



Annual Report 2021-2022

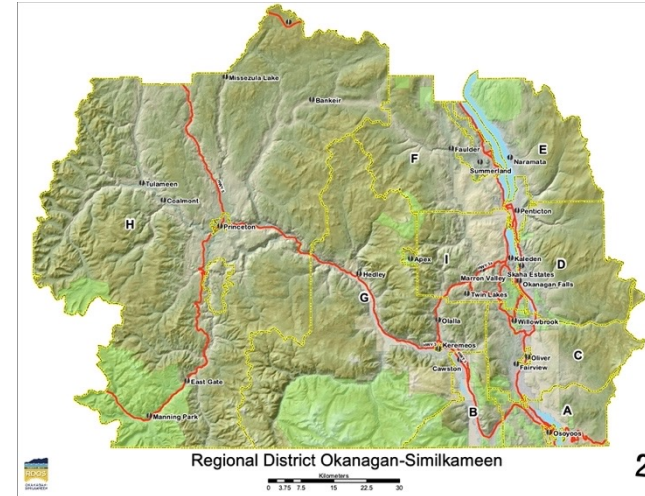
Vision Statement

To control, prevent, and minimized the impacts of invasive species on our communities, natural environment, and the economy.

Goals of the Society

- 1 Raise awareness about invasive species, their impacts and management strategies, and inspire action
- 2 Facilitate the flow of information and provide a source of expertise on invasive species
- 3 Improve stakeholder communication, collaboration, coordination and information sharing
- 4 Minimize or reverse the spread of existing invasive species through coordinated, integrated invasive species management efforts
- 5 Build capacity to ensure program sustainability

Where We Operate



The terrestrial program operates within the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, and the aquatics program operates across the Okanagan Valley Basin.


Okanagan Basin

Our Team




"It was another year of disruptions due not only to the pandemic, but also wildfires and floods. Our staff, board members and partners adapted and persevered. Our experiences in 2021-22 helped to clarify priorities and show how resilient we are in the face of challenges. We've also become extremely proficient at Zoom! Amidst the chaos we celebrated our 25th anniversary. It is with immense gratitude that I thank the many individuals and organizations who helped us reach this significant milestone."

- Executive Director, Lisa Scott



Aquatics



Terrestrial

Sierra Collins
Aquatic Invasive
Species Team Lead

Jadyn Patton
Aquatic Invasive
Species Program Assistant

Spencer Peters
Aquatic Invasive
Species Program Assistant

Elaine Desjarlais
Field Operations
Manager

Luka Bevanda
Invasive Plant
Program Assistant

Megan Francisco
Invasive Plant
Program Assistant

David Koponen
Work Crew

Megan Severide
Communications and
Outreach Coordinator

Board of Directors



Anne Skinner
Director/ Vice Chair



Brigitte Daniels
Director



Charles Oduro
Director



Nick Burdock
Director/Chair



Ken Sapsford
Director



Tyrion Miskell
Director



Shelley Fiorito
Director



Terrestrial Program Highlights

Overview

- Regional program with over 20 funding partners
- Emphasis on invasive plants
- Two students hired through Canada Summer Jobs
- Two-person work crew, field operations manager, and a certified spray contractor funded through grants and service agreements with government, conservation groups, utility companies, and other partners



Education and Outreach

- Okanagan Invasive Species Online: app development, website enhancement, assisting the agricultural sector in the Okanagan Valley
- Provided public information on emerging species, including insect pests
- Produced media coverage/editorials
- Enhanced social media outreach through Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube. Wisdom Wednesday, Movie Monday, and Feature Friday series.
- Coordinated with organic growers



Summary of Enquiries

Responded to ~110 enquiries

Invasive Plant Management



1599 Surveys



29 Species



964 chemical treatments covering 25 ha

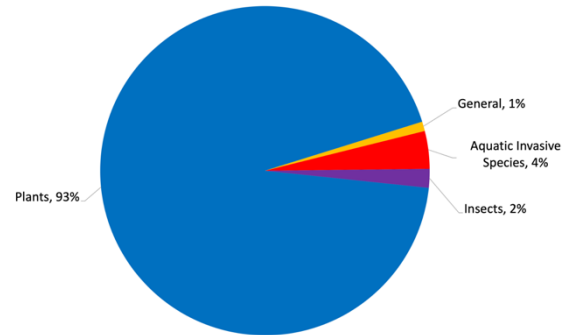


278 mechanical treatments covering 8 ha

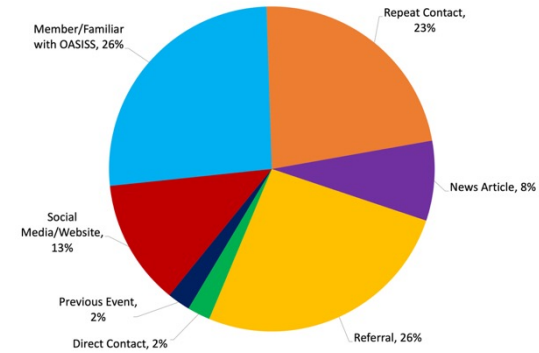


281 sites with 'no plants found'

Categories



Sources of Information



Aquatics Program Highlights

Overview

- Two summer students and a full-time supervisor hired through Canada Summer Jobs
- Assisted by grants from Okanagan Basin Water Board and Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF), which helped fund plankton tow sampling and substrate monitors
- Partnered with the province, all three Regional Districts, and many municipalities



Boat Launch Interactions

Staff attended launches around the valley to educate boaters about the threat of invasive mussels and ask a survey questionnaire.



