



Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program

09-437

Creating Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) to Effectively Reduce Re-infestation on Four (4) Military Bases and Surrounding Lands in Florida

Statewide Coordination
Documents created for this Project

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- PowerPoint slide presented at Strategic Management of Invasive Species in the Southeastern United States Workshop
- Poster presented at DoD conference Sustaining Military Readiness Conference

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Five Year Strategic Plan Template*

How this template plan was created:

The goal of this project was to create a Strategic Plan template for use by Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA) in Florida. It should be considered a starting point and should be revised by each CISMA to reflect local area priorities, landowners and membership capacity. It should also be noted that this plan has a strong emphasis on terrestrial invasive plants. However, actions were defined that address animals and pest/pathogens as well as aquatic resources.

The following working groups wrote strategic plans that were used to develop this template: Keys Invasive Species Working Group, Gulf Coast Plain Ecosystem Partnership, Treasure Coast CISMA, Apalachicola Invasive Species Working Group, and North Carolina Sandhills Weed Management Area.

How to use your CISMA plan:

Your plan should be considered a working document and should be reviewed and, if necessary, revised annually. Every year create a short document that includes what you accomplished, what you did not accomplish, what should be carried forward, what should be added, what should be dropped, and why.

It is also highly recommended that CISMAs utilize steering committees, standing sub-committees and ad hoc sub-committees. Steering committees should represent the partners in the CISMA. Standing sub-committees are formed to address a specific issue and usually continue as long as needed (e.g. animal EDRR subcommittee, mapping/monitoring subcommittee, other). Ad hoc sub-committees are a great tool to get a defined project completed in a defined time. For example, organize an ad hoc sub-committee to rank plants for prioritized control efforts. This group would complete the project, report back to the steering committee, and then disband. This is an efficient and productive technique to divide up the tasks and get engagement from partners that may not have time for a steering or standing sub-committee. It also provides documents and products to all partners with ownership to CISMA.

How to read and use this document:

1. Tasks written in *italics* are the suggested minimum for CISMAs. Tasks not in italics are provided for you to incorporate into your CISMA's plan if there is the capacity in your membership. They may also give you ideas for other tasks that could be added to your CISMA plan that are not included in this document.
2. Underlined dates and numbers are a suggestion of timelines and frequency for the tasks and should be modified by each CISMA.
3. Please provide feedback on the utility of this document. Also, please post completed CISMA strategic plans on your CISMA's website or at the Florida Invasive Species Partnership website (use contact info below for assistance).

*This document was created by staff with The Nature Conservancy, Florida Chapter. This was made possible through funding provided by the Department of Defense Legacy Resource Management Program. For more information, please contact Kristina Serbesoff-King, kserbesoffking@tnc.org, or Mike Renda, mrenda@tnc.org.

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Five Year Strategic Plan Template*

MISSION STATEMENT

Implement a comprehensive, cooperative approach across boundaries to address the threats of invasive species to the lands and waters within the boundaries of the CISMA.

Approach: The most cost-effective way to address invasive species is to prevent them from reaching the CISMA in the first place. If, despite prevention efforts, invasive species reach the CISMA, early detection programs can help locate and eradicate those invasive species before they become widely established. If invasive species elude early detection and establish and spread in the CISMA or are part of a previous invasion, control and management programs to monitor and minimize their negative impacts to the economy and environment will be necessary, but these efforts can be very costly. The sooner we act the more effective and less costly our efforts will be (adapted from the Indiana Invasive Species Task Force 2008).

Acronyms

ASLA = American Society of Landscape Architects

BMP = best management practices

CISMA = cooperative invasive species management area

CWMA = cooperative weed management area

FDACS = Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services

FDOT = Florida Department of Transportation

EDDMapS = Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System (<http://www.eddmaps.org/>)

EDRR = early detection and rapid response

FISP = Florida Invasive Species Partnership (<http://www.floridainvasives.org/>)

FDOF = Florida Department of Forestry

FFWCC = Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FFWCC IPMS = Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Invasive Plant Management Section

FLEPPC = Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council

FNAI = Florida Natural Areas Inventory

FNGLA = Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Associations (<http://www.fngla.org/>)

FNPS = Florida Native Plant Society (<http://www.fnps.org/>)

IFAS = Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

MOU = memorandum of understanding

NIWAW = National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week

ROW = right of way

SOP = standard operating procedures

USDA ARS = United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service

USGS NAS = United States Geological Services Non-indigenous aquatic species (<http://nas.er.usgs.gov/>)

VCC = voluntary code of conduct (<http://www.centerforplantconservation.org/invasives/codesN.html>)

WEEDDAR = Weed Data and Reporting (database program)

WIMS = Weed Information Management System

WRA = weed risk assessment (i.e. the predictive tool) (<http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/assessment/>)

Goal 1: Create, strengthen and sustain _____ (name of CISMA).

