

A person wearing a blue cap, a grey long-sleeved shirt, and orange pants is using a chainsaw to clear dense green vegetation in a forest. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, facing right. The vegetation is thick and covers the ground and lower parts of trees. In the background, several tree trunks are visible against a bright sky. A semi-transparent white box with a grid pattern is overlaid on the top half of the image, containing the title text.

Invasive Species Review: Update to the SFERTF Working Group June 25, 2013

old World climbing fern
Lygodium microphyllum
Photo by Jeff Hutchinson
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Goal for Today's Presentation

- * To receive Working Group/SCG feedback on invasive species update scheduled for the July 9, 2013 Task Force meeting

Task Force Direction to OERI/WG/SCG

- * Conduct a comprehensive review of current efforts to combat invasive exotics and present updated recommendations for how to improve our efforts and boost our effectiveness

Draft Outline of Presentation to the Task Force

- * Restatement of the invasive species problem
- * Restatement of Task Force Direction to OERI/WG/SCG
- * Summary of OERI/WG/SCG activities to date
- * What we have heard and learned
- * Recommendations for immediate action

OERI/WG/SCG Efforts to Date

Comprehensive Review

- * Extensive engagement with interagency invasives staff
- * Developed a conceptual Solutions Pathway framework
- * Participated in 2 summits (pythons and ambrosia beetles)
- * Gathered information on resource allocation and gaps
- * Met with National Invasive Species Council staff

OERI/WG/SCG Efforts to Date

Raising Awareness

- * Worked with Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (ECISMA) members on display for Everglades Coalition Conference
- * Created a Portal on the Task Force website
- * Arranged Invasives Briefing for DOI Secretary Jewell, Senator Marco Rubio (with NPS)
- * Addressed the CISRERP and requested that they take up this issue in the next Biennial Report to Congress

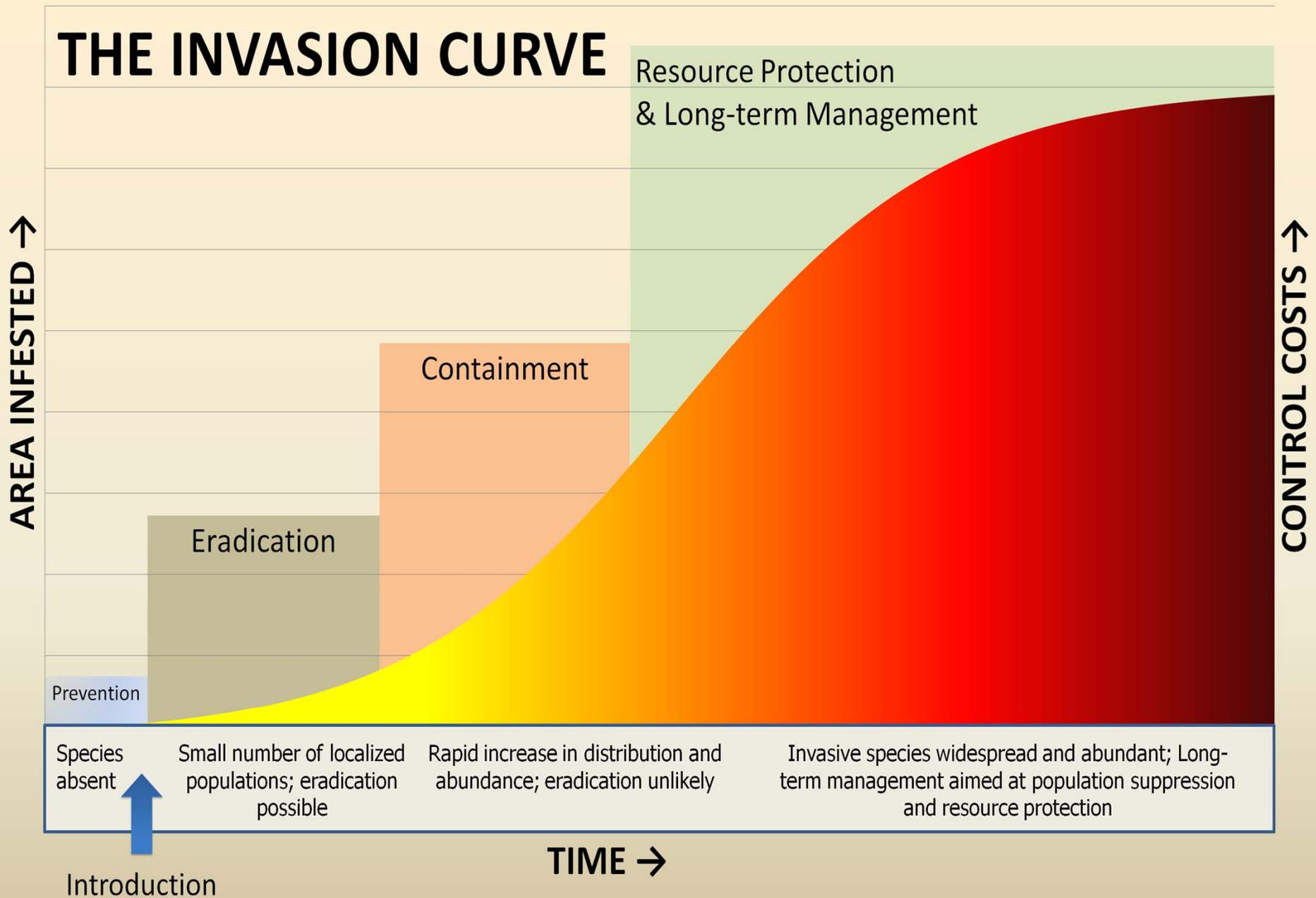
Providing Implementation Support (OERI)

