

**Program Name:** FWC Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program  
**Project Name:** Northern African Python Removal  
**Project ID:** 2612  
**Lead Agency:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**Strategy and Biennial Report Objective Addressed:** 2-B.2 and 2-B.3  
**Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework Goal:** 2 and 3

**Measurable Output(s):** Since 2009, 30 North African pythons have been removed from the Bird Basin Drive. During the reporting period, five of these were captured and removed from the Florida ecosystem.

**Project Synopsis:**

Northern African python sightings were first noted in west Miami in 2002. A population of Northern African pythons has been documented in the Bird Drive Recharge Area, an approximately 6-square-mile area in western Miami-Dade County. While the FWC has determined that the population is likely limited to a 6-square-mile area, the population is not uniformly distributed because of the lack of good habitat. Current data indicates the Northern African python has been in this area for more than ten years. Biologists believe there may be two or three generations of Northern African pythons; it is unknown how often successful reproduction has occurred. This population was likely introduced to the area when one or more Northern African pythons were released or escaped into the area but no evidence exists on the true origin. Biologists characterize the population of Northern African pythons in south Florida to be “possibly established” and consider eradication still possible.

Since 2009, FWC and partners, including the Miccosukee tribe of Indians, South Florida Water Management District, Miami-Dade County and other local and federal agencies have removed 30 Northern African pythons, including two juveniles, in the Bird Drive Recharge Area. During each dry season, FWC staff and cooperators with the Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ECISMA) conduct surveys and removal efforts on days with optimal weather conditions for finding pythons along established routes in the Bird Drive Recharge Area. Since 2014/15, increased work including setting up of refuges to attract pythons, and number of surveys year round has been conducted. FWC is currently looking at additional alternatives to address potential eradication of this species,

**Current Status:** Ongoing

**Project Schedule:**

Start Date: 2009

Finish Date: Not determined

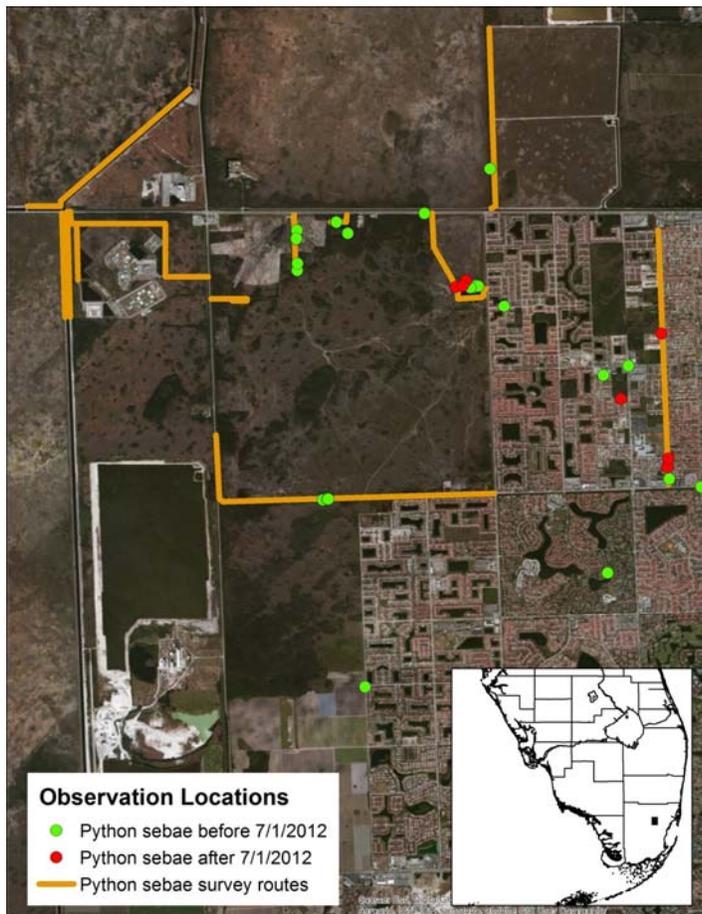
**Detailed Project Budget Information**

This project has been run primarily by staff time and volunteer time of the ECISMA cooperators. In state FY 2016/17 one-year additional funding was allocated to FWC to address Python Management. A portion of this allocation will be used to increase resources on this project.

**Detailed Project Budget Information**

	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Balance to Complete	Total
<b>Federal</b>							
<b>State (FWC)</b>		\$68,000	\$81,806.87	\$210,000	50,000*		\$409,806.87
<b>Private Grants or Donations</b>			\$63,000				\$63,000
<b>Total</b>	\$	\$68,000	\$144,806.87	\$210,000	\$50,000		\$472,806.87

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Map of area: