

A close-up photograph of purple thistle flowers in a field. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. The background is a soft-focus green field.

Reflection: Achievements since 2012

Working towards managing invasive species – workshop and forum 2016
Whitehorse, March 3, 2016
Andrea Altherr

Outline

- Yukon Invasive Species Council
- Workshop 2012 - priorities
- Highlights since 2012



Sweetclover, the most widespread invasive plant in the Yukon

YISC

Non-profit organization

Prevent the introduction and manage the spread of invasive species in the Yukon



Removal of Oxeye Daisy at the Yukon Conservation Society



Removal of Common Tansy at the Wood Street School



Removal of Smooth Brome to protect Yukon Draba

Photo: Jocelyn McDowell ,YG

Yukon Invasive Species Council

- Stable funding
- Coordination locally and across the jurisdictions
- Canadian Council on Invasive Species (CCIS)
- Working together with all level of government, industry and the public
- Awareness and education
- Tools/best practices
- Provide hands-on activities
- Collaborate on research
- Data collection, AKEPIC



YISC
Yukon Invasive Species Council

Yukon Invasive Species Council

- Incorporated in 2010
- Strategic plan
- Board of directors
- Website and facebook
- Current funding partners:

Eco Action, Growing Forward 2, YG

- In-kind support:

City of Whitehorse, EDI, YAA, YRC, YCS, FfM



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Workshop 2012

Top Priorities

- **Education:** Start with kids through curriculum, presentations and contests; to public in general, and include Government leaders, and YESAB (18)
- **Legislation** – Develop policies for adaptive management (8)
- **Signage:** as a way of engagement (6)



Top Priorities

cont.

- **Provide** accessible accurate and up to date **information** (5)
- Encourage an **attitude shift** in government and society (5)
- Using existing successful **frameworks** from other provinces / territories (4)



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Top Priorities

cont.

- **Target** – species, areas, vulnerable areas (4)
- **Learn** from strategies attempted in **other jurisdictions**: e.g. protocols of equipment operation (3)
- **Regulatory framework** - Identifying economic value to action versus inaction and put on government radar. This goes back to the politicians and legislators knowing about the problems and getting the decision makers to understand the consequences of not doing actions. (3)

What has happened since 2012 ?

- Spotter's network
- Grow me instead
- Walk your Field
- Weed-pulls
- Clay cliff project
- ISIWG
- Yukon Invaders



Goals of our initiatives:

- Awareness
- Improved data collection
- Hands-on activities
- Reduce impact of invasive species
- Branding/common messaging

Spotter's Network

The Spotter's Network will increase the number of eyes on the ground that are on the alert for new infestations so that they can be reported and acted upon.

- Dirty Dozen species got selected.
- Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR).
- Public and professionals.

Perennial Sow Thistle
is a spotter's species



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Grow me Instead

Avoid purchasing 10 of Yukon's most unwanted horticulture plants and choose recommended alternatives instead

- Engaging Yukon gardeners
- Working with the industry



Caragana is a species that we like to see removed from gardens



Bird vetch is a species that we like to see removed from gardens

BE PLANTWISE
grow me instead

Avoid purchasing 10 of Yukon's most unwanted horticulture plants and choose the recommended alternatives instead

 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE
Siberian Peashrub (<i>Caragana arborea</i>)	Mountain Bluet (<i>Centaurea montana</i>)	Leafy Spurge (<i>Euphorbia esula</i>)
 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE
Haskap (<i>Lonicera caerulea</i>)	Alliums (<i>Allium</i> spp.)	Rudbeckias (<i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.)
 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE
Villosa Lilac (<i>Syringa villosa</i>)	Alpine Aster (<i>Aster alpinus</i>)	Wallflowers (<i>Erysimum</i> spp.)
 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE
Orange Hawkweed (<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>)	Oxeye Daisy (<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>)	Common Toadflax (<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>)
 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE
Maltese Cross (<i>Lycium chalcidense</i>)	Gazania (<i>Gazania</i> spp.)	Annual Snapdragons (<i>Antirrhinum</i> spp.)
 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE	 AVOID USE
Sunflowers (<i>Helianthus</i> spp.)	Rudbeckias (<i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.)	Daylilies (<i>Daylily</i> spp.)

