

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_In_v_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. The sampling effort is balanced across years by using a rotating design, with year one in Biscayne National Park, two years dedicated to Everglades National Park (Eastern and Western Regions), and two years dedicated to Big Cypress National Preserve (Southern and Northern Regions). This is year six of the monitoring program so there as been initial surveys in BISC, Eastern and Western EVER, and Southern and Northern BICY have been completed. This year we began the first resample of BISC there has been an overall increase in the number of exotic species encountered (6 new species) and total number of infestations. However, there has been an overall drop in total infested area due to efforts to eradicate large populations of latherleaf, beach naupaka, and portiatree.

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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