1,128 boats



18 launches



2,830 people



Education and Outreach

- Distributed an invasive mussel digital resources package to ~100 locations
- Enhanced social media outreach and development of 5 short, educational videos for YouTube and IGTV
- Presented to 90 youth at summer camps
- Attended farmers markets and other community events



Invasive Mussel Monitoring

- Collected water samples and deployed substrate monitors in partnership with several marinas, yacht clubs, and local governments
- No invasive mussels detected!



5 lakes



19 locations



148 samples



Aquatic Invasive Species in a Changing Climate

65 views · 9 months ago

Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society

Learn about what climate change is and how it can benefit the introduction and establishment of aquatic invasive species.

Special Projects

RBC Tech For Nature

A grant from RBC Tech For Nature gave the opportunity to launch a valley-wide citizen science project for invasive mussel monitoring and invasive clam shoreline surveys.



19 citizen science volunteers



Monitoring every 2 weeks



No invasive mussels or clams detected!



RBC Interactive Videos

The RBC Tech For Nature grant also provided funding for the development of digital interactive videos, which will be uploaded onto iPads and used at future outreach events.

Okanagan Invasive Species Online

Previously, the Okanagan-Similkameen did not have a valley-wide system to share information pertaining to invasive species. As a result, the Okanagan Invasive Species Online (OISO) website was created to provide invasive species information and resources, with a focus on the agricultural sector. In 2021, efforts focused on enhancing the number of species profiles.



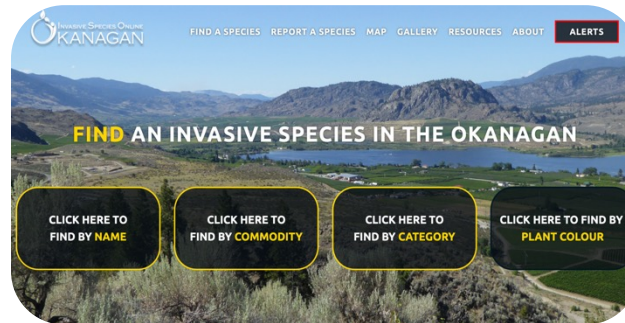
Includes 70 species profiles that give information on identification, biology, look alikes, habitat, impacts, priority level, prevention options, and treatment options.



Offers a variety of features that allow for easy navigation and invasive species support.



Complimented with an app that can be downloaded on both iOS and Android devices



Special Projects Continued

District of Summerland

OASISS was contracted by the District of Summerland to assist with the management of hoary alyssum. Treatments were conducted by the terrestrial team and contractors using an integrated management approach and focused on areas alongside pastures and hayfields where hoary alyssum can have negative impacts.



95 sites treated, covering 8 ha



Door-to-Door Contact



61 properties

The terrestrial team delivered information to properties in the Princeton and Okanagan Falls areas. These properties were within high priority treatment areas for hoary alyssum and blueweed.

Engagement With First Nations Communities

OASISS has worked towards creating meaningful relationships with the first nations communities within our region.

“We as syilx people will always uphold our responsibility to protect and preserve healthy roots, berries, and plants for all animals, birds, insects and fish habitat for our survival and to honour all living things. It is a strong belief that when our land, animals and plants are healthy so are the people as we coexist in harmony with one another.” – Plantwise Guide (2021)



PROTECTING THE OKANAGAN AND SIMILKAMEEN
FROM INVASIVE SPECIES FOR 25 YEARS



2022

Calendar

A 2022 calendar was created and distributed around the Okanagan-Similkameen. The calendar highlights unique habitat areas and promotes invasive species awareness.

Overview

OASISS is trialing two pilot projects to determine the efficacy and cost effectiveness of taking a holistic, area-based approach to invasive plant management. The aim of the project is to reduce the abundance and diversity of invasive plants over five years and to demonstrate the advantage of using an integrated approach that considers social, environmental and economic factors. Both locations include conservation land, wildlife habitat areas, ungulate winter range and livestock range units. A significant number of species and ecosystems at risk are present within the boundaries of the pilot areas.

Invasive Plant Management at Oliver Mountain – 5 Year Summary



Inventory
19 species
353 surveys covering 90 ha



Mechanical Treatments
212 treatments covering 20 ha



Chemical Treatments
225 treatments covering 2 ha

Invasive Plant Management at White Lake – 2021 Summary



Inventory
9 species
24 surveys covering 85 ha



Mechanical Treatments
2 treatments covering 0.05 ha



Chemical Treatments
39 treatments covering 6 ha

This was the fifth and final year of the project at Oliver Mountain which encompasses 550 ha. Unique to this site is a motorized recreation site, motor vehicle closure areas and Town of Oliver's Wastewater Treatment Centre. Priority species for treatment included puncturevine, longspine sandbur, burdock, Russian knapweed, baby's-breath, Russian knapweed, Scotch thistle and hoary alyssum. The project found 35 invasive plant outbreaks, of which 23 decreased in area, 7 increased, and 5 did not change.

