The Florida Invasive Plant Management Association; A Model For Providing An Economic Voice To Promote State Funding (for invasive plant management).

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FLIPMA President
Today’s Purpose

• Present background information on FLIPMA.

• Provide Legislative Update on FY 2021-22 Budget and Relevant Issues.

• Provide opportunity to consider IPMA as a model for establishing a Private-Sector voice in other States.
The Need For Another Voice.

• Prior to 2012, there was no Private Sector message in support of invasive plant management apart from large herbicide manufacturer lobbying for aquatic plant control.

• IPM State funding (trust funds and discretionary spending) was annually unpredictable and inconsistent. Routinely, discretionary spending was cut and the IPC Trust Fund was swept.

• The environmental benefits messages from other groups appeared to have reached the limit of effectiveness.
The Founding of IPMA

- As 2008 Recession-era State funding continued to lag, it became apparent that previous gains in invasive plant control on public lands/waters were being lost and that private sector jobs/companies were also being lost.

- So in 2011, twelve companies opened direct communication and began discussion on building a private sector voice in Tallahassee.

- IPMA was incorporated in Fall 2012 and began advocacy during 2012-13 Legislative Session.
Florida Invasive Plant Management Association (FLIPMA)

FLIPMA’s Mission is to foster sustained State funding for invasive plant control measures as an integral part of managing Florida’s natural lands and waters.
• Our Mission is **not** to differentiate between Upland and Aquatic programs.

• Our Mission is **not** to promote competitive advantages or collusion.

• Our Mission **is** to add an economic voice to what some Legislators feel is strictly an ecological problem.
Florida Invasive Plant Management Association

- 501(c)(6) not-for-profit corporation.
- Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.
- Membership is 12 companies for 2021.
- Leadership is comprised of 5 Member BOD (2 yr terms).
- Dues used to pay for advocacy (Lobbyist).
2020-21 Strategic Advocacy Plan

- Contract with Lewis, Longman & Walker, PA.
  - Assist to refine message and strategy
  - Identify key legislators
  - Facilitate meetings
  - Advocate Message

- Focus on funding first, then voice other concerns.

- Senate President, House Speaker, Cabinet.

- 25% New Senators and Congressman each term.
Primary State Funding Sources

1997 to 2016:
• Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund.
  – Doc Stamp Revenue
  – Legislated Minimum
  – Legislated Aquatic/Upland Split

2016 to Present:
• Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund
  – Stripped of Legislative protection.
• Land Acquisition Trust Fund.
  – Doc Stamp Revenue
  – 2016 Ballot Initiative
  – No Funding Formula
Importance of Trust Funds

**IPC Trust Fund**
- From 1982 to 2016 was primary source for State IPM. 1997 Upland.
- Minimum funding was “protected” by State Statute. $30M.
- Fund assigned to a lead State Agency (FFWCC).
- Funds IPM on all State lands/waters: Plus.

**Land Acquisition TF**
- From 2016 to Present.
- Minimum funding protected by State Statute. 33% Stamps.
- Fund has Committee Oversight.
- Funds acquisition, management, and public access.
- No IPM guarantee.
Legislative Session Themes (FY 2021-22 Budget)

- Every Session has a unique set of drivers. Adjust message.

- Legislative Budget Commission met 2020 to forecast the Long-Range Financial Outlook:
  - Revenue Expected Flat at best during 2020-21.
  - Estimated potential Revenue shortfalls due to pre-2020 health and education stresses…and then CoVID.

- Financial stresses due to loss of State tax revenue and extreme expenses. Where will the money come from for FY2021-22?

- Lawsuits and timing now forcing “planning” for dedicated distribution of Trust money within LATF.
## Important Dates for Each Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Typically Some Election (legislators officially sworn into office)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Organizational Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Interim Committee Week (House)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Interim Committee Week (Senate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Interim Committee Week (Joint)</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>Interim Committee Week (Joint)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Regular Legislative Session Convenes</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>60-Day Regular Legislative Session Ends</td>
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A Seven Month Process with advocacy opportunities in each step!!!
The Message!
Delivered by Lobbyist and Local Visits
Message to Legislators
What is an Invasive Exotic Plant?

- Not all exotic plants are invasive pests (25,000 species).
- Some introduced species become naturalized (1300 species).
- Some naturalized species become invasive pests (160 species).
- Florida has 2825 native plant species.
# Magnitude of Invasive Species Problem

## Economic
- Navigation and Flooding.
- Fire Hazards.
- Agriculture - Cattle, Sod, Row Crops, Silviculture.
- Utilities - Power Corps, Roadways.
- Loss of Tourism.
- Loss of Recreation.

## Ecological
- Loss of Biodiversity.
- Shift in Vegetation Communities.
- Change in Fire Ecology.
- Loss of Critical Habitat for T&E wildlife. Florida has 500 T&E Species, 150 Endemic.
- Degradation of water quality.
Message
Lead Agency and Line Items

- FFWCC is lead agency for coordinating and funding invasive plant control on public conservation lands and waters.

- FDEP, FDACS, FFS, and UF/IFAS also conduct IPM activities and critical research (Budget Line Items).
Message- Agency Budget Requests

- FLIPMA supports FFWCC’s budget request in the amount requested each Session. LATF funding.