Objective: Form and sustain a strong partnership through CISMA.

1. Develop basic organizational structure for CISMA.
 - a) In 2010 use CWMA cookbooks and current CISMA examples to help form and sustain CISMA.
 - b) In 2010 coordinate a meeting with enthusiastic regional partners to form a new CISMA.
 - c) In 2010 establish geographic boundaries, a steering committee and a chair.
 - d) In 2011 and as needed, create standing subcommittees and ad hoc committees to assist with project specific CISMA efforts.
2. Sustain and strengthen CISMA
 - a) Starting in 2010, schedule CISMA meetings at least twice per year.
 - b) Starting in 2010, annually recruit new, and maintain current membership in the CISMA.
 - c) Starting in 2011, and every 2 years (or as needed) review steering committee and subcommittees and revise as appropriate.
 - d) Starting in 2011, annually develop workplan with CISMA partners.
 - e) Starting in 2011, create short annual report.
 - f) During 2014 update strategic plan.
 - g) By 2012 seek liaison to CISMA from two private industries.
 - h) By 2014 hire a part time staff person to coordinate CISMA activities.
3. Submit cooperative funding proposals.
 - a) Starting in 2011, annually encourage public land conservation managers to submit FFWCC IPMS cost reimbursement program applications.
 - b) In 2011 identify lead partner or organization to serve as the recipient and administrator for grants.
 - c) Starting in 2012, annually submit CISMA grants; consider utilizing less common approaches like landowner incentive programs, staff time as in-kind matches, and shared field staff.
 - d) By 2012 develop a list of funding programs with due dates for control, EDRR, education and other projects.
4. Generate legal documents to strengthen CISMA.
 - a) In 2011 sign a MOU or other document allowing public agency staff to work on other agency/NGO/private lands (if required to allow agencies to work on partner lands).
 - b) In 2011 create or use existing liability releases (e.g. TNC or DOF) for partners to work on private lands.
 - c) By 2014 write or find and modify an existing CISMA partner MOU, or other document, or use future FISP CISMA MOU, to facilitate partner agency participation and support of CISMA goals and objectives.

Goal 2: Prevention

Objective: Develop and/or implement techniques and practices to prevent establishment and spread of new invasions near the CISMA boundaries.

1. Plants

- a) Develop and/or find and use an existing alert system to identify new terrestrial and aquatic non-native plant invasions near, or at the boundaries of, CISMA lands and waters.
 - i. Starting in 2010, quarterly review EDDMapS database and/or other alert system databases for new terrestrial invasive plants adjacent to CISMA.
 1. If new plant species is found adjacent to CISMA, include in EDRR prioritization.
 - ii. Starting in 2010, quarterly review EDDMapS and/or USGS NAS for new aquatic invasive plants adjacent to CISMA waters.
 1. If new plant species is found adjacent to CISMA, include in EDRR prioritization.

- b) Reduce potential pathways of introduction for terrestrial and aquatic (marine and freshwater), invasive non-native plant species into the CISMA.
 - i. Develop and/or find and use existing guidelines for vehicle, boats, equipment, personal protective equipment and personnel disinfection program/protocol(s) to address the unintentional movement of terrestrial and aquatic invasive plants.
 1. In 2011 use FFWCC IPMS or other decontamination standards.
 2. In 2011 implement vehicle, boat, equipment and personnel disinfection program/protocol(s) for use by CISMA partners (researchers, fire crews, public works, FDOT, FDOF, and others).
 3. In 2012 encourage use of decontamination guidelines by all contractors (e.g. invasive plant management contractors, wildlife services contractors, etc...).
 4. In 2013 encourage use of decontamination guidelines by landscapers, lawn companies and other outdoor service contractors.
 - ii. In 2012 all CISMA partners will actively push for purchase of only weed-free mulch, pine-straw, hay, sod, etc...(i.e. create the demand)
 - iii. In 2013 CISMA partners will develop and/or use existing preventative guidelines for conducting ground disturbing activities (e.g. timber harvest/transport, prescribed fire, fire suppression, off-road vehicle use, or contracted activities on partner lands).

