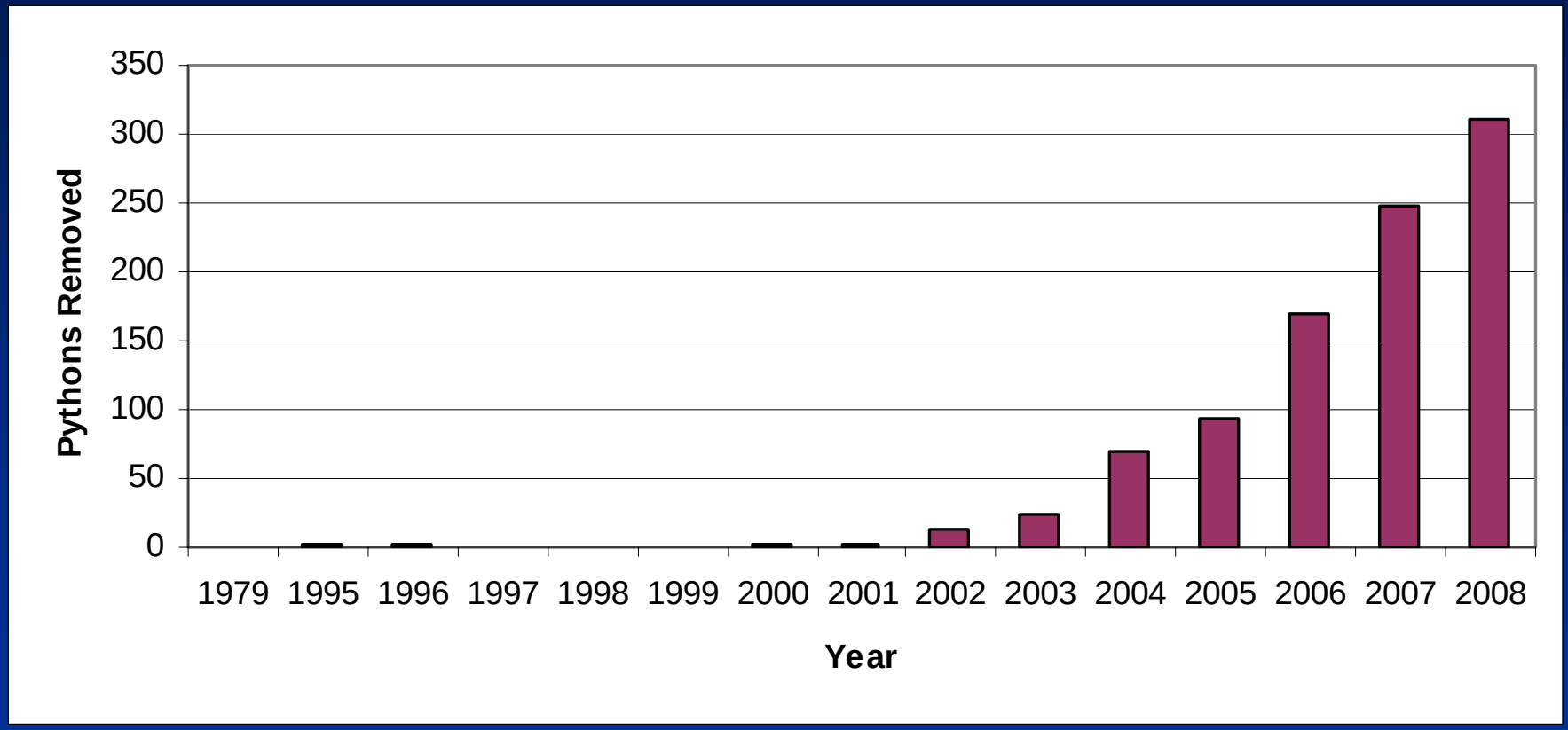
Disposable Pets, Unwanted Giants: Getting a Grip on Pythons in the Glades

