

**Interagency Python
Control through
Python Contractor
Program
and the
Florida Python
Control Plan**



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SFWMD – Mike Kirkland
NPS – Bryan Falk



Outline

- 1) Python Contractor Program
 - Changes to the Program
 - Results and Discussion
- 2) Florida Python Control Plan
 - What it is?
 - Next steps



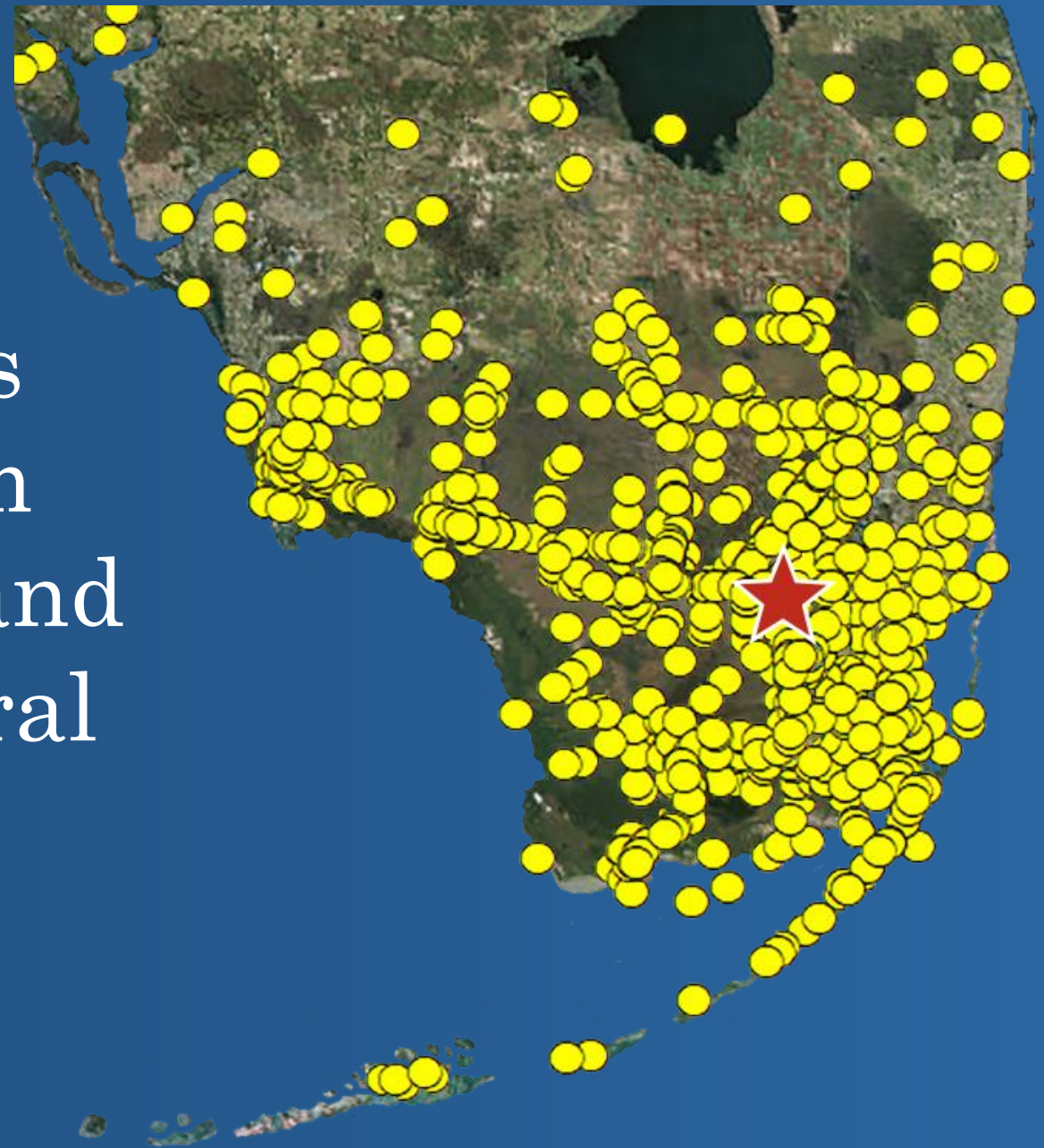
Burmese Pythons in Florida

- Large constrictor snake native to SE Asia
- Established invasive in Florida
- Can lay up to 100 eggs per clutch
- Semi-aquatic; disperse on land and in water
- Extremely difficult to find
- No population estimates in Florida



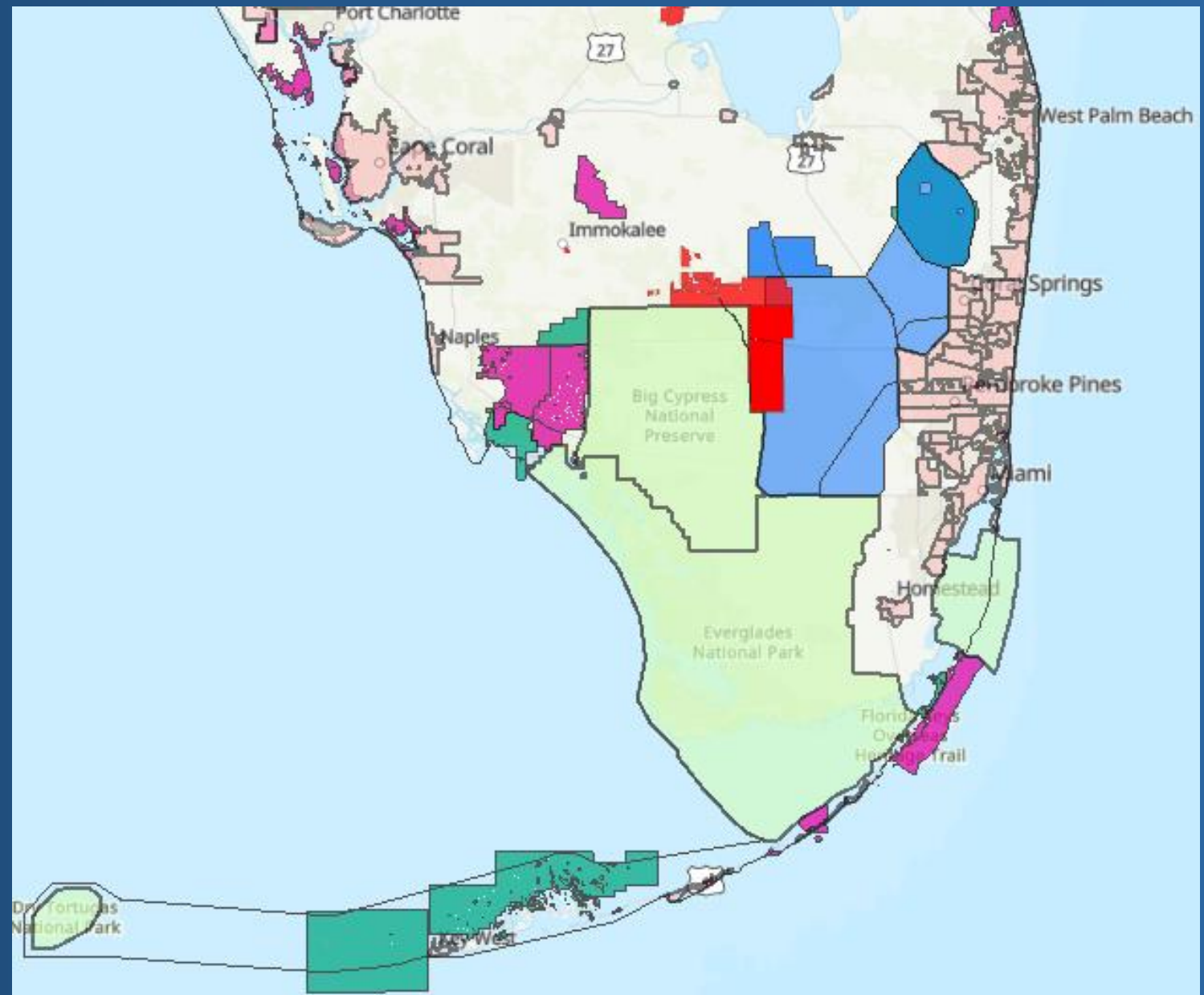
Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

