

Program Name: South Florida Water Management District Invasive Species Management
Project Name: **Invasive Exotic Plant Control in Terrestrial and Aquatic Natural Systems**
Project ID: 2502
Lead Agency: SFWMD

Strategic Plan Goal(s) Addressed: 2.B.1

Measurable Output(s): Implementation of invasive species management plans as a coordinated program, including inter-agency collaboration; reduction of total acreage for all priority invasive plant species; attainment of maintenance control for invasive exotic plants such as hydrilla, waterhyacinth, waterlettuce, Brazilian pepper, Australian pine, and Old World climbing fern.

Project Synopsis:

The SFWMD continues to coordinate with other agencies to implement the melaleuca management plan for south Florida. Maintenance control has been achieved for melaleuca within Water Conservation Areas (WCA)-2A, 3A, 3B, and many acquisition areas along the eastern Everglades, the Florida Keys, and Lake Okeechobee.

Old World climbing fern continues to be problematic in many SFWMD-managed lands, but some progress has been made. The SFWMD continues to treating outlier populations of Old World climbing fern within WCA-3A and WCA-3B in coordination with ongoing tree island invasive plant surveys. Sustained control efforts on other conservation lands (e.g., Kissimmee River basin, Treasure Coast region) are beginning to move Old World climbing fern infestations to lower levels, but new areas of infestation are regularly observed. Continued implementation of control programs, consistent with the Old World climbing fern management plan, is necessary to reverse the expansion of this invasive plant.

The SFWMD continues to maintain waterlettuce and waterhyacinth at maintenance control levels in most natural water bodies under its jurisdiction. Other species, including hydrilla, West Indian marsh grass, torpedograss, limpograss, and Wright's nutrush remain problematic in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes region. The SFWMD is increasing control efforts for these species in collaboration with FDEP. The SFWMD also continues to focus on regionally-problematic species such as downy rosemyrtle (pinelands in northeastern region), shoebutt ardisia (eastern Everglades), and South American watergrass (Lake Okeechobee).

Current Status: Regional, coordinated efforts have yielded an Everglades Protection Area largely free of melaleuca. Much of the remaining population is now found on private lands. The melaleuca biocontrol agents that have been established in Florida are exerting strong inhibitive pressure on the tree. SFWMD continues to focus on removal of Old World climbing fern and Brazilian pepper throughout the Water Conservation Areas and other SFWMD-managed conservation lands.

Cost: \$7,161,408
Project Development: N/A
Land Acquisition: N/A
Implementation: Operations and maintenance \$11.6 million per year

Project Schedule:

Start Date: 2007
Finish Date: TBD

Detailed Project Budget Information (\$1000) / Expenditures to Date

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Federal	135*					135
SFWMD**	10,862	9,038	6,723	7,161		33,784
Local						
Total	10,997	9,038	6,723	7,161		33,919

*USDA grant funds (TAME)

**SFWMD: Expenditures to date per fiscal year

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