



SFWMD Recreational Forum
December 16, 2019



Rory Feeney, Land Resources Bureau Chief
South Florida Water Management District

A common ecosystem



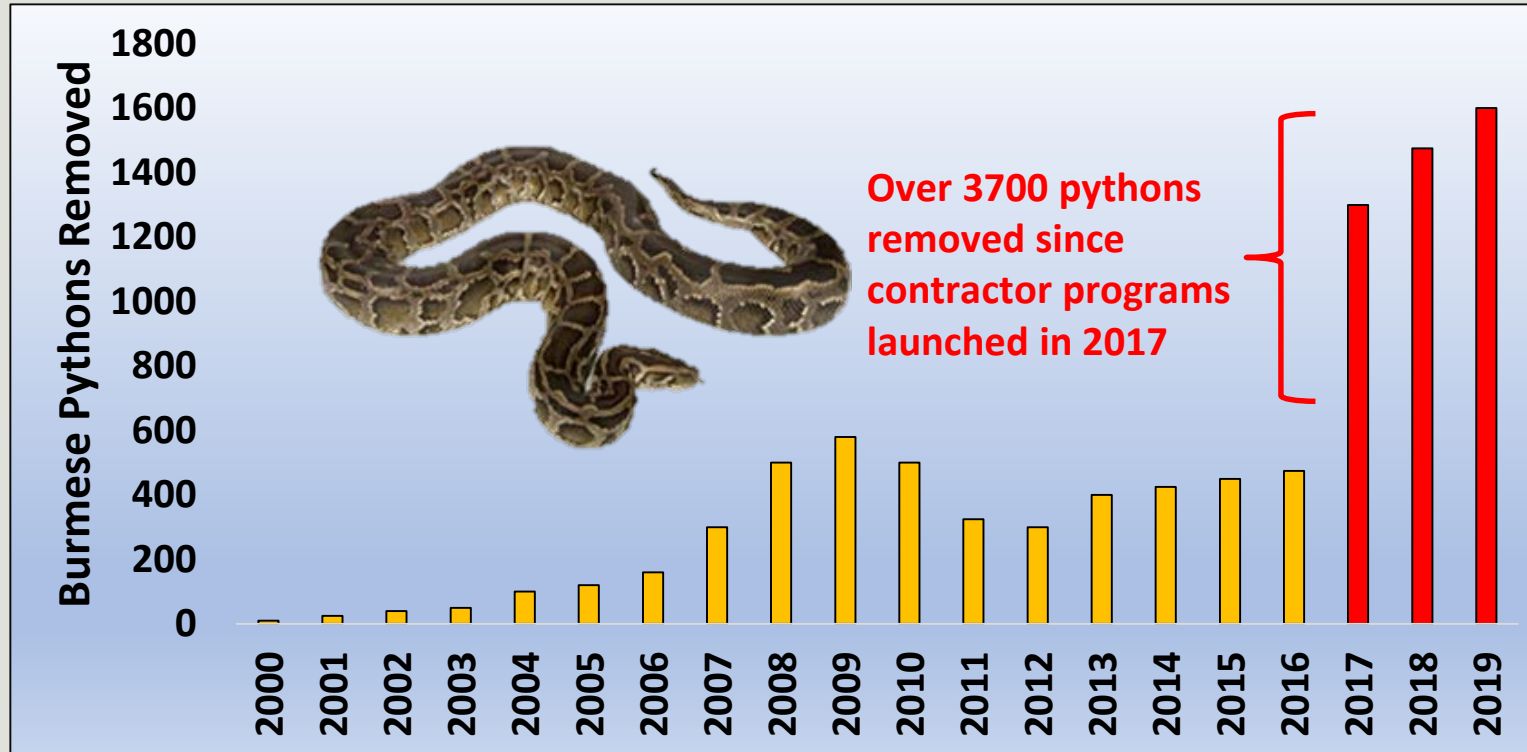
Florida's Python Management Program: One Mission

History of the Programs

- NPS Authorized Agent Program
 - Volunteer program
 - Began unofficially in 2008, formalized in 2014
 - Big Cypress began program in 2017
- Paid Python Removal Contractors
 - Most effective python removal tool
 - In March 2017, SFWMD and FWC launched paid contractor programs
- Python removal increased by 200%



Impact of Python Removal Programs



Florida's Python Management Program: One Mission

One Mission: Seamless Partnerships in Python Removal

- Governor DeSantis Aug 7th Announcement
- Coordinate management goals and actions
- Maximize removal efforts
 - Expand contractor and volunteer removal programs
 - Align Programs both in Access and Requirements



Increasing Number of Python Contractors

- FWC and SFWMD will have 50 contractors each
- NPS to increase to 250 authorized agents



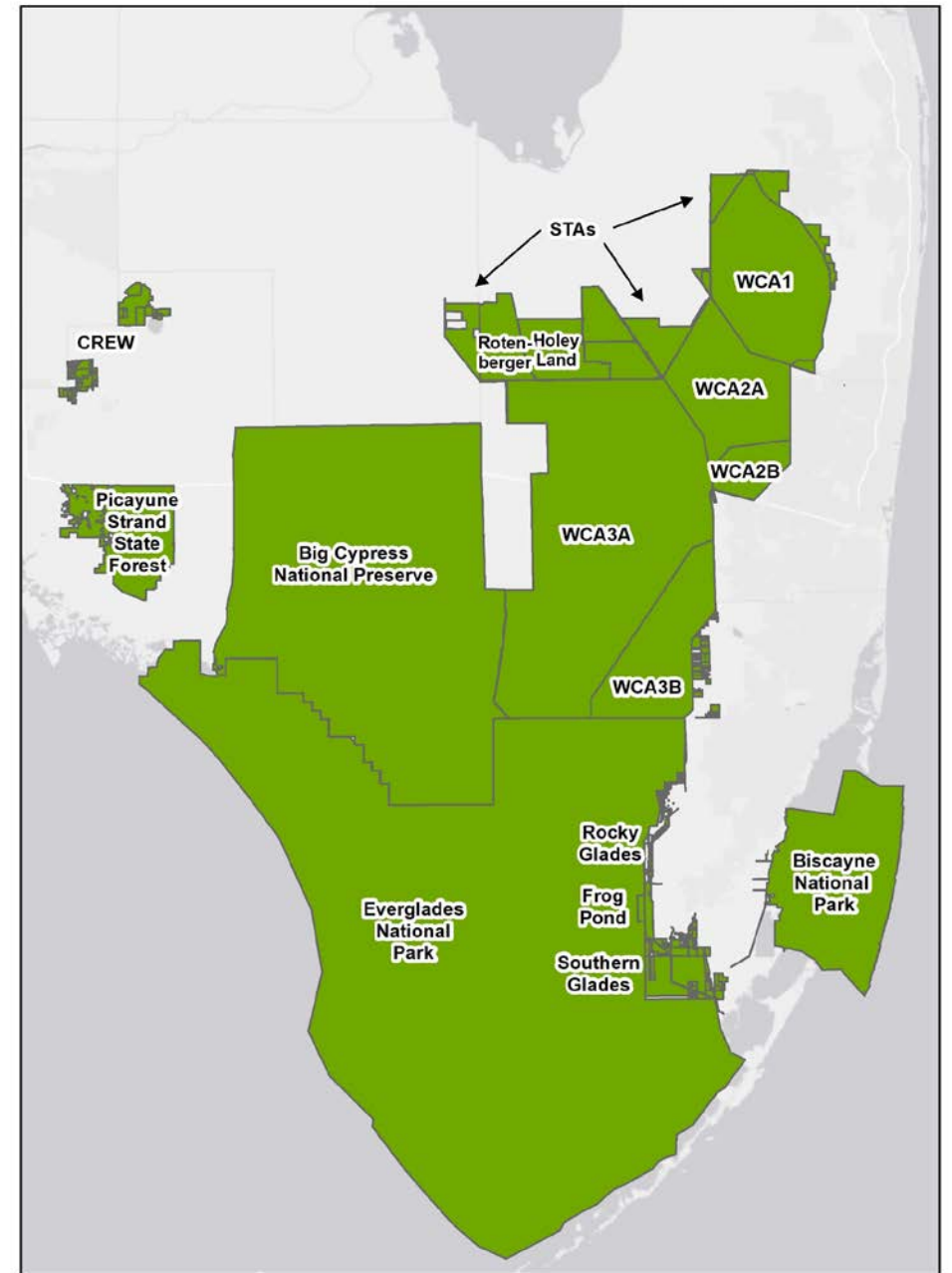
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Aligning Programs Project Areas

Current SFWMD Project Area

Current FWC Project Area

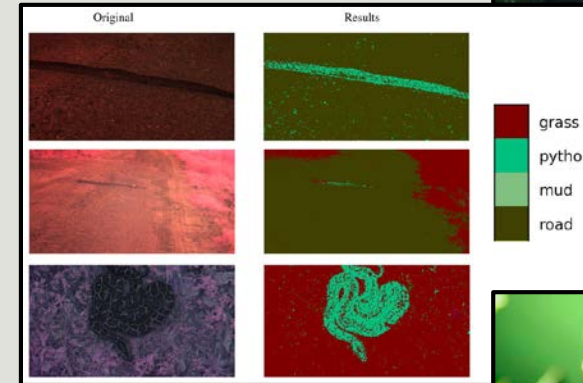
All Project Area Combined



Florida's Python Management Program: One Mission

Optimize Detection

- Implement vetted technologies
 - e.g. detection dogs, sentinel snakes, eDNA, multispectral imagery, etc.
- Solicit research proposals for new technology to improve python detection and removal



