

**Program Name:** Southwest Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (SWF CISMA)  
**Project Name:** Outreach and Educational Events  
**Project ID:** 4208  
**Lead Agency:** ECISMA

**Strategy and Biennial Report Objective Addressed:** 3-D.1  
**Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework Goal:** 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Measurable Output(s):** Number of events attended; Number of people attended

**Project Synopsis:** The mission of this group is to coordinate and increase efforts between local, state and federal agencies and landowners of all sizes. The goal is to reduce the impact of or eliminate invasive, nonnative plants and nonnative animals by combining programs and resources to address invasive species on a landscape level to achieve common goals and objectives.

Goal 4 of the SWF CISMA Annual Workplan is to provide education, and informational exchange. The CISMA members attend at least seven local events annually. During these events, we host exhibits with live invasive plants and animals, as well as non-live materials people can handle and take with them. We use these opportunities to educate the public and especially youth about the differences between native and invasive species, the impacts invasive species have on our native wildlife and habitats and how the general public can help with monitoring and removing the spread of invasive species across Southwest Florida.

The CISMA also hosts an annual "Exotics Workshop" for agency and organization personnel as well as students and private landowners. This workshop provides an opportunity for people to learn current information on identification and treatment of invasive species in Southwest Florida. During this event we also provide a Python Handling Training for individuals who may be working with large constrictor snakes in the field. During the Fall of 2014, the CISMA will host its first Grass Identification Workshop to assist field personnel in identification of native and invasive grasses in Collier County.

The CISMA will be hosting its third Exotic Pet Amnesty Day within the geographic area of the CISMA. During this November, we will be working in conjunction with the Annual Florida Panther Festival. There will be a location for animal surrender and adoption, as well as a separate exhibit for education and "hands on" opportunities for Collier County residents.

**Current Status:**

2014: 13 Outreach Events planned, approximately, 3000 people reached  
3 Professional Trainings/Workshops, approximately 300 professionals trained  
1 Exotic Pet Amnesty Day, approximately 15-20 exotic animals surrendered and adopted out

**Project Schedule:**

Start Date: January 2014  
Finish Date: January 2015

**Detailed Project Budget Information**

|                | <b>2014<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>2015</b> | <b>2016</b> | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>Balance to Complete</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Federal</b> | \$5000                  |             |             |             |             |                            |              |
| <b>SFWMD**</b> |                         |             |             |             |             |                            |              |
| <b>NGO</b>     | \$900                   |             |             |             |             |                            |              |
| <b>Local</b>   | \$2500                  |             |             |             |             |                            |              |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$8,400</b>          |             |             |             |             |                            |              |

<sup>1</sup>Each of these categories is from a grant source. The money is tied to specific projects and/or goals of the CISMA. We may receive more in 2015, but it is more likely that we will just have what is left over after this year's expenditures.

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**Hyperlink:** [www.FloridaInvasives.org/Southwest](http://www.FloridaInvasives.org/Southwest)