



THE INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION (IPMA)

ADDING ANOTHER VOICE

FY 2013-14 Successes

Todd Olson

An aerial photograph of a wetland landscape. The terrain is covered with dense, low-lying vegetation in various shades of green and brown. A winding path or road is visible on the left side. The background shows a vast expanse of similar vegetation under a clear sky.

The Problem: Invasive Exotic Plants in Florida

What is an Invasive Exotic Plant?

- **Not all exotic plants are invasive pests (25,000 species).**
- **Some introduced species become naturalized (1300 species).**
- **Some naturalized species become invasive pests (150 species).**
- **Florida has 2825 native plant species.**



Reasons for Introductions

- **Agriculture- Cogongrass**
- **Ornamental- Syngonium, Climbing Fern, Hydrilla**
- **Land/Waterscaping- Brazilian Pepper, Hyacinth**
- **Erosion Control- Kudzu**
- **Cultural- Water Spinach**
- **Wind Breaks- Australian Pine**
- **Other- Melaleuca**
- **Accidental- ??**



Magnitude of the Problem

Economic

- **Navigation and Flooding**
- **Fire Hazards**
- **Agriculture- Cattle, Sod, Row Crops, Silviculture**
- **Utilities- Power Corps, Roadways**
- **Loss of Tourism**
- **Loss of Recreation**
- **Loss of Opportunity**

Ecological

- **Loss of Biodiversity.**
- **Shift in Vegetation Communities.**
- **Change in Fire Ecology.**
- **Loss of Critical Habitat for T&E wildlife. Florida has 500 T&E Species, 150 Endemic.**
- **Degradation of water quality.**

Who Has Invested in Control Efforts in Florida



- **Federal-** NPS, USFWS, BLM, USACOE, USDA
- **State of Florida***- FDEP, FFWCC, WMD, FDOT, 298 Districts
- **Counties***
- **Municipalities***

*- Dependent of State Funding

\$\$ What Has Been Invested \$\$ by The State of Florida

- **Much Blood, Sweat, and Careers**
- **FWC Trust Fund Average: \$28-30M**
- **FWC Upland (Grant) Average: 20%**
- **FWC Aquatic Average: 80%**
- **SFWMD Budget Average: \$10M (ground)**
- **FDEP Budget Average: >\$1M**
- **Estimated Annual FWC Upland Need: \$22M**
- **2012/13 Budget: \$29M**

What Has been Accomplished? (ROI)

- **Tourism has been sustained/improved.**
- **Rec opportunities have been provided.**
- **Public safety has been protected.**
- **Agriculture and silviculture have been protected.**
- **Environmental mandates met.**



What Infrastructure was Created?



- The model for govt. contracting.
- Professional orgs. Comprised of public and private members.
- Vibrant network of applicators, suppliers, and manufacturers.
- **JOBS!**



Invasive Plant Management Association (IPMA)

- **IPMA's Mission is to foster sustained State funding for invasive plant control measures as an integral part of managing Florida's natural lands and waters.**

IPMA

- Our Mission is **not** to differentiate between upland, wetland and aquatic programs.
- Our Mission is **not** to influence the contracting policies of State agencies.
- Our Mission **is** to add an economic voice to what some feel is strictly an ecological problem.



Invasive Plant Management Association



- **501(c)(6) not-for-profit corporation.**
- **Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws.**
- **Membership is 12 companies at this time, with interest comprised of private industry, trade groups, and concerned citizens.**
- **Leadership is comprised of 1 President, 1 VP, 1 Sec/Treasurer, and 2 Directors (2 yr terms).**

Strategic Advocacy Effort

- **Contract with Lewis, Longman & Walker, PA.**
 - **Assist to develop message and strategy**
 - **Identify key legislators**
 - **Facilitate meetings**
 - **Advocate**
- **Incorporate a CCE for distributing political contributions.**
- **Focus on funding first, then voice other concerns.**
- **Co-Advocate with other organizations.**
- **Grassroots movement in the future.**

Invasive Plant Management Association

FY 2013-14 Message:

- To further educate Legislators on the benefits of State funded invasive plant management operations to Florida.**
- To inform Legislators on the existence of the infrastructure currently in place that relies on steady funding of State agencies. Pointing out the magnitude of employment opportunities provided by this infrastructure.**
- To seek Legislative support for sustainable State funding for agencies whose mission is to conduct invasive plant control operations and/or matching grant programs aimed at controlling invasive plants on public lands at the local level.**

Invasive Plant Management Association

FY 2013-14 Message:

- To seek legislative support for sustainable State land/waterway management trust funds, such as the FWC Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund, either through enacting new revenue source legislation or protecting current Trust assets.**
- To seek legislative support to manage State trust conservation lands as a core function of the State (FDEP RP).**
- To seek legislative support to manage WMD conservation lands as a core WMD function.**
- To seek legislative support to adequately fund State agencies such that there are skilled personnel to administer invasive plant control operations and grant programs.**

Accomplishments for FY 2013/14

- **Successful in keeping the FWC Trust Fund from being swept.**
- **Successful in advocating for a \$2M increase in FWC Trust Fund.**
- **Successful in initiating conversations for funding of FDEP lands (independent of FWC Trust).**
- **Successful introduction of IPMA and relationship building with key Legislators.**



IPMA Relevance for FY 2014/15



- Need for continued Legislator briefing on benefits of State Funded IPM and **Economic** consequences of inaction.
- Need for continued advocacy for an increased FWC Trust Fund.
- Need for continuing dialogue on independent FDEP funding source for IPM.
- Need to represent management of lands within the proposed land acquisition Constitutional Amendment

IPMA 2012 – 2013 MEMBERS

- **Applicators Network, Inc.**
- **Aquatic Vegetation Control, Inc.**
- **Brewer International, Inc.**
- **Crop Production Services, Inc.**
- **EarthBalance, Inc.**
- **Environmental Quality, Inc.**
- **Florida Best, Inc.**
- **Helena Chemical Company, Inc.**
- **Lake and Wetland Management, Inc.**
- **Kestrel Ecological Services, Inc.**
- **Southeast ChemTreat, Inc.**
- **Texas Aquatic Harvesting, Inc.**

Join Us as Another Voice

- **IPMA has now been proven to represent the voice of invasive plant management (Aquatic & Terrestrial).**
- **IPMA membership is half of that needed to be sustainable.**
- **IPMA will be in need of future committee members and skills.**
- **IPMA will need local contacts.**

- **If Interested, please join us in Grand Palm A for a general meeting of IPMA during the break.**