Engaging the Public

- Governor's Media Scrimmage
- Florida Python Challenge™
- 2020 SUPERBOWL LIV
- FLPythonChallenge.org
 - Brings worldwide awareness to invasive species issues
 - Promotes public engagement



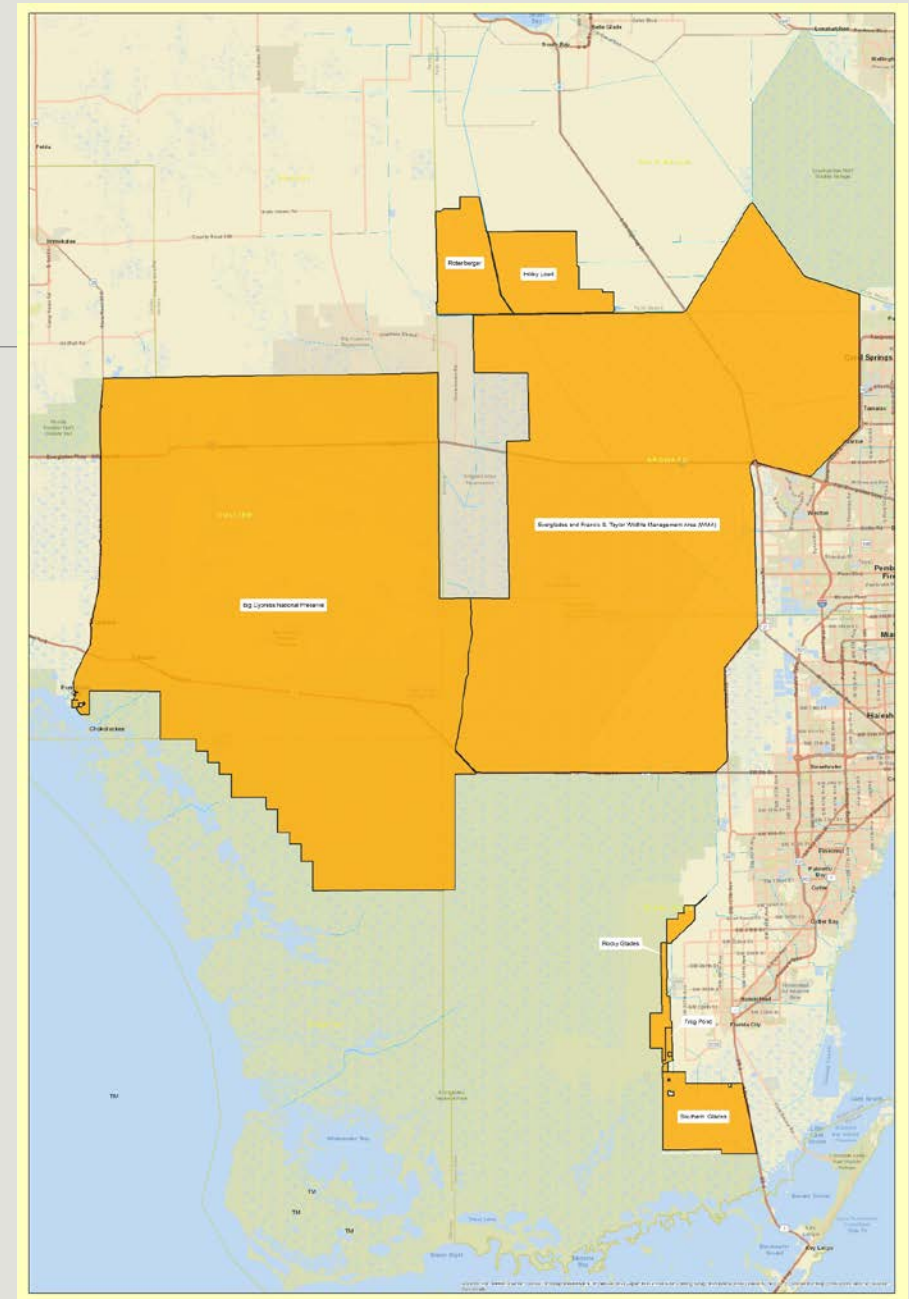
Florida Python Challenge - 2020 Python Bowl

- Python removal competition occurs **January 10-19th, 2020**
- Both Pros and Rookies have an opportunity to compete for a wide range of prizes
 - Pros = all python removal contractors and authorized agents for NPS
 - Rookies = everyone else
- New military prize categories (active duty/Veteran)



Florida Python Challenge - 2020 Python Bowl

- Competition Locations:
 - Holey Land WMA
 - Rotenberger WMA
 - Everglades and Francis S. Taylor WMA
 - Southern Glades WEA
 - Rocky Glades PSGHA
 - Frog Pond PSGHA
 - Big Cypress WMA



2020 Python Challenge - Awards Ceremony

- January 25th, 2020 at the SUPER BOWL LIV event
- Environmental Village
- Downtown Miami – Bayfront Park from 2-3pm





January 10-19th, 2020

FLPythonChallenge.org



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