

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Rory Feeney, Fish and Wildlife Director



EVERGLADES CISMA

Milestones

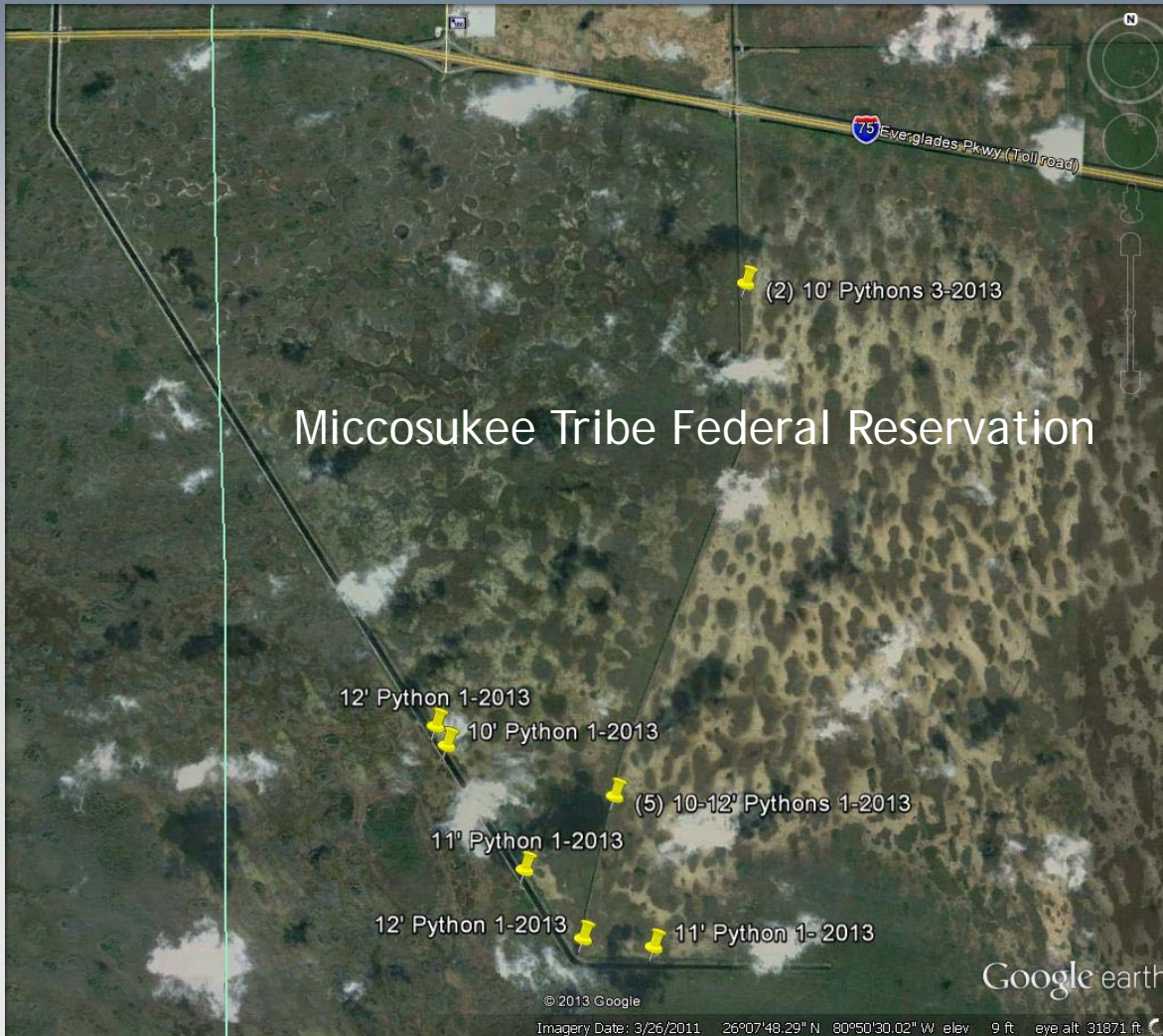
- **January 30, 2013-Python/Invasive Species Summit**
 - Management Actions/Needs
 - Identify Barriers and Constraints
 - Message Development
- **January-March 2013-Increased python monitoring during cold weather**
 - Python mating ball found along the L-28 Levee
 - 12 large constrictors (several egg bearing) removed from L-28 Levee
 - Early Detection Rapid Response at work!

Burmese Python Mating Ball



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Early Detection Rapid Response

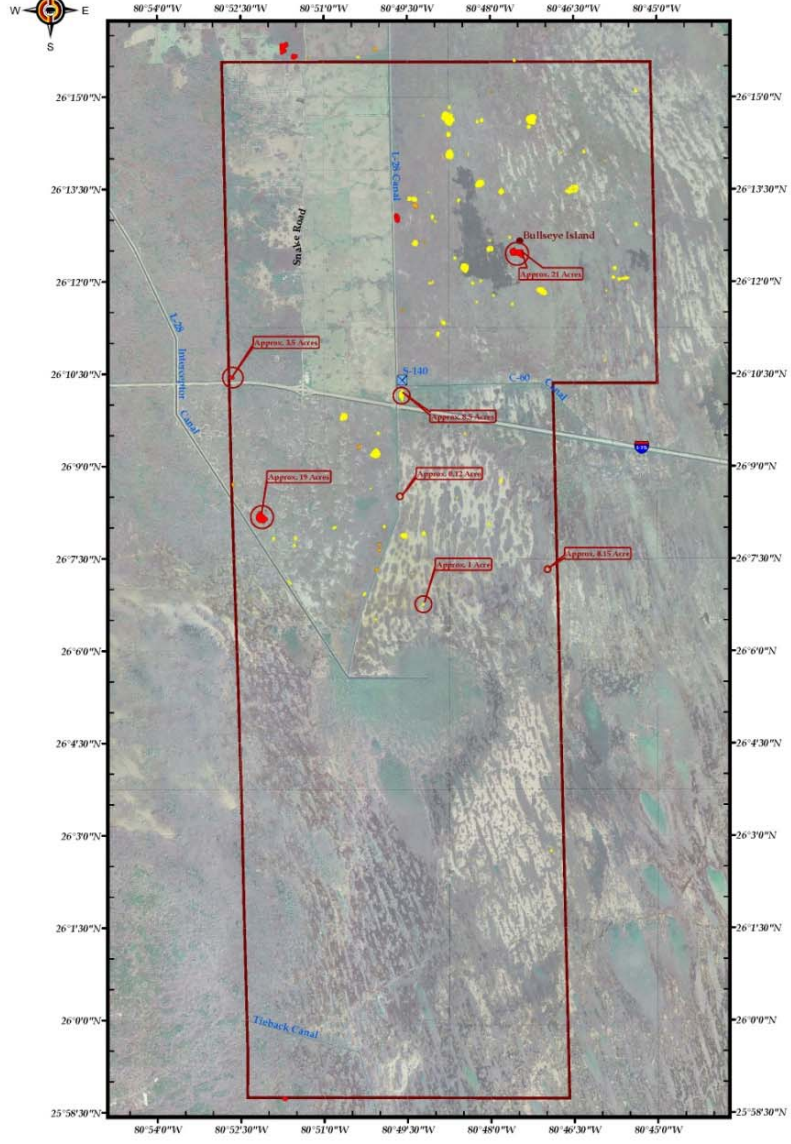


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 - Identified areas of highest density and prioritize sections needing immediate treatment
 - Cut down over 2500 trees during course of survey
 - Developing strategic plan to remove Melalueca with SFWMD assistance.

Areas of *Melaleuca* on the Miccosukee Tribe Alligator Alley Federal Indian Reservation



Estimated *Melaleuca* percent (%) cover is as follows:

- Less than 5%
- 6-25%
- 26-75%



These areas of *Melaleuca* were identified by the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ECISMA) group during 2009-2010 and 2012 using digital aerial sketchmapping.



