

SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED by SSISC in 2013

Who is SSISC?

The Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council is a non-profit society whose aim is to minimize further introductions and stop the spread of invasive species that impact on the environment, the economy and human health in the Sea to Sky corridor. SSISC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and Advisors, and consists of 429 society members, 1 full-time staff member, a summer field crew of two, and a summer student. We work with the many and varied groups and partners listed in the 'Coordination & Collaboration' section of the table below.

Achievements for 2013

Education & Outreach	
Web based & Social Media	Website: 36,577 visits (32% increase from 2012); 206,818 hits (115% increase from 2012)
	Facebook: 284 Facebook friends (18% increase from 2012), 64 posts during 2013
	YouTube: Dedicated channel featuring 6 videos
	Twitter: New Twitter account (@SSinvasives) created in October. 49 followers, 24 tweets, 3 mentions, 6 tweets retweeted and 1 tweet made a 'favourite'
News Media	6 Articles/media coverage: Squamish Chief (2); Pique Newsmagazine (3); Whistler-Pemberton Question (1)
Public Presentations and Events	SSISC Open House & Annual General Meeting Whistler BioBlitz Whistler EnviroFest Rivers Day Celebrations Squamish Informational booths at Squamish retailers Weed Pull with Pemberton Secondary Students (May)
Resource Development & Distribution	SSISC Toxic Invasive Plants brochure developed and distributed throughout Corridor
	2013 Sea to Sky Guide to ID and management of invasive species available online, and distributed at training events and workshops. Provided to interested individuals by email
	'Grow me instead' brochures distributed throughout corridor
	Aquatic Invasive Species informational rack cards distributed
	Aquatic Invasive Species carabineers distributed
	Invader Rangers stickers and tattoos distributed
Training Programs & Support	Training workshop provided to Resort Municipality of Whistler Horticulture and Landscaping crew
	Support and treatment advice provided to Miller Capilano Highway Maintenance Corporation, Mainroad Contracting, Resort Municipality of Whistler Horticulture Department, Squamish Nation utilities crew, Squamish Nation horticulture crew.
Horticulture Certification Program	SSISC delivered its Horticulture Certification Program in 2013 for the 3 rd year running. Members of the horticulture industry attended workshops and were trained in the identification and best practice management of invasive species. In 2013, SSISC held 6 workshops in Whistler and Squamish which were attended by 58 participants, resulting in 17 companies earning the Invasive-Free Certification.
Weed Tours	Pemberton Weed Tour for Agricultural Industry held in July
Signage	23 yellow signs erected along roadways indicating locations of Japanese knotweed infestations
	Herbicide notification signage posted at all sites where herbicide was applied, or planned to be applied
Consultation Services	
For funding partners	Consultation services provided to participants of our local government program (e.g. review of municipal Invasive Species Management Plans) and our fee for service partners
For private landholders and residents	Rebate Program for Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed treatment implemented with 15 private landholders participating
	Provided support for private land owners & responded to all public inquiries about invasive species via phone, email, in person and Facebook
For provincial organisations	Active member of Regional Weed Committee Working Group, and representation on various phone calls and at meetings
	Member of Invasive Species Council of BC, participation in ISCBC programs and initiatives
	Provided input and advice to the Inter-ministry Invasive Species Working Group, particularly regarding the development of a new spatial database
Treatment & Control Program	
SSISC worked to minimize the further introduction and spread of invasive species in the area through early detection and control, & coordinated integrated invasive species management efforts with a focus on high priority invasive species. Highlights include:	

- **Field crew of two staff** working May –September, plus Summer student (May-August), and contractor working in Whistler area
- **90 treatment sites:** 73 sites (1.3009 ha) chemically treated; 17 sites manual only (0.0676 ha). Total of 1.3685 Ha treated
- **Species treated** during 2013 included Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed, scotch broom, blueweed, Himalayan blackberry, common comfrey, spotted knapweed, Canadian horseweed, yellow flag iris & orange hawkweed
- **Jurisdictions** SSISC worked in were: BC Hydro, BC Parks, CN Rail, District of Squamish, FortisBC, Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations, Ministry of Transportation, Resort Municipality of Whistler, Squamish Nation and private homeowners.

Policy Development & Implementation

Bylaws & Regulations	Participated in the development of the new RMOW Environmental bylaw, and the RMOW Herbicide bylaw
	Consolidated all invasive species policies applicable to the region and made them available on the SSISC website
	Provided details to and answered questions of anyone needed help interpreting legislation or policy as it relates to invasive species
	Provided comments to Ministry of Environment regarding proposed changes to the Integrated Pest Management Regulation

Coordination & Collaboration

Governance	Monthly meetings with Board of Directors and Advisors		
With other Invasive Species groups	Active participant in Regional Weed Committee collaborative working group. Strong partnerships with the Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Invasive Plant Committee.		
	Coordination and collaboration with provincial organisations (ISCBC) and government working groups (IMISWG)		
With Local Governments	District of Squamish Village of Pemberton	Squamish Nation Village of Lions Bay	Resort Municipality of Whistler Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
With Provincial & Federal agencies	Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations Ministry of Transportation	Environment Canada Ministry of Environment	Department of Fisheries & Oceans Ministry of Agriculture
With Industry & Private Business	BC Hydro Carney's Waste Systems N&R Forest Management Quest University	FortisBC Critter Get Ritter Mainroad Contracting Capilano University	CN Rail Hedberg & Associates Miller Capilano Maintenance Corp. Sea to Sky Mapping
With Industry (Real Estate)	Real Estate Foundation of BC	BC Real Estate Association	Appraisal Institute of Canada (BC)
With Industry (Horticulture Certification Program) <i>*denotes 2013 workshop participants</i>	Another View Landscaping*	Bathtub Gardens	Budial Resource Group Ltd.
	Coyote Landscape Contracting	Critter Get Ritter	Deeply Rooted Landscaping*
	From the Ground Up*	Garden Inspiration	Great British Gardener*
	Heike Designs Inc.*	JB Horticultural Services	Jim's Mowing Eagleview
	Green Admiral Nature Restoration*	High Country Landscaping & Garden Shop*	Sound Garden Landscape Design Ltd*
	Latham Landscapes Ltd*	Lady Bug Art & Garden*	Miller Capilano – Maintenance Crew*
	Mountain View	Mountainberry Landscaping	Paulette French Design
	Sea to Sky Soils*	The Garden Shop*	The Gardener's Yard*
With Community members & other local organisations	Whistler Naturalists Society Whistler Biodiversity Project Pemberton Wildlife Association Sea to Sky Clean Air Society South Coast Conservation Project	Squamish Garden Club Stewardship Pemberton Bear Aware AWARE	Pemberton Farmers Institute Pemberton Valley Dyking District Squamish Environmental Society Squamish River Watershed Society Community Foundation of Whistler