

# Florida Python Control Plan

May 2024

McKayla Spencer

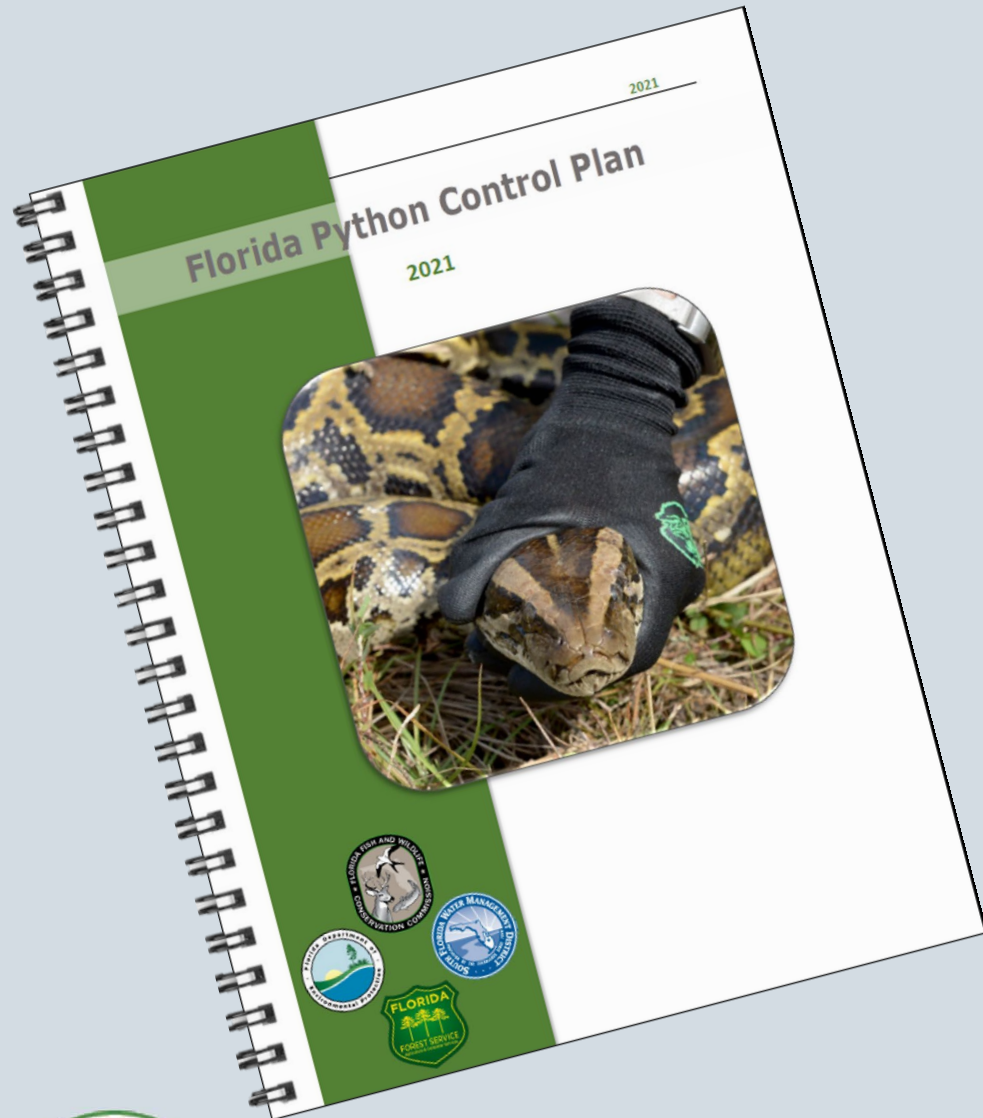


Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission



[McKayla.Spencer@myFWC.com](mailto:McKayla.Spencer@myFWC.com)

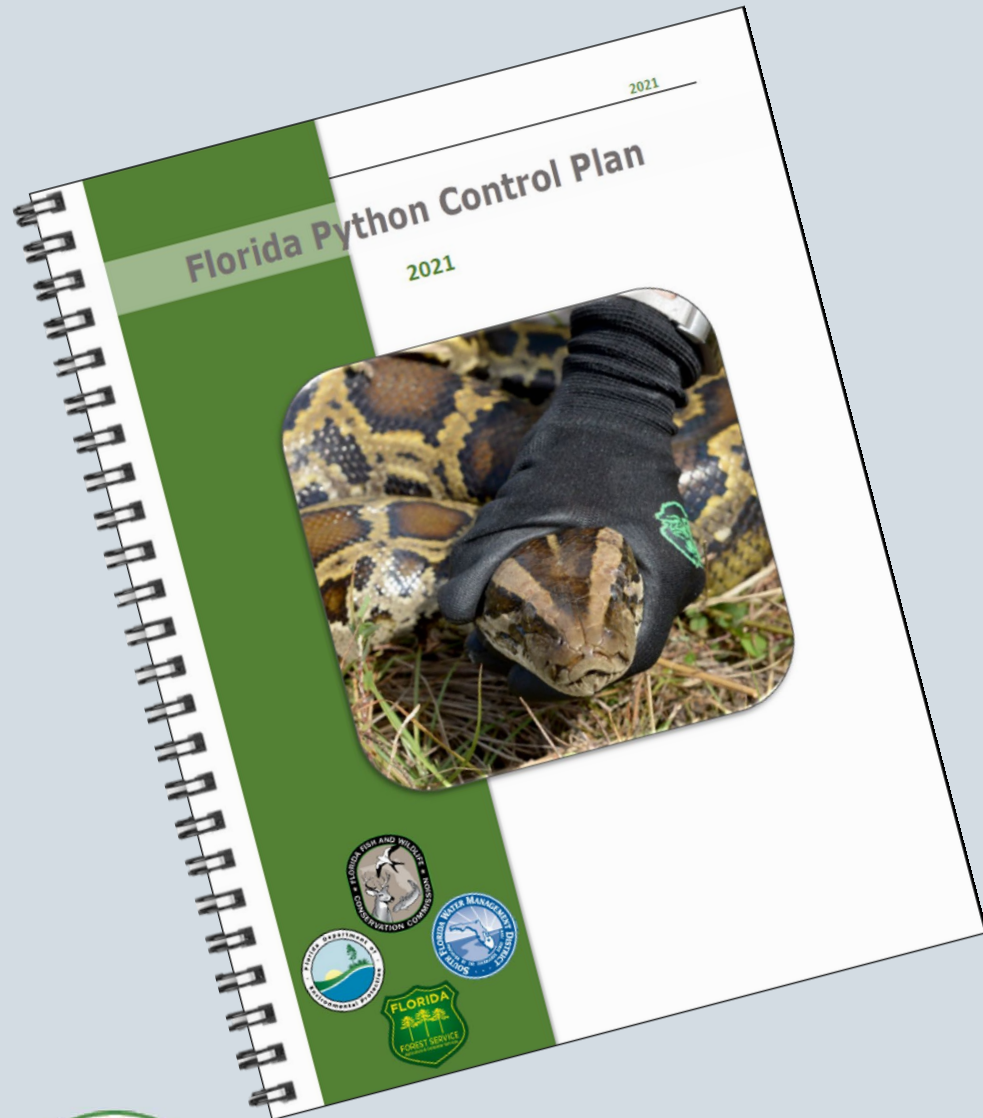
# Outline



- 1) Background on Invasive Pythons
- 2) Interorganizational Collaboration
- 3) Background on the Creation of a Control Plan
- 4) Florida Python Control Plan



# Outline



- 1) Background on Invasive Pythons
- 2) Interorganizational Collaboration
- 3) Background on the Creation of a Control Plan
- 4) Florida Python Control Plan



# Burmese Pythons in Florida

*Python molurus bivittatus*

- Large constrictor snake native to SE Asia
- Established invasive in Florida
- Can lay over 100 eggs per clutch
- Semi-aquatic; disperse on land and in water
- Extremely difficult to find
- No population estimates in Florida



# Impacts from Invasive Pythons

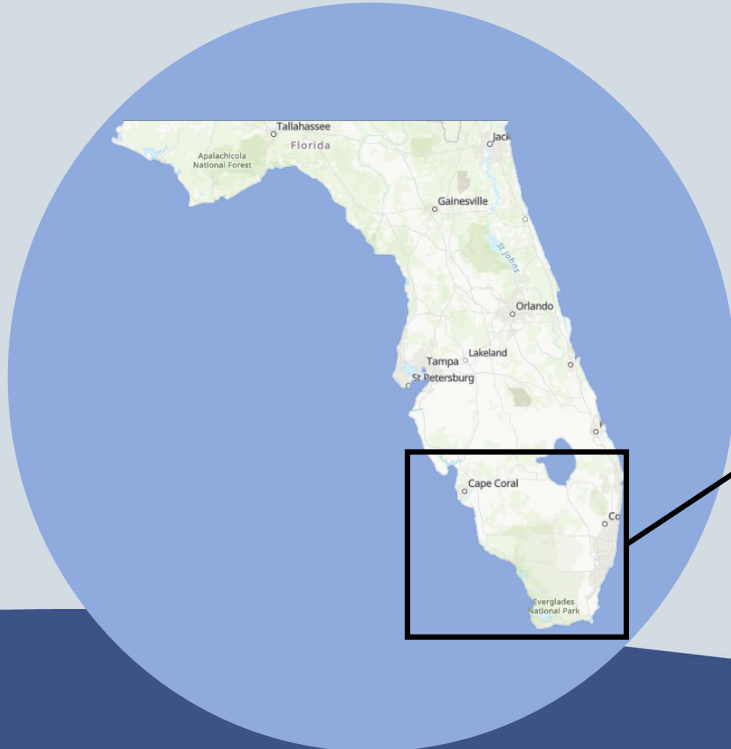
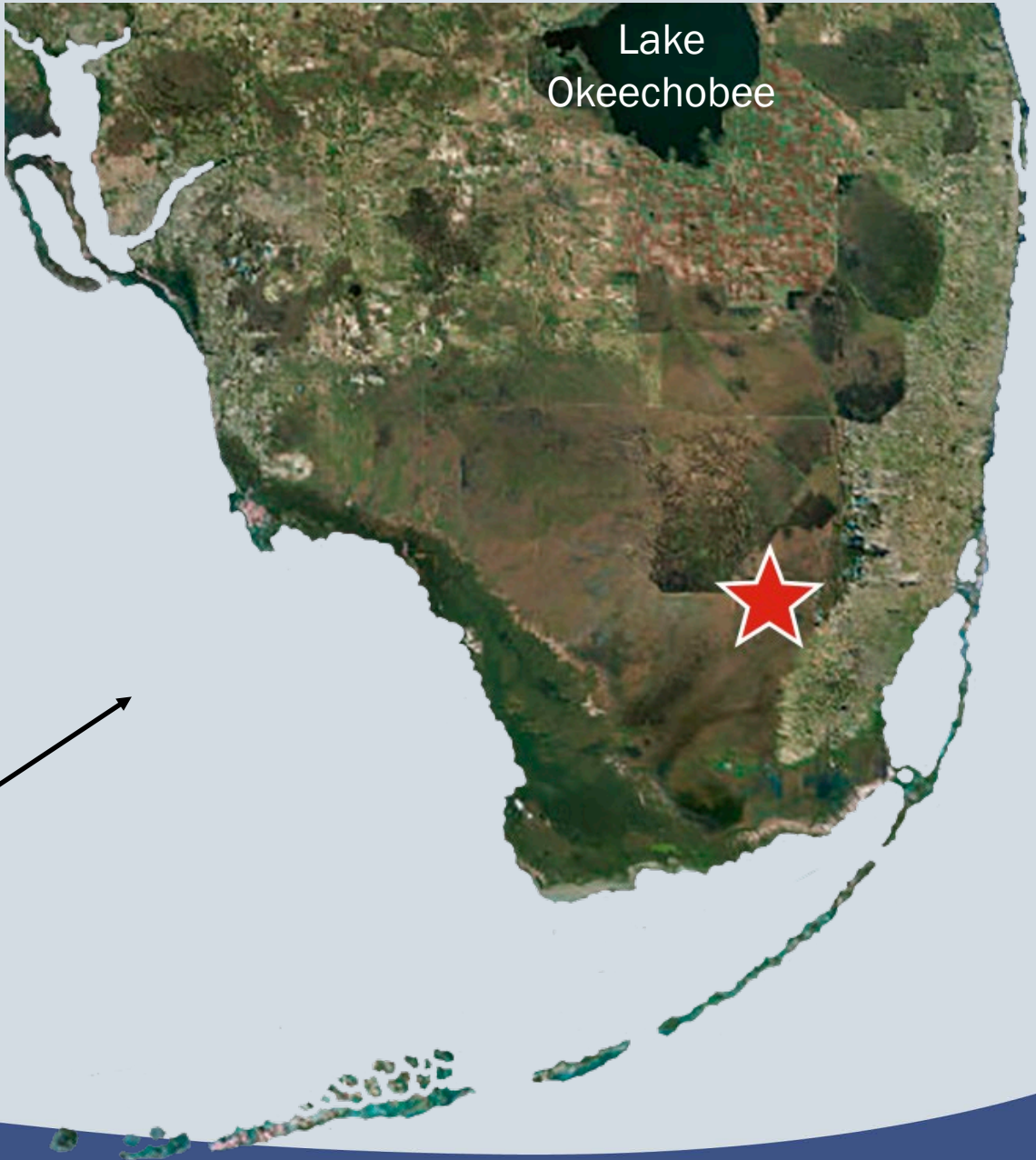
- Predator of native wildlife
  - Mammals
  - Birds
  - Reptiles
- Introduced parasites and disease
  - Pentastomes
  - Nidovirus



