



# SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

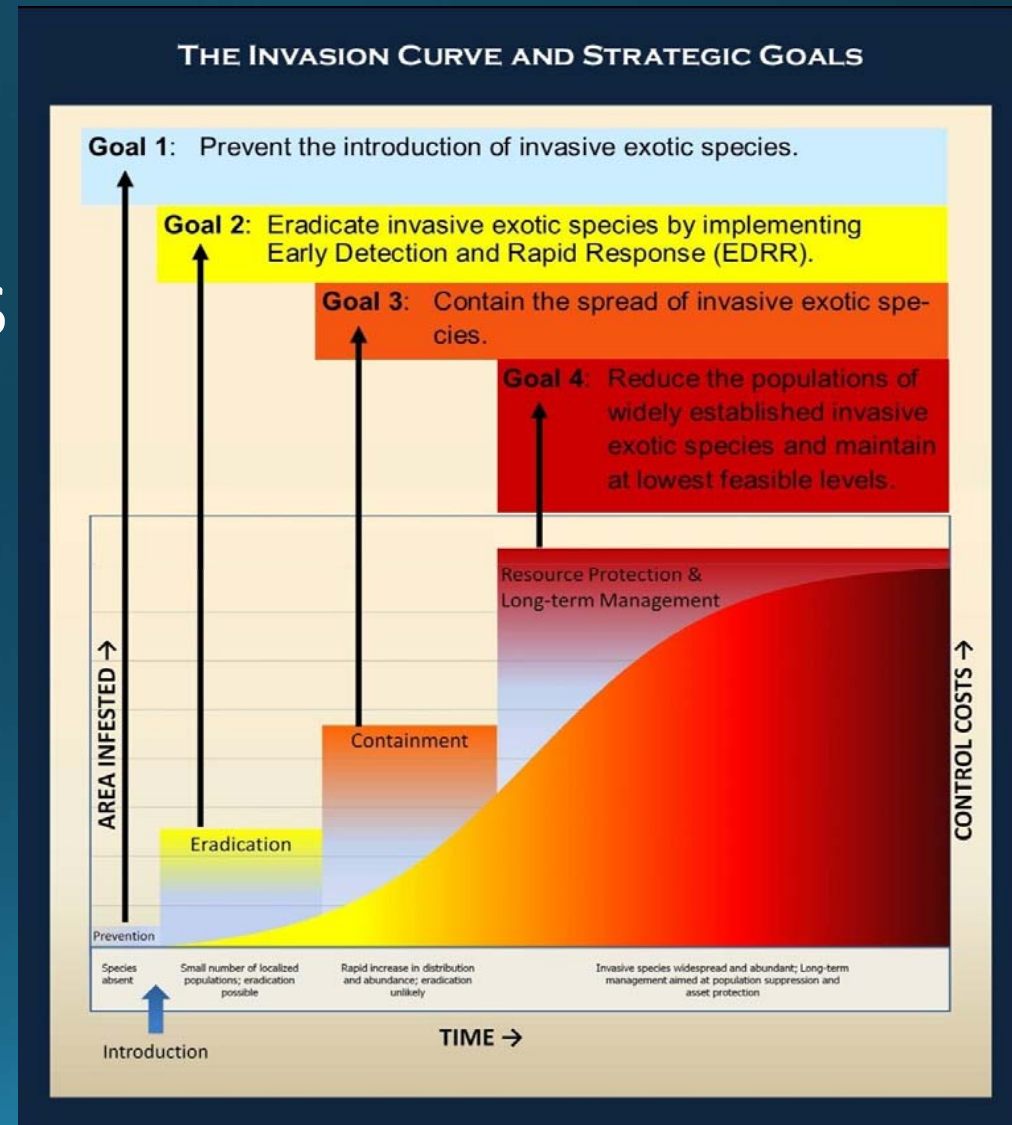
## Invasive Species and WRDA 2020: Priorities and a Path Forward