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 - 1st time the BIA submitted a Presidential Budget addressing the issues on invasive animal species
 - ~\$3million pending approval
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 - Competition expanded to included Miami-Dade, Broward and Collier (SWCISMA)

2013 Non Native Fish Roundup



Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

**FOURTH ANNUAL
EVERGLADES
NON-NATIVE FISH ROUNDUP
2013**

Saturday, May 18, 2013
Miami Dade • Broward • Collier

The Everglades CISMA is hosting the Everglades Non-native Fish Round Up to raise public awareness about the potential negative impacts of releasing non-native fish into Florida waters, and to encourage anglers to target these nonnative species. The Round Up will also gather data into non-native fish distribution and abundance that can assist in their management. This will be a one day event open to all anglers including juniors.

CASH PRIZES up to \$500 will be awarded for largest fish and largest aggregate (by weight). We will also award a "Slam" prize to the angler that catches the most number of non-native species.

Prizes include: rods and reels (Okuma, Daiwa, and others), a cast net (Costa Del Mar, Smith Optics), and hundreds of dollars worth of gift certificates redeemable at our sponsors' locations.

For registration and full event rules visit:
www.EvergladesCISMA.org/roundup

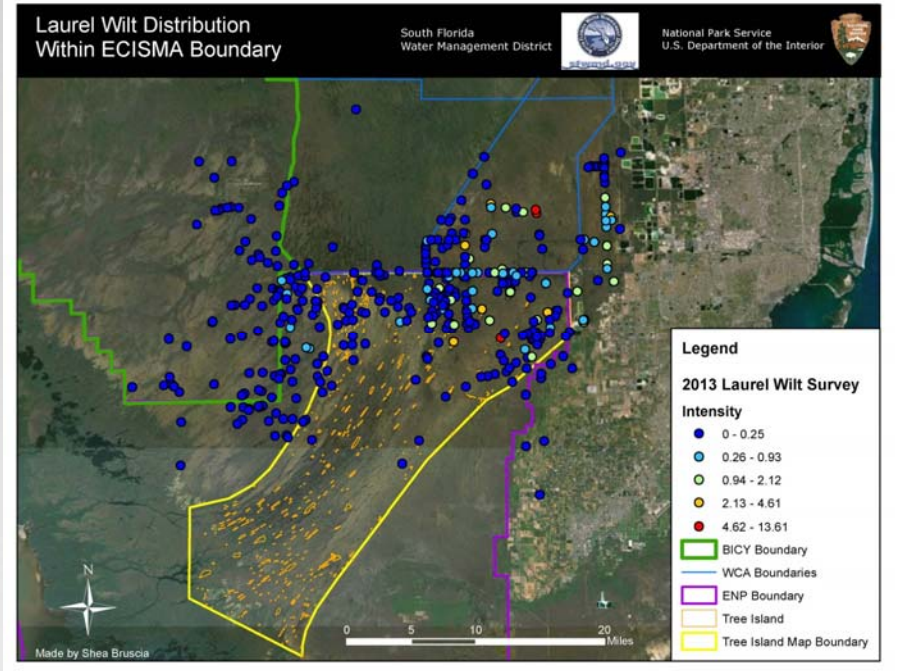
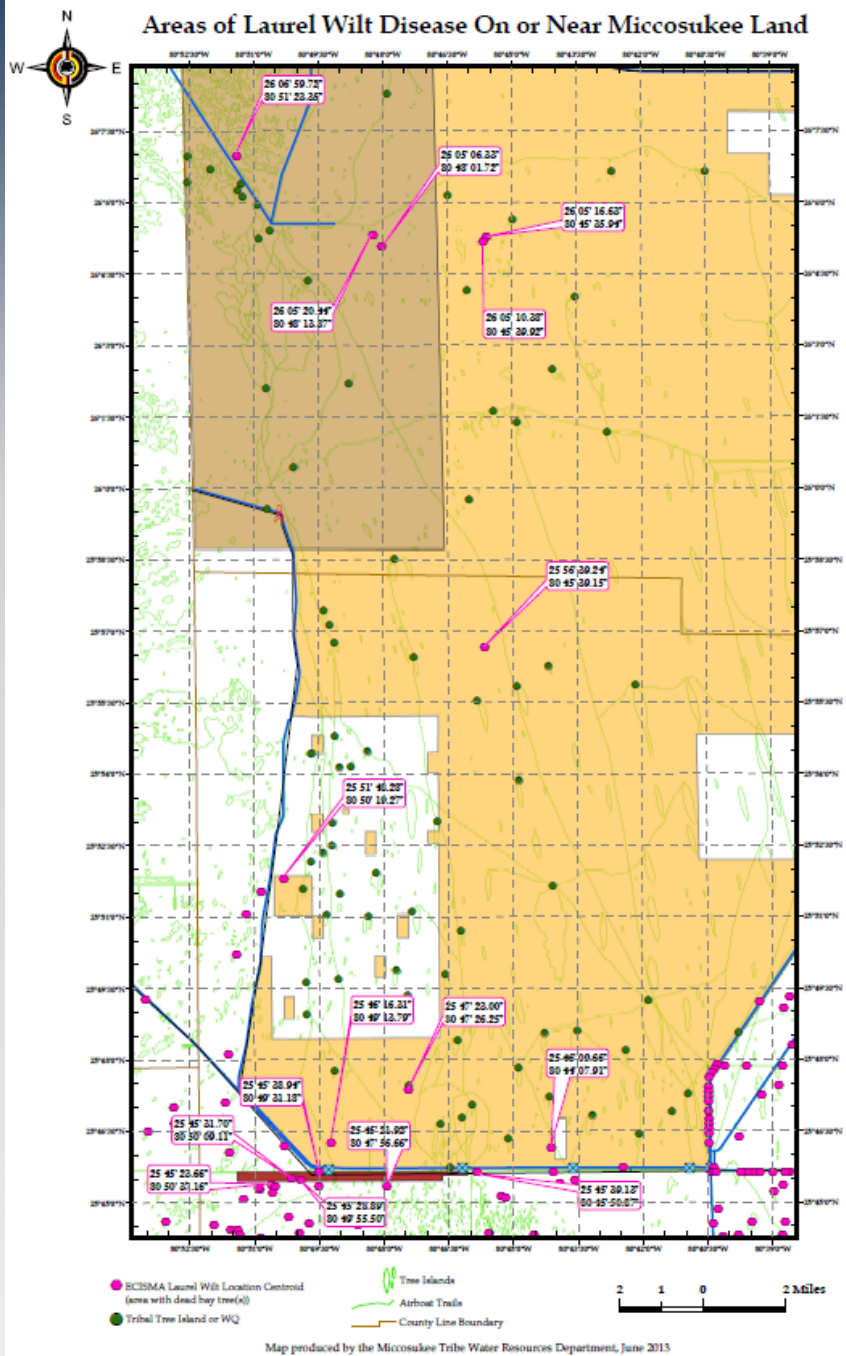
Official Sponsors of the 2013 Non-Native Fish Round Up



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- **May 30, 2013-Laurel Wilt Workshop**
 - USDA, UF IFAS, SFWMD, Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes
 - The Bay tree is one of the most important natural resources in Miccosukee Tribal culture
 - Identified the need to increase research efforts in the natural areas and develop a recovery strategy



EVERGLADES CISMA



Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

Business Council Members
Colley Billie, Chairman

Jasper Nelson, Ass't. Chairman
Jerry L. Cypress, Treasurer

Andrew Bert Sr., Secretary
William M. Osceola, Lawmaker

June 6, 2013

Secretary Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

The Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida lives within the heart of the Florida Everglades. Our timeless culture and way of life are dependent on a healthy and restored ecosystem. The Everglades or *Pahokee* (meaning "River of Grass") is like no other ecosystem in the world. It sustains a vast diversity of plants, fish and wildlife and has been our home for generations. However, over the past decade we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of invasive/exotic plants and animals on our Tribal Lands. These species have a direct impact on our way of life, and we are requesting your immediate attention to this epidemic.