This was the fourth year of the white lake pilot project. This sites encompasses an estimated 3000 ha and is comprised of Crown, Federal Lands and private conservation lands. A significant portion of the pilot area falls within the Nature Trust of BC's White Lake Biodiversity Ranch. The highest priority species for treatment is sulphur cinquefoil. Secondary species include hoary alyssum and hoary cress.

Financial Management Highlights

Overview

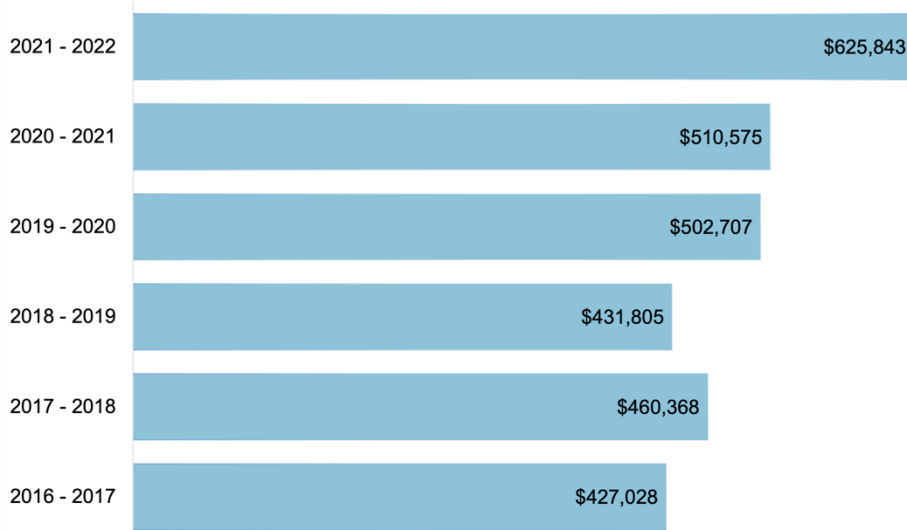


\$625,843 Total Revenue



21 Funders Supporting OASISS

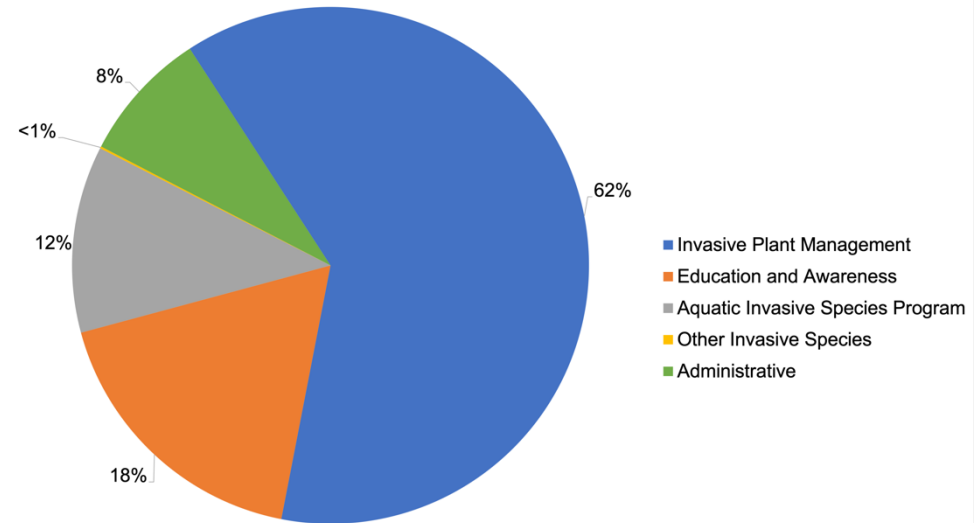
Funding History



"For the past 25 years, OASISS has been dedicated to protecting the Okanagan-Similkameen from invasive species. Our success over the last quarter of a century can be attributed to the hard work and collective energies of our staff, Board and contractors, working alongside our many partners."

- Nick Burdock, OASISS Chair

2021-22 Program Budget



Thank You to Our Funders!



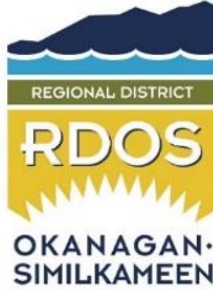
Environment
Canada

Environnement
Canada

Canadian Wildlife
Service

Service Canadien
de la faune

NATURE TRUST
BRITISH COLUMBIA



BC Hydro
Power smart



FORTIS BC



Climate Action Initiative
BC AGRICULTURE & FOOD



Canada Brigade
Green verte du
Corps Canada

SOUTH OKANAGAN
CONSERVATION FUND

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DISTRICT
NORTH
OKANAGAN