ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

WWW.LRISS.CA
LILLOOET REGIONAL
INVASIVESPECIESSOCIETY

Prepared by:

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Executive Director

Date: March 2026

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1.0 Introduction

The Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society (LRISS) delivers the 3 programs: (1) Coordination, Collaboration & Planning, (2) Field and (3) Outreach & Education. This is our 14th season of operation. The Executive Director (ED) hired 3 summer staff. LRISS had 2 summer staff between May and August. One staff replacement was necessary in June. The Xaxlí'p Community Forest Corporation (XCFC) completed our mechanical treatment across our region. Fiona MacDonald has a contract as our Digital Media Coordinator. A GIS Specialist, Marc Coderre, also provided contracted services to LRISS to assist us with mapping and our digital data collection. LRISS also employs Ellen Gross of Solution Business Services as our primary bookkeeper to allocate and track all our finances in the Sage Accounting. LRISS is grateful for the part-time contracted services to provide professional and specialized expertise for our organization.

We are extremely grateful for the volunteer Board of Directors that oversees the governance of LRISS. Our Board includes Christian Ahrenkiel-Chair, Bill Spencer-Treasurer, Gerald Michel-Director, Mandi Rogers-Director, Sue Senger-Director and Elhe Black-Director. Our Board is composed of a variety of perspectives including St'át'imc, agriculture, conservation and professionals (Biologists, Agrologists.)

2.0 Coordination, Collaboration & Planning

The Coordination, Collaboration and Planning program is extremely important because it expands our capacity and builds important community relationships. The deliverables for this program were met and include:

- **Collaboration with all existing parters**: Appendix 1 is a list of all of our partners with descriptions of how we collaborate.
- **Seek new partnerships and apply for diverse funding**: LRISS has 9 different funding sources that include Federal, Provincial, Regional and Municipal government, utility and non-profits. We also tried something new and hosted an online raffle during Invasive Species Action Month in May. LRISS established 3 new partnerships this year: Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Xwísten's Ancestral Food System Project and Grasslands Conservation Council (GCC). Our work with the CFIA is described below in section 3.4 Japanese Beetle traps. The GCC collaboration is highlighted in section 4.1, Events, Presentations & Training. The work with Xwísten's Ancestral Food Systems Project is described in section 3.2, Inventory and section 4.1.

Photo: UBC, Dr. Jennifer Grenz's Indigenous Ecology Lab Students at the St'át'imc Gathering with LRISS: Nina Andrascik, Virginia Oeggerli, Raelani Kesler and Joyce Chan.

- **Program Development & Planning**: LRISS hosts an annual planning meeting with our partners where we get input about our program for the coming year. This meeting occurred in conjunction with our Annual General Meeting on May 7, 2025.
- **Communication of program results and efficacy**: The 2024-25 annual report was prepared and shared with all partners. It is posted on our website as well for anyone to view. A powerpoint summary of the report and successes was provided at our AGM.
- **Communicate news and information to membership**: LRISS uses social media, monthly articles and virtual newsletters to communicate to our membership and the public. This is described in more detail in section 4.0.

2.1 Annual Planning & Governance

Annual Planning Meeting & Annual General Meeting: LRISS held our Annual Planning Meeting and AGM on Wednesday, May 7, 2025. As in previous years, LRISS presented a summary of 2024-25 activities and had a discussion about 2025 field activities. We asked for input into our programs. We also heard partner updates during this meeting. The minutes from our AGM can be found on our website.

Board Governance: The LRISS Board has initiated a Board Governance committee. This committee adopted a Terms of Reference (TOR). In the TOR, the committee is "accountable" to the Board of Directors for the following tasks:

- Annual assessment of the board's performance, including strengths, weaknesses and skills of the board as a whole.
- Recommending a plan for board development based on the strategic plan and annual board assessment.
- Ongoing recruitment of board members who can augment the board's strengths and build on its weaknesses.
- Mentoring new board members in order to develop their skills as board members.
- Drafting governance policies and budgets for board development.

Photo: LRISS Board of Directors 2025-26. Jacquie Rasmussen, Executive Director, Bill Spencer, Treasurer, Christian Ahrenkiel, Chair, Mandi Rogers, Director, Elhe Black, Vice-Chair, Sue Senger, Director. Missing Gerald Michel. Director

- Keeping and updating records of recruitment history (e.g. names suggested, who was approached and what happened) and other relevant recruitment documents
- This committee has been working on the LRISS Policy and Procedure Manual. A version of the manual was adopted this year. It is a living document that will continually be reviewed and updated.
- The committee also created a template for evaluating the Executive Director.

Conferences: The Executive Director attends annual conferences to stay current with invasive species management tools and research. The Regional Invasive Species Organizations in BC rotate hosting an annual field tour that includes professional development and visits to project sites with interesting or innovative activities. This year, it was hosted by the Boundary Invasive Species Society in Grand Forks. We heard speakers from WorkSafe, Selkirk College about drone use, and BC Wildfire Service regarding fire & invasives. We visited 3 sites and saw restoration efforts and removal of yellow flag iris, Eurasian Watermilfoil and North Africa Grass. It is really helpful to see invasive species that LRISS does not have in our region so we can easily identify new species if they arrive here.

LRISS Field Crew: Jacquie Rasmussen, Barrett Butcher, Camilla Menhardt

3.0 Field Program

The LRISS field program was delivered by the Executive Director, 2 summer staff and the Xaxlí'p Community Forest Corporation (XCFC) crews. LRISS did not do aquatic invasive mussel sampling in the 2025 field season. Although we were successful in obtaining a grant for this work from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, they wanted us to scale back our program from 2 sampling locations (Seton Lake and Bridge River) to only 1. One of the key components of the 2 sampling locations was to capture the 2 major watershed systems in our region flowing into the Fraser River and build capacity with Xwísten and T'it'q'et to do this sampling themselves. We choose not to participate in the program not only because it would mean excluding one of our partners for capacity building but also because the amount of funding for one site was too little to cover all of the costs.

The main activities in our field program were 1. Invasive Plant Removal, 2. Inventory, 3. A biocontrol release and 4. Japanese Beetle Trap monitoring. We also assisted Dr. Jennifer Grenz's Indigenous Ecology Lab students with their research.

3.1 Invasive Plant Program

The invasive plant program consists of surveys (observations), mechanical treatment and monitoring of the sites treated. It also includes inventory of specific sites or plant species, and this is described in section 3.2. As in previous years, the list of sites to treat was created using our Priority Ranking Tool (PRT). The majority of the treatment was completed by the XCFC crews and some by the LRISS crew. All of the monitoring was done by our staff. Table 1 is a summary of the work completed in 2025.

LRISS accomplished our goals for treatment in 2025. We set goals to survey at least 300 sites and treat at least 200 sites. We also met our obligation to monitor at least 10 percent of the sites treated. We monitored 25%. When comparing our work from last year, Table 1 shows that there is an obvious decrease in total surveys, total hectares (ha's) surveyed and total hectares treated. There could be a

few reasons for these decreases. First, the burdock sites in Fountain Valley that are being treated have decreased in size and they have contributed up to 100 hectares in the past or more. The treatment list was also chosen with small site sizes in 2025 because the XCFC management communicated to LRISS that they have been going over budget in the last few years to survey and treat large sites. It is important to note that all of the highest priority plant sites, no matter how big, were surveyed and treated. If they were over 1000 metres squared (m2), the LRISS staff did these sites.

