



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

Invasive Species and WRDA 2020

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November 19, 2022

Water Resources Development Act 2020

- The “SLITHER” Act was included in WRDA 2020 as “Invasive Species Risk Assessment Prioritization and Management”
- Amended WRDA 1996 and added specific duties to the Task Force related to invasive species

Photo Credit: Argentine Black and White Tegu
by ECISMA

WRDA 2020 Direction

Part 1: Develop a **priority list** of invasive species.



Part 2: Focus on **cooperative and collaborative efforts** to:

- Guide applied research
- Develop innovative strategies and tools
- Implement specific management, control, and eradication activities

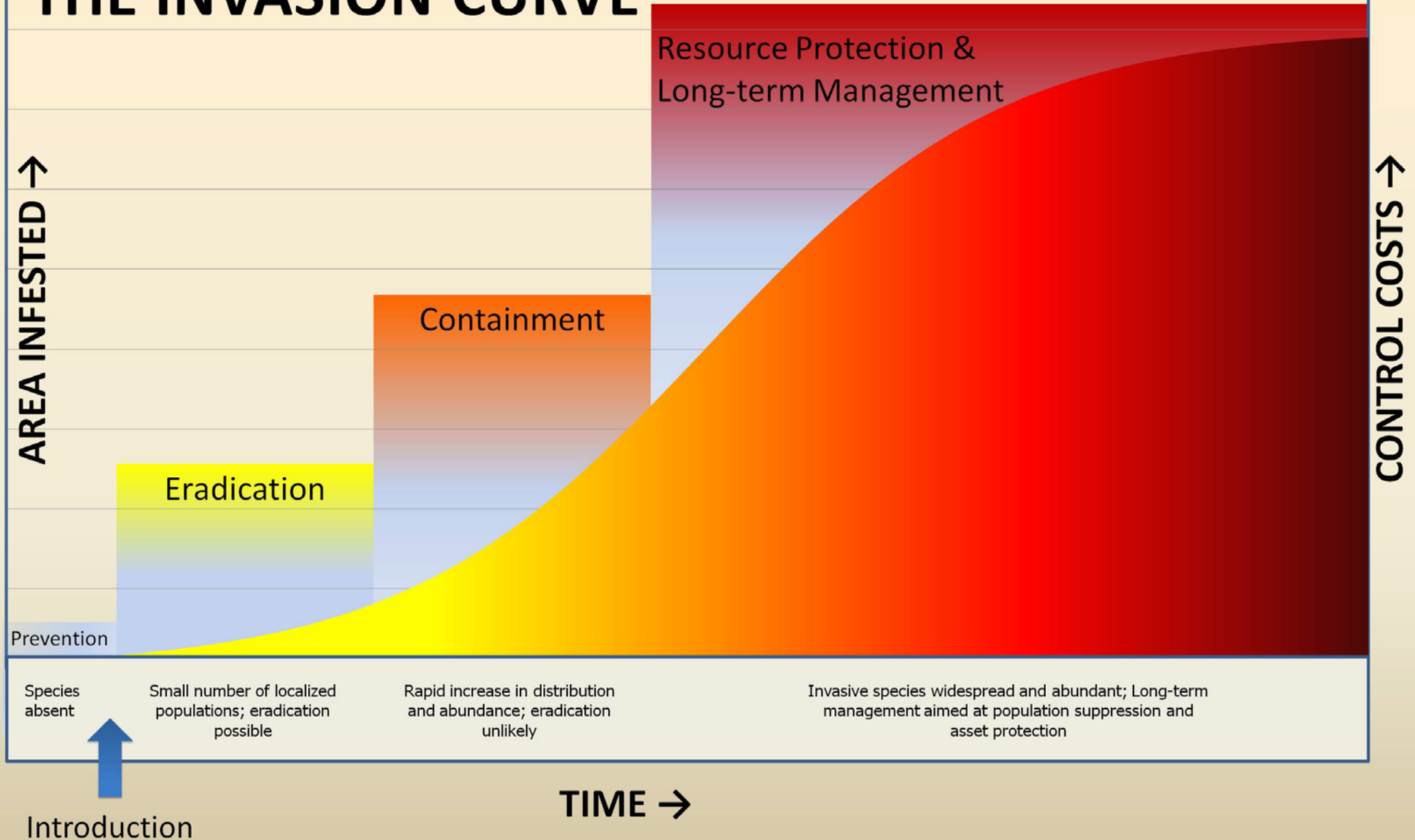
Part 1: Progress Update

- Convene a group of experts ✓
- Identify existing priority lists ✓
- Identify path forward to create Task Force priority lists for:
 - Prevention ✓
 - Eradication through EDRR (Early Detection & Rapid Response)
 - Established Species (Containment and Long-term Management)

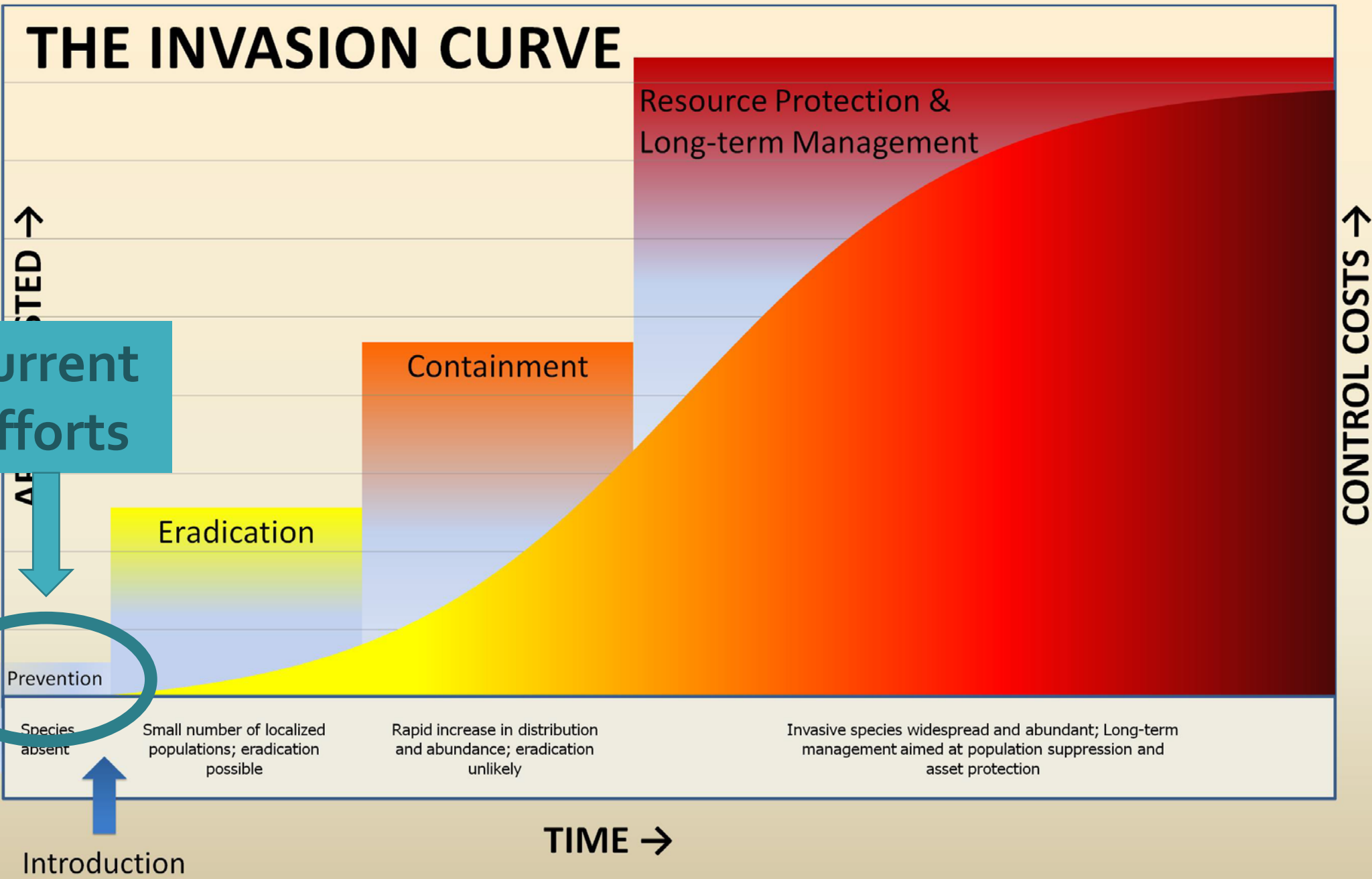
Part 1: Following the Curve

- As we work to fulfill the requirements of WRDA 2020, the team is using prior Task Force efforts to guide the process
- The Task Force's *Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework* has 4 Goals that are organized along the Invasion Curve
- Beginning with species that are found early on the Curve:
 - Prevention
 - Eradication through Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)

