



# Interagency Coordination: Developing a Statewide Python Management Plan



Evan Freeman

Interagency Python Management Coordinator  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

# Presentation Overview

- Burmese python biology
- Impacts
- Pythons in Florida
- Current efforts
- Development of an interagency plan





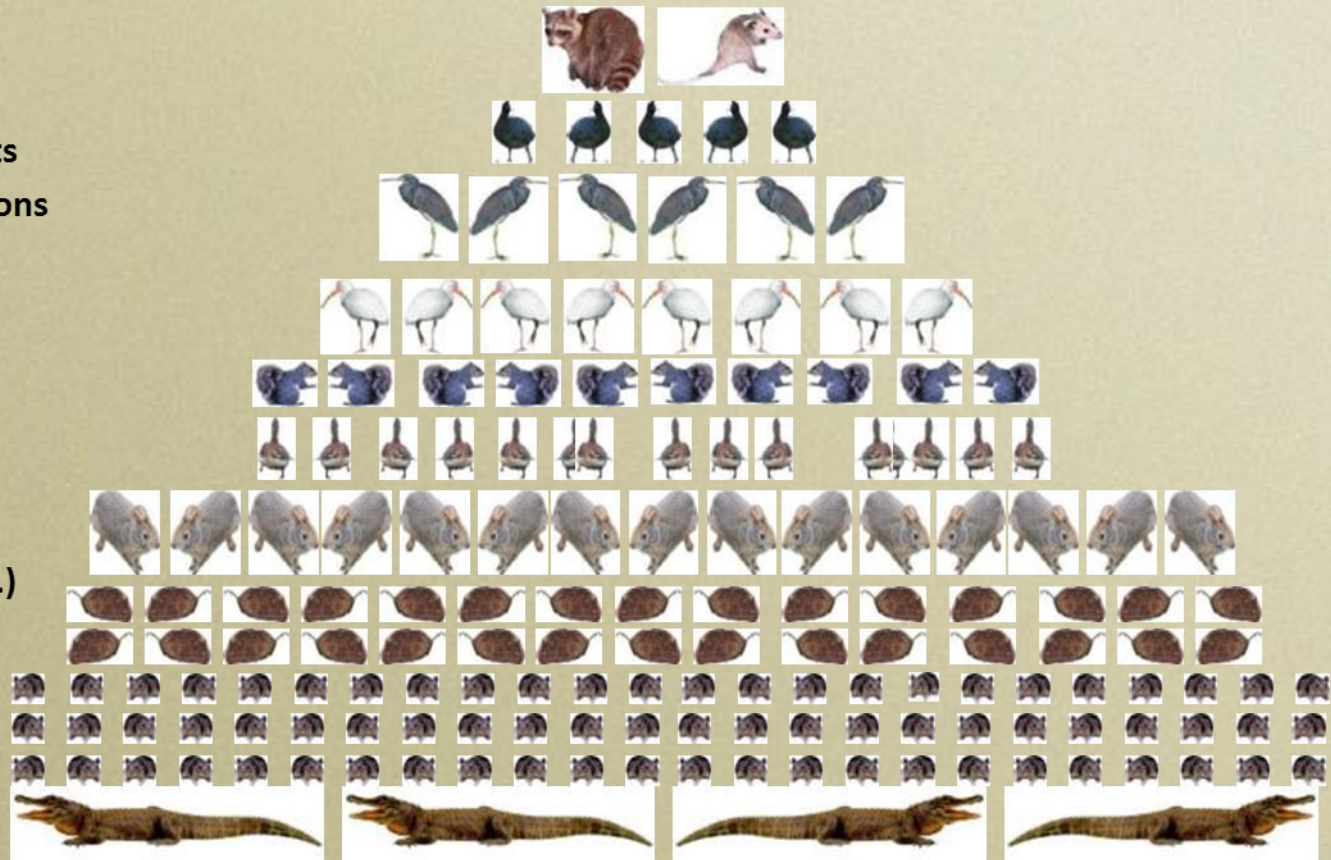
# Python Biology

- Native to southeast Asia
- Large constrictors
- Cryptic species with a detection probability of  $<1\%$
- Large clutch size
- Semi-aquatic



# Impacts

- 1 Raccoon
- 1 Opossum
- 5 American coots
- 6 Little blue herons
- 8 Ibises
- 10 Squirrels
- 15 Wrens
- 15 Rabbits
- 30 Cotton rats
- 72 Mice
- 4 Alligators (5 ft.)



Source: Dr. Stephen Secor, Univ. of Alabama and Skip Snow, Everglades National Park


Hypothetical diet necessary for a hatchling Burmese python to reach 13 feet in the Florida Everglades (5 to 7 years)



