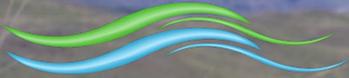


# oasiss



Okanagan and Similkameen  
Invasive Species Society

## Annual Report 2020 - 2021

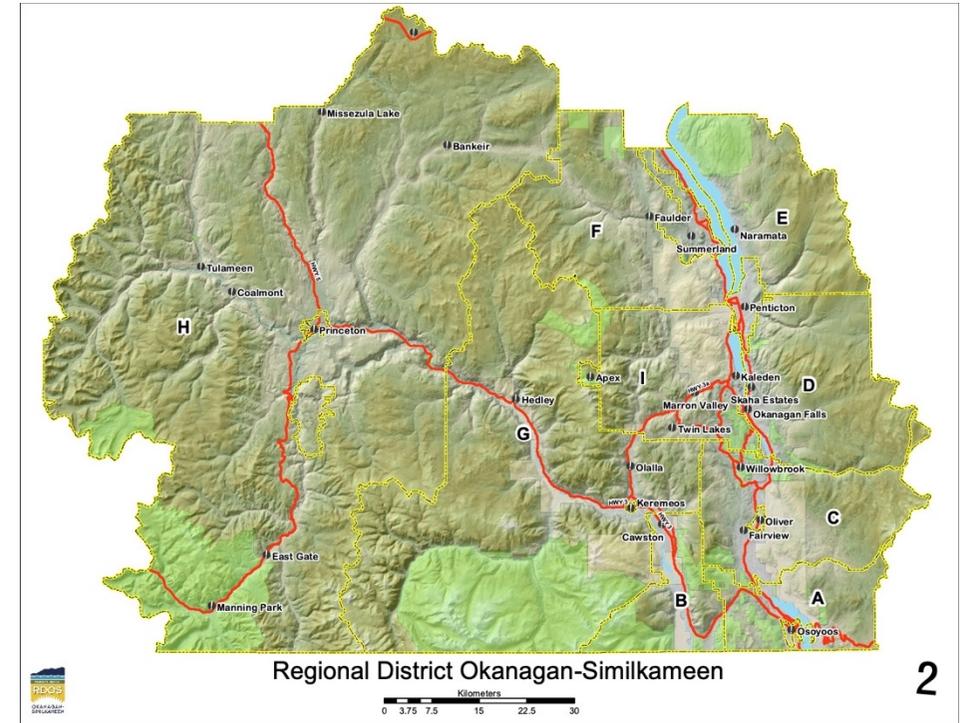
## Vision Statement

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



# Our Team



**Sierra Collins**  
Invasive Species  
Program Assistant



**Lisa Scott**  
Executive Director

*"In a year that started with quotes such as 'not liking the look of this' (Helen Branswell, Statnews), OASISS managed to make it through the year relatively unscathed. We were of course not immune from the wrath of COVID-19. From a lack of community events, to newly implemented disinfection protocols and a virtual AGM, our programs and activities were modified as the recommendations and regulations changed. Despite this, we had another successful year collaborating with over 30 different organizations. Sincere thanks to our enthusiastic staff members and our dedicated Board of Directors."*

- Executive Director, Lisa Scott



## Aquatics



## Terrestrial

**Sierra Collins**  
Aquatic Invasive  
Species Team Lead

**Sam Bienias**  
Aquatic Invasive  
Species Program Assistant

**Bryn Forrest**  
Aquatic Invasive  
Species Program Assistant

**Christina Borring-Olsen**  
Field Operations  
Manager

**Rachel Shanner**  
Invasive Plant  
Program Assistant

**Jodie Wiltse**  
Invasive Plant  
Program Assistant

**David Koponen**  
Work Crew



**Zoe Kirk**  
Chair

**Nick Burdock**  
Vice Chair

**Anne Skinner**  
Director

**Brigitte Daniels**  
Director

**Charles Oduro**  
Director

**Tyrion Miskell**  
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. Top post on Myrtle Spurge reached almost 50,000 views!
- Completed Plantwise Guide as part of South Okanagan Conservation Fund project