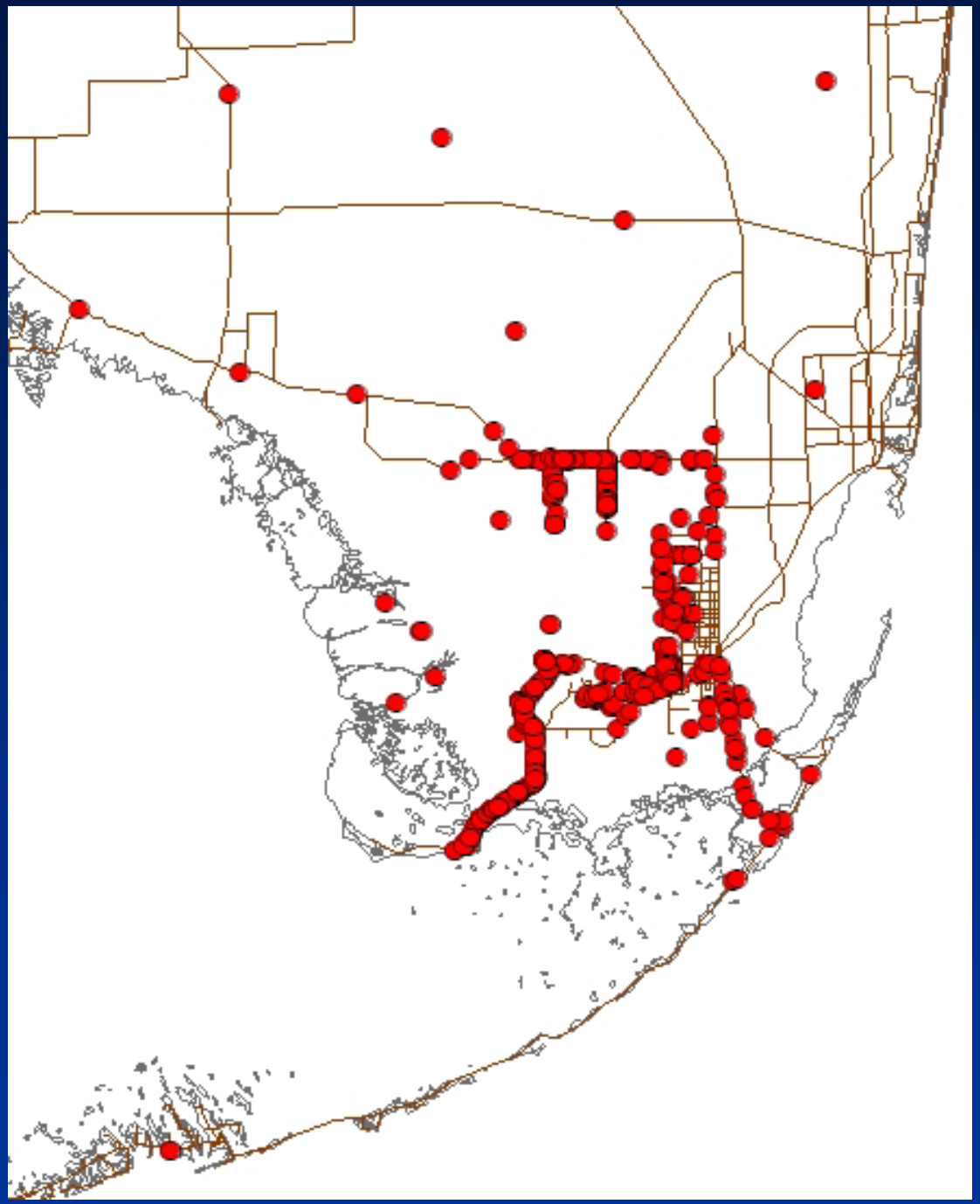
10 December 2008
Python Workshop

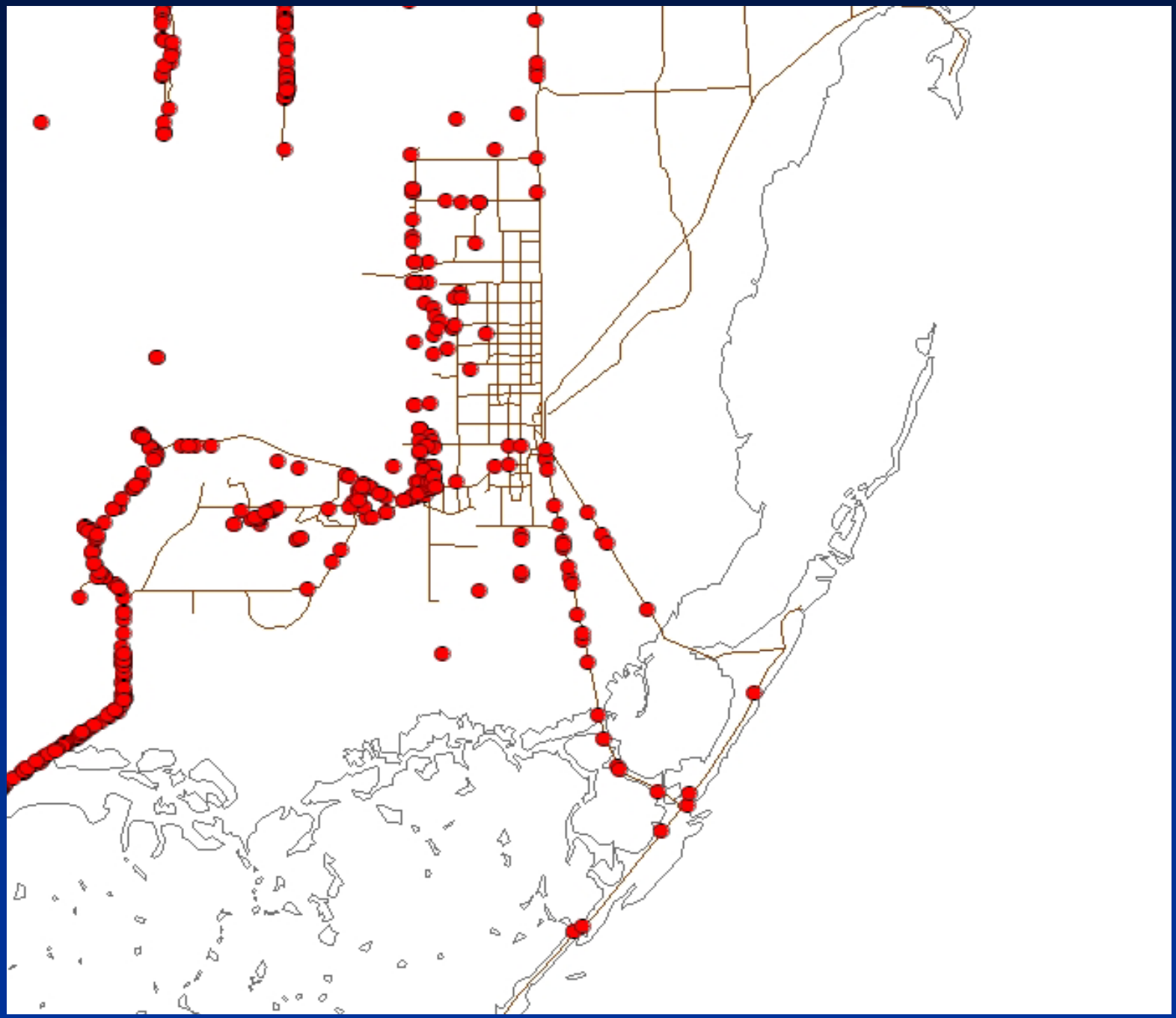
Ray W. “Skip” Snow,
Michael S. Cherkiss, Matthew L. Brien,
Frank J. Mazzotti, Alexander Wolf, Brian Greeves,
Michael R. Rochford,, Kenneth G. Rice, Michael E. Dorcas,
Laurie Wilkins, Gordon H. Rodda, Robert N. Reed, and Carla J. Dove