- d) Incorporate IFAS WRA into CISMA invasive plant ranking and planning process.
 - i. Starting in 2010, annually review results of WRA for plant species to be watched.
 1. If new plant species is listed as invasive, include in EDRR prioritization.
 - ii. Starting in 2012, if a new non-native plant is found in the CISMA or surrounding geography, request IFAS run this incipient species through the WRA.
 - iii. In 2013 engage local botanical gardens or similar to use the WRA or other predictive tool to assess the invasive threat of new and existing accession plants.
 1. If new/existing accession is listed as invasive, stop planting and remove from botanical garden and include in EDRR prioritization (if it has escaped).
 - iv. By 2014 explore the feasibility of banning the highest threat new invasive plant species through state and local ordinances. (Note – as of March 2002, per FDACS CHAPTER 581 (4), local ordinances cannot prohibit plants that are not already listed by FDACS as a noxious weed or invasive plant).

2. Animals

- a) Develop and/or find and use existing alert type system to identify new animal invasions near, or at the boundaries of, CISMA lands.
 - i. Starting in 2010, quarterly review EDDMapS database and other sources of new species alerts (e.g. USGS NAS database, shell collecting groups, bird boards, etc...) for new invasive animals adjacent to CISMA.
 - 1. If new animal species is found adjacent to CISMA, include in EDRR prioritization.
- b) Reduce potential pathways of introduction for invasive animal species into the CISMA.
 - i. In 2011 assist and participate in FFWCC Pet Amnesty Days.
 - ii. In 2013 work with partners to identify pathways and modes of transport for invasive animals to move into the CISMA.
 - iii. In 2013 develop and/or find and use decontamination guidelines to restrict movement of invasive animals.
 - iv. By 2014 explore avenues of reducing pathways for potentially new highest threat new invasive animal species through state/local ordinances (e.g. bans, caging requirements, gender restrictions, etc...).

3. Pest and Pathogens

- a) Reduce potential pathways of introduction for invasive pest/pathogens species into the CISMA.
 - i. Develop and/or find and use standards for boats, vehicle, equipment, personal protective equipment and personnel disinfection program/protocol to address the unintentional movement of invasive pest/pathogens (**Note: This will likely already be addressed in plant objective above**).
 - 1. In 2013 implement a vehicle, equipment and personnel disinfection program/protocol for use by CISMA partners (researchers, fire crews, public works, FDOT, FDOF, and others).
 - 2. In 2013 encourage use of decontamination guidelines by all contractors (e.g. invasive plant management contractors, wildlife services contractors, etc...).
 - 3. In 2014 encourage use of decontamination guidelines by landscapers, lawn companies and other outdoor service contractors.
 - ii. In 2012 all CISMA will actively push for purchase of only pest/pathogen-free mulch, pine-straw, hay, sod, firewood, etc...
- b) Develop and/or find and use an existing alert type system to identify new invasions near CISMA lands and waters.
 - i. Starting in 2010, quarterly review EDDMapS database for new invasives adjacent to CISMA.
 - 1. If new pest or pathogen is found adjacent to CISMA, include in EDRR prioritization.

Goal 3: Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)

Objective: Develop and implement techniques and practices to promote early detection and rapid response of newly established invasive species within the CISMA boundaries.