Table 1. Summary of Invasive Plant Program Results

	2024	2025
Sites Created (new)	138	140
New Hectares (Ha's)	40.9	35.7
Total Surveys	605	548
Total Ha's Surveyed	337	156.2
Surveys with 0 Ha's	160	159
Total Treatments	241	229
Total Ha's Treated	71.3	25.4

3.1.1 Seeding

The LRISS staff did seed 18 sites while they were doing the monitoring of the contractor's treatment. The seed mix was called "Envirolawn Mix" and was purchased from Purity Feeds in Kamloops including a hand crank seeder to evenly distribute the seed on sites. This mix has low-growing fescue grass species. The thought was to establish a cover to give emerging invasives competition but not create sightline or create a fire hazard issues. Comments about where on the site was seeded was entered into the comments section of the Monitoring Form. We will be able to return to the sites next year and evaluate if this mix grew and is suitable to continue using.

3.1.2 Priority Invasive Plants of Note

Scotch broom (Cytisus scoparius) was found in 2022 in our region. We continue to monitor the site, and no plants have been found in 2025. We will continue to monitor this site because Scotch broom seeds stay viable in the soil for up to 70 years. Top left photo by Eric Coombs, Oregon State Department of Agriculture, Bugwood.org.

Leafy spurge (Euphorbia esula L.) was detected at the 62km on the West Pavilion Road in 2023. It has been treated in 2024 and 2025. The infestation is the only one of this high priority plant on the west side of the Fraser River in our region. Unfortunately, it is in an area that is frequented by cattle due to neighbouring ponds that the cattle are likely accessing for water. We will continue to treat this site. Photo top right by J. Rasmussen

Fern-leaved Yarrow (Achillea filipendulina) was confirmed in Tsal'alh this year. The site was documented and the plants were removed. It is a plant that is still sold in the horticulture industry. It can be found in wildflower seed mixes. Photo

previous page bottom left by Jamie Nielson, University of Alaska Fairbanks, Cooperative Extension Service, Bugwood.org.

Wild Parsnip (Pastina sativa L.) has been detected in Tsal'alh on the west and north side of Seton Lake this year. This plant has toxic sap that if it comes into contact with human skin, can cause burn-like rashes. We are working with the Tsal'alh community to remove the infestations with support from BC Hydro. Photo previous page bottom right by J. Rasmussen.

Appendix 2 has our full priority invasive plant list with definitions of the categories.

3.2 Inventory

Inventory in 2025 included 5 areas: Highline Hydro Access Roads, Camoo, Gun Lake, Portage River and Steep Creek. As a result of a Hydro staff communication about knapweed infestations along the Highline Road, LRISS requested more funding to focus on inventory of access roads off of the Highline. In communication with the Squamish Lillooet Regional District Area A Director, LRISS embarked on a pilot inventory project for 3 property owners who are doing restoration work after the devastation of the 2023 Downton Wildfire. LRISS did a cursory inventory on Portage River and Whitecap Creek because St'át'imc Government Staff reported knotweed infestations in 2024. Trails that lead into sensitive alpine ecosystems or grasslands are a priority for inventory and this year we chose the Steep Creek road and trail because it had not been looked at previously.

Hydro access roads. In 2024, the Hydro Coastal Vegetation Specialist traveled through our region along the Highline road along Anderson Lake. He emailed the LRISS Executive Director about the amount of knapweed that he saw along this road. This prompted LRISS to reach out to our Hydro Vegetation Specialist, Jake Bapty for more funding to inventory the Hydro access roads that connect to the Highline. The LRISS staff inventoried 7 sections of access roads covering approximately 16 kilometres. There were no high priority plant infestations found along these access roads but there was very little road that did not have invasive plants. Along the 16 kilometres, 102 sites were established covering approximately 33 hectares. The invasive plant species found include Spotted Knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), Diffuse Knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*), Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare* L.), Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum* L.) , Hoary alyssum (*Berteroa incana* (L.) DC), Canada Thistle (*Circium arvense*) and Bull Thistle (*Circium vulgare*).

Photo: Hydro access road inventory, view of Anderson Lake and knapweed infestation.

Camoo Watershed: On June 26, LRISS ED accompanied Andrew Michel, Xwísten Horticulture and Ancestral Food Systems Supervisor and his crew to the Camoo

watershed to look at the restoration site and the main loop road for invasive plants. During this visit, the ED showed the crews how to identify the invasive plants on site. This included Burdock, Canada Thistle, Hound's Tongue and Oxeye Daisy. The crews later removed invasive plants at their restoration site. They spent 40 crew hours and removed a truckload of invasive plants. This was a great collaboration, and we are very grateful for their work toward removing invasive species and protecting culturally significant plant foods.

Wildfire impacted Gun Lake properties. The Downton Wildfire of 2023 impacted Gun Lake properties with devastating losses of homes, family cabins as well as removing vegetation and killing the resident trees. Many property owners were faced with bare soil and dangerous dead trees. The restoration process has been started on some properties with the use of grass seed and planting trees. With the support of Sal DeMare, SLRD Area A Director and local residents, LRISS did an inventory of invasive, seeded and native plants growing back on three properties. Detailed reports with recommendations have been given to the residents and an information sheet has been created for all residents actively engaging in restoration on their fire impacted properties. Preliminary results are showing that there are a diversity of native plants and shrubs growing back on the properties. We are also very pleased to report that residents were actively engaging in removing invasive plants as part of their restoration efforts. No high priority invasive plants were found in any of the inventory areas.

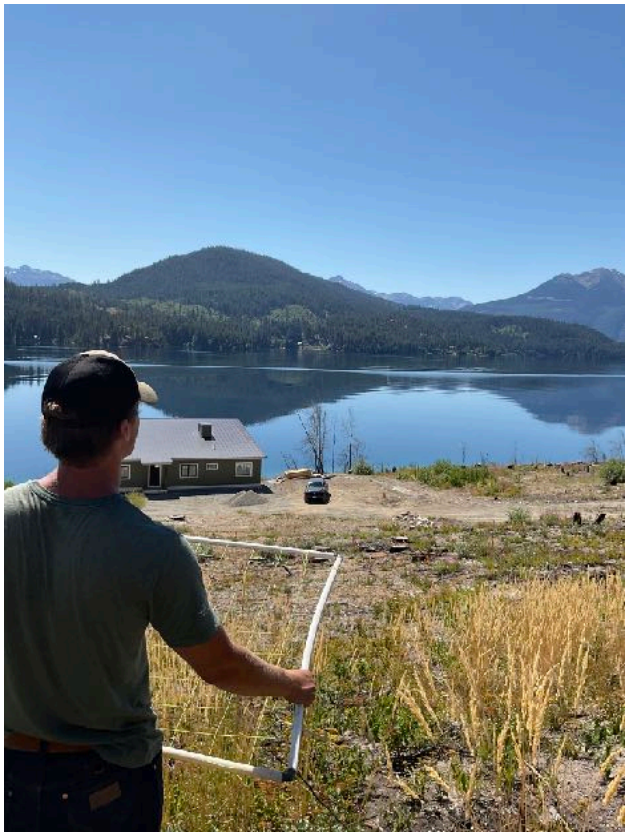
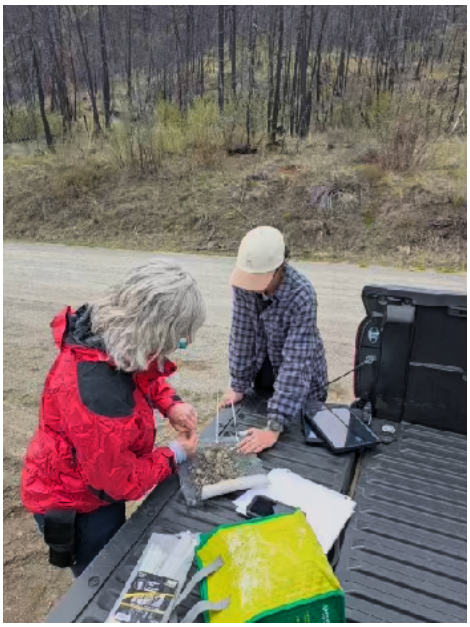


