

# South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group/Science Coordination Group Meeting

## **Enhancing Our Response to Invasive Exotic Species**

**September 15, 2010**

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# Objectives

- Present recommendations for improving invasive species management at the regional, cross-jurisdictional level
- Discuss the recommendations with the WG/SCG at the September 15 joint meeting
- Prepare for the October 28 Task Force meeting

# The Challenge

## ▪Everglades Non-Native Taxa

- 50 Priority Invasive Plants
- 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"><li>• Freshwater Vegetation Mosaics</li><li>• Ridge And Slough Community Sustainability</li></ul>
Waterhyacinth, waterlettuce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lake Okeechobee Vegetation Mosaic</li></ul>
Nile monitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Juvenile Crocodile Survivorship</li><li>• Juvenile Alligator Survivorship</li></ul>
Invasive fishes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Regional Populations Of Fishes, Crayfish, Grass Shrimp and Amphibians</li><li>• Lake Okeechobee Fish Population Density, Age Structure and Conditions</li></ul>
Giant Constrictors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wading Bird Nesting Patterns</li></ul>

# Integrated Approach to Invasive Species Management



# Examples of Successful Invasive Species Management

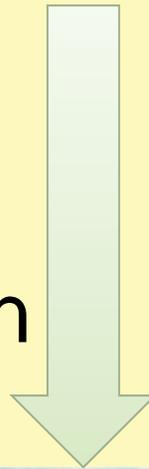
- Long-term control of floating aquatic vegetation
- Biological Controls
  - *Alligatorweed*
  - *Melaleuca*
  - *Submerged aquatic vegetation (grass carp)*
- Improved plant control technologies
- Early eradication efforts for Gambian Pouched Rat, kripa (mangrove invader), Sacred Ibis
- Maintenance Control of *Melaleuca* in WCAs/Big Cypress National Preserve/Lake Okeechobee



# Melaleuca Management: A Role Model

April 1998

- Sustained funding
- Regulatory support
- Regional coordination



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

November 2008

# Everglades CISMA: A Coordination Success Story

- Grassroots coordinating group focused on invasive species management
- Cooperative effort of many agency, organizations, and tribal biologists and land managers
- Primary objectives:
  - Regional EDRR
  - Regional monitoring/mapping
  - Information and technology exchange
  - Education and outreach
  - Identify financially-efficient strategies

# Maintaining Momentum

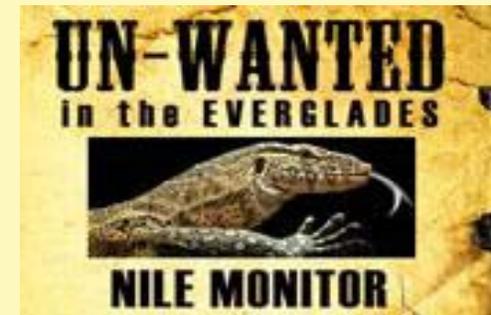
Accomplishments could be reversed, if resources are not maintained and maximized and proactive efforts are not sustained to prevent new invasions.

# Overview of Recommendations

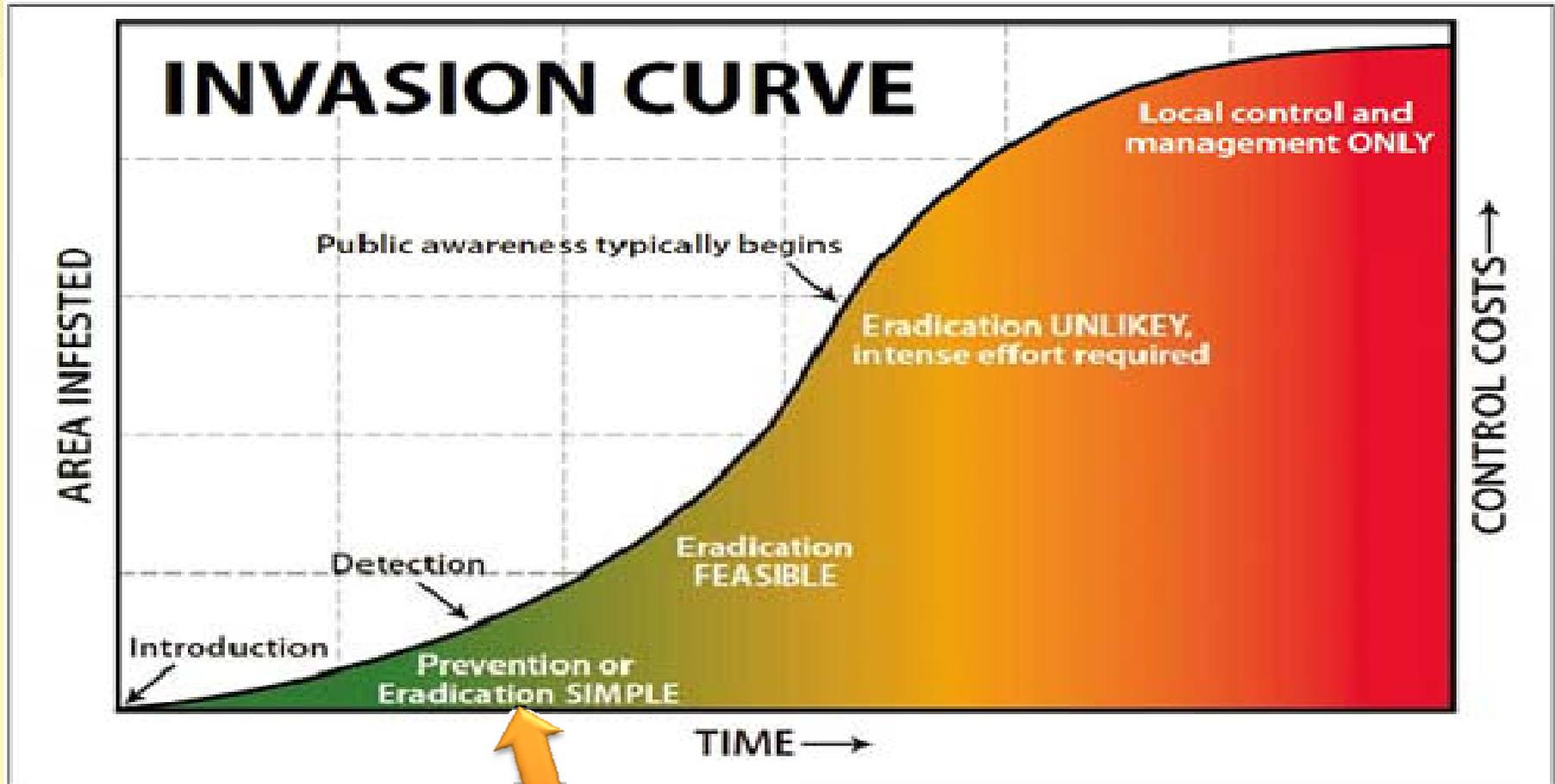
- Promote federal prevention initiatives
- Coordinate development of cross-cut budget
- Establish Everglades EDRR Coordinator and dedicated EDRR funding
- Promote continued improvements to coordination

# Promote National Screening Reform

- Most cost-effective management tool
- Achievements
  - Some screening tools developed
  - Proposed federal legislation
- Next Steps
  - Promote refinement and development of assessment tools
  - Promote national screening implementation



# Why Prevention Makes “Cents”



More focus here

# Establish Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) Program

- The second most cost-effective and certain way to prevent invasive exotic problems from getting out of hand.
- Current activities are ad-hoc, unfunded
- Identified Needs:
  - Dedicated, full-time EDRR position to complement the STATE position
  - Dedicated interagency funding to implement EDRR program for new biological invasions

# Gambian Pouched Rat: An EDRR Success Story

- FWC designates as prohibited nonindigenous 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
  - \$65.7 million to eliminate 400,000 nutria for the Coastwide Nutria Control Program, Louisiana

# Cross-Cut Budget for Invasive Species Management

- Develop a coordinated south Florida cross-cut budget
- Create integrated budget request capability

# Continue Improvements on Coordination and Implementation

- Build on successes of previous interagency coordination
  - NEWTT, FIATT, ECISMA
- Formally develop a framework for regional, comprehensive invasive species management
- Identified Needs:
  - Frontload environmental compliance for EDRR
  - Support development of an all-taxa, inter-agency master plan
  - Improve resource sharing capabilities

# Summary of Recommendations

- Promote federal prevention initiatives and risk assessment tools
- Coordinate development of cross-cut budget
- Establish Everglades EDRR Coordinator and dedicated EDRR funding
- Promote continued improvements to coordination (master plan, regulatory compliance, resource sharing)



**QUESTIONS?**