

Invasive Species: Next Steps

South Florida Ecosystem
Restoration Task Force
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Presentation Overview

- Background
- Effective Invasive Species Management
- Recommendations



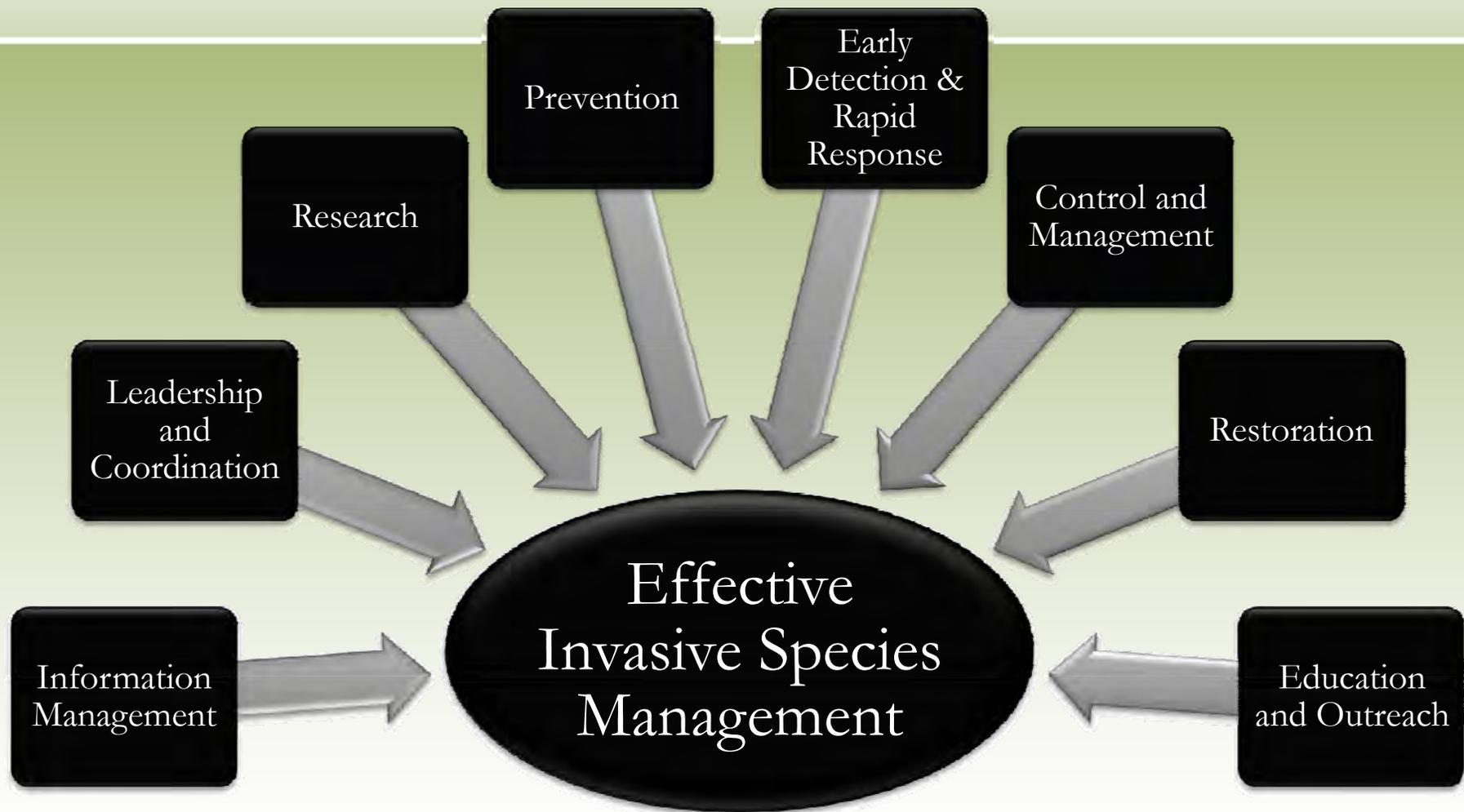
Everglades' Non-Native Taxa

- 50 Plants (Category I Invasive)
- 34 Invertebrates
- 12 Mammals
- 4 Amphibians
- 38 Reptiles
- 11 Birds
- 20 Fishes



Relevance to Everglades Restoration

Species	Potentially Impacted Performance Measures
Old World Climbing Fern Brazilian Pepper Melaleuca	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Freshwater Vegetation Mosaics•Ridge And Slough Community Sustainability
Water hyacinth, water lettuce	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Lake Okeechobee Vegetation Mosaic
Nile monitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Juvenile Crocodile Survivorship•Juvenile Alligator Survivorship
Invasive fishes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Regional Populations Of Fishes, Crayfish, Grass Shrimp and Amphibians•Lake Okeechobee Fish Population Density, Age Structure and Conditions
Giant Constrictors	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Juvenile Crocodile Survivorship•American Alligator Distribution, Size, Nesting and Condition



Prevention



Early Detection
and Rapid
Response

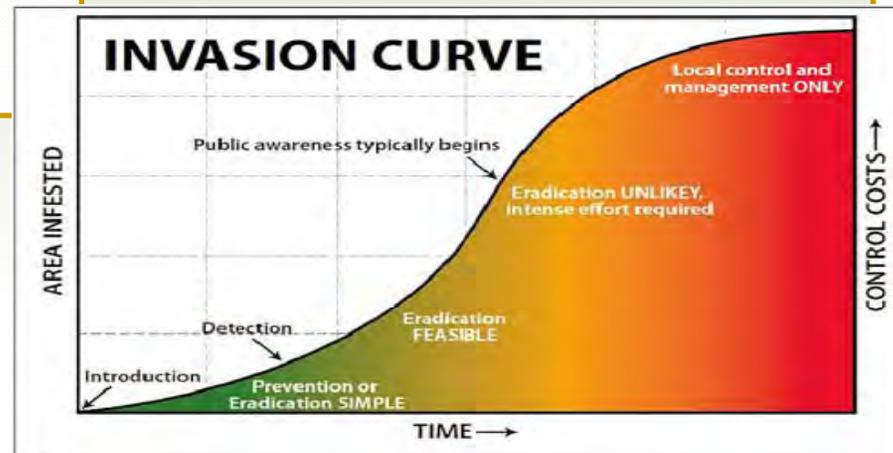


Control

- Pre-Import Regulations (e.g. Lacey Act)
- Education & Outreach
- Interception
- Most cost effective

- Attempt to eradicate or contain
- Moderate cost, low impact, short term

- Manage species at lowest feasible levels
- Long-term impact & highest cost financially and ecologically



Early Detection & Rapid Response



Early Detection Rapid Response Achievements

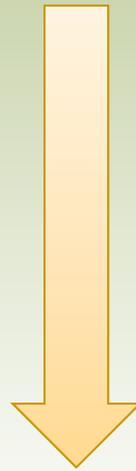
Gambian Pouched Rat: An EDRR Success Story

- FWC designates as prohibited non-indigenous species; CDC bans importation
 - Monitoring and control initiated in 2005
 - Ad-hoc effort without dedicated resources; nine agencies involved
 - Now considered eradicated
 - Total \$350,000
 - \$5.7 million to remove 400,000 nutria for the Coastwide Nutria Control Program, Louisiana
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Melaleuca Management: A Role Model



- Sustained funding
- Regulatory support
- Regional coordination



- Applied research and technology solutions
- Aggressive education and outreach initiatives



Maintaining Momentum

Accomplishments could be reversed, if

- 1) Resources are not maintained and maximized
- 2) Proactive efforts are not sustained to prevent new invasions.



Recommendations

- Promote federal prevention initiatives
 - Establish Everglades Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR) Coordinator and dedicated EDRR funding
 - Coordinate development of cross-cut budget
 - Promote continued improvements to coordination
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Promote National Screening

- Why –
 - It's the most cost effective and certain way to prevent invasive exotic problems from getting out of hand, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.”
 - What –
 - The Non-native Wildlife Invasive Prevention Act
 - Refine assessment tools
-

Enhance EDRR Capabilities

- Why –
 - It's the second most cost effective and certain way to prevent invasive exotic problems from getting out of hand.
 - What -
 - A dedicated federal EDRR position for animals to complement on-going efforts
 - Dedicated interagency funding to implement EDRR
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Develop a Cross-Cut Budget

- Why –
 - Without knowing collectively how much and where we're spending, it's hard to define what's needed to sustain success
 - What -
 - A coordinated cross-cut budget for south Florida invasive exotics
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Enhance Coordination

- Why –
 - To build on the successes of previous interagency coordination
 - Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ECISMA)
 - Noxious and Exotic Weed Task Team (NEWTT)
 - Florida Invasive Animal Task Team (FIATT)
 - Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC)
 - What-
 - Formally develop a framework for regional comprehensive invasive species management
 - Frontload compliance for EDRR
 - Improve resource sharing capabilities
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Questions