Photo: Barrett Butcher holding quadrat used to do plant surveys on Gun Lake impacted properties.

Knotweed along Portage River & Whitecap Creek: In 2024, the St'át'imc Government Services (SGS), Environmental Team reported a patch of knotweed along Portage River. The SGS Team monitor the river for chinook and saw it during one of their sessions. In 2025, LRISS was able to document that infestation and review Portage Creek from the bridge closest to Anderson to the railway crossing and then 400m from the outlet of Seton Lake. During the treatment for Yellow Flag Iris, we also walked along the channels of Portage to the north of the main outlet into Seton Lake. During this time, we found 2 infestations, the one that was reported by SGS near the confluence of Whitecap and another one along a side channel of Portage River about 300 metres from Seton Lake. These 2 infestations are relatively small but are very dense and in locations that will be challenging to treat. The LRISS staff also did an inventory of Whitecap Creek and the road. There had been a report of knotweed there in the past, but the infestation was not found until this year. Two large infestations along the Whitecap Creek and one of them extends from the confluence with Portage along the north side of Portage Creek across from the other infestation. These infestations cover over a half of a hectare. Treatment

plans for all of these sites will be coordinated with Tsal'alh. LRISS and Tsal'alh have supported a Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program grant lead by SGS to address restoration along these riparian areas including invasive plant removal.

Steep Creek Trail. Steep Creek watershed is on the south side of Duffy Lake accessed off of Highway 99 south. LRISS did an inventory of the road up to the trail head by vehicle and then hiked the trail. The total road length that was covered was about 4 kilometres and we hiked just under 2 kms along the trail to the lake. There are numerous invasive plant infestations along the road. Once you are on the hiking trail, one infestation of Orange Hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) is at the beginning of the trail. LRISS crews created a site and removed the plants. It will need to be monitored because Orange Hawkweed is an aggressive spreader and can move into subalpine and native ecosystems. The infestation was just over 50 m2 and was composed of many patches and a density of 2-5 plants/ m2. Many of these plants were growing off the trail area and into the alder. The other invasive plants found along the road included Orange Hawkweed, Oxeye Daisy, Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* L.), and a suspected Creeping Buttercup. Photos of the suspected buttercup were sent to the Ministry of Forests Invasive Plant Specialist, and confirmed.



Photos: Biocontrol release of stem gall fly larvae.

3.3 Biocontrol Release

In collaboration with the Ministry of Forest's Biocontrol program, LRISS released stem gall fly larvae on a large Canada Thistle infestation at 62km on the West Pavilion Forest Service Road. We are very grateful to Janine Brooke, MoF Invasive Plant Biocontrol Specialist, for her leadership and guidance. *Urphora cardui* are biocontrol agents for Canada Thistle (*Circium arvense*). This fly lays eggs under the tissue of the Canada Thistle stem. Females can lay an average of 130 eggs (Ministry of Forests and Range 2009). The plant responds to the laying of the eggs and then the tunnelling of the larvae by growing more cells around these insects forming an enlarged area or gall. Each gall has between 1 and 10 larvae in it where they are feeding. During this phase, there are 2 main impacts to the plant. First, the larvae release a substance which reverses the flow of nutrients causing the plant to lose a large amount of nutrients. Second, as the gall forms, the plant pores are essentially stretched and closed off causing significant moisture losses in the affected stem.

The Biocontrol Specialist for the Province of BC and her technician collected the galls in an infestation in the Barriere-Darfield area north of Kamloops, BC. We were able to pick them up on a trip to Kamloops. On

May 14, the LRISS crew traveled to the Canada Thistle site on the West Pavilion to put out the galls. This site was chosen because of the size and density of the infestation. It is over 13 ha' s in size and has continuous and uniform occurrence of about 2-5 plants per square metre. The intent is to establish a population of the fly at this site and be able to use it to collect galls and move them to other Canada Thistle infestations. The galls are placed in a protective wire mesh "envelope" to prevent them from being eaten by mice. We also used a long nail to secure the mesh envelope to the ground. A biorelease form was filled out using our data collection system on our iPads and was later uploaded to InvasivesBC. We will monitor the site next season to see if the biocontrol survived and has established galls.

3.4 Japanese Beetle Traps

LRISS collaborated with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) this year to set and monitor Japanese Beetle (*Popillia japonica* (Newman)) Traps. Japanese Beetles were detected in Kamloops in 2024 and the Thompson Nicola Regional District and LRISS wanted to know more about this infestation and how it got there. We reached out to CFIA Communications Advisor, Mary Rose Argonza-Oberhoffner to set up a meeting. On May 5, we had a zoom meeting with Ms. Argonza-Oberhoffner, Kate Mumford and Jason Crandell from CFIA. As a result of this meeting, LRISS offered to set traps in the Lillooet area and monitor them. Kate Mumford connected us to Chantel Taylor who is the survey supervisor for the Vancouver Lower Mainland and Kevin Colmenares-Di Maria, Multi-Program Inspector, Burnaby Plant Pest Surveillance for CFIA. Ms. Taylor and Mr. Colmenares-Di Maria arranged to mail out 3 traps late June and in July we set them in 3 spots based on their recommendations.

Photos: Japanese Beetle and trap in Lillooet.

The CFIA recommended that traps be placed near parks with large expanses of lawn. We chose a location in north Lillooet on what we locally refer to as the "Hop Farm" with larger lots and close to an elementary school with large fields. The second spot was a municipal park called "Hangman Tree Park" closest to downtown Lillooet. The third spot was in the south end of Lillooet at "Conway Park" that is a baseball-soccer field.

The CFIA has their surveys for monitoring the traps on an app called MySurvey123 and this is what LRISS used to monitor the traps for August, September and October. We set them on July 11 and did our first monitoring on August 1st. We monitored again August 21st, September

9th, October 1st and then collected them on Oct 16th with one final monitor. Thankfully over the 3.5 months, there were no Japanese beetles detected. In Kamloops, however, they not only found more beetles on the original site near downtown, but more beetles were found on the Westside of Kamloops as well. LRISS will keep the 3 traps and deploy them again in the 2026 field season.

Japanese Beetles were first detected in British Columbia in 2017 in the False Creek area of Vancouver and has since spread to other areas in the lower mainland and Kamloops (CFIA website 2025). They are an invasive beetle native to the main islands of Japan and first found in Canada,1939 in Nova Scotia. Larvae and adult beetles can cause impacts due to feeding on over 300 plant species including fruit trees, grapevines and ornamentals (CFIA 2025). Larvae prefer turf and plant roots while adults are called "skeletonizers" meaning they eat plant leaf matter but not the veins. It is important to watch for the signs of Japanese Beetle impacts to your lawn or plants and report this to LRISS or the CFIA (Contacts are on their website).

Photo: LRISS staff assisting UBC vegetation ground truthing for Joyce Chan's research.

3.5 UBC Research Collaboration: McKay Creek Fire

LRISS continues to assist with research conducted by Dr. Jennifer Grenz's Indigenous Ecology Lab at the University of British Columbia. There are 3 students working in our region toward their PhD. LRISS staff assisted 2 of the students working on the McKay Creek Wildfire and what vegetation is growing back. These projects involve both native and invasive species of plants. Ts'kw'aylaxw, Xwísten and T'it'q'et-P'egp'ig'lha are involved in these projects on the ground and planning with the students.

4.0 Outreach & Education Program

The LRISS Outreach & Education program had a successful year especially connecting to youth. One of the key reasons we have been able to have so many youth sessions is hiring our staff in May. This allows us to concentrate on sessions in the local schools for 2 months as well as go outside with kids. Our Digital Media Coordinator is an amazing asset that keeps our social media content fresh and relevant as well as engaging. Table 2 is a summary of our outreach statistics and sections 4.1-4.4 describe the aspects of our program.

Table 2. 2025-26 Summary of Outreach

Type	Number - Posts	Total Reach
Event	47	1565
Newsletter	12	33370
Presentation / Training	14	111
Print Ad	48	57067
Print Resource	4	517
Social Media	401	177205
Website	NA	992

Photos: Youth outreach.

4.1 Events, Presentations & Training

Youth sessions have dominated our outreach and the majority of them were delivered by our staff in May and June. LRISS has delivered or attended 40 youth related sessions that included 1352 children. This year the Grasslands Conservation Council (GCC) of BC joined LRISS at Walking with the Smolts event as well as a nature journaling day with youth at Cayoosh Elementary. Walking with the Smolts is hosted by Sekw'el'was and attracts over 600 youth from our school district. LRISS was excited to have the GCC join us and strengthen our message about the importance of grasslands. Thirty percent of species at risk in BC are found in our grasslands and invasive plants threaten these important ecosystems.

The ED delivered 10 training sessions. Most of these sessions were St'át'imc Community crews including FireSmart, Heritage, Food Security and Development Corporation staff. Presentations were given via zoom to residents in the Bridge River Valley regarding wildfire restoration and invasive plant prevention and management. One of these was recorded and it is now on our YouTube channel for anyone to access.

The ED did a hands-on training session in the field with Xwísten's Ancestral Food Project. We went into the field to look at their restoration site in the Camoo watershed. They wanted to know what invasive plants were on site and removal techniques. As a result, they did a huge removal project which is described in section 3.2, Inventory.

4.2 Digital Outreach

We have had a consultant to fill the position of Digital Outreach Coordinator since 2023. This is an affordable way for LRISS to hire expertise to manage our social media, content and design work.

LRISS is active on 4 main social media channels and perform audits to monitor our success and engagement. The Digital Media Coordinator posts weekly on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok. TikTok is getting the largest reach with Facebook the next highest. As a result of our audits, we have discontinued use of X and are experimenting with Bluesky.

Each month, the Digital Media Coordinator produces an online newsletter. The newsletter features a key article that is also designed in Canva and sent out to 24 of our partners. They share the article with their members, email lists, staff and on social media.

4.3 Advertising Features

LRISS continues to advertise in print. There were 4 features in the Bridge River Lillooet News that we placed to highlight priority invasive plants. LRISS collaborates with the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Society on an advertisement in the Backcountry Roadmaps for our area (Coastal). We also contribute to the Mountain Telegraph that is mostly online but also has some print copies. Unfortunately, the local paper, the Bridge River Lillooet News shut down in the fall of 2025 and there is no information if it will start again. We will be looking at ways to connect with those that like to read from papers.

4.4 Resources

LRISS gives out resources to partners and participants at events to support training and educate the public. This year we gave Xwísten 200 rack cards with common garden invasives to give out to their members. It was a beautification program, and the invasive plant card was supposed to help them identify and remove invasive plants from their property. We also gave the Lillooet Info Centre and Cayoosh Campground a tri-fold brochure targeting RV's and campers. It has a combination of messages including PlayCleanGo, CleanDrainDry and BuyLocalBurnLocal in efforts to prevent the establishment and spread of invasive species. LRISS and SSISC did a joint order of boot brushes and this is a great tool to give out to crews after training. It is a small brush that can be used to remove mud from your boots and gear that may be harbouring invasive plant seeds.

Our newest resource is an LRISS sticker that was designed by our 2024 staff and made into a woven patch. This year, we used the same design to produce vinyl stickers which are popular prizes and handouts at events and outreach sessions. See Appendix 3 for examples of our resources.

5.0 Challenges, Solutions & Organization Resiliency

Organization resiliency is a foundational goal for LRISS. We have operated since 2011, and we'd like to ensure that our programs can be delivered for many years into the future. There are two key challenges that we've faced over the years, and we are making progress to address them: 1. Staffing and 2. Board governance capacity.

LRISS has approached the challenges of staffing by hiring seasonal staff and expert consultants. This has been an affordable approach to fulfilling our program goals and securing services from qualified experts. We have 3 consultants that we use regularly including our Digital Media Coordinator, a GIS specialist and a bookkeeper. We have also secured the services of an accountant and lawyer in the past to help us with financial processes and contracts.

Photo: Staff Camilla Menhardt removing Baby's breath from the Historic Haylmore site in Gold Bridge.

Partnerships definitely help with LRISS's capacity to accomplish field work. For example, at the end of

the summer 2 new infestations of Wild Parsnip were found. Tsal'alh crews were able to do treatment on both of these sites with crews that also do FireSmart fuel management activities. LRISS staff were finished for the summer, but the ED was able to support the training of these crew members to do treatment safely. Our Hydro partners were able to find funding, and the Tsal'alh Chief and Council matched the funding so fall treatment could be accomplished.

Board capacity has been a challenge that LRISS continues to face. Most of the Board members have full time work and so they have very little time to do Board work. A new committee, however, has been formed (Board Governance Committee) to address Board Work. They have approved LRISS's Policy and Procedure Manual and are working on an evaluation process for the Executive Director. They also approved a Terms of Reference for the committee. This committee has increased the capacity of the Board helped to complete necessary Board work.

6.0 Financial Reporting

The following sections give an overview of our revenue and expenses. Our reports are found in Appendix 4 for our fiscal year (April 1 to March 31). Our bookkeeper uses Sage Accounting to track our finances and create reports for the ED and Board to monitor. Another bookkeeping firm filed our business taxes for 2023-24 and 2024-25 fiscal years.

LRISS receives in-kind support from our partners and we track this annually. This includes equipment, staff time and discounts. Appendix 5 has the full account of our in-kind support with descriptions. The total for this year was over $34,000. A significant portion, $24500, of this was due to in-kind invasive removal done by the T'it'q'et-P'egp'ig'lha Guardian Crews in Town Creek. We are very appreciative of their hard work!

