

**Treasure Coast
Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (TC-CISMA)
FOUR YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
FINAL Draft 6-01-09**

This is a dynamic plan that can be modified by partners.

Goal 1: Reduce and control the spread of existing invasive species into TC CISMA.

Objective 1: By 2012, coordinate a management approach to constrain spread, resulting in stable or decreasing abundance over time, for at least three priority, existing invasive species on partner lands (public and private) within TC CISMA.

Strategy 1: Collaborate with partners to identify the priority, existing invasive species within TC CISMA that partners will coordinate work and initiate management programs.

Action 1: Compile a list and prioritize, existing invasive species.

Task 1a: Choose an invasive species ranking system.

Task 1b: Decide on whether coastal and interior invasive species should be ranked separately, and define criteria of each.

Task 1c: Rank species.

Task 1d: Present ranking to TC CISMA.

Action 2: Determine how many priority species to implement a management strategy.

Action 3: Coordinate removal activities of at least 3 ranked species.

Action 4: Consider whether creating a TC CISMA database is necessary.

Objective 2: By 2012, initiate at least two programs within TC CISMA to manage priority, existing invasive species on partner lands (public and private) designed to protect lands from continuing colonization “across the fenceline”.

Strategy 1: Seek funding to support above objective.

Action 1: Make available existing lists of public and private land invasive species funding sources to partners.

Action 2: Pursue joint funding opportunities.

Action 3: Consider funding opportunities for non-prioritized species.

Strategy 2: Develop focused programs, which emphasize multi-partner participation and on the ground actions.

Action 1: Coordinate monthly Martin County TC CISMA workday.

Action 2: Modify and extend Martin County Partnership MOU.

Action 3: Consider expanding workdays to other TC CISMA areas.

Strategy 3: Promote TC CISMA sites for biological control

Action 1: Exchange information and communication with agencies and researchers on upcoming biological control agents.

Action 2: Promote TC CISMA sites.

Goal 2: Prevent the establishment and spread of new, potentially invasive, non-native species into TC CISMA, including early detection/rapid response.

Objective 1: By 2009, develop a communication network between partners to disseminate information on new, potentially invasive, non-native species.

Strategy 1: Build working relationships between public and private partners to foster cost-effective control of invasive species.

Action 1: Develop partner information/distribution contact list

Action 2: Develop private property owner contact list with priority species.

Action 3: Identify the various methods of communication with partners.

Strategy 2: Develop a working relationship with state regulatory and invasive species agencies to disseminate information to them on new, potentially invasive, non-native species.

Action 1: Add and maintain FFWCC Invasive Species Section and Invasive Plant Management Section (Tallahassee) on TC CISMA contact list.

Action 2: Add and maintain FDACS on TC CISMA contact list.

Action 3: Identify other agencies and add to contact list.

Objective 2: By 2012, initiate a program within TC CISMA to identify, target and eradicate new, potentially invasive, non-native species on partner lands in order to prevent their potential spread.

Strategy 1: Work with partners to identify and prioritize new, potentially invasive, non-native species within TC CISMA that partners will coordinate work and initiate management programs.

Action 1: Organize a TC CISMA subcommittee to compile a list of and prioritize new, potentially invasive, non-native species.

Action 2: Choose an Early detection/Rapid Response (probably University of Florida) ranking system, and rely upon other CISMA/CWMA information in the interim.

Action 3: Rank species, use other CISMA/CWMA information in the interim.

Action 4: Communicate ranking to TC CISMA.

Action 5: Coordinate removal activities.

Strategy 2: Identify potential funding sources that can be used for the treatment of new, potentially invasive, non-native species.

Action 1: Coordinate with FISP to utilize their funding database matrix (online).

Action 2: Search other funding sources.

Strategy 3: Create a roaming rapid response team funded by grant sources to treat new, potentially invasive, non-native species.

Action 1: Recruit team members

Action 2: Set up training for team members

Action 3: Search for funding.

Action 4: Set up protocol for initiating team response.

Goal 3: Provide education, informational exchange, collaboration and research opportunities about invasive species in the TC CISMA.

Objective 1: By 2010, provide educational and technical management information to all public land, utility ROW managers and IFAS about the top 10 priority existing and rapid response invasive species in TC CISMA.

Strategy 1: Maintain the FISP web portal to provide public access to TC CISMA project-related GIS maps, fact sheets, multimedia and other products.

Action 1: Compile TC CISMA docs and info and deliver to FISP webmaster.

Action 2: Review web site biannually and update.

Action 3: After 1 yr, find individual to complete updates.

Strategy 2: Annually, present a minimum of one state-wide presentation at a professional conference such as the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council and the Florida State Horticulture Society.

Action 1: Working with partners to submit a FLEPPC or similar event poster or presentation in annually.

Strategy 3: Create a list of all public lands and managing entities in TC CISMA.

Action 1: Contact managing agencies annually to update list.

Action 2: Contact public agencies which hold any conservation easements.

Strategy 4: Using list generated in Strategy 3, communicate with managers and IFAS about top 10 priority existing and rapid response invasive species.

Action 1: Educate and train FDOT about top 10 and EDRR species.

Action 2: Educate and train other public managers about top 10 and EDRR species.

Action 3: Inform IFAS personnel (Cooperative Extension and Research) about top 10 and EDRR.

Strategy 5: Generate success stories to share with the public and collaborating agencies.

Action 1: Write and include success stories on TC Cisma website.

Action 2: Contact newspaper and tv for workday coverage.

Action 3: Work with FISP to write success stories.

Action 4: Other actions as opportunities are available.

Objective 2: By 2011, provide educational and technical removal information to the general public, private utilities, railroads, and organized private groups about the top 10 priority, existing and rapid response invasive species in TC Cisma (use rankings generated from Goal 1, Objective 1, Strategy 1 and rapid response priority ranking).

Strategy 1: Work with local county Extension Agents and others to transfer the latest research-related technology to meet local invasive species management needs about top10 existing and rapid response invasive species.

Action 1: Identify entities engaged in applicable research.

Action 2: Invite entities to present at TC Cisma meeting.

Strategy 2: Create a list of private landowners adjacent to conservation lands and prioritize by amount of contiguous boundary and acreage.

Action 1: Develop list.

Action 2: Determine acreage and contiguous boundary.

Strategy 3: Using list generated in Strategy 1, provide outreach to private landowners on the necessity of removing the top10 existing and rapid response invasive species.

Action 1: Separate large list into groups with different approaches.

Action 2: Use targeted mass media to teach general public.

Action 3: Develop educational materials for training private utilities and railroads.

Action 4: Develop, collect and distribute educational materials for general public.

Action 5: Engage IFAS/University of FL in educating the general public.

Strategy 5: Provide educational and technical removal information to local nurseries and botanical gardens about the top 10 priority, existing and rapid response invasive species.

Action 1: Create a list of all landscape companies.

Action 2: Develop letters, brochures and distribute to groups.

Action 3: Develop a list of requirements to become a member of the Green Thumb Program.

Action 4: Implement a green thumb program for those groups.

Strategy 6: Provide educational and technical information to landscape companies about the top 10 priority, existing and rapid response invasive species.

Action 1: Create a list of all landscape companies.

Action 2: Develop letters, brochures and distribute to groups.

Action 3: Develop a list of requirements to become a member of the Green Thumb Program.

Action 4: Implement a green thumb program for those groups.

Strategy 7: Provide educational and technical removal information to pet owners about the top 10 priority, existing and rapid response invasive species.

Action 1: Create a list and develop partnerships with wildlife hospitals and zoos.

Action 2: Coordinate pet amnesty days with FFWCC and other cooperating agencies.

Strategy 8: Provide educational and technical removal information to private utilities, railroads, water control districts, and other like entities about the top 10 priority, existing and rapid response invasive species.

Action 1: Create a list and develop partnerships.

Action 2: Develop letters, brochures or other educational materials and distribute to groups.

Action 3: Develop local, “boxed” programs to educate and present to these organizations.

Objective 3: By 2012, submit a priority list of 10 unanswered questions about invasive species management in TC Cisma to 5 university and college biology departments throughout south and central Florida.

Strategy 1: Work with partners to identify unanswered invasive species management questions within the TC Cisma.

Action 1: Collect questions from land managers in TC Cisma.

Action 2: Prioritize list of questions.

Action 3: Submit or present 10 questions to FLEPPC, FISP, or other research entities.

Objective 4: By 2010 build long lasting structure for TC Cisma through collaboration.

Strategy 1: Draft and sign a cooperative MOU.

Action 1: Elect one individual to coordinate details.

Action 2: Decide who will sign.

END