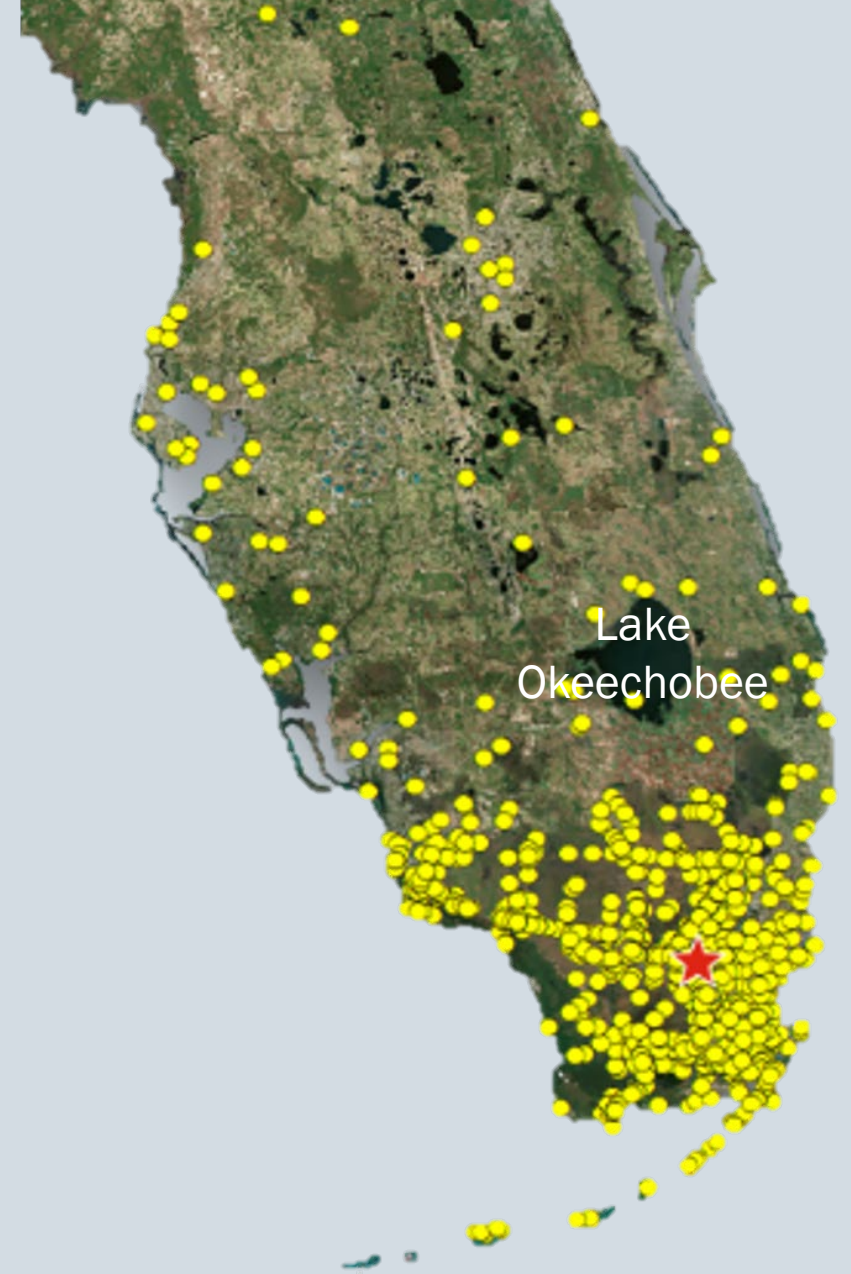
Image courtesy of Conservancy of SWFL



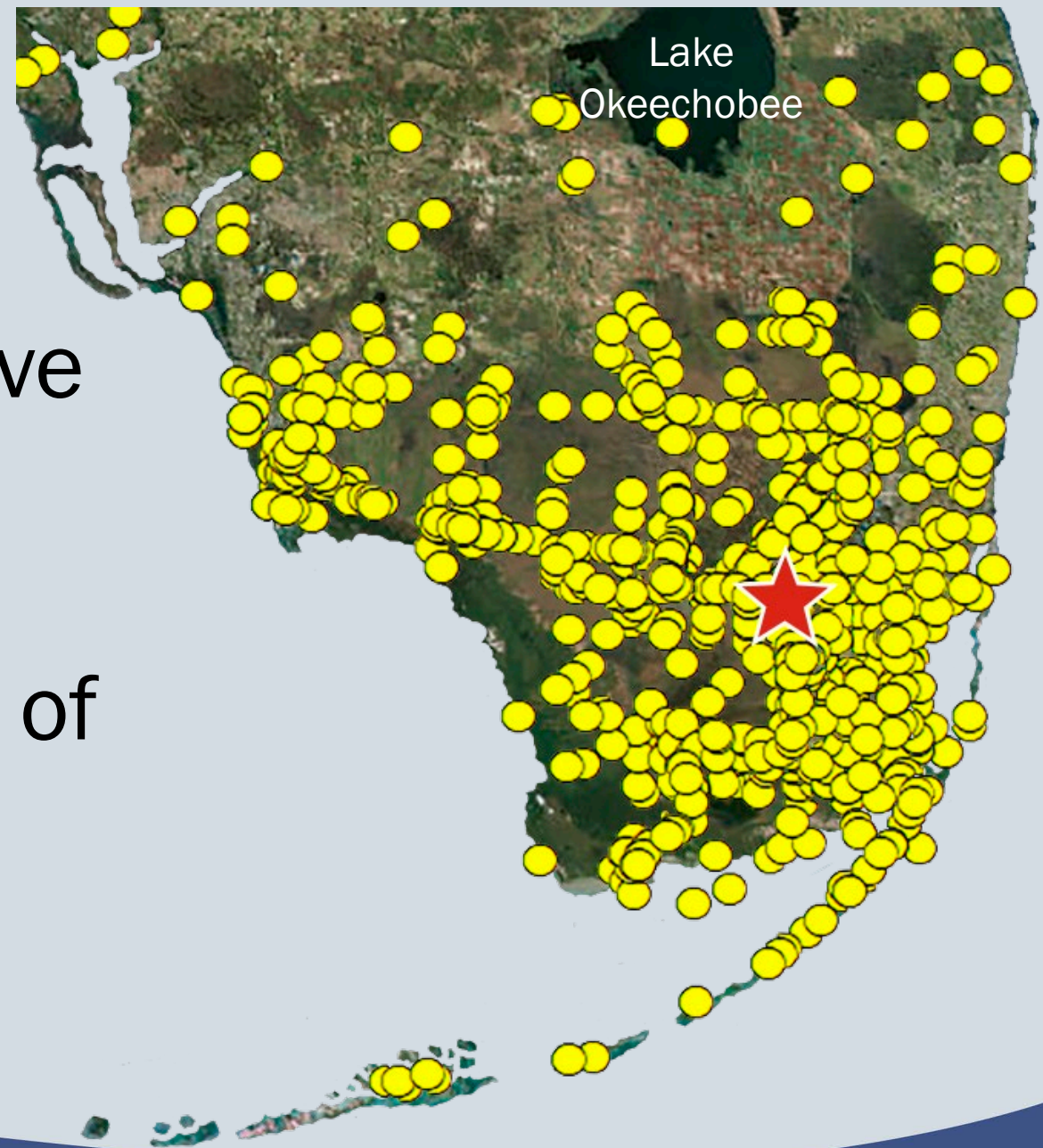
1979 - First Burmese python reported from Everglades National Park



2024 - Burmese pythons have been removed from many areas in Florida and are established in natural areas of South Florida

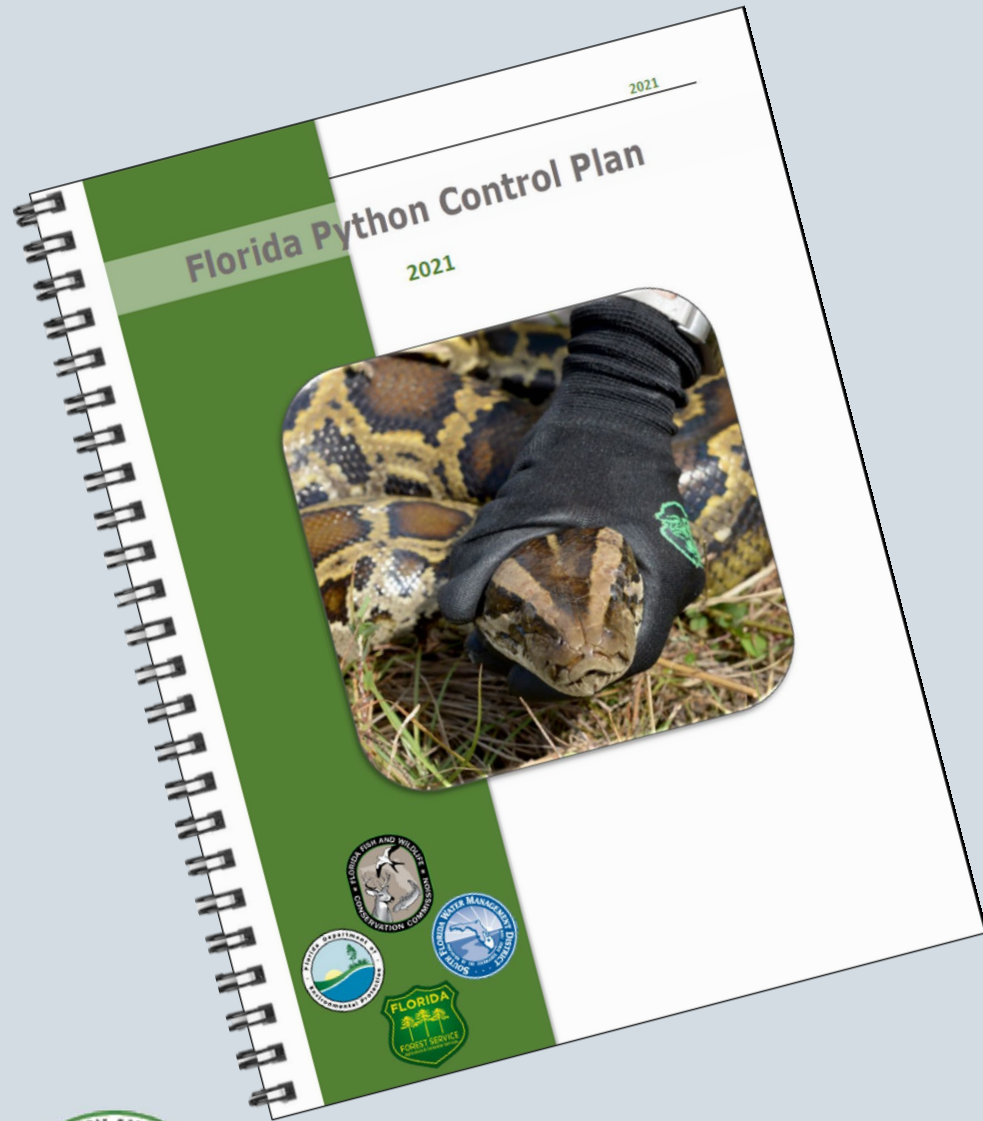


2023 - Burmese pythons have been removed from many areas in Florida and are established in natural areas of South Florida





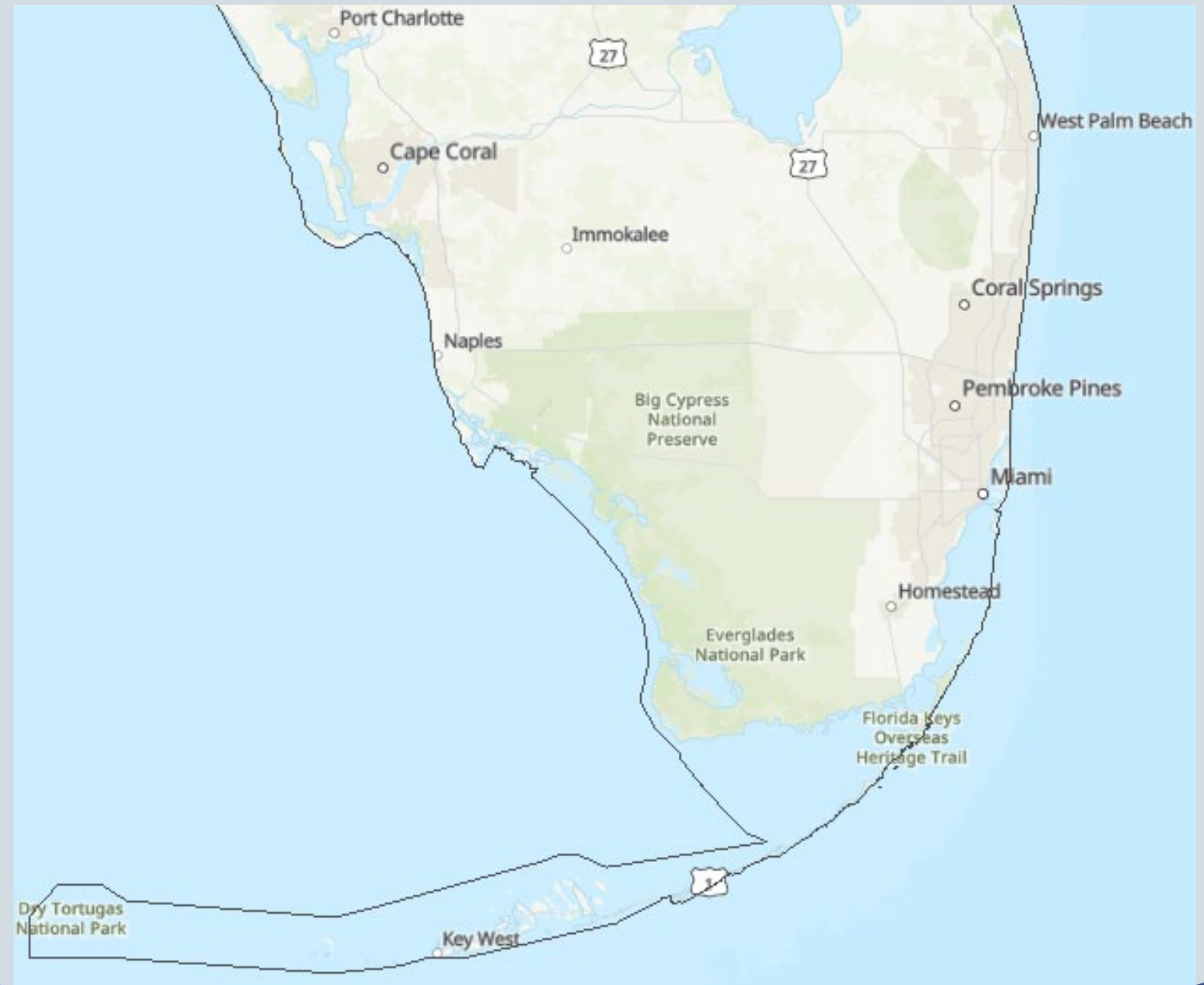
# Outline





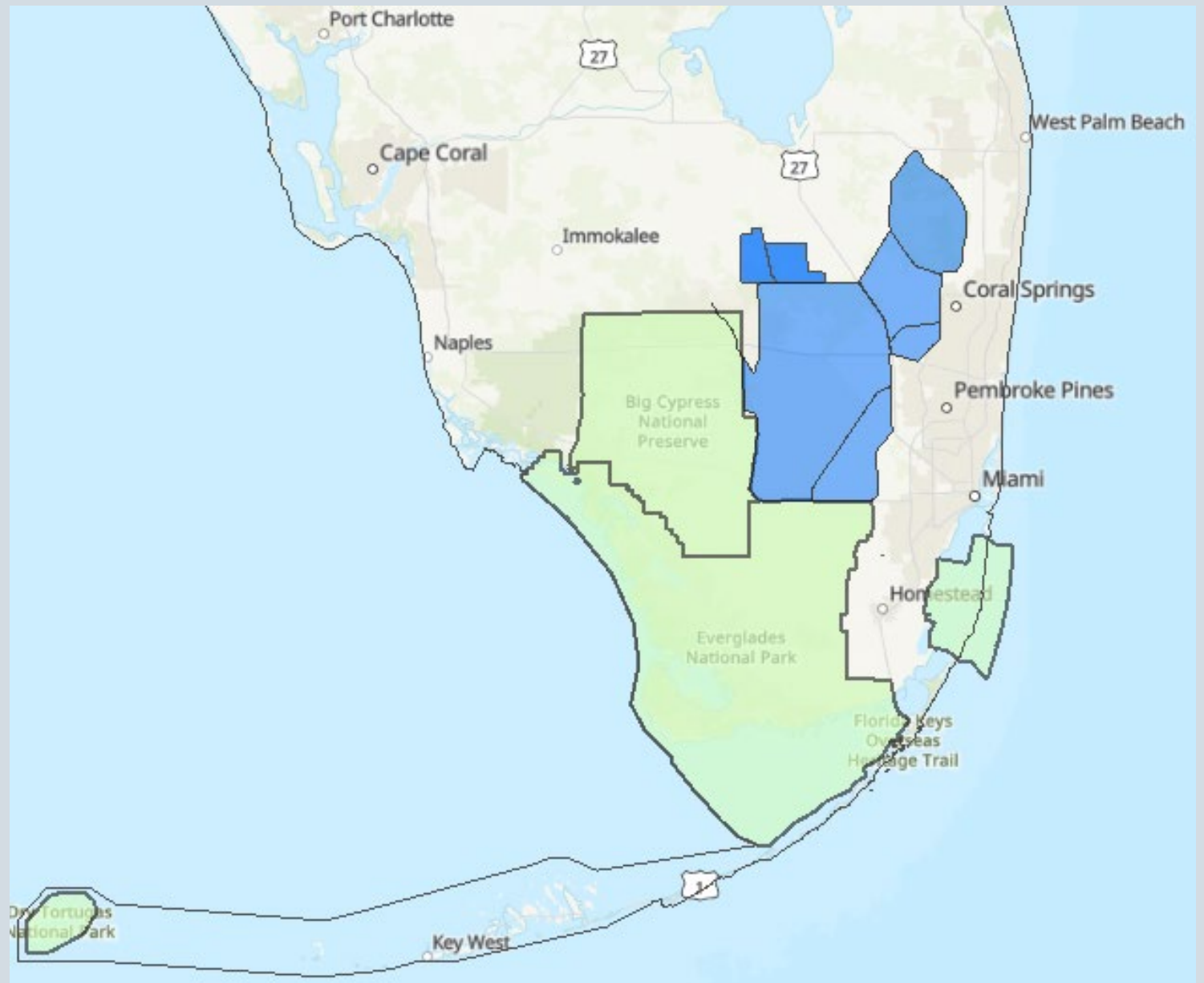
- 1) Background on Invasive Pythons
- 2) Interorganizational Collaboration
- 3) Background on the Creation of a Control Plan
- 4) Florida Python Control Plan



