

Florida's Python Management Program

One Mission



Invasive Burmese Pythons

- Large constrictors
- Not native to Florida
- Can lay up to 100 eggs per clutch
- Generalist diet
- Extremely difficult to find
- Excellent dispersers on land and in water
- No population estimates in Florida



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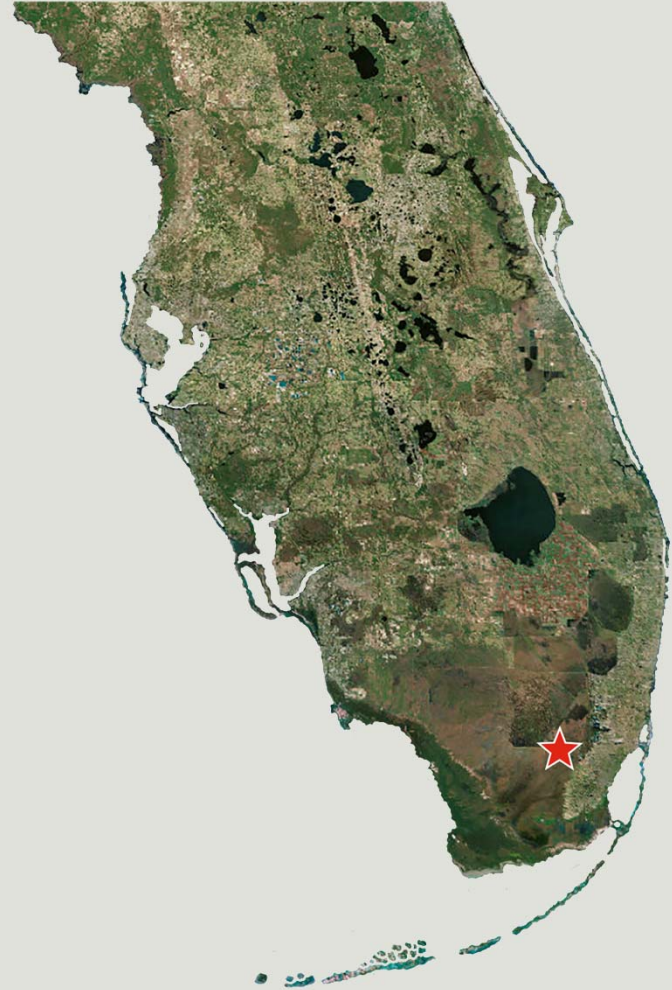
How Pythons Got Here

- **1960's-early 2000's:** Booming python pet trade
 - Unwanted pets released
 - Likely multiple introductions
- **1979:** First python documented in Florida's environment in Everglades National Park
- **1992:** Hurricane Andrew destroyed breeding facility
- Spread across south Florida's natural areas



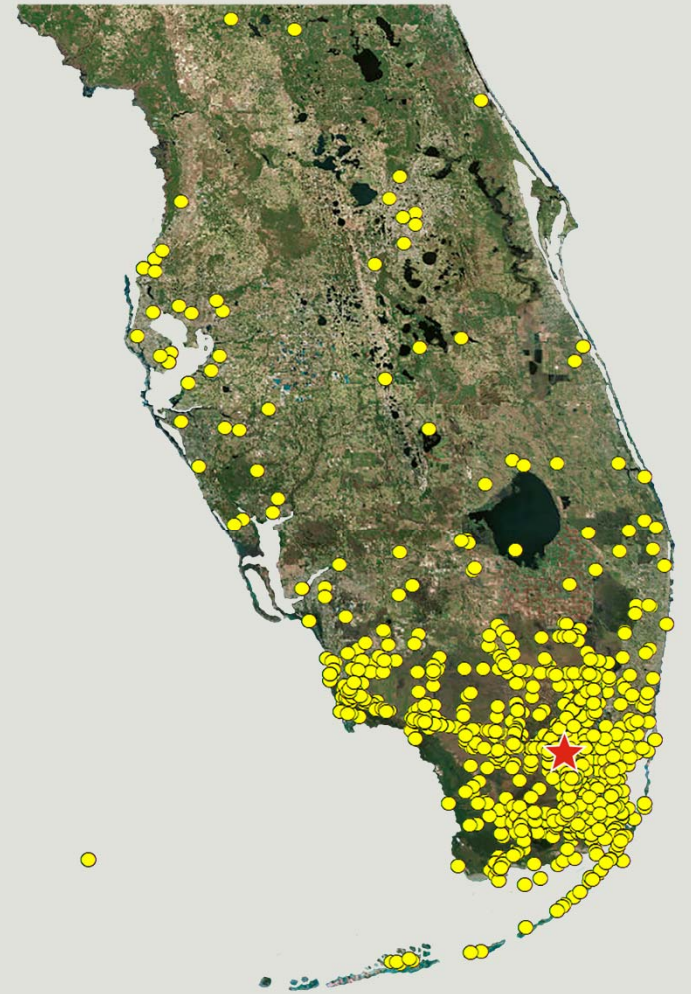
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1979 – First Burmese python removed from Everglades National Park



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2019 – Burmese pythons have been removed from many areas in Florida and are established in natural areas of South Florida



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Seamless Partnerships in Python Removal: One Mission

- Coordinate management goals and actions
- Maximize removal efforts
 - Expand contractor and volunteer removal programs
 - Support innovative research
 - Engage the public



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Expand Removal Programs

- Paid Python Removal Contractors
 - Most effective python removal tool
 - In 2017, SFWMD and FWC launched paid contractor programs
 - Python removal has increased by 200% in some areas



