

THE TIME TO ADDRESS **THE INVASIVE SPECIES PROBLEM IS NOW!**

Callery Pear

AS THE INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS CONSIDER THE FUTURE OF INDIANA'S NATURAL RESOURCES, ATTENTION MUST BE GIVEN TO CONTROLLING INVASIVE SPECIES THAT THREATEN THE SURVIVAL OF NATIVE PLANTS AND WILDLIFE. A WELL-FUNDED ORGANIZATION IS NEEDED TO LEAD AND COORDINATE A STATEWIDE EFFORT FOR INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AND ENGAGE PEOPLE TO ACT.

AN INVASIVE SPECIES IS AN ORGANISM THAT CAUSES OR MAY CAUSE ECONOMIC OR ENVIRONMENTAL HARM OR HARM TO HUMAN HEALTH. INVASIVE SPECIES CAN CAUSE ECONOMIC HARM BY THREATENING THE HEALTH OF HARDWOOD FORESTS. IN INDIANA, THE COST OF INVASIVE SPECIES IMPACTS IS GROWING AND IS ESTIMATED TO BE IN THE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY.

A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM FOR INDIANA



- The Indiana Invasive Species Council has identified 126 plants in the state as invasive so far.
- Highly invasive plants like Callery pear continue to be offered for sale throughout the state.
- More invasive species threats are being identified every year. The highly destructive Spotted lanternfly has just recently been discovered in Indiana.
- Invasive species threats also include invasive animals, fish, and insects. Feral hogs, Asian Carp and the Emerald Ash Borer are examples.
- Invasive species are outcompeting and replacing native plants and animals and negatively impact ag crop yields, forest regeneration and growth, and water quality.
- Invasive species decrease recreational opportunities, reduce economic productivity, and decrease biodiversity. Landowners are generally unaware of the issues and comprise approximately 95% of the land ownership in Indiana.

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***Invasive species negatively impact
ag crop yields and forest growth.***

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WHAT IS BEING DONE?

- Under the leadership of the Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) organization, the Indiana Invasive Initiative (III) is developing local Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) to organize local groups throughout Indiana.
- The mission of the III is to engage people and its partners in the restoration and protection of Indiana's natural resources by cultivating and coordinating efforts to manage invasive species.
- This initiative is the grass root foundation for Indiana's invasive management strategy to address Indiana's invasive species issues.
- The Indiana Invasive Species Council (IISC) was established in 2009 to enhance the ability of government agencies to detect, prevent, monitor, and manage invasive species and increase public awareness about them.

IN Forests Forever is a coalition of wildlife and forestry organizations with a common interest in supporting the health of Indiana's forests and the use of science-based management to sustain and enhance those forests and the wildlife they support. We are committed to increasing public understanding of Indiana's wonderful woodlands, and supporting the use of the most current science and firsthand experience to manage them for the benefit of all.

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*Spotted Lanternfly
Photo by Brian Walsh*

WHAT IS NEEDED?

We must establish a sustainable support system for the III and CISMAs. This support system should be provided through a partnership of Private, State, and Federal resources.

An umbrella organization is needed to coordinate improved land management tactics, invasive species management training, state-wide outreach and collaboration, provide a well-staffed home for the Indiana Invasives Initiative project, and develop sustainable funding.

Asian Carp

RECENT SICIM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Developed over 31 CISMAs representing 37 counties.
- Conducted over 460 outreach events reaching over 7,000 people.
- Written over 290 landowner surveys for over 18,000 acres.
- Conducted over 80 Weed Wrangles® across Indiana in partnership with agencies, professionals, and citizens.
- Hosted annual conferences reaching over 500 people that focused on the latest research and technology for invasive species management and the use of native plants for landscaping.
- Partnered with Purdue Extension, Department of Natural Resources, and other organizations such as the Indiana Forestry and Woodland Owners Association to provide education and training for citizens and professionals in the natural resource fields.

INDIANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

INDIANA INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL (IISC) SERVES AS THE REPORTING HUB FOR EARLY DETECTION, AND DISTRIBUTION AND MAPPING FOR INVASIVE SPECIES IN INDIANA.

THE ORGANIZATION LED THE CREATION OF THE INDIANA TERRESTRIAL PLANT RULE TO LIMIT THE COMMERCIAL SALE OF CERTAIN INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES. IISC ALSO MAINTAINS THE IISC WEBSITE.