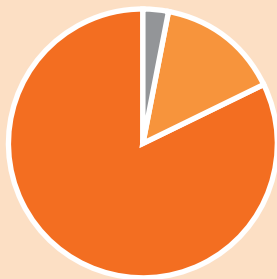


WHAT FLORIDIANS THINK THEY KNOW ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES

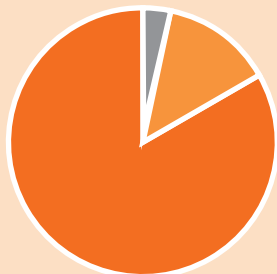
The spread of invasive species is recognized as one of the major factors contributing to ecosystem change and instability throughout the world, according to the National Parks Service. Invasive species have the ability to displace or eradicate native species, alter fire regimes, damage infrastructure and threaten human livelihoods. While Floridians understand the importance of stopping invasive plants and animals, very few feel informed about the issue.

"I'M WILLING TO AVOID..." PURCHASING INVASIVE PLANTS



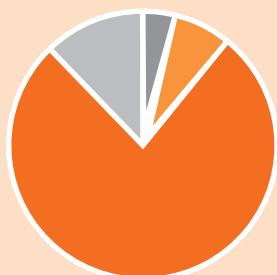
78% YES 3% NO 14% UNSURE

PURCHASING INVASIVE ANIMALS



75% YES 3% NO 12% UNSURE

RELEASING PETS INTO THE WILD



77% YES 4% NO 7% UNSURE
12% NOT APPLICABLE

FLORIDIANS UNDERSTAND VALUE OF PROTECTING NATIVE SPECIES

Despite reporting feeling generally uninformed about invasive species, a strong majority of Floridians say they understand what needs to happen to slow down the spread of non-native plants and animals.

At least three-quarters of state residents said they were willing to avoid buying invasive plants or animals, and 77 percent would not release former pets into the wild.

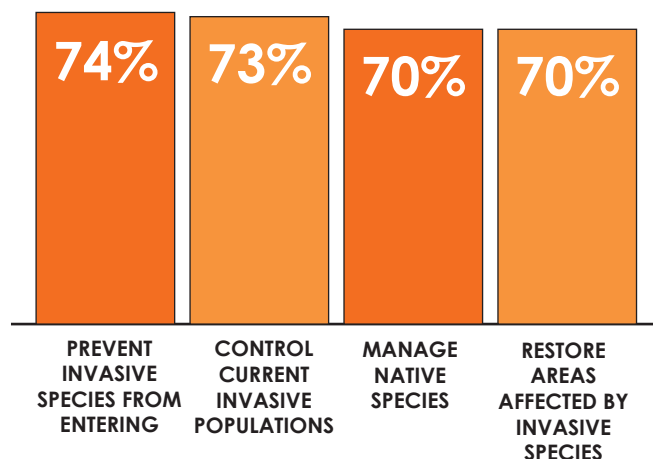
Floridians largely agreed that in order to prevent invasive species, residents and state agencies needed to simultaneously protect native plants and animals. Seventy percent believed it's important to manage populations of native species as

well as restore natural areas and habitats affected by invasive species.

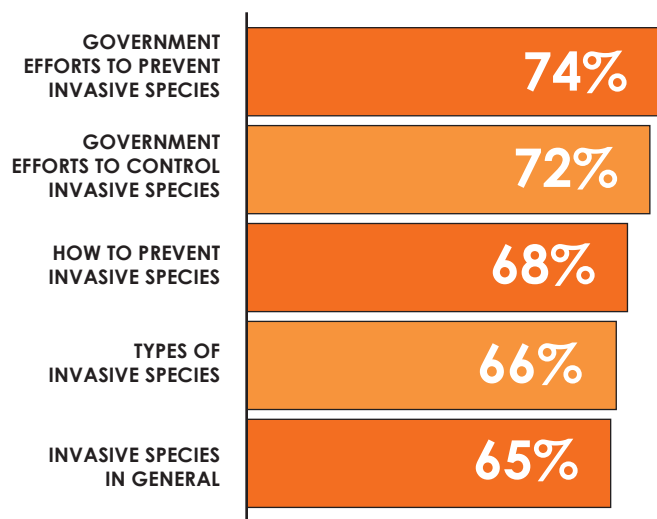
Further, nearly 80 percent of Floridians agreed that protecting native species from invasives was highly or extremely important. Seventy-seven percent said it was highly or extremely important that wildlife populations in general were properly managed in the Sunshine State.

