Project Name: **Invasive Exotic Control Program**
Project ID: 2801
Lead Agency: USFWS

Strategy and Biennial Report Objective Addressed: 2-B.4
Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework Goal: 4

Measurable Output(s): Acres treated, acres controlled

Project Synopsis: The Florida Panther NWR is located in Collier County at the Northwest corner of Interstate 75 and State Road 29. The refuge was established in 1989 to provide habitat for the large ranging, endangered Florida panther. The refuge adjoins Picayune Strand SF and Fakahatchee Strand Preserve on its southern border and Big Cypress National Preserve on its eastern border, forming a protected landscape across most of southern Collier County. The native hardwood hammocks and pine flatwoods located on the refuge provide essential denning and hunting habitat for this large cat. Currently, much of this habitat is threatened by invasive plant encroachment, which affects both the hydrology and fire ecology of this ecosystem. Treatment and removal of FLEPPC Category I invasive plants such as cogongrass and Brazilian Pepper on 19,000 acres of the Florida Panther NWR is imperative to the health of the refuge and subsequently the wellbeing of this endangered species. This is an ongoing project, and to date approximately 35% of the infested area has received initial treatment. This 35% must be retreated at least 2 more times to become a "controlled" area (ie. 95% clean of invasives) and the remaining 65% still needs initial treatment and subsequent retreatments.

Current Status:
35% Initial treatment complete
35% needs retreatment
65% needs initial treatment

Project Schedule:
Start Date: 2012
Finish Date: TBD

Detailed Project Budget Information

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Balance to Complete	Total
Federal							
SFWMD**							
Local							
Total							

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Hyperlink: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/florida_panther/