

Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge - Biological Resources



Jeremy Dixon, Refuge Manager, Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge



Schaus' Swallowtail Butterfly (E)



American Crocodile (T)



Key Largo Woodrat (E)



Florida Semaphore Cactus (E)

Crocodile Lake NWR

Endangered (E) and Threatened (T) species



Keys Tree Cactus (E)



Key Largo Cotton Mouse (E)



Eastern Indigo Snake (T)



Stock Island Tree Snail (T)



Schaus' Swallowtail Butterfly (E)



American Crocodile (T)



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Eastern Indigo Snake (T)



Stock Island Tree Snail (T)

American Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*)



American Crocodile

- Nesting habitat limited
- Females must return to excavate nests



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CLNWR17

RECONYX

American Crocodile

- Threats:
 - Habitat loss
 - Roads
 - Human-wildlife conflicts
 - Invasive predators

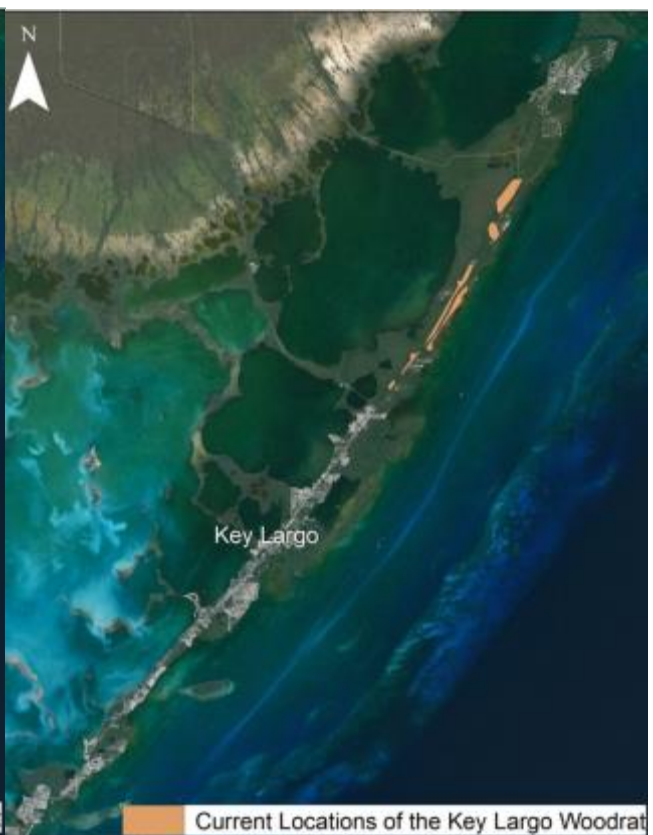
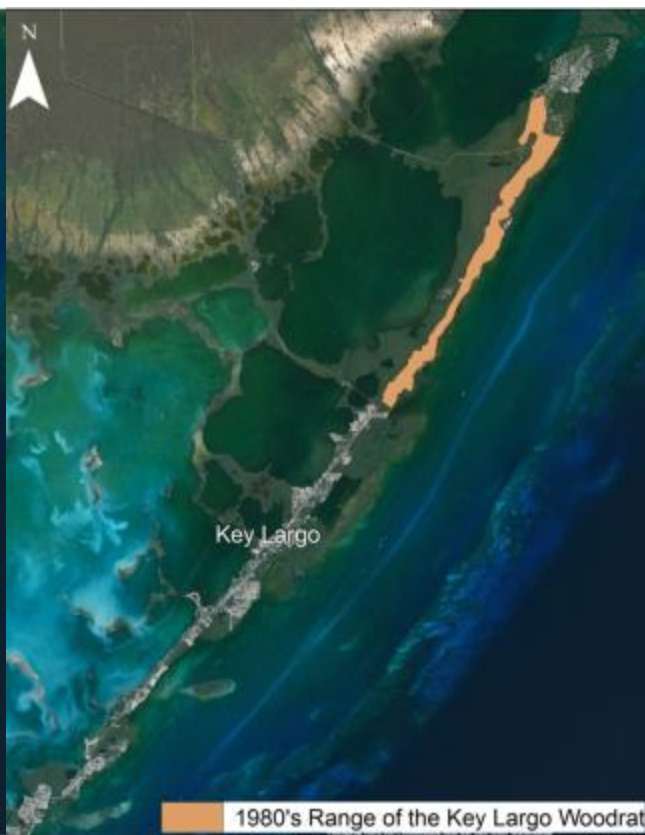


Monitoring for Invasive Predators



Key Largo Woodrat (*Neotoma floridana smalli*)





Key Largo Woodrat Role in the Environment

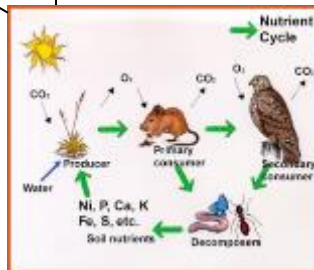
Fruit and Seed Dispersal



Builder and Landlord



Nutrient Cycling



Food Source



Woodrat nests

- Why aren't woodrats building stick nests?
 - Habitat modification?
 - Introduced predators?



ALONG THE FLORIDA REEF.

361



A PINE-APPLE CLEARING ON KEY LARGO.



