

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, 28 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 28 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..

Current Status: Ongoing

Project Schedule:

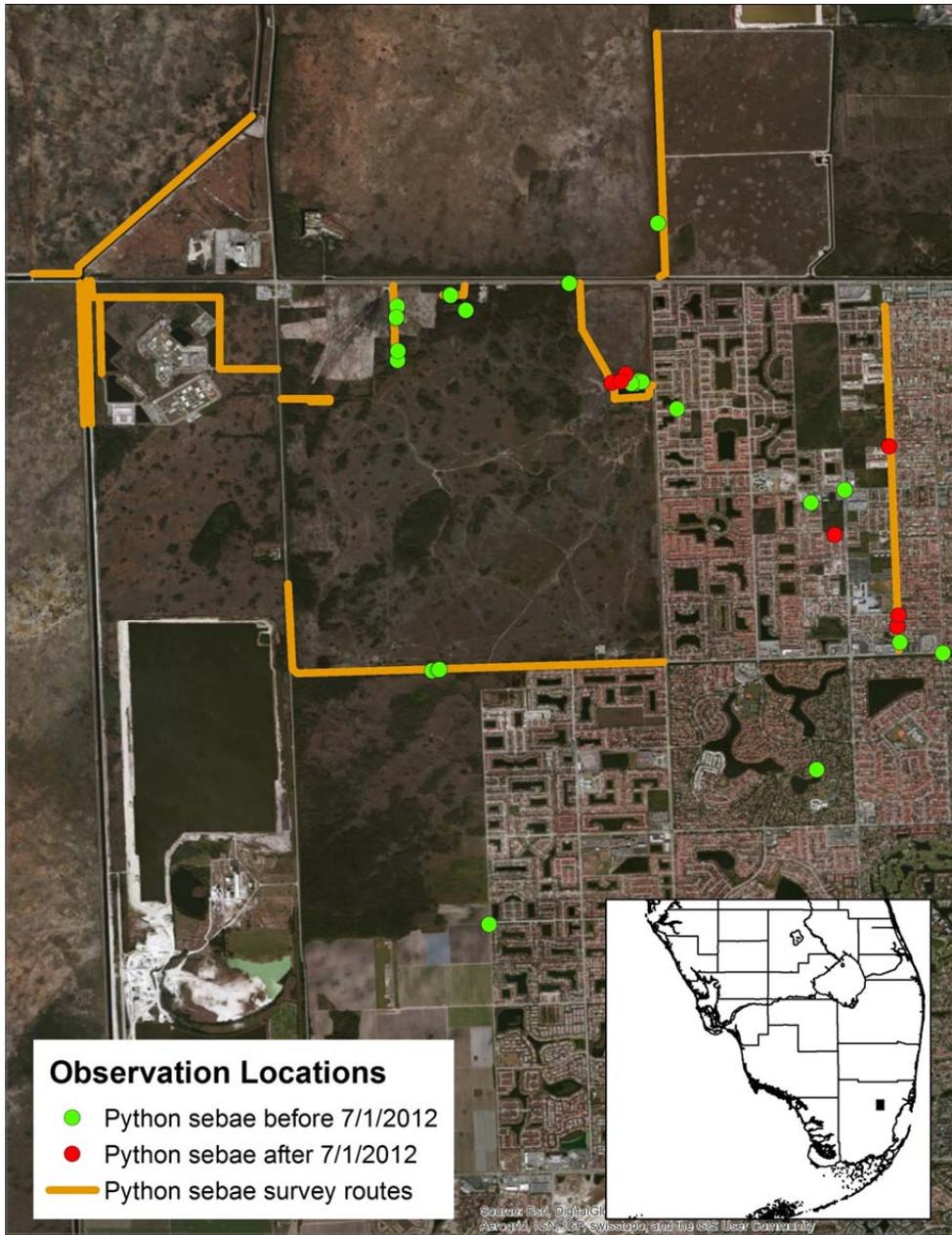
Start Date: 2009

Finish Date: Not determined

Detailed Project Budget Information

This project has been run primarily by staff time and volunteer time of the ECISMA cooperators. No dedicated budget for this project is identified.

Contact: Kristen Penney Sommers, Section Leader,
Kristen.Sommers@MyFWC.com 850-488-3831



Map of area: