




Alberta Invasive Species Council

Megan Evans, Executive Director
Montana Invasive Species Council Summit
October 26, 2022

Outline

- About the Alberta Invasive Species Council (AISC)
 - Invasive species of concern
 - Impacts of invasive species
 - Future outlook
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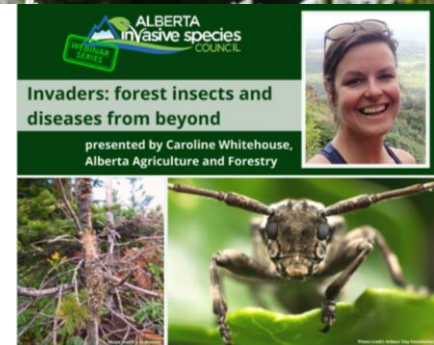
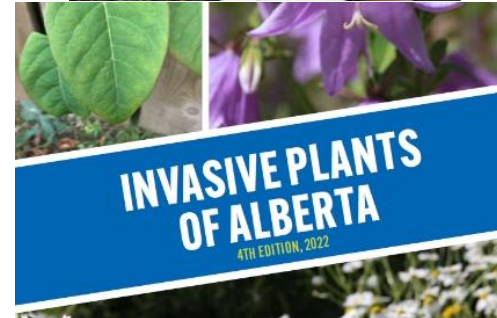
About the AISC

- Non-profit established in 2006
- Large Board of Directors from a variety of backgrounds
- Two full time staff
- Funding comes from a variety of sources



AISC Resources

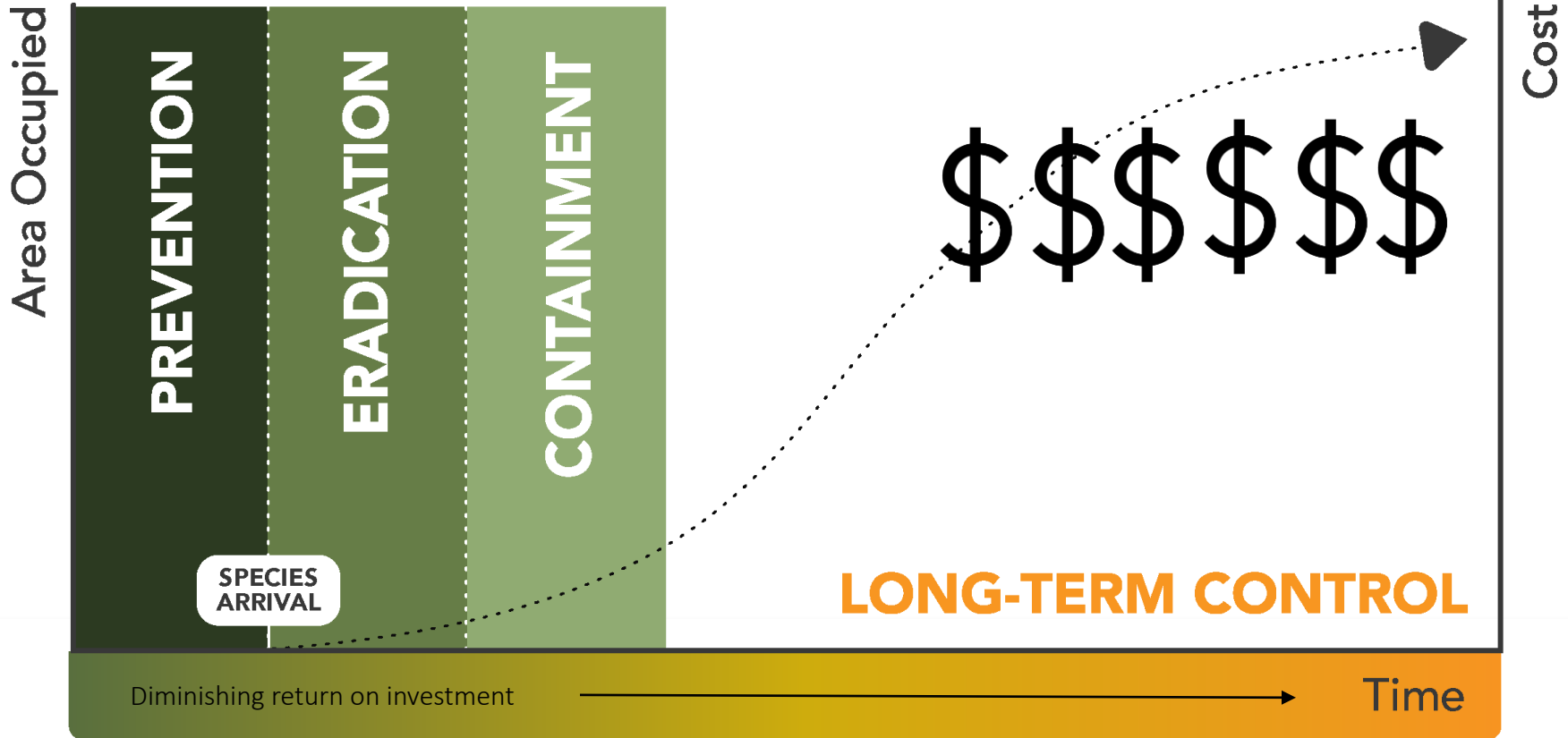
- www.abinvasives.ca
- 6 education and outreach campaigns
- Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (Citizen Science and Pro Version)
 - Distribution maps
- Over 150 factsheets
- Annual conference (March 7 & 8, 2023)
- Quarterly newsletters
- Free online webinars
- Administer the Biocontrol Release Program
- Major revision to the Weed ID Guide
- Coordinate the Alberta Certified Weed Free Forage Program



Impacts of invasive species

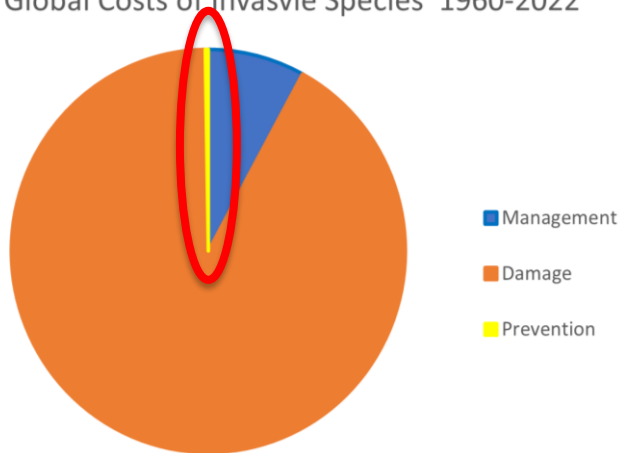
- Second biggest threat to biodiversity
- Cost Alberta over \$2.1 billion each year (AISC 2022 extrapolation from McClay et al. 2004)



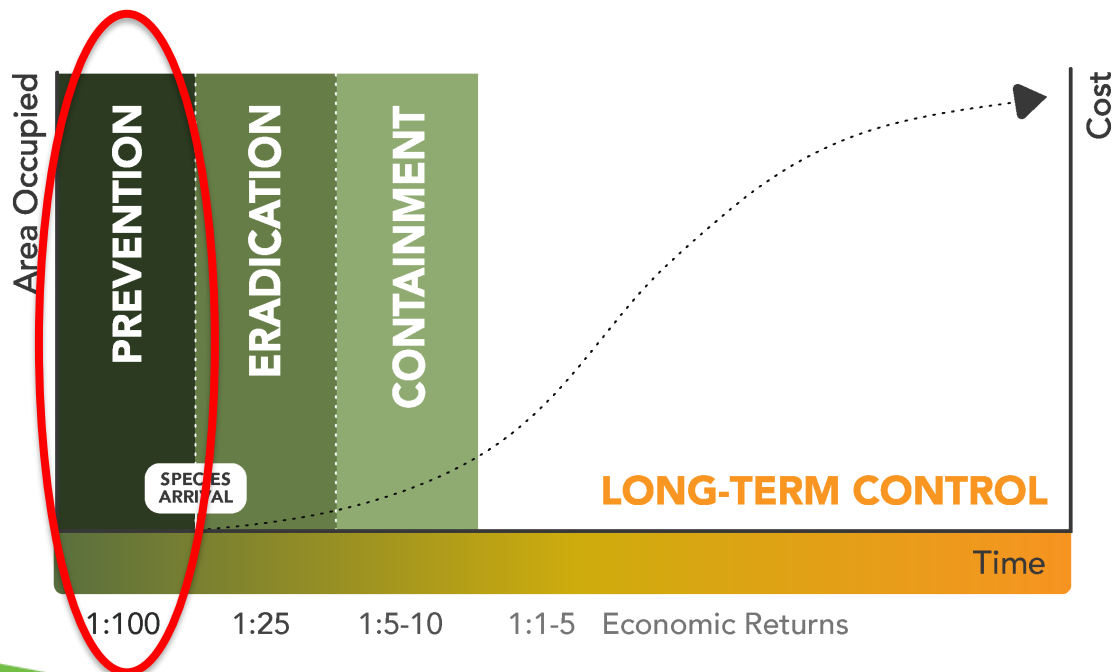


Invasive species cost \$1.2 trillion since 1960 globally


Global Costs of Invasive Species 1960-2022



Source Cuthbert et al. 2022



Alberta Context

- Weed Control Act – 75 regulated invasive plant species
 - Current discussions about changes
 - Agriculture Pests Act – native and non-native pest species
 - Alberta Fisheries Act – 52 prohibited aquatic invasive species
 - Fines for failing to stop at watercraft inspection stations, failing to pull the plug and for intentional releases of AIS
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Aquatic Invasives

- Zebra and quagga mussels
 - Alberta remains invasive mussel free
 - 1 mussel-fouled boat intercepted in 2022 (as of Sept)
- Spread of current infestations (e.g., Prussian carp)
- Eurasian watermilfoil
- Whirling disease



Invasive plants

New invaders (localized):

- Garlic mustard
- Sulfur cinquefoil
- Phragmites
- Ventenata

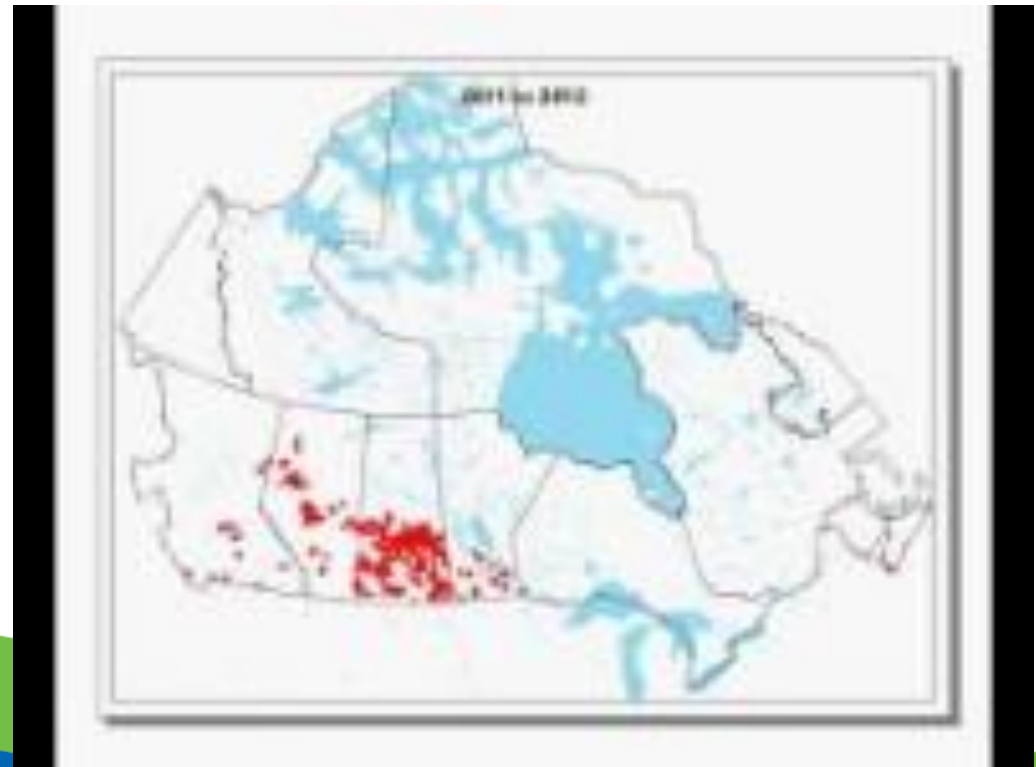
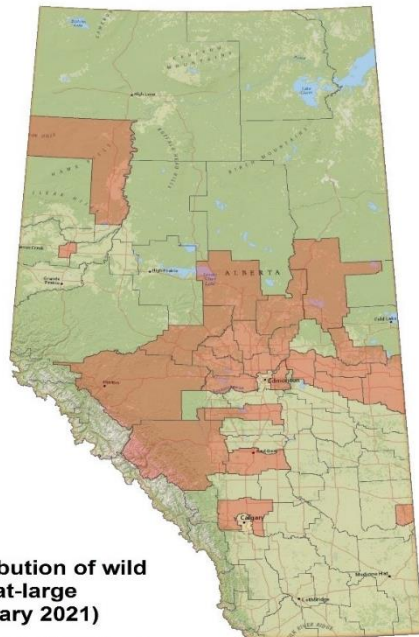
Invaders that are gaining ground

- Downy brome
- Spotted knapweed
- Flowering rush
- Invasive hawkweeds
- Etc.



Wild Boar at Large

- Considered a pest only when 'at large' – no provincial prohibition
- Bounty program from 2008-2017 (1,000 kills)
- Current distribution



Wild Boar at Large

- Professional trapping program
- More outreach!



Feral pigs, also known as wild boar at large, are one of the **most damaging invasive species** in North America.

Hunting is not an effective control option.

Report signs and sightings through:

- EDDMapS
- AF.wildboar@gov.ab.ca
- 310-FARM
- your local municipality

For more information, visit abinvasives.ca


Wild Boar Case Study

Woodlands County


- Ear bounty program 2008-2015 236 bounties collected (avg of **30 pigs/year**)
- Professional trapping 2019-2021 years - 210 animals removed (avg of **70 pigs/year**)



Future Direction

- AB Invasive Species Council Strategic Plan/Action Plan
 - Research for new biocontrol agents (common tansy, oxeye daisy)
 - Economic impacts of invasive species in AB \$2.1 billion (AISC 2022)
 - Asking for increased investment in prevention efforts
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A Little Good News

- Professional trapping of wild boar at large is working
 - Potash now registered as a molluscicide in Canada as of June 2022
 - EDRR efforts (e.g., sulfur cinquefoil and garlic mustard, etc.) – invisible success stories!
 - Expanding our audience all the time with new approaches
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Thank you!

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Newsletter sign up here:

