

Southern Michigan Invasive Species Team (SMIST) Strategic Plan 2018-2023



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Invasive Species

I. Goal

The Southern Michigan Invasive Species Team (SMIST CISMA) will establish itself as the lead partnership in the region for the control and management of invasive species. The CISMA will collaborate with new partners to increase the capacity of outreach and invasive species eradication. The CISMA will also develop an early detection and rapid response protocol to address high-priority invasive species. The CISMA will provide technical assistance to partners and the community of the CISMA coverage region and will accomplish these goals by meeting the following objectives.

Objective 1: Formation and establishment of SMIST CISMA

Objective 2: Long term management and maintenance of SMIST CISMA

Objective 3: Early Detection and Mapping of priority invasive species

Objective 4: Provide education programs and outreach to regional partners and public.

Objective 5: Treat and manage invasive species populations in the region

Objective 6: Develop partnerships with organizations across state lines

II. Scope



Geographic Scope

The geographic scope of the Southern Michigan Invasive Species Team Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (SMIST CISMA) includes St. Joseph, Branch, and Hillsdale in the southern border of the lower peninsula. The CISMA is geographically

significant being located on the border of Indiana meaning that the CISMA is on the front lines of new invasive species introductions.

Strategic Scope

The Southern Michigan Invasive Species Team CISMA was established in April 2018 with funding from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP). This funding source added two new CISMA's on the southern border of Michigan to fill in gaps in CISMA coverage and provide a network of partners to address invasive species concerns in critical border counties. The SMIST CISMA has **28** partners and collaborative organizations from the formation date with the goal of expanding the number of partnerships in the CISMA. The CISMA has prioritized Black and pale swallowworts, oriental bittersweet, Phragmites, European Frogbit, Chinese yam, Japanese Knotweed, Autumn Olive, Tree of Heaven, Starry Stonewort, and Red Swamp Crayfish, and Giant Hogweed. The CISMA is concerned with all invasive species and their impacts on the landscape, economy, and human health and will develop a tier list of priority invasive species. This will assist in rapid response of new invasive detections and guide the cisma in management goals of invasive species.

Treatment Priorities

The CISMA has developed a strategy and methodology for treating and prioritizing invasive species that will utilize the tiered list as a guide. The first priority of the CISMA is to treat early detections of new invasive species that have not established themselves in the region to prevent them from establishing. The second priority of the CISMA is to treat and manage the high priority invasive species that were determined during the formation of the SMIST CISMA. Being a new CISMA it was also determined that it is important to attain public recognition and the CISMA treatments will focus on public access areas where successful treatments are visible. The CISMA will also focus on areas that have a high potential to disperse invasive species and this includes transportation routes, trail systems, public lands, and the St. Joseph River watershed. These features facilitate the spread of invasive species and it is important that these sites are managed to prevent populations from quickly spreading.

The CISMA contains the headwaters of the St. Joseph River Watershed that begins near Baw Beese Lake in Hillsdale County. The St. Joseph River Watershed is an important feature of the CISMA and is important for the economy that is vital for agriculture and tourism. Treating invasive species that are present in this watershed will prevent their spread downstream into Indiana and our neighboring CISMA. For private land treatments the CISMA will address Tier 1 invasive species and will inform the landowners that the CISMA will assist in treatments with the understanding that long term management is dependent on funding. The CISMA will focus on recent invasive infestations where there is higher probability of eradication than established sites. The

established populations will be monitored and treated when new infestations are eradicated

III. Outcomes and Indicators

The Southern Michigan Invasive Species Team will be a successful organization when the following objectives have been met.

Formation and Establishment of Southern Michigan Invasive Species Team (SMIST)

Intermediate Outcomes	Frequency	Responsible Party	Completion By
Steering Committee Established and meets in-person monthly during the first year.	Bimonthly; ongoing	CISMA partners	January 2019
Steering committee meets bi-monthly after first year of organization establishment	Every other month ongoing	CISMA partners, steering committee	April 2019
Identify Partner organizations and seek new partnerships to increase scope and strengthen CISMA organization	Ongoing	Steering committee, coordinator, Districts, and partners	Ongoing
Complete Strategic Plan, plan shall be reviewed and revisions made as determined by the steering committee	ongoing	Steering Committee, Coordinator, Districts, Partners	October 2018
CISMA partner meetings to share successes and to receive input from partner organizations and the public	Biannually	Districts, partners, coordinators, general public, local government entities	ongoing
Develop Memorandum of Understanding to designate roles and solidify cisma partnership	Ongoing	Steering Committee, CISMA partners	December 2019

2. Long term management and CISMA sustainability

Apply for MISGP Grants	As necessary	CISMA coordinator, partners, steering committee	Dependent on grant cycle
Seek out additional CISMA partners to strengthen CISMA and increase collaboration	Ongoing	CISMA coordinator, partners, steering committee	ongoing
Development a contingency plan to designate roles for CISMA operations in the event of funding loss	Ongoing	CISMA Coordinator, Partners, Steering Committee	December 2020
Seek out additional grant funding options	Ongoing	CISMA Coordinator, Partners, Steering Committee	Ongoing

3. Early Detection and Mapping

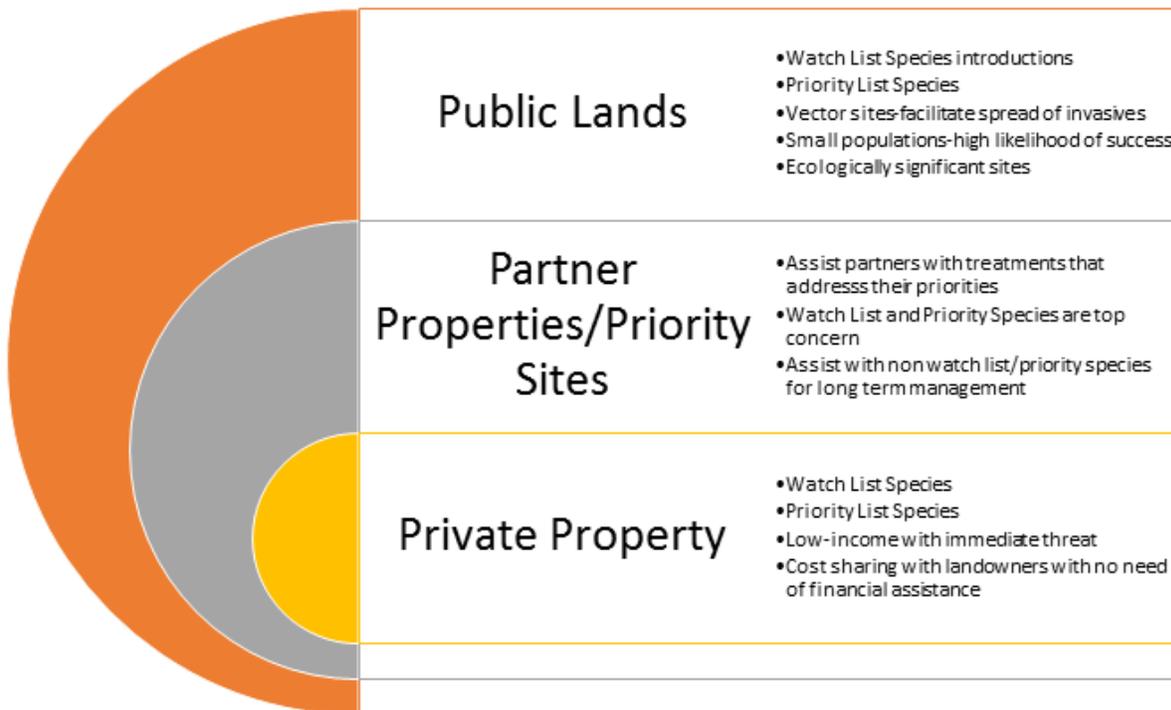
Intermediate Outcomes	Frequency	Responsible Party	Completion By
Determine List of priority invasive species as well a “B and C list Species” for early detection and rapid response. This list is adaptive and can be amended as needed to address emerging threats	ongoing	Districts, Partners, and Coordinator	October 2018
CISMA members will be committed to mapping and reporting through the MISIN program	ongoing	Districts, Partners, and Coordinator	ongoing
Utilize MISIN treatment tracker to manage invasive species monitoring and treatment sites	Ongoing	CISMA Coordinator	ongoing

4. Outreach and Educational Programs

Intermediate Outcomes	Frequency	Responsible Party	Completion By
Develop and distribute CISMA and invasive species educational materials promoting identification, eradication, and early response. Materials will be updated to reflect new invasive species threats and treatment options	ongoing	Development: Coordinator and conservation districts. Distribute: Districts and Partner organizations	2018 and ongoing

Maintain online social media presence through a website and Facebook with support from CISMA partners	ongoing	Upkeep: CISMA coordinator and educators Sharing: Partners	Summer 2018 and ongoing
Clean boats and clean waters trainings.	Two per County Annually	CISMA coordinator, partners, Conservation Districts	2019 and ongoing
Installation of decontamination stations including boot brush signs and wader stations (30)	Annually	CISMA coordinator, partners, Conservation Districts	2023
Invasive Species lake monitoring with Exotic Plant Watch program	Annually	CISMA coordinator, Lake Association partners	Ongoing
Partner with local schools and universities to train students in invasive species ID and treatment	Annually	CISMA coordinator, steering committee, partners	Ongoing

