

Timberland Invasives Partnership (TIP) Strategic Management Plan

2015



Accepted May 19, 2015

MISSION STATEMENT

TIP and its partners and members seek to:

1. Help establish, promote, and implement responsible invasive species management strategies.
2. Promote the conservation, preservation, and/or restoration of native plant and animal species.
3. Develop and enhance relationships with individuals and organizations who seek to contribute their resources to help us achieve our goals and objectives.

INTRODUCTION

The TIP Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) was established with the assistance of the United States Forest Service in 2012. To ensure a successful partnership, TIP has each of its partners sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) indicating that the partners agree that it is their mutual benefit and interest to work cooperatively to manage invasive species across jurisdictional boundaries within the TIP CISMA.

The purpose of this strategic management plan is to establish the goals, objectives and priorities of TIP as an organization. In the future, this document will serve as a guideline by which the relevance of projects and actions towards the furthering of TIP's mission can be measured. As the TIP organization develops, this document will be periodically revised.

TIP MANAGEMENT AREA

The TIP CISMA serves a very rural area with an estimated 103,818 people spread over 3,119.3 square miles or 2,030,927 acres (2010 Census). TIP's geographic area includes the lands and water bodies located within the Wisconsin counties of Langlade, Menominee, Oconto and Shawano. The lands within the TIP management area are owned by federal, state, tribal, and county governments as well as many different organizations and individuals.

LOCATION

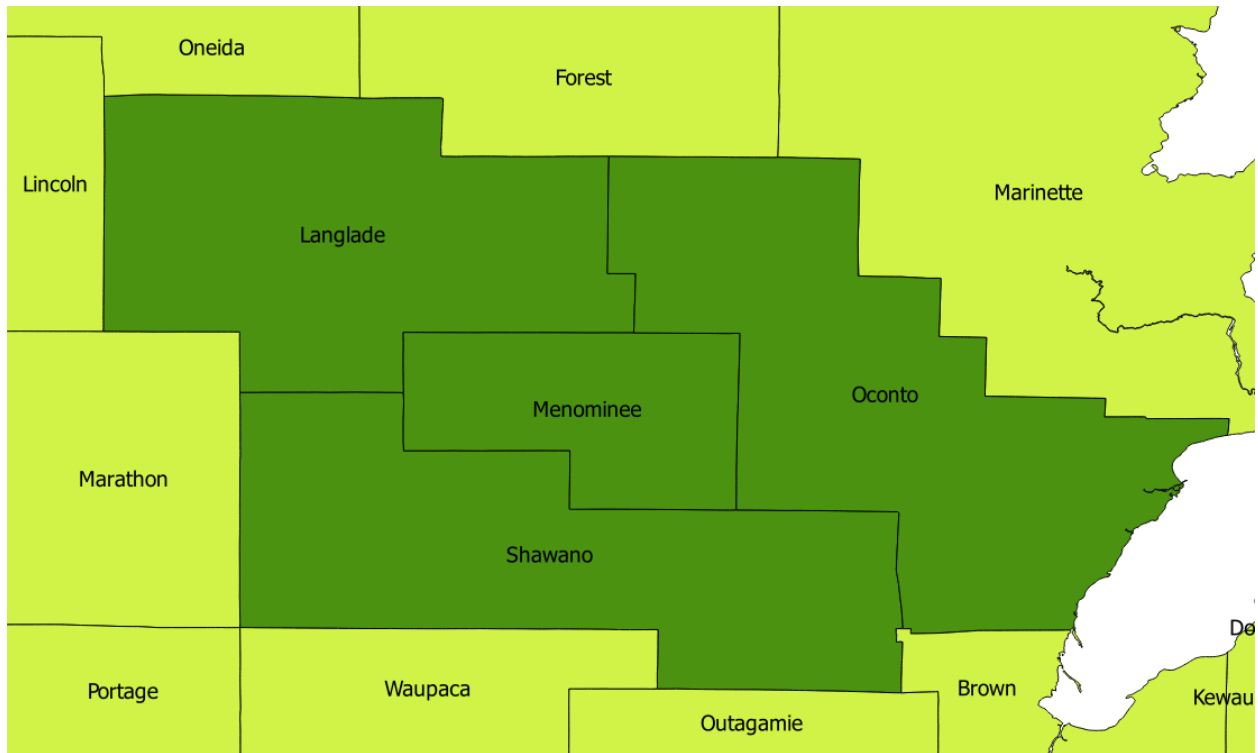


Figure 1. The TIP management area.

