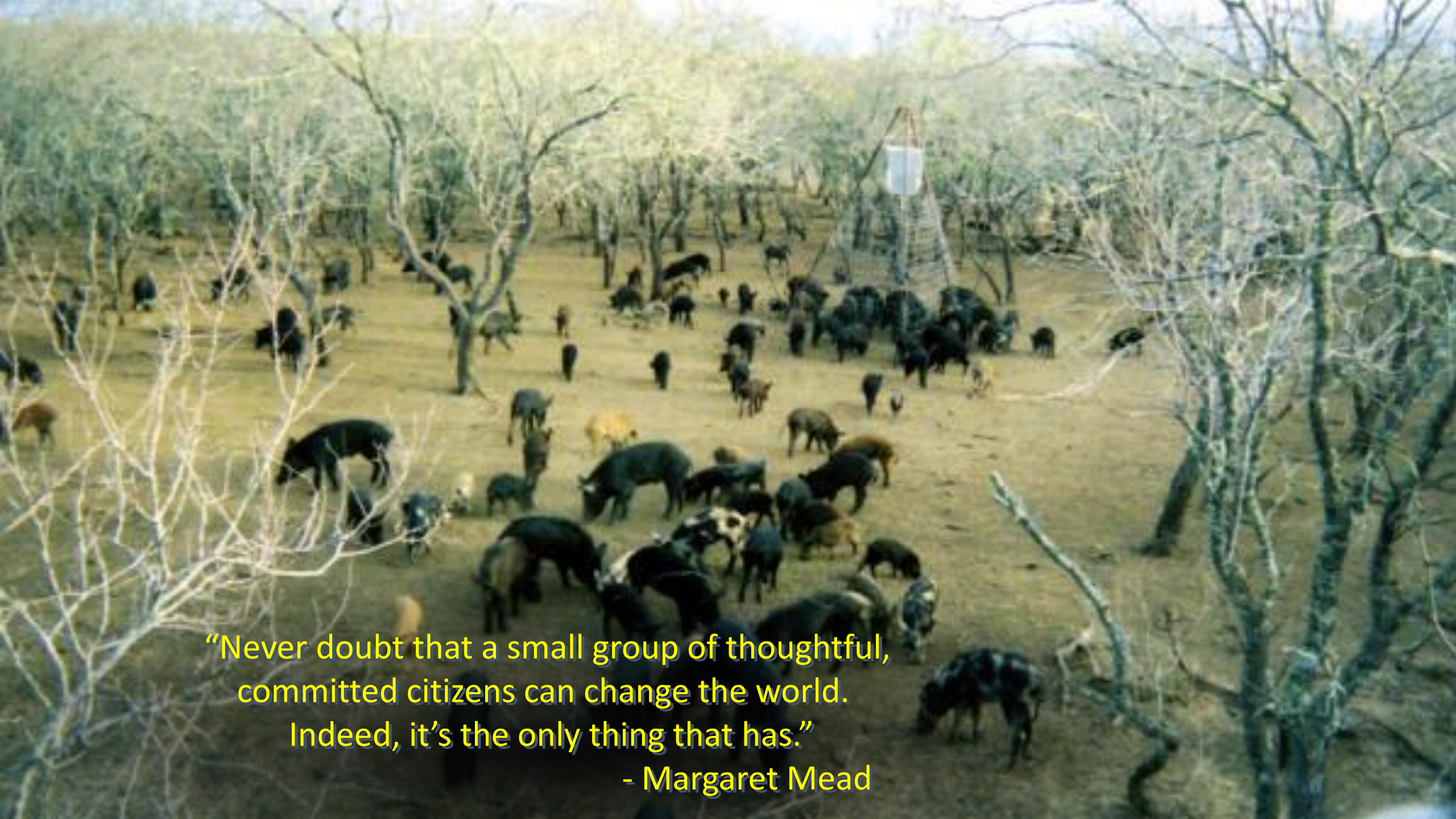


Importance of Cooperation in Wild Pig Control



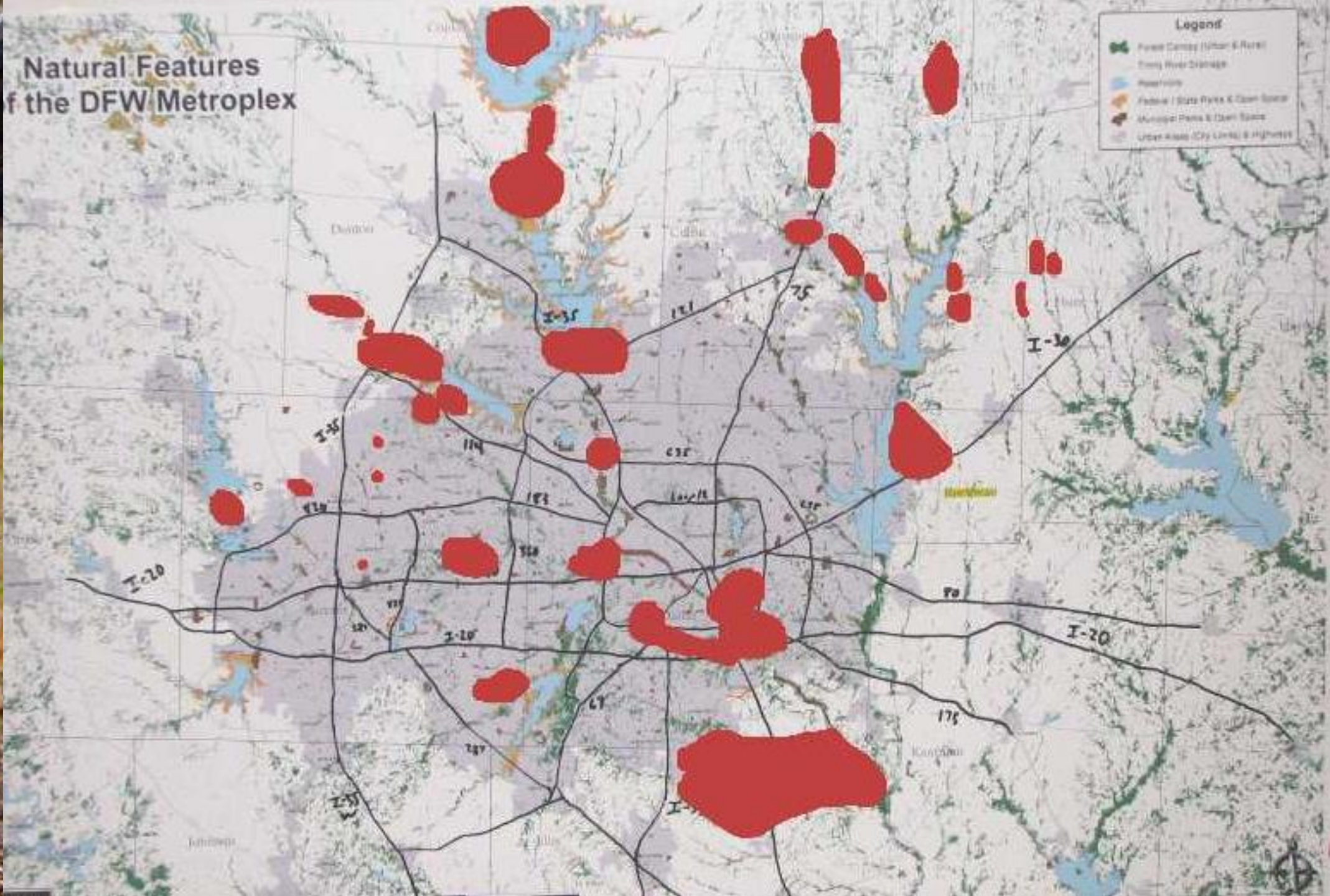
Rob Denkhaus, Nature Center Manager
Daniel Price, Natural Resource Manager

Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge
City of Fort Worth Park and Recreation Department



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it’s the only thing that has.”

- Margaret Mead









“There’s two types of landowners in Texas...

- Those that have pigs...**
- And those that are going to have pigs.”**

- Billy Higginbotham



Highly mobile species knows no boundaries.

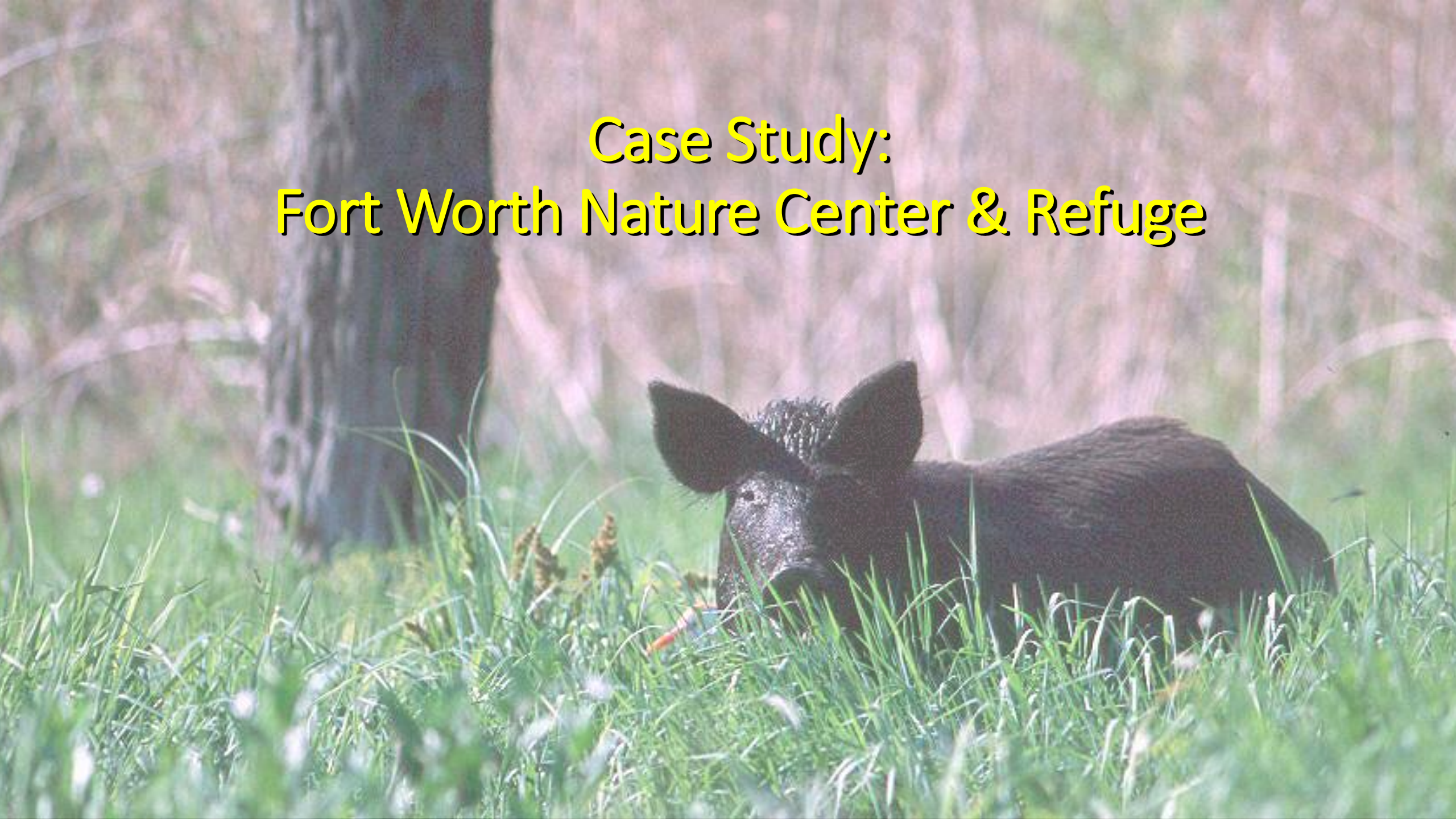


Necessary Funding...

- No individual, group, or organization...



