

Developing the EDRR and control species lists for the Heartland CISMA 2010

8 people met for 4 hours at Bok Tower Gardens on 3/2/2010: Katrina Noland (Bok Tower Gardens), Clarence Morgan (Avon Park Air Force Range), Keeli Carlton (Polk County Environmental Lands Program), Bob Nelson (TNC, Disney Wilderness Preserve), Debi Tharp (TNC, Disney Wilderness Preserve), Brendan Myers (TNC, Disney Wilderness Preserve), Carrie Kotal (Florida Division of Forestry), Cheryl Millett (TNC, Tiger Creek Preserve)

EDRR:

The committee had decided in advance to focus on upland plant species, with the idea of developing an aquatic plant species and animal species list in the future.

Everyone had received the document developed by the Treasure Coast CISMA to rank priority species for EDRR (EDRR ranking prioritization protocol TC CISMA final.doc) and agreed to use it to guide us through the process.

Frank Price of FNAI had developed a list of candidate species for us (DRAFT EDRR planning report for Heartland CISMA: FLEPPC Category I and II Species found on public conservation lands within a 150mile buffer of Heartland CISMA, but with 10 or fewer occurrences on conservation lands within the CISMA). We evaluated each species in a spreadsheet using the ranking categories and point system from the TC CISMA document, under the categories: 1) current extent; 2) impacts; 3) habitat value, and; 4) ease of control. We also added in columns with information from the IFAS risk assessment for central Florida where it existed.

Aquatic species were noted because we were just focusing on upland species for this list; other participants would be invited to develop an aquatic list.

The list from FNAI had only scientific names for species, so we looked up the common names and showed pictures for species that participants did not know by scientific name.

Carrie Kotal developed a spreadsheet showing the closest reported location for each species from EDDMaps, and that was added to the spreadsheet.

For some species, we needed more information, and noted that in the spreadsheet as we went along and asked for information from the larger CISMA group and others as needed.

We came up with a priority list of 10 species plus 2 to be watched. These were accepted by the CISMA at the 4/27/2010 meeting and a workshop for identification and control will be held in the fall or winter, plus a series of identification documents will be posted on the Heartland CISMA website.

Control:

FNAI had developed a list of the top 10 invasive species in the Heartland CISMA area by number of occurrences and by number of acres and we used this to start discussion of which species should be on our priority control species list. Species were evaluated using the same 4 categories from the EDRR list.

A priority list of 10 species was developed and accepted by the CISMA on 4/27/2010.