

LILLOOET REGIONAL INVASIVE SPECIES SOCIETY

Strategic Plan 2025-2030

VISION

A network of partners, including St'át'imc communities, collaborating to minimize the impacts of invasive species on the ecosystems, cultural heritage, and economy of the Lillooet Region and northern St'át'imc Territory by integrating traditional knowledge and practices.

MISSION

LRISS creates partnerships, especially with St'át'imc, delivers education, surveys watersheds and removes invasives to protect social, cultural, environmental and economic values in the Lillooet region.

CORE VALUES

The Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society will:

- Uphold the Title and Rights of the St'át'imc and our operations occur within the unceded St'át'imc territory,
- Be collaborative,
- Ensure the inclusion of multiple perspectives,
- Proactively promote and facilitate partnerships especially with St'át'imc,
- Have a membership that is open and inclusive,
- Respect the values and perspectives of all stakeholders,
- Include societal, economic and environmental values when making decisions on the landscape**
- Be adaptive and innovative in response to an ever changing climate,
- Be transparent and accountable,
- Be independent and non-partisan,
- Operate as a not-profit organization, and
- Seek and accept funding from a variety of sources.

SOCIETY'S PURPOSES

These are the purposes as outlined in LRISS's Constitution.

1. To educate the general public, private landowners, public land managers and First Nations regarding invasive species and their impacts
2. To minimize the further introduction and spread of invasive species in the areas of concern by promoting and assisting in efforts of: education and awareness, early detection, and coordinated integrated invasive species management and control;
3. To promote a coordinated and collaborative approach to the management of invasive species on public, private and First Nations lands within the LRISS operating area and neighbouring jurisdictions;
4. To provide a conduit for information and a source of expertise on invasive species;
5. To compile and maintain a comprehensive inventory of invasive species within the areas of concern; and
6. To obtain the services of and direct a coordinator to fulfill the purposes of the Society, as funding permits.

GOALS & STRATEGIES

GOAL 1. A strong relationship with St'át'imc.

Objective	Strategy
1.1 Engage St'át'imc in planning and management of invasives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with St'át'imc Chief & Councils. • Meet with St'át'imc Communities' Lands & Guardian programs regarding LRISS activities. • Engage with Knowledge Keepers and Elders. • Recruit Board members from St'át'imc communities.
1.2 Promoting cultural awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure staff have cultural St'át'imc training.

GOAL 2. Sustain a Coordinated Program

Objective	Strategy
2.1 Engage partners & stakeholders in planning and management of invasives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host an annual planning meeting.
2.2 Promote and maintain the lead role and contact for invasive species management in the Lillooet region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase awareness of our organization by continuing to grow LRISS membership.
2.3 Develop and maintain partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work collaboratively with St'át'imc community programs (eg Guardians and Lands-Heritage departments) as well as Knowledge Keepers. • Communicate and collaborate with other Regional Invasive Species Organizations in our province especially our neighbour organizations. • Engage community groups for partnership opportunities.

GOAL 3. Educate & provide resources for prevention

Objective	Strategy
3.1 Educate the public and community groups about healthy ecosystems, invasive species and their impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and engage target audiences including recreation and tourism activities (as one focus). • Attend community events, meetings and workshops. • Support food security initiatives.
3.2 Educate and collaborate St'át'imc Leadership and Staff, land managers and industry about regional invasive species, best management practices and encourage their involvement in treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement forms of education and information exchange with land managers and industry like training sessions, review of land use plans, presentations and meetings.
3.3 Provide information and links to expertise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a website with information and links. • Post information on social media. • Participate in Regional and Provincial networks.
3.4 Collaborate with partners, including St'át'imc, on prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify pathways of introduction and vectors of spread and work with partners.

3.5 Adopt an Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) approach in our region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify knowledge gaps and priority areas for inventory. • Design and implement an EDRR program for the LRISS region. • Support the BC Province's EDRR program.
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GOAL 4. Reduce impacts

Objective	Strategy
4.1 Develop programs to reduce the impact of invasives species populations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and implement a program with a variety of tools to manage invasive species. • Monitor effectiveness of operational program and use an approach that can respond to changing conditions and climate.
4.2 Utilize traditional St'át'imc ecological knowledge and innovative approaches that use a variety of techniques.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain up-to-date on and incorporate best management practices into the program. • Promote enhanced management techniques using traditional, ecological St'át'imc knowledge and an ecosystem-landscape perspective. • Support and encourage research activities.

GOAL 5. Sustainable program

Objective	Strategy
5.1 Ensure ongoing Board of Directors development and succession planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the Board has information on governance and access to information, speakers or webinars.
5.2 Sustain and build our programs through funding & partnerships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and grow partnerships. • Collaborate with partners to apply for funds.
5.3 Pursue training opportunities to build capacity in our region that supports employment in the invasives management field.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with St'át'imc communities, employment services and companies to offer training on invasives field operations & management.
5.4 Support local and provincial land use plans and policy development & implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with local government processes as they arise that relate to invasives (Official Community Plan review for example).
5.5 Communicate successes with the public, stakeholders and partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce an annual report and share activities throughout the year using website & social media.

MEASURING SUCCESS

In order to evaluate the success of this strategy, the following indicators will be measured.

1. Annual planning meeting for partners.
2. Number of meetings with St'át'imc Chief and Council's in a year.
3. Number of meetings held with St'át'imc Lands and Guardian programs in a year.
4. Number of engagements with St'át'imc Knowledge Keepers and Elders held in a year.
5. Number of LRISS Board Members from St'át'imc Communities.
6. Number of partnerships.
7. Create and implement a landscape approach for prioritization of operational program (to decrease impacts). Measure the total area of invasive plant infestations in a watershed.
8. Metrics on treatment of Eradicate species. Number of sites, number of sites treated, sites with zero plants (measure how treatments and years to get to zero hectares). Sites with plants: measure change in density, distribution and hectares.
9. Annual reach for outreach: including number of training sessions, communications with land managers-industry and educational information disseminated (newsletters, social media posts, features etc).
10. Early Detection, Rapid Response program and implementation.
11. Evidence of education, information and support for Board of Directors effective governance and succession.