1. Plants

- a) Use existing alert type systems and partner communications to identify new plant invasions within CISMA lands and waters.
 - i. Starting in 2010, annually have CISMA partners discuss new species that they have observed.
 - ii. Starting in 2010, quarterly review EDDMapS database and/or other alert system databases for new terrestrial invasive plants within CISMA.
 1. If new species is found in CISMA, include in ED RR prioritization.
 - iii. Starting in 2010, quarterly review EDDMapS and/or USGS NAS for new aquatic invasive plants within CISMA waters.
 1. If new species is found in CISMA, include in ED RR prioritization.
 - iv. By 2013 develop early detection guidelines for partners to insert in contract language for contractors and researchers requiring them to alert land managers when they observe unknown or ED RR species.
- b) Prioritize ED RR plant species on CISMA lands and/or waters.
 - i. In 2011 create a list of possible ED RR species from best available information from CISMA partners, adjacent CISMAs, CISMA prevention alert system, FLEPPC, FISP, FNAI, IFAS and EDDMapS.
 - ii. In 2011 reduce list to top 20 ED RR species.
 - iii. In 2012 use a ranking system (USGS, others) to prioritize top 20 ED RR species.
 - iv. Starting in 2013, annually or as needed, reassess ED RR list.
- c) Eradicate highest ranking ED RR plant species on CISMA lands and/or waters.
 - i. Starting in 2013, annually conduct cooperative workdays to eradicate high priority ED RR and prevention species (newly in or adjacent to CISMA).
 - ii. In 2014 hire contractors to eradicate high ED RR species.
 - iii. In 2014 create a Rapid Response Team(s) and if necessary, response protocol, to eradicate high priority ED RR species.

2. Animals

- a) Use existing alert type systems and partner communications to identify new animal invasions within CISMA lands and waters.
 - i. Starting in 2011, annually have CISMA partners discuss new species that they have observed.
 - ii. Starting in 2011, quarterly review EDDMapS database and/or other alert system databases for new terrestrial invasive animals within CISMA.
 1. If new species is found in CISMA, include in ED RR prioritization.
 - iii. Starting in 2011, quarterly review EDDMapS and/or databases for new aquatic invasive animals within CISMA waters.
 1. If new species is found in CISMA, include in ED RR prioritization.
 - iv. By 2013 develop early detection guidelines for partners to insert in contract language for contractors and researchers requiring them to alert land managers when they observe unknown or ED RR species.
- b) Prioritize ED RR animal species on CISMA lands and/or waters.

- i. In 2013 create a list of possible EDRR species from best available information from CISMA partners, adjacent CISMAs, CISMA prevention alert system, FISP, FNAI, IFAS and EDDMapS.
- ii. In 2013 reduce list to top 2 EDRR species.
- iii. In 2014 using a ranking system on top 2 EDRR species.
- iv. Starting in 2014, annually or as needed, reassess EDRR list.

c) Eradicate highest ranking EDRR animal species on CISMA lands and/or waters.

- i. In 2014 create a Rapid Response Team(s) and if necessary, response protocol, to eradicate high priority EDRR species using staff, contractors, hunters, and others.

3. Pest/pathogens

- a) Same as Goal 4: Control; 3. Pest/pathogens

Goal 4: Control (Prioritized Management)

Objective: Develop and implement techniques and practices to control known infestations of priority invasive species and maintain them at the lowest feasible level in the CISMA boundaries.

1. Plants

- a) Prioritize known CISMA invasive plants using a ranking system that considers the impact of imperiled conservation targets and if necessary, other criteria like economics.
 - i. In 2010 develop a list of known invasive plants within CISMA boundaries.
 - ii. In 2011 prioritize species on list using a ranking system (USGS, other) and best available information from CISMA partners, FLEPPC, FISP, FNAI, IFAS and EDDMapS.
 - iii. Starting in 2012, annually assess and update prioritized list of invasive plants and control techniques.

- b) Manage the top 2 priority control plants to reduce infestations to maintenance level control.
 - i. Starting in 2012, emphasize top 2 priority control species by focusing CISMA partner efforts on these at all opportunities.
 - ii. Increase the size of invasive managed areas on public and private conservation lands.
 1. Starting in 2011, annually increase public conservation lands treated and maintained with FFWCC IPMS and other funds.
 2. Starting in 2012, annually increase private conservation lands treated and maintained.
 - iii. Starting in 2011, biannually coordinate a cooperative workday focusing on priority control species.
 - iv. Starting in 2013, determine invasive free buffer areas within CISMA boundaries and annually increase the size of invasive free buffer areas around conservation lands.
 - v. Starting in 2013, annually increase treatment of prioritized, invasive plants on public non-conservation lands (e.g. ROWs, spoil mounds, recreational parks).
 - vi. Starting in 2014, annually increase net acreage treated on prioritized private lands.

- c) Cease sale, planting or other modes of spread of species we are controlling (illegal and legal).
 - i. By 2012 submit petitions to FDACS for listing of high priority EDRR and control invasive plants as noxious weeds.
 - ii. By 2013 identify and engage sellers to voluntarily stop selling known invaders.
 - iii. By 2014 identify and engage appropriate local regulatory and enforcement agencies for local ordinances, comprehensive plans, landscape rules.

