

Ohio River Valley Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) Strategic Management Plan

2017



VISION STATEMENT

The Ohio River Valley Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area will serve as a partnership to control and remove invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries to encourage the establishment and sustainability of native populations.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to protect, restore, and improve the Ohio River Valley (ORV) Region by coordinating efforts to identify, prevent, and control invasive species and collaborating on efforts to establish native populations.

INTRODUCTION

The Ohio River Valley Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ORV Cisma) was established to fill in the need for a Cooperative Weed Management Area or Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CWMA) for SW Ohio, SE Indiana, and Northern Kentucky. Together, the ORV Cisma and its partners seek to:

1. Help establish, promote, and implement responsible invasive species management strategies.
2. Promote the conservation, preservation, and/or restoration of native plant and animal species.
3. Develop and enhance relationships with individuals and organizations who seek to contribute their resources to help achieve our goals and objectives.

It is critical to ORV Cisma's ability to combat invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries to develop a strategic management plan. The purpose of this strategic management plan is to establish the goals, objectives, and planned actions of the ORV Cisma. To maximize opportunities for partner input, and the ability to respond dynamically to invasive species threats, this plan has been designed to serve across multiple years (but will be revised and updated, as necessary). This document will serve as a guideline by which the relevance and importance of projects and actions can be measured.

MANAGEMENT AREA

The ORV Cisma consists of urban, suburban, and rural areas spread throughout the Ohio River Valley; defined broadly as 9 Ohio counties (Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Hamilton, Highland, Montgomery, Scioto, and Warren), 7 Kentucky counties (Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, and Pendleton), and 6 Indiana counties (Franklin, Dearborn, Ohio, Ripley, Jefferson, and Switzerland) for a total of 22 counties.

LOCATION

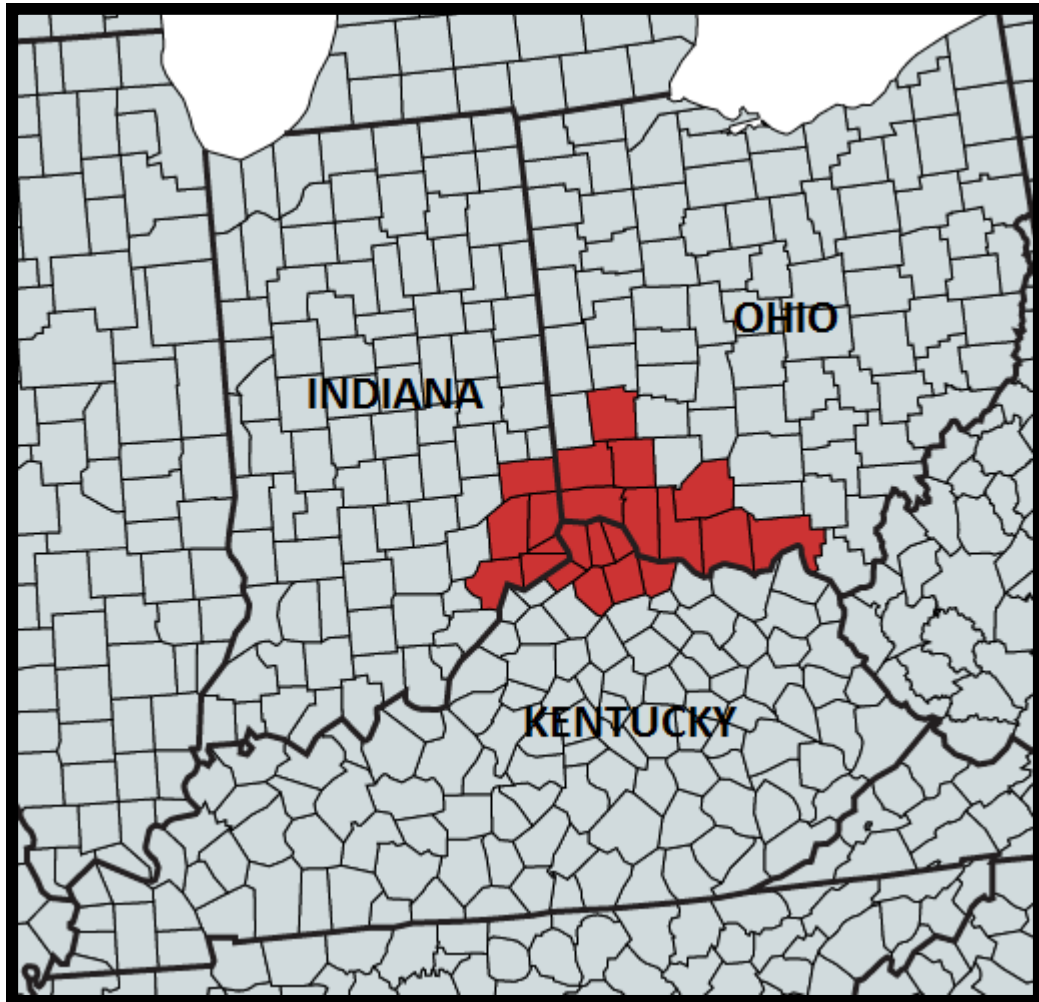


Figure 1. The ORV Cisma management area (mapchart.net)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Invasive Species Management

ORV Cisma acknowledges the negative effects of invasive species on the ecological and economic well-being of local environments. Therefore, ORV Cisma will actively seek to plan, coordinate, and participate in the inventory and control of the invasive species found within its management area.

Objective 1.1: Collect, manage, and share invasive species location data in the ORV CISMA area.

Strategic Actions

1. Collect and adapt partner survey data.
2. Maintain an internal database of all known invasive locations in the ORV CISMA.
3. Create and distribute a map of known invasive species in the ORV CISMA.

Objective 1.2: Prioritize invasive species control efforts.

Strategic Actions

1. Identify existing programs or projects within organizations.
2. Prioritize control efforts based on ORV CISMA partner priorities.
3. Identify high threat (highly invasive, difficult to control, rapidly spreading) populations of invasive species.

Objective 1.3: Advocate for the use of Best Management Practice (BMPs) techniques to ORV CISMA partners.

Strategic Actions

1. Advocate Best Management Practice (BMPs), utilizing a combination of control techniques to effectively manage invasive populations on a case-by-case basis while limiting the economic and environmental impacts of treatment.
2. Provide landowners and land managers information on control and management options available for their own invasive species management projects.
3. Monitor and document results of control work and conduct follow-up treatments as needed and able.

Goal 2: Early Detection and Rapid Response

Even the best prevention methods can fail, and when they do, it is important to have early detection and rapid response plan ready to prevent formation of a large, well-established population of an invasive species. Early detection and rapid response efforts are beneficial because they allow for smaller and more targeted control measures, which offer a high return on investment and limit damage to an ecosystem. Therefore, ORV CISMA will seek to quickly identify and respond to invasions.

Objective 2.1: Identify early detection targets.

Strategic Actions

1. Work with partners to develop and maintain an ORV CISMA Priority Invasive Species List to categorize invasive species as Early Detection or Known.
2. Update the priority list as needed with any new species of concern.
3. Work with partners to identify locations within the ORV CISMA area that should be monitored periodically for early detections.

Objective 2.2: Develop up-to-date rapid response plans for invasive species.

Strategic Actions

1. Maintain the Contact/Reporting form section of the website
2. Investigate protocols for mapping new invasions.

Objective 2.3: Quickly respond to newly discovered/localized invasive species populations in the ORV Cisma area.

Strategic Actions

1. Develop cooperative relationships with landowners.
2. Create a Rapid Response Protocol for invasive species in the ORV Cisma.

Goal 3: Restoration

Invasive species tend to spread to habitats that are already disturbed and in some cases the elimination of the invasive species has further disturbed the habitat. Restoration of these habitats with native plants can aid in a quicker recovery. Therefore, ORV Cisma will seek to restore native species and habitat in areas to promote a biologically diverse ecosystem.

Objective 3.1: Identify, prioritize, and restore disturbed habitats that would benefit from restoration efforts.

Strategic Actions

1. Develop a prioritization tool for the restoration of disturbed habitats; considerations should include: likelihood of being invaded or re-invaded, current invasion status, disturbance interval, access, landowner support, available resources, cost, ease of treatment, ecological/economical benefits.

Objective 3.2: Include restoration considerations in invasive species management projects.

Strategic Actions

1. Advocate the benefits of planting native species to partners, outside groups, and individuals.
2. Include restoration components as part of ORV Cisma control efforts when and where appropriate.

Goal 4: Educational Outreach

The most certain way to limit the effects invasive species will have on an ecosystem is to prevent them from ever reaching it. Prevention is facilitated through educational outreach efforts. Therefore, ORV Cisma will seek to engage and educate the residents and visitors to our area on the impacts of invasive species. As part of this effort, ORV Cisma will also seek to develop

educational tools and relationships with/for partner and non-partner organizations that seek to combat the effects of invasive species.

Objective 4.1: Develop relationships with partner and non-partner organizations interested in raising awareness about invasive species, their impacts, and ongoing prevention measures.

Strategic Actions

1. Join/incorporate the use of regional prevention campaigns/programs into ORV CISMA efforts.
2. Work with local youth groups to provide hands-on learning activities to children.
3. Conduct targeted invasive species education and training for ORV CISMA Partners and citizen groups
4. Reach out to public officials and industry workers to establish connections and develop best management practices.
5. Develop and co-host cooperative workdays and projects for citizens with partners across the ORV CISMA.
6. Provide representation at area workshops and meetings hosted by partner and potential partner organizations.
7. Maintain open communication with partners.
8. Promote sharing of information of information and resources among partners, members, and other interested parties.

Objective 4.2: Develop and/or maintain easily accessible and up-to-date invasive species information and educational tools.

Strategic Actions

1. Obtain existing educational materials from other agencies and partners to distribute at public functions.
2. Develop educational materials and distribute in public locations. Provide ORV CISMA partners and area citizens access to resources and information via website.
3. Utilize media to inform local residents about new invasive species developments.
4. Promote the use of signage to reach recreationists and tourists at high-traffic areas.

Goal 5: Organizational Collaboration

ORV CISMA's success is dependent on our ability to be an asset to our area and our partners. In order to remain an asset to partners, ORV CISMA must continue to be a vehicle for collaborative efforts and the sharing of information and resources.

Objective 5.1: Seek out or develop opportunities to sustain or expand ORV CISMA's ability to aid partners.

Strategic Actions

1. Seek funding through competitive grants and donations.
2. Work with partners to develop opportunities.

Objective 5.2: Maintain ORV CISMA's organizational structure and guiding documents.

Strategic Actions

1. Continue to update organizational documents when needed.

Objective 5.3: Facilitate work across jurisdictional boundaries to strengthen current and potential partner efforts.

Strategic Actions

1. Maintain accountability and transparency in the coordinator position with open records of daily work activities.
2. Hold Steering Committee Meetings to solicit for partner input and approval of policies.
3. Hold Executive Committee Meetings to ensure all goals and objectives are being met.
4. Hold an annual stakeholder meeting to highlight ORV CISMA's activities.