2021 - Burmese pythons
have been removed from
many areas in Florida and
are established in natural
areas of South Florida

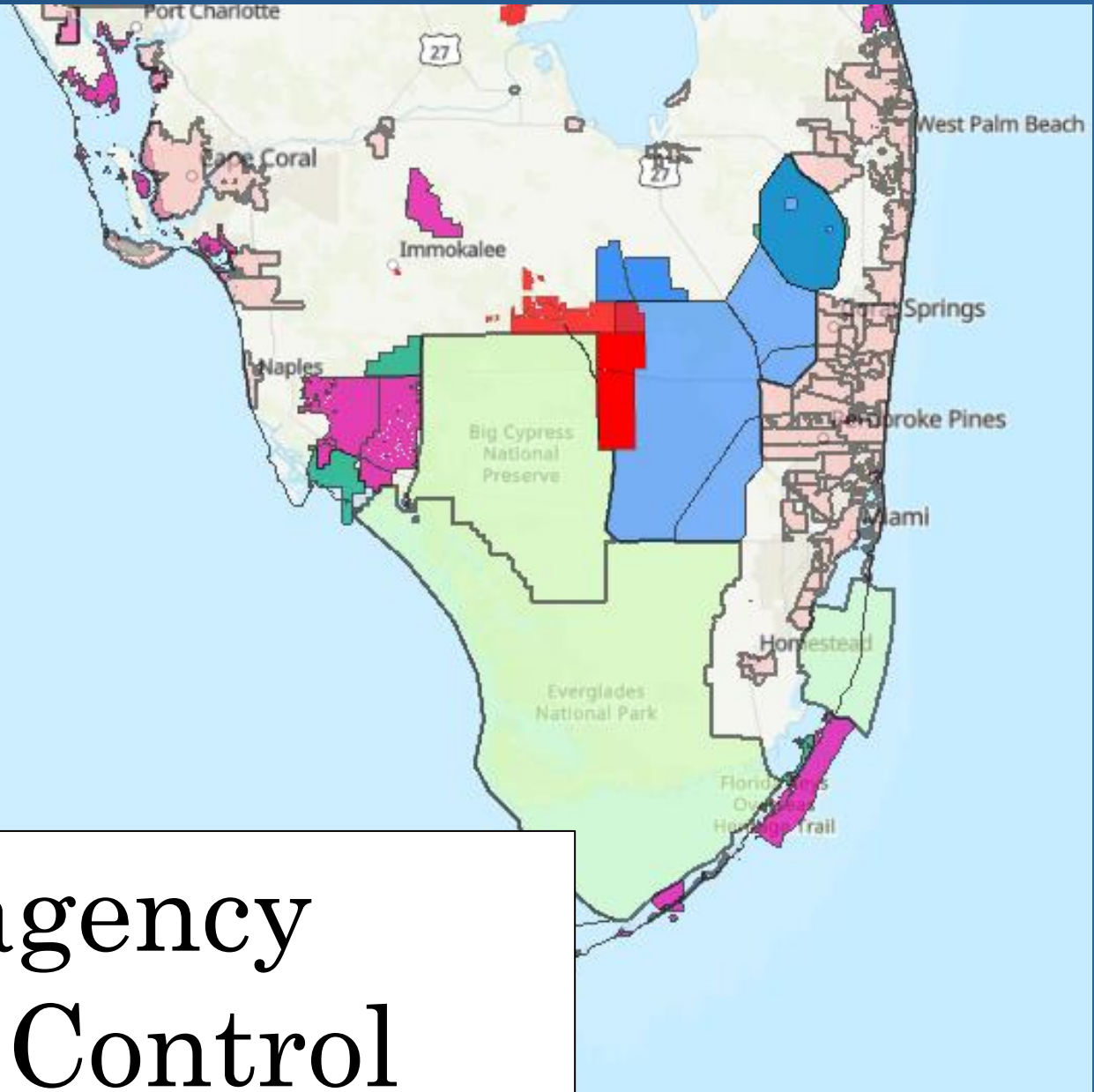
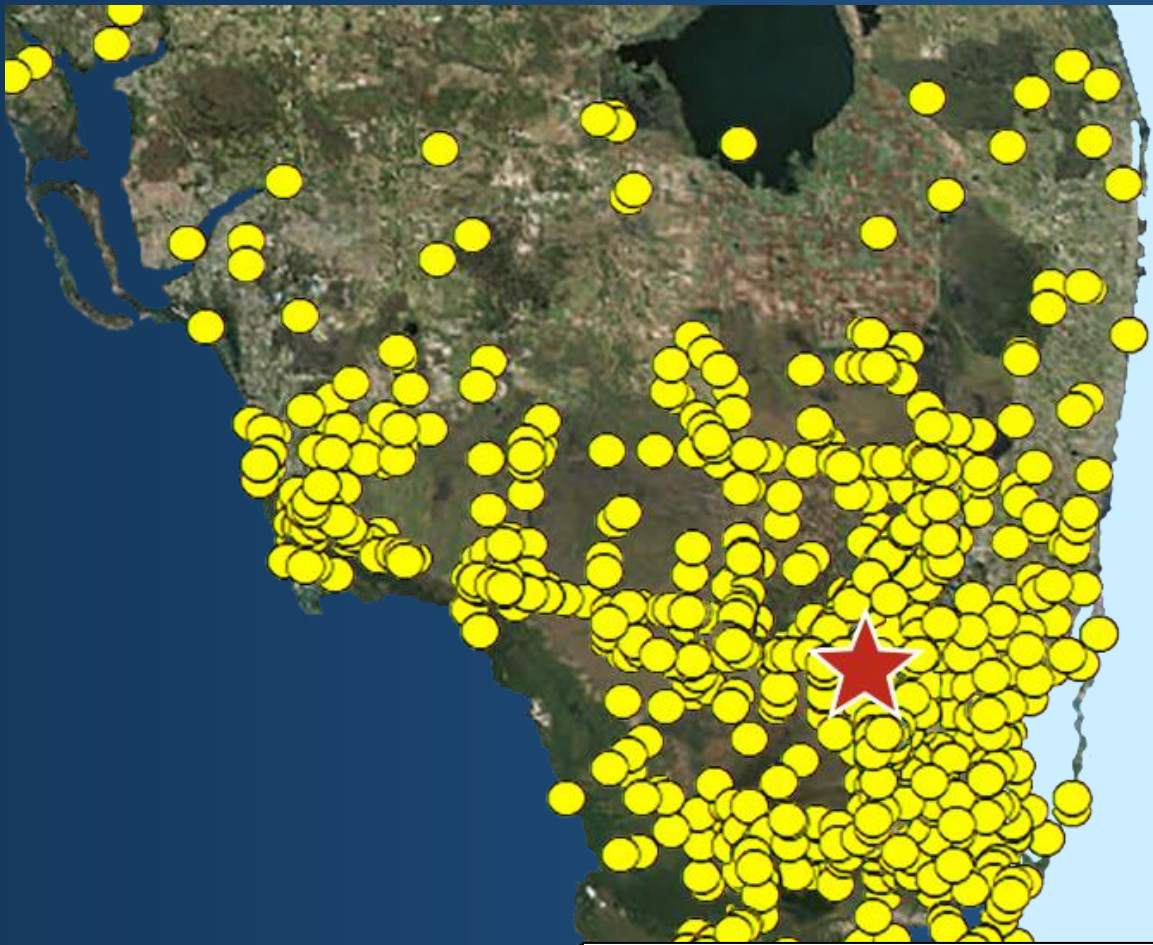