2. Animals

- a) Prioritize known CISMA invasive animals using a ranking system that considers the impact of imperiled conservation targets and if necessary, other criteria like economics.
 - i. In 2012 develop a list of known invasive animals on CISMA lands (e.g. feral hogs, iguanas, Cuban tree frogs).
 - ii. In 2013 prioritize species on list using a ranking system and best available information from CISMA partners, FFWCC, FNAI, EDDMapS and others.
 - iii. Starting in 2014, annually assess and update prioritized list of invasive animals and control techniques.

- b) Manage the top 2 priority control animals in order to reduce damage and/or population size.
 - i. Starting in 2013, emphasize the top 2 priority control species by focusing CISMA partner efforts on these at all opportunities.
 - ii. Increase the size of invasive managed areas on public and private conservation lands.
 1. Starting in 2013, annually increase public conservation lands treated and maintained.

2. Starting in 2013, annually increase private conservation lands treated and maintained.
- iii. Starting in 2014, annually increase prioritized, invasive treated public non-conservation lands.
- iv. Starting in 2014, annually increase the size of invasive free buffer areas around conservation lands (this includes private lands).

- c) Cease the sale, importation or other modes of spread of species that we are controlling (illegal and legal).
 - i. Starting in 2014, annually submit requests to FFWCC to include updated prioritized control species to restrictive lists (i.e. Reptiles of Concern List, conditional species, prohibitive species, etc...).

3. Pest/Pathogens

- a) Prioritize, communicate and coordinate management activities designed to protect native species (plants and animals) and/or economically important species that are being impacted by invasive pest/pathogens.
 - i. Research and prioritize known and potential invasive pest /pathogen species.
 - ii. Investigate tested and potential control methods and apply as feasible and reasonable.
 1. Biological
 2. Chemical
 3. Mechanical
 4. Determine if this is a critical and effective action for land managers and not a waste of time and resources.
 - iii. Research and apply methods other than invasive control to protect native populations (e.g. Collect seeds, treat with chemicals).

Goal 5: Monitoring, Mapping and Applied Research

Objective: Promote locating and documenting occurrences, and supporting applied research, of prevention, EDRR and control species to inform CISMA decisions.

1. Coordinate monitoring and mapping of invasive plants, animals, pests/pathogens (terrestrial, freshwater and marine.)
 - a) Beginning in 2010, quarterly record invasive species from field observations and mapping projects into CISMA EDDMapS and/or FNAI's invasive databases.
 - i. Encourage CISMA partners to use EDDMapS for EDRR species and single occurrence entry.
 - ii. Encourage CISMA partners to use FNAI for large census/polygon and distribution data.
 - b) Create a verification standing committee to oversee CISMA record entries into EDDMapS.
 - i. In 2010, annually recruit and assign plant verifiers.
 - ii. In 2012, annually recruit and assign animal verifiers.
 - c) By 2013 use EDDMapS database, FNAI's invasive maps, and information from land managers and private landowners to create CISMA prioritized invasive management maps of top ranked EDRR and control species.
 - d) Starting in 2013, annually conduct partner workdays to survey targeted locations for new invasions focusing on high priority EDRR and prevention species (newly in or adjacent to CISMA).
 - e) Starting in 2013, annually use monitoring results to inform management and to assist in prioritization of targeted lands and waters.
 - f) Beginning in 2013, annually coordinate an update meeting or produce a standardized report of CISMA invasive treatments.
 - g) By 2014 assist partners to complete transition to all digital reporting of treatment efforts for updates or standardized report (e.g. WEEDDAR, WIMS, etc).
 - h) By 2014 assist in information gathering to document the impact of high priority control species (this helps with prioritizing control, listing on regulated lists (state/local), getting assessments completed by IFAS).
2. Encourage research on invasive plants, animals, pests/pathogens (terrestrial, freshwater and marine).
 - a) In 2011 inform USDA ARS, IFAS/University of Florida, and/or others of CISMA lands and managers that are willing to participate in biocontrol trials.
 - b) By 2012 submit a list of questions about invasive species biology, impacts, and/or management to university and college biology departments, FLEPPC, FISP, chemical company representatives, or other research entities.

Goal 6: Outreach, Training and Strategic Collaboration

Objective: Support outreach and training to support prevention, EDRR and control efforts in the CISMA boundaries.

