

## Questions and Answers

### Python Elimination Program

#### What is the Python Elimination Program?

The Program for Elimination of Pythons from South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Lands is designed to incentivize selected members of the public to locate and remove target species on designated properties and rights-of-way in Miami-Dade, Broward, Collier and Palm Beach counties.

#### Why is the District trying to remove pythons?

Pythons are non-native, invasive snakes that are established and spreading throughout South Florida. These giant constrictors pose direct threats to humans and native wildlife. Pythons cause significant impacts to native prey, such as marsh rabbits, deer, wading birds and even alligators. Their aggressive predation on native prey robs native predators, such as panthers, raptors, alligators and bobcats, of their primary food sources.

#### What are the target species?

- Burmese Python (*Python bivittatus*)
- Northern African Python (*Python sebae sebae*)
- Reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*)
- Southern African Python (*Python sebae natalensis*)
- Amethystine/Scrub Python (*Morelia amethystina*)
- Boa Constrictor (*Boa constrictor*)
- Yellow Anaconda (*Eunectes notaeus*)
- Green Anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*)
- Beni Anaconda (*Eunectes beniensis*)
- DeSchauensee's Anaconda (*Eunectes deschauenseei*)

#### Who can participate?

To be eligible, python removal agents must:

- Be at least eighteen (18) years of age
- Possess a valid driver's license
- Possess a valid email address
- Have a bank account for direct deposit
- Have an iOS or Android mobile device that allows for download and utilization of the required Program Software
- Consent to be tracked using the GPS tracking app
- Sign a waiver of liability
- Have not been convicted of a felony or wildlife-related offense within the last seven (7) years
- Consent to submit to a criminal background check
- Consent to using the program software

#### How many python removal agents will be selected?

There are limited positions available, and we will maintain up to fifty (50) contractors.

## Where can selected python removal agents survey for snakes?

Python removal agents will have independent access to Everglades and Francis S. Taylor Wildlife Management Area, Big Cypress National Preserve, Everglades National Park, Frog Pond and Rocky Glades Public Small Game Hunting Areas, and other designated lands in South Florida.

## How will python removal agents be compensated?

Python removal agents will receive \$13.00 per hour, \$18.00 per hour, or \$30.00 per hour depending on the area for up to ten (10) hours each day while actively searching for pythons on designated lands. For all eliminated pythons, the District will make an additional payment per python: \$50.00 for pythons measuring up to four (4) feet, and an extra \$25.00 for every foot measured above four (4) feet. See example below:



Python removal agents must provide all their own equipment necessary to engage in program activities.

## Can firearms be used to remove pythons?

Yes. Firearm use must be consistent with the terms of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) permit issued to SFWMD, as well as local, state and federal regulations.

## Why must python removal agents have a smart phone?

Python removal agents are required to download and utilize free cloud-based time and GPS tracking software, along with an electronic data collection system, on their GPS-enabled mobile device while conducting surveys. These are the methods used to verify python removal agent's time and location while engaging in program activities.

## Will python removal agents need to have a FWC Conditional Reptile Removal Permit?

No. Registered participants will not need a permit from the FWC.

### **May python removal agents bring assistants with them during surveys?**

Yes. Python removal agents may bring up to three (3) unpaid assistants with them while engaging in program activities. Before being allowed to accompany python removal agents during program activities, each assistant must:

- Submit a photocopy of their ID
- Submit to criminal background screening
- Sign a liability waiver
- Be at least 18 years old
- Have prior approval by the SFWMD project manager

### **Can non-contractors remove pythons from public or private lands?**

Members of the public may remove pythons from private lands with landowner permission, and from certain public lands with no permit required. However, because Burmese pythons are a regulated species, they cannot be transported alive and must be humanely euthanized on-site. For more information on removing Burmese pythons on public and private lands, please visit the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's website at [myfwc.com/python](http://myfwc.com/python).

### **Does SFWMD Compensate Members of the Public for Python Removal?**

No. Only designated Python Removal Agents are eligible for compensation in the Python Elimination Program.