



Bringing Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas to the Military in Florida



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PARTNERING WITH FLORIDA MILITARY

Since 2009, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), through funding provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Resource Management Program, has worked with military bases in Florida to establish and/or strengthen Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs).

The threat of invasives has been identified on all Florida DoD bases as both ecological and economic threats to habitats and native species. This project addressed the threats on the bases and adjacent public and private lands by working with the CISMAs to implement strategic plans and conduct invasive plant control projects on and adjacent to military lands. Well-established and newly created partnerships were used for successful, far reaching projects to give unified messages, work across boundaries, and pool limited resources. These types of partnerships will assure range sustainment and mission flexibility for DoD in one of the fastest growing regions in the United States. This project also leveraged statewide support for CISMAs through the **Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP)**.

During 2010/2011, this project focused on strengthening and/or establishing 6 Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) to reduce reinfestation from invasive species on 6 Department of Defense (DoD) bases. Each of the 6 CISMAs have worked to solidify their structure and collectively agree on future steps. The idea is that all of these CISMAs need to be strong enough to withstand inevitable change:

- The original 4 CISMAs from 2009/2010 (Six Rivers Cisma, First Coast ISWG, Heartland Cisma and Florida Keys IETF) all have their 2011 work plans completed
- The Apalachicola Regional Stewards Ship Alliance Cisma updated their regional management plan
- The newly formed East Central Florida Cisma completed their strategic plan and a 2011 work plan

Six Rivers Cisma

Primary DoD Partner: Eglin AFB

- ✓ TNC Ecosystem Support Team completed on-ground-treatment of Chinese tallow, mimosa and cogongrass on 80 acres of heavily-infested State of Florida and Okaloosa County properties buffering Eglin AFB.
- ✓ Coordinated 5 Cisma workdays including invasive plant removal and identification at Bay Bluffs Park in Pensacola and City of Niceville public reservoir.



Heartland Cisma

Primary DoD Partner: Avon Park AFR

- ✓ TNC Ecosystem Support Team completed on-ground-treatment of 19 acres of cogongrass infestations on Avon Park AFR (APAFR) property.
- ✓ Coordinated treatment of 6 acres of Old World climbing fern on a private land literally "across the fence" from APAFR.
- ✓ Conducted first annual Central FL Invasive Species Workshop with over 60 attendees.



Florida Keys Invasive Exotic Task Force

Primary DoD Partner: NAS Key West

- ✓ Coordinated a Cisma workday, removing over 4 yards of Night blooming cereus, an invasive cactus, off of the private properties that abut the NAS Key West lands along Boca Chica beach. NAS Key West, though State awarded funds, plans to treat this plant and other invasive plants on their side of the fence adjacent to Boca Chica beach.
- ✓ Coordinated a Cisma workday on Air Potato, which has been identified as a high priority early detection/rapid response plant for the Florida Keys.



Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance (ARSA) Cisma

Primary DoD Partner: Tyndall AFB

- ✓ ARSA Cisma boundary was expanded to include Tyndall AFB.
- ✓ Coordinated treatment of cogongrass and mimosa on private lands adjacent to Apalachicola National Forest and Japanese stiltgrass on Apalachicola Bluffs and Ravines Preserve adjacent to Torreya State Park.
- ✓ Co-hosted Invasive Plant Workshop with UF IFAS Extension in Marianna. The workshop had 37 participants, with representation from private landowners, county foresters and natural resource professionals.



First Coast Invasive Working Group

Primary DoD Partner: Camp Blanding ANG

- ✓ TNC Resource Management Support Team hand pulled taro along ~1 mile of the North Fork of Black Creek on Camp Blanding property. This waterway is a designated "Outstanding Florida Water" and provides habitat to the listed Creek crayfish.



- ✓ Treated ~1 acre of Chinaberry trees in uplands on Camp Blanding property.

East Central Florida Cisma

Primary DoD Partner: Patrick AFB and Cape Canaveral AFS

- ✓ Coordinated 2 Cisma workdays on the AF/DoD REPI funded conservation easement portion of the Coastal Jewel sanctuary. Targeted plants were Chinese tallow, cogongrass and Brazilian pepper.

- ✓ During the workdays, partners removed over 500 Chinese tallow trees and saplings under powerlines at the Coastal Jewel site.



The Power of our Partnerships! Through our statewide partnership in FISP as well as these six Florida landscapes, we have created a diverse network of participants:

Federal: US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners Program, USFWS Coastal Program, USFWS Herritt Island, Key Deer and Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuges, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Bureau of Land Management, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, US Department of Defense (Air Force, Army National Guard, Naval Air Station), US Forest Service, National Park Service, National Interagency Prescribed Fire Training Center, National Estuary Program

State: FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FL Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services Div. of Forestry & Division of Plant Industry, FL Dept. of Transportation, FL Dept. of Environmental Protection Div. of Recreation and Parks & of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, FL Dept. of Community Affairs, Southwest/St. Johns/South/ Northwest FL Water Management Districts, University of FL (UF) Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants, UF Forest Stewardship Program, UF IFAS Extension, University of North FL, Seagrass, FL State University Resources Environmental Analysis Center

Local: Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Clay and Duval Counties, Cooperative Extension Service, Counties of Palm Beach, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Baker, Nassau, Highlands, Polk, Monroe, Cities of Jacksonville, Fernandina Beach, Atlantic Beach, Key West, Marathon, Layton, Village of Islamorada, Monroe County Grants Department, Monroe County Land Authority, City of Chattahoochee, Franklin County Recreation and Parks, Leon County Growth and Environmental Management, Liberty County Road and Bridge, Brevard County Environmental Endangered Lands Program Volusia County Mosquito Control

Non-Profit and Private: The Nature Conservancy, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida Native Plant Society, Archbold Biological Station, Tree Hill Nature Center, Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Hokusei Plantation, White Oak Conservation Center, Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council, Clean Florida Keys, Inc., Institute for Regional Conservation, Florida Keys Environmental Restoration Trust Fund, Key Deer Protection Alliance, City Electric System, Florida Keys Electric Cooperative, Friends and Volunteers of Refuges, BASF Corporation, St. Joe Timberland Company of Delaware, LLC