1. Implement outreach, training and strategic collaboration efforts within CISMA partners/membership to increase CISMA community knowledge as well as statewide profile.
 - a) Implement outreach and training efforts to CISMA partners and land managers
 - i. In 2010 work with FISP to develop CISMA website.
 - ii. Quarterly, or as needed, maintain and improve CISMA website (hosted by FISP).
 1. Participate in statewide CISMA monthly calls and FLEPPC annual CISMA meeting (coordinated by FISP).
 - iii. By 2011 maintain and improve CISMA knowledge by communicating with experts.
 - iv. Develop a CISMA invasive species reference that includes priority species (all taxa) and BMPs.
 1. Plants: Starting in 2011, annually conduct identification and treatment trainings with IFAS Extension Agent (one herbicide certification/use, one invasive identification and treatment, one invasive grass identification, and one invasives to be watched).
 2. Aquatic plants and animals: Starting in 2011, coordinate with Florida Sea Grant for one regional invasive identification and BMPs workshop.
 3. Animals: Starting in 2014, develop a control training workshop.
 - v. By 2013 create or find existing materials for a fact sheet / poster to increase knowledge of current laws and distribute to CISMA partners.
 - b) Implement outreach, training and strategic collaboration efforts to support CISMA prevention and EDRR efforts.
 - i. By 2010 hold annual trainings to use EDDMapS database for CISMA partners and targeted audiences.
 - ii. By 2011 create a communication network contact list to establish alert system for surrounding areas outside CISMA boundary.
 - iii. By 2010 hold annual trainings for EDRR.
 - iv. By 2013 develop stronger working and communication relationship with surrounding areas and surrounding CISMAs; share EDDMapS training and encourage tracking.
2. Implement outreach and training efforts with academic/education infrastructure in CISMA communities.
 - a) In 2011 develop a list of environmental education centers and distribute educational materials about prevention and control.
 - b) Plant: In 2011 work with Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Program and local garden clubs to promote the removal of invasive plants and use of native plants.
 - c) Aquatics: Starting in 2012, work with Florida Sea Grant and other coastal partners to implement Hitchhiker Program in CISMA and distribute outreach materials to large local marinas and at large fishing tournaments.
 - d) By 2013 develop list of schools, scout groups, community festivals, environmental festivals and others who could help with education about prevention, EDRR and control, and develop strategic relationships with key environmental orgs to further push.
 - e) By 2014 choose short list of priority education volunteer programs for CISMA to implement that simultaneously build up invasive volunteer programs and raise awareness (e.g., student work days, invasive survey recruitment and training programs, Pepper Busters creation, etc.
3. Increase outreach efforts to private industries and atypical public agencies (railroads, utilities, ranges, nurseries, botanical gardens, pet stores, animal rehabilitation centers, landscapers, architects, foresters, county animal control, FDOT, and other ROW agencies).