6.1. Revenue

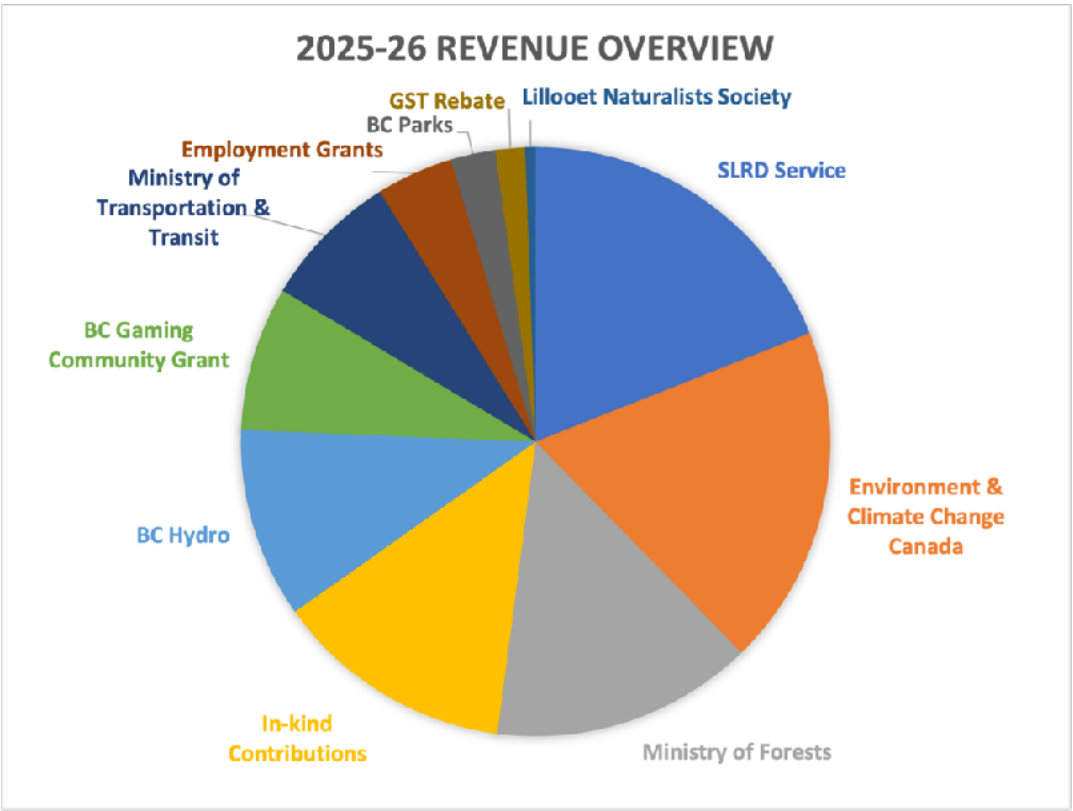
LRISS revenue for this fiscal year is more than last year. Our total new funding this year was $229,725 . Table 3 and Chart 1 shows our revenue. This year we are grateful to receive extra funding from the SLRD to support our summer staff employment starting in May as well as other increases in costs. The other increase of note is extra funding from BC Hydro. LRISS received $4000 extra dollars for our field program to inventory Hydro access roads. In the late summer, we also received a one-time grate of $8583 toward the purchase of a portable wash station. This wash station will be instrumental in the prevention of invasive species for a variety of projects especially the Hydro upgrade project that will occur in the region over the next 3-7 years. In the fall, Hydro also contributed $10,000 toward the treatment of Wild Parsnip found on the west side of Seton Lake as well as the north side next to the Hydro station. LRISS supported Tsal'alh crews to do this treatment. We are very grateful for all of the extra support from Hydro this year.

LRISS hosted an online raffle in May during Invasive Species Action Month in BC. It was a 50-50 cash draw that was set up through a company called Raffle Nexus and Global Payments. They handle all of the online design and payment process for a small percentage. It was very well set up and we had lots of support including the BC Gaming Licence. We made approximately $450 and it is included in the BC Gaming revenue.

Table 3. Overview of LRISS Funding Revenue 2025-26

Sources of Revenue	Amount
Squamish Lillooet Regional District	$50205
Environment & Climate Change Canada	$49500
Ministry of Forests	$38000
BC Community Gaming Grant	$21000
Ministry of Transportation & Transit	$20000
Canada Summer Jobs	$11119
BC Hydro	$27583
BC Parks	$6500
GST Rebate	$4318
Lillooet Naturalist Society	$1500
Total 2025-26 Revenue	$229725
In-Kind Revenue	$34718
Total 2025-26 with In-Kind	$264443

