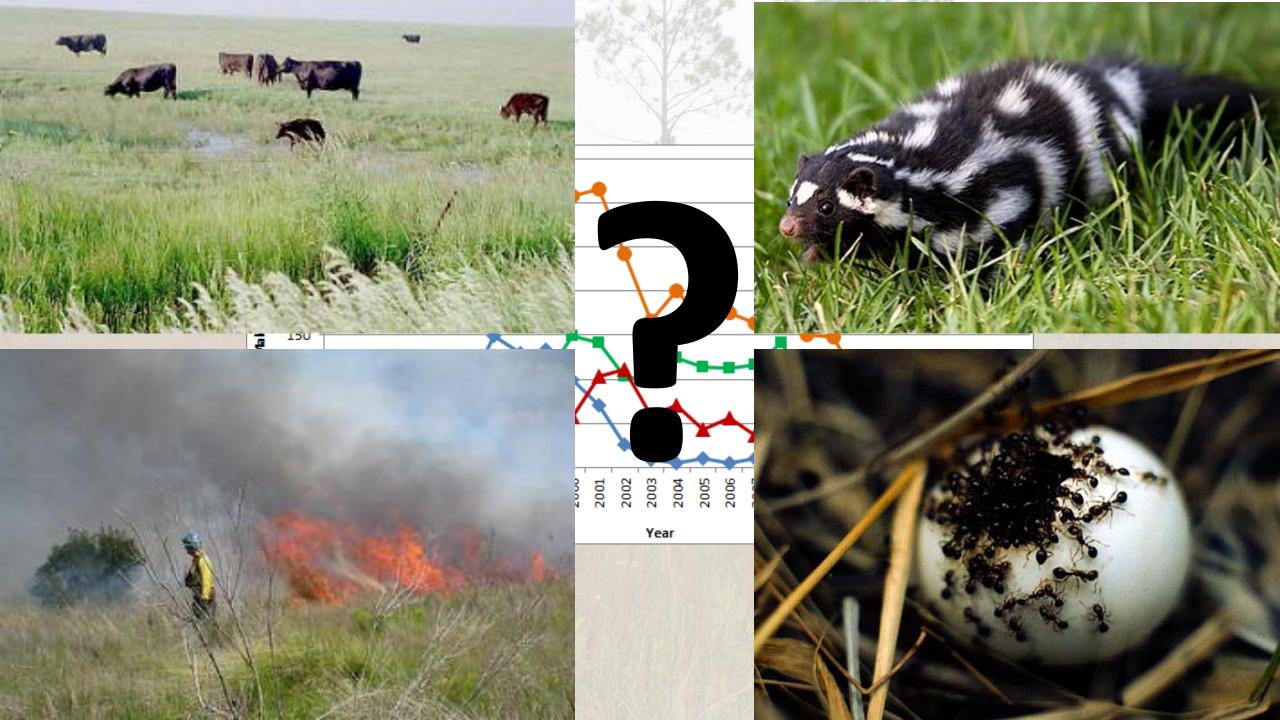
# Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Recovery Program



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speaker notes in italics



- 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.













### 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?

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https://www.fishwildlifeflorida.org/florida-grasshoppersparrow-fund/

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