

2010-2011 Update

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Invasive Plant Management Section Upland Program



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Upland Invasive Exotic Plants on Florida Public Lands

- ❖ 13 million acres of public conservation lands
- ❖ 125 invasive species found on public lands
- ❖ 15% estimated infested
- ❖ Legislative mandate to keep invasive plants at lowest feasible level “maintenance” (369.252, FS)
- ❖ Most impossible to eradicate

FLORIDA PLANT FACTOIDS

- 50+% OF LISTED PLANT SPECIES ARE THREATENED BY INVASIVE EXOTICS
- 31% (+/- 1300) OF PLANTS GROWING OUTSIDE CULTIVATION ARE NON-NATIVE; 10% ARE NATURAL AREA INVADERS
- 70% OF ALL PLANT SHIPMENTS INTO US COME THROUGH FLORIDA

Regional Working Groups

- **PLACE- BASED MANAGEMENT**

- **Cooperation**

- **Collaboration**

- **Communication**

- **11 regions**

- **540 participants**

27 federal 71 local

87 state 44 NGO



Invasive Upland Plant Regional Working Groups

FWC PROJECT FUNDING CRITERIA

- **Publicly owned conservation lands only**
- **Cost-share/matching funds available (\$30 million in cost share to date)**
- **Target species with high invasiveness**
- **Current control technologies available**
- **Benefit listed (T&E) species**
- **Perpetual site management**

Invasive Upland Plant Regional Contractors



Invasive Upland Plant Regional Contractors

- **FWC has established service contracts with regional invasive plant control contractors (11), as well as 16 Local Government contracts to further expand workforce**
- **The contractors are supervised by the land manager and paid directly by FWC**
- **All ground crew supervisors to be FDACS certified in Natural Areas category**
- **Yields a labor force of 300+**

HERBICIDE BANK

- Management Unit Name
- Delivery Address
- Description of Project Site
- List herbicide/adjuvants and quantities you need
- Complete DPR to document how & when material was utilized
- \$750,000 & 170+ land management units served!!!!



KILLING
IS OUR BUSINESS
AND BUSINESS IS GOOD

Invasive Upland Plant Program Results 1997-2007

- 1140+ projects on 465 Public Conservation Lands
- 490,000 acres initial control (excluding Melaleuca)
- 370,000+ acres maintenance
- 99 invasive species targeted
- \$68 million DEP (Now FWC) funds
- \$27 million local matching funds
- \$ 8 million average spent per year

Uplands Program Goal vs. Actual

- 1997-2005 Total Initial Control Acres = 271,894
- 2010 Strategic Plan Goal Acres = 430,196
- 2007 Total Initial Control Acres = 477,372