There are many ongoing battles against invasive species in the Florida Everglades. Several of these campaigns have had positive results, but a vast majority needs increased effort and funding. Specifically, I would like to draw your attention to a condition called Laurel Wilt Disease.

Laurel Wilt Disease is caused by the Red Bay Ambrosia Beetle (*Xyleborus glabratus*) transmitting a fungus (*Raffaella lauricola*) to the Laurel family of trees. The beetle is believed to have come over in packing material from Asia in 2002 through the ports of Georgia and South Carolina. The fungus plugs the water-conducting cells of an affected tree and causes it to wilt. Over 90% of the infected trees will die within a single year. Attached you will find photos of the infected trees in and around Tribal Lands.

The University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), Florida Department of Agriculture, and several State agencies are currently monitoring the spread of Laurel Wilt Disease (see attached distribution map). The Miccosukee Tribe has documented the disease marching across our Tribal Lands at an alarming rate. Within one year the disease spread from Miami Dade County to the west coast of Florida. While there has been emphasis on protecting the avocado industry, we have found that little attention is given to the natural areas.

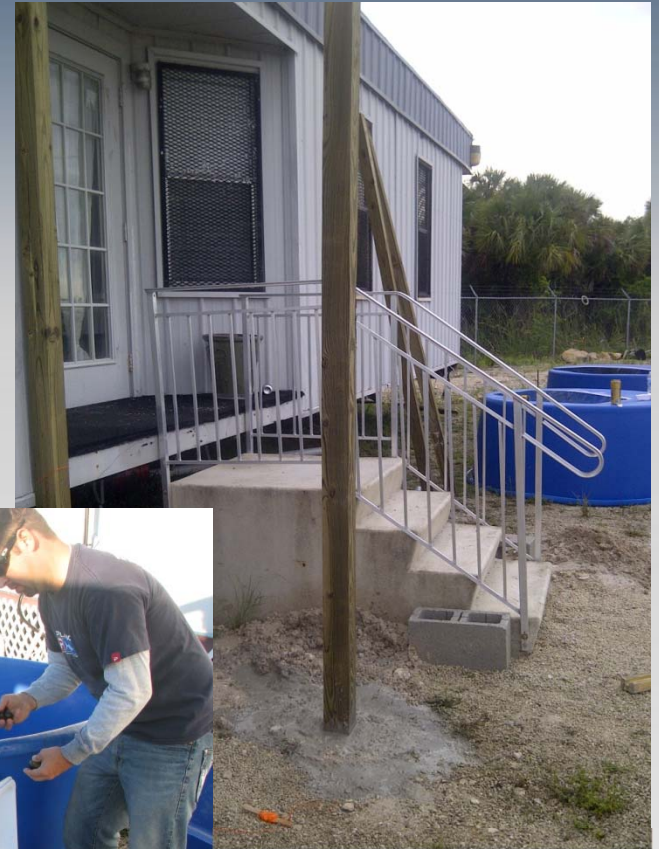
P.O. Box 440021, Tamiami Station, Miami, Florida 33144, (305) 223-8380, fax (305) 223-1011
Constitution Approved by the Secretary of the Interior, January 11, 1962

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- **Ongoing - Aquatic Repopulation Center (ARC) Construction**
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service funded through their TWG program
 - Partnered with University of West Florida, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute and Nichols State University
 - Incorporating Renewable energy resources into the project – Native Apple Snail production begins this year!

Aquatic Repopulation Center



Questions?

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