Building homes for woodrats



Key Largo Woodrat Nest Monitoring



January 16, 2014

Key Largo Woodrat Nest Monitoring



August 28, 2014

Burmese pythons



Burmese pythons



1-888-IVE-GOT1

Extinction of Island Woodrats

- San Martin Island woodrat
 - Isla San Martin Island: 786 acres
 - Last sighting: 1926
- Bunker's woodrat
 - Isla Coronado: 2,200 acres
 - Last sighting: 1931
- Anthony's woodrat
 - Isla Todas Santos: 321 acres
 - Last sighting: 1926



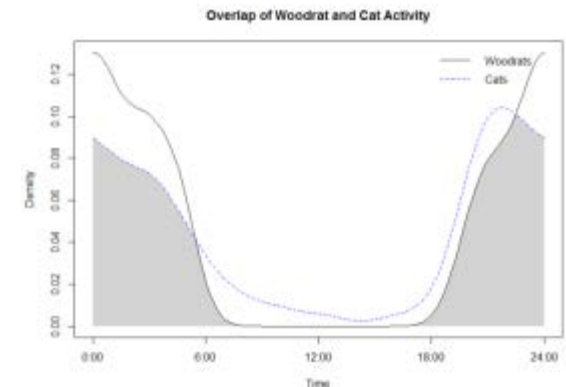
Why are woodrats so vulnerable to cats?

Non-native Predator

Behavior



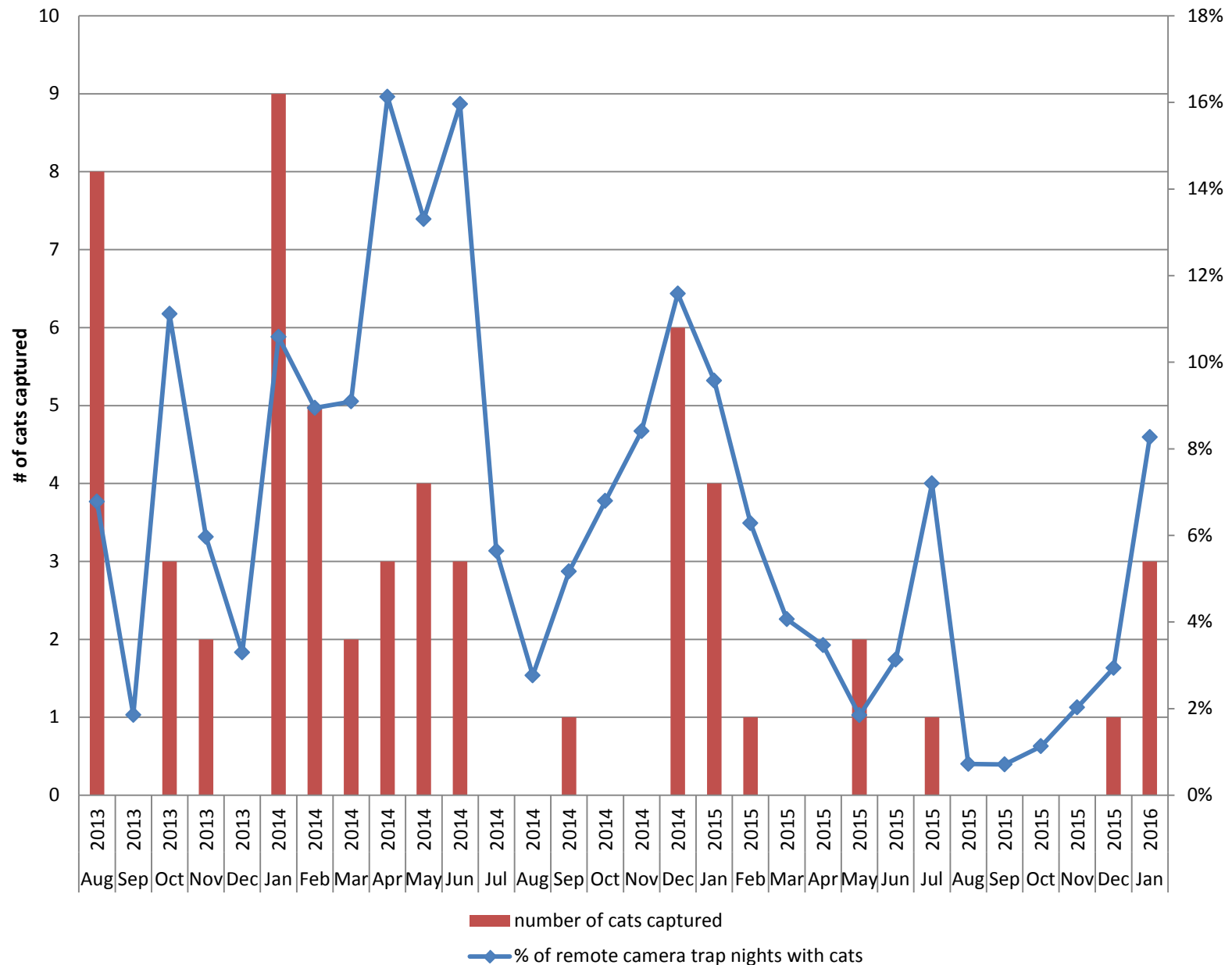
Time



Place



Percent of remote camera trap nights with cat detections and numbers of cats captured in CLNWR



How do we know that management actions are helping?

- Increasing occupancy of nests
- Expansion of woodrat range
- Creation of new natural nests in the habitat
- More stick-stacking at nests



Catio Workshop

- FL Keys Refuges Outdoorfest
 - Building a Catio: Protect your cat and wildlife!
 - Friday, March 18th, 11 AM
 - To register: <http://www.favorfloridakeys.org/outdoor-fest>



Thank You Volunteers!