Land:

- Ownership
- Management



Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area



Interagency Python Control



Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

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Python Contractor Program

- One Team, One Mission
 - FWC Python Action Team, Removing Invasive Constrictors (PATRIC)
 - SFWMD Python Elimination Program (PEP)
- Currently 99 paid contractors
- >7,000 pythons removed



Python Contractor Program

Target Species

- Burmese Python
- Northern African Python
- Reticulated Python
- Southern African Python
- Amethystine Python
- Scrub Python
- Boa Constrictor
- Yellow Anaconda
- Green Anaconda
- Beni Anaconda
- DeSchauensee's Anaconda



Photo Credit: Bob Darling



Photo Credit: McKayla Spencer

Python Contractor Program

Payment

- \$8.65 or \$15.00 per survey hour, depending on the area, for up to 10 hours of work per day
- \$50.00 per snake and then an extra \$25.00 per every foot over 4 feet



Python Contractor Program

Payment

- \$8.65 or \$15.00 per survey hour, depending on the area, for up to 10 hours of work per day
- \$50.00 per snake and then an extra \$25.00 per every foot over 4 feet
- \$200.00 for verified nests
- \$50.00 for Scout Snakes (no extra length payment)

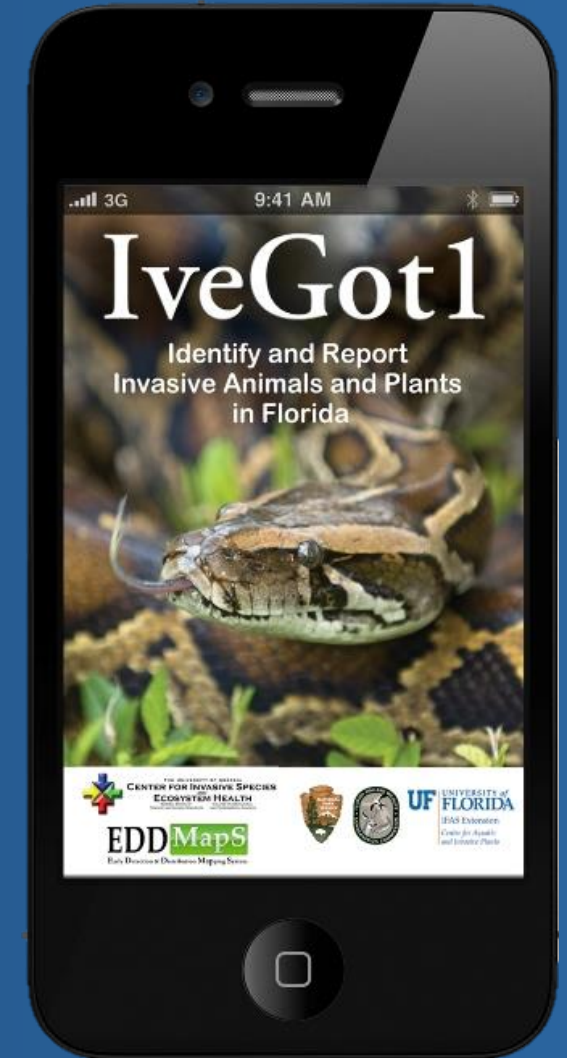


Python Contractor Program



Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)

- Agency contractors are also able to be deployed for sighting requiring rapid response



