

Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP)
Strategic Management Plan
2020-2024

Approved by steering committee November 7th, 2019



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

BMPs	Best Management Practices
CISMA	Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area
CWIP	Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership
DATCP	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NR-40	Chapter 40 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control Rule
ROW	Right of Way
WDNR	Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
WDOT	Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Section 1: Background and Introduction

1.1 Invasive Species

Invasive species are defined by Wisconsin state statute as “nonindigenous species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (1).” These species have been introduced to Wisconsin accidentally or deliberately for landscaping, erosion control, and other uses. They can invade all types of terrain on both public and private land. Invasive species can impact ecological systems by outcompeting native species, altering nutrient and energy cycling, affecting wildlife habitat, and ultimately changing community composition. Recreational uses of landscapes can be affected as invasive species often impair travel and affect aesthetic values. Invasive species can invade crop fields and forests and outcompete or kill commercially valuable species. Economic impacts may include decreased revenue from tourism, decreased property values, decreased crop yields, and decreased timber stand value. To make matters worse, some invasive species can cause irritation and burns when sap contacts human skin, and others are extremely poisonous to humans and livestock.

1.2 CWIP Summary

The Central Wisconsin Invasives Partnership (CWIP) is a cooperative invasive species management area (CISMA) that serves Wood, Portage, Juneau, Adams, Waushara, Marquette, and Green Lake Counties. This partnership will focus on: identifying and increasing cooperation among partners that work around invasive species, providing educational opportunities for invasive species management, coordinating enhanced mapping of invasive species, and monitoring and, when possible, eradicating prohibited and/or high priority restricted species within its seven counties. Conversations about starting a CISMA in central Wisconsin started in 2017. In the summer of 2018, funding was granted to form CWIP.

To be successful in the effort against ecological and economic harm caused by invasive species, CWIP will establish cooperative relationships with a variety of entities, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, businesses, and individuals. Formal membership is open to any interested group. Formal members (Appendix A) show their support of CWIP by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The input and participation of informal partners is also welcome, and informal partners are not required to sign an MOU. CWIP is led by a steering committee, which consists of a representative from each county in the CWIP service area, along with at-large members.

This document will serve as a guide for CWIP to pursue its goals of preventing new invasive species infestations, gathering and sharing information about invasive species and their locations, and reducing the harm caused by invasive species. Additionally, we highlight the need for a coordinated approach to invasive species management in the CWIP area. Invasive species issues are constantly changing. New species introductions are imminent, and management technology evolves over time. This document is meant to be dynamic as needs and resources change. Therefore, this Strategic Management Plan will be updated as needed and/or every five years.

1.3 CWIP Management Area

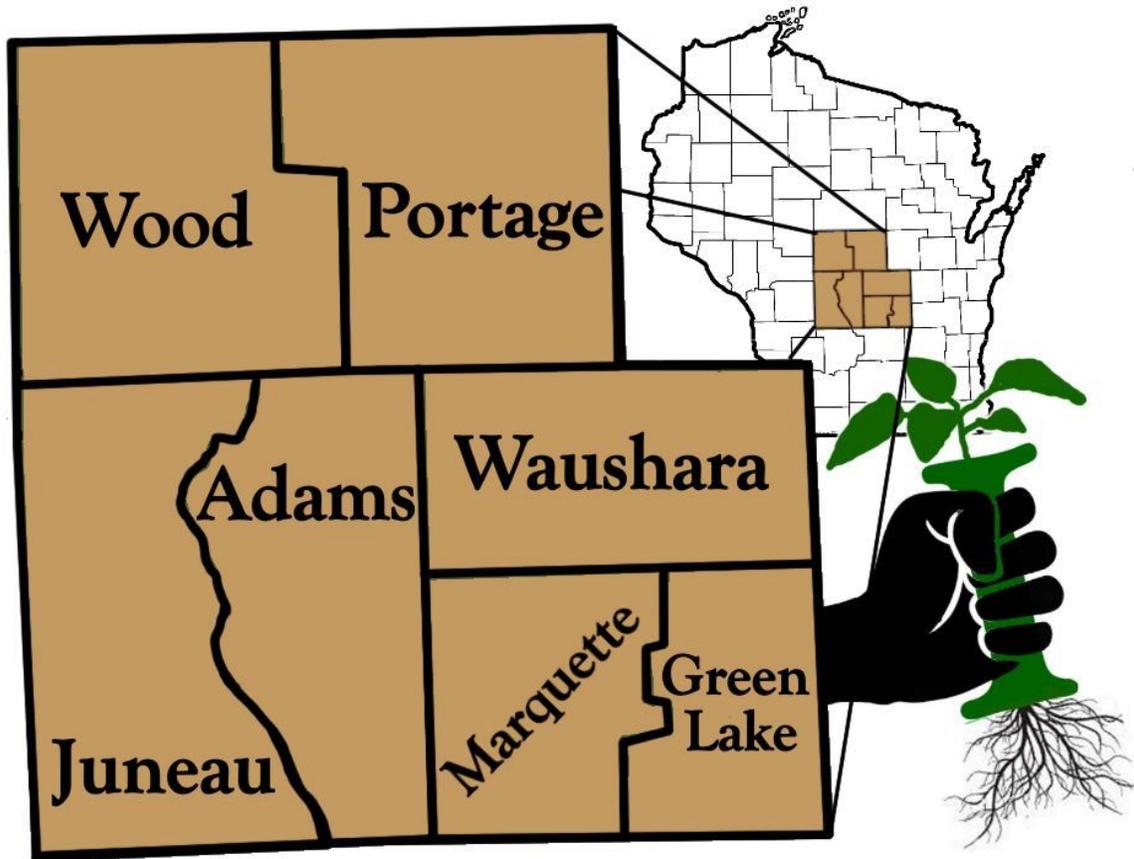


Figure 1. Location of CWIP management area.

CWIP serves the counties of Wood, Portage, Juneau, Adams, Waushara, Marquette, and Green Lake in central Wisconsin (Figure 1). The area of these seven counties is about 4,600 square miles, and the population numbers about 250,000 (2). Lands in the CWIP management area are owned and managed by federal, state, county, and local governments as well as individuals and organizations. Buckhorn State Park, Rocky Arbor State Park, Roche-a-Cri State Park, and portions of Hartman Creek and Mill Bluff State Parks are in the CWIP management area. Some other notable public lands include Sandhill, Buena Vista, White River Marsh, and Poygan Marsh Wildlife areas, over 50 State Natural Areas, and Necedah National Wildlife Refuge (3).

Federally endangered species, including the karner blue butterfly, Poweshiek skipperling butterfly, gray wolf, and Kirtland's warbler have been documented in the CWIP service area. Additionally, many state endangered species have been documented in the area, including but not limited to Fassett's locoweed, Blanchard's cricket frog, loggerhead shrike, slender glass lizard, and pale false foxglove. Managing invasives in key habitats can help support the populations of these endangered species.

Section 2: Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Education about Prevention and Management

Prevention is the most cost-effective and efficient management technique in the fight against invasive species. Nearly all problematic invasive species have been introduced by humans. Increasing public participation in activities that reduce the spread of invasive species (cleaning off recreation equipment, only planting native species, etc.) will prevent more extensive and costly management actions in the future. In order to increase public participation, CWIP will direct resources toward education and outreach on topics relating to the negative effects of invasive species and how to prevent their spread. Additionally, CWIP will provide education and resources on invasive species management to member and partner organizations and the public.

Objective 1.1 Present education programs to CWIP members and the public on the harmful effects of invasive species and prevention/control methods while promoting the benefits of native species.

Strategic Actions:

1. Conduct invasive species workshops tailored to specific groups.
2. Work with local schools to expose children to invasive species topics
3. Assist CWIP members in training programs for their employees/volunteers.
4. Conduct invasive species presentations tailored to specific recreation groups.
5. Assist members and the public with invasives identification.
6. Approach and educate businesses and public entities that may play a role in spreading invasive species.
7. Attend outreach events to raise awareness of CWIP and invasive species issues.

Objective 1.2 Create and share outreach materials related to CWIP and invasive species.

Strategic Actions:

1. Maintain and distribute a current CWIP brochure.
2. Obtain existing educational resources from other agencies and partners (WDNR, USFS, UW-Extension, PlayCleanGo, etc).
3. Develop new resources as needed, including targeted resources for specific groups.
4. Distribute new and existing education resources.
5. Reach novel audiences and maintain contact with existing partners and members through the use of the internet.
6. Utilize print/radio/television to raise awareness of invasive species issues.

Goal 2: Monitoring and Early Detection

Invasive species populations are most easily eradicated when they are small and isolated. As a population become larger and more widespread, the time and resources needed to eradicate it quickly increase. These larger populations are better candidates for a management plan where full eradication is not necessarily expected. In order to most efficiently use our resources to eradicate populations, CWIP recommends and works toward early detection of and response to populations of high-priority invasives whenever possible. Early detection can be facilitated by monitoring activities including surveying high-risk

areas. Sharing information about locations of invasive species through the use of the GLEDN app will facilitate cooperation with CWIP members, partners, and cooperators.