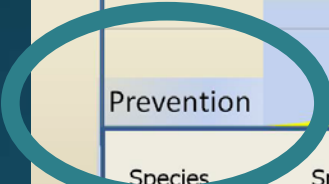
THE INVASION CURVE



THE INVASION CURVE



Current Efforts



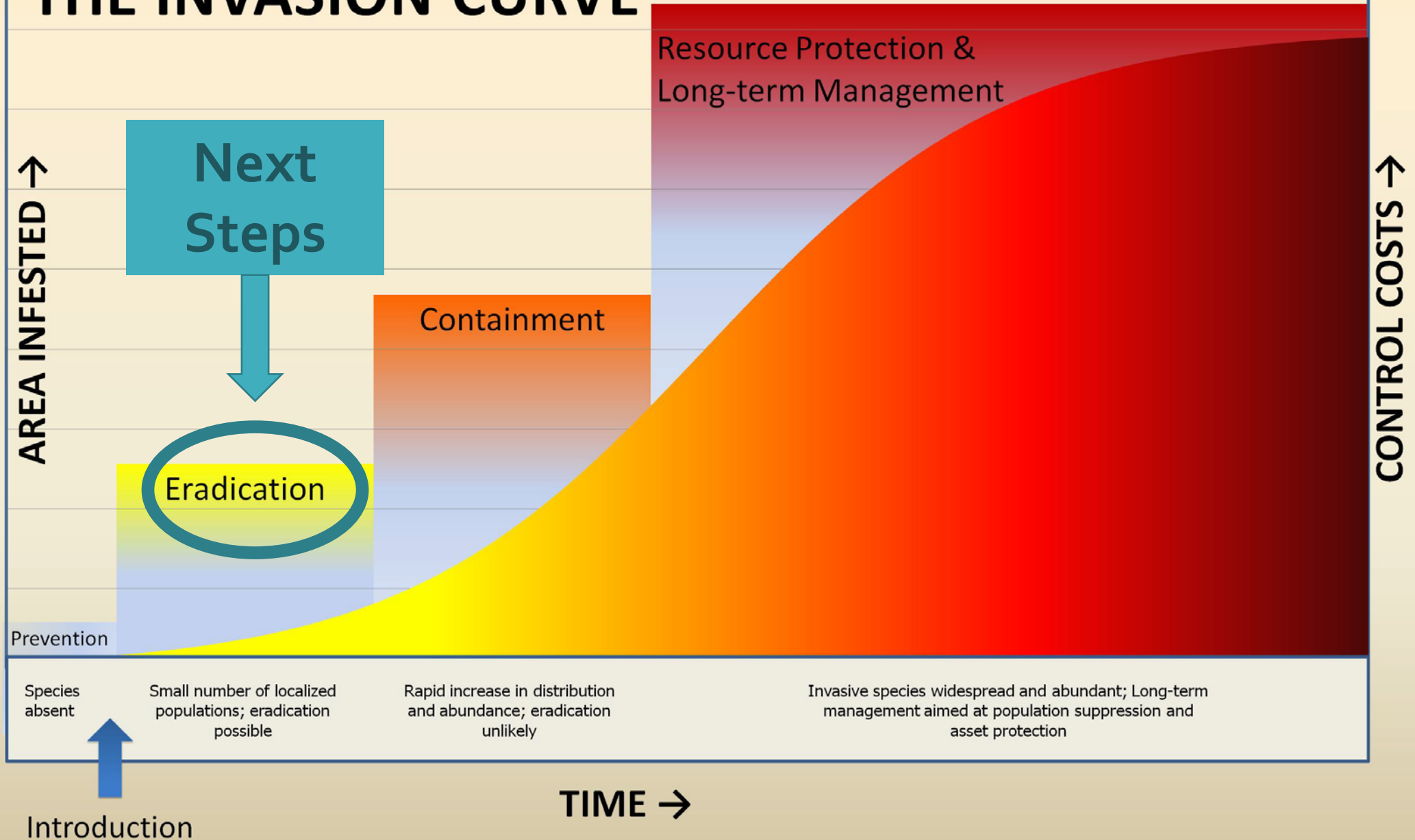
CONTROL COSTS →

CONTROL COSTS →

TIME →

Introduction

THE INVASION CURVE



Developing and Organizing the Lists

Taxonomic Group

Habitat

Freshwater
inverts



Freshwater
vertebrates



Freshwater
plants



Marine
inverts



Marine
vertebrates



Marine
plants



Terrestrial
inverts



Terrestrial
vertebrates

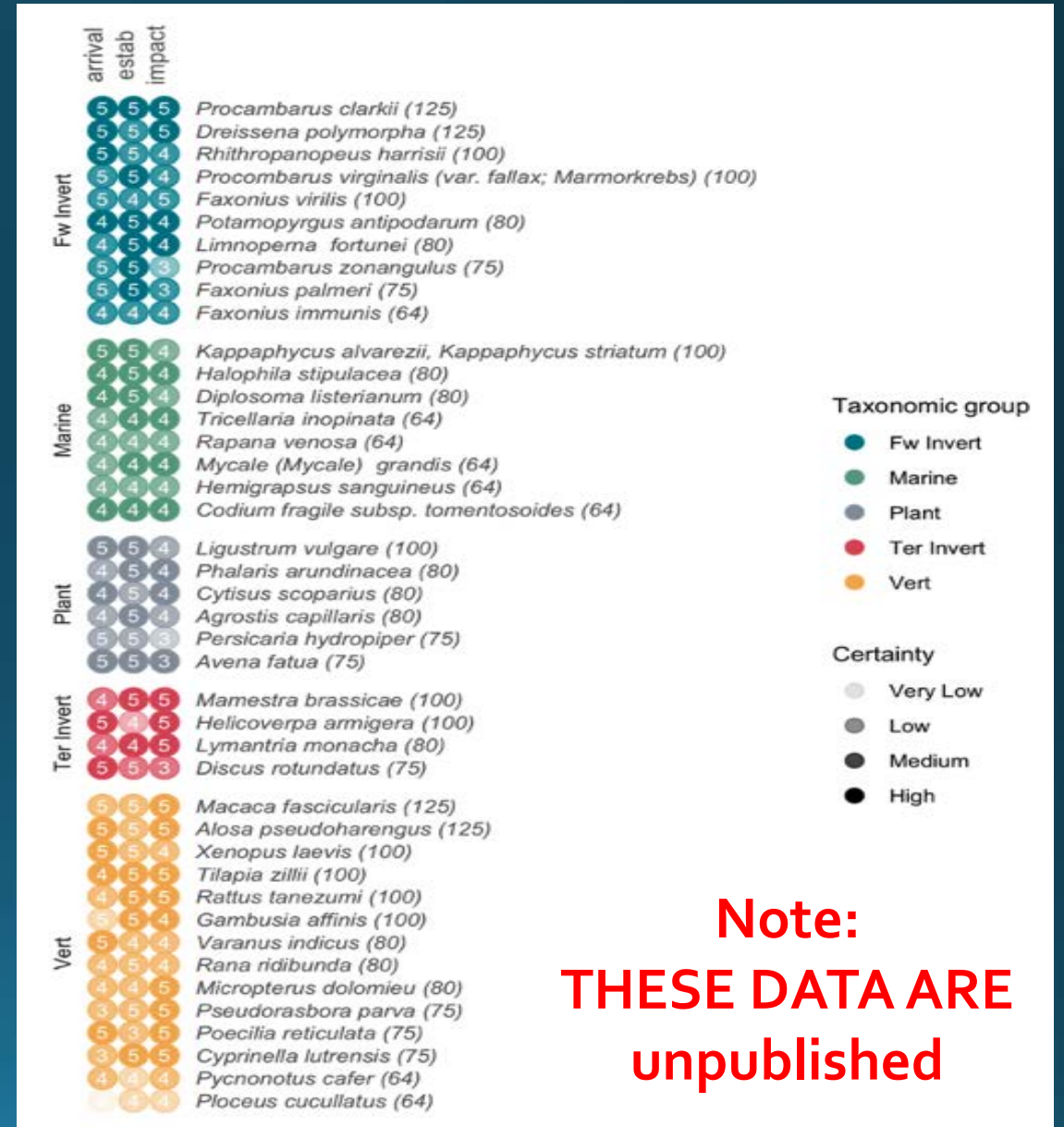


Terrestrial
plants



Prevention

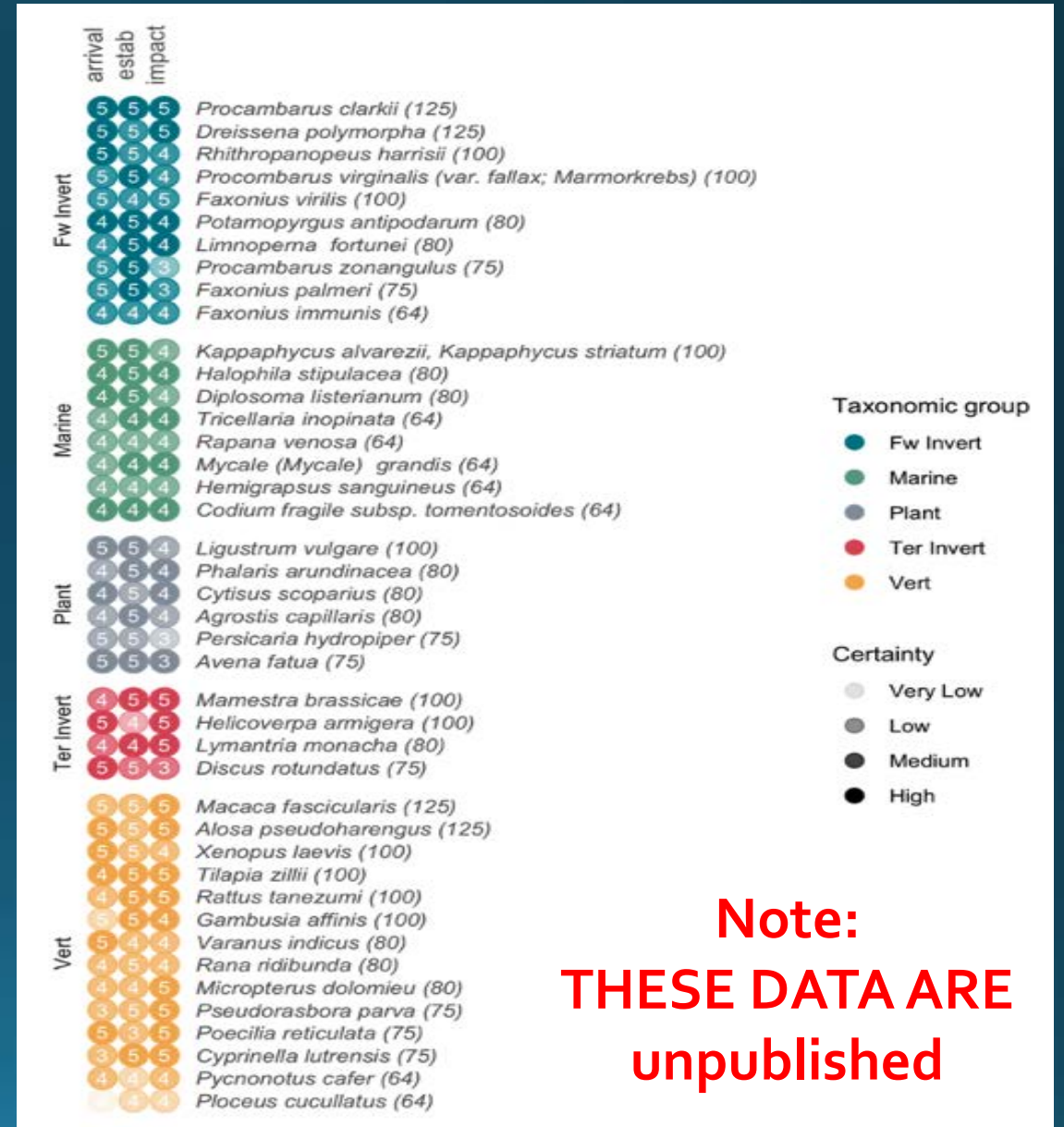
- Working with experts to refine effort that has been already undertaken by University of Florida, USGS, and other partners