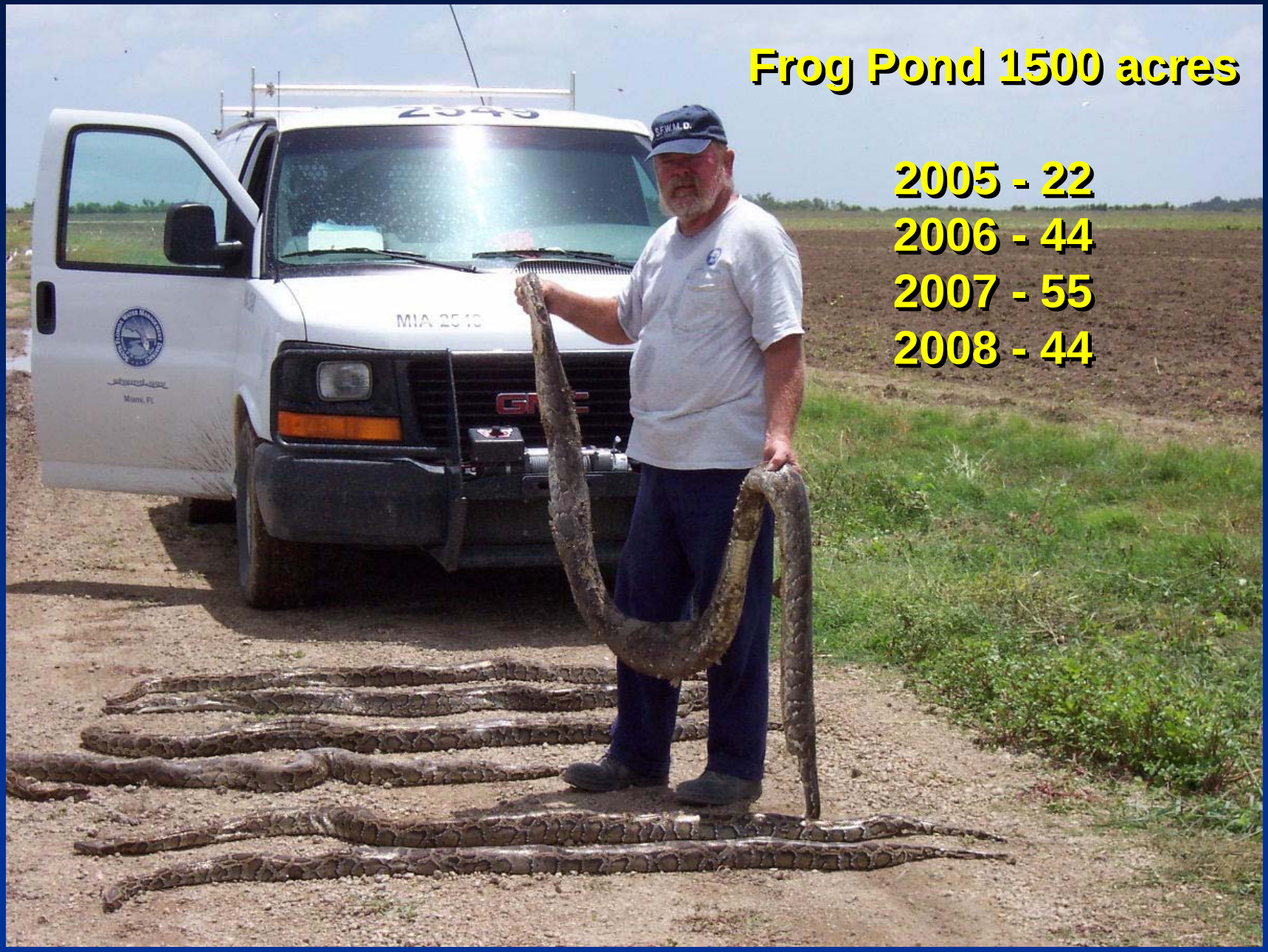
Pythons Removed *

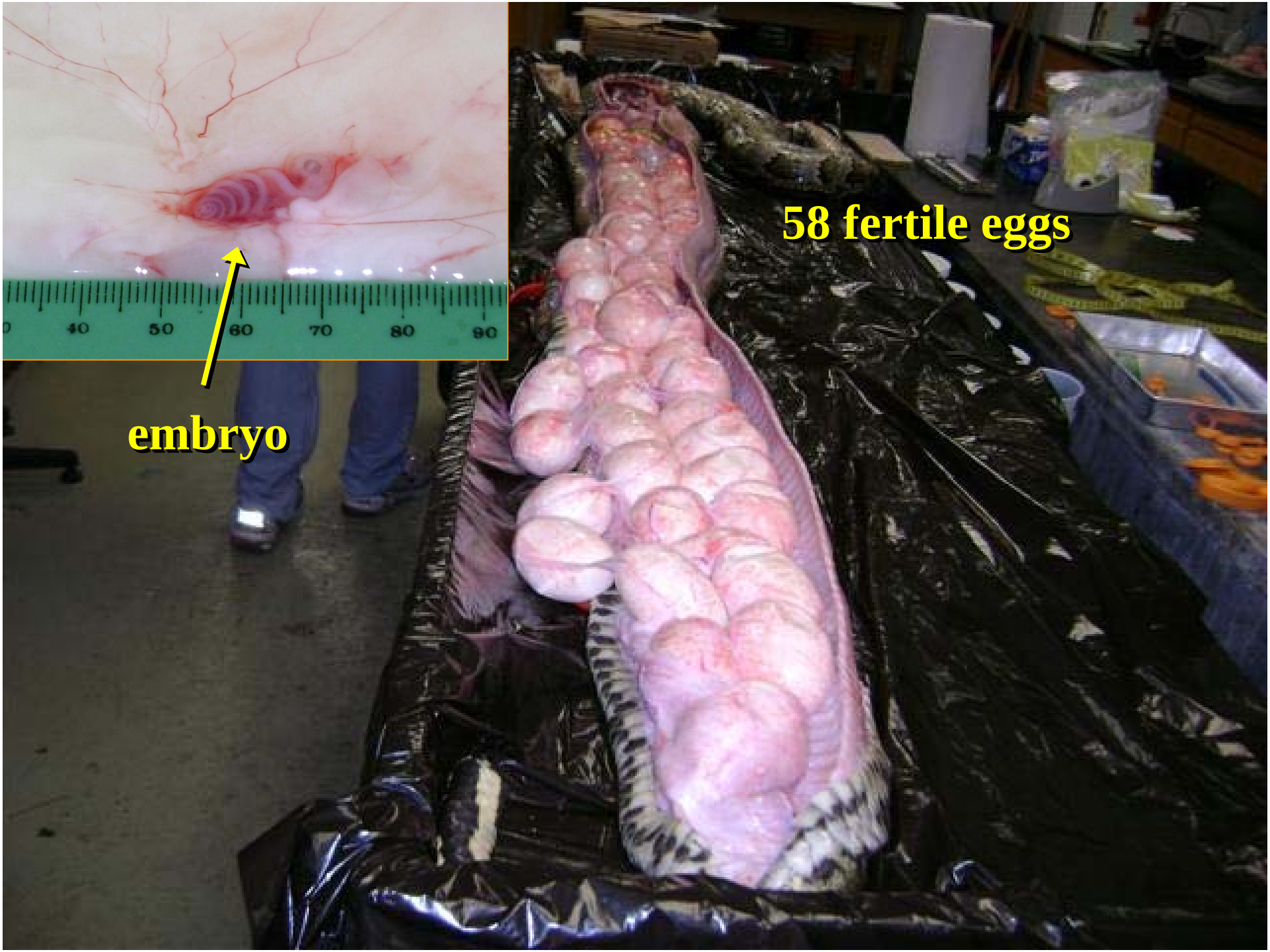


*** As of 9 December 2008**






Frog Pond 1500 acres
2005 - 22
2006 - 44
2007 - 55
2008 - 44


58 fertile eggs
embryo

Mammal prey items found inside pythons

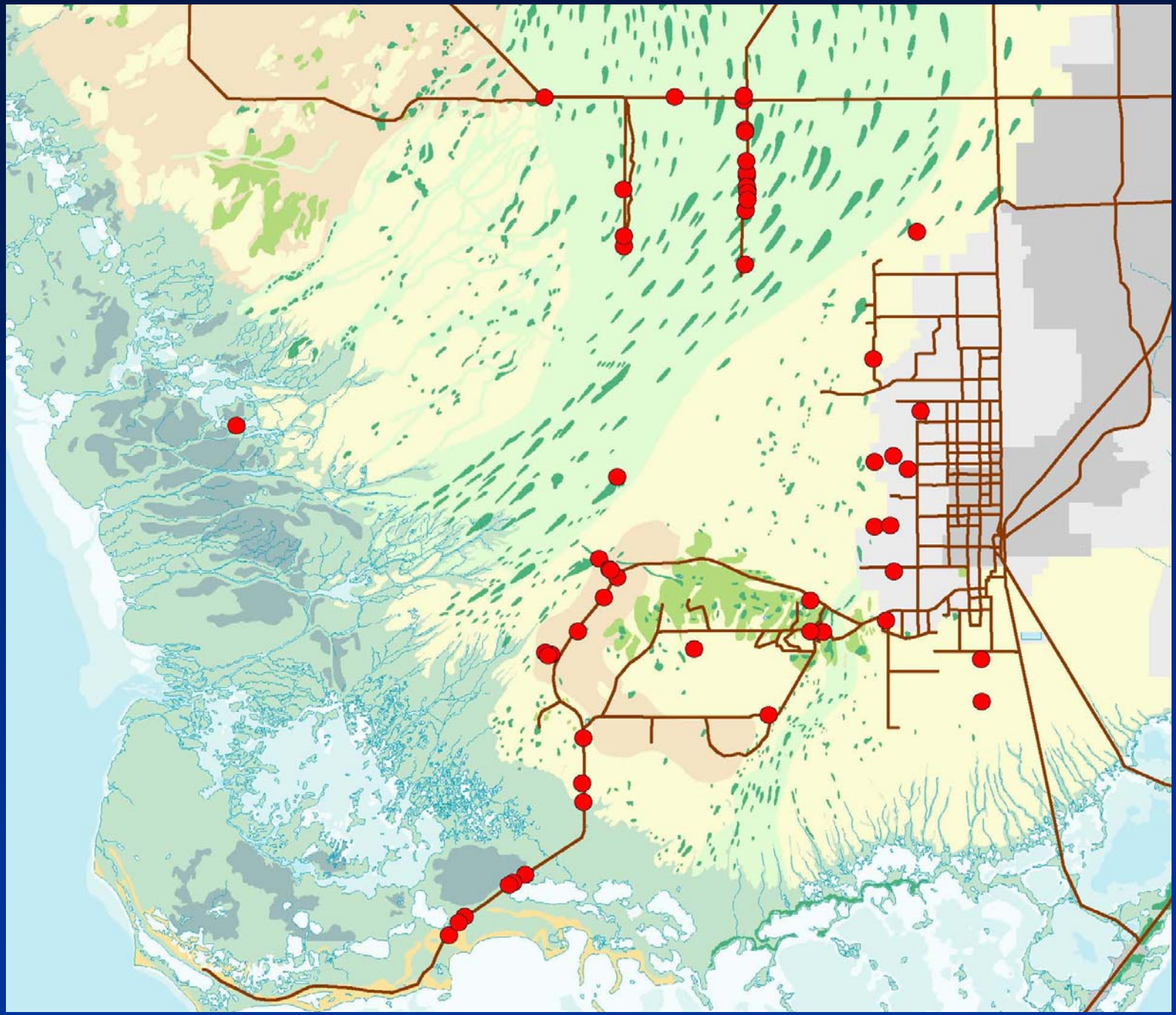
Hispid Cotton Rat
Old World Rats
Round-tailed Muskrat
Rabbits

Raccoon
Key Largo Woodrat →
Opossum
Tree Squirrel
Whit-tailed Deer
Bobcat
Cotton Mouse
Domestic Cat
Marsh Rice Rat
Fox Squirrel
Otter

Bird prey items found inside pythons

Limpkin
Pied-billed Grebe
King Rail
White Ibis ⟶
American Coot
Clapper Rail
Unidentified Rails

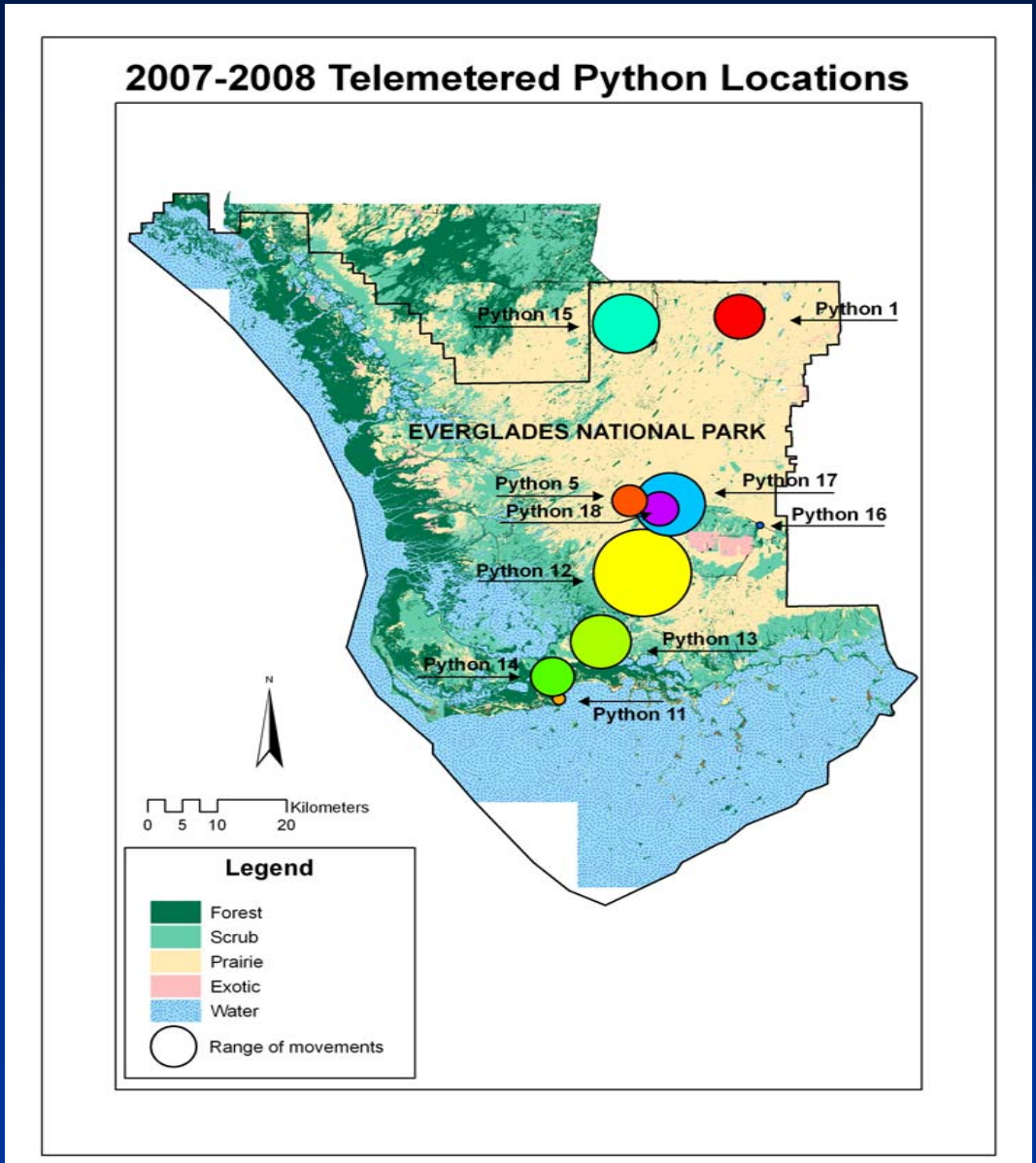
Anhinga
Purple Gallinule
Great Blue Heron
Red-winged Blackbird
Virginia Rail
Great Egret
Magnificent Frigatebird
House Wren
Little Blue Heron
Snowy Egret
Blue-winged Teal
Common Moorehen
Wood Stork
Whimbrel
Sora
Eastern Meadowlark
Domestic Rooster



Radio Telemetry

On several occasions radio tagged pythons released within Everglades National Park have led us to aggregations of untagged pythons; which were captured and removed.

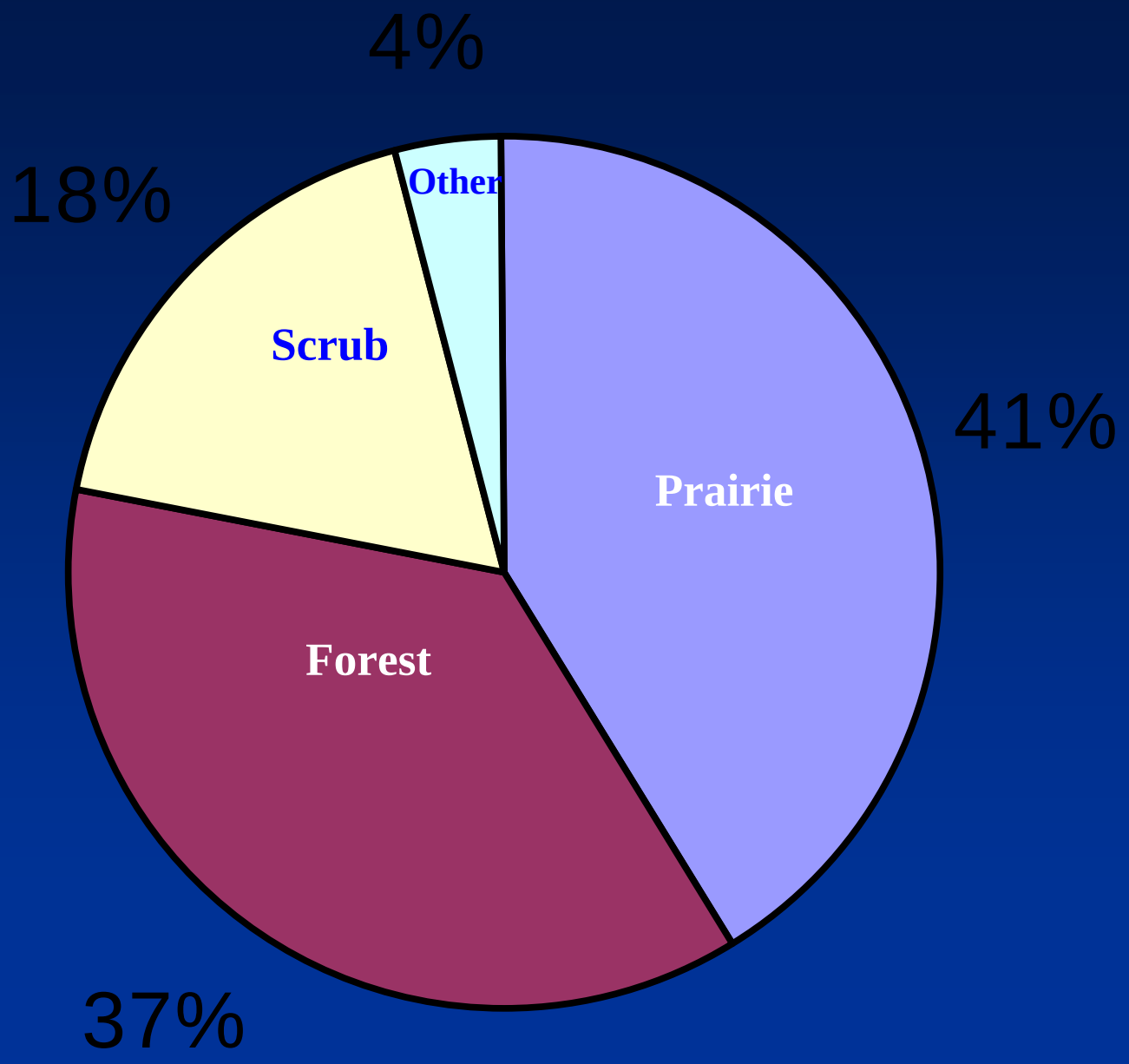
Non-Translocated Pythons



Summary of movements made by telemetered pythons between Oct 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008.

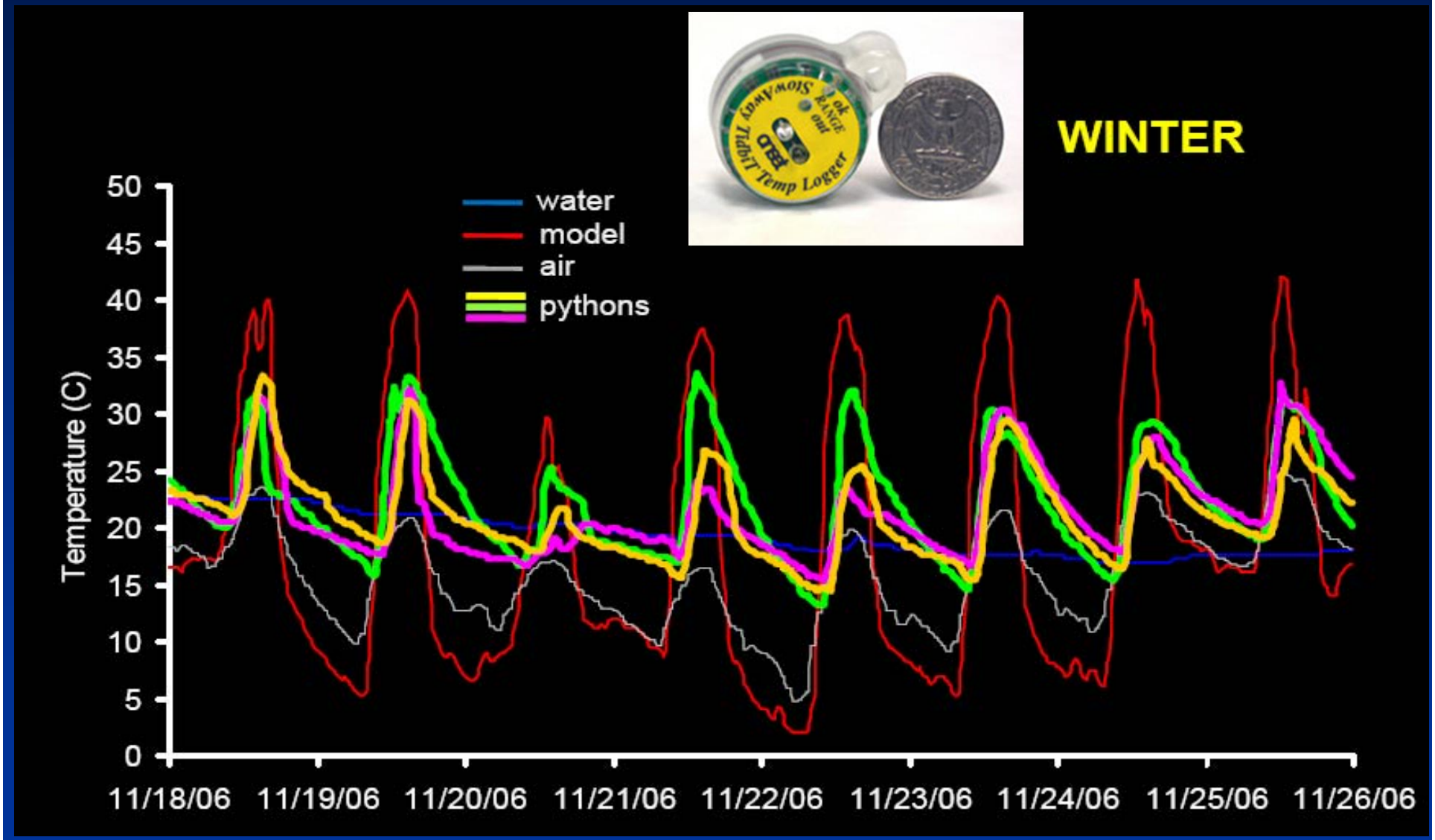
Python #	# obs	Days tracked	Total distance (m)	Mean distance (m/d)	Min (m/d)	Max (m/d)
13	41	320	26,745	88	0	297
12	50	329	26,190	73	1	399
17	27	203	22,796	110	1	322
15	28	195	19,843	106	0	413
14	25	173	14,671	96	8	423
5	30	162	10,676	71	4	349
1	14	103	9,099	81	22	247
18	4	40	4,887	139	29	269

