15th Annual Everglades Invasive Species Summit

Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area
CISMA Partners

MOU Signatories
South Florida Water Management District
Miami-Dade County
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US National Park Service
Army Corps of Engineers
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Partners
South Dade Wetlands: Not So Boring After All!
by Robin Gray-Ungelleris and Gwen Burycki, Miami-Dade County

Have you ever driven the 18-mile stretch of US-1 from Miami City to the key and thought, “When am I going to get through this? There’s nothing to see!” You are passing through the 54,000-acre South Dade Wetlands (SDW, aka Model Lands), a large wetland preserve that is being jointly acquired and managed by the Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWM). SDW contains the largest chunk of freshwater marsh prairie outside Everglades National Park and has all the ecological values of these famous wetlands and ecosystems.

Within one of the fastest-growing urban areas, the EEL Program along with SWMD has brought 30,600 acres under public ownership since 1994. Most of the 1,600 acres of critical habitat for wading birds, freshwater marsh prairie, migratory songbirds, as well as threatened and endangered species such as the wood stork, eastern indigo snake, and the occasional Florida panther.

This area acts as a key source, feeding 50,000 acres of mangrove prairie. It preserves the largest contiguous piece of freshwater marsh prairie outside Everglades National Park.

At the center of this area is the Miami-Dade Water Management District (MD-WMD). The MD-WMD has made several key acquisitions in recent years, including the 4,000-acre Coastal Wetlands Preserve, a 1,200-acre piece of land in the center of the Everglades, and a 500-acre piece of land in the southeast corner of the Everglades.

The MD-WMD has also acquired several key properties within the South Dade Wetlands, including a 1,000-acre piece of land in the center of the Everglades, a 400-acre piece of land in the southwest corner of the Everglades, and a 200-acre piece of land in the northwest corner of the Everglades.

The MD-WMD has also worked closely with the Miami-Dade County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program (EEL) to acquire and protect key properties within the South Dade Wetlands. The EEL Program has acquired several key properties within the South Dade Wetlands, including a 600-acre piece of land in the center of the Everglades, a 400-acre piece of land in the southwest corner of the Everglades, and a 200-acre piece of land in the northwest corner of the Everglades.

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Removing Scleria lancifolia from WCJA in 2015 (Photo by SWMD). Wright’s nutgrass has been problematic in the Everglades since the 1970s and has spread rapidly across the region. It has been a major problem in the Everglades, as well as in other wetland areas throughout Florida. Wright’s nutgrass has been problematic in the Everglades since the 1970s and has spread rapidly across the region. It has been a major problem in the Everglades, as well as in other wetland areas throughout Florida.

As a result of the work, a new infestation was discovered not far from where it had been documented in 2011. The size and density of the infestation suggested the introduction was not recent. The species had not been recorded in the area before, but since it is not native to the area, it is likely that it was introduced some time ago. The infestation was documented on a map provided by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWM).

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Don’t Let It Loose

Be a responsible pet owner
- Learn about exotic pets before bringing one home
- Never release unwanted exotic pets

Have an exotic pet you can no longer keep? Bring it to an FWC Exotic Pet Amnesty Day
- All exotic pets are accepted (domestic pets are not accepted)
- Can’t attend an event? Call the FWC’s Exotic Species Hotline year-round at 888-I-VEGOT1
- There are no penalties for unlicensed or illegally held exotic pets surrendered at these events

Adopters needed!
- The FWC needs experienced pet owners who are willing to adopt surrendered exotic pets
- Applying to be an Exotic Pet Amnesty adopter is free
- Animals can be adopted at Exotic Pet Amnesty Day events or year-round through the FWC’s Exotic Species Hotline

For more information about Exotic Pet Amnesty Day events and to download adoption forms visit MyFWC.com/Nomastics (click on “Exotic Pet Amnesty Program”) or call 1.888.I.VEGOT1 (483-4601).
Young catclaw vine with tuber. Notice the limestone rock characteristic of the rockland hammock habitat (Photo by: Gloria Antia).

*Licaria triandra* sapling with characteristic coloration of new growth (Photo by: Gloria Antia).

*Licaria* saplings in the foreground with catclaw vine climbing a false mastic in the background (Photo by: Gloria Antia).
USDA Wildlife Services Python Trap Research
Non Target Exclusion Trials at Loxahatchee NWR
Biological Control Development

- Mites + Moths
- Mites Only
- Moths Only
- No Agents
Downy Rosemarytle Biological Control

11/04/2018

EVERGLADES CISMA
Conehead Termites
Giant Hammerhead Flatworms
2018 Non Native Fish Roundup, Miccosukee Arches
Multiscale Invasive Plant Monitoring: Experiences from the Greater Everglades Restoration Area

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Abstract

Obtaining spatially explicit, cost-effective, and management-relevant data on invasive plant distributions across large natural areas presents considerable challenges. This is especially true when multiple monitoring objectives exist, because the utility of different monitoring methodologies varies with scale, logistical considerations, and information needs. The Florida Everglades is a vast wetland landscape with widespread invasive plant infestations and multiple management jurisdictions. A multi-agency team Working Group conducted a workshop in 2013 to explore opportunities to enhance the performance of a regional weed control program. Among the most important developments occurring at this meeting was the recognition that relevant management questions are scale-dependent. This led the team to define multiple monitoring objectives. Essential for conveying the success of the weed management program is quantifying large-scale patterns of change, as are quantifying fine-scale patterns informing control activities, defining mechanisms of spread, recognizing accelerating rates of spread, and detecting patterns of occupancy immediately before management intervention. The group’s deliberations resulted in the emergence of a multiscale monitoring program utilizing several distinct monitoring protocols, including systematic landscape-level reconnaissance, a sample-based spatially stratified monitoring system, detailed inventories in planned treatment areas, and a set of methods focused solely on early detection and rapid response. Here we provide an overview of the Everglades multiscale invasive plant monitoring program, highlight benefits and challenges of each program component, and discuss how this program has improved regional invasive plant management.
Everglades Invasive Plant Generalized Random Tessellation Stratified Monitoring Design

Corn Dance Tract
Big Cypress National Preserve

Melaleuca Cells
0.0 - 0.5%
0.5 - 1%
1 - 5%
5 - 25%
25 - 50%
50 - 75%
75 - 100%

Melaleuca Trees/Patches

250 Meter Mapping Grid
Tegus
Goodbye Bobby Hill
2012 Partner of the Year

LeRoy Rogers
2013 Partner of the Year

Skip Snow
2014 Partner of the Year

Jennifer Possley
2015 Partner of the Year

Jennifer Ketterlin Eckles
2017 Partner of the Year

Carrie Beeler-Kanderski
2018 Partner of the Year

Hillary Cooley
Friends of ECISMA (FOE) Incorporated

President of FOE Inc. - Ryan Steele
Friends of ECISMA (FOE) Incorporated

President of FOE Inc. - Shea Bruscia
Friends of ECISMA (FOE) Incorporated

President of FOE Inc. - Haley Hanson
Friends of Everglades CISMA Race Against Invasives
2/23/2019 Shark Valley
Fundraiser

INVASIVE SPECIES BREWERY & TAPROOM

EVERGLADES CISMA
Thank You