The Power of Partnerships
Florida’s Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA s)
“Show Me the Money!”

Think Locally, Act Neighborly
Invasive exotic species know no boundaries!
Session Format

- Welcome and Introduction
- CISMA Case Studies
  - Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance CISMA
  - Central Florida CISMA
  - Treasure Coast CISMA
  - Southwest Florida CISMA
  - Everglades CISMA
- Group discussion
  - Were there any “aha” moments?
  - What ideas could be repeatable?
  - What are other ideas to explore?
- Wrap-up
The **Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP)** is a collaboration of federal, state and local agencies along with non-government organizations, all with a stake in managing invasive non-native species in Florida.

**FISP (www.FloridaInvasives.org):**

- Fosters voluntary partnerships, such as [Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas](#)
- Provides information and contacts on [incentive programs for private landowners](#)
- Connects to [tools and resources](#)
- Enables the [reporting and mapping of invasive species](#)
Partnerships of federal, state, and local government agencies, tribes, individuals, and others who manage invasive species in a defined area

Florida has 17 CISMAs

97% of Florida's land area is covered by the CISMAs
Questions sent to Panelists

$ Where did the money come from and how much?

$ Who did the money go to – who received the funds? How were they able to hold money?

$ What was the money used for and what were the mechanics of spending the money?

$ What did you have to do to get the money and to report on how it was spent?

$ What other interesting tidbits can you tell us that would help another CISMA be able to do something similar?

$ What you would change in hindsight – lessons learned?
Apalachicola
Regional Stewardship Alliance CISMA

You are here
Show Me the Moolah
Where did the money come from and how much?

Minor contributions from NaturChem and APTA
Who did the money go to – who received the funds? How were they able to hold money?

For minor contributions, direct payment for services

For major funding TNC had/has formal agreements with agency

USFWS-no specified match, but it’s encouraged
What was the money used for and what were the mechanics of spending the money?

- CISMA administration
- Surveys and treatment (SEC 7 analysis)
- Contractor services in treatment projects on private lands adjacent to conservation lands (Sec 7 Analysis)
Private Lands Example

- 90 acres of planted pine surrounded on 3 sides by WMA
tallow and climbing fern
- 2 treatments over two growing seasons
- ~$12,000 total
Private Lands Project-Sec 7 analysis

Lucille Arnold Parcel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES/CRITICAL HABITAT</th>
<th>IMPACTS TO SPECIES/CRITICAL HABITAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyprinella callithrix</td>
<td>No predicted impact to fish spp. or fish habitat as site is upland and disant from Lake Sembrite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macrocheles tenellus</td>
<td>No predicted impact to Macrocheles tenellus or its habitat due to distance from vortcans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myriophyllum laxum</td>
<td>Successful control of invasive exotic plants will reduce displacement of Myriophyllum laxum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crotus elgiori</td>
<td>Successful control of invasive exotic plants will reduce displacement of Crotus elgiori</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Explanation of actions to be implemented to reduce adverse effects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES/CRITICAL HABITAT</th>
<th>ACTIONS TO MITIGATE/MINIMIZE IMPACTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Herbicides will only be applied on private property that does not have any documented state or federal listed species.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Only spot application methods (halose, basal, back &amp; squirt, cut-stump) will be used. No broadcast application methods will be used.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3) Aquatic labelled herbicides will be used when appropriate.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4) Herbicides will not be applied when ground wind speed is 8 mph or greater.</td>
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</table>

Pearl-treatment monitoring will be done to ensure the protective measures were effective and determine the effectiveness of treatment on target species.

VIII. Effect Determination and Response Requested

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES/CRITICAL/HABITAT</th>
<th>DETERMINATION</th>
<th>RESPONSE REQUESTED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cyprinella callithrix</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macrocheles tenellus</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myriophyllum laxum</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Concurrence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crotus elgiori</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Concurrence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NE = non-endangered. The determination is appropriate when the population exists naturally, indirectly, or occasionally rises above a level of desired species or habitat. Where appropriate, the term "Concurrence" is recommended to a complete Administrative Record.

NA = not applicable. The determination is appropriate when the population exists naturally, indirectly, or occasionally rises above a level of desired species or habitat. Where appropriate, the term "Concurrence" is recommended to a complete Administrative Record.
What did you have to do to get the money and to report on how it was spent?

• Formal proposals and agreements had to be established through TNC and funders (modifications)
• Annual or semi-annual reports are required for funding agreements... not a huge burden though
• Sec 7 analysis for spending federal $$
What other interesting tidbits can you tell us that would help another CISMA be able to do something similar?

- Propose realistic deliverables... and match
- Funders like alliances and cooperation
- A funded coordinator can be well worth the investment
Central Florida
Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

CISMA location

HUGS!

Cuplet Fern Chapter
Seminole County
Florida Native Plant Society

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Seminole County
Leisure Services Department

Orange County
Green Place

Florida
IFAS

UCF
Join the Central Florida CISMA for our 3rd Grass ID Workshop

Friday, October 12, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
At the University of Central Florida’s Orlando Campus

Topics to include:
-Morning classroom session with overview of the grasses and their look-a-likes, an introduction to grass structures used in identification, & grass taxonomy basics
-Breakout field trip sessions in the afternoon to learn identification skills for both exotic and native grasses! Learn ID skills from grass experts!
-Grass ID quiz and prizes!

*Workshop will be limited to 70 participants and will be filled on a first-come-first-serve basis
*Lunch and refreshments will be provided courtesy of our sponsors!

To RSVP and reserve your spot or for more information please contact: swilliams02@seminolecountyfl.gov or Graham.Williams@dep.state.fl.us
Here are the questions to consider/give you direction when preparing your presentation and notes for your 10 minutes.

1. **Where did the money come from and how much?**

   Within TC CISMA region, we have a long term track record of usage of DEP BIPM and then FFWCC IPMS by many agencies; then as partnership grew in the late 1990s, USFWS Challenge Cost share agreement and county funds. As a CISMA, then USFWS Coastal Program for $140,000 on public lands and $30,000 with Partners Program for private lands, $100 from the RC and D for outreach supplies.

   TC CISMA partners were very opportunistic in applying for funding. The invasive problem was so overwhelming they were continually looking for funding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funds</th>
<th>Required acres</th>
<th>Type of land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 08</td>
<td>$64,000.00</td>
<td>158 acres</td>
<td>Public and private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 09</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
<td>120 acres</td>
<td>public and private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$10,000.00</td>
<td>(Partners for Fish &amp; Wildlife)</td>
<td>private only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY10</td>
<td>$30,000.00</td>
<td>63 acres</td>
<td>public and private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 11</td>
<td>$47,219.00</td>
<td>293 acres (30 initial treatment)</td>
<td>public and private</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 12</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
<td>58 acres</td>
<td>private only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   The Objective of TC CISMA projects were the removal of exotic non-native vegetation from coastal dune systems within natural areas in northern Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River Counties. The priority control species was *Scaevola taccada*.

2. **Who did the money go to – who received the funds? How were they able to hold money?**

   The Treasure Coast Resource, Conservation and Development Council (RC & D) was the financial administrator for TC CISMA funds. They charged 5% for administration. Funding was cost reimbursable, the contractors had to wait 30 days to be paid.
3- What was the money used for and what were the mechanics of spending the money?

Again, the project was for coastal public and private lands, with Scaevola infestations as a priority. Other invasives then also were treated when encountered. Later as the project developed, all coastal invasives were treated.

4- What did you have to do to get the money and to report on how it was spent?

Funds are managed by the Treasure Coast Resource Conservation and Development Council, a non-profit that works closely with NRCS and the USDA. Funds are held with US Treasury department. Once an eradication job is complete, the RC&D Council pays the contractor after all supporting documentation is received and final inspection of property has been satisfied. The Council pays the contractor with its own funds. (Council receives 5% administrative fees for each transaction)

The Council then applies for reimbursement through (ASAP) Dept. of Treasury’s Automated Standard Application for Payments.

Below are the requirements of the USFWS to get reimbursed.

**Supporting documentation requirements (council holds on to these documents)**

- Property location
- Private or Public
- # of acres treated
- Density of Species
- Linear Mileage
- Type of Treatment
- Managing Entity
- Match info
- GIS Shapefile
- Invoice
- Certification of work completed form
- Permit info
- Before and after photos
- Daily Progress Reports (include man hours, acres per day, type of treatment)
- 10 year Maintenance agreement fully executed (private land)

Certificate of insurance needs to be collected before work begins as well as the W-9 form

*Work does not begin until the Council issues a Notice to Proceed to contractor.

*Most cases, the Council hires the contractor. Does not have to go out to bid.
*6 month reports are required by the USFWS on how the funds were spent. Ex. Amount spent, acres, man hours, and location of properties, match info. And up and coming projects,

5. **What other interesting tidbits can you tell us that would help another CISMA be able to do something similar?**

The Treasure Coast RC&D is a founding member of the newly formed Treasure Coast CISMA. Many different agencies and non-profits got together to form this multi-county organization to deal with the growing problem of invasive plant and animal species. There are several other CISMAs in Florida and dozens nationally. A partnership of this nature will give our area a better chance of success in applying for funding to eradicate invasive species.