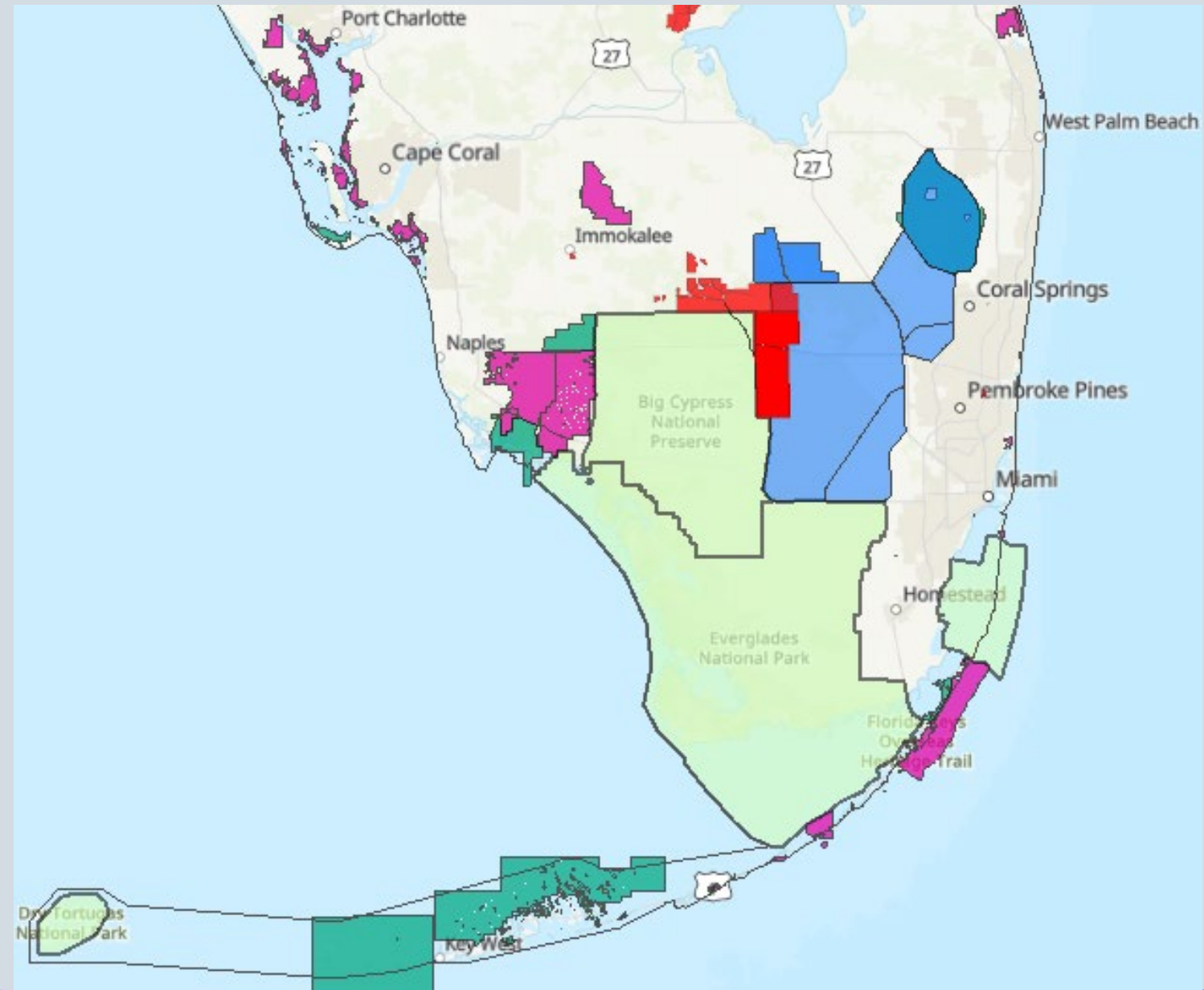
-  National Parks
-  State Parks
-  Tribal Land
-  FWC Managed
-  USFWS Refuges



-  National Parks
-  State Parks
-  Tribal Land
-  FWC Managed
-  USFWS Refuges



-  National Parks
-  State Parks
-  Tribal Land
-  FWC Managed
-  USFWS Refuges

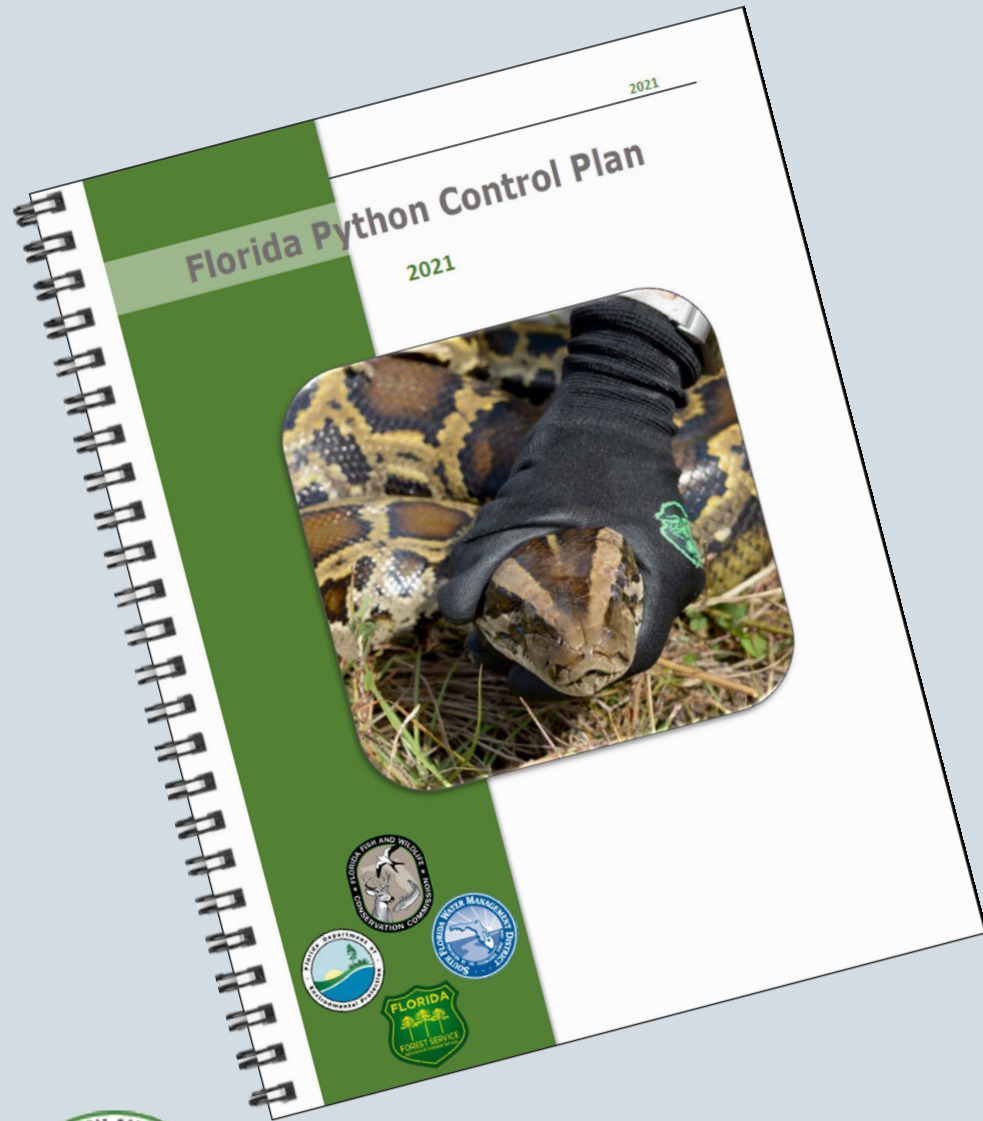




# Interorganizational Collaboration



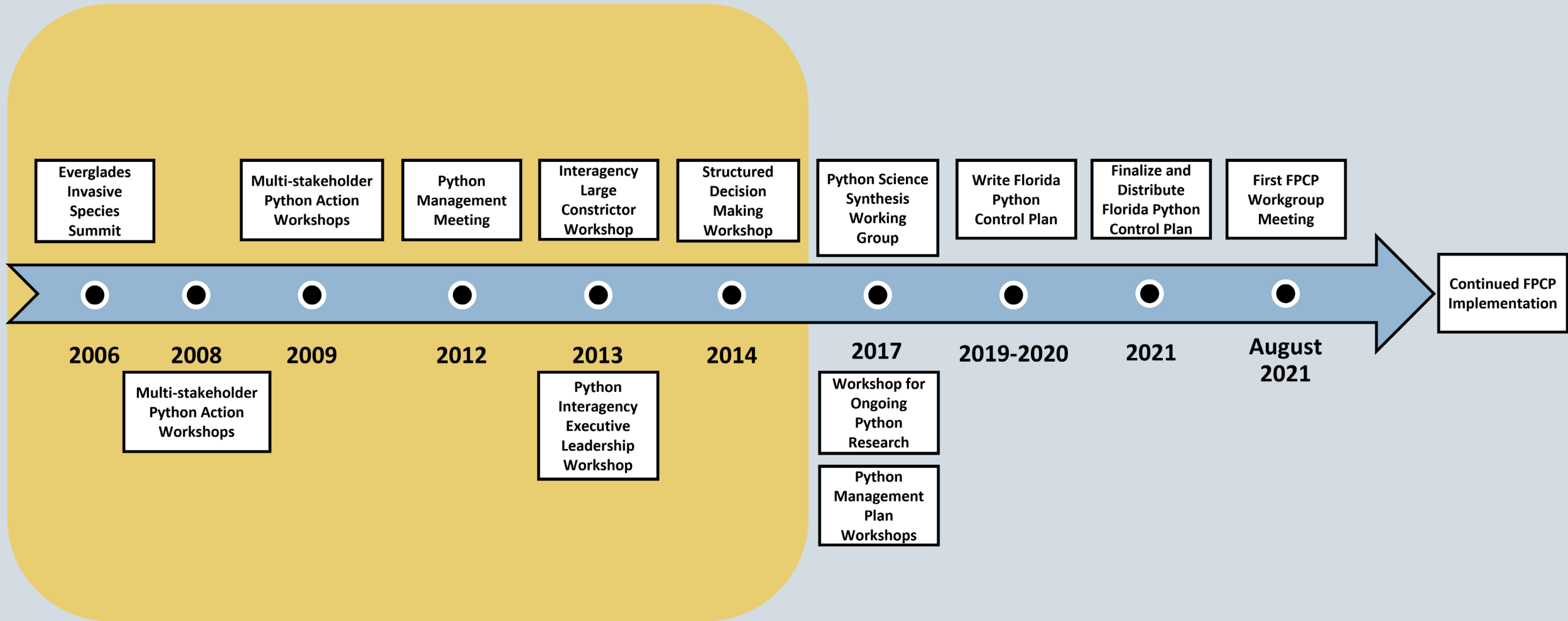
# Outline



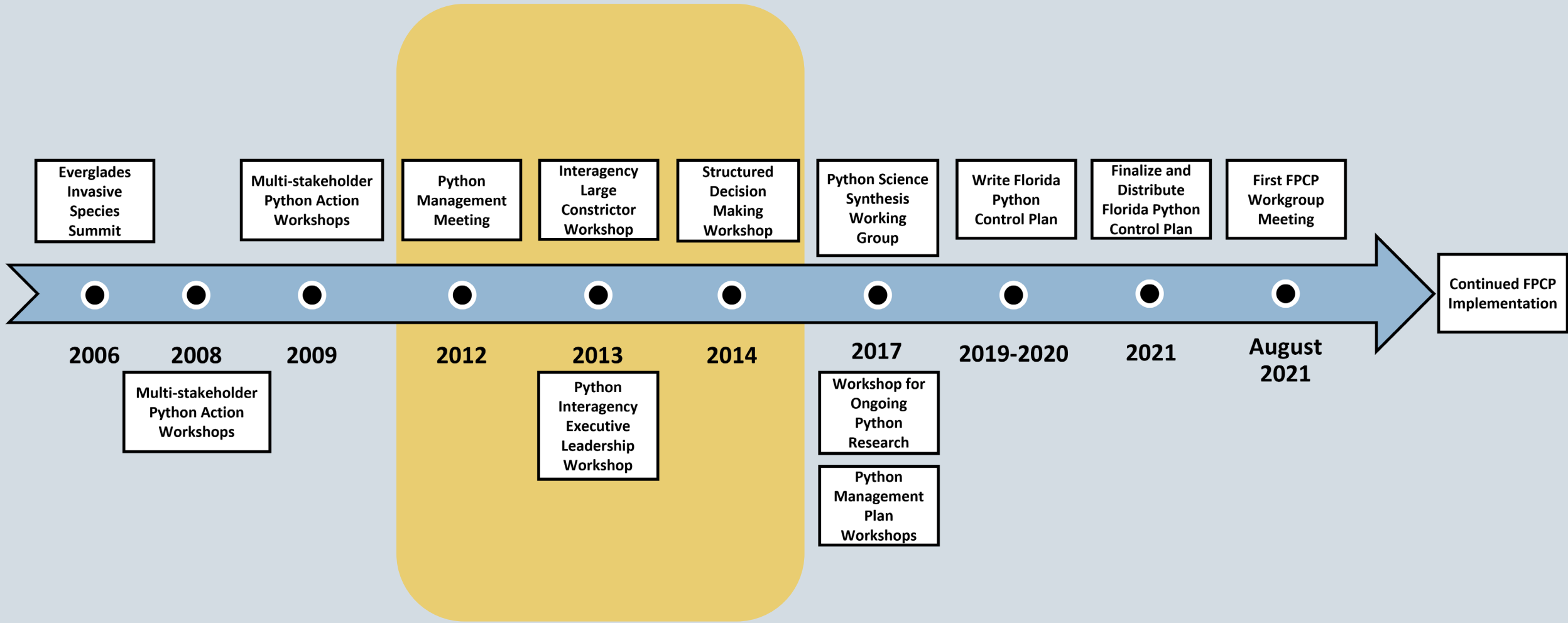
- 1) Background on Invasive Pythons
- 2) Interorganizational Collaboration
- 3) Background on the Creation of a Control Plan
- 4) Florida Python Control Plan



# Timeline of Events

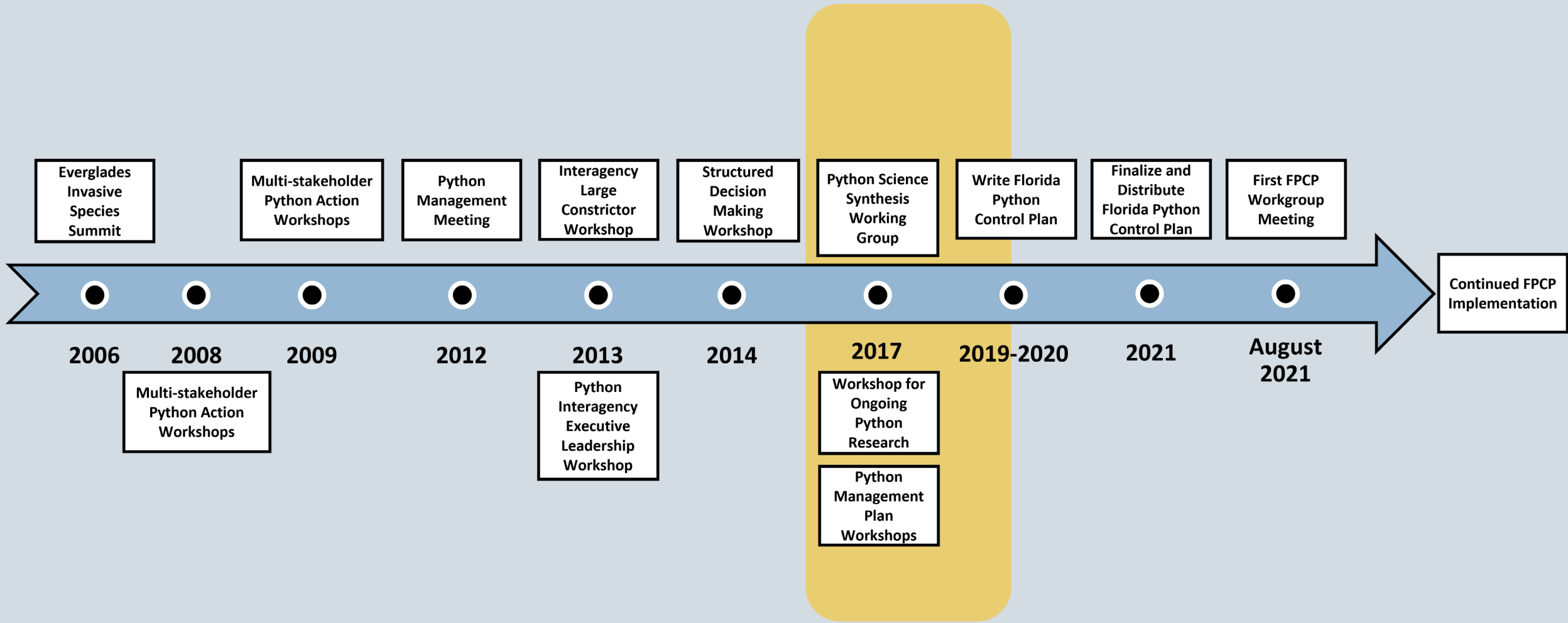


# Timeline of Events





# Timeline of Events



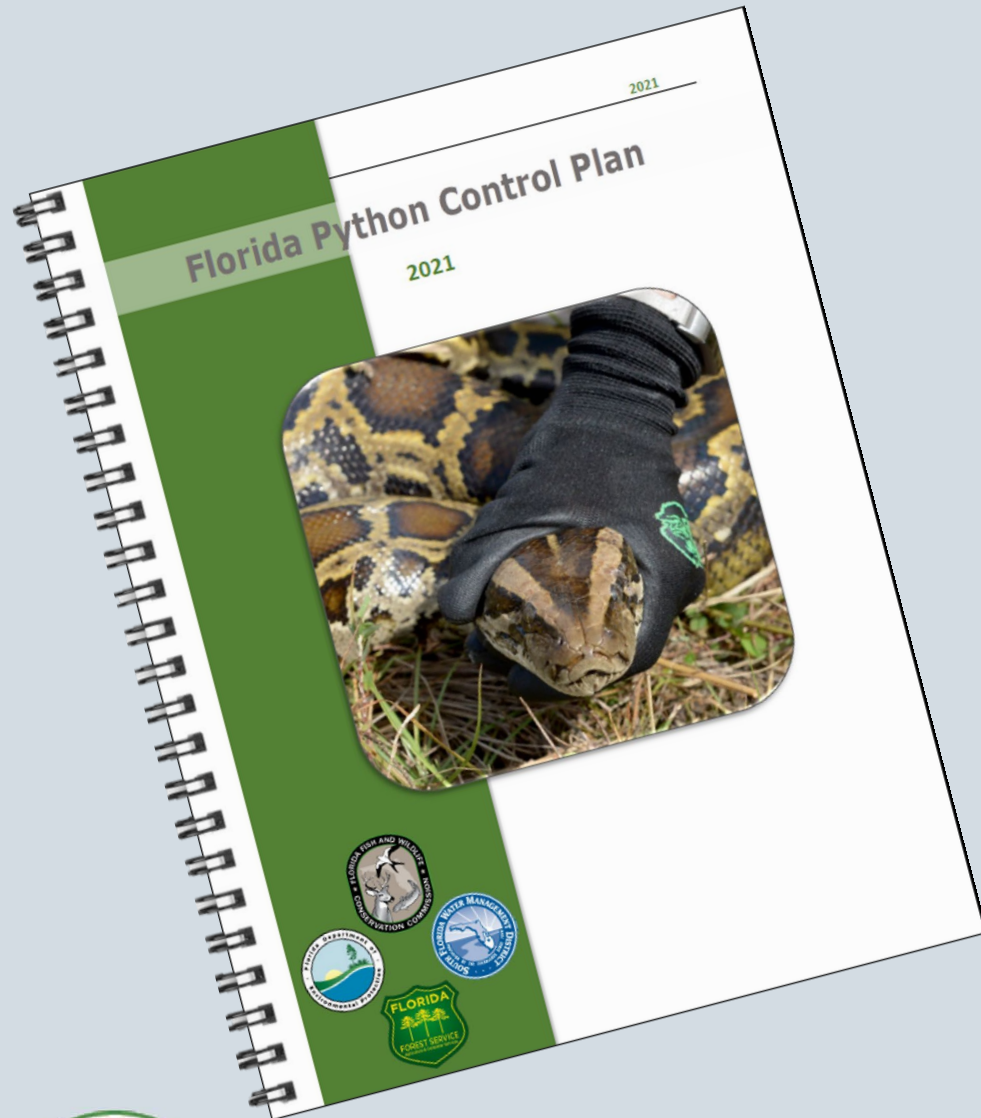
# Timeline of Events



	MEETING 1	MEETING 2
D1	WELCOME/INTRO TIMELINE EXPECTATIONS	WELCOME/INTRO THEME CONTENTS
D2	PRESENTATIONS BLUE WORLD / GREEN WORLD / YELLOW WORLD	TIMING /SCOPE /SPECIES AUDIENCE /PURPOSE GOALS /STRATEGIES
D3	PLAN ELEMENTS	



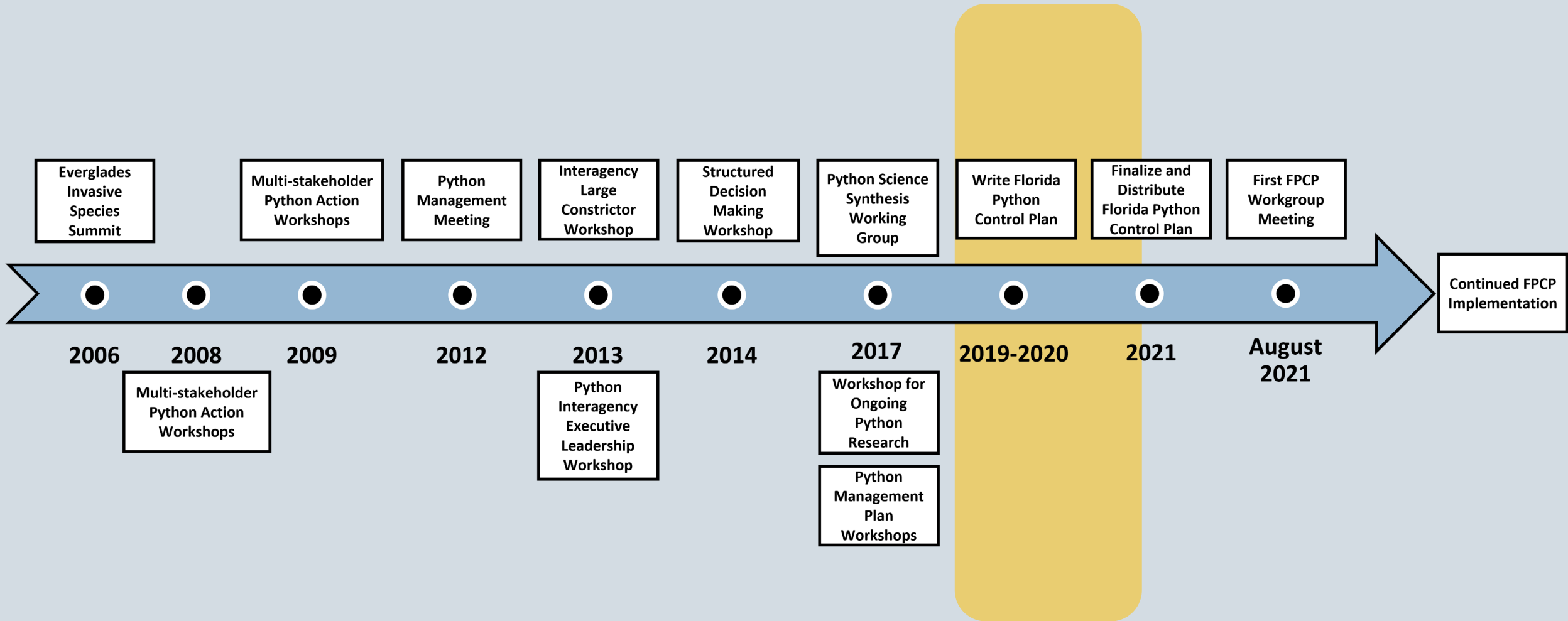
# Outline



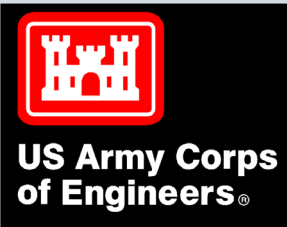
- 1) Background on Invasive Pythons
- 2) Interorganizational Collaboration
- 3) Background on the Creation of a Control Plan
- 4) Florida Python Control Plan



# FPCP Creation Timeline



# FPCP Partners



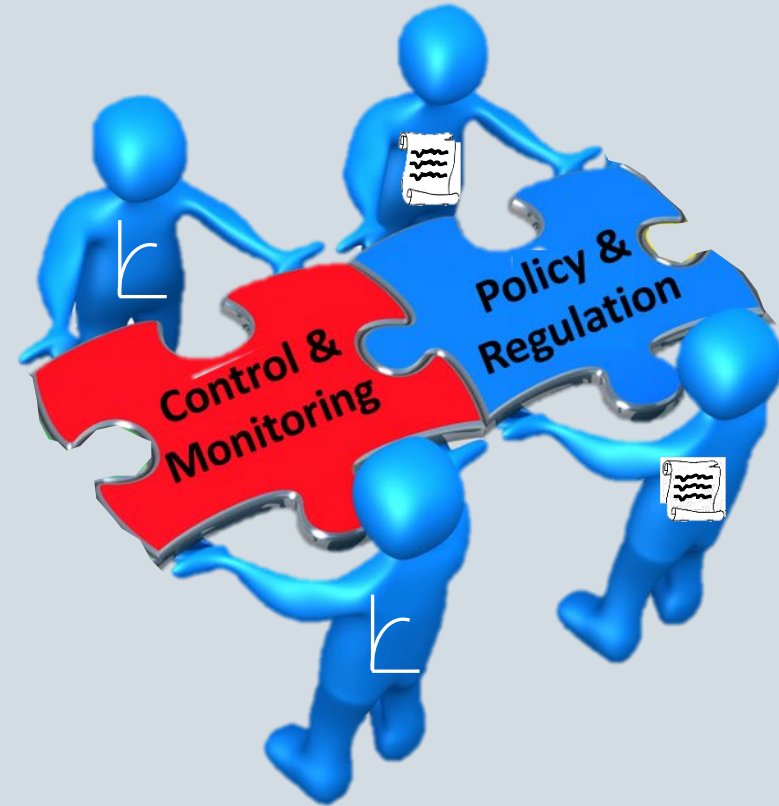
# Florida Python Control Plan

- Background of the invasion
- Python biology
- Control of pythons, four themes



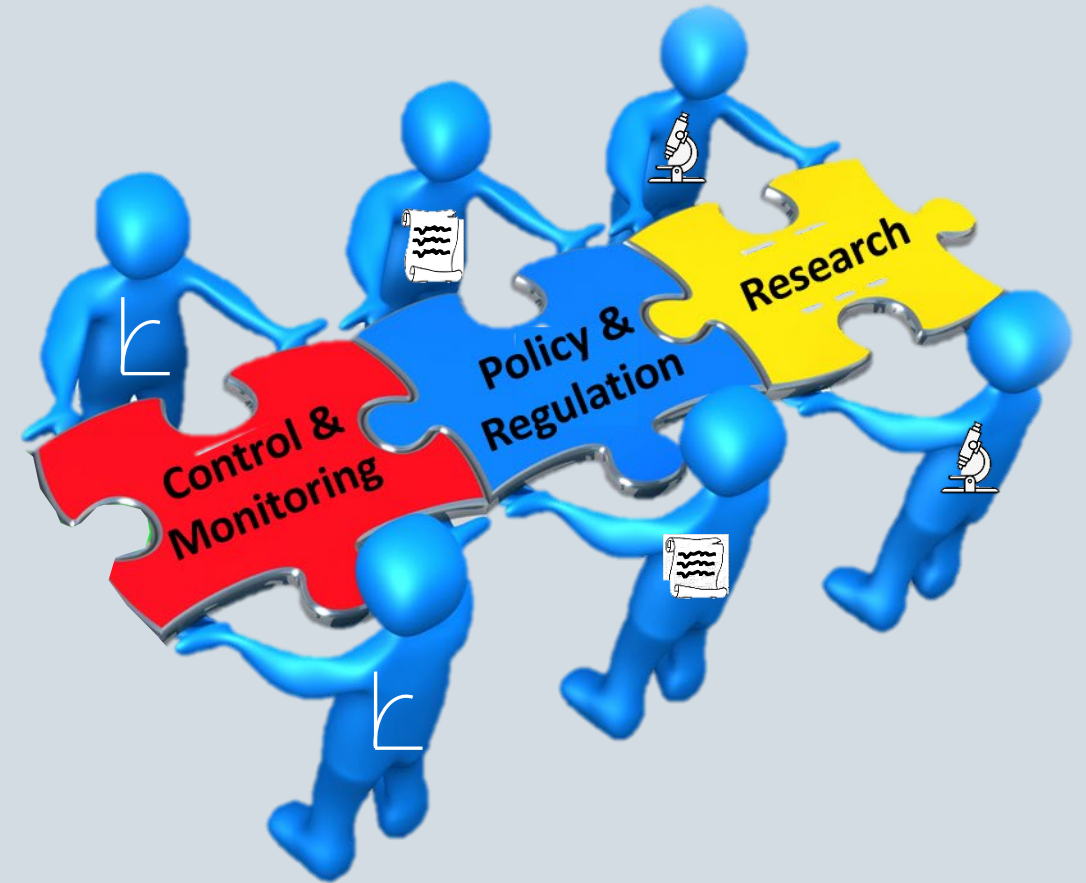
# Florida Python Control Plan

- Background of the invasion
- Python biology
- Control of pythons, four themes



# Florida Python Control Plan

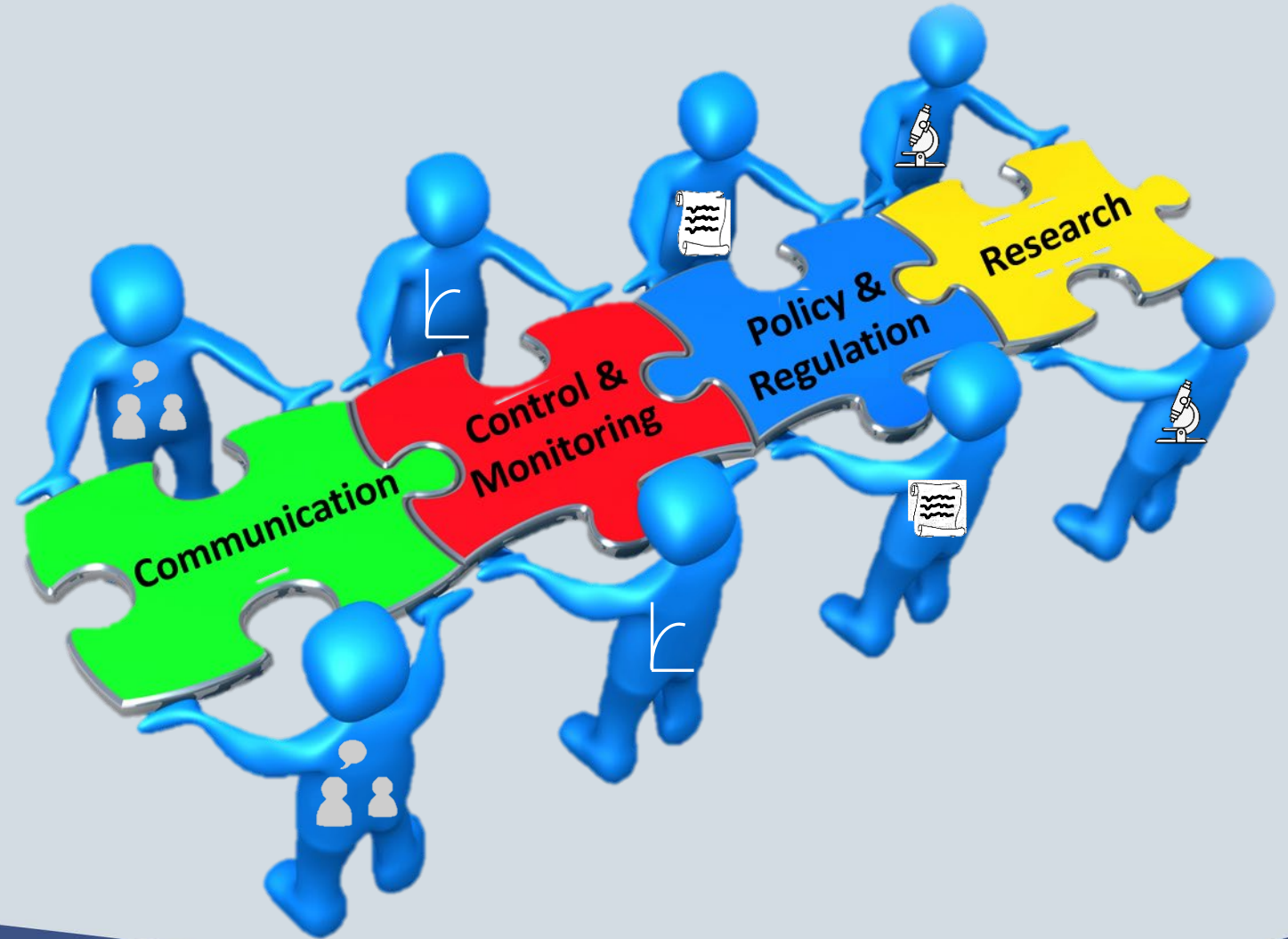
- Background of the invasion
- Python biology
- Control of pythons, four themes