Walk your Field

Rural property owners, hobby farmers and land developers

Have you seen plants that you don't know what they are?

- Participate in the Walk your Field
- You will receive professional support in **identification** of weedy plants on your property
- **Early detection and rapid response** are important in minimizing weeds and invasive plants



Keeping weeds out will keep pets and livestock safe



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Weed-pulls

Engaging the public, community associations, schools, youth groups

Target species:

- Sweetclover
- Common Tansy
- Common Toadflax
- Oxeye Daisy



Making room for native vegetation!



The youth group in Riverdale worked along the millenium trail

Clay Cliff Project

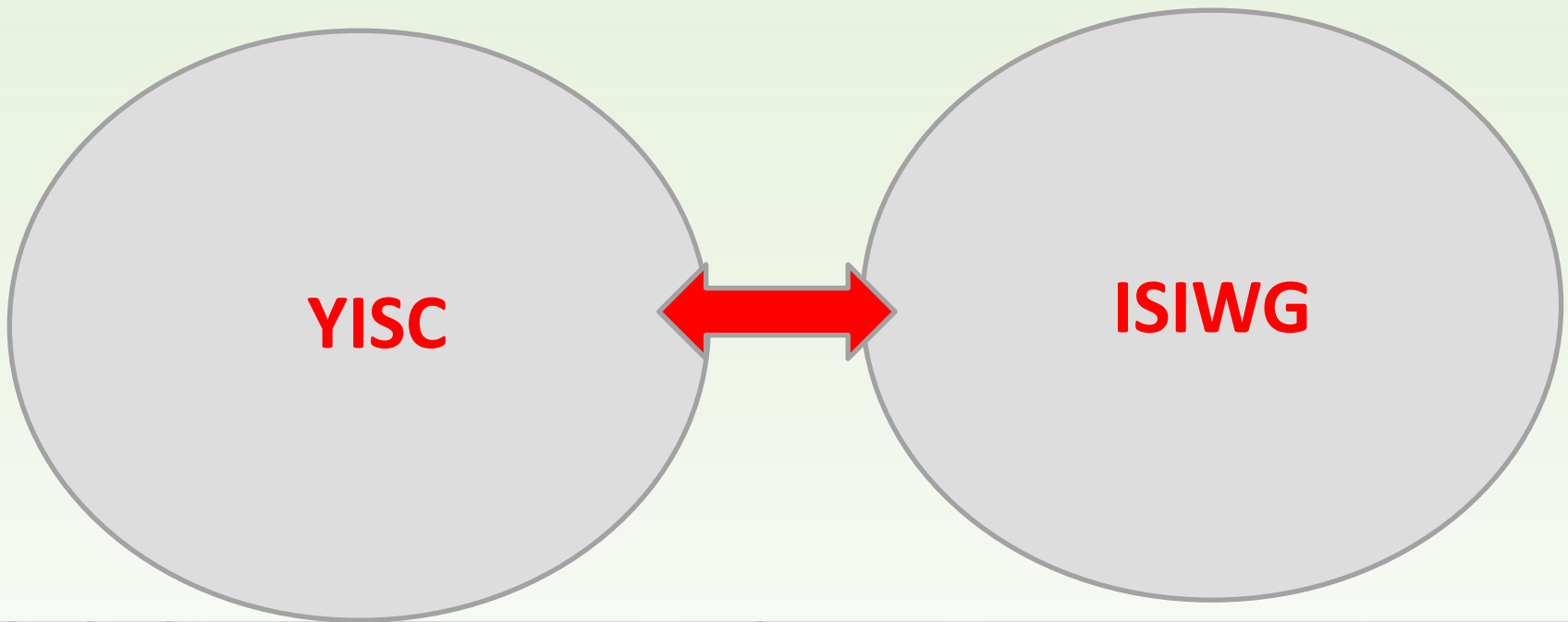
Goal: Slope stabilization with native vegetation to prevent the establishment of invasive species.