## Landowner Contact

Responded to ~160 land-owners/managers

## Invasive Plant Management



1426 Surveys



32 Species

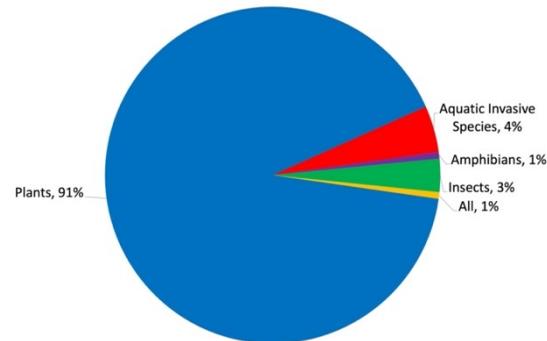


899 chemical treatments covering 23 ha

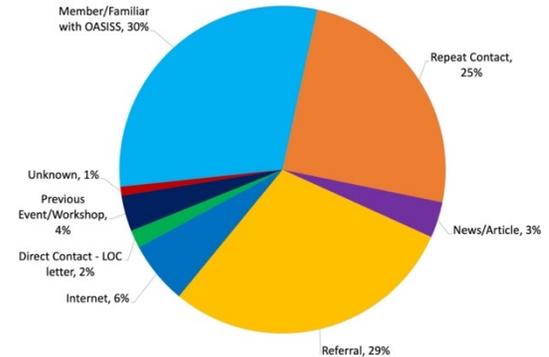


325 mechanical treatments covering 8 ha

## 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.



361 boats



11 launches



770 people



## Education and Outreach

- Distributed an invasive mussel digital resources package to 109 locations
- Released 'Invasive Mussels: Why Care?' on YouTube which reached 1,100+ views
- Enhanced social media outreach and developed short, educational videos

## Invasive Mussel Monitoring

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



8 Lakes



21 Locations



156 Samples



### Invasive Mussels: Why Care?

1.1K views · 9 months ago

Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society

Invasive Mussels: Why Care? Filmed in 2018, produced by the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS) ...

# 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. The grant also provided funding for the development of digital interactive technology, which will be uploaded onto iPads and used at future outreach events.



18 citizen science volunteers



Monitoring every 2 weeks



No invasive mussels or clams detected!



## Plantwise Guide

A plantwise guide was completed as a part of the South Okanagan Conservation Fund Project. The plantwise guide identifies common invasive species in the region and provides suitable alternatives. 1000 booklets printed!

## 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 2020, efforts focused on website enhancement and app development.



Includes 66 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



## 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



Inventory  
13 species  
53 surveys covering 8 ha



Mechanical Treatments  
41 treatments covering 2 ha



Chemical Treatments  
38 treatments covering 0.5 ha

This was the fourth 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 Waste Water Treatment Centre. Priority species for treatment include puncturevine, longspine sandbur, burdock, Russian knapweed, baby's-breath, Russian knapweed, Scotch thistle and hoary alyssum.



### Invasive Plant Management at White Lake



Inventory  
9 species  
42 surveys covering 66 ha



Mechanical Treatments  
10 treatments covering 0.05 ha



Chemical Treatments  
28 treatments covering 9 ha

White Lake is the second pilot area, and this was the third year of the 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