- FLIPMA supports other Agencies’ budget requests for funding integrated pest management, including:

  Field Operations, Biological Control/Quarantine, Import Inspection, Research, Education and Risk Assessment.
$$\text{What Has Been Invested}$$

by The State of Florida

- IPC (FWC) Trust Avg: $36 M
- SFWMD Yearly Avg: $13 M
- FDEP Yearly Avg: $0.5 M
- IPC Fund 1997-2017: $211 M
- IPC Match 1997-2017: $75 M

Public Cons Lands Infested: 1.6 M ac
PC Lands now in Maintenance: 0.9 M ac

The tax waste for stopping maintenance is huge!!
Compounds annually!
Why Integrated Pest Management?
(Synergy and Cost Efficiency)

- e.g., herbicide application, biocontrol, mechanical control
Message: What has been Accomplished (ROI)?

- Tourism has been sustained/improved.
- Recreational opportunities have been provided.
- Public safety has been protected.
- Agriculture and silviculture have been protected.
- Environmental mandates met.
Message:
What Infrastructure was Created?

- The model for govt. contracting.
- Vibrant network of applicators, suppliers, and manufacturers.
- IPM in Florida is something that Government does well!!

JOBS!
Continuing Message

Invasive plant management is a key component of LATF and dedicated funding level of >$50M is warranted to provide smart ROI. ($648M projected).
Bottom Line Message to Legislators:
State Funding is Good Governing!!

Invasive Plant Management is an integral part of sustaining Florida’s natural lands and waters!

Effective stewardship is Governing done well. Be the Leader!
Advocacy Strategy Summary

- Generally Educate Legislators on IPM Benefit/Consequence.
- Customize IPM Messages to Senate President; Speaker of the House; and Cabinet.
- Positive IPM ROI. Warrants LATF Dedicated Funding.
- Management is an integral component of LATF. No Sweep of Doc Stamp Revenue Funds.
- Representation for IPMs (IPM meets IPM).
- Agency IPM Budget Request Support (FFWWC, IFAS Research, Quarantine, FDEP, FDACS).
- Private Property IPM Initiative through LATF or FDACS.
- Policy Issues (chemical bans, treatment pauses, etc.).

Objective+Target Audience+Message= Results
FLIPMA Accomplishments

- Helping to keep FWC IPC Trust Funding above pre-advocacy levels.

- Increased Decision Maker knowledge of invasive species and benefits of IPMs (and inaction consequences).

- Success in FLIPMA relationship building with Key Legislators and Leadership. Keeping up with annual Turnover.
Accomplishments
(Cont.)

• Provided support for IFAS, BioControl/Quarantine, and other Agency funding.

• Because IPC Trust Fund is not dissolved, but has been stripped of legislation for annual funding:

Represented IPM as part of Land/Waterway Management mandate within the evolving Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF).
Funding Results

Legislature must pass balanced Budget. Funding of IPC Trust:

- FY 2008-09 $30.7M
- FY 2009-10 $29.7M
- FY 2010-11 $25.9M
- FY 2011-12 $23.4M
- FY 2012-13 $15.9M
- FY 2013-14* $31.8M
- FY 2014-15 $34.9M
- FY 2015-16 $38.5M
- FY 2016-17 $38.5M
- FY 2017-18 $34.3M
- FY 2018-19 $34.3M
- FY 2019-20 $34.2M
FY 2020-21 Budget

- FY 2020-21 IPC Trust Funded thru LATF.
- FY 2020-21 IPC Budget Versions:
  - Senate: $ 6.2M less
  - House: $ 5.0M less
  - Gov’ner: $ 34.2M
- Passed: $ 34.2M
FY 2020-21 Budget:
Integrated PM Program Funding

Quarantine Facility: $540,000
DEP (State Parks) IPM*: $316,600
UF/IFAS Education: $18,000
UF/IFAS Invasive Exotic Plant Research: $633,128
Florida Forever: $100M
IPMA Relevance for FY 2022-23??

- Legislator briefing on benefits of State Funded IPM and economic consequences of inaction.

- Represent IPM funding within the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF). Every Session will be a food fight!

- Committee-Level input.

- Policy Issues: Bans, EDR Review, Funding Sweeps.
Providing Another Voice

- FLIPMA membership is sustainable but more is required to include other efforts.

- FLIPMA will be in need of future committee members and skills.

- FLIPMA has now been proven to represent the voice of IPM (Aq & Terr).

visit your website:  
FLIPMA.Org
RENEWED 2021 MEMBERS

- Applicators Network, Inc.
- Aquatic Vegetation Control
- Brewer International, Inc.
- EarthBalance, Inc.
- Environmental Quality, Inc.
- Florida Best, Inc.
- Helena Chemical Company
- Kestrel Ecological Services
- Lake and Wetland, Inc.
- Native Creations, Inc.
- Sandhill Growers, Inc.
- Walker Exotic Tree Eradication, Inc.

Supporting Organizations:

- Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society
- Florida Invasive Species Council
- South Florida Aquatic Plant Management Society
Questions?

• Could your State benefit?

• FLIPMA.org

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