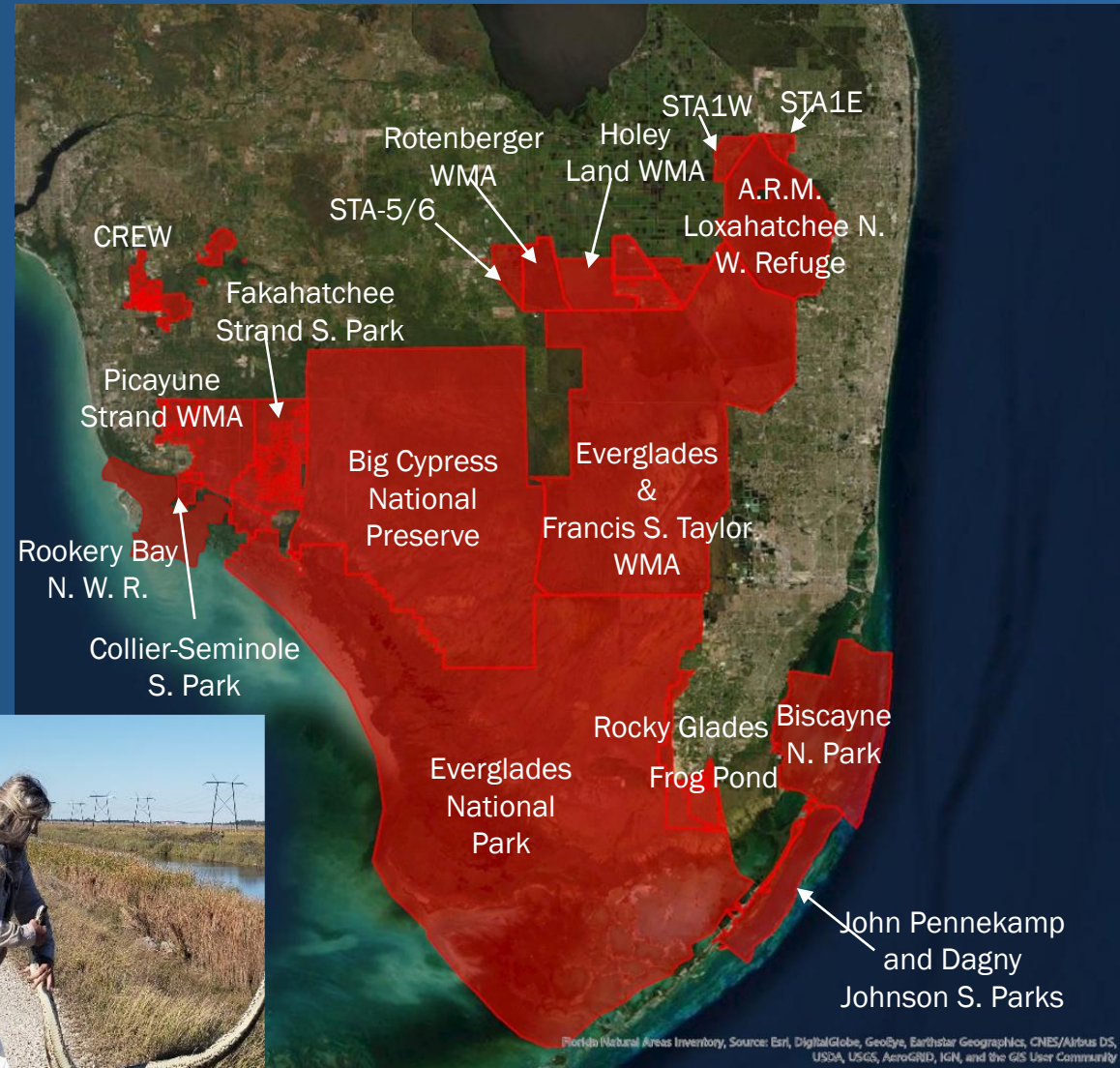
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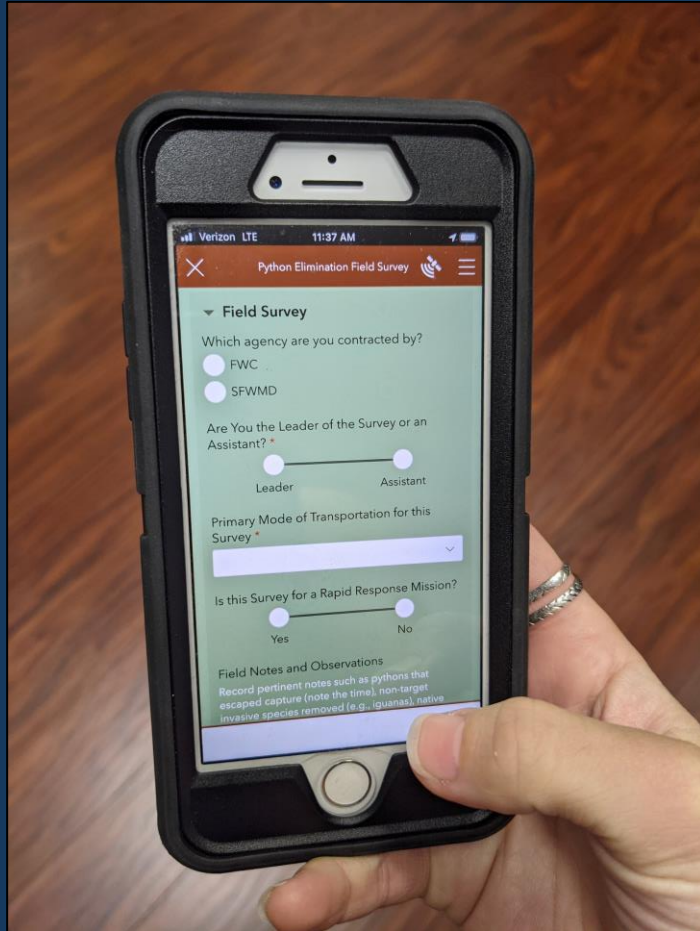


Changes to the Program

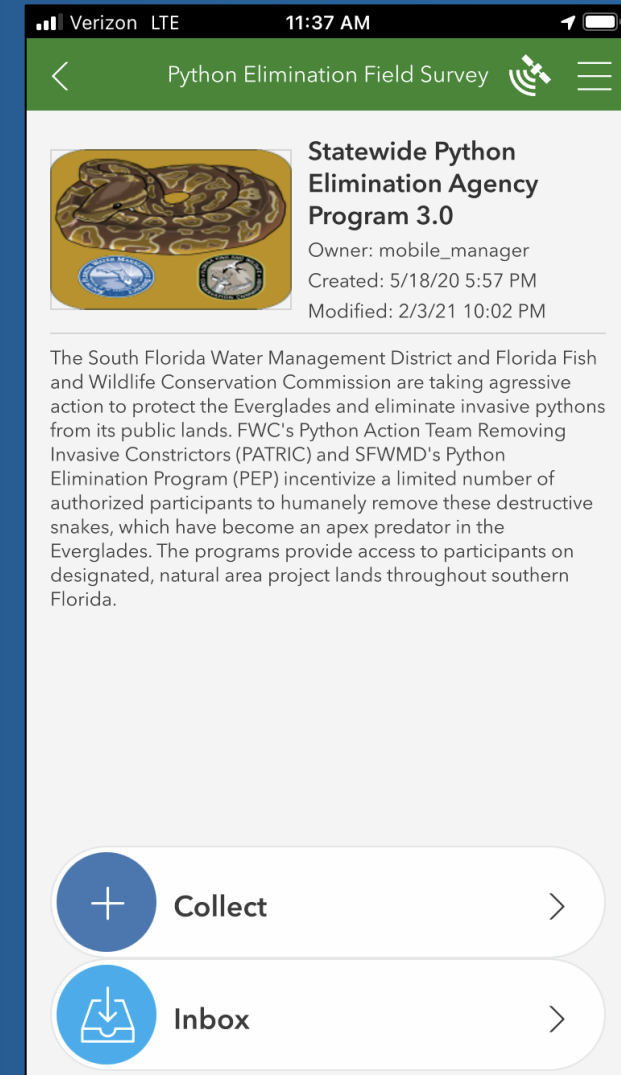
- FWC expanded project area to include Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Increased the number of contractors to 99 total
- National Park Service now allows contractors to keep carcasses



Data Management Aligned



- FWC fully switched to using the ESRI data management apps
 - Survey123
 - Field Maps
- Survey123 underwent an update to Statewide Python Elimination Program 3.0



Awareness: Python Challenge



- To be held annually
- Brings awareness to invasive species issues
- Promotes public engagement
- Combines local outreach with national media coverage

www.flpythonchallenge.org

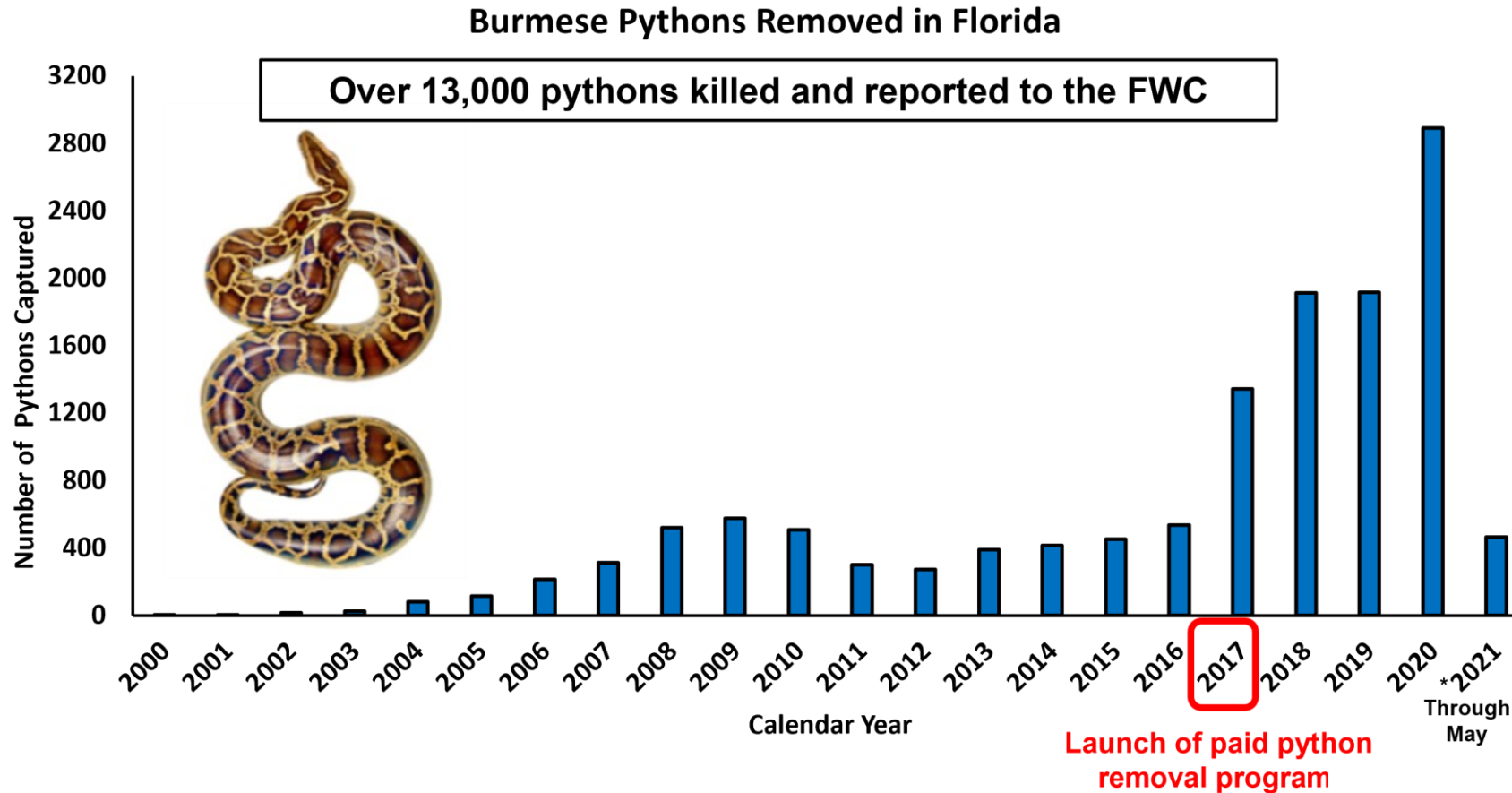
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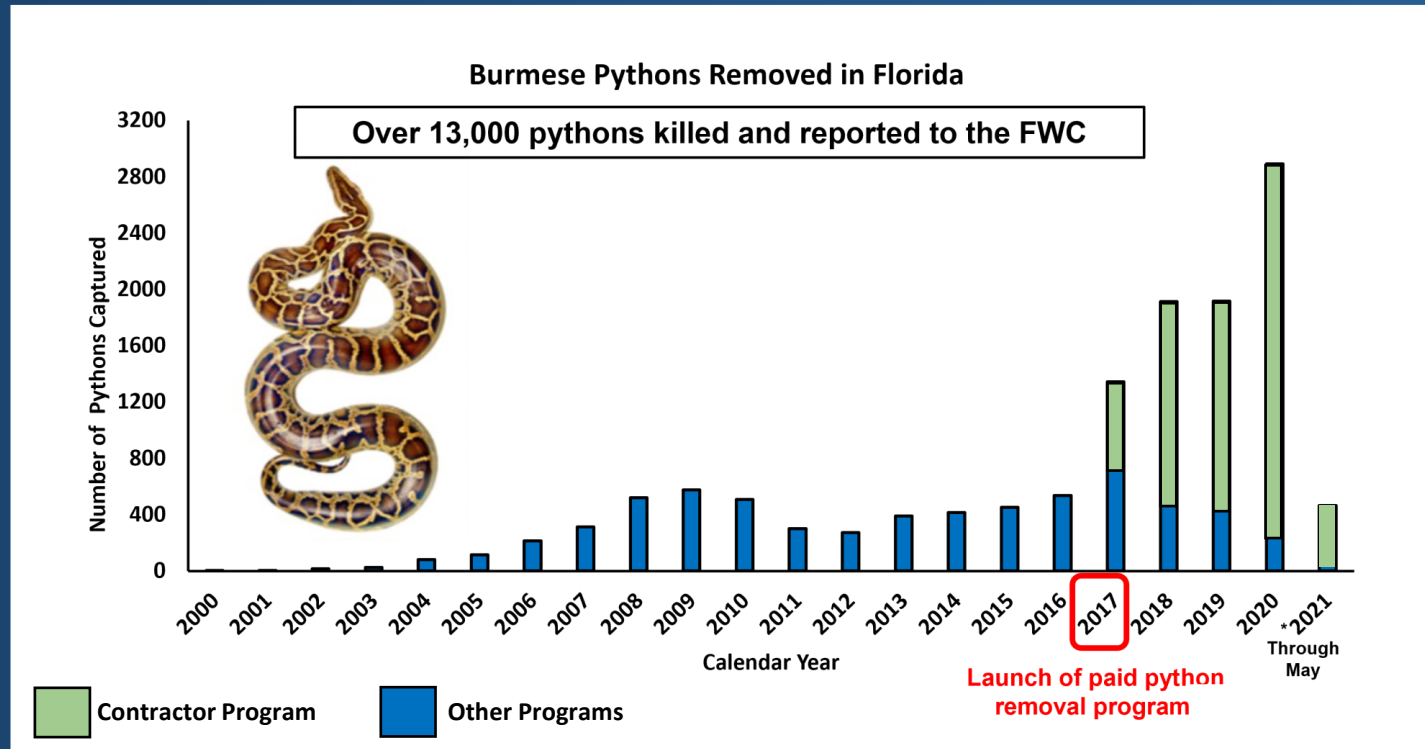
Impact of Contracted Removal



Impact of Contracted Removal

7,293 pythons removed

3,468 Females
3,303 Males
522 Unknown



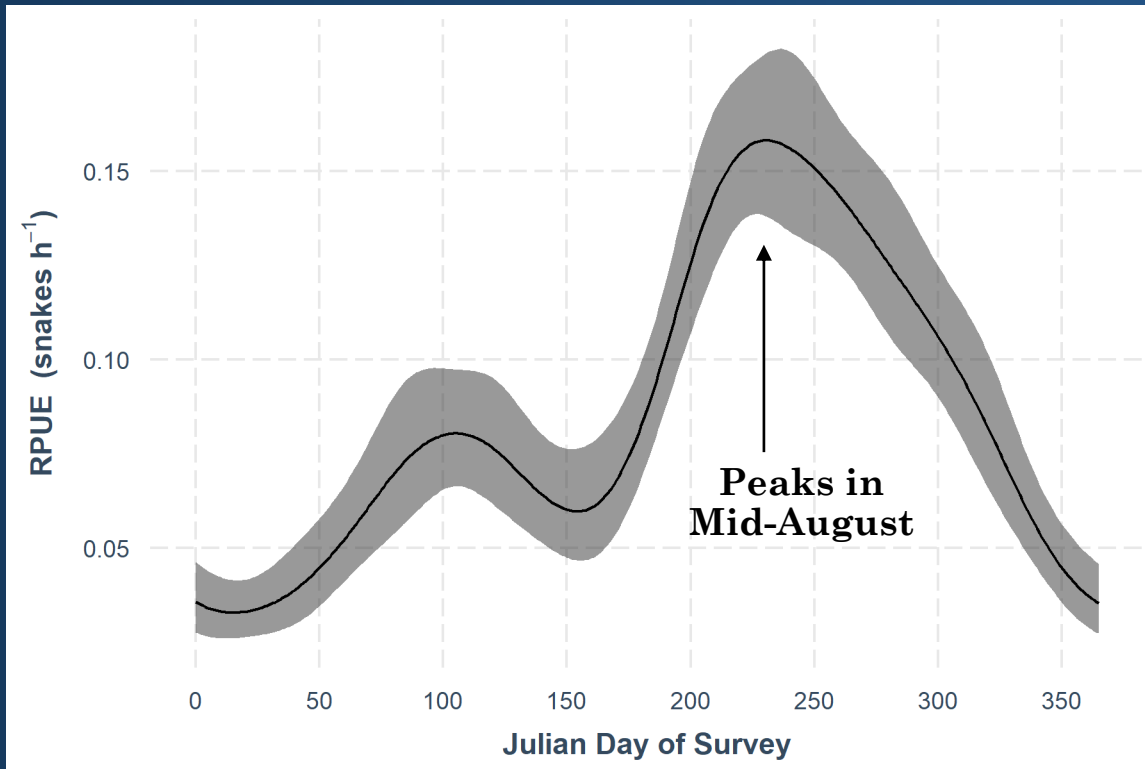
78,213 survey hours completed

3,163 virtually checked in pythons

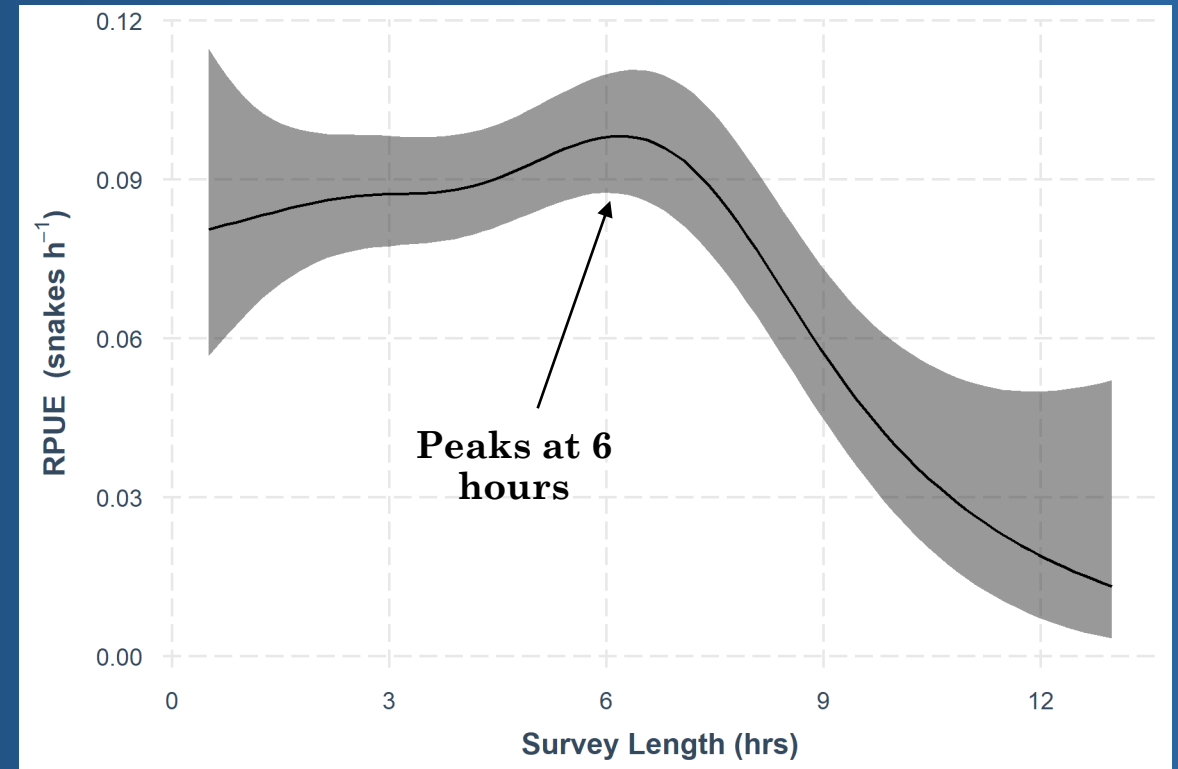


Preliminary Analysis: Contractor Data

RPUE By Calendar Day



RPUE By Total Time Per Survey



RPUE= Removal per unit effort



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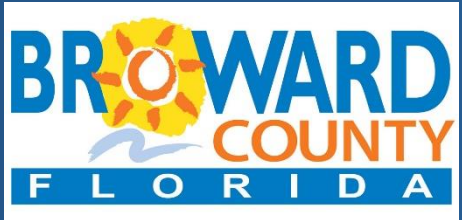
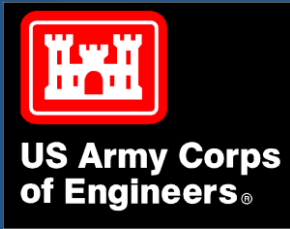


