Detection Rapid Response

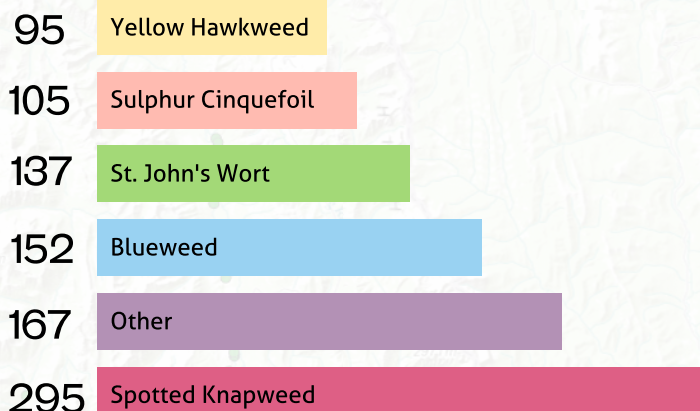
Quick, reliable,
and active
response to
sightings of
EDRR species
within the RDEK

11,500+
TOTAL INVASIVE PLANT
SITES IN THE RDEK

TREATMENTS

	CHEMICAL	MANUAL	TOTAL
SITES	3292	36	3328
HECTARES	949.86	26.4	976.3

PLANT SPECIES TREATED (HA)



2 MAJOR INVASIVE PLANT INVENTORIES COMPLETED

- DEWAR CREEK HOT SPRINGS
- KIKOMUN CREEK PROVINCIAL PARK
- + 7 OTHERS
- CANFOR
- BUMMERS FLATS
- NCC CHERRY MEADOWS PROPERTY
- HOODOO PROPERTY
- CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE, WILMER UNIT
- THREE SONS/POMMIER
- WOLF BUSCH



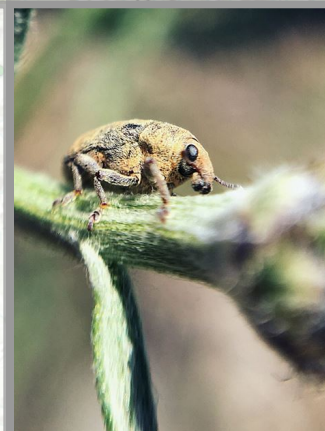
13
RANGE UNITS
TREATED

5 RANCHER-SPRAYERS
CONTRACTED WORK



13
INVASIVE PLANT
MANAGEMENT AREAS

5
BIOCONTROL
RELEASES



Education & Communication

12 COMMUNITY WEED PULLS
21 SPECIAL EVENTS
16 FARMERS' MARKETS
34 TARGETED WORKSHOPS
3 INDUSTRY TRAINING DAYS
2496 NEW AND UNIQUE USERS
VISITED THE WEBSITE
1937 RESOURCES DISTRIBUTED



4962
PEOPLE REACHED*

* Indirect/Direct combination through events.



39%
E-NEWSLETTERS
OPENED IN 2018



87
EDUCATION & OUTREACH
EVENTS ATTENDED



15
STORIES MADE LOCAL
NEWS HEADLINES



**"I found the
instruction to
be excellent."**

- 2018 Industry course
participant

LOTS

of learning
from young
ones to old!



28 NATIVE PLANTS DISTRIBUTED



2018 was EKISC's busiest year yet!

Overall the education team
attended 87 events, up 97% from
44 in 2017.

Through a variety of campaigns,
courses, and strategic events
EKISC was able to reach a wider
audience in 2018.

Members of the public, private and
corporate groups, industry,
volunteers, and other non-profits
all had positive feedback
throughout the year; this feedback
will be used to improve
programming in 2019.



Followers



444



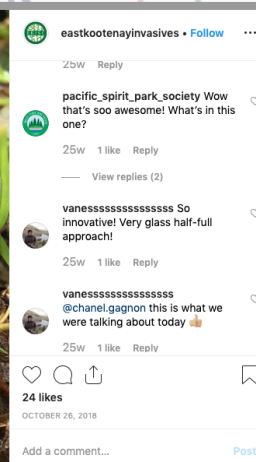
203



149



REPORT-A-WEED
APP USED FOR
IDENTIFYING &
REPORTING



FACEBOOK
IMPRESSIONS

25,259

INSTAGRAM
ENGAGEMENT
RATE

41%

43,689

TWITTER
IMPRESSIONS



Finances & Funders

22 FUNDERS SUPPORTING EKISC IN 2018

BC HYDRO

BC PARKS

BC PARKS - PARKS ENHANCEMENT FUND

CANADA SUMMER JOBS

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST

COLUMBIA VALLEY LOCAL CONSERVATION FUND

CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS & NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA

ENVIRONMENT CANADA / CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

FISH & WILDLIFE COMPENSATION PROGRAM (UKEEP, COLUMBIA VALLEY)

FORTIS BC

GRASSLAND & RANGELAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

HABITAT CONSERVATION TRUST FOUNDATION

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS & RURAL DEVELOPMENT (COORDINATION & AWARENESS, OPERATIONS, CONSERVATION PROPERTIES, WILDLIFE)

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

NATURE CONSERVANCY OF CANADA

THE NATURE TRUST OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF EAST KOOTENAY (COMMUNITY INITIATIVES & AFFECTED AREAS PROGRAMS)

ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH NATURAL RESOURCES SOCIETY

TRANS CANADA TRAIL

VILLAGE OF RADIUM

WESTSIDE LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

"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



In 2018, EKISC purchased a new field truck as a capital expenditure. Half of it (\$10,000) was paid for by the RDEK CIAAP funds.

2018 EXPENSES

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT & PLANNING \$49,983
 ADMINISTRATION & EXPENSES \$72,478
 EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAMMING \$97,369
 FIELD OPERATIONS PROGRAMMING \$161,868
 FIELD OPERATIONS CONTRACTS \$554,981
 TOTAL \$936,679

GROSS REVENUE IN 2018

\$978,920

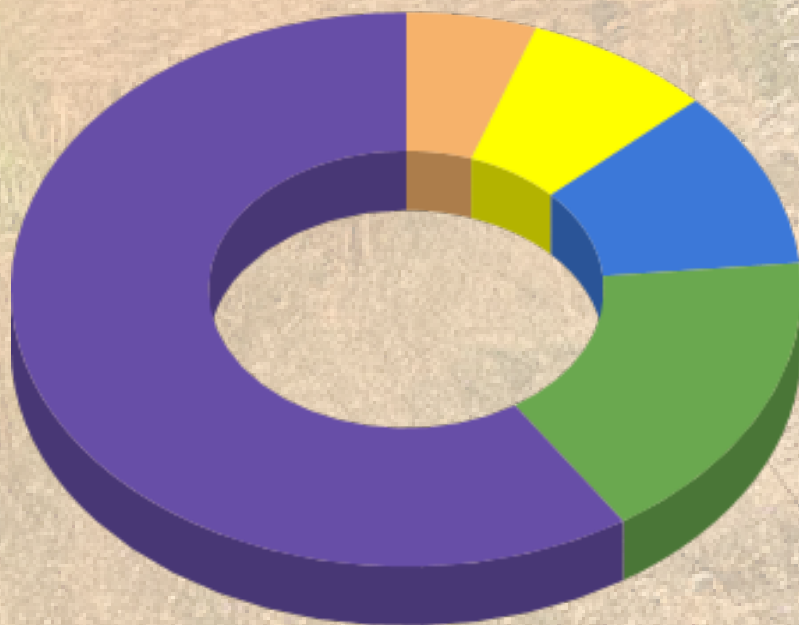


SUPPORTING
LOCAL JOBS,
CONTRACTORS,
& RANCHERS



Largest funder:
MFLNRD
\$276,300

2018 EXPENSES BY PERCENTAGE



- Program Management & Planning 5%
- Administration & Expenses 8%
- Education & Outreach Programming 10%
- Field Operations Programming 17%
- Field Operations Contracts 60%

Full financial summary available upon request

Our Staff & Board

Todd Larsen

PROGRAM MANAGER

Katie Reid

FIELD OPERATIONS MANAGER
(NOT PICTURED)

Jessie Paloposki

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER

Pat Wray

FIELD OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Laura MacKinnon

FIELD OPERATIONS
COORDINATOR

Danny Smart

INVASIVE SPECIES TECHNICIAN

Katie Grady

FIELD ASSISTANT

Santana Patten

FIELD ASSISTANT

Serena MacKay

EDUCATION ASSISTANT

Janine Wittig

EDUCATION ASSISTANT



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.

2018 Recipient:

Patricia Wray

EKISC (retired 2018)



Jim Campbell

DIRECTOR

Shawna LaRade

DIRECTOR

Stephanie Daniels

TREASURER

Jamie Davies

DIRECTOR

Not pictured

Pam Turyk


VICE CHAIR

Randy Harris

CHAIR

Lily Durham

SECRETARY



"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



1-888-55-EKISC



1902 Theatre Rd.
Cranbrook, BC
V1C 7G1



@EastKootenayInvasives



@EK_Invasives