



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP INVASIVE SPECIES SOCIETY STRATEGIC PLAN 2013 TO 2018

PURPOSES

The Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) is a non-profit society founded in April 2013 by a group of individuals and organizational representatives who saw the need for a coordinated regional approach to the growing threat of invasive species in the Columbia Shuswap Regional District. The purposes of the Society (as per the CSISS Constitution)¹ are:

- a) To educate and engage public, private landowners, land and aquatic managers, first nations and others about invasive species and their impacts.
- b) To establish and operate invasive species management programs.
- c) To do all other things as are incidental and ancillary to the attainment of the above purposes

VISION STATEMENT

The environment, economy and society of the Columbia Shuswap region is protected from the adverse impact of invasive species.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society is a network of partners who facilitate the prevention, reduction and management of invasive species through collaboration, engagement and education.

VALUES

The CSISS will:

- Be collaborative and democratic;
- Ensure the inclusion of multiple perspectives;
- Proactively promote and facilitate partnerships;
- Have a membership that is open and inclusive;
- Respect the values and perspectives of all stakeholders;
- Be transparent and accountable;
- Be independent and non-partisan;
- Operate as a non-profit organization;
- Seek and accept funding from multiple sources.

¹ These purposes cannot be changed without bringing a resolution at an AGM.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

The Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society will sustain its coordinating role to engage and support a network of organizations and citizens in their responses to the threat of invasive species by the following:

GOAL 1: IMPLEMENT A COLLABORATIVE AND COORDINATED PROGRAM

- 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 Columbia Shuswap
- 4) Develop and maintain a comprehensive inventory and accessible data of species locations, partners' activities, and control methods
- 5) Maintain communications with neighbouring regional weed committees
- 6) Promote information transfer to organizational partners through activities such as newsletters, forums, presentations
- 7) Identify one contact person for each partner organization
- 8) Use a web-based platform for joint sharing of information (e.g. sharepoint, iCloud, database)
- 9) Develop and distribute an e-newsletter

GOAL 2: EDUCATE, ENGAGE AND INSPIRE RESIDENTS AND OTHERS TO PARTICIPATE IN INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

- 1) Focus on behavioural change programs
- 2) Engage younger people including youth groups and school children
- 3) Promote broad appeal to "the public" by promoting positive messaging (e.g. "controlling invasive plants is a positive contribution to the environment")
- 4) Provide education and information transfer on all aspects of invasive plant management including identification, tools available, disposal techniques and impacts
- 5) Provide clear messaging on the detrimental impacts of invasive plants (e.g. ecosystems, health, recreation, agriculture, species at risk) to improve public understanding and promote "buy-in"
- 6) Use wide array of technological tools for information transfer, ranging from luddite-friendly to techno-savvy
- 7) Engage social media and multi-media tools and partnerships

GOAL 3: PREVENT THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW INVASIVE SPECIES

- 1) Focus on behaviour change programs to promote best management practices for preventing the spread of invasive species (such as "Clean, Drain, Dry" or cleaning equipment between sites)
- 2) Promote the sale of alternative species at garden centres
- 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, etc.)

- 4) Promote proper disposal of invasive species
- 5) Recognize and mitigate threats from adjacent boundaries (species and pathways of introduction)

GOAL 4: MAXIMIZE THE PROBABILITY OF DETECTION AND ERADICATION OF NEW INVADERS

- 1) Provide training workshops to key audiences (such as naturalist groups, district and municipal maintenance staff, agriculturalists, and forestry workers) for the identification and reporting of high priority invasive species
- 2) Identify gaps in knowledge and conduct inventories
- 3) Identify and implement a rapid response protocol
- 4) Advertise and promote “Report-A-Weed” app through social media
- 5) Promote Invasive Alien Plant Program application (IAPP) and link to website
- 6) Install signs at target locations to encourage reporting (e.g. green belt, rest stops, tourist info, trail systems, view points)

GOAL 5: SLOW OR REVERSE THE SPREAD OF EXISTING INVASIVE SPECIES AND REDUCE THEIR HARMFUL IMPACTS

- 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) Maintain the ability to use compliance and enforcement (under Bylaw 5110) as a “last resort”
- 5) Monitor efficacy of treatments and adopt adaptive management approach
- 6) Identify mechanisms and audiences that spread/cause invasions to reduce spread
- 7) Promote safe-harvesting of useful non-native plant species (e.g. medicines)
- 8) Continue to research and remain up-to-date on best management practices (e.g. re-seeding disturbed sites)
- 9) Promote best suited treatment techniques in the region
- 10) Where appropriate, consider ecosystem restoration during treatment of invasive species
- 11) Support research activities that achieve program goals
- 12) Increase availability of treatment tools (such as stem injector or sprayer) in all IPMA’s (e.g. sign-out through municipality, store, or organization)
- 13) Identify sources, promote benefits, and increase availability, of native plant species in the region
- 14) Coordinate partner treatment activities to ensure “best bang for the buck”
- 15) Provide information on treatment methods, including visual instruction on how and when to remove/treat, biology of species, and spreading mechanisms

GOAL 6: ENSURE PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY

- 1) Continue to identify, seek and engage partners and stakeholders in CSISS
- 2) Seek funding from multiple sources
- 3) Support the CSRD Noxious Weed bylaw and service
- 4) Provide the opportunity for stakeholders to regularly meet to identify opportunities and challenges and strategies to address them
- 5) Recognize and acknowledge partners for contributions
- 6) Maintain connection with provincial invasive species network (e.g. Invasive Species Council of BC)
- 7) Develop performance measures and monitor effectiveness of programs
- 8) Advertise successes