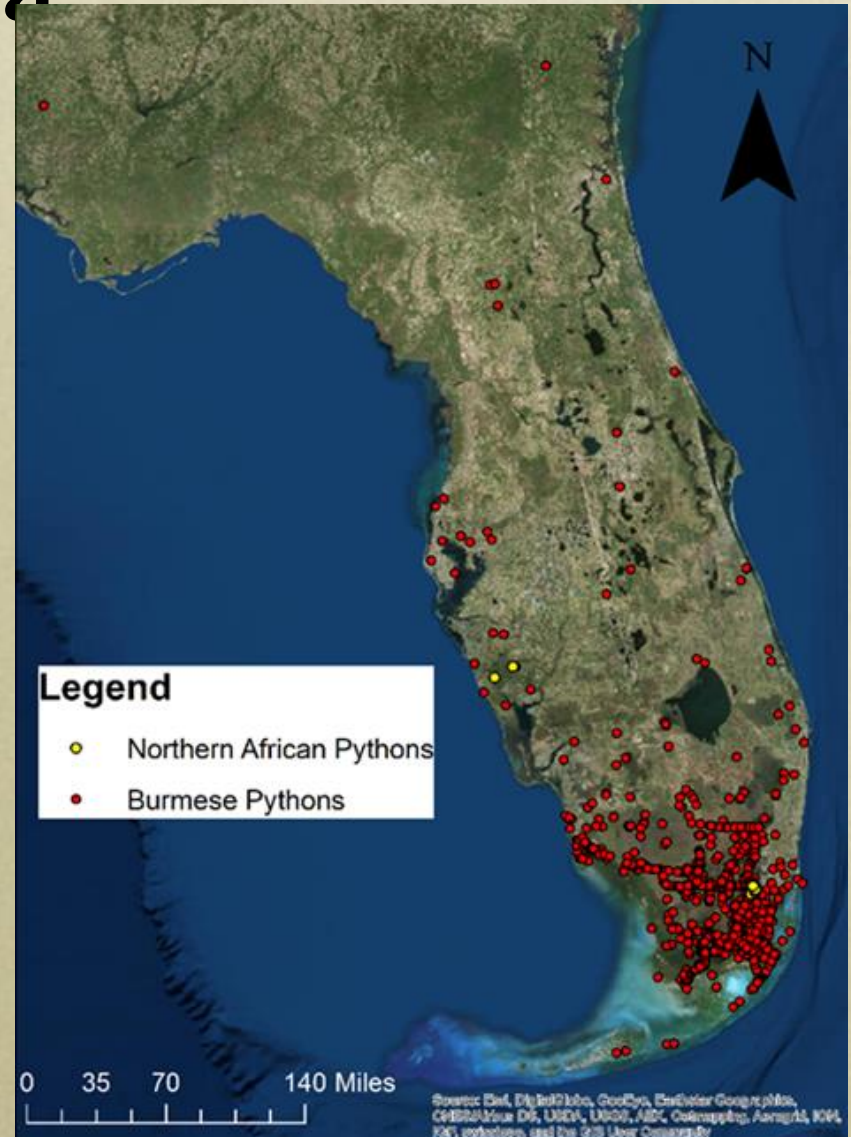


# Pythons in Florida

- Burmese pythons reported in south Florida since 1979
- Multiple agencies involved in management since 2001
- State and Federal laws pertaining to pythons



Over 4,300 reported,  
killed, or captured



# Working Together

- Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas
- Joint ownership of projects
- Funding for priority areas
- Field responses and surveys



Multiple coordination meetings



# Management Activities

- Python Removal Contractors
- Python detection and removal research
- Northern African python searches
- Citizen participation

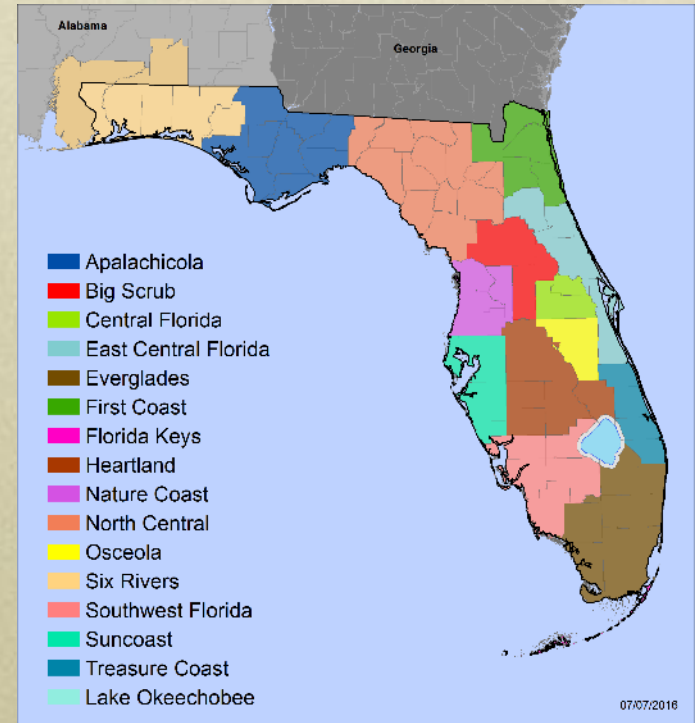


Image by University of Florida



# Plan Development

- Comprehensive, statewide python management plan
- Land management partners in south Florida invited to participate
- Develop unified goals and strategies
- Incorporate public feedback





# Considerations for Plan Development

- Obtaining commitments for in-person meetings
- Addressing each agency's missions
- Reaching consensus on plan content





# Benefits of the Plan

- Provides a guide to resource managers
- Provides ownership to participating partners
- Adaptable “living” document
- Prioritize our resources





# Next Steps

- Series of public workshops in south Florida
- Quarterly meetings starting late November 2017
- Completion goal of December 2018



# Partners

National Park Service

US Geological Survey

US Fish and Wildlife Service

US Army Corps of Engineers

South Florida Water Management District

University of Florida

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of FL

Seminole Tribe of Florida

Miami-Dade County

Broward County

Collier County

Florida Forest Service

Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Audubon Florida

FL Dept of Environmental Protection

Conservation Collier

Many others...





# Questions?



Photo by Edward Mercer

