



Mitchell, Carol <carol_mitchell@nps.gov>

April 2015 UPDATE ON LARGE CONSTRICTOR ACTIVITIES – Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission and the National Park Service

2 messages

Mitchell, Carol <carol_mitchell@nps.gov> Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 5:11 PM
To: Pedro Ramos <pedro_ramos@nps.gov>, Shannon Estenoz <shannon_estenoz@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Tylan Dean <tylan_dean@nps.gov>, Larry Perez <larry_perez@nps.gov>, Robert Johnson <robert_johnson@nps.gov>

Pedro:

Attached are talking points (3 pages) on large constrictors that have also been sent to Nick Wiley. These are agreed upon between NPS and FWC, and formatted so that you can distribute in print or electronically as you wish. Here is a very brief summary of current activities with respect to large constrictors.

- Python search and removal: Federal, State, and University cooperators are involved. The Miccosukee Tribe also actively addresses this issue. Since 2004, over 2,500 snakes have been removed from the wild.

- NPS Authorized Agents (14 agents and 7 NPS staff)

- FWCC has 160 Python Permittees, and public python hunting is allowed on several State Wildlife Management Areas.

- The University of Florida does routine survey and removal in Water Conservation Areas (funded by FWC and SFWMD)

- The USGS does routine survey and removal in Everglades National Park: goal for 2015 is to do every night (365 days).

- Containment-eradication of the North African Python near Krome and SW 8th street: this work is led by FWC, NPS supports. Needs sustained effort, and agencies are continuing to support this work.

- The USFWS listed an additional four species of large constrictors as injurious wildlife in January 2015. Federally, 8 species of large constrictors are listed as injurious; on State level, 6 species are listed as conditional.

- The Exotic Pet Amnesty program continues multiple annual events, allowing pet owners to turn over unwanted pets. The Python Hotline 1-888-IveGot1, is up and running.

- Both FWC and NPS are supporting additional science: 1) Better detection methods for capture and removal, 2) Using eDNA to find out if pythons are present in an area, 3) Continue to look at impacts to identify resources or areas that need protection, 4) Continue to study python behavior in the Everglades to improve the odds for finding and removing them, 5) developing better ways to assess the risk of invasion by other species

- FWC invests \$250,000 - \$300,000/year in large constrictor activities; NPS has invested over \$2.5 Million (most over last 5 years); NPS will be making additional investments in staff positions dedicated to this issue.

We will continue to work with the FWC to refine the communication strategy that began with our phone call last week.

Thank you to Larry Perez (EVER) and Kristen Sommers (FWC) for the detailed talking points attached.

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 **04072015 FINAL FWC & NPS Talking Points.docx**
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Pedro Ramos <pedro_ramos@nps.gov> Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 8:04 PM
To: "Mitchell, Carol" <carol_mitchell@nps.gov>
Cc: Shannon Estenoz <shannon_estenoz@ios.doi.gov>, Tylan Dean <tylan_dean@nps.gov>, Larry Perez <larry_perez@nps.gov>, Robert Johnson <robert_johnson@nps.gov>

Thank you very much Carol!

Sent from my iPhone

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