**2010 Goal Exceeded by
10%
3 Years Early**

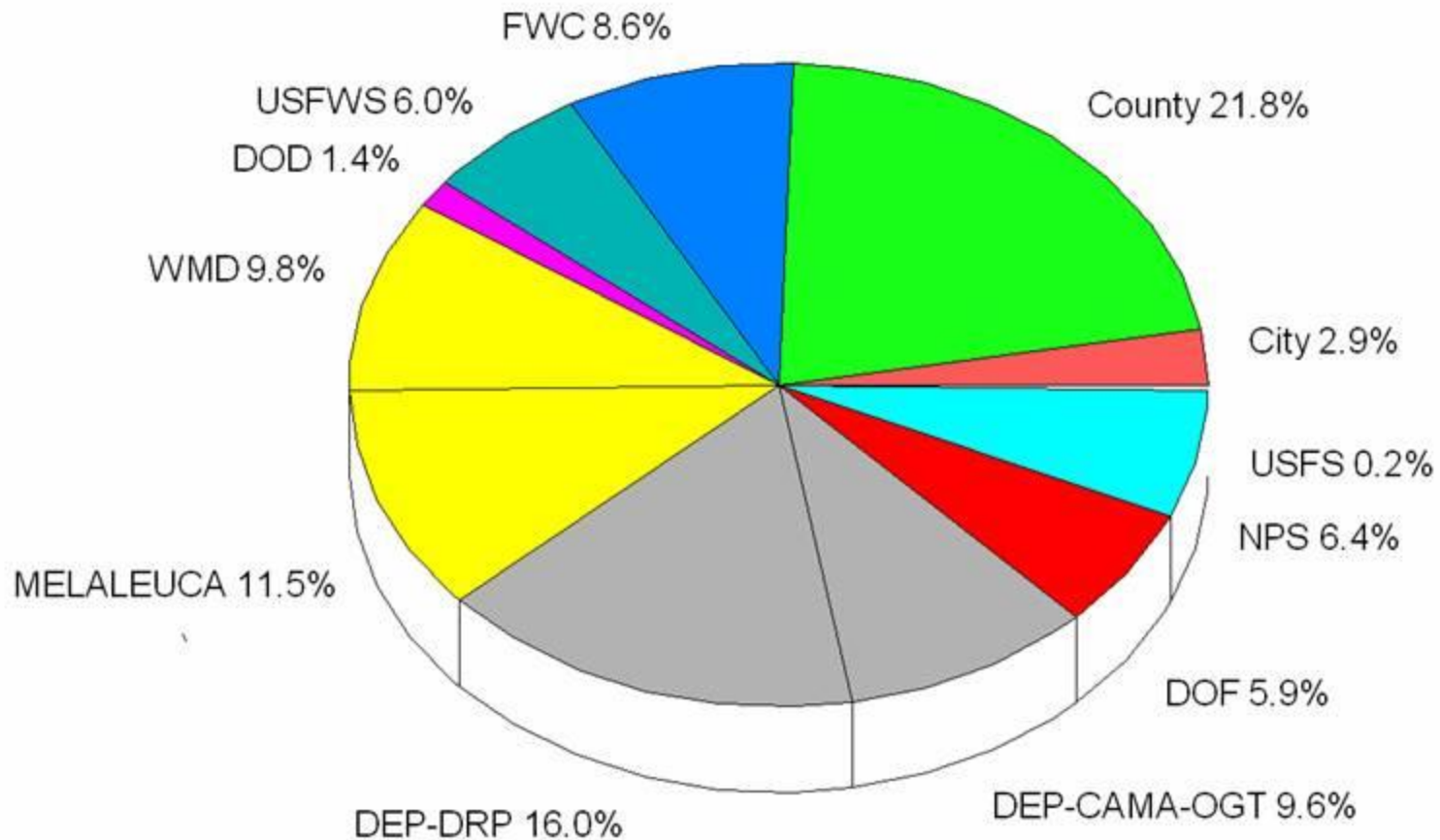
**Invasive Upland Plant
Program Results**