Adam Gelber, OERI

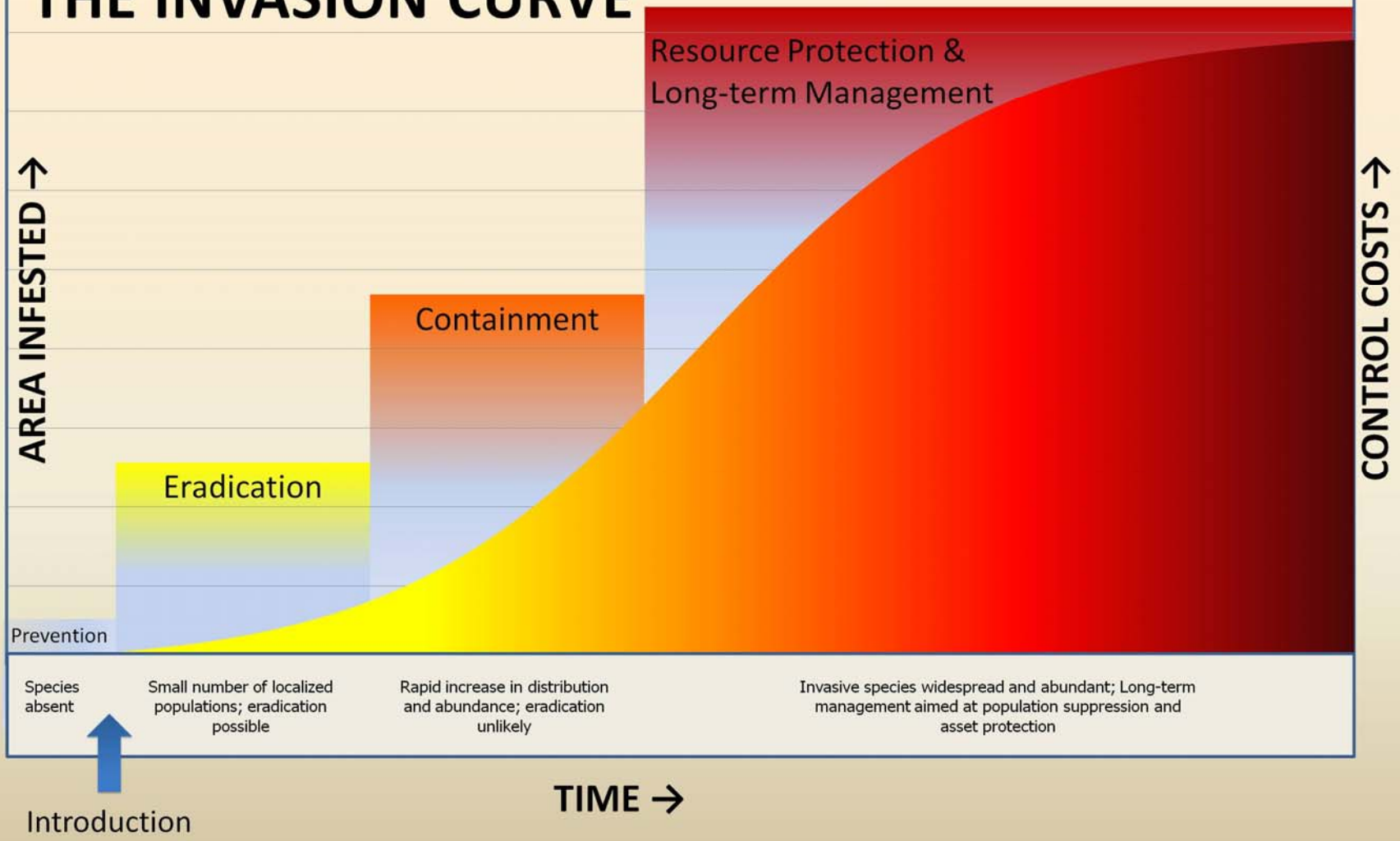
May 3, 2022

# Strategic Action Framework for Invasive Exotic Species

- The initial Framework was completed in 2015
- Updated in 2020
- The Framework has 4 Goals that are organized along the Invasion Curve

