

# Boundary Invasive Species Management Program

## Annual Report 2025



Prepared for: **Boundary Invasive Species Society**

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## Acknowledgements

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- Field staff who completed activities this season including one seasonal technician, several part-time labourers, the Outreach Coordinator, the Operations Coordinator, and the Program Manager;
- The board of directors of the society who donate their time to guide the society and its programs;
- All the society members and partners that operate management programs, provide guidance, or assist with projects.

The programs would not operate without the generous support of partners.

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# 1. Personnel

## Staff:

- Program Manager – Barb
- Operations Coordinator – Darrin
- Outreach Coordinator – Olivia
- Seasonal Technician – Robyn

## Boundary Invasive Species Society (BISS) Officers and Directors:

Stefany, Debbie, Janine, Doug, Olivia, Ashley, Jesse, Ted, and Bob.

# 2. Invasive Species Program Overview

The Boundary Invasive Species Program is in its 26<sup>th</sup> year and continues to work to increase awareness of invasive species, their impacts to our resources, and to coordinate treatment efforts within the Boundary area. The program is making a difference. A summary report on the *Status of Invasive Plant Species in the Boundary 2025* will be completed to assess whether species specific objectives were being met and this should be available in early 2026 once all the data collected is analyzed.

The program provides residents of the Boundary with a reliable source of information regarding invasive species identification and management and works with land managers to coordinate treatment efforts towards priority invasive plants and areas. Without such a program, residents would have limited access to management information, assistance with plant identification, a place to report new infestations, or a contact to direct complaints too. Many people contacted the program this year for help in identifying invasive plants and formulating effective management strategies for their properties. The majority of individuals who contacted the program this year carried out some level of control on their properties.

# 3. Prevention

Preventing species from being introduced into our area is a focus for the program. The Weeds Cross Borders partnership with Okanogan and Ferry Counties, as well as Okanogan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS), shares information on location of new priority species. Education has been pivotal in preventing invasive species from reaching the Boundary. Within the project, the adjacent US counties work near the border to control yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*), black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), North Africa grass (*Ventenata dubia*), and jointed goat grass (*Aegilops cylindrica*).

To reduce accidental introductions on watercraft the society worked with and supported efforts by the Christina Lake Stewardship Society (CLSS) to deliver an aquatic awareness program. In 2025, BISS visited communities at events with pop-up booths in popular areas of across the Boundary with a focus on preventing introduction of aquatic invasive species. The program also relied on articles and social media. All were effective mediums of getting the message out.



BISS doorknob hanger.

Best Management Practices are available for a range of industries including roadside maintenance, parks, forestry, and development. The past few seasons BISS was contracted by the Selkirk Resource District to inventory and provide recommendation to prevent introduction and expansion of invasive plants before harvest as part of a wildfire risk reduction projects being undertaken in interface areas. Staff surveyed and monitored projects in the Beavertell, Rock Creek, and Christina Creek areas and control work was completed. Incorporation of prevention and management before and during these projects is key.

#### 4. Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)

The provincial government has a provincial EDRR plan for BC that includes all plant and animal taxa. One species considered prohibited in BC, dyer's woad (*Isatis tinctoria*), was historically present in the Boundary and has been reported to no longer be grown on the site. The mouse-ear hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*) site was not monitored this year since provincial staff consider the site eradicated. Black henbane was found in Rural Grand Forks in 2019, presumably as a result of excessive flooding in 2018. The province leads on monitoring and control of these three species. Additionally, jointed goatgrass (*Aegilops cylindrica*), is a federal EDRR species that has an infestation in the Boundary which is currently under management by the provincial government EDRR program.

In fall 2018, North Africa grass (*Ventenata dubia*) was found in the Gilpin area by staff. This species was under management by the province from 2018-2020 when it was moved to provincial containment status in early 2021 and BISS took over coordinating management. BISS has since worked together with Ken Sapsford from the Ministry of Agriculture to perform herbicide trials on North Africa grass on a private property in Rock Creek. This support has been very helpful in identifying effective herbicides and timing to achieve control of this species which new to BC and has huge potential for expansion and impacts. Considering the size of area already infested and the difficulty in finding every plant, herbicide will be an important tool to achieve effective control in the region. In fall of 2024, the first large-scale treatments were conducted on the ground with herbicides proven to be effective during the herbicide trials. Surveys in spring of 2025 showed excellent control of North Africa grass following fall treatments across the region. For more information on the results of the trials and North Africa grass control contact BISS staff.

In 2025, the BISS spotted the provincial EDRR species, water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*) being sold at a retail store in Grand Forks. The sighting was reported and the Province later followed up with the retail store.

The program focussed on improving staff and partner plant identification skills for recognizing new species using pressed samples, and pictures of species to watch for in publications and presentations. Research indicates that most new species are present for over 20 years before they are discovered and reported; therefore, it is important to keep training on potential new species at the forefront of the awareness program. The planning committee has requested BISS staff to put together a picture book or calendar of watch list species to help train relevant partner staff and this should be completed when resources are available.



Provincial EDRR species, water lettuce, being sold in Grand Forks.

## 5. Education and Outreach

### 5.1 Public Assistance & Site Visits

Increases in public awareness from social media posts, news articles, and BISS staff going door to door, there was a 40% increase in time spent directly assisting RDKB community members with their questions and concerns from over 100 hours in 2024 to over 140 hours this field season. These requests included 32 site visits, 31 emails, 8 social media messages, and contacts via text and through the website.

These contacts included requests for help with plant identification, information on management, prevention, and restoration, site visits, and reported sightings of invasive species. Requests were answered promptly, and follow-up action was taken when required. A number of site visits were done to contact all private landowners with known sites of invasive knotweed species. This resulted in a number of sites receiving treatment for the first time through the RDKB New Invaders Program and increased awareness of services available to RDKB residents.

### 5.2 Community Presentations

BISS presented to two community groups this year and to the Greenwood City Council. The presentations allowed specific, relevant information to be shared and provided an opportunity to engage in dialogue on how BISS can work with the community on invasive species management. Protection of native species and maintaining healthy ecosystems received a greater focus this year.

### 5.3 Youth Engagement

Early contacts this year resulted in a large increase in school presentations this year. BISS Staff spoke to 15 different classes across the district, including at West Boundary Elementary School, Beaverdell Elementary School, Walker Development Centre, Greenwood Elementary School, Perley



Article in the Kettle River Echo following a presentation by Olivia on protecting native wildflower species



Outdoor activity with Hutton and Perley Elementary students.



Boothman's Oxbow Provincial Park restoration work with grade 4/5 students.

Elementary School, Hutton Elementary School, Grand Forks Secondary School, and Boundary Central Secondary School. Classes ranged from kindergarten to grade 10. Presentations introduced invasive species at an age-appropriate level and were followed up with a variety of outdoor activities such as plant walks, plant pulls, and collecting invasive species to create drawings for class identification guides. A grade 4/5 class from Hutton Elementary joined BISS at Boothman’s Oxbow Provincial Park and spent the morning cleaning tree cages and pulling invasive plants at the restoration areas. In the fall a class assisted with planting of more cottonwood in the Oxbow. BISS was also invited to run a Christina Lake Stewardship Society Youth activity which was an opportunity to connect with children as well as parents.

#### 5.4 Markets & Events



Outreach Coordinator Olivia at Christina Lake Homecoming sporting a New BISS t-shirt.

Seven markets were attended this year: two in Rock Creek and five in Grand Forks. Markets lasted between four and five hours and were spent talking to community members and visitors to the area. The table was set up with a variety of informational materials and education tools. This year BISS staff spoke with 418 people regarding plant identification, management, and prevention, promoting campaigns such as Play Clean Go, Buy Local Burn Local, Don’t Let It Loose, and Clean Drain Dry.

About 600 educational materials were handed out this year, including identification guidebooks, information on prevention during terrestrial and aquatic activities, and stickers among others. Boot brushes were popular at recreation-focused events. Markets were an excellent opportunity to connect with locals as well as those travelling through the region. Many were excited to learn about the RDKB programs available to assist with invasive plant management on private property such as the New Invaders, Cost Share funding, and Equipment Loan programs from the RDKB.

BISS attended five events spanning six days. These included the Spring Fling hosted by the Grand Forks ATV club, Greenwood Founders Day, Christina Lake Homecoming, The Rock Creek Fall Fair, and a Clean Drain Dry education event organized by BISS in collaboration with the BC mussel inspection team and the Christina Lake Stewardship Society.



Clean Drain Dry event at Texas Creek boat launch organized by BISS in collaboration with CLSS and the Penticton mussel inspection crew.



Rock Creek market table set up in May.

Greenwood Founders Day was only one day this year, but BISS staff spoke to 146 people and connected with groups looking for collaboration opportunities. At Christina Lake Homecoming BISS reached more Area C residents than markets had allowed. The Rock Creek Fall Fair as always is a large community draw. The Spring Fling and Clean Drain Dry events were an opportunity to connect specific recreation groups. At the Spring Fling, the Play Clean Go message was the focus for back-road and trail enthusiasts. This event also formed a new connection with the Grand Forks ATV Club. The Clean Drain Dry event held at the Texas Creek held at the Texas Creek boat launch allowed awareness of Clean Drain Dry practices and new 'pull the plug' legislation to be promoted.

### 5.5 Articles

Due to resources being focused in other areas, only two articles were submitted on behalf of the BISS this year. Both articles published in the Grand Forks Gazette and Kettle River Echo allowing BISS to reach readers across the Boundary. The article published in June provided an introduction RDKB and BISS services available to residents in areas C, D, and E. The second article was focused on the need for community collaboration on invasive species. The articles generated public engagement with the issues surrounding invasive species as shown by the phone calls and emails in response to the articles. These submissions remain an important element BISS outreach work. They allow us to reach a wide range of community members with seasonally relevant information.

### 5.6 Social Media

Social media accounts were used regularly to share information on BISS activities, updates from the field, recent invasive species news, and information on the identification and impacts of invasive species. New this year were pre-prepared species identification information that could be posted throughout the year as species came into flower and became more easily recognizable for the public.

Kettle River Echo

#### INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE RDKB Boundary Invasive Species Society ~ By Olivia Schneider

Boundary area landowners are no doubt peering out windows to check on the progress of pastures and backyards. Unfortunately, more likely than not, the brilliant green contains some combination of invasive species mixed in with the timothy, bromes, or native Idaho fescue. Even if it has not bloomed yet, a white blanket of hoary alyssum will soon drape area D while the west end of the district contends with baby's breath and common bugloss. Though dealing with so many persistent invaders can seem overwhelming, the native wildflowers splashing our grasslands and forests right now are a reminder of all we have worth protecting. Managing invasive species on your own property maintains pasture for pets, livestock, and local wildlife as well as your own use and enjoyment. Management work also helps prevent the spread to valuable ecosystems – ecosystems such as grasslands, forests, wetlands, and waterbodies that provide priceless habitat and ecosystem services to both wildlife and humans.

Control of invasive species is best achieved by using a mix of

and coordination associated with treatment will be handled up front by the RDKB and the BISS. The species covered under the New Invaders program include Japanese, Bohemian, and giant knotweeds (sometimes called bamboo), baby's breath, common tansy, hoary cress, and common bugloss, among others.

The RDKB Cost Share program provides a 50% refund on the cost of herbicide treatment up to \$500 on 5 acres. Program participants must submit the Cost Share form found on our website to the RDKB to receive reimbursement. Species covered under the Cost Share program include hoary alyssum, invasive hawkweeds, sulfur cinquefoil, nodding thistle, and scentless chamomile, among others. For a full list of species covered by RDKB programs or other program details, visit the resources page of our website to download the RDKB Cost Share form

The RDKB Equipment Loan program is available free to all RDKB residents. The available equipment includes tractor and ATV mounted sprayers, backpack sprayers, and an ATV mounted

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May article submitted the Grand Forks Gazette and the Kettler River Echo.

BISS made 24 Facebook posts, 4 reels, 21 stories, and shared 9 relevant posts from other invasive species organizations. Through the Instagram account 16 posts, 5 reels, 27 stories, and 10 shared posts. The Facebook page increased its followers from 680 to 736 since November 2024, and the Instagram account gained 33 followers making for a total of 216 followers. The increased social media usage for outreach and education resulted in reports of invasive species featured in recent posts and reels. Posts are even reaching people beyond our area of operation who have contacted BISS for assistance. BISS staff have helped them find resources closer to them including putting them in touch with other regional societies and local government.

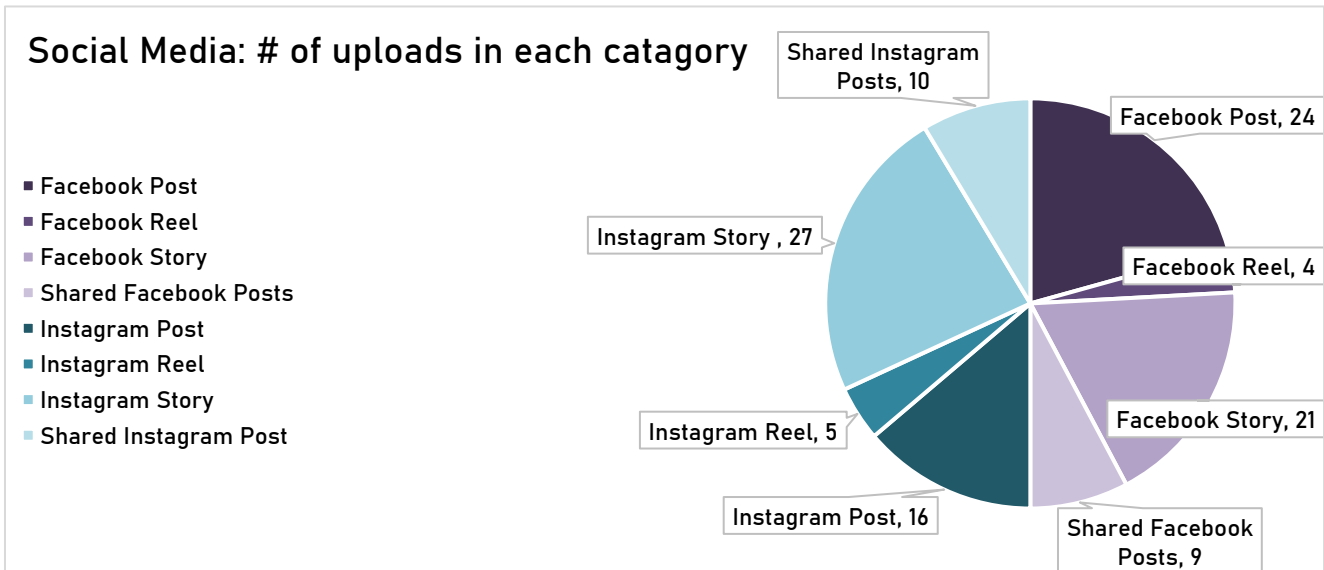
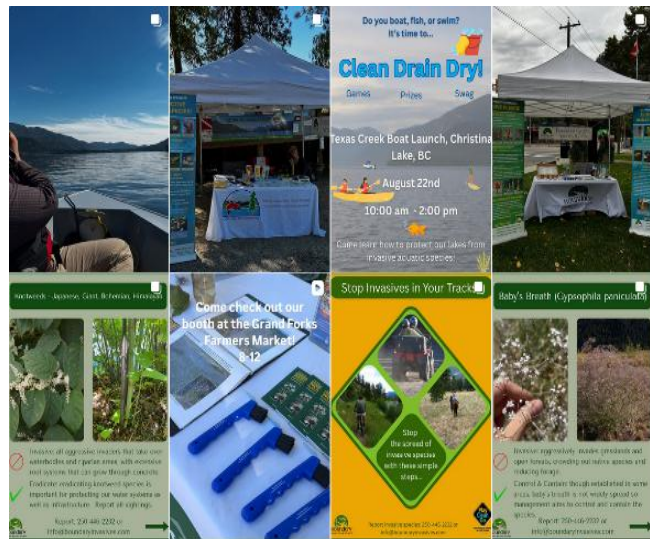


Figure 1. BISS social media uploads by category in 2025.



Facebook post on Scotch thistle ID and impact.



Snapshot of BISS Instagram page.

## 5.7 Program Content

Prevention was stressed as the first step in invasive species management. This was done by spreading awareness about campaigns such as Play Clean Go, Clean Drain Dry, Don't Let it Loose, Grow Me Instead, and Buy Local Burn Local. Presentations, news articles, blog posts, social media posts, and conversations at the education booth were all used to provide information on why prevention is important and best practices to avoid the spread of invasive species. BISS aimed to connect with a wide range of community demographics including youth, landowners, gardeners, boaters, trail users, and others from the Boundary. Prevention is something everyone can participate in.

Management methods and eradication were the topics of greatest interest to community members. BISS staff recommended an integrated management approach which could include the use of tools such as manual removal, competition planting, and herbicides among others. The RDKB Cost Share and New Invaders programs were popular and requests for similar cost assistance came from landowners outside of the covered areas. Further information on management tools was provided through the BISS website, educational material handed out at markets and events, shared in news articles, and management tips posted on social media accounts. Property owners were the primary focus of this content delivery.

As in previous years, the prevention of aquatic invasive species was emphasized. BISS joined CLSS staff and a BC mussel inspection crew for a day at Texas Creek Boat Launch to speak to recreationists about Clean Drain Dry and the dangers posed by zebra and quagga mussels. BISS also used social media to spread awareness of aquatic invasives through photos and videos of identification and removal and shared recent aquatic invasive species news. The information on aquatic invasives on the website was substantially increased after the publication of the updates in June 2024. Attention was also directed to aquatic invasives while at markets and events.

Terrestrial invasive plants are the primary focus of the BISS program. All outreach methods were used to provide community members with information and tools that help with identification and resources on prevention, management, and restoration. BISS staff visited Durand's Nursery to talk with staff and deliver information pamphlets on Buy Me Instead and Plant Wise.

## 5.8 Tools Development

This year a few new tools development projects took place, including ordering new BISS branded items to help increase community recognition of the program and staff, the design of a new informational sign to replace the current one at the Midway Museum, and the redesign of the Managing Invasive Plants in the Boundary handout. The purchase of Canva premium, a graphic design platform, allowed for better education graphics for social media, and for BISS to undertake larger projects.

In July BISS received its new t-shirt and hat order including both office and field shirts. The field shirts are safety green, allowing for staff visibility without having to wear safety vests during non-roadside work including surveys and site visits. BISS also ordered a new table cover with the BISS logo for markets and events.

The sign design for the museum and the update and redesign for the Managing Invasive Plants in the Boundary is very near completion and will be put into use at the start of next year. The sign design incorporates new Play Clean Go design styles with bold colours and simple messaging. The redesign for the handout has similar visual updates to text and colour schemes, as well as a edited content to increase readability and clarity. This handout in its previous version has been popular with RDKB landowners looking to understand invasive plant management in the region.

**PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY**

Protecting our ecosystems is essential for community wellbeing, including our environmental, social, and economic health.

Native plants like arrowleaf balsamroot are threatened by encroaching invasive species.

Trails are at increased risks of erosion and

Hoary alyssum (*Pteridium aurantiacum*) contaminates hay fields.

Invasive species are non-native organisms that can harm our community by damaging ecosystems, degrading recreation areas, and contaminating agricultural crops.

**WATCH FOR THESE INVASIVE PLANTS**

- Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*)
- Common Bugloss (*Anchusa officinalis*)
- Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
- Hoary Alyssum (*Sarothamnus scoparium*)
- Baby's Breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*)
- Sulphur Cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*)
- Orange Hawkweed (*Pteridium aurantiacum*)
- Spotted Knapsweed (*Centaurea atrobe*)
- Nodding Thistle (*Carduus nutans*)

**STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR TRACKS**

Stop invasive species in your tracks by following these simple steps:

- 1 Stay on established trails to prevent soil disturbances and invasive species spread.
- 2 Inspect footwear, gear, pets, and vehicles before, during, and after recreation.
- 3 Remove plants, burs, and soil and bag to be disposed of in the garbage.

**PLAY CLEAN GO**

Boundary Invasive Species Society

The Village of Midway

STOP INVASIVE SPECIES IN YOUR TRACKS

Updated design for Village of Midway museum sign.

## 5.9 Year-End Reflections

This was the second year with a full-time seasonal Outreach Coordinator. The 2025 outreach program followed a two-year Outreach and Education plan which was developed from 2024 experiences and whose content is aimed at reaching a broader range of Boundary residents and increasing public awareness and action on Invasive Species management. While there were fewer community presentations and news articles, BISS increased its social media presence, site visit numbers, youth programming, market attendance, tools development, and spoke to over 1000 people in person this year.

## 6. Inventory and Monitoring

The BISS staff and RDKB herbicide contractors used an ArcGIS Online digital mapping system to collect data in the 2025 field season. Users were able to collect data in the field as well as view operational layers and references layers using the ArcGIS Field Maps app. BISS has how-to-guides to inform proper data collection protocol using the ArcGIS Field Maps app. Digital reference layers included lot lines, house numbers, roads, water features, wells, wildlife habitat areas, at risk plant locations, FortisBC pole numbers, well buffers, and MOTI pits, and invasive plant data from the previous season. The map has satellite imagery as a background to make identification of locations simple and sites that are assigned a unique identifiable code that can be searched while in the field. All data was synced daily so a user could view data made by other users. The information collected included observation, monitoring, and treatment records. The data collected was exported and used for all reporting. The ArcGIS online database of information on invasive plant locations can easily be shared with all partners.

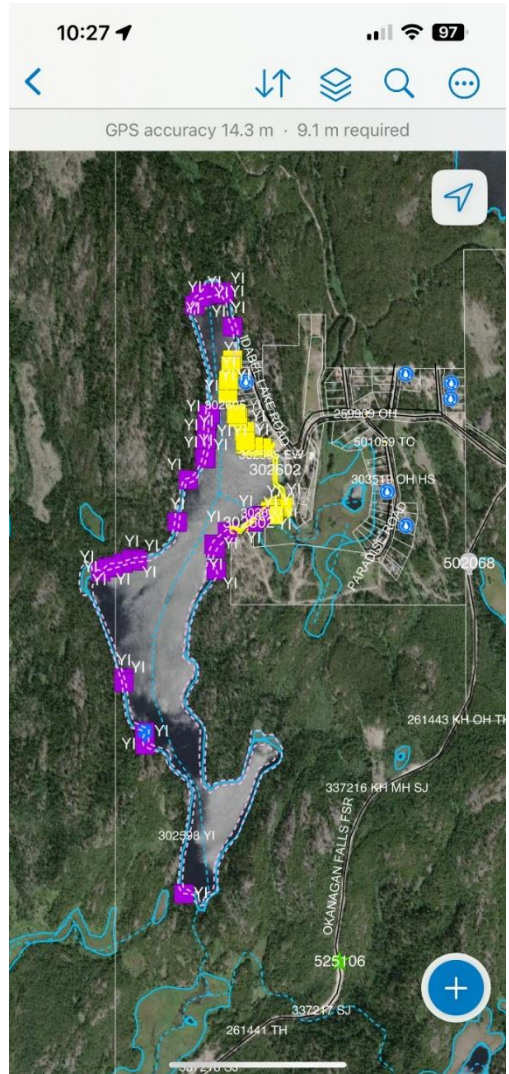
All operational records from 2025 were entered into the provincial InvasivesBC database. Each stakeholder contributed resources to have their portion of data entered into InvasivesBC with a unique project code that can be used to identify which records were funded by that stakeholder. All data entry was completed by BISS staff.

For the 2025 field season, the province continued using the new online database called the InvasivesBC. InvasivesBC which in 2023 replaced the much older Invasive Alien Plant Program. After using this system for a third season, most of the issues have been sorted out and use of the InvasivesBC database was smooth and efficient in 2025.

Inventory and monitoring during 2025 continued to focus on priority species (Category 1 and 2) including North Africa grass, longspine sandbur, plumeless thistle, scotch thistle, common tansy, common bugloss, blueweed, knotweeds, plumeless thistle, among other species. New inventory was focussed in areas in proximity to known Category 1 species. A special effort was made to expand inventory of North Africa grass patch boundaries in 2025 in preparation for a second season of fall treatment as effective herbicide options are now available. Detailed inventory was done on many jurisdictions for partners. The program promotes the use of the *Report Invasives BC* app; however, very few reports are being received from our area through the app. Typically, FOR staff do not reply to all reports and do not notify BISS of reports; instead, reports are entered into InvasivesBC. The program promotes the use of the iNaturalist app which allows users to photograph a plant and get an identification. In 2026, BISS plans to do a thorough scan of iNaturalist reports to look for invasive species that are currently unknown to the BISS and the province.

Sampling for invasive mussels was completed at three locations, including two locations on the Kettle River and one location at Jewel Lake. Plankton nets were used in an attempt to catch mussel larvae (veligers) in the water column. A substrate sampler was installed at Jewel Lake and monitored with no sign of mussels. The Province of BC reported no zebra or quagga mussels detected from any lakes in BC this season. For an update on the provincial boat inspection program visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/invasive-mussels>.

A summary of the status of priority invasive plants in the Boundary region is being included in the report *Status of Invasive Species in the Boundary for 2025* which will be available in the spring at [www.boundaryinvasives.com](http://www.boundaryinvasives.com).



Screenshot of ArcGIS Field Maps app showing 2025 database (shown is Idabel Lake yellow flag iris work).

## 7. Biological Control

Biological control activities in the Boundary are delivered through cooperation with the Ministry of Forests (FOR), the BISS, and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. The program did some monitoring of insect presence on request by landowners and range tenure holders. The most common report/question from the public was about *Chrysolina spp* targeting St John's wort with several reports of insects being observed. This section provides a summary of the status of established insects and there is little change in this section from the last few years since no new releases were completed. There are several new insects in the late research phase by the province that should come available in the next few years. For more information on the provincial biocontrol program visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/biological-control>.

### 7.1 *Aceria malherbae* (ACMA)

*Aceria malherbae* is a mite that attacks field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*). A site with *A. malherbae* was found in 2020 in the Hardy Mountain area which may have established from the assumed unsuccessful release in 1998. In 2020 some plant material was collected and moved to a mowed and irrigated site in City Park in Grand Forks to see if a future collection site could be established. Monitoring of that site did not find evidence of the insect present.

This agent was released in 1998 east of Grand Forks, but it did not establish at the release location. In 2016 two releases were purchased by the RDKB from a researcher in Alberta and released in the Midway and Grand Forks areas. The release west of Grand Forks was monitored 2017-2020 and there was no evidence of establishment. The release near Midway showed evidence of establishment in 2017 - 2021 during monitoring. Once this foliar feeding mite builds adequate populations the plan is to collect and redistribute the insects.



### 7.2 *Agapeta zoegana* (AGZO)

*Agapeta zoegana*, a root-boring moth for control of diffuse and spotted knapweed was widely distributed in the past and has likely already spread to suitable shady sites with diffuse knapweed. There were no releases this year.



### 7.3 *Apthona flava* (APFL)

*Apthona flava* was released in 2010 on a leafy spurge site at Norweigan creek in 2010. The release was done at the request of the landowner who would like an increased level of control. The province is responsible for monitoring the establishment of this species.

### 7.4 *Cyphocleonus achates* (CYAC)

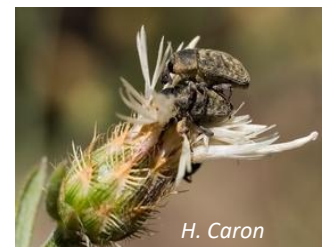
*Cyphocleonus achates* is a root-boring weevil for control of diffuse (*Centaurea diffusa*) and spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*). Since this large weevil does not fly well, it is slow to spread on its own. No new releases were provided this year. Distribution of this agent will continue as releases become available.

Monitoring of *Cyphocleonus achates* on diffuse knapweed and spotted knapweed was done throughout the Boundary in June 2013. The results of this monitoring indicate that *C. achates* is widely spread throughout the Boundary, along with other biocontrol insects.



### 7.5 *Larinus minutus* (LAMI)

*Larinus minutus* is a seed-feeding weevil that defoliates diffuse and spotted knapweed and is well distributed in the district. There is speculation that this agent is a major factor in the crash of diffuse knapweed in the hot east west valleys of the West Boundary in 2004. Diffuse knapweed appears to be cycling with the insects now in many areas. Populations of diffuse knapweed increased dramatically this year in response to favourable weather conditions for seed germination. Monitoring has found insects still present in all areas.



## 7.6 *Larinus obtusus* (LAOB)

*Larinus obtusus* is a seed-feeding weevil that also defoliates both spotted and diffuse knapweed. This agent prefers cooler climates than LAMI. Previous release sites will continue to be monitored to see if the weevils start to build populations. If populations of *L. obtusus* build, it is hoped they will have an impact on spotted knapweed in higher elevation areas in the region. In 2015 FOR was doing some monitoring at higher elevations to determine if there is an elevational limit for building populations sufficient to see plant suppression. The results found low establishment levels at locations monitored. A researcher with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada based out of Summerland, BC is focussing on assessing and improving spotted knapweed biocontrol and report has not yet been released.



## 7.7 *Larinus planus* (LAPL)

*Larinus planus* is a seed-feeding weevil for control of Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*). This agent is effective at reducing seed production and over time may reduce plant height and density of infestations, but it is not expected to control populations. There are very few locations in the district now that do not have the weevil present; most of these are in northern parts of the district in harvested areas or high elevation remote locations. The previous collection sites in Grand Forks and Christina Lake had very low plant density the past few years and stunted plants so could not support collection. New collection locations will be sought future. There is a need for LAPL to be collected from a higher elevation cooler site to enable release at higher elevation patches with Canada thistle.



## 7.8 *Mecinus janthiniformis* (MEJA)

*Mecinus janthiniformis* is a stem-boring weevil for control of dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*). The agent is well established and has done well at controlling dalmatian toadflax in the Grand Forks area. There seems to be a trend where plants impacted by the weevils produce multiple flower stalks and still produce seed later in the season after the insects are done for the year. In the Midway area there was poor suppression for many years, likely a result of low snowfall and cold winter temperatures. To date *mecinus janthiniformis* has not been found on yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*) within the Boundary. Researchers are testing another species, *Mecinus janthinus*, for use on yellow toadflax.



## 7.9 *Mogulones crucifer* (MOCR)

*Mogulones crucifer* is a root and stem-feeding weevil for control of hound's tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*). During 2005 and 2006 163 releases were completed, putting the insects in almost every major drainage in the district. From 2007 to 2010 releases were done to fill in gaps in distribution. All local potential sites have minor feeding so rather than invest in further releases a decision was made to wait for the insects to build populations and spread further on their own. Many landowners and range tenure holders have noticed a significant decline in hound's tongue over time. They are also reporting hound's tongue showing back up into areas and the insects are still present but in low numbers.



## 7.10 *Rhinusa antirrhinii* (RHAN)

*Rhinusa antirrhinii* is a seed-eating weevil for control of dalmatian toadflax. The agent was changed to secondary in spring 2007 and distribution began in fall 2007 with two releases. A few primary releases of

this agent were done in the Boundary by Range Branch and monitoring showed establishment. The agent is reported to disperse quickly and was found at two sites in 2007 near Boyer Creek and south of Kettle River Provincial Park. Both sites are a long distance from previous releases. The release on Kettle River East FSR was monitored in 2014 and the population is well established at the site.

### 7.11 *Chrysolina* spp. (CHRY)

*Chrysolina* spp. are beetles that defoliate St. Johns-wort and can provide control of a site within five years. No new releases were done this year because no insects were provided by FOR.

Most locations of St. Johns-wort show some level of *Chrysolina* beetles, which are usually visible within a few years of a patch establishing. Since 2010 low levels of *Chrysolina* was observed across the Boundary. In 2021 to 2025 pockets with high populations of insects have been observed in some of the open forest areas.

Training was provided by in 2012 on how to monitor and collect three other agents for St. John's wort including *Aplocera plagiata*, *Agrilus hyperici* and a species of *Aphis*. Due to time limitations of staff, no monitoring of these insects has been completed by the BISS.



### 7.12 Biocontrol Summary

To date, *larinus minutus*, *agapeta zoegana*, *sphenoptera*, and *cyphocleonus* are widespread in the district and impacting populations of diffuse knapweed in the warm dry grassland areas. *Mogulones crucifer* is well distributed on the landscape and future releases could be focussed into areas with particularly dense infestations or restoration areas where new disturbance could enable re-colonisation. The insect for field bindweed has established in Midway and rural Grand Forks and if this insect builds sufficient populations to enable sustained collections, then it could help to address field bindweed impacts in rural Grand Forks and Midway areas. Further information on biocontrol agents is available on the FOR website.

## 8. Coordination and Partnerships

The Boundary Invasive Species Program staff facilitated coordination between land managers operating treatment programs to achieve effective management and encouraged implementation of prevention strategies.

The *Strategic Plan for Invasive Species Management in the Boundary* was developed in the spring of 2014 setting out goals and objectives for the following 5 years. The companion document, the *Operational Plan for Invasive Species Management in the Boundary for 2014-2018* containing management priorities for different species was completed in May 2014 and has been updated each spring through a spring planning committee meeting. Both documents were used for guidance in setting priorities for management priorities. During 2022 and early 2023 partner and public input was received, and the updates were made.

The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) has developed partnerships with agencies operating treatment programs to create a partnership delivery model for treatment of invasive plants in the Boundary and West Kootenay. The Boundary has been broken up into three contract areas: Electoral Area E West Boundary (Area E), Electoral Area D Rural Grand Forks/Granby (Area D), and Electoral Area C Christina Lake (Area C). In 2025, the RDKB hired three herbicide contractors. The contract work in Area C was mainly completed by Kootenay Weed Control. In Area D, work was completed by Kootenay Weed Control and Interior Weed Control. In Area E, work was completed by Interior Weed Control and Southern Frontier

Forestry Services. The partners involved included Min. Transportation and Transit, FortisBC, BC Hydro, Ministry of Forests (Invasive Species program, Range Branch, Wildfire Risk Reduction), Min. Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, and BC Parks. Many of the areas treated by these managers were part of a coordinated effort involving multiple partners. The BISS facilitates delivery of treatment for all these partners. All treatment work on crown land was done under the *Invasive Plant Pest Management Plan for Provincial Public Lands in Southern and Coastal British Columbia*. The Village of Midway hired a contractor directly to complete work on municipal lands. The City of Greenwood has historically hired a contractor directly as well but is currently in the process of developing their own program for their staff to deliver treatments within their municipal bounds. The BISS received many concerns from residents of Grand Forks and plans to present to the City of Grand Forks council in 2026 to encourage the City to develop an invasive plant program within their City bounds. The RDKB also operates its own private land treatment programs in Areas D and E for residents with facilitation from the BISS. The two programs are the New Invaders program (100% cost paid up front for high priority species) and the Cost Share program (50% cost reimbursement up to \$500 for moderate priority species). All work on private land was done by contractors under their service license with written permission of the landowner. The BISS helps to deliver invasive plant control for the RDKB Christina Lake Nature Park and RDKB landfills. The BISS also conducts inventory and treatment facilitation for the Nature Trust of BC which has conservation properties in Ingram and Grand Forks. In 2025, the BISS completed inventory of a Teck property in Cascade and then developed a multi-year treatment plan for the property.

In 2025, the BISS carried out multiple invasive species projects in partnership with the Christina Lake Stewardship Society (CLSS). The BISS developed a data collection system within its existing database to allow the CLSS to collect data on both native western painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*) and introduced red-eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) both of which are present in the Christina Lake area. The CLSS used their boat to take the BISS on a shoreline cruise of Christina Lake to spot invasive species.

All inventory and treatments are recorded using the ArcGIS Field Maps app and stored in an online database. The quality of treatment records submitted by contractors was good overall, but some data corrections were required. BISS completed all the monitoring of contractor work and found the quality of work to be acceptable.



Boat survey of Christina Lake with the Christina Lake Stewardship Society

### 8.1 Weeds Cross Borders Project

The Weeds Cross Borders project involves the BISS, Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board, and the Ferry County Noxious Weed Control Board. Invasive species can cross jurisdictional boundaries; thus, the Weeds Cross Borders Project was initiated. The focus is the prevention of invasive and noxious species spreading along shared highway corridors and waterways. The project partners signed a multiyear Memorandum of Understanding in 2018. Other signors included the Ministry of Transportation and Transit, Ferry County WSU Extension Program, and the Washington State Department of Transportation. No direct funding was received specifically for this project this year, however activities in support of previous work are completed based on priorities identified by each region. Treatment includes all species on roads leading to major border crossings; there is also an annual border pull for nodding thistle in the Sidley Mountain area.

## 8.2 Adjacent Regions

The program works with the Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society, the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, and the Min. of Forests on coordinated messaging for invasive species management. The BISS is part of a larger group of Regional Invasive Species Organizations (RISOs) within British Columbia that meet virtually on a monthly basis to keep up to date on invasive species prevention and management efforts. Each year one region hosts a in-person field tour to show off efforts in their region which allows for the sharing of information between the RISOs. **In 2025, the annual RISO tour was hosted by the BISS in Grand Forks and was a huge success.**



2025 annual RISO tour held in Grand Forks.

## 9. Planning and Management

Separate reports will be completed for each partner, and this section includes a summary of the activities for all partners. Copies of the reports for each partner can be requested from the program manager.

### 9.1 Summary

The scope of the invasive plant management program in the Boundary was very close to last year (Figure 1). A detailed breakdown of investment in treatment by partner is included in Table 1. The investment was significant this past year and with more contractor capacity it enabled almost all available funds to be spent. Several funding partners had significant increases to treatment investment in particular WLRs ecosystem restoration program, RDKB and the Wildfire Risk Reduction program. Various other programs maintain extensive mowing programs that have not been included in the totals; therefore, the actual investment is higher.

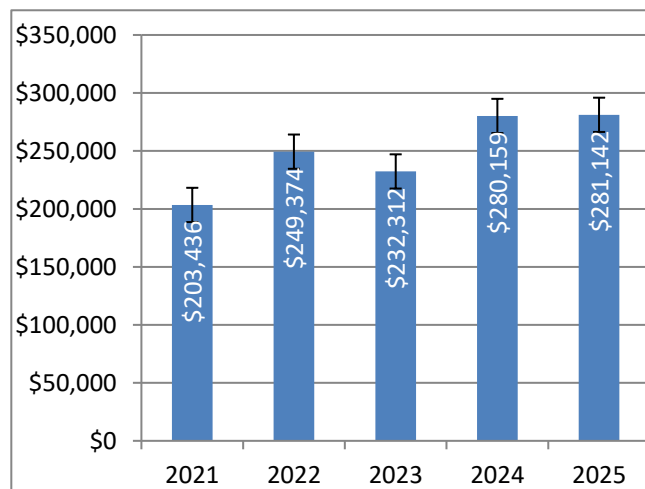
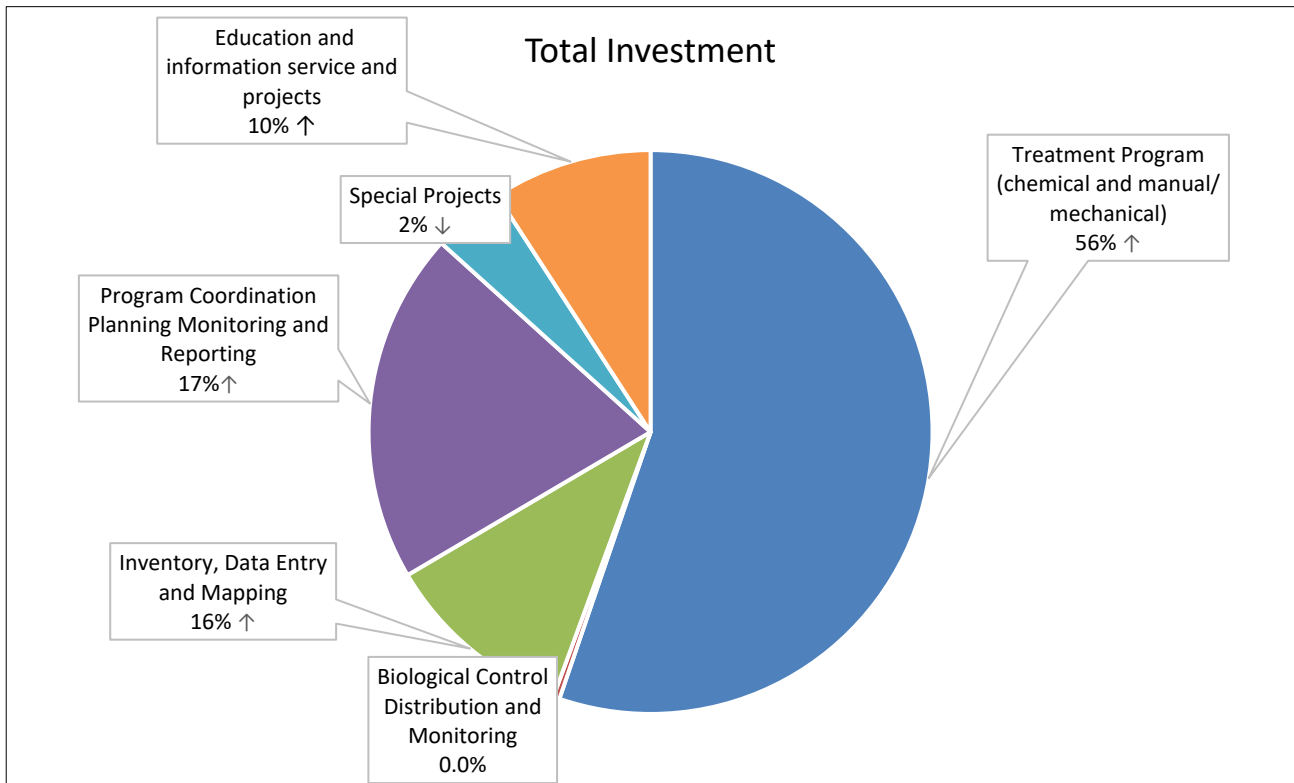


Figure 2. Total investment in invasive plant treatment for all stakeholders in the Boundary.

In 2025, stakeholders completed **1530 survey records** across **921 locations**. No invasive species of interest were found at **179 locations**. Stakeholders chemically treated **151.85 ha** of invasive plants at **574 locations**. This was a 20.0% increase in chemical treatment locations from 2024, but only a 1.3% increase in area treated. Stakeholders also mechanically treated (digging and hand-pulling) **0.19 ha** at **36 locations**. This was a 72.2% decrease in mechanical treatment locations and a 123.3% decrease in area treated by mechanical methods. This follows the trend of decreasing mechanical control efforts in recent years due to prioritization of inventory by some of the larger partners. Details on areas treated by each jurisdiction will be contained in summary reports for each partner.

Expenditures for 2025 were tracked to categories enabling a breakdown of costs by activity type. Figure 2 identifies how resources were allocated by each partner. In total over \$505,991<sup>1</sup> was invested in invasive plant management (herbicide/biocontrol/manual)<sup>2</sup>, inventory, planning, implementation, and education this year (Table 2). This was a 13% increase in the total investment compared to 2024. There were several partners that did not report invasive plant management investments for 2025, so this is not a comprehensive value.

In-kind contributions have been included in estimates this year for the Boothman's Oxbow Habitat Enhancement Project and for in-kind contributions from partners including meeting room space, printing maps and handouts, using stored herbicides previously provided by FOR, and other services.



**Figure 3.** Allocation of resources for invasive plant management within the Boundary and trend of increasing (↑) or decreasing (↓) compared to previous year.

Approximately 56% of the resources were allocated to on the ground activities to treat invasive plants (chemical and mechanical removal). The coordination aspect of the program, which includes planning, liaising with program managers, monitoring both contractors and sites, responding to complaints, and report preparation reflected 17% of the resources which is up from last year. Approximately 16% of funding was invested in inventory, data entry and mapping which is an increase over last year. The balance of 10% was spent in providing the education and awareness program and another 2% for special projects (North Africa grass, and planting projects) and in-kind contributions of printing and office space. The above values used are projected to year end so actual expenditures for the full year may end up slightly different once all the reporting is completed.

<sup>1</sup> This total excludes investment in staff time by government agencies, which is likely a significant amount.

**Table 1.** Summary of expenditures for invasive plant treatment by each partner from 2021 to 2025.

|  | 2025<br>Investment  | 2024<br>Investment  | 2023<br>Investment  | 2022<br>Investment  | 2021<br>Investment  |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Land Manager/Stakeholder</b>  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| Min. of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (Range, Wildfire Risk Reduction Ecosystem Restoration, and conservation properties)/Selkirk Forest District <sup>4</sup> | \$69,527.45         | \$64,556.17         | \$49,650.16         | \$48,428.18         | \$17,463.10         |
| Min. Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (Ecosystems) and Nature Trust BC   | \$23,333.88         | \$8,409.48          | \$7,284.91          | \$6,880.77          | \$5,799.04          |
| Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure  | \$78,081.94         | \$84,479.19         | \$87,833.43         | \$82,115.89         | \$77,124.01         |
| MOE- BC Parks  | \$1,721.46          | \$10,406.95         | \$2,631.49          | \$1,151.91          | \$2,166.20          |
| BC Hydro   | \$5,287.86          | \$3,225.37          | \$5,498.16          | \$2,776.11          | \$2,886.88          |
| Fortis BC Inc.   | \$2,998.40          | \$14,490.62         | \$9,644.29          | \$9,377.57          | \$3,197.88          |
| Fortis BC Energy   | \$12,019.99         | \$16,367.76         | \$5,891.28          | \$10,716.84         | \$12,438.36         |
| Regional District of Kootenay Boundary <sup>5</sup>  | \$80,439.98         | \$66,153.52         | \$59,878.52         | \$74,632.17         | \$62,860.75         |
| City of Greenwood <sup>3</sup>   | \$500.00            | \$3,969.59          | ?                   | \$0.00              | \$500.00            |
| Village of Midway <sup>3</sup>   | \$4,500.00          | \$6,100.00          | \$4,000.00          | \$4,000.00          | \$3,000.00          |
| Rec Sites and Trails /Tourism BC   |                     |                     |                     | \$0.00              | \$1,000.00          |
| Canada Summer Jobs (thru BIS)  |                     |                     | \$0.00              | \$9,294.22          |                     |
| Interfor Ltd (formerly P&T Ltd)  |                     |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| Other <sup>2</sup>   | \$2,730.94          | \$2,000.00          |                     |                     | \$15,000.00         |
| <b>Total Investment</b>  | <b>\$281,141.90</b> | <b>\$280,158.65</b> | <b>\$232,312.24</b> | <b>\$249,373.66</b> | <b>\$203,436.22</b> |
| <b>Program size compared to 2024</b>   | <b>100.4%</b>       |                     |                     |                     |                     |
| <b>Program size compared to 2021</b>   | <b>138.2%</b>       |                     |                     |                     |                     |

<sup>1</sup> - Inventory and planning projects funded but no treatment

<sup>4</sup> - Does not include investment in biological control by staff for 2007-2021

<sup>2</sup> -2025- BIWS Y1 removal; 2024 Teck estimate.; 2021 ISCBC Stronger BC ;

<sup>5</sup> - Includes weed grant, Landfill treatment, Christina Lake Parks & Recreation.

<sup>3</sup> - Manual costs for Midway & Greenwood est. \$1000 for 2013-2024 at \$1000 & \$500 respectively.

**Table 2.** Summary of invasive plant program resource allocation by partner in the Boundary for 2025.

| Source   | Treatment Program (chemical and manual) | Biological control Distribution and Monitoring | Inventory, Data Entry and Mapping | Program Coordination Planning Monitoring & Reporting | Special Projects or In-kind | Education and information service and projects | Total Investment by Partner |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Min. of Forests/Selkirk Resource District - Range <sup>1,4,5</sup>                       | \$48,399.49                             |  | \$16,920.00                       | \$26,000.00  | \$3,000.00                  | \$4,000.00                                     | <b>\$98,319.49</b>          |
| WLRS - Ecosystem, Nature Trust BC  | \$23,333.88                             |  |                                   |  |                             |  | <b>\$23,333.88</b>          |
| Min. of Transportation and Infrastructure  | \$78,081.94                             |  | \$10,500.00                       | \$10,860.37  |                             |  | <b>\$99,442.31</b>          |
| BC Parks (Gilpin and Boothman)   | \$1,721.46                              |  | \$6,157.75                        | \$2,000.00   | \$3,500.00                  |  | <b>\$13,379.21</b>          |
| Wildfire Risk Reduction  | \$21,127.96                             |  | \$7,000.00                        | \$7,500.00   |                             |  | <b>\$35,627.96</b>          |
| BC Hydro   | \$5,287.86                              |  | \$2,500.00                        | \$1,500.00   |                             |  | <b>\$9,287.86</b>           |
| FortisBC Inc (operations)  | \$2,998.40                              |  | \$1,000.00                        | \$1,500.00   |                             |  | <b>\$5,498.40</b>           |
| Fortis BC Energy   | \$12,019.99                             |  | \$3,500.00                        | \$1,500.00   |                             |  | <b>\$17,019.99</b>          |
| Regional District of Kootenay Boundary(Areas D, E, landfills, BIWS, GIA ) <sup>2,5</sup> | \$77,135.54                             |  | \$13,000.00                       | \$27,827.01  |                             | \$11,083.99                                    | <b>\$129,046.54</b>         |
| Regional District of Kootenay Boundary - Areas C (does not include milfoil program)      | \$3,304.44                              |  | \$1,000.00                        | \$1,500.00   |                             | \$3,000.00                                     | <b>\$8,804.44</b>           |
| Village of Midway <sup>3,5</sup>   | \$4,500.00                              |  |                                   | \$500.00   | \$100.00                    | \$1,030.00                                     | <b>\$6,130.00</b>           |
| City of Greenwood <sup>3,5</sup>   | \$500.00                                |  |                                   | \$3,150.00   | \$100.00                    | \$500.00                                       | <b>\$4,250.00</b>           |
| City of Grand Forks  |   |  |                                   |  |                             |  | <b>\$0.00</b>               |
| Rec Sites and Trails Management  |   |  |                                   |  |                             |  | <b>\$0.00</b>               |
| Teck Metals Ltd.   |   |  | \$9,500.00                        |  |                             |  | <b>\$9,500.00</b>           |
| Canada Summer Jobs   |   |  | \$8,600.00                        | \$1,170.00   |                             | \$1,600.00                                     | <b>\$11,370.00</b>          |
| Phoenix Foundation of the Boundary   |   |  |                                   |  |                             |  | <b>\$0.00</b>               |
| Other sources (BIWS, registration fees)  | \$2,730.94                              |  |                                   |  |                             | \$1,200.00                                     | <b>\$3,930.94</b>           |
| Community Groups - Inkind (Boothman Project)   |   |  |                                   |  | \$1,800.00                  | \$5,750.00                                     | <b>\$7,550.00</b>           |
| BISS carryover from previous fiscal  |   |  |                                   |  |                             | \$5,000.00                                     | <b>\$5,000.00</b>           |
|  | <b>\$281,141.90</b>                     | <b>\$0.00</b>                                  | <b>\$79,677.75</b>                | <b>\$85,007.38</b>                                   | <b>\$8,500.00</b>           | <b>\$51,663.99</b>                             | <b>\$505,991.02</b>         |
| <b>% of overall program</b>  | <b>56%</b>                              | <b>0.0%</b>                                    | <b>16%</b>                        | <b>17%</b>   | <b>2%</b>                   | <b>10%</b>                                     | <b>100%</b>                 |
| <b>Expenditures Compared to 2024 (%)</b>   | <b>100%</b>                             | <b>0%</b>                                      | <b>172%</b>                       | <b>140%</b>  | <b>74%</b>                  | <b>106%</b>                                    | <b>113%</b>                 |

<sup>1</sup> Includes herbicide donation by range.