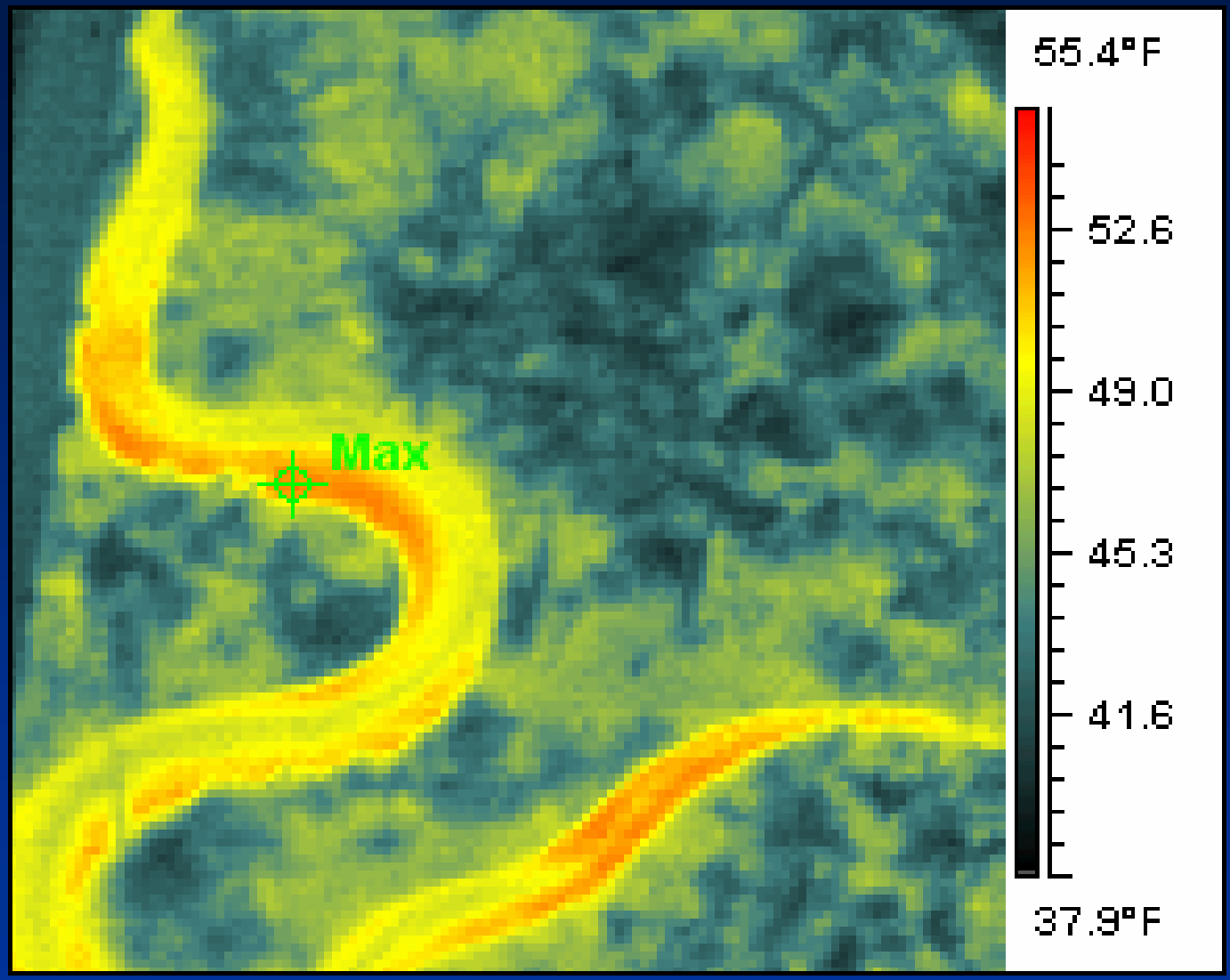
Habitat Use by Telemetered Pythons Oct 1, 2007- Sept 30, 2008



Monitoring python body temperatures can help us understand activity patterns and habitat use to develop more effective control methods

WINTER




55.4°F
52.6
49.0
45.3
41.6
37.9°F
Max

Trap Prototypes

www.FloridaInvaders.org

Acknowledgments

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Visitors to Everglades National Park
Park Staff