



## Kootenay Lake Local Conservation Fund

# Knotweed Removal on Private Land 2020

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# Central Kootenay Invasive Species Society

**news** Spread of invasive species in Canada costs billions

Technology & Science

### Spread of invasive species in Canada costs billions

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Northern leopard frogs in B.C. threatened by bullfrogs, while hogweed runs wild, choking out native plants

The Canadian Press - Posted: Dec 24, 2018 9:16 AM ET | Last Updated: December 24, 2018



Protecting our ecosystems and communities by preventing and reducing the harmful impacts of invasive species since 2005



258 Members



# Project Overview

- Knotweeds are the highest priority invasive plants in BC, with significant environmental, economic and safety impacts
- The Kootenay Lake area has a significant amount of knotweed
- Current management efforts do not include private land, but many sites are private
- Knotweed management is difficult and expensive, and many landowners are not able to overcome these barriers on their own
- Project will provide cost-sharing for private knotweed treatment, as well as expert assessment and coordination

***Project Goal:*** support private landowners to protect native habitat, keep their property safe, and fulfill their legal responsibility by controlling knotweed on their land

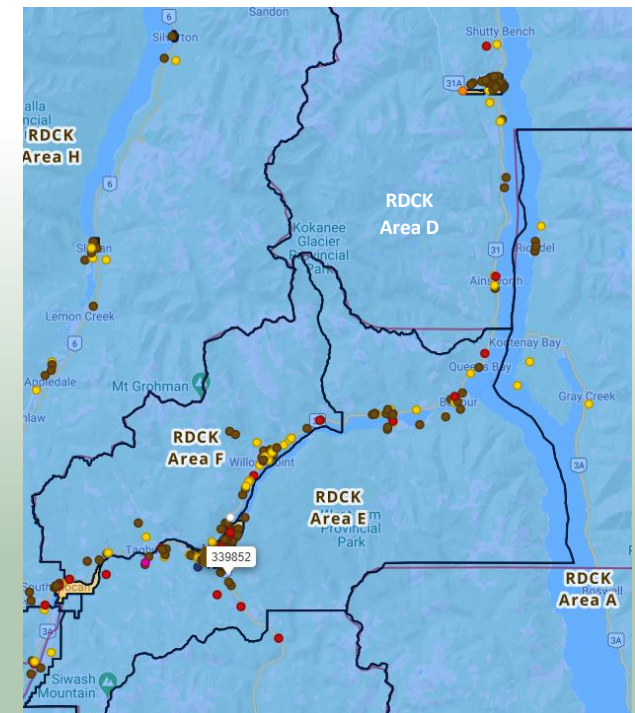


Figure 1: KLLCF project area showing known knotweed locations (private land sites in brown)

# Environmental Impacts of Knotweeds

Japanese knotweed is listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as one of the 100 worst invasive alien species worldwide

- Displaces native vegetation, creating dense monocultures
- Suppresses other plant growth by releasing biochemicals in the soil
- Reduces amount and quality of habitat and creates barriers to animal movement
- Vigorous rhizomes cause shoreline erosion
- Dramatically reduces species diversity



# Other Impacts of Knotweeds

- Infrastructure damage

Rhizomes can grow through concrete and pipes, damaging foundations, roadways, water infrastructure

- Property values

In highly impacted areas (i.e., Great Britain), properties with knotweed have lower value and are more difficult to insure

- Legal risk

Allowing knotweed to spread onto adjacent Crown lands could place landowners at risk of being charged by Conservation Officer

## The plant that's eating B.C.

Japanese knotweed is in nearly all our provinces. And the threat is real: it can lower house prices, threaten our bridges, and drive men to madness.

by [Ken MacQueen](#) Jun 12, 2015



# Reproduction and Spread

- Extremely large, vigorous rhizome
  - Rhizome system can extend up to 3m deep and 20m wide – much larger than above ground growth
  - Stores energy and can re-grow for many years
  - Disturbing top growth stimulates spread
- Spreads easily
  - Reproduces from stem and rhizome fragments as small as 0.7 grams
  - Easily spread by dumping, mowing, soil movement, improper disposal, contaminated equipment



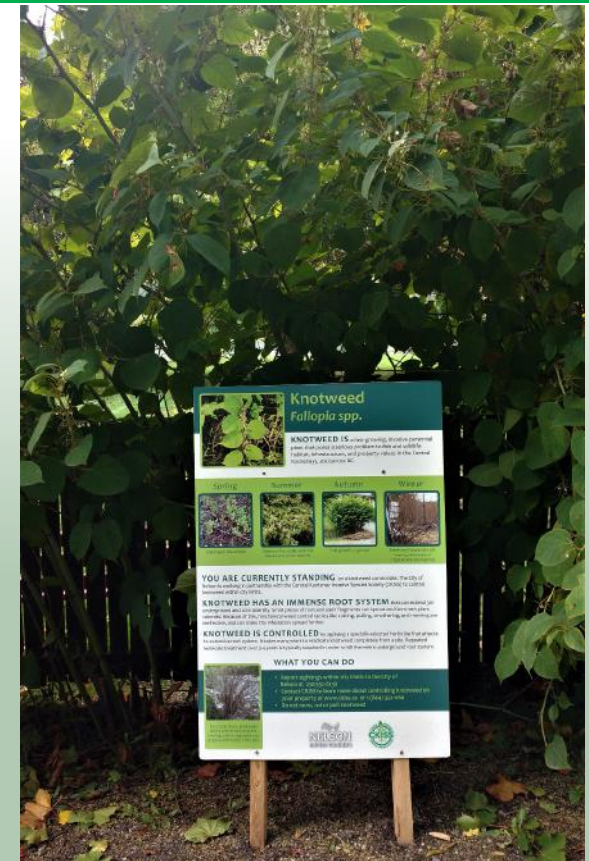
Figure 2: Example of efforts to prevent spread by installing DO NOT MOW signs in front of knotweed (Ministry of Transportation)

# Management Challenges

- For large, established sites, manual removal efforts (digging, cutting, etc) are generally unsuccessful and usually result in increased spread – not recommended!
- According to current research, the only recommended management options for knotweed are:
  1. Prevention (cheap and easy)
  2. Systemic herbicide control (low site disturbance, moderate cost)
  3. Full excavation, with many precautions and proper disposal of all contaminated soil (extremely high cost and disturbance to site)

## Barriers to herbicide treatment

- Hiring a professional can be expensive for individuals
- Lack of knowledge/understanding about herbicide risks and regulations



# KLLCF Project Activities

1. Outreach to landowners with known knotweed infestations, and advertising to reach others
2. Site assessments to determine eligibility, develop safe treatment plan and estimate cost of treatment.
3. Coordination of treatment with cost-sharing, when landowners have signed up for program
4. Monitor treatments to ensure efficacy and legal compliance

*KLLCF funding will allow CKISS to fill a gap in regional knotweed management, and assist private landowners for the first time in RDCK*





# Community Benefits of Eradicating Knotweed

- Protection of native habitat and diverse native plant communities
- Prevention of shoreline erosion
- Prevent costly damage to property and road infrastructure
- Maintain property values
- Increased public awareness, and hopefully prevention, of knotweed impacts





Thanks to our supporting funders & partners



For more info on invasive species visit:

[www.ckiss.ca](http://www.ckiss.ca)