



Strategic Management Plan

2018-2022

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- Chris Cantway
 - The Nature Conservancy
- Doug Barry
 - MDNR - Van Riper/Craig Lake/Laughing Whitefish Falls State Park/Blueberry Ridge/Little Presque Isle Recreation Area
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 - Delta Conservation District
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- Other

- www.l2lcisma.org
- [www.facebook.com/L2L CISMA](https://www.facebook.com/L2L-CISMA)
- Find us on Instagram by searching for “L2L CISMA”

Introduction

The Lake to Lake Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (L2L CISMA) is a partnership of federal, state, tribal agencies, non-profit groups, and businesses working to comprehensively manage non-native invasive species (NNIS) across a four-county coverage area. These partners are brought together under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document, first created in 2008 under an agreement with the Hiawatha National Forest. From 2008 through 2017, the name of this partnership was the Central Upper Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (CUPCWMA). The name was changed to L2LCISMA in 2018.

Mission Statement:

The mission of L2L CISMA is to provide long-term protection of native habitats by reducing the threat from non-native invasive species through coordination of efforts among partners to educate and engage the public, detect and manage invasions, restore invasion sites, and increase organizational and public capacity through sharing of knowledge and resources.

Geographic Area:

L2L CISMA covers Alger, Delta, Marquette and Schoolcraft counties in the central Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This area covers approximately 5,065 square miles of land (US Census Bureau, 2016) totaling 3,242,176 acres. This includes protected areas under various jurisdictions including the US Forest Service, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, and many others. Hiawatha National Forest lands encompass 894,836 total acres of land (US Forest Service, 2012) with the west zone reaching into all four counties, and Ottawa National Forest's McCormick Tract Wilderness reaching into the far northwest corner of Marquette County. The National Park Service manages Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Alger County, comprising 73,236 acres of land and 42 miles of Lake Superior shoreline (US DOI, 2018). Seney National Wildlife Refuge under the management of the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Schoolcraft County covers 95,238 (USFWS, 2018) acres and includes Strangmoor Bog, a registered National Natural Landmark (US NPS, 2018). In private landscapes, The Nature Conservancy manages 6,668 acres of nature preserve and reserve land (Cantway, 2018) and the Michigan Nature Association manages 13 sanctuaries in the area (MNA, 2018). Also present are tribal lands, state-managed lands, and lands owned privately by individual citizens, forest management groups, and other private land conservancies.

All of the counties lie within the Laurentian Mixed Forest Ecoregion (Bailey, 1995). The ecoregion is diverse and contains an exceptional array of ecosystem types including many forest types, dunes, agricultural landscapes, wetlands, shoreline, and other habitats. Together, the four counties have 444 miles of Great Lakes shoreline on both Lake Michigan and Lake Superior and approximately 3,800 miles of rivers and streams in both Great Lakes watersheds.

Within these landscapes there are seven federally listed threatened and endangered species including Pitcher's thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), American burying-beetle (*Nicrophorus americanus*), dwarf lake iris (*Iris lacustris*), Kirtland's warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*), and Houghton's goldenrod (*Solidago houghtonii*), as listed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (2017). In addition, there are many state-listed species. These species are found across the landscape furthering the need to promote their protection through proper land management and NNIS detection and control measures.

Goals

➤ Goal One: Education

One of the most crucial aspects of a successful invasive species management program is engagement with the public through education. Recognition of methods of dispersal of NNIS material, decontamination protocol, proper NNIS identification, and native planting methods all rely on education and awareness. L2L CISMA will provide educational opportunities and will disseminate relevant and up-to-date information regarding the latest research on all aspects of NNIS including best management practices (BMPs).

- L2L CISMA will engage and educate diverse school groups through hands-on workshops, presentations, and classroom projects.
- L2L CISMA will engage and educate the general public and special interest groups through presentations, workshops, field trips and volunteer work days. In the Upper Peninsula, we are fortunate to have a citizenship that values outdoor resources. Outdoor groups and conservation organizations are key partners in our mission and efforts.
- L2L CISMA will follow BMPs in all aspects of NNIS management by keeping abreast of the latest research and information on invasive species and topics. L2L CISMA is in a prime position to be the means by which this information can be translated to public groups and citizens.
- The coordinator will attend trainings to keep up to date on relevant available information.

➤ Goal Two: Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)

L2L CISMA, and other CISMAs throughout the state of Michigan, are an important resource in protecting the native and natural ecosystems found in Michigan. State and federal agencies are looking to CISMAs to detect and make action plans for watch list species. Through the partnership, L2L CISMA has a diverse network of resources to report and contain EDRR infestations.

