

Program Name: FWC Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program
Project Name: **Python Removal Program**
Project ID: 2806
Lead Agency: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in conjunction with SFWMD

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

Measurable Output(s): Since inception in 2009, 298 pythons have been removed under permits from state owned and managed lands.

Project Synopsis:

In response to increased public concern about Burmese pythons in south Florida, FWC initiated a program to permit qualified individuals to remove pythons from four Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in south Florida.

The Burmese Python Removal Program is not a hunting program or a recreational program; rather it is a management tool that allows people to remove Burmese pythons and other nonnative reptiles from state lands. While the primary focus of the program has historically been Burmese pythons, the intent of the program is to allow properly trained and permitted people to remove all invasive exotic reptiles that are encountered during collection trips. The objective of the program is to collect data on the locations of Burmese pythons and other invasive reptiles, as well as information on the effort spent searching for these reptiles, and to remove the species from the environment.

Burmese Python Removal permits have previously allowed access to both Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and properties managed by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). However, FWC is working with SFWMD to address program improvements and enhancements, and permits that include SFWMD properties are currently not being issued.

Permit holders must turn in all captured pythons, but can request to have the carcass returned to them. They can sell the hide and meat, thus providing a type of financial incentive

All nonnative reptiles, including [conditional reptiles](#) may be taken or transported live under this permit. The snakes can be captured by hand or by using hand held equipment (snake tongs, snake hooks, etc.). Pythons may be euthanized onsite by legal and humane methods, or dropped off live at a site designated by FWC.

In state FY 2016/17, FWC is exploring an incentive program that may help target removal efforts on public lands. Estimated/projected costs of this program are not yet available.

Current Status: Ongoing

Project Schedule:

Start Date: 2009
Finish Date: Ongoing

Detailed Project Budget Information:

The management of this program is embedded within a few positions inside FWC. Estimated budget is not available.

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Map of area: Project Location Map

