

**Program Name:** Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge  
**Project Name:** Loxahatchee Decision making Workshop on Burmese Pythons  
**Project ID:**  
**Lead Agency:** ARMLNWR

**Strategic Plan Goal(s) Addressed:** 2B  
**IES Framework Goal Addressed:** 3

**Measurable Output(s):** A tool that guides the allocation of limited resources for maximally effective and efficient control of Burmese pythons in the A.R.M. Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge (ARMLNWR) and Everglades.

**Project Synopsis:**

Trying to define the question: Where, when, and what actions by the conservation community will minimize the ecological impacts of pythons in Loxahatchee NWR? Because the effectiveness of various detection and control methods is highly uncertain, how can management be undertaken in such a way that this uncertainty can be reduced over time? (Adaptive management).

An interagency group of land managers, researchers, and biologists met for one week to develop a framework by which to make decisions about where and when to allocate limited resources to most effectively control pythons, thereby limiting impacts.

Several potential actions were identified and ranked according to detection levels, whether or not the action serves as control, and whether or not more research and development is required:

- Road cruising (medium detection, control, R&D)
- Walked surveys (medium detection, control, R&D)
- Dogs (medium detection, control)
- Capture/monitor training ((medium detection, control, R&D)
- Judas snakes (medium detection, control, R&D)
- Thermal refugia on levees (medium detection, control, R&D)
- Drift fence (medium detection, control, R&D)
- Marsh rabbit sentinels (high detection, control, R&D)
- Camera trap (uncertain detection, R&D)
- Helicopter surveys (uncertain detection, control, R&D)
- Aerial infra red (uncertain detection, R&D)
- Signs & brochures (uncertain detection)
- Electro-fishing (uncertain detection, control, R&D)
- Crows (uncertain detection, control, R&D)

**Current status:**

- Model optimization/Final Report preparation underway
- Goal is to develop a tool that
- Continue to collect data
- Further development of tools for detection and control
- Participate in development of interagency large constrictor management plan
- Continuing to seek adequate funding to operationalize the control program
- Design and implement monitoring/control program
- Expand python sighting response group in the areas adjacent to the refuge

**Project Schedule:**

Start Date: June 2, 2014

Finish Date: June 6, 2014

**Detailed Project Budget Information**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Balance to Complete	Total
<b>Federal</b>	\$9,140						
<b>SFWMD**</b>							
<b>Local</b>							
<b>Total</b>							

**Contact:** Rebekah Gibble, USFWS (Rebekah\_gibble@fws.gov)

**Map of area:** Regional map including ARMLNWR, which is depicted as LNWR

