

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Your Central Michigan Cisma is Fully Funded for 2020

The Central Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CM-CISMA) is now fully funded for the 2020/21 grant year. These funds will help continue their mission of protecting and improving the natural resources, economy, and human health in Central Michigan through collaborative outreach and management of invasive exotic species. This cooperative works within Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, and Midland Counties and is a free resource for all your invasive species questions!

There are currently 21 CISMA's in Michigan; covering the whole state. Core functions of these cooperatives are funded by the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP) which is funded by the *Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Environment, Great Lakes & Energy*. The CM-CISMA has been awarded the 2019 MISGP grant to cover 2020 and the beginning of 2021. This grant provides funds for a full-time coordinator and educational outreach.

Through these funds, the coordinator is able to provide education to the public through local fairs, garden clubs, schools, and events hosted by local organizations and the CISMA. Throughout the year find these events on their Facebook page or website. Topics to be learned at these events include: what is an invasive species, invasive species to lookout for, how to treat them, and how to help report them. The coordinator also works with organizations on the steering committee to determine priority areas and species to focus on for treatment of invasive species. Treatment aids in recovery for areas that have been taken over by invasive species and allows natural areas to be more sustainable.

Megan Rider is currently the full-time coordinator for the CISMA and is located at the Chippewa Nature Center. "It has been rewarding to be a part of getting the Central Michigan CISMA up and running," explains Rider. "I am excited for what this year has in store as we develop more as a CISMA and move forward toward providing treatment and furthering education in this region."

To learn more about what the CISMA does or events in your area visit their Facebook page or www.cmcisma.org. Direct questions about invasive species to Megan Rider at 989-414-2237 or coordinator@cmcisma.org.

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The Central Michigan CISMA is a cooperative whose mission is to protect and improve the natural resources, economy, and human health in Central Michigan through collaborative outreach and management of invasive exotic species. We address questions and concerns from the public including plant ID and treatment options. The coordinator is located at the Chippewa Nature Center (400 S. Badour Rd, Midland, MI), and can be reached at 989-414-2237 or 989-631-0830 from 8 am - 5 pm Monday – Friday or by email at coordinator@cmcisma.org. Learn more at www.cmcisma.org.



Megan Rider, CM-CISMA coordinator, releasing sturgeon into the Tittabawassee River in support of the effort to bring sturgeon back to Michigan waters (September 21st, 2019).