# Florida Python Control Plan

- Background of the invasion
- Python biology
- Control of pythons, four themes

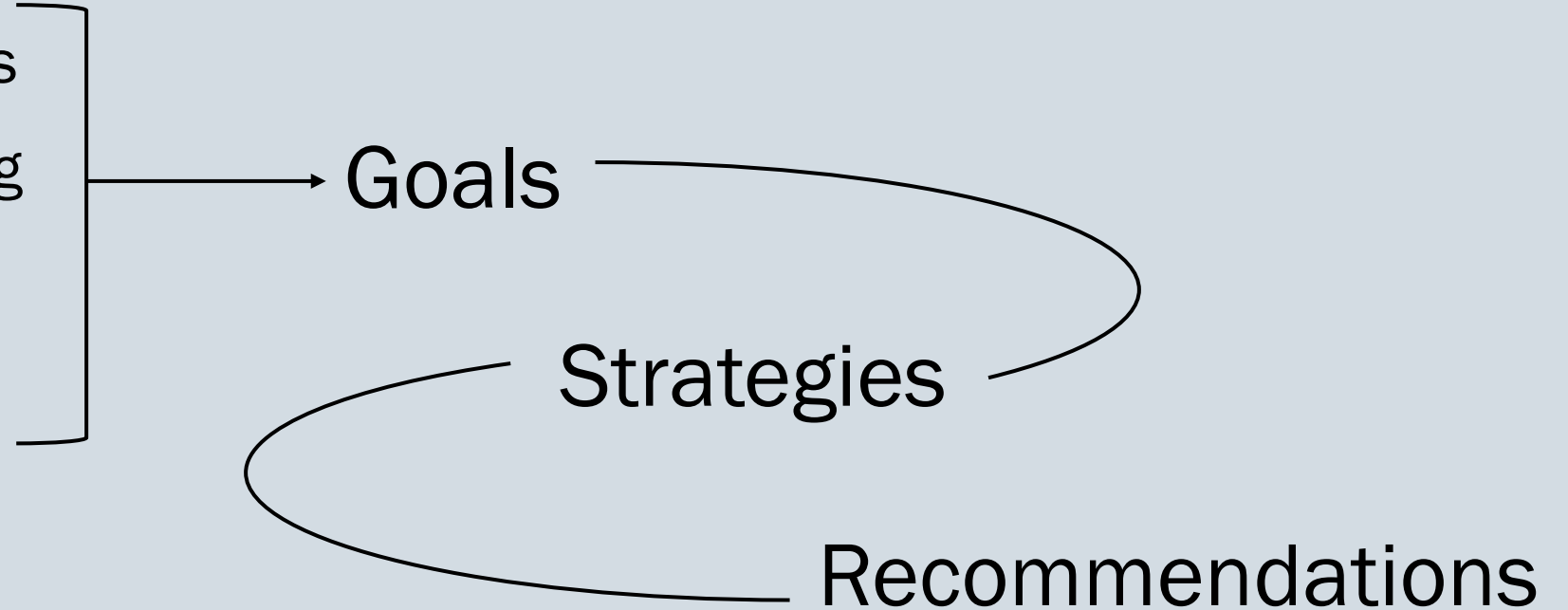


# Florida Python Control Plan



- Four Themes

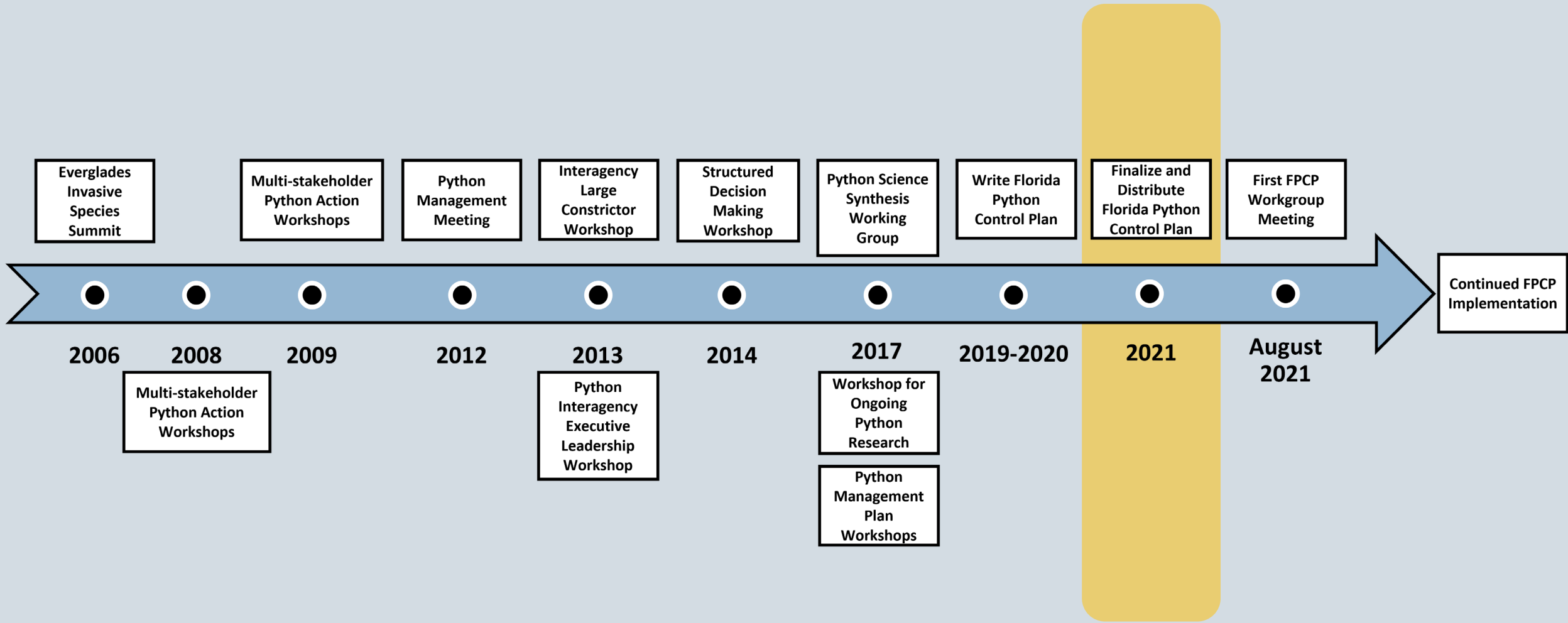
- 1) Policy and Regulations
- 2) Control and Monitoring
- 3) Research
- 4) Communication



## Section: Implementation

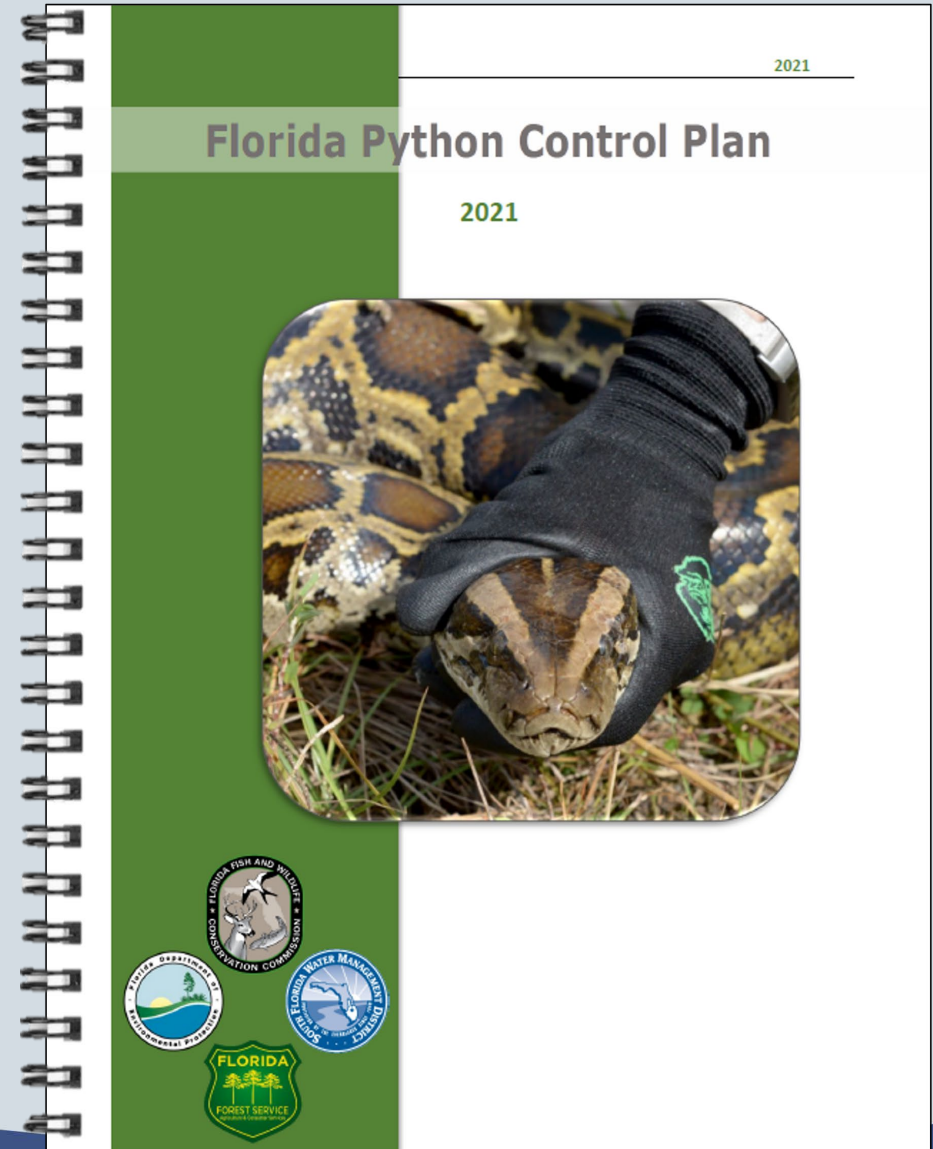


# FPCP Creation Timeline

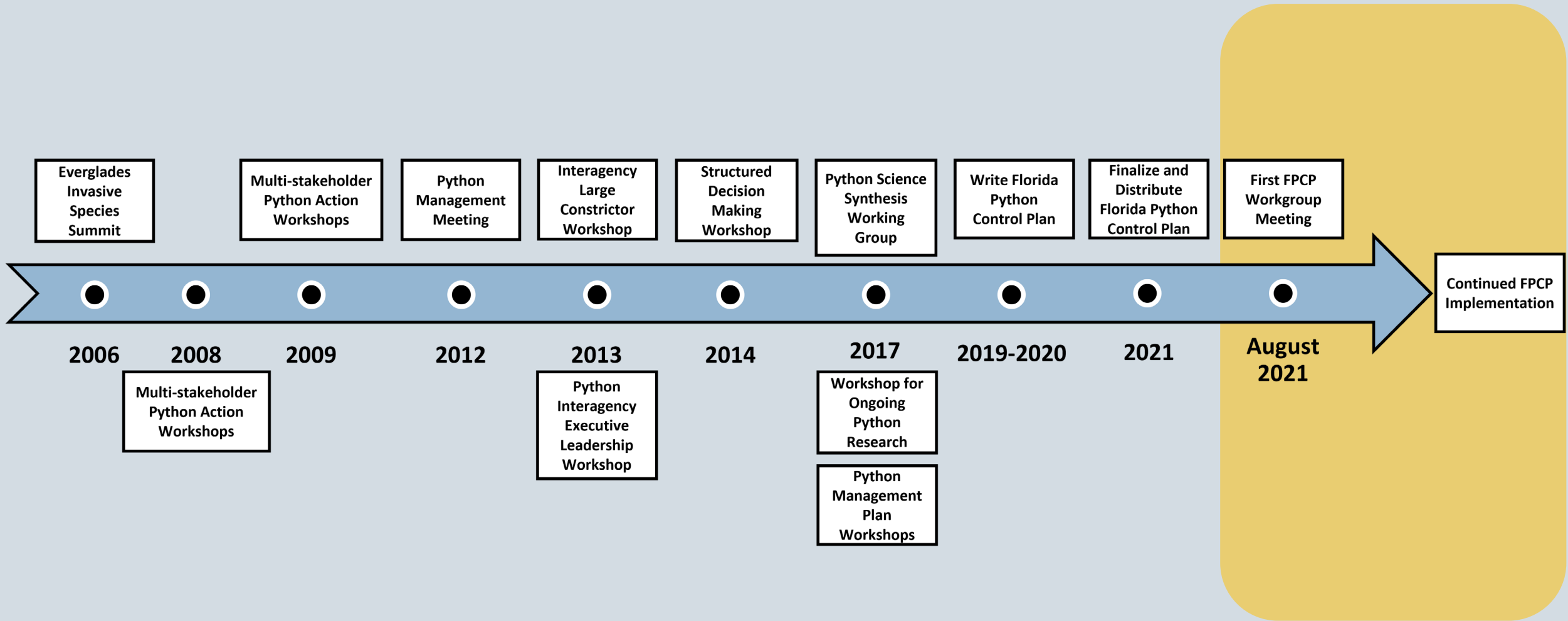


# FPCP Finalized

- Finalized in August 2021
- Signed by 4 state agencies
- 14 organizations joined the FPCP Workgroup initially