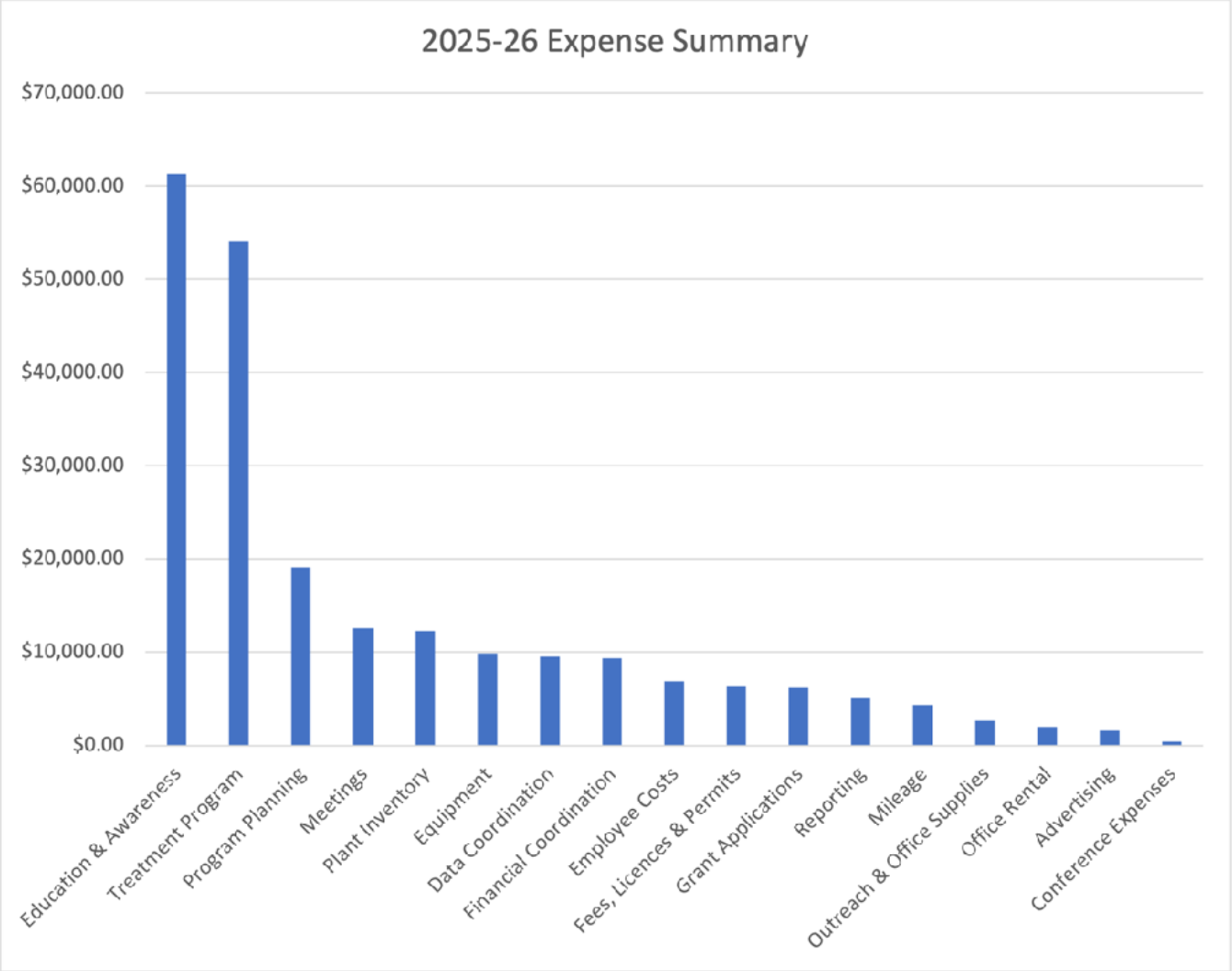
Chart 1. Summary of LRISS Revenue



6.2 Expenditures

The total for 2025-26 expenses are $226,482. The largest expense category was education and awareness and the second was our treatment program. Program planning and meetings were the next largest costs. These top expenses reflect our key program: outreach, field and partnership-coordination. Chart 2 shows a summary of our expenses and a the detail of expenses can be found in Appendix 4. The Income Statement has all of the expenses that we track.

Chart 2. Summary of Expenses 2025-26



7.0 References

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Appendix 1. List of Partnerships and Activities

Partner	Project - Activity
University of British Columbia	McKay Creek Fire Vegetation Response research.
Lillooet Naturalist Society	Funding, In-kind support, Invasive plant removal on Trails, Newspaper Features
Canadian Food Inspection Agency	LRISS is part of the Japanese Beetle Trapping program
Grasslands Conservation Council of BC	Collaborative outreach and supporting social media posts.
Lillooet Agriculture & Food Society	Sharing of resources Agreement, Monthly article shared.
Bridge River Valley Community Association	Weekly Roadside outreach: #ResponsibleRecreation, Invasive Outreach Historic Haylmore Site, Events, Staff Training, Monthly article shared.
Lillooet Learning Communities Society	Support funding applications, meetings, share social media posts. LRISS is a member of the HUB Advisory Committee
Lillooet Animal Advocate Society	Outreach with youth, online for responsible pet ownership. Includes Don't Let it Loose Program messages.
SWIMS – Society for Wellness, Instruction & Mobility through Swimming	LRISS collaborated with youth summer fun days: outreach teaching about invasive aquatic invasive species like invasive mussels.
Miyazaki House Society	Share outreach, remove invasives from property, support events, Train staff.
Lillooet Off Road Cycling Society	Partnership Agreement: Sharing of resources, Project support, Monthly articles shared, Participate in Bike Rodeo event: PlayCleanGo materials
Lillooet Livestock Association	Member on LRISS Board, Producer outreach, Monthly article shared.
Lillooet Rod & Gun Club	Monthly article shared. Support letters written for funding.
Xwísten	Councillor on LRISS Board, monthly article shared, Training of Heritage Crews. Guardian training. Fisheries Guardians sample on Bridge River for invasive mussels.
P'egp'ig'lha Council - T'it'q'et	Project Collaboration, Crew Training for Guardianship program, Support to remove Wild Parsnip Infestation, Monthly article shared. Fisheries Guardians sample Seton Lake for invasive mussels.
Ucwalmicw Society	Exchange of information. Funding information. LRISS crews assisted with invasives removal.
Xaxli'p Community Forest Corporation	Funding application support, Monthly article shared, Crew contract.
Tsal'alh	Monthly article shared, Project Collaboration, training of Guardians. Ski'l Mountain School outreach. Collaborative removal projects.
Sekw'el'was – Splitrock Environmental	Funding application support, Project Collaboration, Monthly article shared, Walking with the Smolts event.

Ts'kw'aylaxw	Monthly article shared. Training for Guardians. Job shadowing and hiring of crews for invasives removal work.
Lillooet Tribal Council	Staff member was on LRISS Board of Directors. Share LRISS monthly article.
St'át'imc Government Services	Memorandum of Understanding with Lands & Heritage Committee. Support letters for projects. Training for staff. Collaborative funding applications.
St'át'imc Chiefs Council	Memorandum of understanding with Lands & Heritage Committee. Share information with Staff about industrial projects, especially Hydro, in Territory.
Lillooet Chamber of Commerce	Member, provide monthly LRISS news for members.
District of Lillooet	Project Collaboration. Train Public Works staff. Invasive Species Bylaw collaboration.
Tourism Committee	Sit on advisory committee. Review reports and grants.
Lillooet Historical Society	Train Visitor Centre staff. Joint delivery of resources.
Tyax Wilderness Lodge	Share social media – promote through our channels. Boot brush station at dock.
Tyax Adventures	Joint outreach delivery to Mountain Bikers: PlayCleanGo, Share social media. Boot brush station for clients.
Winners Edge Sporting Store	Social Media sharing
TimberMart, Feed & Garden Centre	Social Media sharing, public outreach for garden invasives. Commitment not to sell invasive plants or seeds.
Squamish Lillooet Regional District	Funding Partner for all programs
Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations	Funding Partner for all programs
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure	Funding Partner for Field program
BC Hydro	Funding, Workshop training support for St'at'imc
BC Community Gaming	Funding Partner for Outreach & Education Program
Ministry of Land, Water & Resource Stewardship	Funding and project partner for aquatic invasives
Environment Climate Change Canada	Funding, Information about species at risk
Other Regional Invasive Species Organizations including Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council	Invasive Site reconnaissance on borders, outreach materials collaboration, collaborative research on mapping and human resources programs.

Appendix 2. LRISS 2025 Priority Plant Species & Categories

COMMON_NAME	LATIN_NAME	LRISS Priority
American Elm	Ulmus americana	1-Prevent
Annual sow thistle	Sonchus oleraceus	1-Prevent
Black knapweed	Centaurea nigra	1-Prevent
Black Cherry	Prunus serotine	1-Prevent
Bohemian knotweed	Fallopia x bohemicum	1-Prevent
Brown knapweed	Centaurea jacea	1-Prevent
Bur chervil	Anthriscus caucalis	1-Prevent
Butterfly bush	Buddleja davidii	1-Prevent
Chinaberry	Melia azedarach	1-Prevent
Chinese Elm	Ulmus parvifolia	1-Prevent
Cluster pine or Maritime pine	Pinus pinaster Aiton	1-Prevent
Common hawthorn	Crataegus monogyna	1-Prevent
English or Common elm	Ulmus procera	1-Prevent
Eurasian watermilfoil	Myriophyllum spicatum	1-Prevent
Field scabious	Knautia arvensis	1-Prevent
Flat pea / flat peavine	Lathyrus sylvestris	1-Prevent
Garlic mustard	Alliaria petiolata	1-Prevent
Giant hogweed	Heracleum mantegazzianum	1-Prevent
Giant knotweed	Fallopia sachalinensis	1-Prevent
Golden Chain Tree	Laburnum anagyroides	1-Prevent
Golden Willow	Salix alba 'Vitellina'	1-Prevent
Gorse	Ulex europaeus	1-Prevent
Himalayan knotweed	Polygonum polystachyum	1-Prevent
Japanese Butterbur	Petasites japonicus	1-Prevent
Japanese raisin tree	Hovenia dulcis	1-Prevent
Longspine sandbur	Cenchrus longispinus	1-Prevent
Marsh plume thistle/Marsh thistle	Cirsium palustre	1-Prevent
Meadow hawkweed	Hieracium caespitosum	1-Prevent
Meadow knapweed	Centaurea debeauxii	1-Prevent
North african grass	Ventenata dubia	1-Prevent
Norway Maple	Acer platanoides	1-Prevent
Poison hemlock	Conium maculatum	1-Prevent
Policeman's helmet / himalayan balsam	Impatiens glandulifera	1-Prevent
Princess Tree or Royal Paulownia	Paulownia tomentosa	1-Prevent
Rush skeletonweed	Chondrilla juncea	1-Prevent
Russian knapweed	Acroptilon repens	1-Prevent
Scotch thistle	Onopordum acanthium	1-Prevent
Tansy ragwort	Senecio jacobaea	1-Prevent
Teasel	Dipsacus fullonum	1-Prevent
Whiplash hawkweed	Hieracium flagellare	1-Prevent
White flowered broom	Cytisus multiflorus	1-Prevent
White Poplar	Populus alba	1-Prevent

COMMON_NAME	LATIN_NAME	LRISS Priority
Wild chervil	Anthriscus sylvestris	1-Prevent
Wych or Scots elm	Ulmus glabra	1-Prevent
Blueweed	Echium vulgare	2-Eradicate
Common bugloss	Anchusa officinalis	2-Eradicate
Common Evening Primrose	Oenothera biennis	2-Eradicate
Cypress spurge	Euphorbia cyparissias	2-Eradicate
Fernleaf Yarrow	Achillea filipendulina	2-Eradicate
Hoary cress	Cardaria draba	2-Eradicate
Leafy spurge	Euphorbia esula	2-Eradicate
Puncturevine	Tribulus terrestris	2-Eradicate
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria	2-Eradicate
Queen Anne's Lace - Wild Carrot	Daucus carota	2-Eradicate
Scotch broom	Cytisus scoparius	2-Eradicate
Tree-of-Heaven	Ailanthus altissima	2-Eradicate
Wild Parsnip	Pastinaca sativa	2-Eradicate
Yellow iris	Iris pseudachorus	2-Eradicate
Baby's breath	Gypsophila paniculata	3-Contain
Common tansy	Tanacetum vulgare	3-Contain
Dame's rocket	Hesperis matronalis	3-Contain
Himalayan blackberry	Rubus armeniacus	3-Contain
Hoary alyssum	Berteroa incana	3-Contain
Hound's-tongue	Cynoglossum officinale	3-Contain
Japanese knotweed	Fallopia japonica	3-Contain
Nodding thistle	Carduus nutans	3-Contain
Orange hawkweed	Hieracium aurantiacum	3-Contain
Perennial sow thistle	Sonchus arvensis	3-Contain
Scentless chamomile	Matricaria perforata	3-Contain
St. John's wort/Saint John's wort/ Goatweed	Hypericum perforatum	3-Contain
Sulphur cinquefoil	Potentilla recta	3-Contain
Tall hawkweed	Hieracium piloselloides	3-Contain
Wood sage	Salvia nemorsa	3-Contain
Yellow hawkweed	Hieracium pratense	3-Contain
Yellow/common toadflax	Linaria vulgaris	3-Contain
Burdock species	Arctium spp	4-Strategic Control
Canada thistle	Cirsium arvense	4-Strategic Control
Chicory	Cichorium intybus	4-Strategic Control
Dalmatian toadflax	Linaria dalmatica	4-Strategic Control
Diffuse knapweed	Centaurea diffusa	4-Strategic Control
Dodder	Cuscuta spp.	4-Strategic Control
Knapweed species	Centaurea spp.	4-Strategic Control
Oxeye daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare	4-Strategic Control
Spotted knapweed	Centaurea biebersteinii	4-Strategic Control

Categories of Invasive Plant for Prioritization

Criteria for LRISS

Based on the Sea to Sky's criteria with some changes to management approach.

Priority	Category	Definition	Management Approach
1	**Prevention Watchlist**	These species are not yet found in the region, but could be found in neighbouring areas or are considered likely to arrive soon.	Alert or Watchlist species, focus on education & awareness with the goal of prevention. If prevention fails, and these species are detected where they were previously not known to occur, the goal is immediate eradication following an EDRR protocol (*Note: LRISS will be developing an EDRR protocol*).
2	**Eradicate**	These species exist in the region, but with very limited distribution. Eradication is feasible.	Eradication is the goal. These species are the highest priority for planned annual control programs.
3	**Contain**	These species are abundant in certain portions of the region, but have not yet infested all potential habitats.	Containment to the current location and/or distribution. Preventing or reducing access to areas with invasive species infestations is also a strategy employed in containment. Treatments would generally only occur within the containment boundary if sensitive sites or unique resources were at risk.
4	**Strategic Control**	These are widespread species that are beyond landscape-level control and/or have relatively low impact.	The goal of management efforts for these species is to protect site-specific values or assets. Land managers may choose to treat these species at sites they deem valuable to protect (e.g. wildlife habitat, corridors of spread, agricultural land etc.) based on specific land management objectives. Some of these species have **biological control** agents available.
5	**No Action**	These are widespread species, where site-scale control is ineffective or futile; and/or these species have relatively low impact. Lost causes.	Not included in control programs. Education only (e.g. do not plant in gardens).
6	**Insufficient Information**	There is insufficient information for these species on their distribution, impacts, potential for spread and/or feasibility of control. Not enough information to assign a management category.	Carry out inventory if required, monitor known locations, and/or access more information from other regions.

Appendix 3. Examples of Print & Digital Resource

Both of the LRISS mountain designs were by our Summer staff in 2024 (Emma Sneep & Tia Blair). The first one was used to make stickers and the second one was designed for T-shirts and tote bags. The PlayCleanGo design was submitted to the Backroad MapBooks Coastal version in collaboration with the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council.

