

Program Name: Exotic Management
Project Name: Corridors of Invasiveness Vital Sign
Project ID: 2613
Lead Agency: National Park Service

Strategy and Biennial Report Objective Addressed: 2-B.2
Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework Goal: 2

Measurable Output(s): Routine annual data summary reports to the park surveyed in a particular year. Individual infestations are reported together with waypoint information, infestation area, abundance, field of view estimate, treatment data, and comments. Summary data is also reported by species, whether it's new to the park, the number of infestations, minimum size of infestation found, and maximum size of infestation found, total area, and percent infested in the field of view. Maps and photos are included.

Project Synopsis:

Early detection and rapid response to these new species of exotic plants is important to maintaining the integrity of the parks' natural habitats in a cost-effective manner. The purpose of the Corridors of Invasiveness vital sign is to have early detection of these potential invaders and facilitate rapid treatment of these plants while they are small and isolated. The Corridors of Invasiveness Vital Sign detects new invasive exotic plants that appear/establish along corridors in Big Cypress National Preserve (BICY), Biscayne National Park (BISC), and Everglades National Park (EVER). Our collaboration with the Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) of the Florida and Caribbean Office (FLACO) allows early detection and rapid response to the threat of invasive exotic plants. The protocol for this vital sign was completed and sent out for external peer review. The protocol was approved by the Regional Coordinator and officially accepted in the summer of 2013 (available here: https://irma.nps.gov/App/Reference/DownloadDigitalFile?code=472357&file=20130709_Corr_Inv_Protocol_nrss.pdf).

Expansion of this project could be made to include all other state/federal lands in the region (~15 additional areas covering ~2000 square miles or ~75% of area that is currently monitored). Applying concept to other areas would probably cost ~\$30,000 per year.

Current Status:

A complete sample of all selected survey sites in the three National Park Service units (BISC, EVER, BICY) occurs every five years. Sampling effort is balanced across years by using a rotating design, with year one starting in Biscayne National Park, year two dedicated to the eastern region of Everglades National Park, and year three dedicated to the south region of Big Cypress National Preserve. Because most of the area of Biscayne National Park is marine, survey sites are restricted to areas of the mainland and a few of the off-shore keys. Therefore, all of BISC can be surveyed within one annual cycle. Since all of BISC will be surveyed in a single year, year four will be dedicated to the western region of EVER, and year five will be dedicated to the north region of BICY, with year six starting the cycle over again, and dedicated to all of BISC. So far BISC, Eastern EVER, and South BICY have been completed. This summer, western EVER will be surveyed.

Project Schedule:

Start Date: 2011
Finish Date: Ongoing

Detailed Project Budget Information

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Balance to Complete	Total
Federal	\$20,000.00	\$20,600.00	\$21,218.00	21,855.00	\$22,510.18	\$86,182.72	\$106,182.72
SFWMD*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Local	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total	\$20,000.00	\$20,600.00	\$21,218.00	21,855.00	\$22,510.18	\$86,182.72	\$106,182.72

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Pictures:



Map of area:

