



2016 Python Challenge™

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**Waterfowl Quota Permitting
Technical Assistance Group**

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**STA Alligator Post-Hunt
Meeting**

WRAC Recreational Issues Workshop

FWC Briefing – March 14th, 2016



2016 Python Challenge™



- <http://pythonchallenge.org/>
- Python Removal Competition
 - January 16th – February 14th
- Invasive Species Awareness Festival – January 16th at Florida International University. Miami, Fl
- Expanded opportunity
- Live capture / dead removal. Individuals / teams
- In-person and online training
- Awards Ceremony – February 24th at Long Key Nature Center. Davie, Fl



2016 Python Challenge™

Python Removal Competition

106

Snakes removed from the Everglades

- Most removed by a team – 33 pythons
- Most removed by an individual – 9 pythons
- Longest python removed by a team - 15'
- Longest python removed by an individual – 13.87'

1066

Registered participants

- 466 as individuals, 600 on 167 teams
- 40 Florida counties represented
- 29 states represented

In-person Training

47

In-person trainings held across south Florida

510

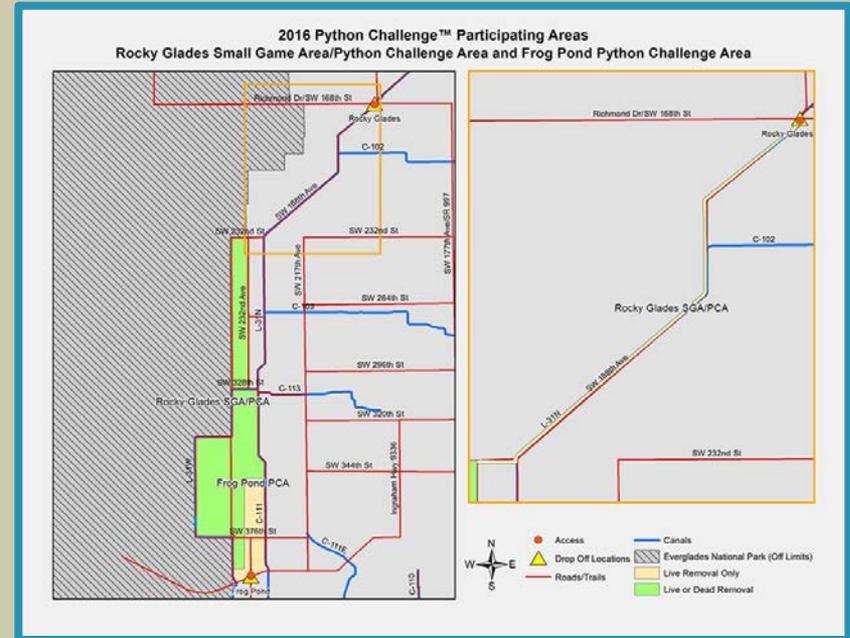
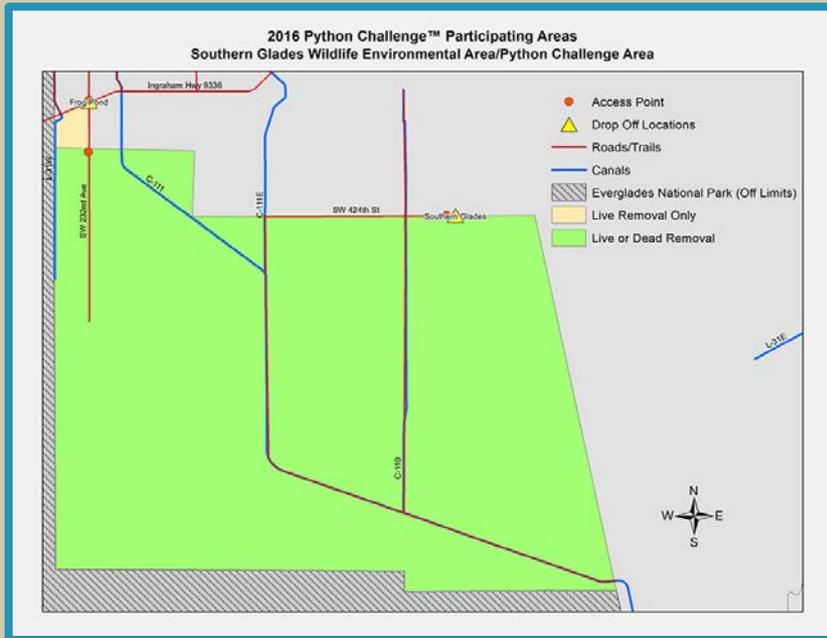
In-person training participants



2016 Python Challenge™



- 23 pythons taken on participating SFWMD lands
 - 12 on Southern Glades WEA
 - 9 on Rocky Glades Python Challenge Area
 - 3 on Frog Pond Python Challenge Area



Quesssssstionsssssss?

Waterfowl Quota Permitting TAG

- Goal – Streamline online permit issuance and develop consistency among waterfowl quota hunt areas
- 20 member team – 13 TAG Members / 7 Internal FWC Members
- 3 Public meetings completed
 - Dec. 10th in Daytona Beach
 - Jan. 14th in Melbourne Beach
 - Feb. 18th in West Palm Beach
- TAG feedback and ideas will be used to develop recommendations for change.



Waterfowl Quota Permitting TAG

- TAG Feedback – Online Permitting Process
 - ALL AREAS on 1 application. Multiple application periods (early season, mid-season, end season). 1 Permit per application.
 - ALL AREAS on 1 application. Multiple application periods (group hunts by day of week – Saturday hunts, Sunday hunts, Wednesday hunts, etc)
 - EACH AREA get 1 application. Single application period. 1 Permit per application.
 - ALL AREAS on 1 application. Single application period. 1 permit per application.



Waterfowl Quota Permitting TAG

- TAG Feedback – Permitting “On-The-Ground”
 - **“First Come, First Served” for forfeited permits removed from ALL areas**
 1. Random Drawing for forfeited permits / replacement hunters
 - STA “status quo”. Not possible at Guana River and Ocklawaha Prairie
 2. RLIS (online permitting) generated standby list for forfeited permits
 - Only hunters with standby permits qualify to be issued forfeited permits
 3. Combination of RLIS Standby List & Random Drawing
 - Standby permit holders get forfeited permits first
 - Random draw held only if permits are left after standby hunters are exhausted
 - Standby permit holders first in line as replacement hunters



Waterfowl Quota Permitting TAG

- Miscellaneous WPTAG Items
 - RLIS Return and Re-Issue permit system
 - Require hunters to “claim” awarded permits
 - Youth Exemption
 - Preference Point System (not supported)
- Next Steps: FWC’s internal waterfowl permitting team to meet / discuss WPTAG feedback
 - Develop recommendation package to present to Division Leaders / Public / Commission
 - If approved, changes (rule, policy, and permitting) will be adopted for the 2016-17 wherever possible

Questions?



STA Alligator Post-Hunt Meeting

- Meeting held Wednesday, March 2nd 2016. 6pm-8pm.
 - STA Alligator Hunt stakeholders, regional sportsman's representatives, FWC staff, and SFWMD staff in attendance.
- Announcement – Credit card number to be required to apply for alligator hunts
- Relocation of check station at STA 1 West
- Request for additional alligator hunt days in STAs
 - Add Sunday evening to the first hunt weekend of each phase
- Adjustments to alligator hunt schedule
 - OLD SCHEDULE
 - Phase 1, Phase 1, Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 2, Phase 2, Phase 3, Phase 3, Phase 3
 - PROPOSED SCHEDULE
 - Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3, Phase 3, Phase 3, Phase 3, Phase 3
- Preference Points for alligator hunt permits
- Expand youth and wounded warrior STA alligator hunt program



Questions?