# FPCP Implementation



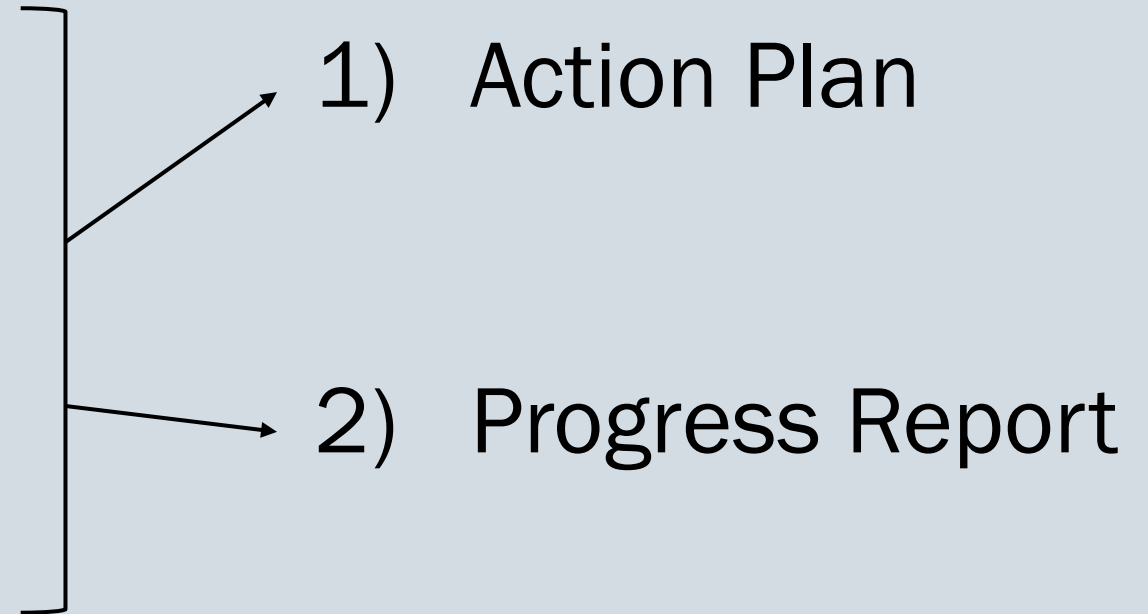
# Florida Python Control Plan



## Section: Implementation

### FPCP Workgroup

- 1) Build support
- 2) Coordinate support
- 3) Disseminate information
- 4) Prioritize efforts



# Florida Python Control Plan

## Implementation Action Plan



### Strategic Topics Identified

**1) Staffing and Related Resources**

**2) Population Estimates**

**3) Efficacy of Control**

**4) Innovative Tools and Technologies**

**5) Targeted Location Monitoring and Control**

**6) Information Sharing**

**7) Training**

**8) FPCP Distribution and Updates**



# FPCP Subgroups



Python Website  
Subgroup



Create FPCP Website  
[Flpythoninvasion.org](http://Flpythoninvasion.org)

Complete

Research  
Subgroup



Organize NAISMA Panel

Complete



Organize Researcher  
Manager Meeting

Complete





# Implementation Summary

- Meetings
  - Workgroup
  - Research Subgroup
  - Website Subgroup
- Action Items Completed
  - Implementation Plans
    - 2022 and 2023-24
  - Annual Report 2022
  - NAISMA Python Panel
  - FPCP Website: [Flpythoninvasion.org](https://flpythoninvasion.org)



**Florida Python Control**

Python Problem ▾ Get Involved ▾ Control & Research ▾ Outreach & Education ▾ Milestones ▾ Resources ▾

Welcome to the [Florida Python Control Plan \(FPCP\)](#) website, an interorganizational website consisting of management and research information and updates from a variety of organizations including federal, state and local agencies, tribes and non-governmental organizations.

[Burmese pythons](#) (*Python molurus bivittatus*) are large constrictor snakes native to Southeast Asia that have been introduced to southern Florida through the accidental escape or intentional release of captive animals.





Questions?

## Summary

- Interorganizational cooperation is key to python control
- 2006: Organized python discussions began
- 2017: Started workshopping control plan ideas
- 2019-2021: FPCP written
- 2021-Present: FPCP implementation

If you have a question or request for materials, email me.

[Flpythoninvasion.org](mailto:Flpythoninvasion.org)



[McKayla.Spencer@myFWC.com](mailto:McKayla.Spencer@myFWC.com)

Submit Questions or Material Requests Below:



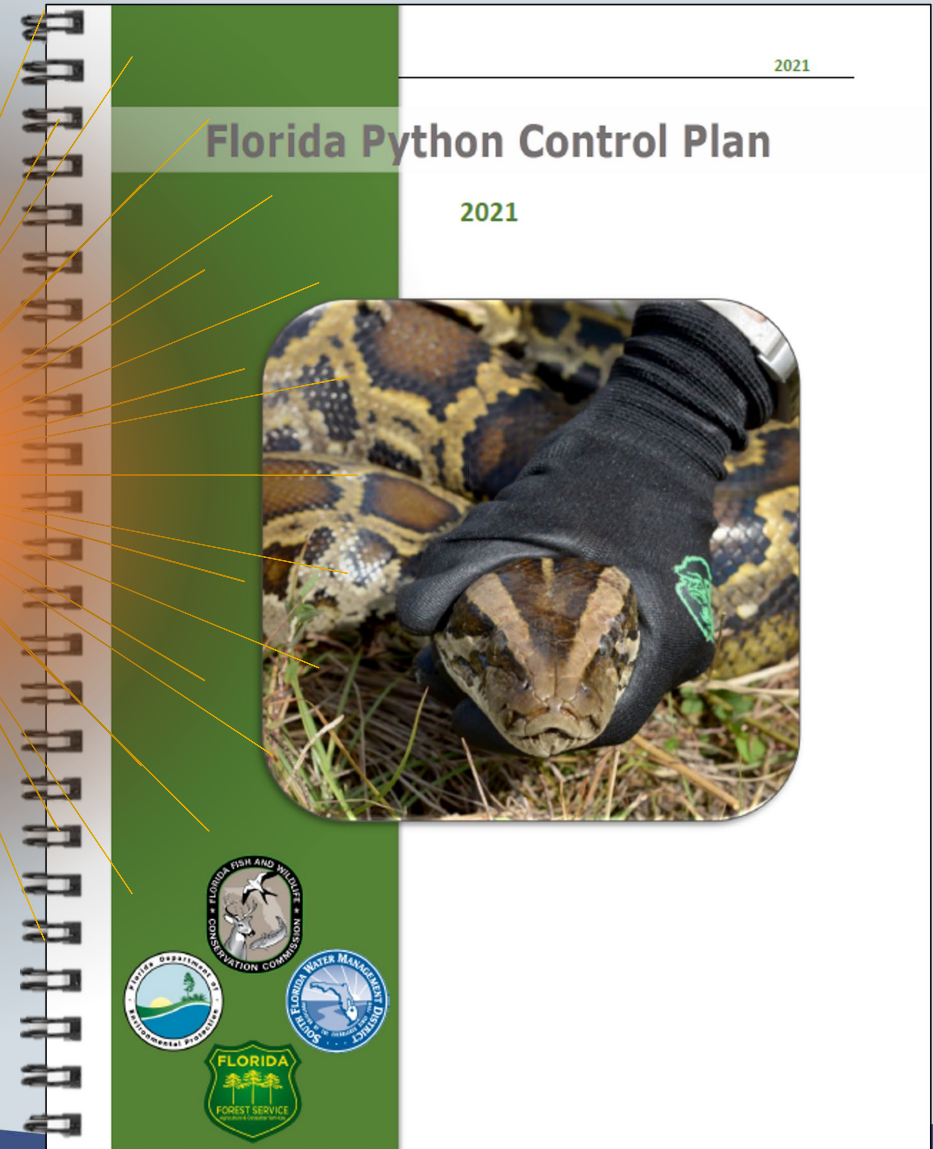
## Summary



- Interorganizational cooperation is key to python control
- 2006: Organized python discussions began
- 2017: Started workshopping control plan ideas
- 2019-2021: FPCP written
- 2021-Present: FPCP implementation

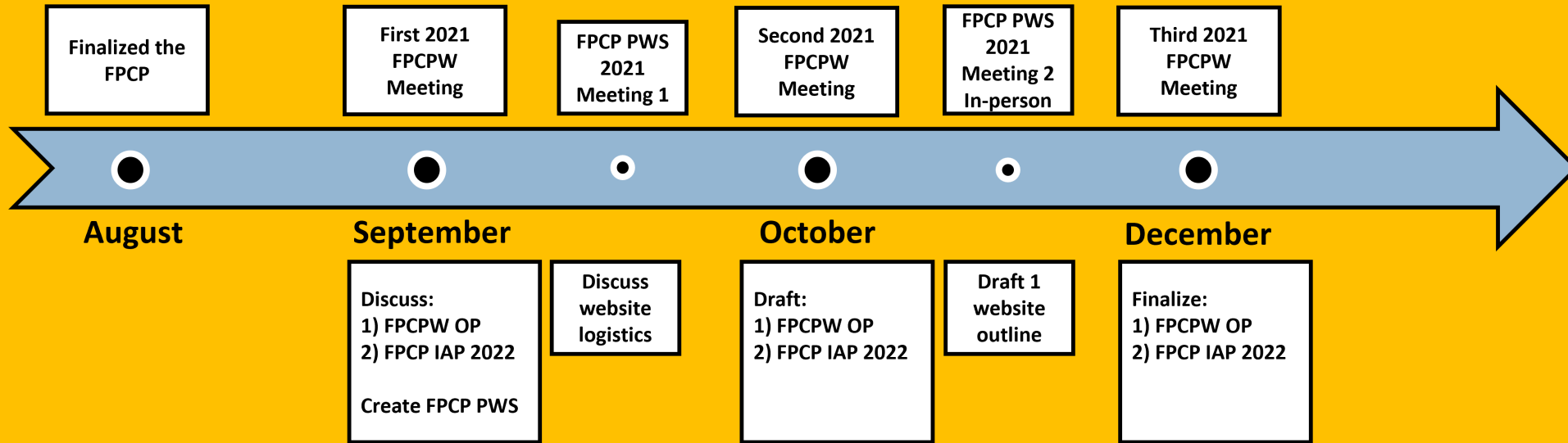
# FPCP Finalized

- Finalized in August 2021
- Signed by 4 state agencies
- 14 organizations joined the FPCP Workgroup



# FPCP Implementation 2021 and 2022

2021



2022