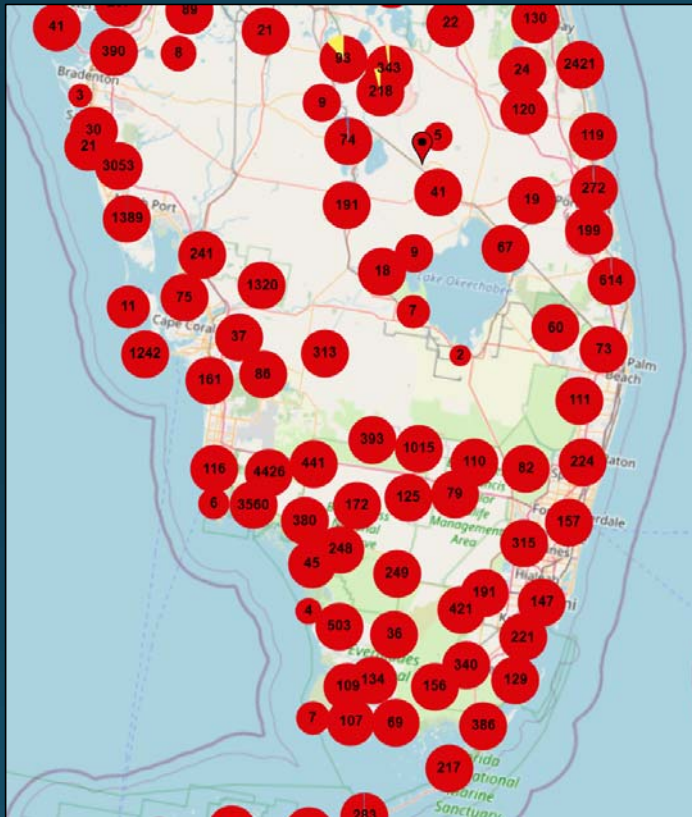


# THE INVASION CURVE

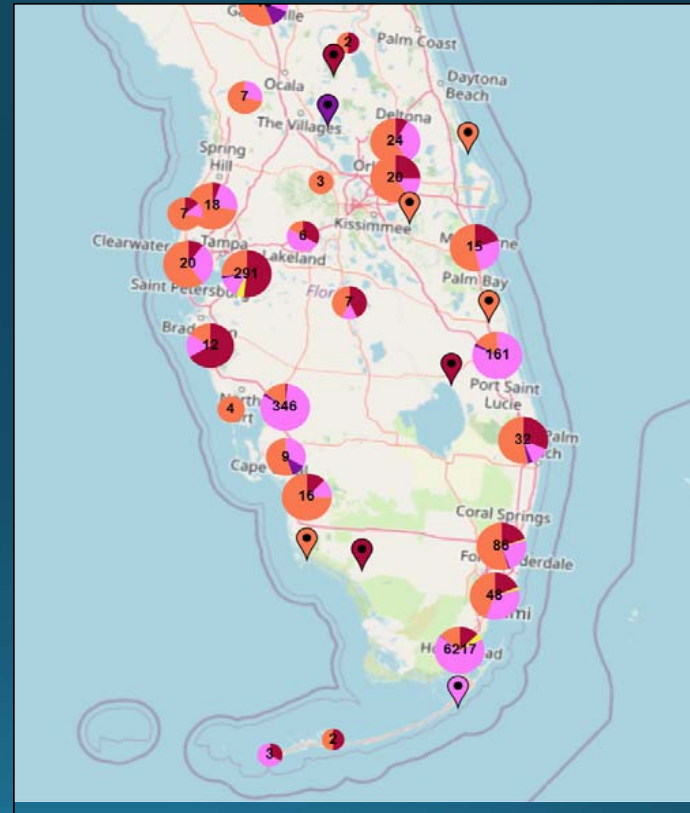


# Invasive Species are Wide-Spread

## Brazilian Pepper



## Black and White Argentine Tegu



EDDMapS. 2022. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Available online at <http://www.eddmaps.org/>; last accessed April 21, 2022.

# Strategic Action Framework 2020

- Includes a set of complementary resources:
  - 2020 Progress Report
  - 2020 Priorities
  - 2020 Case Studies
  - FY 2019 Snapshot Budget

<https://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/invasive-exotic-species-strategic-action-framework>

# Strategic Action Framework 2020 – Priorities

- Build upon progress made to date.
- Expand and enhance programs and tools that were implemented following prioritization in the 2015 effort.
- Enhance prevention efforts while continuing progress across all 4 goal areas.



# Strategic Action Framework 2020 – Priorities

## Prevention Priorities: Tool development and capacity building



Photo Credit: coastal photography by Allan Hoelzle

Improve horizon  
scanning for emerging  
species in trade



Expand detector  
dog/staff programs  
and other tools at  
ports



Enhance efforts such  
as the “Don’t Pack a  
Pest” program for a  
greater presence at  
ports and in social  
media



Improve coordination  
between state/federal  
prevention programs

# Water Resources Development Act 2020

- The “SLITHER” Act was included in the WRDA 2020, section 504, as “Invasive Species Risk Assessment Prioritization and Management”
- Amended section 528 of 1996 WRDA to add 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 ways to develop innovative strategies and tools to facilitate improved management, control, or eradication of listed invasive species and to prevent future introductions of nonnative species.

Photo Credits from left to right: Midas cichlid illustrated by Diane Peebles, African clawfoot frog provided by FWC, Northern African rock python by <https://animalstime.com/african-rock-python-facts/>, Lygodium by Jennifer Possley, and Conehead Termite <http://www.pestworld.org/pest-guide/termites/conehead-termites/>.

# TF Recommendation

- "The TF directs the WG, SCG and OERI to implement WRDA 2020 direction to develop a priority list of species, using the described requirements"

Task Force Member Discussion