



CM-CISMA's Partner Agreement

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Public, private, and tribal landowners across the Saginaw Bay Watershed are concerned with invasive plant and animal species which are currently expanding and invading our landscape. These infestations reduce the biological, agricultural, recreational, and economic value of the land and water resources, decrease native plant populations, and degrade ecosystems. For management efforts to be successful, a broad-scale, coordinated and systematically integrated approach to managing these invasive species is necessary.

Taking a landscape-scale view places specific plant and animal treatment sites in context with the geographic distribution of invasive species, susceptible habitats and management feasibility. Invasive species management areas typically focus on finding solutions to invasive weeds and animals across a landscape rather than strictly focusing on specific land ownerships.

Purpose

The purpose of this Partner Agreement Document is to recognize the CM-CISMA and to establish the basis for participants to cooperate, coordinate activities, and share resources necessary for the prevention and control of invasive plants and animals on public, private and tribal lands across ownership boundaries within the CM-CISMA.

By creating a framework to accomplish mutually beneficial projects and activities, the Partner Agreement Document promotes cooperation between participants, also known as stakeholders. Each stakeholder will benefit from shared resources, combined expertise, shared responsibilities, unified strategy, consistency of methods, and collective results. The intention is to facilitate active communication and cooperative effort pertinent to landscape stewardship regarding invasive plants and animals. All stakeholders are accepted as equal partners in this agreement.

The signatory parties, hereafter referred to as Stakeholders, propose to work together, within the scope of their respective authorities, towards achieving sustainable, healthy ecosystems that support protected natural lands, agriculture, recreational lands and wildlife habitat. Additionally, all agencies and organizations will seek to supply the public with relevant knowledge and skills, land stewardship practices, awareness related to invasive plant and animal issues, and adaptive management programs.

Areas of Agreement

Stakeholders of the CM-CISMA are aware of the problems caused by invasive species and recognize that active management is necessary to control or to eradicate existing invasive species within the CM-CISMA boundaries and to prevent the establishment of additional invasive species. Therefore, we, the Stakeholders, collectively agree to the following actions and expectations:

Partner Expectations (These vary based on the work scope of the partner involved, i.e. road commissioner's vs conservation districts)

1. Support the CISMA mission and vision
2. Attend trainings/Partner meetings (2 times per year)
3. Promote CM-CISMA events, activities, and information
4. Inform CM-CISMA about invasive related events and trainings to help with reaching deliverables and providing these resources to the surrounding communities
 - a. Mention CM-CISMA at invasive related events
5. Actively help in reporting invasive species that are on the CM-CISMA priority species list and Michigan Watch list
 - a. Report treatments done
 - b. Provide maps of treatments done/areas of invasive species
 - c. Report these species to MISIN
6. Assist the CM-CISMA with obtaining permission for treatment and removal in their area of jurisdiction
 - a. Provided needed/relevant information regarding this
7. Work with the CM-CISMA to treat invasives in their area
 - a. Provide volunteers
 - b. Provide needed/relevant information for treatment
 - c. Provide resources when able, i.e. space, equipment, rest area for potential strike teams
8. Minimize the introduction/spread of invasive species with best management practices
9. Educate the public on best management practices and invasives when possible

Partner Benefits

1. Advertisement of organization on Facebook, Website and booths
2. Advertisement of invasive and native species related events
3. Access to various educational materials
4. Resource for species identification, chemical information and treatment methods
5. Resource for up-to-date information on invasive species
6. Treatment assistance of invasive species when possible– i.e. volunteers for events and project help, resource needs
7. Help with permitting when possible
8. Gain the advantage of “working as a community”, which is a benefit when applying for grants and donations
9. Increase the attention of invasive species to landowners and the state and federal legislators
10. Partnership with the CM-CISMA does not guarantee that the Stakeholders will be receiving funding or monetary contributions of any kind and that access to the resources of the CM-CISMA will be administered only once approved by the CM-CISMA, it's governing body, and the funders themselves

Independent Responsibilities

Each stakeholder has a primary responsibility to its own governing body and lands under its jurisdiction. Stakeholders agree to provide resources to each other as legal authorities may permit. All stakeholders are responsible and accountable for their own funds, equipment, and personnel.

This Partner Agreement Document in no way restricts stakeholders from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations and individuals.

Stakeholders are encouraged to work together to enhance their resource management capabilities and to generally advance the state of knowledge of invasive species within the CM-CISMA.

Modification and Termination

This agreement will be effective starting on the date of signature of a Stakeholder and CM-CISMA coordinator. Any Stakeholder may terminate their involvement in the CM-CISMA by providing written notice to the Steering Committee. This Partner Agreement Document may be amended as necessary by mutual consent of the Stakeholders by execution of a written amendment signed and dated by all Stakeholders.

This Partner Agreement Document will be reviewed every five years and updated if necessary.

CM-CISMA Contact

The contact for this agreement is:

Matthew Lindauer
Central Michigan CISMA Coordinator
400 S. Badour Rd.
Midland, MI 48640
989-414-2237
coordinator@cmcisma.org

The list of all signatory stakeholders and each signed Partner Agreement Document will be kept on file with the above contact and made available to all, upon request. In addition, the CM-CISMA 3 year Action Plan and all annual plans will be similarly filed and available.

**Central Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management
Area (CM-CISMA)
Partner Agreement Signatory Page**

(Organization)

Hereby agrees to the terms, goals, and expectations put forth in the CM-CISMA Strategic Plan as well those listed herein. In signing this form, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the Partner Agreement Form in its entirety and that I am agreeing on behalf of the above listed organization, that I freely and willingly take on the responsibilities and title of Partner of the Central Michigan CISMA.

Authorizing Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

Point of Contact for CM-CISMA

Title

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone Number

Fax Number

Email address

Please return this page to:

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