

CISMA's and the Road Commissions



Presented by Jared Harmon-SMIST CISMA



Road Commission & Treatment Overview

- Mutual benefits of partnering with CISMAs for treatments
- My experiences with road commissions
- Successes and Challenges



Why Partnership is Vital

- CISMAs cover large geographic areas
- Invasive species are a difficult problem and cooperation is essential
- Road Commissions can assist in identifying, mapping, treating, and/or collaborating on treatments
- Prevents the spread of invasive species that burden our economy, natural resources, and human health
- Saves money for both organizations
 - Less damage to infrastructure, pavement
 - Mowing/treatments
 - Identifying and treating infestations early



My Experience

- Invasive Species Educator in Berrien County with SW x SW Corner CISMA
- Coordinator for SMIST CISMA covering Branch, Hillsdale, and St. Joseph County.
- **Work Closely with SJCRC**
 - Held ID training Spring 2018
 - treated guardrails
 - Surveyed roadsides
 - Permit to treat rights-of-way
- **Developing relationship with BCRC**
 - Contacted new Road Manager
 - Received permit to treat right-of-way
 - Planning workshop in Winter 2019
- **Hillsdale Road Commission**
 - Would like to work more closely in 2019/2020



Treatment Benefits

- Saves money to contract CISMA personnel
- CISMAs possess PABL, NPDES Permit, and Insurance
 - Allows proper reporting and continual monitoring of sites
- Opportunities for workshops discussing best control practices, herbicide use, RUP credits, and new information
- Prevents spread of species that damage infrastructure (phragmites, Japanese knotweed)
- Prevents the spread of invasive species that harm human health (Giant Hogweed, Wild Parsnip, Poison Hemlock)
- CISMAs can share Invasive population sites with Road Commissions



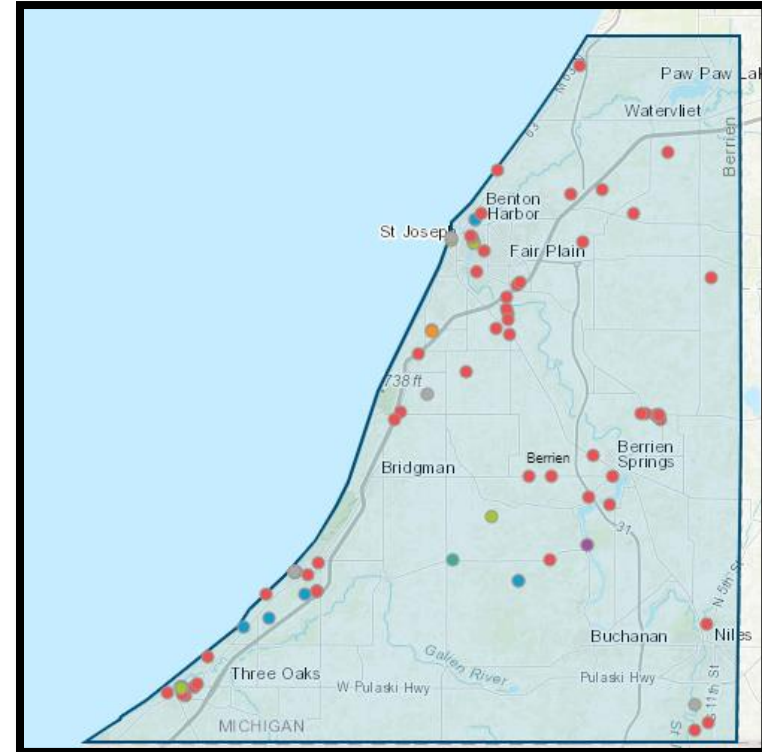
Roadside Treatments Continued

- Partnering with CISMAs protects employees, contractors, and the public from harmful invasives
- CISMAs have the knowledge and expertise to treat invasive species or assist RC
- Goal is to use proper herbicides and methods to prevent harm to the environment
 - Correct site conditions
 - Correct species
 - Least amount of herbicide to get desired results is the goal