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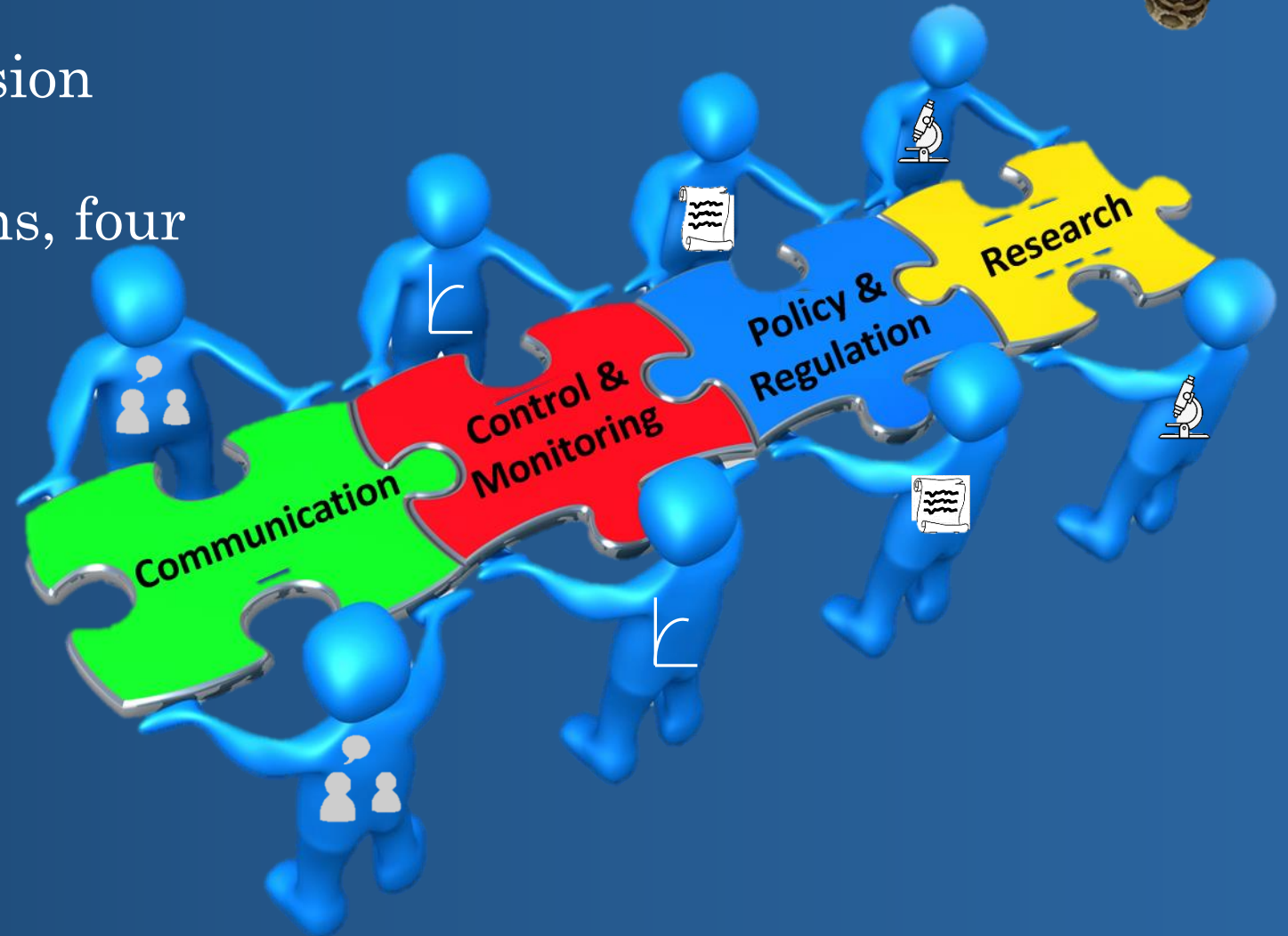
Florida Python Control Plan



Florida Python Control Plan



- Covers
 - Background of the invasion
 - Python biology
 - Future control of pythons, four themes
- Four Themes
 - 1) Policy and Regulations
 - 2) Control and Monitoring
 - 3) Research
 - 4) Communication



Florida Python Control Plan



- Four Themes

- 1) Policy and Regulations
- 2) Control and Monitoring
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Section: Implementation