- Working with the Yukon Research Centre and the City of Whitehorse
- Public awareness



Cooperation with ISIWG

Define the roles





More information

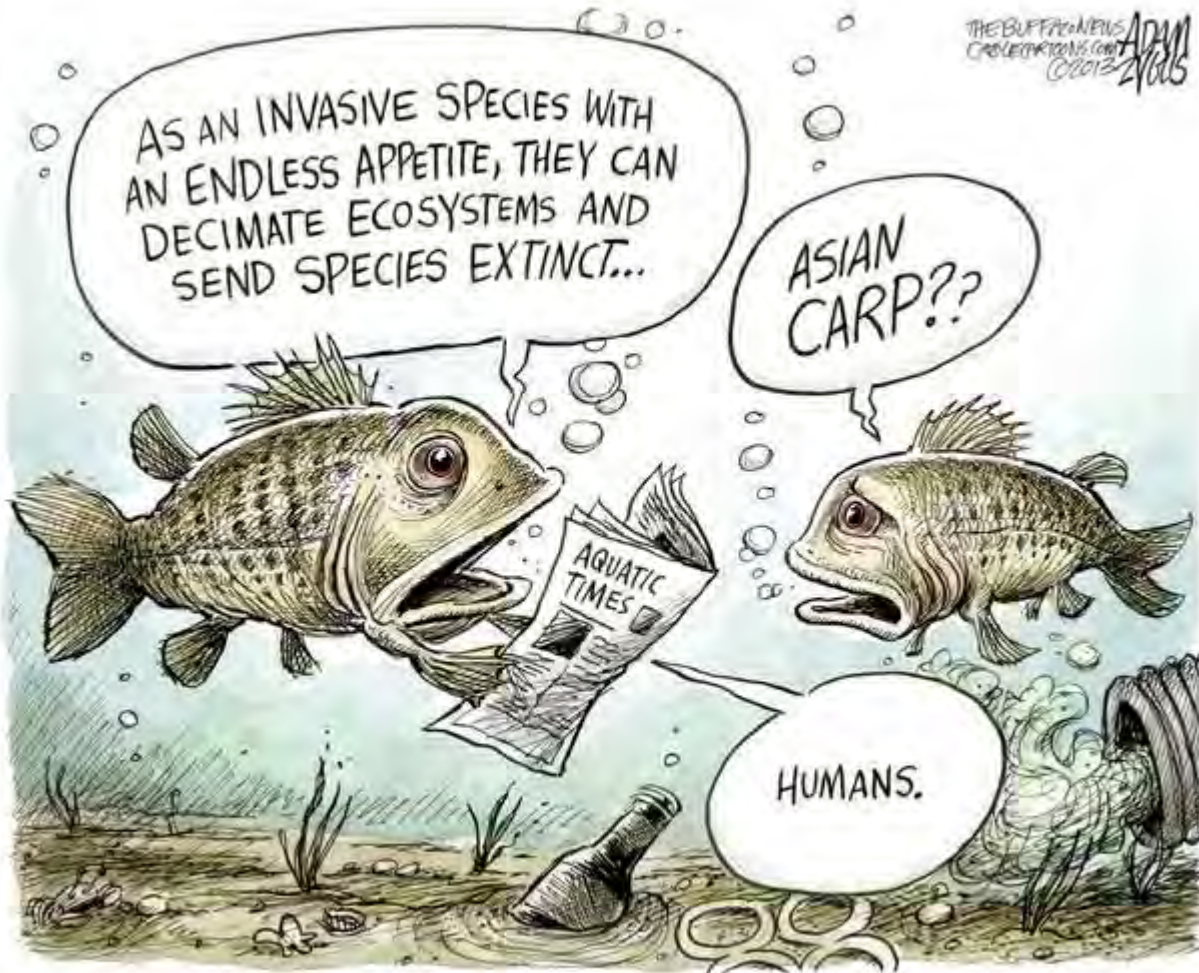
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All pictures by Andrea Altherr unless otherwise stated.





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