- * Helping to coordinate Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) initiatives

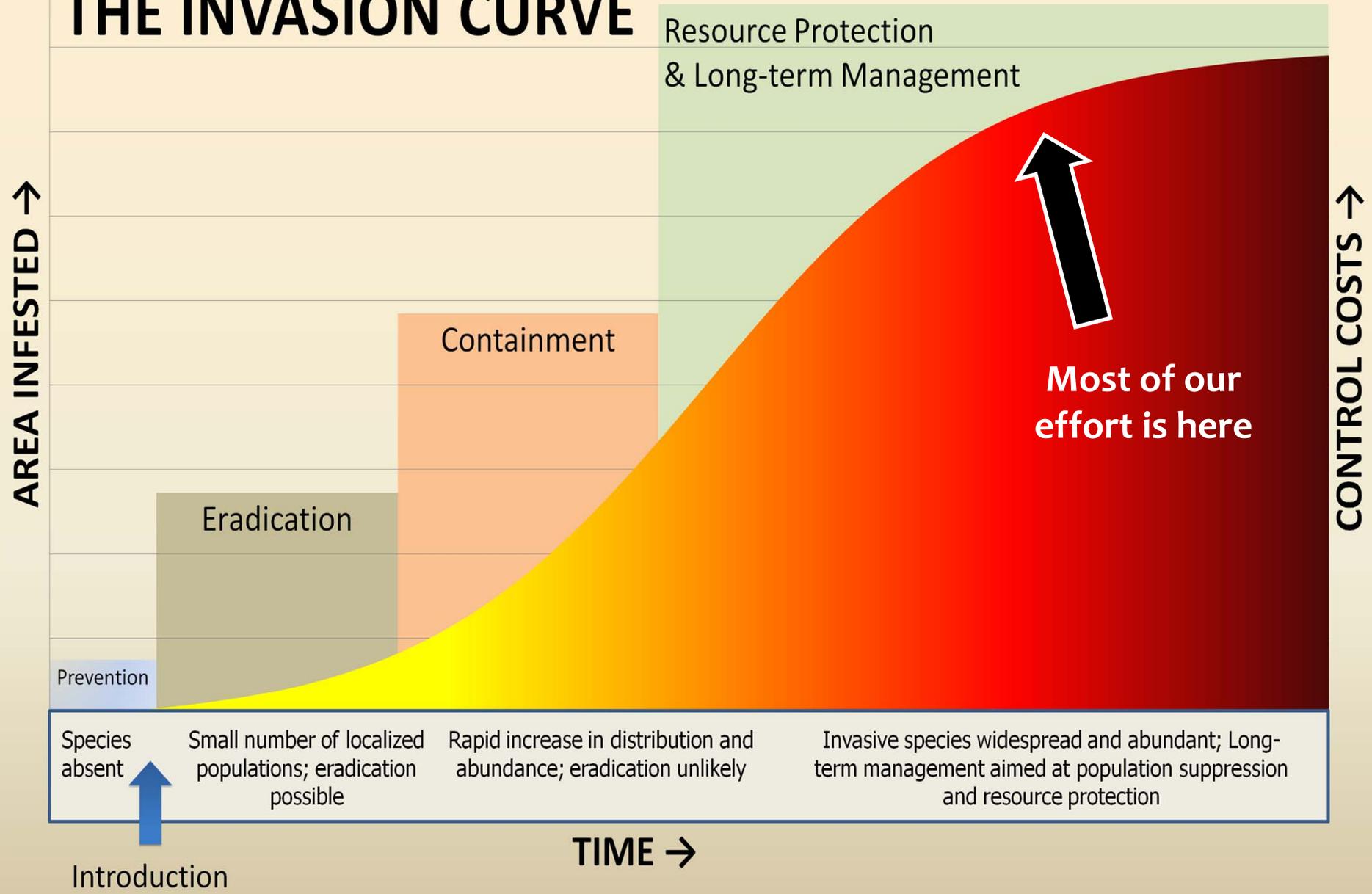
What We Learned and Heard

- * That we know what it takes to solve this problem
- * Effective invasive species management requires an integrated approach with sustained resources and involves:
 - * Long-term suppression of established species
 - * Containment of established but localized populations
 - * Detection and possible eradication of newly established species
 - * Prevention of new introductions of un-established species
 - * Cross-jurisdictional coordination

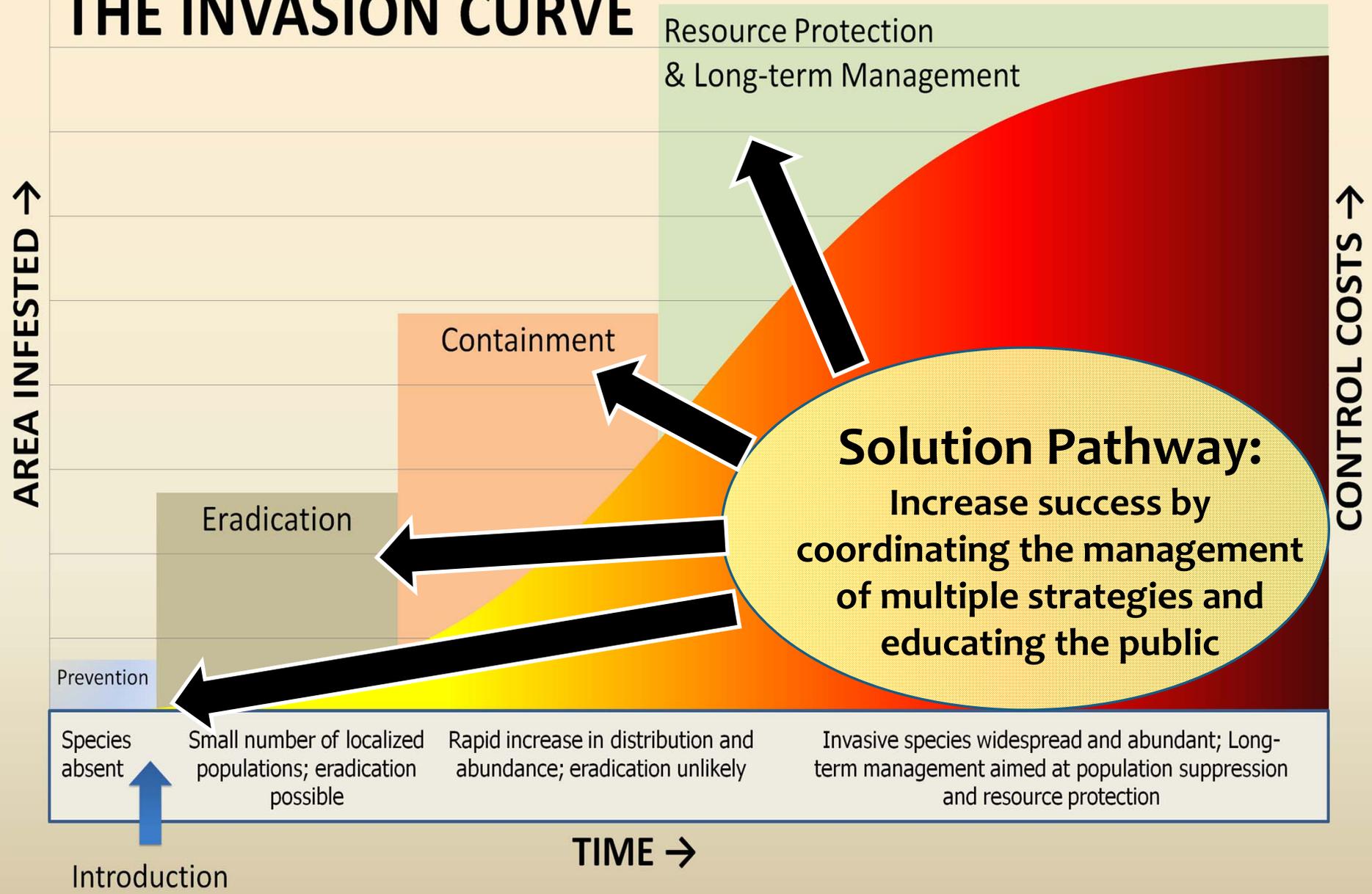
THE INVASION CURVE



THE INVASION CURVE



THE INVASION CURVE



THE INVASION CURVE

Resource Protection
& Long-term Management

AREA INFESTED →

CONTROL COSTS →

Containment

Eradication

Prevention

Solution Pathway:
Increase success by
coordinating the management
of multiple strategies and
educating the public

Species
absent

Small number of localized
populations; eradication
possible

Rapid increase in distribution and
abundance; eradication unlikely

Invasive species widespread and abundant; Long-
term management aimed at population suppression
and resource protection

Introduction

TIME →

Elements of Solution Pathway for the Restoration Footprint

Long-term management

- Ensure adequate resources for existing management programs
- Invest in R&D for invasive species management tools

Containment

- Ensure adequate resources for existing control programs
- Invest in R&D for invasive species control tools

Coordination & Education

Eradication

- Develop and invest in an effective rapid detection, rapid assessment, and rapid response mechanism for all potentially invasive taxa

Prevention

- Develop risk assessment tools
- Evaluate the efficacy of existing screening & prevention regulations/legislation/policies

What We Heard and Learned, cont.

- * The invasive species crisis is being addressed by a dedicated, effective, and well coordinated group at the staff /grass roots level from multiple agencies, NGOs, and Tribal governments
- * The invasive species effort does not have a complete governance structure in place
- * There is an **immediate** need for additional coordination and organization of resources
- * A significant level of professional consensus exists and can form the foundation for increased coordination and effectiveness
- * Current efforts are chronically, and in some cases dramatically under-resourced
- * Recurring, predictable and adequate funding is important for long term planning
- * A comprehensive, integrated (plants and animals) strategic framework for invasive exotics in south Florida does not exist

2010 Working Group Recommendations to the SFERTF

- * Promote federal prevention initiatives
- * Establish EDRR Coordinator and dedicated EDRR funding
- * Coordinate development of cross cut budget
- * Promote continued improvements to coordination

July 2013 Recommendations for Immediate Action

- * Maximize existing resources to address 2010 WG recommendations
 - * OERI will allocate 1.75 FTEs for 6 months:
 1. Provide coordination support for federal invasive species efforts (2010)
 2. Support the development of a Comprehensive Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework (2013) that includes a cross cut budget (2010)

1. Immediately Increase Federal Coordination

- * Respond to identified need for increased federal coordination (2010) by apply additional human resource capacity to this need
- * Tap into national coordination capacity and expertise
- * Look for ways to build cost effective, short term and long term capacity and opportunities for increased coordination
- * Support and promote budget coordination

2. NOT Another Plan!!!!

Rather a Coordinated Framework for Action

- * That includes a complete governance structure
- * That helps decision-makers understand the connections between goals, strategies, tactics
- * That defines success and provides for accountability
- * That maximizes the extent to which the current capacity for partnership is leveraged to meet common goals
- * In short, that helps decision-makers make wise and timely investment decisions in the battle against invasive exotics
- * Why take precious time and effort to develop this?

Today Our Resource Needs Seem Daunting

For Example...

- * There are no dedicated resources for EDRR. Today, the estimated annual need is \$406,000 to implement the amphibian/reptile EDRR initiative.
- * Everglades National Park received ~ \$36K to treat and maintain Melaleuca and Australian pine last year and estimates the annual need to be \$850K.
- * FWC received \$113K and \$46K (for upland exotics and Lygodium survey/treatment) for WCAs 2&3. The estimated annual need is \$2,300,000.

The Economics of Failure are Even More Daunting

- * The economic impacts of crop and livestock losses for Florida from selected invasive species at \$48,458M
- * More than \$6 million has been spent since 2005 finding and applying solutions to the problem of Burmese pythons and other constrictor snakes in Florida
- * The Laurel wilt disease carried by ambrosia beetles represents a threat to recreational, agricultural, environmental, and cultural values
- * Human health

The Costs of Failure, Cont...



Next Steps

- * Update Task Force and seek input on proposed immediate actions
- * OERI convenes a high-level partnership workshop (Aug/Sept) to discuss Strategic Action Framework
- * OERI works with federal partners to enhance federal coordination

Discussion

* Laurel Wilt carried by the Ambrosia Beetle