<sup>2</sup> Inkind for mapping services

<sup>3</sup> mowing treatment costs estimated

<sup>4</sup>District staff value for inventory was not included.

<sup>5</sup> Includes in-kind contributions for printing maps, factsheets, distributing materials through office

**Note: Costs estimated to end of year.**



## 10. Enforcement

The Village of Midway is currently the only municipality enforcing control of invasive plants under their *Unsanitary Premise* bylaw. The Regional District of Kootenay Boundary (RDKB) has been investigating the potential to establish an enforcement service within Electoral Areas D and E. This was being investigated since many agricultural producers are struggling because adjacent landowners are not doing control work. The RDKB has already established a ticketing program for other services, so there is an opportunity to include invasive plant enforcement if there is the political will to put it into place. In 2025, the RDKB did not move forward with the enforcement service based on guidance from electoral directors and it is unclear if a more localized service will be considered or not. After 26 years of education, many landowners are aware of their responsibility to control invasive species on their properties, but there are many that choose not to make any control efforts.

## 11. Summary

The Boundary Invasive Plant Program for the 2025 season was successful in many key areas.

Public awareness about invasive plants and their impact on our resources continues to increase and information on management is now readily available. The awareness work on invasive aquatic species was continued across the Boundary and in partnership with Christina Lake Stewardship Society and Boundary Watershed Service (RDKB). As the public becomes better informed, invasive plant infestations are being reported in earlier stages of development resulting in increased levels of control and decreased cost of treatment and impacts to our natural resources. The increased awareness about species like common bugloss, common tansy, and hoary alyssum has resulted in recognition, reporting and subsequent treatment by many private landowners who had not previously recognized the plants. Recognition seems to be a challenge for many landowners who need it pointed out on their property before they recognize it as an invasive plant. There were many complaints regarding the lack of enforcement primarily from Area D this year, but some were received from Area E and C. There are many residents in the rural parts of the Boundary aware of the issue who are encouraging their new neighbours to deal with the problems on their land, but not all neighbours are doing their part.

The BISS attended seven community markets this year with the education booth including two Rock Creek Farmers' Markets and five Grand Forks Farmers' Markets. Other events included a day at the Christina Lake Homecoming, a day at Greenwood Founder's Day, two days at the Rock Creek Fall Fair, and a Clean Drain Dry education event organized by the BISS in collaboration with the BC Mussel Inspection team at the Texas Creek Boat Launch.

The BISS was active on social media and created news and education posts, reels, and stories on BISS's Facebook and Instagram accounts. The website received minor updates and edits throughout the year following the redesign published last year. Two articles were submitted to each the Grand Forks Gazette and the Kettle River Echo, providing information on RDKB programs and resources and recommendations for working together as a community on invasive plant management.

Through presentations, the BISS connected directly with community members of all ages. This included a presentation to community members on the importance of protecting our native plant species, a presentation to a senior's group on invasive species spread, impact, and prevention, and 15 youth presentations to school classes and children's programs (10 more than 2024). These introduced the issue of invasive species and got kids aged 5 to 15 outdoors and active. In August, the BISS coordinated a Pesticide Applicator course, which allowed RDKB community members to become certified for herbicide use for invasive species management. BISS also presented to the Greenwood City Council in the spring.

Almost 70 information requests came through email, phone, and social media, including Facebook Messenger and Instagram. BISS staff responded quickly and were ready to address concerns and questions. BISS staff conducted over 32 site visits to help identify plants and management methods. BISS staff spoken in person with well over 1000 people through the outreach person.

The *Strategic Plan for Invasive Species Management in the Boundary* was originally drafted in 2014 and was updated in 2022 and finalized in 2025. The companion document *Operational Plan for Invasive Species Management in the Boundary* was originally developed in 2014-2018 was updated in 2022 as a draft and finalized in 2025. Many new sites found this year were treated, while others were found late in the season and will be addressed next year. A detailed assessment of the status of each invasive plant species will be included in *Status of Invasive Species in the Boundary 2025* which will be available in spring 2026.

Efforts will continue to locate and treat sites of the highest priority, followed by moderate and lower priority species. Work continued this year to suppress growth of hoary alyssum along roadsides in the core agricultural areas in rural Grand Forks and Midway/Kettle Valley; however, the short residual nature of the herbicides and the approach of spot treating which requires repeat treatments. The system of treating every three to four years upsets some adjacent landowners who would like the weed eradicated on roadsides.

Unfortunately, we are seeing little impact of biological insects on spotted knapweed. Remarkable results continue to be seen in control of hound's tongue by *Mogulones crucifer*, and the invasive plant remains at very low levels across the Boundary region. There are a few areas with problem patches where fresh harvesting has disturbed the ground. The insect, *Mecinus janthiniformis* continues to do a good job of suppressing dalmatian toadflax in many areas in the south but is not building populations in the northern part of the district. The seed-eating weevil *Rhinusus antirrhinii* has dispersed and will hopefully reduce spread of dalmatian toadflax through reducing seed production. Populations of the *Chrysolina* beetle which targets St. John's wort were observed starting to build in some forest/grassland interface in some areas, but the insect population appears to be declining in other, therefore a trend is unclear. No local biocontrol insect collections and releases were done in 2025 since the provincial government did not provide any insects and there was not staff capacity to collect locally. In 2026, there should be a focus on monitoring insect presence when requested by landowners and requesting primary release by the Province for oxeye daisy and common tansy.

The Weeds Cross Borders initiative with neighbouring jurisdictions continues to revolve around education and awareness, inventory of priority species, as well as treatment of such along our borders. The program will continue to assist in coordinating efforts of all groups as needed to maximize effectiveness. The largest land manager, Ministry of Forests, continues to have low funding levels for management of invasive plants on crown land in comparison to the amount of land under their jurisdiction. The local trails stewardship groups received many complaints this year from adjacent agricultural producers. Inadequate resources for management of invasive plants along recreation trails continues to be an issue. The high level of participation by land managers including the Wildfire Risk Reduction Program and Ministry of Transportation and Transit, and other organizations achieved over the past years is impressive. The successes to date are a direct result of BISS and RDKB efforts to encourage all land managers in the region to address invasive plant problems.

The emphasis on raising public awareness has established a base of support and knowledge by the public for the program. There is still considerable work to be done to keep the momentum going. Work in 2026 will continue to focus on coordinating efforts on priority species, implementing strategies to prevent spread, encouraging inactive landowners to initiate treatment programs, and continuing the invasive species awareness program as funding allows.