Appendix 4. LRISS Financial Reports

Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society
Balance Sheet As at Mar 31, 2026

ASSET

Current Assets		
Gaming Equity Shares	7.83	
Gaming Bank Account	21,101.75	
Chequing Equity Shares	8.12	
Plan 24 Savings Account	11,692.69	
Chequing Bank Account	17,514.10	
TOTAL CASH		50,324.49
Total Current Assets		50,324.49
TOTAL ASSET		50,324.49
LIABILITY		
Current Liabilities		
Deferred Revenue		21,000.00
GST Rebates Receivable	-4,317.87	
GST Owing (Refund)		-4,317.87
Total Current Liabilities		16,682.13
TOTAL LIABILITY		16,682.13
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings		
Retained Earnings		4,245.69
Current Earnings		29,396.67
Total Retained Earnings		33,642.36
TOTAL EQUITY		33,642.36
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		50,324.49

Generated On: Apr 08, 2026

Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society
Comparative Income Statement

	Budget Apr 01, 2025 to Mar 31, 2026	Actual Apr 01, 2025 to Mar 31, 2026	
REVENUE			
Revenue from Funding			
Admin Revenue from Parks	650.00	650.00	
Admin Revenue from SLRD Area A & B	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Admin Revenue from MOTI	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Admin Revenue from Feds - MOE	5,000.00	5,000.00	
Admin Revenue from BC Hydro	900.00	900.00	
Admin Revenue from SLRD	4,000.00	4,000.00	
Admin Revenue from MOFLNRO	2,760.00	2,760.00	16,310.00
Deferred Revenue	13,936.12	27,623.70	
MOFLNRO - COORDINATION	15,000.00	15,000.00	
MOFLNRO - OPERATIONS	23,000.00	23,000.00	
MOTI	20,000.00	20,000.00	
BC Hydro	9,000.00	27,583.00	
SLRD Area A & B	10,000.00	10,000.00	
SLRD Service	40,205.00	40,205.00	
Feds - MOE	49,500.00	44,550.00	
BC Gaming Grant	21,000.00	21,475.00	
Employment Grants	11,370.00	11,119.00	
GST Rebates	0.00	4,317.87	
Lillooet Naturalists Society	1,000.00	1,500.00	
PARKS	6,500.00	6,500.00	
Net Funding Revenue	236,821.12	269,183.57	
Other Revenue			
Bank Interest Revenue	0.00	5.11	
Total Other Revenue	0.00	5.11	
Internal Reallocations			
Internal Employment Grant Expense	0.00	-9,890.36	
Internal Employment Grant Income	0.00	11,119.00	
Internal MERCS Expense	0.00	-1,228.64	
Total Internat Reallocations	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL REVENUE	236,821.12	269,188.68	
		252,878.68	
EXPENSE			
Operating Expenses			
EI Expense	750.00	650.26	
CPP Expense	1,530.00	1,524.87	
WCB Expense	68.00	56.64	

Vac Expense		1,089.00		1,131.09
Accomodation	400.00		0.00	
Accounting	1,600.00		1,470.00	
Advertising	3,345.18		1,592.19	
Equipment	8,500.00		9,885.35	
Fees, Licenses, Permits	5,300.00		6,405.38	
Meals	200.00		437.84	
Meeting Expenses	2,187.29		407.12	
Mileage - kms	5,458.99		4,325.88	
Office and Outreach	4,270.00		2,644.71	
Office Rent	1,975.00		1,974.00	
Admin Expense to Funders	16,310.00		16,310.00	
Subtotal		49,546.46		45,452.47
Total Operating Expenses		52,983.46		48,815.33
Wage Expenses				
Wages: Coordination-Communication	8,826.46		6,548.27	
Wages: Coordination - Meeting	11,250.00		12,198.14	
Wages: Coordination - Planning	10,828.78		12,569.39	
Wages: Education & Awareness	27,857.31		24,475.41	
Wages: Inventory	13,150.00		11,548.63	
Wages: Treatment	2,900.00		3,162.75	
Wages: Monitor	2,550.00		1,690.88	
Wages: Data Entry	1,075.00		502.25	
Wages: Funding - Coordination	9,500.00		7,865.88	
Wages: Funding - Grants	1,350.00		6,155.63	
Wages: Reporting	3,425.00		5,040.02	
Wages: Survey	7,909.00		3,502.25	
Wages: Employee Training	1,500.00		2,475.00	
Wages: Data Management	2,386.11		4,038.63	
Wages: Contract - Inventory	0.00		740.00	
Wages: Contract - Treatment	33,000.00		45,716.73	
Wages: Contract - Data	5,000.00		4,977.00	
Wages: Contract -Outreach	37,800.00		36,750.00	
Wages: Stat Holidays	530.00		1,019.82	
Wages - Subtotal		180,837.66		190,976.68
Total Wage Expenses		180,837.66		190,976.68
TOTAL EXPENSE		233,821.12		239,792.01
NET INCOME		3,000.00		29,396.67

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Appendix 5. In-kind Contributions Summary 2025-26

Volunteer or Organization	Activitity or Resource	Estimated number of hours/units	Rate (if applicable)	Estimated Value
Accountant - Karen Playfair	Review of LRISS financial processes and answer questions regarding accounting procedures	2	100	$200.00
Member of Public - Gun Lake Weed removal	Weed removal roadside on Gun Lake Road, Downton Fire area	20	$27	$540.00
T'it'q'et-P'egp'ig'lha Staff	Weed removal in Town Creek. 5 people for 35 hours, 5 sessions (hourly wage amount provided)	875	$28	$24,500.00
Bridge River Valley Community Association - Trail Committee Coordinator	Promote Wildfire & Invasives presentation	1	$27	$27.00
Jon Anderson	Yellow Flag Iris Treatment scoping; treatment - seed pod removal	3	$27	$81.00
Lillooet Naturalist Society	Weed removal Seton Corridor (June 22, 72 pounds of invasive plants)	12	$27	$324.00
Lillooet Naturalist Society	Hiking Guides x4. At cost	4	$10	$40.00
Xwisten Ancestral Food Security Project	Weed removal in Camoo - 4 people, 2 days, 5 hours (Burdock, bull thistle, hound's tongue, Oxeye Daisy).	40	$25	$1,000.00
BCWS	Electrolyte tablets	10	$13	$126.00
BCWS	Accomodations at Air B&B Bralorne (3 nights)	3	$200	$600.00
Lillooet Off Road Cycling Association	Bike Rodeo Organization	8	$27	$216.00
Splitrock Environmental	Walking with the Smolts Event Coordination	8	$27	$216.00
Xwisten, Xáxli'p, Ts'kw'aylaxw, Sekw'el'was, T'it'q'et, Tsal'alh,	Organizations posting monthly newsletters	42	$27	$1,134.00
Lillooet Livestock Association meetings	Fall 2024 meeting organization	2	$27	$54.00
District of Lillooet - BRLN Features with invasive species segment	Advertising info cost		$50	$0.00
District of Lillooet	Staff time for meetings to prepare invasive species bylaw	2.5	$30	$75.00
Lillooet Library	Organize youth events	4	$22	$88.00
Lillooet Rec Centre	Summer Youth Camp Organization	8	$25	$200.00
Tsa'alh	Organize Career Fair	8	$25	$200.00
Sekw'el'was Firesmart Crews Training Venue	Resource Room at the library	2	$30	$60.00
Lillooet Agriculture & Food Society AGM	Staff time to organize event	8	$35	$280.00
Timber Supply Area Partner Meetings, ADD DATE	Meeting Organization	0	$27	$0.00
McKay Creek Fire Restoration Meetings (ADD)	Meeting Organization	0	$30	$0.00
Lillooet HUB - Lillooet Learning Communities Society	Shared office space. Discounted rate	12	$147	$1,763.04
Xwisten Lands Department: Grizzly Bar restoration - invasives removal	Invasives removal and project coordination	30.5		$2,993.62

Category	Amount
Events	$1,254.00
Treatment	$29,438.62
Outreach	$1,161.00
Equipment & Resources	$2,589.04
Professional Hours	$275.00
	$34,717.66