

# Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Recovery Program



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*speaker notes in italics*



150



- *Population for florida grasshopper sparrow has decline \_\_\_\_% for unknown reasons*
- *Only 19% of dry prairie remains*
- *Low nesting success confirmed*
- *All of these things could be the cause, but it takes time to figure this stuff out, and while we're figuring out the species is going extinct*
- *What do we do?*
- ***BIG UP USFWS AND HOW THEY'RE APPROACHING SITUATION***

# Wild Populations

- Adults and nestlings banded
- Point count surveying and nest searching
- Intensive management at nests
  - Cameras
  - Predator exclusion device
  - Fire ant treatment
- Opportunistic salvaging of doomed nests



# FGSP Timeline- 2015

- First birds brought into captivity
  - Eastern grasshopper sparrow model flock established at WO
    - Established collection techniques
    - Established and refined husbandry and hand-rearing techniques
    - First artificially incubated grasshopper sparrows hatched
  - Salvaged Florida grasshopper sparrow nestlings to Rare Species (~5)



# FGSP Timeline- 2016

- Additional Florida grasshopper sparrow collections
  - Salvaged eggs and nestlings during two flooding events to Rare Species
  - 3 family groups captured from private land to WO
- First captive bred and hatched Eastern and Florida grasshopper sparrows
- Reintroductions with Eastern grasshopper sparrow



# FGSP Timeline- 2017

- WO first breeding season with Florida Grasshopper Sparrow
  - 34 hatches from 3 pairs
  - Strong male bias in survivability
- Continued captive breeding, reintroduction, post-release monitoring of Eastern Grasshopper Sparrow



# White Oak



*White oak is taking a naturalistic approach to this program.*



# As Close to Natural History as Possible



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# Next Steps- 2018

- Continue to build captive population
  - Refine captive breeding protocols
  - Continue to investigate captive and wild health
  - Capture genetically valuable birds for captivity
- Continue to monitor and assist wild populations
- Begin reintroductions



# Questions?

To support this program:

<https://www.whiteoakwildlife.org/donate/>

<https://www.fishwildlifeflorida.org/florida-grasshopper-sparrow-fund/>





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