



Sustainable Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) for Effective Management on Military Bases and Adjacent Lands across Florida

Project # 11-437

Background:

This invasive non-native species management project, beginning in FY09 and concluding in FY11, was proposed by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), with Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) as the lead base, and with generous support provided by the Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Resource Management Program. After three years, this highly successful project now includes and/or supports all military installations and three service branches in Florida, as well as public and private partners using Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) and the Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP) as the most efficient and effective way to combat the threat of invasive non-native plant and animal species.

Official partner installations actively participating in this project include: Eglin AFB, Tyndall AFB, Camp Blanding Army National Guard (ANG), Avon Park Air Force Range (AFR), Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (AFS)/Patrick AFB, and Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West. Additional installations benefitting from this project include: NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field, Homestead AFB, MacDill AFB, and many outlying fields.

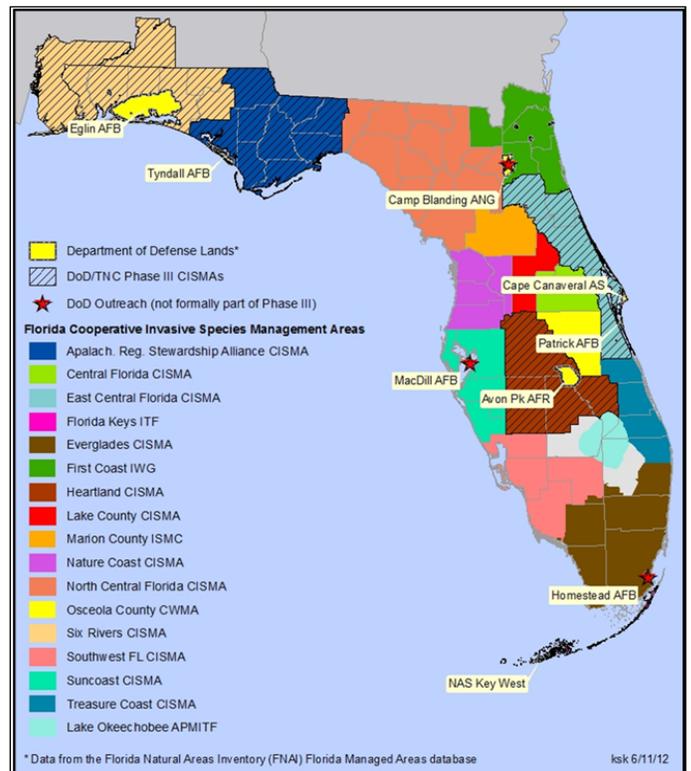
Objective:

The overall objective was to have strong CISMAs, supporting DoD and other partners, that would collectively address the threat of invasive non-native species on DoD lands, private and public lands, and rights of ways within their boundaries. Phase III of this project proposed to:

- Continue statewide support and development of CISMA tools that are easily transferable,
- Continue to strengthen five CISMAs associated with Eglin AFB, Tyndall AFB, Avon Park AFR, Cape Canaveral AFS/Patrick AFB and NAS Key West,
- Transition the lead role for each CISMA to the most logical regional partner(s),
- Complete five on-the-ground projects prioritized by and buffering bases and their associated CISMAs,
- Train CISMA partners to identify high priority invasive species,
- Transfer products and maintain communications with transferred and new bases in Florida, including First Coast Invasive Working Group/Camp Blanding ANG, Everglades CISMA/Homestead AFB, and Suncoast CISMA/MacDill AFB.

Summary of Approach:

Invasive non-native species have been identified by all of the DoD installations as both ecological and economic threats to the natural communities and native species that they manage. CISMAs encourage development of local partnerships among federal, state, and local governmental agencies, tribes, individuals, and other interested groups to manage invasive non-native species in a defined geographic area addressing both public and private lands. The CISMA approach results in efforts that work across boundaries, pools limited resources and similar priorities, and creates a unity of voice that will propel the issue of invasive non-native species to the forefront of the public's sight as well as improve efficiency and effectiveness in management.



Benefit:

The benefits of the Florida CISMA DoD Legacy Program Project are both measured and immeasurable, as an example of how highly effective projects and extensive regional partnerships assume “lives of their own.” While this DoD Legacy Program Project has been completed, the CISMAs will continue to thrive and improve for longterm management issues with invasive non-native species.



Benefits of this project to DoD include:

- Providing invasive non-native species control, training and guidance to DoD for improved mission flexibility and imperiled species management,
- Reducing re-infestation to DoD lands to prevent wasted efforts and resources on high maintenance costs, as well as protect high quality natural areas,
- Leveraging funding, partners and resource-sharing in order to complete treatments across property boundaries and assist neighboring private landowners in removing invasive non-native species,
- Developing CISMA tools that are easily transferable to military bases nationwide and globally.

Accomplishments:

In Phase III, five CISMAs were strengthened. Each has strong leadership and partners and has collectively agreed on future steps through the creation of annual work plans. In addition, each of the CISMAs completed control projects on lands adjacent to or buffering military bases.

Six Rivers CISMA - DoD Partner: Eglin AFB:

- Treated 212 acres of Chinese tallow, Chinese privet, and Japanese climbing fern infestations on Ft. Walton Beach Campus of Northwest Florida State College (NWFSC), adjacent to Eglin AFB.
- Treated 170 acres of Chinese tallow, Chinese privet, and Japanese climbing fern infestations on Niceville Campus of NWFSC, adjacent to Eglin AFB.
- Treated cogon grass infestations along 16 miles of roads and 3 logging decks on the Hutton Unit, adjacent to Naval Outlying Field Harold.

Apalachicola Regional Stewardship Alliance CISMA - DoD Partner: Tyndall AFB:

- Treated 93 acres of Chinese tallow, Japanese Climbing fern, Chinaberry, nandina, and/or Japanese stilt grass infestations on 4 properties in Jackson County, within the Tyndall AFB watershed.
- Treated +10 acres of cogon grass, Chinese tallow, and/or lantana infestations on 4 sites along highways, utility corridors and parcels acting as direct vectors into Tyndall AFB.
- Treated four individual Brazilian pepper shrubs, a priority Early Detection/Rapid Reponses species, on a single parcel in nearby vicinity to Tyndall AFB.

Heartland CISMA - DoD Partner: Avon Park AFR:

- Treated 155 acres of Old World climbing fern infestations on a private property adjacent to Avon Park AFR.

East Central Florida CISMA - DoD Partner: Cape Canaveral AFS/Patrick AFB:

- Coordinated partner workdays to treat two acres of Chinese tallow, Brazilian pepper and Old World climbing fern infestations on County owned conservation lands within proximity to Cape Canaveral AFS.



Florida Keys CISMA - DoD Partner: NAS Key West:

- Coordinated partner workdays to survey and treat ~3 linear miles of Brazilian pepper, Asiatic colubrina, and beach naupaka infestations along a beach area that buffers NAS Key West.

Additionally in Phase III, a Transition Plan was compiled to highlight many of online resources that were discovered and created during all phases of this project. It is intended to help others quickly find the best resources in order to create and/or sustain a CISMA. It can be found, along with full reports of each of the phases of this three year project and previous factsheets, at the DoD Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Network and Information Exchange website (www.denix.osd.mil/) by typing in "CISMA" in the search box. To follow these CISMAs in the future and to find additional resources, go to the Florida Invasive Species Partnership (FISP) website at: www.floridainvasives.org/.

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