When considering factors to prioritize in invasive species management, 85 percent of Floridians said harm to native species was highly or extremely important, ahead of harm to humans, agriculture, property or the cost involved to remove invasive plants and animals.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO...



"I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT..."



STUDY: RESIDENTS UNSURE ABOUT INVASIVE SPECIES

Even though Floridians want to eradicate invasive plants and animals, very few residents believe they have strong knowledge about the issue.

Sixty-five percent of Floridians said they knew nothing or only a little about what invasive species live in Florida, while 68 percent indicated that they weren't sure how to prevent invasive species from entering Florida.

Residents are largely split when it comes to managing invasive species. Fifty percent believed that invasives should

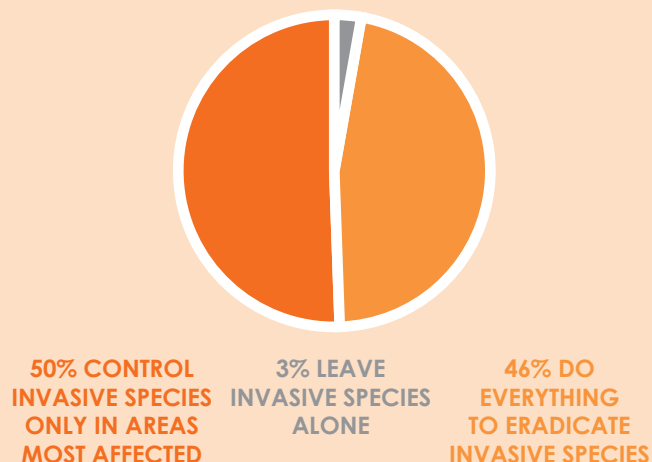
be controlled only in areas that are most affected, while 46 percent said everything possible should be done to eradicate all invasive species.

More than 70 percent of residents reported having little or no knowledge about government involvement in managing or preventing invasive species, while 60 percent believed that state governments should pay for management practices. Seventy-five percent believed the people responsible for introducing the invasive species should foot the bill.

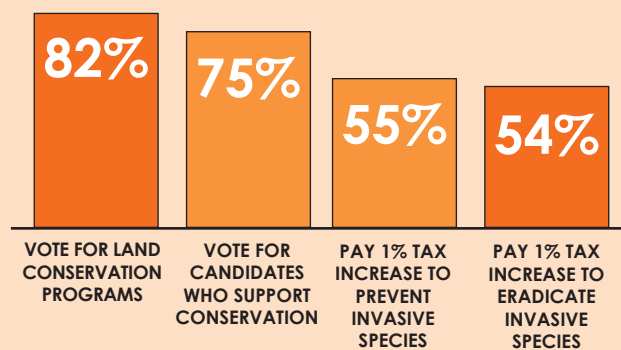
ABOUT OUR SURVEYS

The PIE Center conducts at least four public opinion surveys every year that focus on issues of key significance to Floridians. The surveys explore what Floridians think about the rights, responsibilities, attitudes and behaviors associated with critical issues such as food production, water quantity and quality, immigration and labor, and endangered and invasive species.

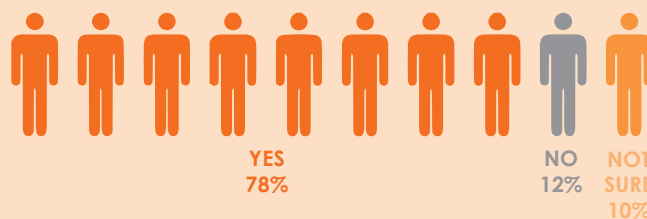
HOW SHOULD WE MANAGE INVASIVE SPECIES?



"I AM LIKELY TO..."



"I WOULD PAY ATTENTION TO NEWS COVERAGE OF INVASIVE SPECIES."



WHO SHOULD PAY TO MANAGE INVASIVE SPECIES?

