

Florida Invasive Animal Task Team

FIATT

Working Group & Science Coordination Group
April 29, 2008

Art Roybal, Co-chair

Don Schmitz, Co-chair

Original FIATT Guidance

- ▣ Initially the team should develop and complete a comprehensive assessment of the status of invasive exotic animals using the Goodyear report [Goodyear, 2000 #6] as a starting point. The comprehensive assessment should . . . follow same basic outline and approach as the NEWTT Assessment on Invasive Exotic Plants [Doren, 2001 #7].
- ▣ Develop a comprehensive interagency strategy for management of the priority species and for prevention of the spread of existing species or introduction of new possibly invasive species.

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

**Goal 2 – Restore,
Preserve, and Protect
Natural Habitats &
Species**

**Subgoal 2B - Control Invasive
Exotic Plants and Animals (new
subgoal)**

Invasive Animal Lists

- ▣ Mammals – 19 species
- ▣ 1 – Rapid Response Candidate



**GAMBIAN POUCH RAT
ERADICATION**

Invasive Animal Lists

- ▣ Birds - 11 species
 - 2 - Rapid Response Candidates

Purple swamphen

August 2006 to March 2008 - ~ 2,500 removed



Sacred Ibis

Rapid Response Candidate



Invasive Animal Lists

- ▣ **Mammals – 19 species**
- ▣ **1 – Rapid Response Candidate**

- ▣ **Birds - 11 species**
 - ▣ **2 - Rapid Response Candidates**

- ▣ **Reptiles – 24 species**
 - ▣ **1 – Rapid Response Candidate**

- ▣ **Others....**

PYTHONS

- Potential predatory impacts

- ▣ A new top predator
 - For which most species will not be pre-adapted
 - Diet will be subsidized by rats, pigs, and other species benefiting from humans
 - e.g., Raccoons often increase in association with human garbage



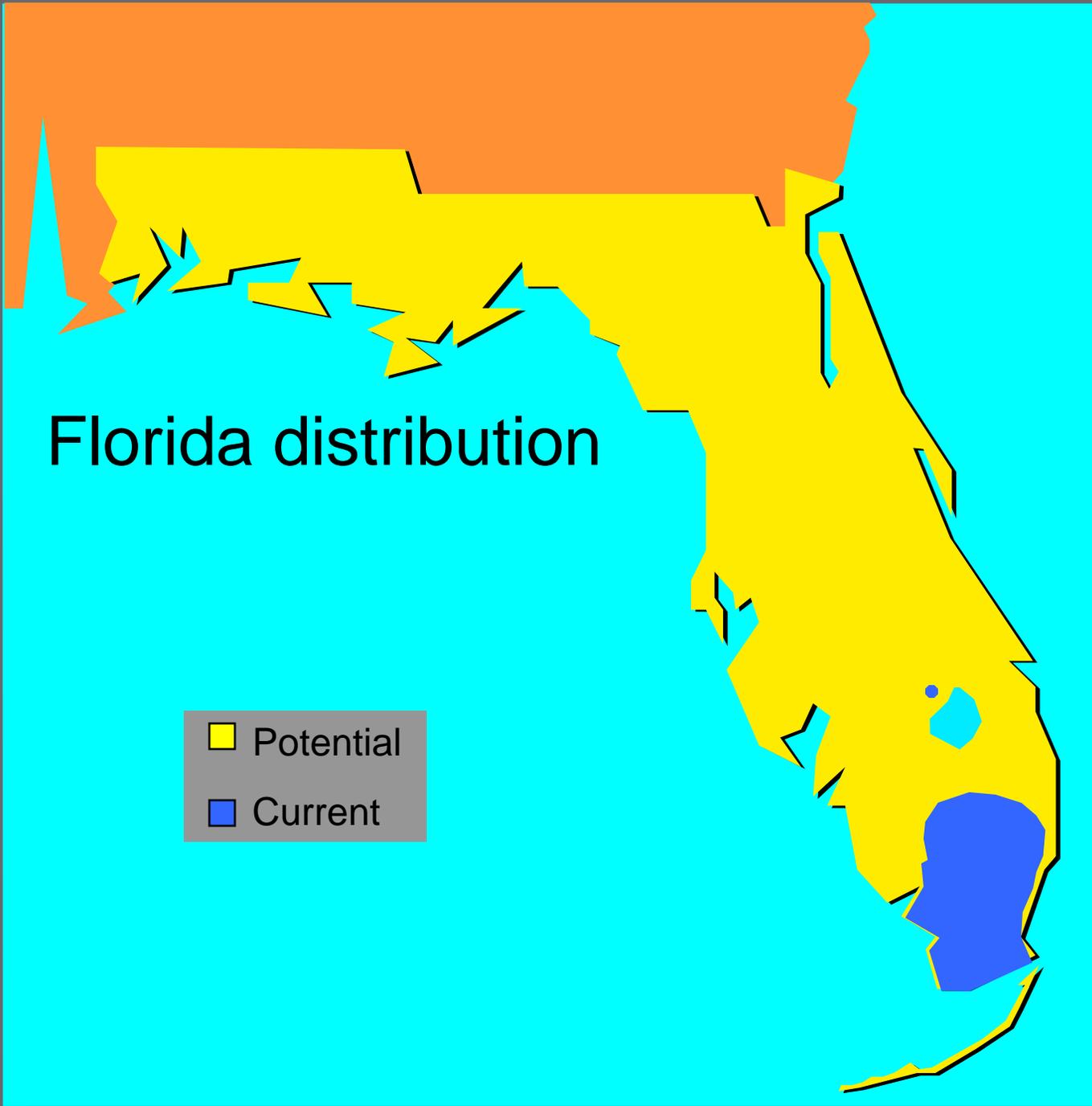
The genus *Python* (all brood eggs):



Florida distribution

■ Potential

■ Current



Federal and State Workshop on Pythons:

Develop a Strategic Plan

Environmental Assessment

Rapid Response – Florida Keys

Public awareness campaign

Build on Non-native Pet Amnesty Days

Develop Effective Traps



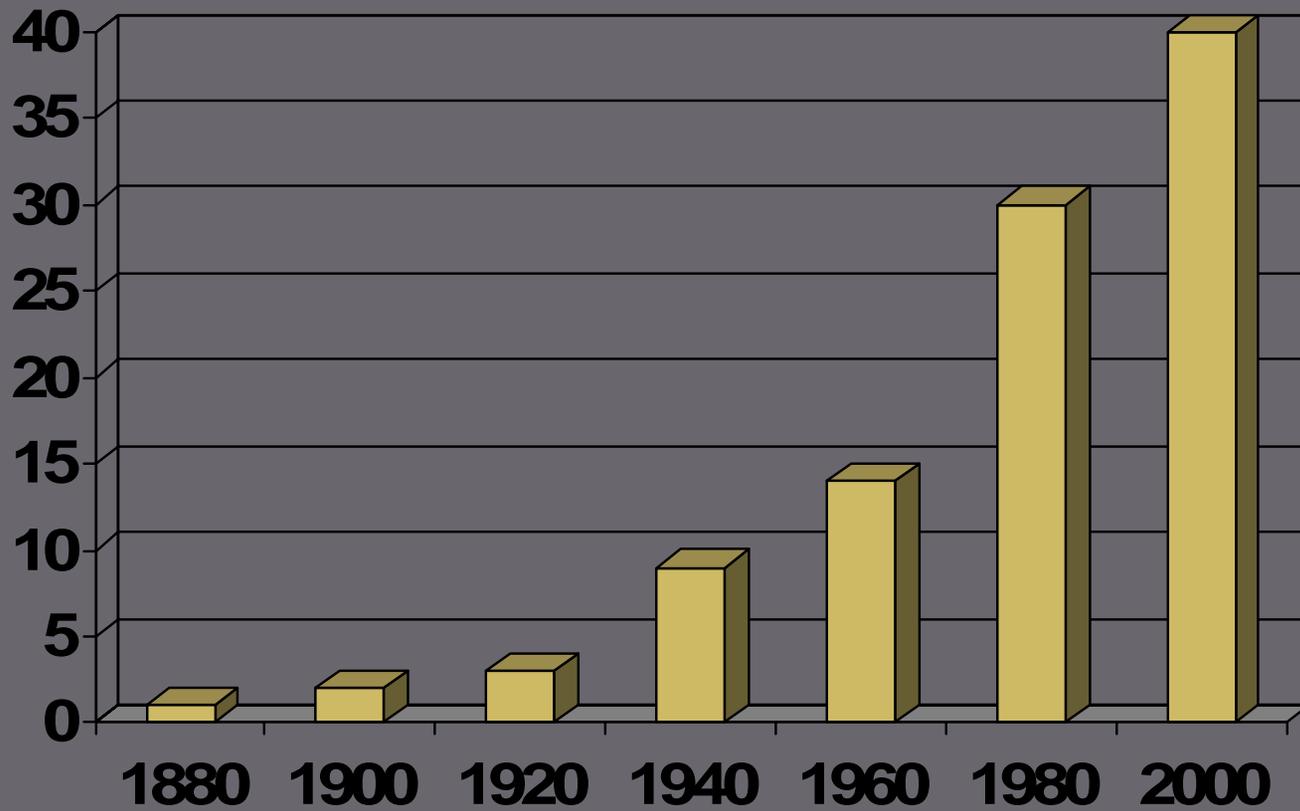
Green Iguana



Mexican Spiny-tailed Iguana

Invasive Species

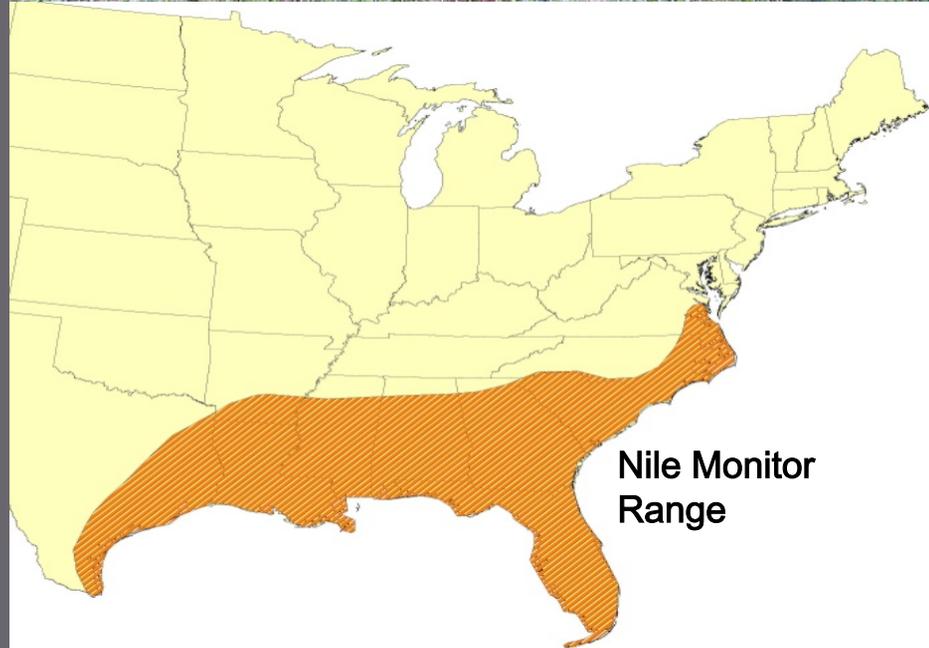
■ Total No. Exotic Herp Species



Nile Monitor lizards

Predator – sea turtle eggs, dogs, cats, rodents, nesting birds, wading birds, etc.

- Semi-aquatic
- Up to 35 lbs, 5 ft
- May impact real estate sales, tourism



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS LIZARD?

ARGENTINE BLACK & WHITE TEGU



Length: over 4 feet

Thick, short neck

Burrows; tolerates cool temperatures

Black bodies with whitish bands and spots

Prefers open, grassy areas

Could survive throughout Florida

Argentine black & white tegus have been observed in Polk and eastern Hillsborough County, but more specific locality information is needed.

REPORT SIGHTINGS TO 1- 866-549-5463 EXT 238

(1-866-LIZLINE EXT 238)

OR EMAIL: lizard@MyFWC.com

Invasive Species

Future problem?

- Home invader
- Likely impact real estate values, tourism
- A habitat generalist
- 13,000 per sq mile
- Mild venom
- Threat to native birds, reptiles?



Brown tree snake
(Boiga irregularis)

NEXT STEPS

- ▣ **Summary Report with Recommendations**
- ▣ **Stop Light Indicator for Priority Species**
- ▣ **INTEGRATE INVASIVE ANIMALS INTO ECOSTEMS DATABASE**
- ▣ **Is A Strategic Plan Needed for Each Priority Species ?**

Questions?

