

Program Name: Exotic Vegetation Management Program
Project Name: Everglades National Park Exotic Vegetation Management
Project ID: 2506 (Formerly Project ID 2604)
Lead Agency: National Park Service

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

Measurable Output(s): Acres infested with Exotic Plants

Project Synopsis: Everglades National Park encompasses 1.5 million acres of which 1.3 million is designated as the only subtropical wilderness in the continental United States. Non-native (exotic) plants are a significant threat to the native plant communities of Everglades National Park. Approximately 1,000 plant species have been recorded in the park. Of these, over 220 species are non-native. Systematic treatments address 10 to 15 species. The most commonly targeted exotics are: Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), Melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), Australian pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), Lather leaf (*Colubrina asiatica*), and Old World climbing fern (*Lygodium microphyllum*). Exotic vegetation is estimated to affect approximately 200,000-250,000 acres of the park.

Over the last 20 years, funds provided by Federal, State and County agencies, such as the National Park Service's South Florida Natural Resources Center, National Park Service's Florida and Caribbean Exotic Plant Management Team, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the South Florida Water Management District, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management, have helped to treat exotic vegetation in Everglades National Park.

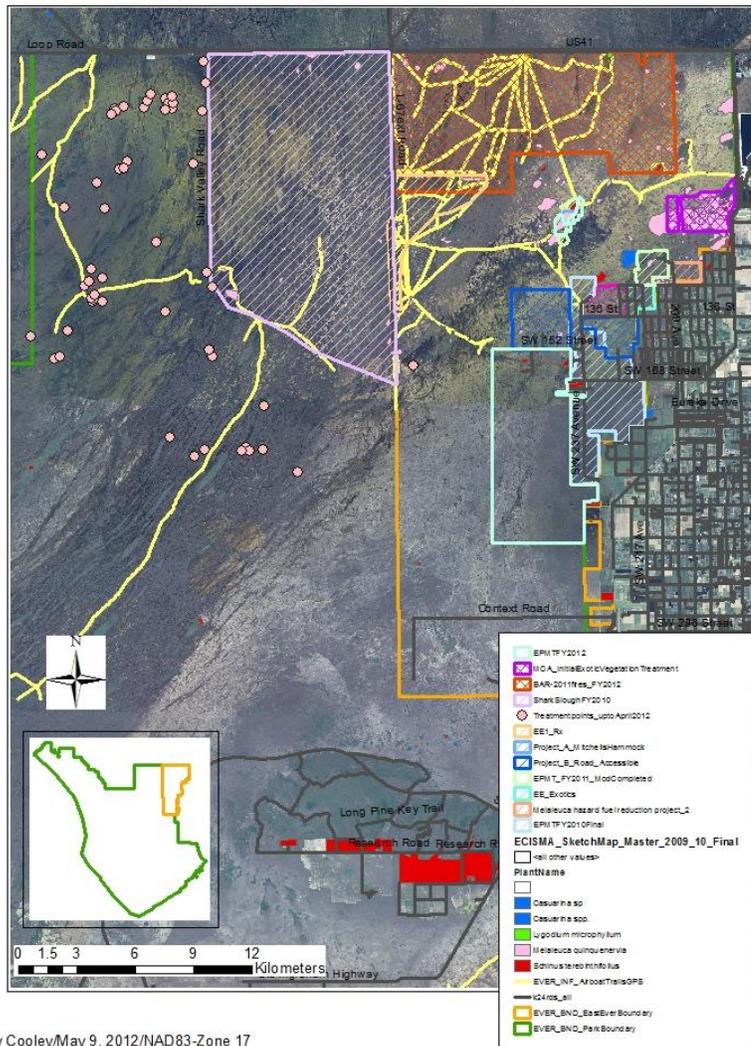
Current Status: Although contractors, volunteers, interns, and park staff were able to treat exotic vegetation in all districts of Everglades National Park, invasive exotic plant problems still occur in the East Everglades, Gulf Coast, Flamingo, and Key Largo Districts of Everglades National Park. For example, *Lygodium* is established in the sparsely wooded coastal marsh areas along the western coast in both the Gulf Coast and Flamingo Districts. *Lygodium* was first recognized in the Park in 1999. Treatment efforts have been effectively treating large dense stands, but the plant continues to expand its range within Everglades National Park.

In terms of sheer magnitude Brazilian pepper is the most widespread. Brazilian pepper is particularly abundant along the fringes of the mangroves. In some instances there are individual stands of Brazilian pepper that cover 4,000 to 6,000 acres and are comparable in size and density to those that occur in the Hole-In-The-Donut. A cost effective strategy for systematically removing Brazilian pepper from the park has not been identified. Treatment of this plant is done sporadically as a part of broader exotics projects and in discreet areas that have been identified as resource management priorities.

Although a great amount of progress has been made in the East Everglades Expansion Area treating melaleuca and Australian pine, there is still a great need for finishing the remaining initial treatment (~1,650 acres) and re-treatment. Re-treatment efforts are very important in order to continue the progress already achieved. Funding for re-treatment efforts are not guaranteed because there are no dedicated funds for this activity. However, retreatment funds are crucially important in order to insure restoration success. Table 1 presents funding sources and acres of exotic vegetation treated between July 2011 and April 2012.

Table 1. Summary of agencies providing funding for exotic vegetation treatment projects in Everglades National Park during the period of July, 2011-April, 2012. (Note that not all projects were completed in FY2012, many are on-going at time of this report).

Project Location	Funding Source	Gross Infested Acres Treated	Canopy Acres Treated	Costs
East Everglades District Contracted-FY2011	NPS-SFNRC	805	24	\$49,103 Completed January, 2012
East Everglades District Contracted-FY2011	NPS-FLCEPMT	4,252	680	\$217,000 Completed April, 2012
East Everglades District (Fire and Aviation Projects)	ENPFIRE (Hazard Fuel)	On-going	On-going	NPS Fire Funding On-going
East Everglades District Initial treatment (Contracted FY2012)	MOA with Miami-Dade	On-going (~600)	On-going (~96)	\$166,673 Started May 2012
East Everglades District Re-treatment (Contracted FY2012)	BAR	On-going (~700)	On-going (~112)	\$100,000 Planned to start in June/July 2012
East Everglades District Spot spray project	FLCEPMT	On-going (~3,200)	On-going (~32)	~\$12,000 Planned to start in May/June, 2012
Shark Slough (West of Tram Road)	FLCEPMT-SFNRC-EVMP	~2,800 (as of April 2012)	~28	Included with in-house budget
In-house work -Interns, VIP, and NPS staff	SFNRC-EVMP	~212 (as of April 2012)	~35 (as of April 2012)	\$38,246
East Everglades District (South of Chekika)	FLCEPMT	On-going (10,000)	On-going (100)	\$100,000 Planned to start later in FY2012
Total treated July 2011-April 2012		8,069	767	
Funding Sources				
Burned Area Rehabilitation (BAR)				
Everglades National Park Fire Management (ENPFIRE)				
Exotic Vegetation Management Program (EVMP)				
Memorandum of Agreement with Miami-Dade County (MOA with Miami-Dade)				
National Park Service's Florida and Caribbean Exotic Plant Management Team (NPS-FLCEPMT)				
National Park Service-South Florida Natural Resource Center (NPS-SFNRC)				



Hillary Cooley/May 9, 2012/NAD83-Zone 17

Figure 1: Areas treated in East Everglades and Shark Slough between July 2011 and April 2012.

Cost: See table above

Project Schedule:

Start Date: 2002
 Finish Date: To be determined

Detailed Project Budget Information:

See Table 1 above.

Hyperlink: <http://www.nps.gov/ever/naturescience/exoticvegprogram.htm>

Contact: Hillary Cooley