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# Summary of the Large Constrictor Workshops Nov 5-6 and Nov 7-8, 2013

For the Nov 19 meeting of the  
WG/SCG of the SFERTF



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# Interagency Large Constrictor Workshop: Nov 5 and 6, 2013

- ~55 participants: Federal, State, Tribal, university and NGO partners
- Objectives
  - summarize current science in areas of management interest
  - recommend next steps for science priorities
  - examine interagency response frameworks to see if we find anything we might want to consider for improving south Florida invasive response
  - develop information for the Python Executive Leadership Group

# Interagency Large Constrictor Workshop: Nov 5 and 6, 2013

- Science sessions in four areas of management interest:
  - Detection studies and abundance estimates
  - Ecosystem and resource impacts
  - Localized and landscape control tools
  - Human dimensions of large constrictor management
  
- Interagency response frameworks session
  - USDA Giant African Land Snail Program
  - Brown Tree Snake Program in Guam
  - Hawaii Invasive Species Council and Committees
  - Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

# Department of Interior Planning Meeting: Nov 7 and 8, 2013

- 29 participants: NPS Parks, USFWS Refuges and Ecological Services, USGS
  
- Objectives
  - Consider the priority science needs as applied to DOI trust resources
  - Consider priority resources and application of available tools to those resources
  - Produce elements of a Large Constrictor Response Plan for DOI lands and resources

## A FEW MAJOR TAKE HOME MESSAGES FROM THE ENTIRE PROCESS

- We need to do research to **increase the probability of detection** in the field: intensive, interdisciplinary studies on a limited spatial scale
- Traps so far have not worked, but we want to try some additional ideas (refugia)
- Folks want a silver bullet for landscape-scale control, but we have no tool, no leads right now
- Putting **additional skilled searchers** on the ground is important
- We need to go after small populations of limited distribution (ex. North African [Rock] python)
- Risks to human safety of Burmese pythons are small (other constrictor species may differ); **the public wants to be part of the solution**
- A **formal, organized interagency management structure with high level involvement** is key to more-established, successful pest and invasive species control programs (ex: USDA, BTS, HISC)
- We need to continue to work to **coordinate the message** to the public regarding large constrictors: continue and expand outreach efforts

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- **Produce and disseminate a summary of the current science and priority science outcomes of the workshop.**
- **Gather land and resource management agencies together to discuss/develop desired future conditions of south Florida public lands and resources with respect to large constrictors.**
- **Inform interagency management groups of major workshop results (current briefing is an example; potential briefing to other management-level invasive species groups)**
- **As a result of the scientific information on natural resource impacts, the NPS will convene a meeting of senior managers to discuss implications and options for the agency.**