LAND USE

The most common land use in the TIP Cisma is forested with approximately 1,376,822 acres (or 67.8%) (Table 1). The second most common land use is agriculture with 486,845 acres (23.1%). The other major land uses are: developed (2.7%); surface waters (2.2%); open lands (2.2%), transportation/right-of-way (1.6%) and recreational (0.5%). These numbers were arrived at using the values listed in the comprehensive plans adopted and/or revised by the four counties in the years as follows: Langlade, 2009; Menominee, 2009; Oconto, 2009; Shawano, 2013.

Table 1. Timberland Invasive Partnership Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Land Use (Values pulled from each counties comprehensive management plan).

Land Use Type	Land Use Area					
	Langlade County (Acres)	Menominee County (Acres)	Oconto County (Acres)	Shawano County (Acres)	Total (Acres)	Total (Percent)
Developed/Disturbed	10,543	2,316	25,587	16,250	54,696	2.7
Transportation/Right-of-Way	5,566	3,507	6,343	16,885	32,301	1.6
Agriculture	86,409	324	173,694	208,418	468,845	23.1
Recreational	504	124	2,711	5,986	9,325	0.5
Forested	438,867	220,298	396,916	320,741	1,376,822	67.8
Surface Waters	10,888	5,125	14,838	14,125	44,976	2.2
Open Lands	11,373	1,912	30,677	0*	43,962	2.2
Total	564,150	233,606	650,766	582,405	2,030,927	100

*Open Lands were merged with recreational and forested lands in Shawano County.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1: Education and Outreach

The most cost effective management strategy against invasive species is prevention. Prevention is facilitated through education and outreach efforts. Therefore, TIP will seek to engage and educate the residents and visitors of our management area on the impacts of invasive species. As part of the effort to share and distribute information about invasive species we will also seek to develop, maintain, and enhance relationships with partner and non-partner organizations that seek to combat the effects of invasive species.

Objective 1.1: Engage in efforts to raise public awareness about the negative effects of invasive species.

Strategic Actions

1. Update and maintain the TIP website (www.timberlandinvasives.org) quarterly.
2. Conduct training for the early detection and prevention of invasive species spread as required, but with at least one training session per year.
3. Distribute information on invasive species at least 4 events each year.
4. Give at least 4 educational presentations on invasive species each year to groups.

Objective 1.2: Develop new relationships with potential future partner organizations.

Strategic Actions

1. Seek out opportunities to attend workshops and meetings.
2. TIP Coordinator will maintain office hours and have a schedule visible to the public which will allow for easier communication.
3. Search for additional partners through cooperative work projects.

Objective 1.3: Maintain and enhance relationships with current partner organizations.

Strategic Actions

1. Attend or host workshops and meetings with partners.
2. Maintain open communication with partners especially prior to:
 - a. Scheduling outreach events.
 - b. Communicating with outside groups/entities.
3. Assist partners in outreach, education, and control efforts.

Goal 2: Early Detection and Rapid Response

If prevention is the most cost-effective means of controlling invasive species, early detection and rapid response is the second most cost-effective. With an engaged, well-educated, and connected general public, TIP will be able to detect invasive species sooner, allowing for smaller and more targeted control measures. TIP, being a small organization, will be limited in the actions it can take towards these efforts, but we will still strive to make as large of an impact as possible.

Objective 2.1: Develop and maintain systems for quickly and easily reporting potential invasive species.

Strategic Actions

1. Develop and maintain a reporting system on the TIP website.
2. Promote the use of existing invasive species resources.
3. Distribute TIP contact information.

Objective 2.2: Develop up-to-date rapid response plans for invasive species.

Strategic Actions

1. Create a Rapid Response Protocol for invasive species in the TIP management area.
2. Build upon existing and TIP Partner protocols.

Goal 3: Invasive Species Management

TIP acknowledges the negative effects of invasive species on the ecological and economic well-being of the environments plagued by these pests. TIP will therefore advocate and actively seek to plan, coordinate, and participate in the inventorying and control of the invasive species found within its management area. In the course of these control efforts, TIP will seek to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Objective 3.1: Encourage and participate in efforts to inventory and map invasive species in the TIP management area.

Strategic Actions

1. Identify inventorying efforts taking place in the TIP management area.
2. Train TIP partners on invasive species inventorying techniques.