- Process identified 42 species of concern for the whole state of Florida



Note:
THESE DATA ARE unpublished

Prevention

- Rated by likelihood of:
 - Arrival
 - Establishment
 - Impact
- Color saturation indicates certainty
- Next steps: Refine to the Everglades/South Florida Ecosystem (e.g., climate matching)



Note:
THESE DATA ARE unpublished

Early Detection & Rapid Response (Eradication)

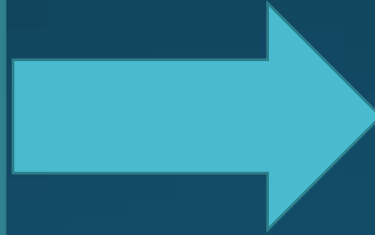
- Developing a similar priority list process for EDRR species
- The focus would be on species already here that are most in need of rapid response
- Will conduct kickoff workshop in early 2023
- Invite experts and generate some “homework”
- Finalize the EDRR priority lists at a second workshop

Early Detection & Rapid Response (Eradication)

Prevention

Rated by likelihood of:

- Arrival
- Establishment
- Impact



EDRR

Rated by likelihood of:

- Establishment
- Spread
- Impact

Next Steps

Continue Implementing WRDA 2020 Part 1:

- **PREVENTION:** Refine priority list of species for next Task Force meeting
- **EDRR:** Early 2023 workshop with experts
- **CONTAINMENT/LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT:** Established species refinement process Summer 2023