Partnering with a RC&D Council that is financially sound and is experienced in managing grants is the key. Especially having the experience in working with federal agencies and knowing and understanding their requirements.

The RC & D was very flexible with contracting, or letting another agency contract out the work. This flexibility was a huge benefit in allowing several partners to participate.

6. **What you would change in hindsight – lessons learned?**

TC CISMA and the RC and D have a great partnership and it works smoothly.

Initial partners were mostly public land managers so the focus was on getting funds for public lands. This was not the only focus of TC CISMA goals, but worked well initially. This focus motivated public land managers to participate in TC CISMA, as they were educated in EDRR and private land concerns. Educational efforts by FISP, TC CISMA, FLEPPC and others on EDRR and private land concerns eventually made the TC CISMA steering committee more responsive, and willing to look beyond their agencies boundaries.
Southwest Florida
Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

CISMA location
1. In 2009 SWF CISMA member Bill Thomas, who is also the USFWS Region 4 Invasive Species Strike Team Leader, submitted a proposal to obtain funding in way of Challenge Cost Share grant.

2. The project proposal was designed to assist the Southwest Florida CISMA (SW FL CISMA) in their efforts to provide coordinated assistance and expertise to exotic species control, prevention, and education to both public and private landowners on a landscape level throughout Collier, Lee, Charlotte, and Sarasota counties.
   - One exotics removal project within a public natural area
   - Participate in 2 cooperative workdays
   - Develop a brochure to increase awareness of the invasive species problem in SW FL and how CISMA can help

3. The proposal was granted $7000, and Bill developed an agreement between SWF CISMA and Ding Darling Wildlife Society, i.e. 'Friends Group'.
4. The **agreement process** between CISMA and ‘Friends Group’
   – 'Friends Group' manager purchases items at request of Project Officer, Bill Thomas, through requests from SW FL-CISMA co-chairs (Christal Segura and Erin Myers)
   – 'Friends Group' submits financial information to receive direct deposit of portion of funding
   – 'Friends Group' manager tracks expenditures working closely w/Bill

5. **Web-based annual reports** must be submitted at end of year and include items from Scope of Work and other pertinent events and expenditures:
   – paid for SW FL Exotics workshop facilities, conducted X number of workdays and where, purchased x number of brochures, held Pet Amnesty Day, herbicides, gloves, equipment, etc.

6. Recommend working with your USFWS Partners and refuge biologists; and FFWCC Landowner Assistance Biologists, these individuals may receive information about funding opportunities that can be used by CISMA and may know of NGOs or Friends Groups that can be used for money management
2007 - $27,000  BASF Vegetation Grant  
Everglades National Park

2008 - $25,000  Everglades Foundation  
Sacred Ibis

The sacred ibis is an invasive species, as defined in the Fish and Wildlife Service Manual at 620 FW 1, 1.4, E. Invasive species are alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health. Alien species, or nonindigenous species, are species that are not native to a particular ecosystem.

Invasive species can compete for food, water, and space better than native species, and may cause native species to decline in population numbers, possibly leading to a habitat that consists only of that invasive species. The USDA/APHIS/WS works with federal and state agencies and private groups to implement national, regional and local-level invasive species management activities and share information and new techniques for fighting invasive species. Prevention, early detection, rapid response, and control and management are key components of the National Invasive Species Management Plan and interagency or interdepartmental programs. Control of sacred ibis is an example of this effort.

A protocol (attached) outlines operational and safety procedures that will be followed during the lethal take of the sacred ibis in the state of Florida.

PURPOSE AND NEED

Human-facilitated introduction of non-native species continues to threaten native biodiversity worldwide. Invasive exotic species are a particularly serious threat to the natural ecosystems of Florida because of the state's subtropical/tropical climate. These species represent one of the biggest conservation challenges facing the state. Sacred ibis have exhibited invasive tendencies by their spread throughout southern Florida. Sacred ibis also have an international reputation for eating eggs and chicks, including least terns, of other ground or near-ground nesting species.
Goal was to establish a fund for EDRR.

Contacted
+ Everglades Foundation
+ South Florida National Parks Trust
Friends of ECISMA 501c3

Raise funds for ECISMA EDRR and Outreach Activities

- 501c3 Application (April 17, 2013)
- Solicitation License (April 19, 2013)
- Fictitious name Application (pending)

Grants Applied for:

- 2013 NFWF Pulling Together (*Mikania micranthha*)
Visit: FloridaInvasives.org
Contact us: chair@floridainvasives.org
Join us the 4th Wednesday of every month at 1:30pm for the CISMA Monthly Call
Go to www.FloridaInvasives.org/CISMAs.htm to join CISMA Listserv