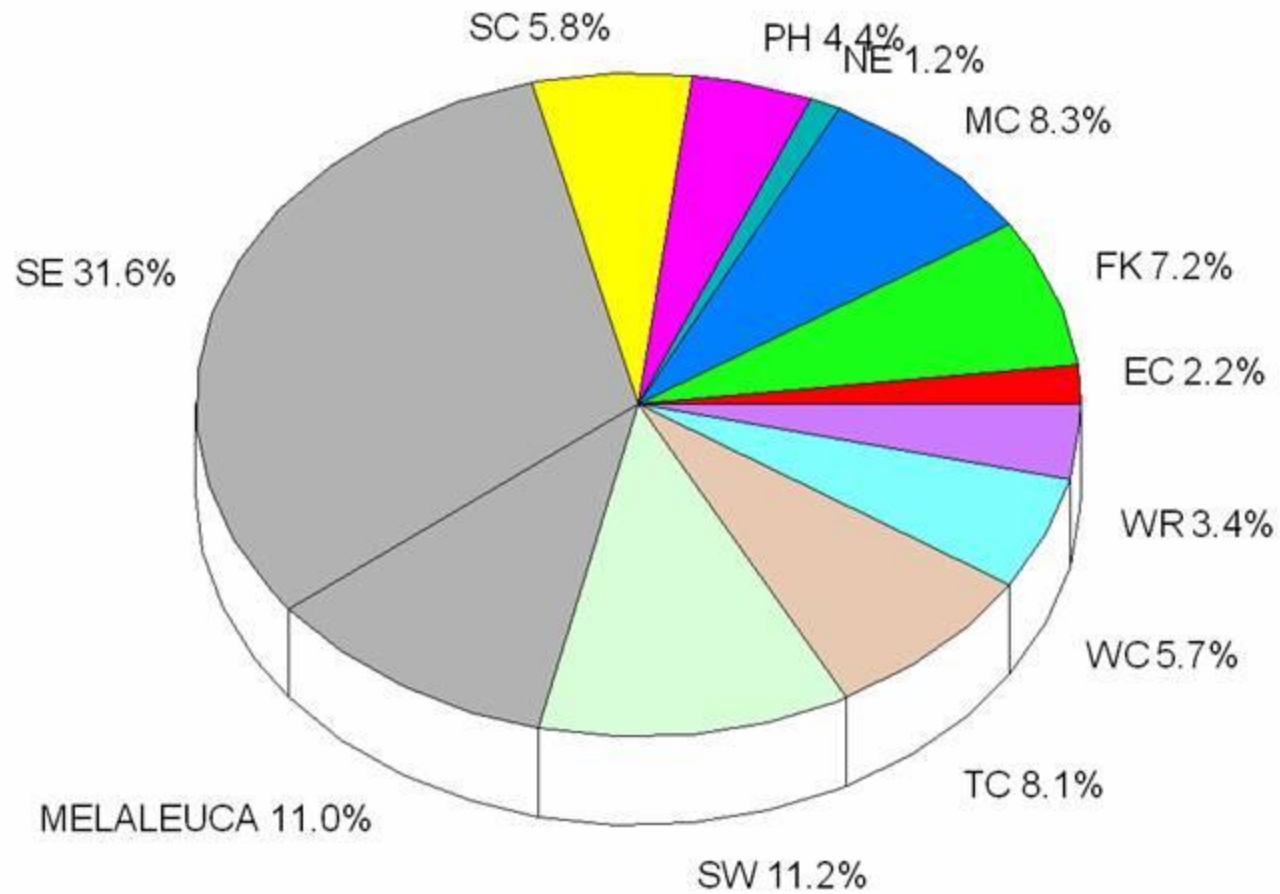
1997-2006

**48 ACRES OF WEEDS
TREATED PER DAY**

1997-2007 Share of BIPM Uplands Funding by Agency



1997-2007 Share of BIPM Funding by Working Group



What to Expect in 2011

- We expect the same level of funding as last year:

5.4 million dollars

- That level of funding will not allow us to even keep up with maintenance, no less push ahead into conducting more initial control so...

\$5,400,000.00 DEPENDING UPON:

1. How bad oil spill related issues affect the economy
2. A gas tax and documentary stamps fuel our trust fund
3. The legislature swept the trust fund so our spending authority is based on "expected" revenues with no cash buffer
4. Legislature may cut us mid-year if things get really bad

What to Expect in 2011

CONTRACTOR ISSUES:

- We lose all of our existing contractors by October
- An official complaint has stalled the process of approving the new group of contractors
- A protest hearing was pushed back from this week to who knows when
- We really do not want to lose *any* ground we've gained by not keeping up with the maintenance work

AND

- The real prospect of a severely reduced budget has changed our funding priorities to maximize the maintenance of acres already treated

What to Expect in 2011

IPMS Upland Priorities for FY 10-11:

- PRIORITY 1- Maintenance of FLEPPC 2009 Category I ferns, grasses, and vines: \$100,000 cap
- PRIORITY 2- Initial control of FLEPPC 2009 Category I ferns, grasses, and vines: \$100,000 cap
- PRIORITY 3- Maintenance of all other Category 1 and 2 species: \$100,000 cap
- PRIORITY 4- Initial control of all other Category 1 and 2 species adjacent to existing maintenance sites: \$100,000 cap

Our Best Guess Prediction for FY 2011?

We should be able to get the top 9
projects done in every region

My advice for the time being?

Don't Worry – Be Happy



... I said "SMILE!"