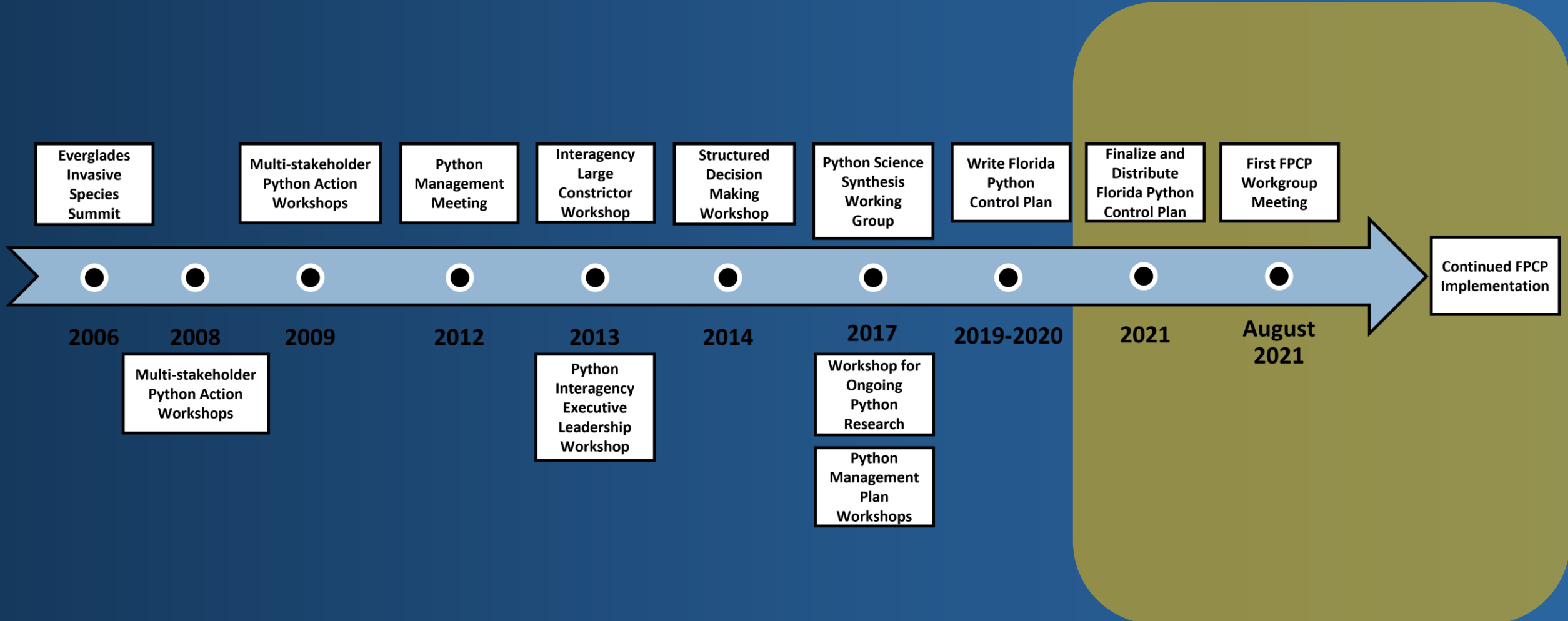


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Path Forward for FPCP



Path Forward for FPCP



Section: Implementation

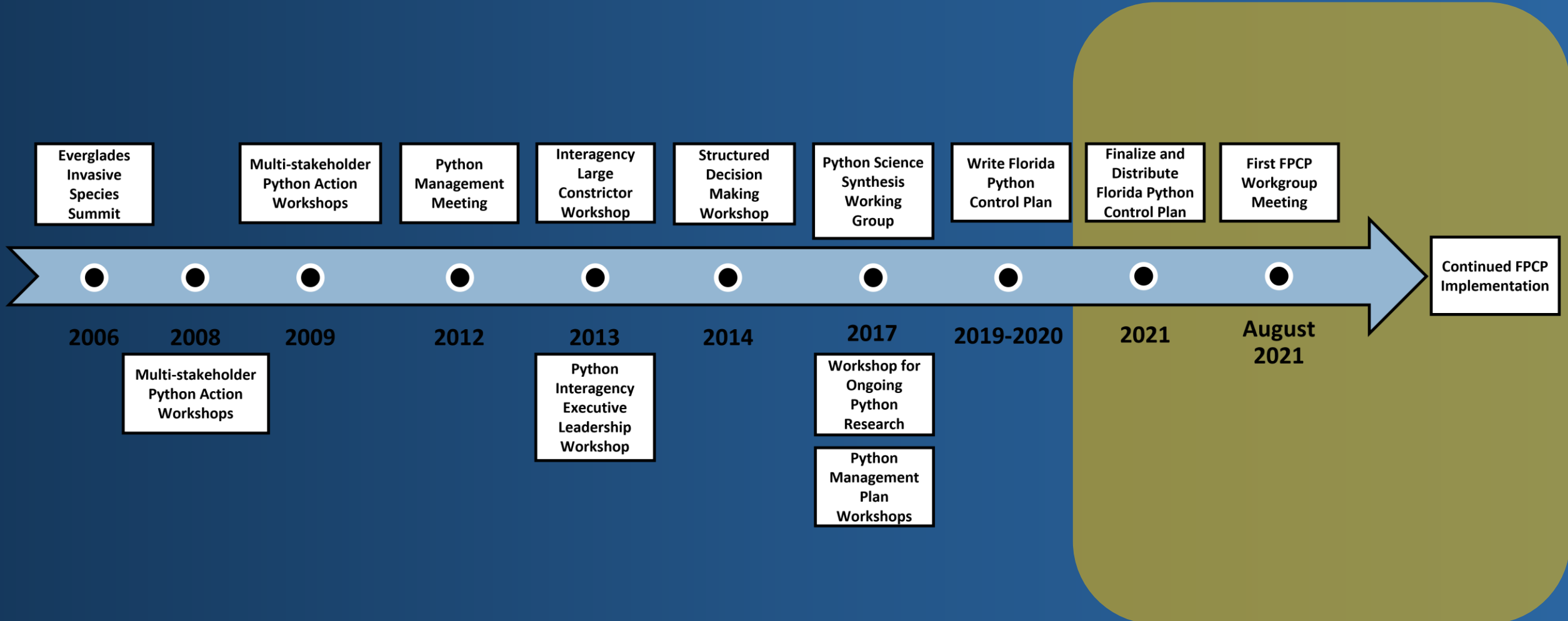
FPCP Workgroup

- 1) Build support
- 2) Coordinate support
- 3) Disseminate information
- 4) Prioritize efforts

- 1) Action Plan
- 2) Progress Report



Path Forward for FPCP





Questions



Think Locally, Act neighborly
invasive species know no boundaries!

