



Columbia Shuswap  
Invasive Species Society



*Protecting the Columbia Shuswap region from the adverse impacts of invasive species on the environment, economy and society.*

2023

ANNUAL REPORT





## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ROBYN HOOPER

Thank you for your support of CSISS in 2023!

We are extremely grateful to our generous funders and partners. A huge thank you as well to Board members, volunteers and members who continue to support CSISS and our goals of protecting this region's biodiversity from the impacts of invasive species. Our staff team accomplished a lot this year and we are grateful for their enthusiasm and hard work.



## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

In April 2023, CSISS marked 10 years since incorporation and hosted a special celebration and awards to thank key people and organizations that have supported us.

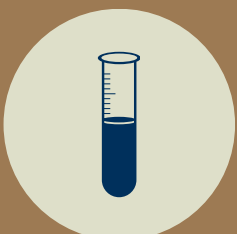
**Over the past 10 years we have:**



Made **24,872** Direct interactions at events



Provided **124** Workshops, presentations and training sessions



Collected **532** Water samples



Conducted **6,612** Invasive plant surveys



Photo: CSISS 10 Year anniversary celebration. Robyn Hooper, Chris Cochran, Adam Croxall, Hamish Kassa and Laura Gaster receiving long-standing recognition awards.

# WHO ARE WE?

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

## OUR OBJECTIVES

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

## WHERE WE OPERATE

Our work is carried out throughout the Columbia Shuswap region. Our projects are broken up into Invasive Plant Management Areas, determined by bioclimatic regions and species present. These IMPAs are Salmon Arm, Revelstoke and Golden.





# IN THE FIELD - TERRESTRIAL

685

Targeted invasive plant surveys

Photo: Marlee in the field

Photo: Yellow Flag Iris being dug out (Shuswap)

39

Mechanical treatments completed at priority locations

ATTENTION  
INVASIVE PLANTS  
NO MOWING  
KNOWN SPECIES  
DO NOT MOW OR DISTURB SITE

'Do Not Mow' signs installed

Photo: Knotweed

51

Priority sites treated through 4 herbicide spray contracts

Photo: Leafy Spurge

108

Requests for information



# IN THE FIELD- AQUATIC



Photo: Water sampling lakes.

Photo: Water sampling net toss.



25

Invasive mussel sampling locations



137

Water samples collected

Photo: Sampling day with Shuswap Watershed Council.

Photo: Water sampling pH metre.



15

Waterbodies sampled

Photo: eDNA sampling with Parks Canada.



0

Detections of Zebra and Quagga mussels



# IN THE COMMUNITY- EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The outreach team continues to educate, engage and inspire our community to be involved with invasive species management. In 2023, CSISS resumed in person events, directly communicating with **3,650** people across the Columbia Shuswap region.

## EVENTS

Photo (Kate Pederson): Edible Invasives Plant ID workshop



74

Community Outreach Events

Photo : Plant ID walk and Speed Weed event



21

Presentations, Workshop and Training Events

Photo : Weedpull on Shuswap Lake



7

Community Weedpull events



photo : Marilee at Garden Centre

23

Garden centers visited with the 'Plant Wise' message

## COMMUNICATIONS



4 Newsletters to 540 recipients



Features in 50 news pieces from 6 press releases



836 Facebook Followers Reaching 16.2K



1,181 Instagram Followers Reaching 9.5 K

## AQUATIC OUTREACH

Photo: Boater Outreach day at Shuswap Lake Provincial Park



Attended 9 Aquatic Invasive Species events, visited 38 marinas/ campgrounds with 'Clean Drain Dry' messaging



# PROJECT UPDATES

## YELLOW FLAG IRIS - SHUSWAP

CSISS completed detailed site inventory and post-treatment monitoring for invasive yellow flag iris in sites around the Shuswap, including: White Lake, Turner Creek, McGuire Lake, Gardom Lake and Little White Lake. The Shuswap Trail Alliance crews, mechanically treated all infestations of yellow flag iris at White Lake (highest priority) Turner Creek and McGuire Lake.



Photo: Little White Lake Yellow Flag Iris Weedpull. CSISS staff, Invasive Species Council of BC staff, Skwłāx Guardian Program, and local volunteers deadheaded yellow flag iris seed pods and flowers. Top Right Insert: Yellow Flag Iris flower head.



Benthic Barrier Installation Workshop: a novel treatment method for yellow flag iris



Salmon Arm Bay- trialing Benthic Barrier with Nature Trust of BC



# CSISS BOARD MEMBERS

Hamish Kassa- outgoing Board member 2022-23  
Chris Cochran- Chair 2022-23; Treasurer 2023-24  
Peter Tarleton- Vice Chair 2022-23; Chair 2023-24  
John Braisher- Director  
Adam Croxall- Director  
Mike Manson- Director  
Diane Millar- Director  
Chris Gill- Director  
Laurel Corrigan- Director  
Erin Vieira- Vice Chair 2023-2024  
Jeromy Schuetze- Director

# CSISS STAFF

Robyn Hooper- Executive Director  
Laura Gaster- Field Operations Manager  
Jess Booth- Education and Outreach Program Coordinator  
Nolan Novotny- Field Technician  
Marlee Verleih- Field Program Assistant / Technician  
Emma Wiebe- Outreach Program Assistant  
Katie Dyzngel- Outreach Program Assistant



Photo: CSISS Board of Directors and Staff at 10th Anniversary event.

# FINANCES & FUNDING

Total Funding in 2023: **\$401,600**

Funding Sources: **32**

In Kind contributions: **\$10,900**

Expenses: **\$390,891**

\*Note some revenue is deferred between fiscal years due to project terms

## THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS:

Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Forests, BC Parks, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Community Gaming Grant  
Employment and Social Development Canada (Canada Summer Jobs Program)  
Environment and Climate Change Canada  
The Forest Enhancement Society of BC  
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation  
Columbia Shuswap Regional District  
Shuswap Watershed Council  
City of Salmon Arm  
Parks Canada  
BC Hydro  
Nature Trust of BC  
Columbia Basin Trust  
The Shuswap North Okanagan Rail Trail (Splatsin te Secwépemc, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Regional District of North Okanagan)  
Living Lakes Canada  
Eco Canada (Environmental Pathways and Science Horizons Wage Subsidies)  
Mustang Powder Auction fundraiser, Stella-Jones Inc., Shuswap Watershed Owners Association, and small cash donations