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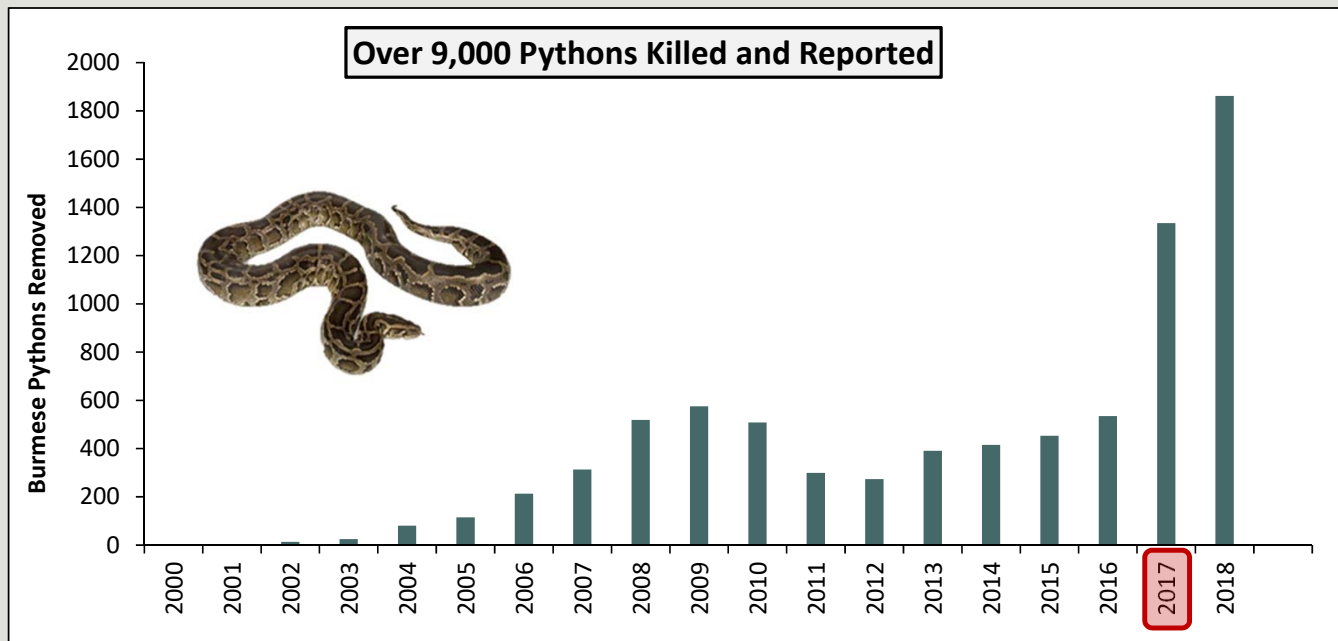
Expand Removal Programs

- NPS Authorized Agent Program
 - Volunteer program
 - Began unofficially in 2008, formalized in 2014
 - Big Cypress began program in 2017
 - Participants receive a Letter of Authorization (LOA) to remove pythons and other invasive reptiles and amphibians
 - 140 LOAs issued and over 700 pythons removed by agents
 - Program currently has 61 volunteers



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Impact of Expanded Removal Programs



Launch of
paid removal
programs



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Strides in Removal

More than 9,100 snakes removed



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Collaborative Research Underway

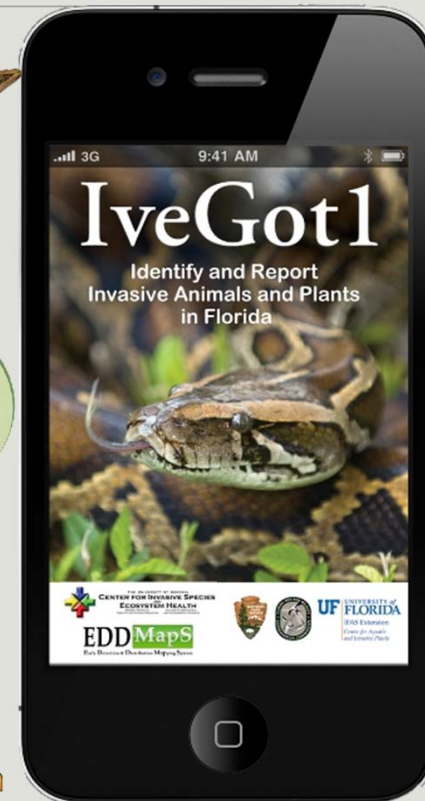
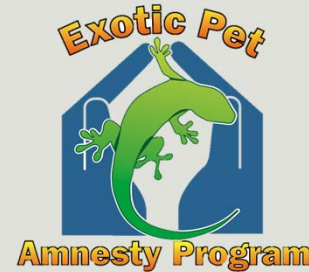
- eDNA studies to determine present range
- Increased number and use of telemetered male sentinel snakes
- Examining the potential of pheromones to attract snakes
- Field testing python specific traps and lures
- Managing python specimen collection and necropsies
- Conducting and publishing a synthesis of all python science to date



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Engaging the Public

- Lifting regulatory obstacles on 22 public lands
- Reporting through IveGot1 app and website
- Python Patrol
- Informational websites
- Awareness campaigns and outreach events
- Outreach materials in English and Spanish



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Engaging the Public

- 2020 Super Bowl
 - 2020 Python Bowl
 - Lionfish Derby
 - Super Bowl Live Experience



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Engaging the Public

- 2020 Python Bowl
 - Combines public outreach with local, state and national media coverage
 - The Miami Super Bowl Host Committee's support leverages our voice to an international range
 - Both experts and novices have an opportunity to compete for a wide range of prizes
 - This year, a military category (active/veteran) has been added to the prize package



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