INVASIVE PYTHONS

Cause Map

1 Problem

What	Problem(s)	Invasive pythons decimating native populations
When	Date	Ongoing
	Different, unusual, unique	Habitat suitable for python snakes' survival
Where	Facility, site	Southern Florida
	Unit, area, equipment	Florida Everglades and surrounding areas
	Task being performed	Pet snakes escaping/released

Impact to the Goals

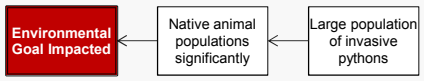
Environmental	Native animal populations significantly reduced
Regulatory	Changes to exotic pet regulations
Labor/ Time	Resources required to track/control pythons

Pythons are decimating native species in the Everglades

As the number of pythons in the Florida Everglades has increased, there has been a pronounced decline in native species' populations, including several endangered species. Researchers have found that 99% of raccoons and opossums have vanished along with 88% of bobcats, along with declines in nearly every other species. Pythons are indiscriminate eaters and consume anything from small birds to full-grown deer. The sheer number of these invasive snakes in the Florida Everglades is having a huge environmental impact.

2 Analysis

Basic Level Cause Map - Start with simple Why questions.



Basic Cause-and-Effect

The exact details of how pythons were released into the Everglades aren't known, but genetic testing has confirmed that the population originated from pet snakes that were either released or escaped into the wild. Once the pythons were introduced into the Everglades, their number quickly grew as the python population thrived.

More Detailed Cause Map - Add detail as information becomes available.

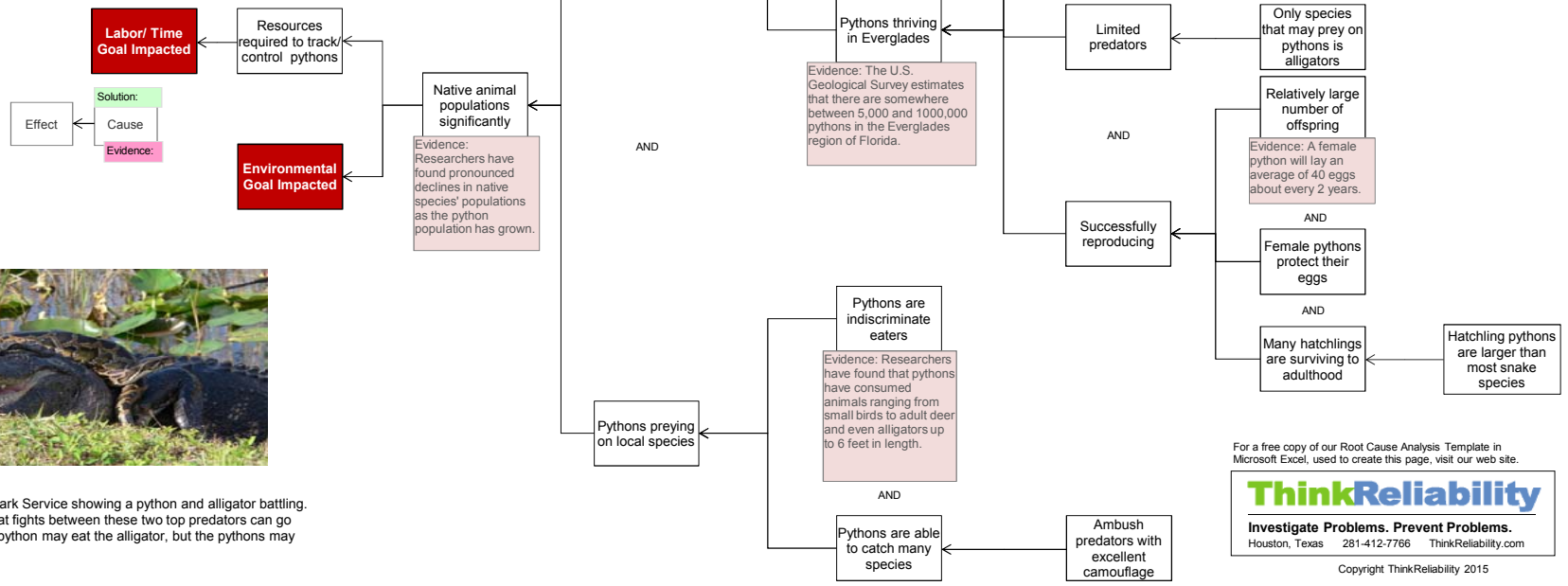


Photo by the US National Park Service showing a python and alligator battling. Researchers have found that fights between these two top predators can go either way - occasionally a python may eat the alligator, but the pythons may also end being the meal.

Cause Mapping is a Root Cause Analysis method that captures basic cause-and-effect relationships supported with evidence.

CAUSE MAPPING

Problem Solving • Incident Investigation • Root Cause Analysis

Step 1 Problem — What's the Problem?

Step 2 Analysis — Why did it happen?

Step 3 Solutions — What will be done?

For a free copy of our Root Cause Analysis Template in Microsoft Excel, used to create this page, visit our web site.

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