5. Treatment Prioritization



Intermediate Outcomes	Frequency	Responsibility	Completion By
Hire 2-3 seasonal employees to treat invasive species on prioritized treatment sites from 2018 Grant	Ongoing	Coordinator, St. Joseph Conservation District	Spring 2019
Treat 152 acres specified in original CISMA grant	Ongoing	Coordinator, partners, Districts	December 2019
Treat CISMA priority species that are manageable with high chances of success. The CISMA will address these satellite populations before attempting to address dense infestations that require additional efforts.	Ongoing	Coordinator, Strike teams, partners, steering committee	December 2023
Collaborate with partner organizations to treat invasive species on their priority properties	Ongoing	Partners, Coordinator, Steering committee	December 2023
Removal of invasive sites on public lands with high chance of success to obtain public recognition and support	Ongoing	CISMA Coordinator, Strike teams	Ongoing
Ensure the CISMA has the capacity to identify and remove watch list species before they can become established	Ongoing	Coordinator, Partners,	Ongoing
Yearly monitoring of treatment sites	ongoing	Coordinator, partners	December 2023
Identify new treatment sites on both private and public lands	Ongoing	Coordinator, CISMA partners, steering committee	Ongoing

6. Partnership Across State Lines

Intermediate Outcomes	Frequency	Responsibility	Completion By
Form partnerships with organizations that work across state lines	Ongoing	Coordinator, Conservation Districts, Steering Committee	2023
Partner with Indiana CISMAs for Collaboration on management	Ongoing	Coordinator, Conservation Districts, Steering Committee	2023
Share information and collaborate across the border with trainings and outreach publications	Ongoing	Coordinator, Conservation Districts, Steering Committee	2023
Meet annually with Indiana CISMAs to discuss emerging threats and share ideas	Semi-annually	Coordinator	2023

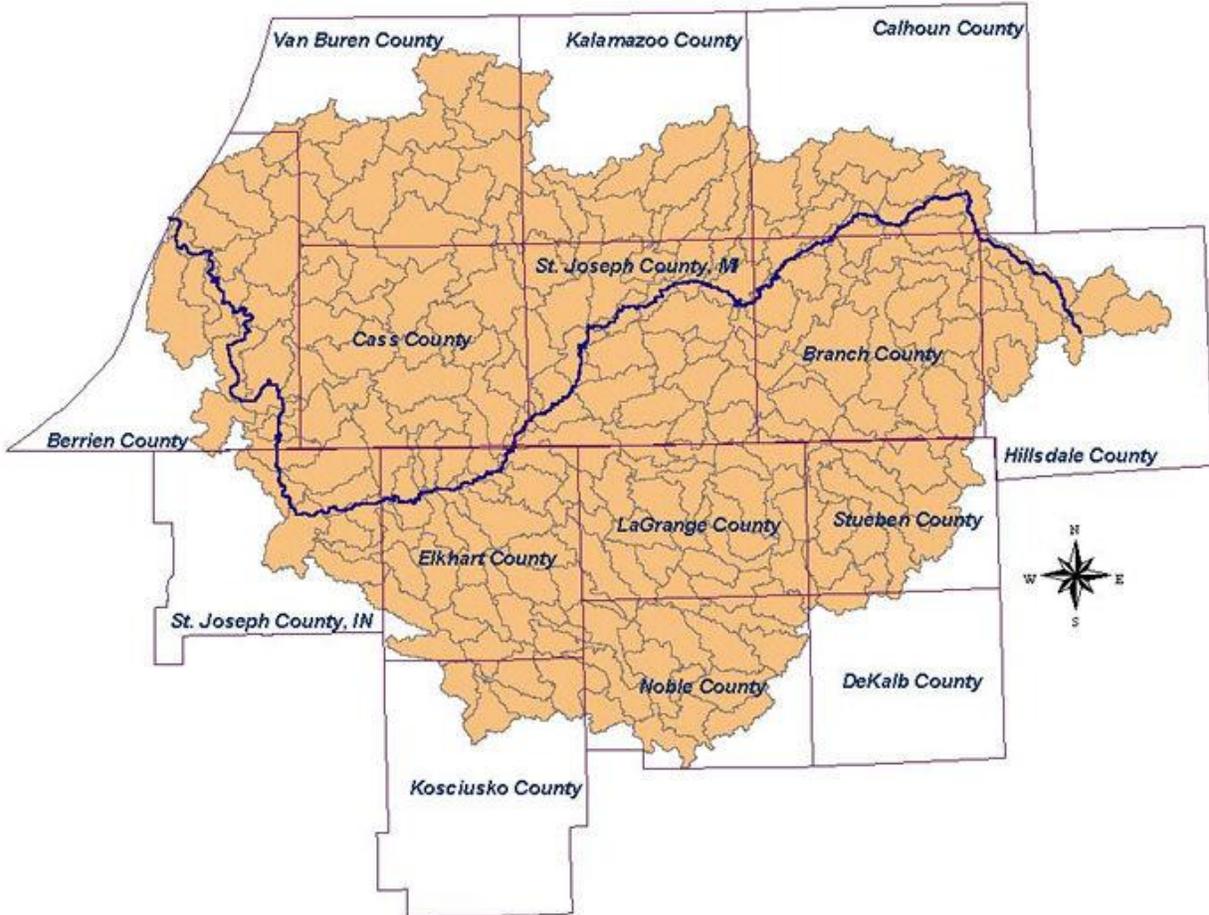
Appendix A. Partners

- St. Joseph County Conservation District
- Branch County Conservation District
- Hillsdale County Conservation District
- St. Joseph County Drain Commission
- St. Joseph County Road Commission
- St. Joseph County Parks and Recreation
- Branch County Road Commission
- Branch County Drain Commission
- Branch ISD
- Amigo Centre
- Potawatomi RC&D
- Grass Lake Association
- Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi
- Pheasants Forever #464
- Branch County Board of Commissioners
- Rose Lake Association
- Kimball Camp YMCA
- Department of Natural Resources Crane Pond Field Office
- SWxSW Corner CISMA
- St. Joseph Pheasants Forever#615
- Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy
- St. Joseph County Commissioners
- City of Colon
- City of Hillsdale
- Hillsdale College
- City of Three Rivers
- St. Joseph County Farm Bureau
- NCTA Baw Beese Chapter

Appendix B.

St. Joseph River Watershed

Counties of the St. Joseph River Watershed



Appendix C.

SMIST CISMA Invasive species Priority List

This lists includes invasive species ranked by priority and prevalence in our CISMA region. The species highlighted in red are identified as CISMA priority Species. This list is not exhaustive and includes a number of invasive species that are a threat to the region. All invasive species are eligible for management and lower tier invasive species can take priority over higher tiers depending on various situations. For example lower tier invasive species in rare ecosystems may necessitate treatment based on the discretion of the SMIST CISMA despite being a lower tier than other species.

A List Species-Med-High Threat , Isolated Occurences		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Category
Kudzu	Pueraria lobata	Vine
Giant Hogweed	Heracleum Mantegazzianum	Broadleaf
Japanese Stiltgrass	Microstegium vimineum	Grass
Red Swamp Crayfish	Procambarus clarkii	Crustacean
Giant Knotweed	Polygonum sachalinense	Broadleaf
Himilayan Knotweed	Persicaria wallichii	Broadleaf
Asian Longhorn Beetle	Anoplophora glabripennis	Insect
Spotted Lanternfly	Lycorma delicatula	Insect
Nutria	Myocastor coypus	Mammal
Thousand Cankers Disease	Geosmithia morbida	Fungus
Black Jetbead	Rhodotypos scandens	Shrub
Feral Hog	Sus scrufa	Mammal
Water Hyacinth	Eichhornia crassipes	Aquatic
Hydrilla	Hydrilla verticillata	Aquatic
European Frogbit	Hydrocharis morsus-ranae	Aquatic
Oak Wilt	Ceratocystis fagacearum	Fungus
B List Species-Med to High Threat, not widespread		
Starry Stonewort	Nitellopsis obtusa	Aquatic
Phragmites	Phragmites Australis	Aquatic
Flowering Rush	Butomus umbellatus	Aquatic
Russian Olive	Eleagnus angustifolia	Shrub
Japanese Knotweed	Fallopia Japonica	Broadleaf
Black Swallowwort	Cynanchum louiseae	Vine
Pale Swallowwort	Cynamchum rossicum	Vine
Leafy Spurge	Euphorbia esula	Broadleaf
Chinese Yam	Dioscorea Oppositifolia	Vine
C List Species-Med to High threat, widespread		
Tree of Heaven	Ailanthus altissima	Tree
Glossy Buckthorn	Frangula alnus	Shrub
Common Buckthorn	Rhamnus cathartica	Shrub
Asian Bush Honeysuckles	Lonicera spp.	Shrub
Black Locust	Robinia pseudoacacia	Tree
Japanese Barberry	Berberis thunbergii	Broadleaf
Spotted Knapweed	Centaurea maculosa	Broadleaf
Purple Loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria	Aquatic
Oriental Bittersweet	Celastrus orbiculata	Vine
Garlic Mustard	Alliaria petiolata	Broadleaf
Autumn Olive	Elaeagnus umbellata	Shrub
Curly Pondweed	Potamogeton crispus	Aquatic
Canada Thistle	Cirsium arvense	Broadleaf
Multiflora Rose	Rosa multiflora	broadleaf