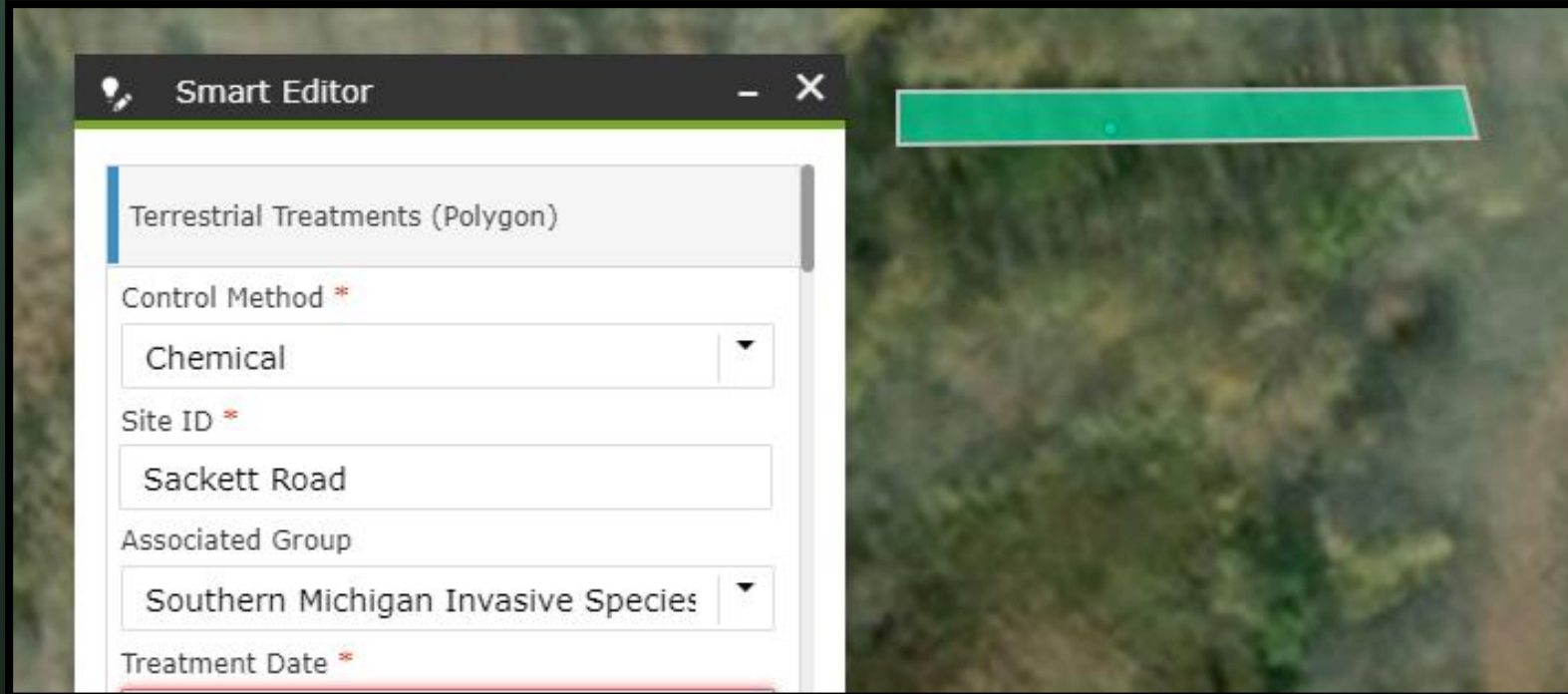


Mapping

- Sharing treatment information is essential to success
- Locations, treatment data, and species
 - Not every County faces the same problems with invasives
 - Variable across the state
- Necessary for post treatment monitoring



Treatment Records



Smart Editor

Terrestrial Treatments (Polygon)

Control Method *

Chemical

Site ID *

Sackett Road

Associated Group

Southern Michigan Invasive Species

Treatment Date *

Benefits to CISMAs

- Early Detection and Rapid Response
- Communication with RC's helps identify, prioritize, and treat these species
- Roadsides are invasive species vectors, access to treat these areas is important
- Waiving permit fees for roadside treatments
- Funding from roadside treatment contracts
- Securing grants



Contractors

- Educational opportunities for treatments are vital
- Learn best control practices and new information
- Avoid mowing species such as Japanese Knotweed and Phragmites
- Prevent the spread of Oak Wilt through pruning
- Ensure they have the best available information about herbicides and decontamination



Conflict Resolution

- CISMAs can handle public concern and conflict through education
- Assist landowners with treatment suggestions and guidance
- Working with CISMAs prevents the spread of invasives that spread aggressively
 - Oak Wilt, Phragmites, and Japanese Knotweed
- Treat invasive species if priority and funding available
- Spring 2019 Anger in St. Joseph County over Poison Hemlock
 - Angry commissioners and citizens
 - Wanted to blame road commission for spread
 - CISMA handled the problem
 - Met with those concerned
 - Provided outreach and assistance
 - Prevented major headache for Road Commission

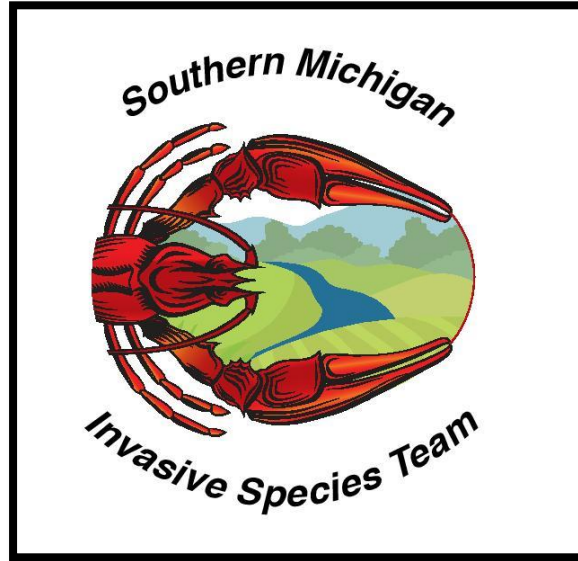


Things I'd do differently

- Have more than one point of contact
 - WHY?
 - Turnover
 - Retirement
 - Not getting everyone onboard
- Contractors are just as important and must be included!
- Share MISIN maps before the treatment season, not after
- Two yearly workshops instead of one
- Better communication with all road commissions in CISMA



Any Questions?



Thank you for your time!