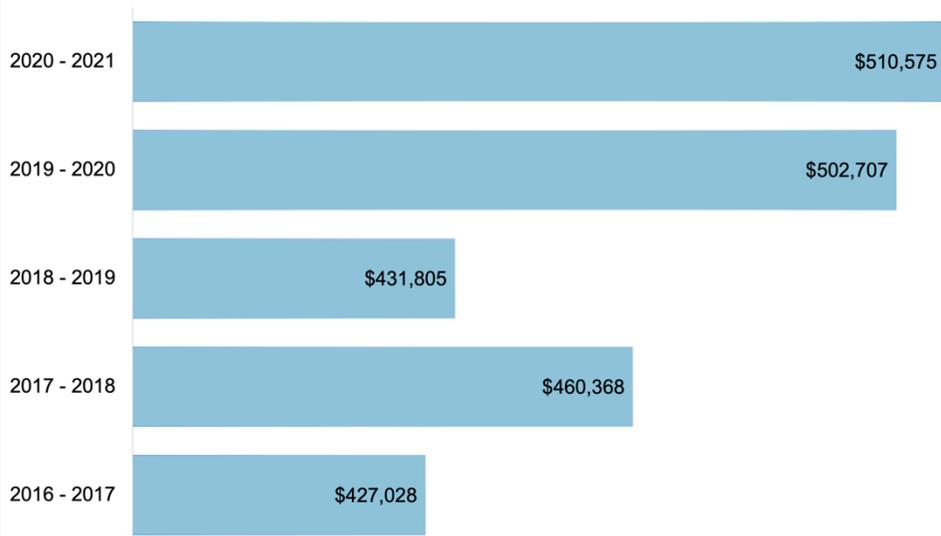


\$510,575 Total Revenue



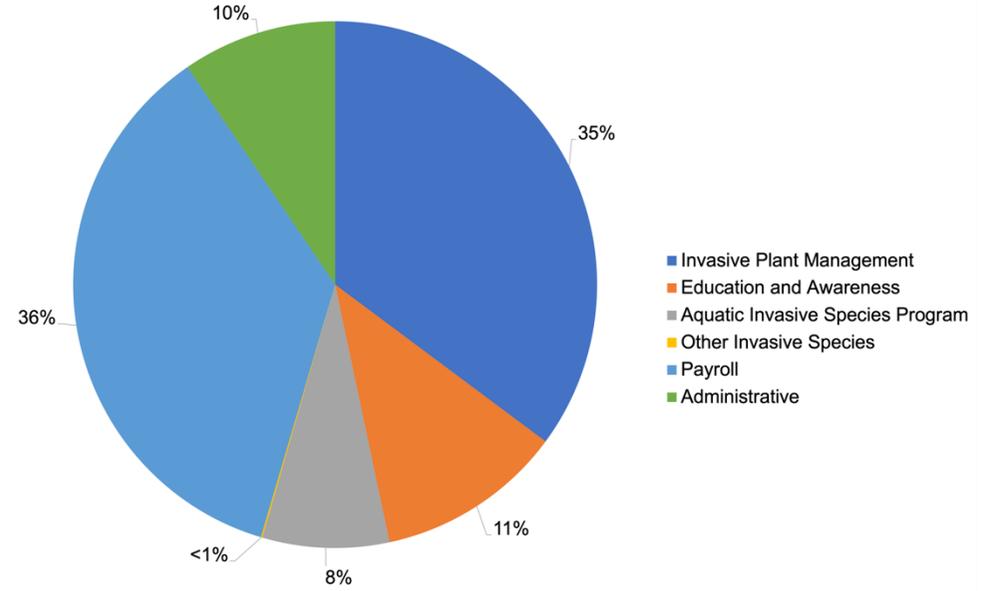
21 Funders Supporting OASISS

## Funding History



*“Thank you our funders, stakeholders, and contractors who were key to our success this year!”*  
– Lisa Scott, Executive Director

## 2020 Program Budget



# Thank You to Our Funders!



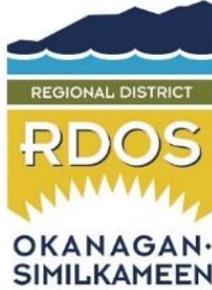
Environment  
Canada

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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REGIONAL  
DISTRICT  
NORTH  
OKANAGAN