Objective 2.1 Improve the capability of CWIP and its cooperators to detect and report invasive species.

Strategic Actions:

1. Identify priority invasive species.
2. Identify high-priority areas to survey, including areas that have never been surveyed and high-risk areas due to traffic patterns.
3. Develop protocol to follow when a “Watch” or “Early Detection and Response” species is discovered more than 5 miles from a known population.
4. Enter all reports of invasive species into an accessible database.
5. Train members of the public in reporting invasive species.
6. Conduct roadside surveys.

Objective 2.2 Respond to new “Watch” and “Early Detection and Response” species found in CWIP’s area.

1. Complete all required tasks when new species are reported

Objective 2.3 Monitor locations of high priority invasive species.

1. Record where high-priority species exist and keep notes on past treatment and outcomes.

Goal 3: Invasives Management

Eradication of well-established, widespread invasive species is not often feasible given limited time and resources. However, management activities can be performed that will reduce the harm caused by invasive species and maintain the suitability of the site for wildlife and recreational uses. CWIP will promote an integrated management approach, which may include mechanical, chemical, biological, and/or cultural control activities, and follow all legal requirements regarding herbicide use.

Objective 3.1 Make efficient decisions regarding which control projects to take on.

1. Use all available information to help prioritize efficient and effective species control.

Objective 3.2 Use integrated approach to manage invasive species.

1. Seek input from CWIP steering committee before starting a treatment project.
2. Follow legal requirements regarding land ownership, herbicide application, and equipment use.
3. Manage invasive species using one or more of the following techniques: mechanical, chemical, biological, cultural.
4. Work toward establishing an equipment/herbicide loan program.
5. Provide opportunities for volunteers to assist CWIP and learn through hands-on activities.
6. Restore treatment areas by planting native species.

Goal 4: Cooperation with Members and Partners

Invasive species are very likely present in every community in the CWIP service area. Because the problem and its impacts are so extensive, efforts to monitor and manage invasive species will be most successful when many individuals, organizations, and governing bodies pool their knowledge and resources. For this reason, it is important for CWIP to build and maintain valuable relationships with

individuals and organizations working with invasive species. Additionally, CWIP will seek relationships with other CISMAs in Wisconsin in order to receive advice and work collaboratively.

Objective 4.1 Develop strong relationships with other CISMAs in Wisconsin.

1. Regularly communicate with other CISMA coordinators/organizers.
2. Attend conferences and events, as resources allow, to coordinate with other CISMAs and share ideas and resources.
3. Work to secure collaborative grant funding.

Objective 4.2 Maintain and enhance relationships with current and future member organizations and partners.

1. Share information and resources with CWIP members and partners.
2. Continually assess how CWIP can better serve its member organizations.
3. Support control projects organized by member organizations as resources allow.
4. Actively recruit new formal members to CWIP.

Goal 5: CISMA Coordination

Presenting an organized, clear message to members, partners, and the public about CWIP's role in regional invasive species management will help CWIP to build trust and relationships throughout its service area. In order to present this message, CWIP must maintain organization structure and relevant governing documents to efficiently address its missions. Governing documents will outline CWIP's mission, goals, and tasks to complete to meet these goals. Funding is required to complete invasive species management and education projects. CWIP will employ an individual to seek funding, maintain organizational structure, and complete other CWIP tasks.

Objective 5.1 Maintain CWIP's organizational structure and organization documents.

1. Retain a steering committee of county representatives and at-large members.
2. Maintain an executive committee.
3. Maintain up-to-date governing documents.
4. Maintain at least one staff position to coordinate CWIP activities and manage grant applications.
5. Maintain communication about CWIP activities between coordinator, steering committee, and fiscal sponsor.

Objective 5.2 Seek funding to continue existing CWIP programs and explain into new programs.

1. Work with fiscal sponsor to apply for federal, state, and local grants.
2. Focus on grant opportunities that can maintain the coordinator position.
3. Explore opportunities for additional funding.

Works Cited

1. Wisconsin Statute § [23.22\(1\)\(c\)](#).
<[https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/23.22\(1\)\(c\)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/23.22(1)(c))>.
2. United States Census Bureau. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County Quick Facts. 2010 Census. <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/55000.html>>.
3. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. <<http://dnr.wi.gov>>.

Appendix A:

CWIP Formal Members

Schmeckle Reserve, UW Stevens Point

North Central Conservancy Trust (NCCT)

Petenwell and Castle Rock Stewards (PACRS)

Freckmann Herbarium, UW Stevens Point

(Last updated 11-7-2019)

Appendix B:

CWIP Priority Invasive Species

To be added at a later date