- L2L CISMA will survey for new infestations of watch list and priority species within the four-county service area. Surveys will be used to detect new infestations at their earliest and most manageable state. Rapid and effective management response will be conducted when feasible.
- L2L CISMA will encourage identification and reporting of infestations by the public.
- L2L CISMA will locate, identify, and confirm new infestations as reported.

- L2L CISMA personnel will send confirmed NNIS species reports to the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN), a regional database for NNIS infestations. MISIN alerts will be utilized to obtain locations of EDRR species reported by the public.

➤ Goal Three: Control and Management

By utilizing BMPs, L2L CISMA will manage NNIS invasions within the service area. While total eradication isn't considered practical in NNIS management, control and containment of populations can reduce abundance and spread and mitigate negative ecological impacts.

- L2L CISMA will follow current BMPs when managing each new infestation of NNIS found within the service area.
- Control methods include manual and mechanical methods, biocontrol options, and chemical applications. The appropriate control method to be utilized will be determined at each infestation site.
 - Manual and mechanical control may consist of hand-pulling, cutting, digging, or other appropriate methods, followed by proper disposal.
 - Biocontrol consists of a release of a federally approved biological control agent under approved permits.
 - Chemical control will follow the label law, and will only be performed by or under the direct supervision of a certified pesticide applicator in accordance with state and federal regulation.
- All control methods will be conducted with the permission of the land owner which will be kept on file along with control records.
- Management of invasions of NNIS will follow the L2L CISMA prioritization tool, as adapted from the DEQ Phragmites Prioritization tool.
- L2L CISMA personnel will upload data into the MISIN Treatment Tracking program, allowing our organization and other entities to follow treatments and progress.
- As part of ongoing efforts, L2L CISMA will encourage landowner stewardship of confirmed infestations
 - Where applicable and as funding permits, L2L CISMA will implement a landowner cost-share program to assist citizens in the stewardship of their property.
 - L2L CISMA will assist and educate landowners to continue management of infestations.

➤ Goal Four: Restoration and Monitoring

As part of an integrated pest management program, L2L CISMA seeks to restore NNIS treatment areas to thriving native habitat. While there has been evidence of natural native regeneration after NNIS treatments, often a site will need active restoration efforts to restore it to a pre-infestation status.

- Restoration will include proper site preparation followed by plantings of native seed mixes, native plant plugs, or native shrubs and trees, dependent on the needs of the site.
- All native species to be planted will be acquired from a reputable source, ensuring non-native cultivars are not included in restoration efforts.
- Periodic monitoring for recurring infestations in restored sites will be conducted to ensure success of management efforts.
- L2L CISMA will implement pre- and post-treatment monitoring protocols into management strategies. Monitoring of treatment areas will provide a measure of success or failure of treatment.
- NNIS infestations will continue to be monitored to search for satellite populations and re-growth.

➤ Goal Five: Organizational Capacity

As a partnership, L2L CISMA exists to facilitate networking, resource sharing and management of NNIS within the four-county service area. Partners in L2L CISMA assist in reporting infestations, leveraging funds, and aiding in boots-on-the-ground work. In turn, L2L CISMA assists partners by supplying up-to-date information, bringing awareness of NNIS to their groups and, as funding allows, aiding with management efforts.

- All partners are encouraged to engage in the reporting of NNIS infestations which allows for coordination of management efforts and opportunities for assistance in management of NNIS.
- L2L CISMA will provide partners with information regarding BMPs, and if funding allows, will provide assistance with treatment of NNIS on partner organization's lands.
- Partnership meetings will be held bi-annually to update partners about L2L CISMA accomplishments, provide opportunities to share new information, and to invite new potential partners to increase capacity.
- Bi-monthly steering team meetings will ensure that the L2L CISMA Coordinator and fiscal agents receive support from a broad base of L2L CISMA partners.

Appendix A

Standard Operating Procedures of L2L CISMA

L2L CISMA will remain open and flexible to changing environments, including changes in partnership and steering committee membership, and changes in funding. This document will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

➤ Coordinator

L2L CISMA's coordinator serves as the spokesperson and primary contact for the organization and represents the partnership to the public. This position serves as a contact for private landowners needing assistance and for the organizations within the partnership. The coordinator is also the contact for state, federal, private and non-profit agencies to communicate with the partnership.

The coordinator is responsible for the daily inner workings of the partnership. Responsibilities include seeking new and continued funding through grant writing and reporting to support NNIS management activities. The coordinator organizes and executes prioritized seasonal field activities through the hiring and managing of seasonal field crews. The coordinator is also expected to perform field work and to become a certified pesticide applicator to better assist with management activities. The coordinator organizes the steering committee and partnership meetings, updates the website and social media pages, and conducts other tasks as needed. The coordinator is responsible for maintaining and updating internal organizational documents such as the Strategic Five-Year Plan, Annual Work Plan, and the MOU document.

The coordinator will be housed within the Marquette County Conservation District (MCCD) office as a district employee, as voted upon by the partnership. If there is to be a change in personnel of the coordinator position, steps will be taken to advertise and fill the role, as follows:

- MCCD will solicit for employment, acquire resumes, and pre-screen all applicants for the coordinator role with further input from the MCCD Board of Directors.
- MCCD will provide a compilation of the best-qualified applicants to the steering committee for input.
- The MCCD district manager will make the final hiring decision.
- Unless a formal proposal for a change in the housing of the coordinator is brought forward, MCCD will continue to house and be the employer of record for the coordinator. If there is a proposal for change, the proposal will be voted upon by the

entire partnership with a simple majority of the partnership determining the outcome of the vote.

- For the sake of organizational stability, any proposal brought forth to change the housing of the coordinator should be intended to be a long-term, sustainable change and should not be suggested unless a certain and urgent need presented itself. Any organization partner that cannot demonstrate such stability may be asked to withdraw a proposal to house the coordinator.

➤ Steering Committee

L2L CISMA is guided by a steering committee comprised of representatives from formal partner organizations who help guide the motives, principles and actions carried out by the organization.

- Representatives should include a representative from each of the four counties covered in the service area, federal partners, state partners, and others.
- Membership is limited to 10 members, with no more than one representative from each participating organization.
- A chair-person and vice-chair will be voted upon annually by the committee, or as needed when a vacancy exists.
- Subcommittees will be formed as necessary from the members of the steering committee and from other formal partners as applicable to content of the subcommittee.
- As a member of the steering committee, participation in bi-monthly meetings and other occurrences where steering committee input is needed is expected. If a member cannot attend, they should be in contact with the coordinator to provide input and to receive updates on items missed. Regular lack of participation may lead to review of membership and potential forfeit of position on the committee to allow other interested participants to join the steering committee. Steering committee members will also be encouraged to sign a statement outlining their expected commitment.

➤ Grant acquisition and support

L2L CISMA is funded through the acquisition of federal, state, and private grant awards. Future exploration of grant opportunities and securing of funds is the responsibility of the coordinator and fiduciary agent(s). Currently, L2L CISMA functions with two fiduciary agents, the Marquette County Conservation District and the Alger Conservation District, as voted upon by the L2L CISMA partnership.

- As appropriate new grant opportunities arise, proposals should be submitted using the following process:

- Prior to submission, all proposals must be reviewed by the steering committee and coordinator. A two-week timeframe prior to submission is requested to give enough time for feedback and edits before proposal submissions. If two weeks is not possible due to grant deadline constraints, there will be a minimum of 5 business days to give feedback and edits prior to submission.
- All proposals must receive steering committee, coordinator, and any involved partners' approval prior to submission of the proposal to the grantor.
- Outreach documents and informational packets should be consistent between grant activities. The L2L CISMA logo, contact for the coordinator, and mission statement should remain the same on all published material.
- Letters of support requests from partnering organizations are encouraged as potential grant opportunities arise within their organization. A letter of support should be requested of the coordinator, who shall compose the letter on the premise that the request be brought to the steering committee and voted upon. Letters will support projects that are aligned with L2L CISMA's goals relating to NNIS management. Partner organizations are also encouraged to write a letter on behalf of their individual organization if they choose to.
- As grant activities are carried out, fiduciary agents will regularly provide financial reports to the steering committee and sub-awardees for all grants they are administering. This will provide an update on grant progress.
- To provide transparency, a google drive has been created for the steering committee. This enables timely sharing and greater accessibility to grant documents including proposals and budgets. All current and important documents should be uploaded to the drive.

➤ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Document and Partnerships

L2L CISMA currently has 28 partners, both formal and informal. These partnerships strengthen the CISMA and provide the opportunity to have a greater positive impact on our surrounding native ecosystems.

MOU Document:

- When L2L CISMA came together in 2008, it created a MOU document with the Hiawatha National Forest to allow for cross-jurisdictional activities and further its capacity for NNIS management.
- The MOU will expire every five years and is expected to be reviewed and renewed by the partnership.