Objective 3.2: Develop an Invasive Species Management Strategy (ISMS).

Strategic Actions

1. Develop or update a list of known invasive species in the TIP management area.
2. Create a map of invasive species found in the TIP management area annually.
3. Develop or update a list of informational resources for each known invasive species that threatens the TIP management area.
4. Reference and attempt to follow invasive species management plans of TIP partners.
5. Prioritize invasive species for management efforts.
6. Research established methods for invasive species control.
7. Maintain a list of available partner resources.

Objective 3.3: Coordinate control efforts based on the ISMS.

Strategic Actions

1. Utilized the BMP's and information provided in the ISMS to guide control efforts.
2. Educate and train individuals within our management area to use BMP's.

Objective 3.4: Participate in fieldwork relating to invasive species control.

Strategic Actions

1. Identify and join control efforts taking place in the TIP management area.
2. Document control efforts, techniques, and results.

Goal 4: Restoration

TIP will seek to restore native species and habitat in areas where invasive species have caused damage to the ecosystem. This is because TIP acknowledges the value of having a biologically diverse habitat of native species.

Objective 4.1: Restore native species within areas infested by invasive species.

Strategic Actions

1. Advocate the benefits of native species to groups/individuals.
2. Participate in the planting of native vegetation.

Goal 5: Self-Maintenance

TIP is a grant-funded organization, as such we will continually seek out new grants which will allow it to sustain and expand our mission. In order to ensure TIP remains properly organized and up-to-date our guiding documents must be occasionally reviewed and modified. In the interest of maintaining our accountability to our partners TIP should regularly submit documentation of its efforts in combating invasive species.

Objective 5.1: Apply for funding/grants to sustain and/or expand TIP.

Strategic Actions

1. Research potential grants as opportunities arise.
2. Inquire about the sharing of resources between TIP and its partners.
3. Focus application efforts on grants to support the TIP Coordinator position.

Objective 5.2: Review and modify/amend TIP's organizational structure and guiding documents.

Strategic Actions

1. Develop organizational bylaws.
2. Review and modify Strategic Management Plan.
3. Create additional documents and policies as necessary.

Objective 5.3: Seek to maintain accountability for TIP's actions.

Strategic Actions

1. Submit grant requests to the TIP Steering Committee for approval.
2. Obtain approval for expenses from either the TIP Executive Committee or TIP Coordinator's Supervisor when possible.
3. Maintain open records of daily work activities.
4. Review the TIP Event Calendar and Work Records using the Strategic Management Plan at Executive Committee meetings to ensure all goals and objectives are being met.
5. Submit a monthly Coordinator's Update to the Executive Committee and Steering Committee.
6. Submit a quarterly activity report to Lumberjack RC&D and the TIP Steering Committee.
7. Use only designated email and telephone number for TIP activities.
8. Produce an annual report for public dissemination.

TIP PARTNERS

TIP relies heavily on the cooperation and resources provided by its partners. As such, we allow partners to join at any time for an up-to-date list of these partners please visit the following web address: <http://timberlandinvasives.org/about-tip.html>.

WORKS CITED

- Bay-Lake Regional Planning Commission. 2009. Oconto County 20-Year Comprehensive Plan. <http://www.co.oconto.wi.us/i_oconto/pu/793dbb0538dc/oconto_county_comp_plan_vol_i_text_and_maps.pdf>. Accessed 11 Dec 2014.
- East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. 2009. Town/County of Menominee Comprehensive Plan 2030. <<http://www.ecwrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/Menominee2030CompPlan.pdf>>. Accessed: 11 Dec 2014.
- Langlade County Citizen Advisory Committee & North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. 2009. Langlade County Comprehensive Plan 2009. <http://www.ncwrpc.org/langlade/LangladeCo_CompPlan_Adopted_OnWeb.pdf>. Accessed: 11 Dec 2014.
- Shawano County Planning, Development, and Zoning Committee. 2008. Shawano County Comprehensive Plan. 2013, Update. <[http://www.co.shawano.wi.us/i_shawano/d/updated_shawano_county_comprehensive_plan_-_november_2013_\(11.25.13_version\).pdf](http://www.co.shawano.wi.us/i_shawano/d/updated_shawano_county_comprehensive_plan_-_november_2013_(11.25.13_version).pdf)>. Accessed 11 Dec 2014
- United States Census Bureau. 2014. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County Quick Facts. <<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/55000.html>>. Accessed: 11 Dec 2014.