- a) By 2013 create a communication network contact list for private industries.
 - b) By 2013 create a communication network contact list for atypical public agencies.
 - c) Animals: By 2011 work with retailers to reduce the sale of invasive animals; support and implement the “Don’t Release Unwanted Pets” poster and card statewide efforts.
 - d) By 2014 develop or find existing landscape architect certification course that promotes CISMA goals.
 - e) By 2014 create a voluntary code of conduct pledge that will be endorsed and signed by one relevant industry or agency to curb the use and distribution of invasive plant species.
 - f) By 2014 work with retailers to reduce the sale of invasive plants (e.g. GreenThumb Program).
 - g) By 2014 ask your local prominent botanical garden or ASLA Chapter to take a lead role in educating the public and the nursery industry about preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species (garden to help provide information about invasiveness, and not to recommend plants that the Garden is removing from the collections based on the issue of invasiveness).
 - h) By 2014 encourage interpretive signage at visible botanical gardens explaining threat of invasives and alternatives to their use in the landscape (could include demonstration garden)
 - i) By 2013 utilize strategic communication vehicles for BMPs and AlterNatives messages such as Extension Service newsletter, FL ASLA and FNGLA Chapter electronic updates, large growers’ newsletters, local environmental groups’ newsletters, etc...
 - j) By 2014 publicize signees of voluntary code of conducts lists (e.g. post on website, news articles).
4. Implement outreach and training efforts to private landowners and landowner associations.
- a) In 2011 encourage all CISMA partners to place “Do Not Move Firewood” poster at all public conservation lands and high-use recreational areas.
 - b) By 2012 identify a CISMA lead or subcommittee to develop working relationships with landowners or associations.
 - c) By 2012 identify specific private landowners for education.
 - d) By 2013 develop landowner ‘outreach’ packets to send priority landowners (include species information, training courses, etc...).
 - e) By 2013 implement a training effort about the top 5 high priority EDRR and control species to these specific private landowners and landowner associations.
 - f) By 2013 develop, or acquire existing materials, about native, or non-invasive plants, as an alternative to invasives for erosion control, wildlife forage, landscaping, etc...
 - g) By 2014 begin annual conservation champion award to landowner.
 - h) Starting in 2013, annually contact the media through press/photo releases and radio to highlight private lands initiative and available resources.
 - i) By 2013 create or use existing materials for a fact sheet / poster to increase knowledge of funding opportunities, current laws and distribute to individuals with goal of enrolling landowners in funding programs (this is on FISP website).
 - j) By 2014 develop voluntary agreement for landowners that support CISMA EDRR, control and prevention efforts (for plants this is on VCC).
5. Increase outreach and awareness efforts to policy makers.
- a) Coordinate press releases or public awareness activities.
 - i. Starting in 2011, annually publicize and get proclamations regarding mapping reports or other projects.
 - ii. Share Annual Weed/Animal Reports with elected officials during NISAW/NIWAW (annually in January/February).
 - b) Starting in 2013, annually visit with newly elected local government officials to support funding, EDRR, prevention and other CISMA goals.
 - c) By 2014, begin working with county Planning & Zoning Departments to encourage environmentally friendly landscape ordinances.

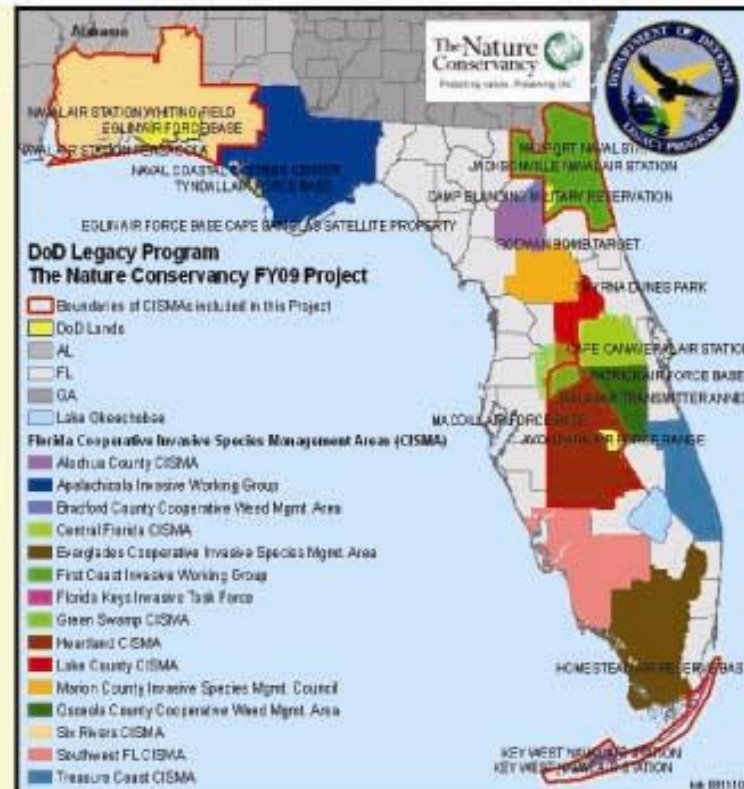
Using CISMAs to Effectively Reduce Re-infestation on four Military Bases & Surrounding Lands in Florida

This project is expanding on successful partnerships between The Nature Conservancy and the Department of Defense Bases in Florida:

- Northwest Florida-Eglin Air Force Base
- Northeast Florida-Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Army National Guard
- Central Florida-Avon Park Air Force Range
- South Florida-Key West Naval Air Station

Through these relationships we are:

- 1) creating two new CISMAs;
- 2) strengthening two existing CISMAs;
- 3) working collaboratively with DoD and other regional partners to create five year comprehensive plans; and
- 4) completing 2 invasive species control projects



Phase I Progress:

- 2 New CISMAs supporting Eglin & Avon Park
- Comprehensive plan template developed and distributed to CISMAs
- Control project buffering Eglin began
- Phase II Legacy proposal submitted



Think Locally - Act Neighborly



Kristina Serbesoff-King, Invasive Species Program Manager, The Nature Conservancy

FLORIDA INVASIVE SPECIES PARTNERSHIP (FISP)

Invasive exotic species know no boundaries!

If landowners and land managers in Florida wish to achieve long-term success, it is critical to:

- Reach out and collaborate with all stakeholders, including private landowners.
- Focus on holistic management of invasive species, which includes prevention, early detection/rapid response, management and applied research.

GOALS:

- Increase effectiveness and decrease costs by working together.
- Provide tools to develop a unified approach and bridge the gap between landowners' and land management agency efforts.
- Encourage development, implementation and sharing of new and/or innovative approaches.



FISP and www.FloridaInvasives.org:

- ✓ Online resource of management assistance programs.
- ✓ Provides current information on Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas statewide.
- ✓ Provides current links to information on invasive species management techniques.

Creating Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) to Effectively Reduce Re-infestation on Four (4) Military Bases and Surrounding Lands in Florida

This project is expanding on successful partnerships between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and four Department of Defense (DoD) bases in Florida. These bases are:

- Northwest Florida - Eglin Air Force Base (AFB)
- Northeast Florida - Camp Blanding Joint Training Center, Army National Guard (ANG)
- Central Florida - Avon Park Air Force Range (AFR)
- South Florida - Key West Naval Air Station (NAS)

Through these relationships we are:

- 1) creating two new Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA) supporting Eglin AFB and Avon Park AFR;
- 2) strengthening two existing CISMAs supporting Camp Blanding ANG and Key West NAS;
- 3) working collaboratively with DoD and other regional partners to create five year comprehensive plans detailing invasive species priorities and actions for each of the four CISMAs; and
- 4) completing two on-the-ground invasive species control projects prioritized by Eglin AFB and Key West NAS.

Our overall goal is to create strong organizations that work across boundaries, pool limited resources and similar priorities to manage/eradicate invasive species, and create a unified voice to increase efforts by the public to reduce the spread of invasive species. The CISMA approach will reduce the re-infestation of invasive species from private and public ownerships and rights-of-way onto DoD, TNC and other conservation lands. This landscape level approach is the most efficient and effective way to combat the threat of invasive species.

COOPERATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AREAS (CISMA)

Partnering across the landscape!

- ✓ Expand efforts across the landscape, rather than just to political or property boundaries.
- ✓ Form a partnership of federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, individuals and various interested groups that manage noxious weeds or invasive plants in a defined area.
- ✓ Address the following concerns:
 - Prevention
 - Education/Awareness
 - Early Detection & Rapid Response
 - Monitoring
 - Integrated Pest Management

CROPPING UP IN FLORIDA



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

Federal:
US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners Program, USFWS Coastal Program, USFWS Key Deer and Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuges, US Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Department of Defense (Air Force, Army National Guard, Naval Air Station), US Forest Service, National Park Service

State:
FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry & Division of Plant Industry, FL Dept. of Transportation, FL Dept. of Environmental Protection Division of Recreation and Parks & Division of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, FL Dept. of Community Affairs, Southeastern Job/Youth/Adult/Northeast FL Water Management Districts, University of FL Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants & Forest Stewardship Program, University of North FL Seagrass FL

Local:
Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Clay and Duval Counties, Cooperative Stewardship Service, Counties of Palm Beach, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, Brevard, Nassau, Highlands, Polk, Monroe, Cities of Jacksonville, Fernandina Beach, Atlantic Beach, Key West, Marathon, Laysan, Village of Islamorada, Monroe County Grants Department, Monroe County Land Authority

Non-Profit and Private:
The Nature Conservancy, Florida Natural Areas Inventory, Florida Native Plant Society, Anishod Biological Station, The Hill Nature Center, Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens, Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, Wakulla Plantation, White Oak Conservation Center, Florida Exotic Plant Council, Clear Florida Keys, Inc., Florida Keys Environmental Restoration Trust, Ford, Key Deer Protection Alliance, City Electric System, Florida Keys Electric Cooperative, Friends and Volunteers of Refuges