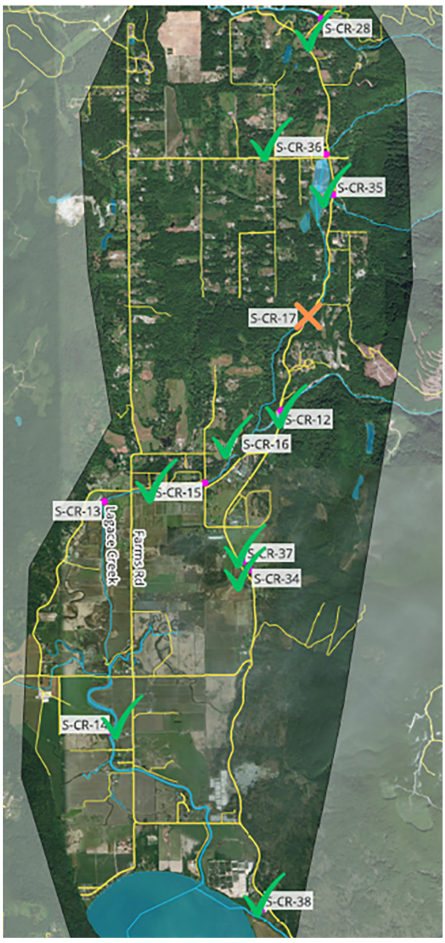
# HATZIC VALLEY
## EMERGENCY WORKS PROGRAM

**Newsletter #5 • May 2026**

### WHAT'S HAPPENING?

The 2021 Atmospheric River Event (ARE) caused substantial sediment movement, flooding, and changes through BC's river and creek systems, resulting in extensive damage. In response, the Province of BC, led by the Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV), established a program to identify, prioritize, and address sites impacted by the ARE that posed risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, environmental, and cultural features.

As part of this program, emergency response work was completed in the Hatzic Valley to remove sediment and repair damage caused by the ARE. Regulatory permitting requires ongoing maintenance and monitoring, even after the bulk of work is complete. One of the permit conditions is management of Invasive plant species at project locations. Another permit condition is ensuring riparian plant survival. The program will be replacing some plants that have not survived.




***MAP:*** *showing the Hatzic Valley project site locations.*

### WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS YEAR?

The 2026 season will focus on restoring the riparian habitat where support is still required. The program will be completing this by two methods: native streamside planting and invasive plant removal.

During the last three years significant steps to mechanically remove knotweed in the Hatzic Valley have coincided with the sediment removal program. However, there are some problematic areas that require chemical treatment to manage the knotweed plants. In addition, the program will be completing additional riparian planting at the following sites:

- S-CR-14 Legace Creek select locations between Allan Lake to Pattison Creek;
- S-CR-34 South Herford Creek near Sylvester Road;
- S-CR-37 North Herford Creek near Sylvester Road.

### WHAT IS KNOTWEED AND HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Knotweed is a very aggressive invasive plant with a large, deep root system. In the Hatzic Valley it has taken over drainage ditches, canals, sloughs, creeks, streams, and other areas. Knotweed has no natural predators in this region, so it spreads rapidly, and out-competes native vegetation if left uncontrolled. Although it can spread by seed, it most commonly spreads through small plant pieces. Even tiny fragments can grow into new plants, allowing knotweed to spread quickly and crowd out all other vegetation. Along waterways, broken pieces can float downstream and start new infestations.

In early spring, knotweed sprouts from its roots, and the new shoots look like red asparagus. It can grow extremely fast, up to 10cm per day, and can reach about two metres tall in summer. After it flowers in July or August, the plant begins to turn yellow as it prepares to go dormant. When frost arrives, the stems die back and dry out, but they remain standing through the winter. The plant then starts this growth cycle again the following spring.

For more information on knotweed and knotweed management please see *https://fviss.ca/invasive-plant/knotweed-species*, or scan the QR code here.

▲ *Mature knotweed leaves.*

## WHAT IS A PESTICIDE USE PERMIT AND WHY IS IT NEEDED IN HAZTIC VALLEY?

Knotweed has been identified in the Hatzic Valley for a number of years and the treatment of if it has mostly been on roadside treatments .Using herbicides and pesticides is managed under the Provincial Integrated Pest Management Act. Most activities on private land do not require a site-specific permit, however they remain subject to regulatory requirements, including applicator licensing, certification and compliance with applicable legislation. Chemicals are not allowed to be applied for weed management purposes within one meter of a waterbody, which is considered the pesticide-free zone (PFZ), without special approvals.

▲ *New knotweed shoots emerging, with reddish stalks at site 14, Dale Road bridge.*

Knotweed thrives within waterbody edges, riparian areas, and around waterbodies. To treat and eradicate knotweed in the pesticide-free zone, a pesticide use permit (PUP) allows for special approvals to treat problematic species close to water. This permit will allow for the treatments at the proposed sites for a period of three years.

## WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

The Province is planning chemical treatment applications in known knotweed locations in the Hatzic Valley, starting upstream and working downstream in the late summer. If you have knotweed sites on your property, notably near watercourses, we would like to hear from you. Please send a quick email with a location to: sec.info.epd@gov.bc.ca.

Looking ahead, monitoring of project sites will be a key focus over the next several years. Regular monitoring will help assess the effectiveness of habitat enhancements, ensure the stability of repairs, and provide valuable data to inform any necessary adaptive management. This ongoing effort highlights the Province's commitment to the long-term health and sustainability of the Hatzic Valley.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

**MORE INFORMATION?**
**For more information, project updates, and answers to frequently asked questions, please visit *bit.ly/SedimentProjectUpdates*.**