Program Name: FWC Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program
Project Name: **Exotic Species Reporting Hotline and Database Maintenance**
Project ID: 4207
Lead Agency: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Strategy and Biennial Report Objective Addressed: 3-D.1 and 2-B.1
Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework Goal: 1, 2, 3 and 4

Measurable Output(s): Number of verified exotic reports that are placed into state Database (shared with partners). From reports back to the 1920's, the state database has over 30,000 verified nonnative species reports. During this reporting period, over 7,000 reports have been received including those from the hotline and EDDMapS.

Project Synopsis: FWC's Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program uses sightings- many by the public- to determine if a new non-native species may have potential to reproduce and become established. FWC began manning the toll-free "IVEGOT1" hot line in 2011, a statewide expansion of the Python Patrol hot line for the Florida Keys. Hot line reports, combined with FWC and partner surveys and reports received from EDDMapS, has increased our collective knowledge of many otherwise unknown potential nonnative species issues, such as Argentine black and white tegu expansion and releases, monitor (*Varanus* spp.) distribution in Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe counties, and more recently sightings of chameleon species in south Florida. The hotline also provides a way for the public to give up unwanted exotic pets through the Pet Amnesty program.

The FWC maintains a database that maps sightings of species and tracks trends in distribution. Records in this database come from direct observations; historical records from museums and other databases such as the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) and the Christmas Bird Count (CBC); or from data sharing relationships with the Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) database, developed in 2005 by the University of Georgia's Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, and the U.S. Geological Survey's Nonindigenous Aquatic Species database.

Current Status: This program continues and will be funded particularly by a grant from the DOI Everglades National Park up to 2015. After the grant expires, the FWC will be looking at current budget and staffing to assume the full costs of the hotline.

Project Schedule:
Start Date: 2011
Finish Date: None

Detailed Project Budget Information
Budget includes the salary of a Wildlife Biologist(s) responding to the Hotline and the proportion of salary for the Program Database coordinator dedicated to verifying and updating the state database and coordination with other agencies. Currently, a grant from the Everglades National Park covers 20 hours/week salary and benefits of one scientist responding to the hotline.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Balance to Complete	Total
Federal (grant)	$30,000	$30,000				$60,000	**$60,000**
State Funds (FWC)	$50,000	$50,000	$80,000	$80,000	$80,000	$340,000	**$340,000**
Local							
Private Grants or Donations							
Total	**$80,000**	**$80,000**	**$80,000**	**$80,000**	**$80,000**	**$400,000**	**$400,000**

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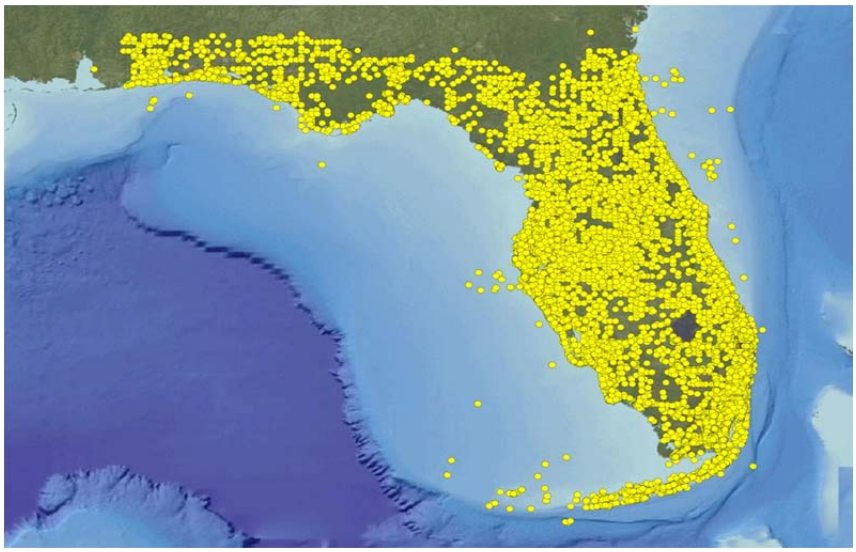
Hyperlink: www.MyFWC.com/nonnatives

Map of area:
Observation Reports 1924-April 2014. Almost 30,000 observations of nonnative fish and wildlife are part of the FWC database**.**