Partnerships:

- To be considered a formal partner, the organization will need to have signed a signatory page under our MOU document. As a formal partner, the representative organization

will have the ability to vote on partnership activities and have the option to sit on the steering committee.

- Organizations that are not formal partners are able to work with L2L CISMA by partnering in educational events or workshops, holding workdays with field crews, or other general supporting activities.
- To be added as a new partner to L2L CISMA, a request should be made by the proposed organization to the coordinator. The coordinator will then solicit a notice and a call for any conflicts of interest (COI) from the existing partners. The partnership has 30 days to bring forward any COI, and if none exist, the organization can move forward in the process.
- Once the COI period has passed, an organization can then request a signatory page for the MOU document. This page will include the name of the requesting organization, a primary contact for that organization with their signature, the coordinator's signature, and the US Forest Service signature.
- The organization will then sign, the coordinator will sign an approval on behalf of the entire CISMA partnership, and a representative from Hiawatha National Forest will sign and complete the process.

➤ Voting Procedures

All MOU signatories have one vote and are encouraged to provide input on proposed changes and procedures to L2L CISMA as needed.

- The coordinator will call a vote of all formal partner organizations as changes are proposed.
- If a partner does not wish to cast a vote, they are not obligated to. Additionally, if a conflict of interest exists by voting, the partner is encouraged to abstain.

For adopting changes to the partnership framework documents (Strategic Management Plan and Memorandum of Understanding):

- Upon annual review and, as internal framework documents expire, input will be sought from formal partners.
 - A subcommittee will be formed to review and revise documents with edits implemented by the coordinator.
 - The coordinator will send the subcommittee's final draft to the full partnership for one week of review.
 - The subcommittee will carefully consider input from the partnership and present a final revised document to the partnership for a simple majority vote.

Appendix B

L2L CISMA Species of Concern

Common Name	Latin Name	Priority Status
autumn olive	<i>Elaeagnus umbellata</i>	Medium
bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Medium
butterbur	<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	High (Marquette Co.)
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Medium
common St. Johnswort	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Low*
Eurasian water milfoil	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	High
flowering rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	High
garden valerian	<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	High
garlic mustard	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	High
Japanese barberry	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Medium
leafy spurge	<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Medium
marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Medium
non-native buckthorns	<i>Rhamnus spp.</i>	Medium
non-native common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	High
non-native honeysuckles	<i>Lonicera ssp.</i>	Medium
non-native knapweeds	<i>Centaurea spp.</i>	Low*
non-native knotweeds	<i>Polygonum spp.</i>	High
purple loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	High
reed canary grass	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Medium
sweet clover	<i>Melilotus spp.</i>	Low*
wild parsnip	<i>Pastinaca sativa</i>	High

*Low priority species may be of ecological concern and higher priority if found in a specialized habitat

➤ Other NNIS Resources

- Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (MISIN)
 - <http://www.misin.msu.edu/>
- Michigan DNR
 - <http://www.michigan.gov/invasives/>
- Midwest Invasive Plant Network (MIPN)
 - <https://www.mipn.org/>
- MIPN Control Database

- <https://mipncontroldatabase.wisc.edu/>
- Michigan Invasive Species Coalition
 - <http://www.michiganinvasives.org/>

Appendix C

Partners of L2L CISMA

- Alger Conservation District
- Borealis Seed Company
- Common Coast Research and Conservation
- Delta Conservation District
- US Forest Service – Hiawatha National Forest
- GEI Consultants Inc.
- Marquette Board of Light and Power
- Marquette County Conservation District
- Michigan DNR Gwinn Forest Management Unit
- Michigan DNR – Van Riper/Craig Lake/Laughing Whitefish Falls State Park/Blueberry Ridge/Little Presque Isle Recreation Area
- Michigan Nature Association
- Moosewood Nature Center
- Michigan State University Extension
- National Park Service – Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
- Noquemanon Trail Network
- Northern Michigan University Biology Department
- Schoolcraft Conservation District
- Seney Natural History Association
- US Fish and Wildlife Service – Seney National Wildlife Refuge
- Superior Watershed Partnership
- The Forestland Group
- The Nature Conservancy – Michigan Chapter
- Upper Peninsula Land Conservancy
- Upper Peninsula Power Company
- Upper Peninsula Resource Conservation and Development Council
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Weyerhaeuser
- Yellow Dog Watershed Preserve

Appendix D

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