This 5 year project (Jan 2018– Dec 2023) is funded by a cooperative agreement between USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the nonprofit Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM)

**Project goal—provide resources to form new CISMAs across Indiana**

**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**
Assist with invasive species education events
Assist with landowner invasive plant assessments
Provide one-on-one technical assistance to landowners
Provide trainings for Indiana Conservation Partnership (ICP) staff

Four Regional Specialists
- Facilitate and lead formation of local CISMAs
- Assist CISMAs through training, oversight and assistance
- Conduct site visits with landowners
- Provide training to ICP staff
- Create awareness of the Indiana Invasives Initiative
- Evaluate conservation practices that are used to treat invasive species through NRCS programs

Program Coordinator
- Assist Regional Specialists
- Develop an organizational template to help new CISMAs
- Communicate with SWCDs and conservation partners about participation and leadership in local CISMA development
- Promote the Indiana Invasives Initiative
- Track project progress

**INDIANA CISMAs**
SICIM (Southern IN): www.sicim.info
MC-IRIS (Monroe Co CISMA): mc-iris.org
BCNWP (Brown Co CISMA): www.bcnwp.org

**FOR A FULL LIST OF INDIANA CISMAs**
Indiana Invasive Species Council: IndianaInvasiveSpecies.org

**REPORT INVASIVES**
EDDMaps: www.eddmaps.org/indiana

Please contact SICIM for more information on starting a CISMA and how you can get involved in the Indiana Invasives Initiative!

Partial funding for this project is from USDA NRCS. USDA and its partnering organizations are equal opportunity providers, employers, and lenders.
**What is a CISMA?**

**CISMA** - Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

**Also known as**

**CWMA** - Cooperative Weed Management Area

- Partnership organization formed with the goal of managing invasive species (such as plants) across jurisdictional and landownership boundaries.
- Partners include county, state, and federal governmental agencies, non-profits, citizen groups, and others.
- By working together at the local level, CISMA partners are able to pool resources and knowledge to address mutual invasive species problems.

**How do CISMAs operate?**

- Operate within a defined, local geographic area
- Involve a broad cross-section of landowners and natural resource managers
- Led by local leaders
- Long-term commitment to cooperation (e.g. MOU partner agreement)
- Have a strategic plan for invasive plant management
- Work cooperatively across ownership boundaries

**CISMA PROJECTS**

- Coordinate invasive species management projects with partners & volunteers
- Promote early detection and rapid response
- Coordinate invasive species educational events
- Create targeted invasive species outreach materials for their area (brochures, trail signs, etc.)
- Map invasive species
- Secure and distribute funding
- Increase local invasive species awareness
- Advocate for better policies
- Gather data for natural resources managers to take action
- Use and promote native plant alternatives

**CISMA partners share and leverage limited resources**

**CISMA projects raise awareness & are highly visible**

**CISMA are first responders; they provide early detection & a rapid response network**

**CISMA empower local citizens**

**CISMA harness creativity and bring new energy**

**CISMA are each unique to the invasive threats, resources, and volunteers in their management area**

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**STARTING A CISMA**

- Identify a leader(s)
- Engage partners
- Develop a Media Plan
- Hold public meetings and events
- Determine mission
- Develop organizational structure
- Develop a Partner agreement (MOU or MOA)
- Establish a steering committee
- Develop a strategic management plan
- Develop an annual operating plan
- Choose a fiscal manager
- Select a name (Invasive Partnership, Coalition, or Network are some common CISMA names)
- Implement your plan
- *Celebrate successes & get media attention!*

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**www.sicim.info/cismas**

**CISMA projects are local solutions**

**Infestation of winter creeper (Euonymus fortunei)**