**Case Study:
Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge**



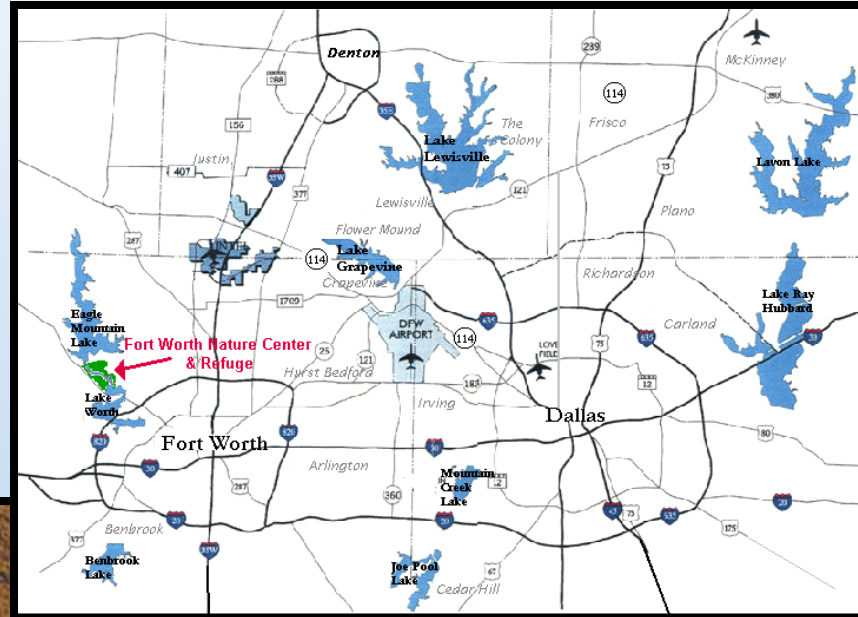
Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

An aerial photograph of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. The image shows a wide, winding river, likely the West Fork of the Trinity River, flowing through a dense, green forested area. The river's path is irregular, with several meanders and small islands. The surrounding land is covered in thick vegetation, and the overall scene is a natural, undeveloped landscape.

- **Located on the West Fork of the Trinity River in NW Fort Worth**
- **3600+ acres of green space managed as a natural, native landscape**
- **CFW acquired the property between 1914-1918; formally set aside as a Nature Center and Refuge in 1964**
- **Encompasses 1/3 of all parkland in the City of Fort Worth**

Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

Location



A group of people, including children and adults, are walking through a field of tall grass and trees. The scene is outdoors, with a large tree trunk visible in the center. The people are dressed in casual summer attire. The background is filled with dense green foliage.

Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge Mission Statement

“To enhance the quality of life by enrolling and educating our community in the preservation and protection of natural areas while standing as an example of these same principles and values in North Central Texas.”

Feral Hog Damage at the FWNC&R



Developing a Feral Hog Management Plan at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

Information gathering:

- Field observation to identify the extent of the problem.
- Documenting human-hog encounters at the Refuge.
- Literature search.
- Interagency consultation.



Internal Stakeholders & Their Concerns:

CFW Park & Recreation Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How could visitor safety be improved?• How could FWNC&R resources be protected?• How would public react to control?
CFW Police Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would firearms be used for control?• Who would be using firearms for control?
CFW Animal Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who would be responsible for implementing a control program?
CFW Legal Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What liability could the City be exposed to?
CFW Risk Management Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What hazards to staff and the public exist with and without control?
CFW City Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How will citizens perceive a control program?

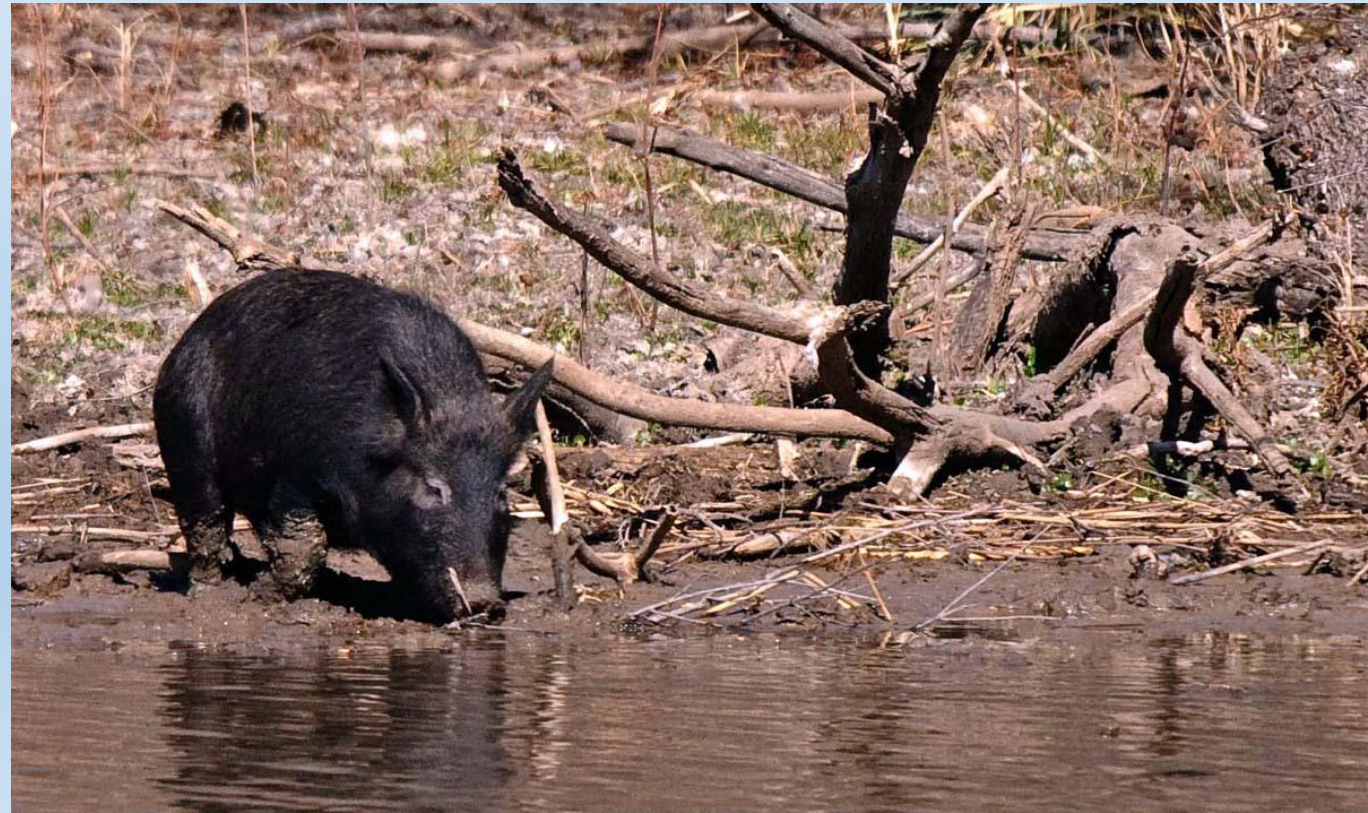
External Stakeholders & Their Concerns:

Texas Parks & Wildlife Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who will be responsible for implementing control program?• Will the control program employ legal methods?
USDA Wildlife Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who will be responsible for implementing control program?• Will the control program employ legal methods?
Friends of the FWNC&R	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What control program would best achieve FWNC&R resource management goals?
Local Conservation Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How can the FWNC&R resource best be protected?
Animal Welfare Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is control needed?• Are there non-lethal options?• Will animals be treated in a humane manner?
Local Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will access to control operations be granted?
Local Hunters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will public hunting opportunities be available?

Developing A Control Methodology

Non-viable Suggestions

- **Exclosure**
- **Trap and Relocate**
- **Trap and shoot by FW Police**
- **Hire professional trappers**
- **Regulated hunting by lottery**



Developing A Control Methodology

Chosen Method – Live Trap and Euthanize

Trap Choices

- Portable Cage Trap
- Semi-permanent Pen Trap
- Snares



Developing A Control Methodology

Euthanasia Method

Firearms chosen over chemical means.

- Cost
- Regulations – acquisition, storage, use
- Speed = decreased trap stress
- Secondary Poisoning Potential
- Human Safety Issues



Developing A Control Methodology

Carcass Disposition

Carcasses left on site

- **Nutrient cycling**
- **Safety & Liability**
- **Limited staff time and availability**



Getting Buy-In

- **CFW Park and Recreation Dept.**
- **CFW Animal Control Dept.**
- **CFW Police Dept.**
- **CFW Legal Dept.**
- **CFW Risk Management Dept.**
- **City Council**
- **Friends of the Nature Center**
- **Local Environmental and Conservation Groups**
- **Animal Rights / Animal Welfare Groups**
- **Local Media**



The Story Breaks...



Current Status

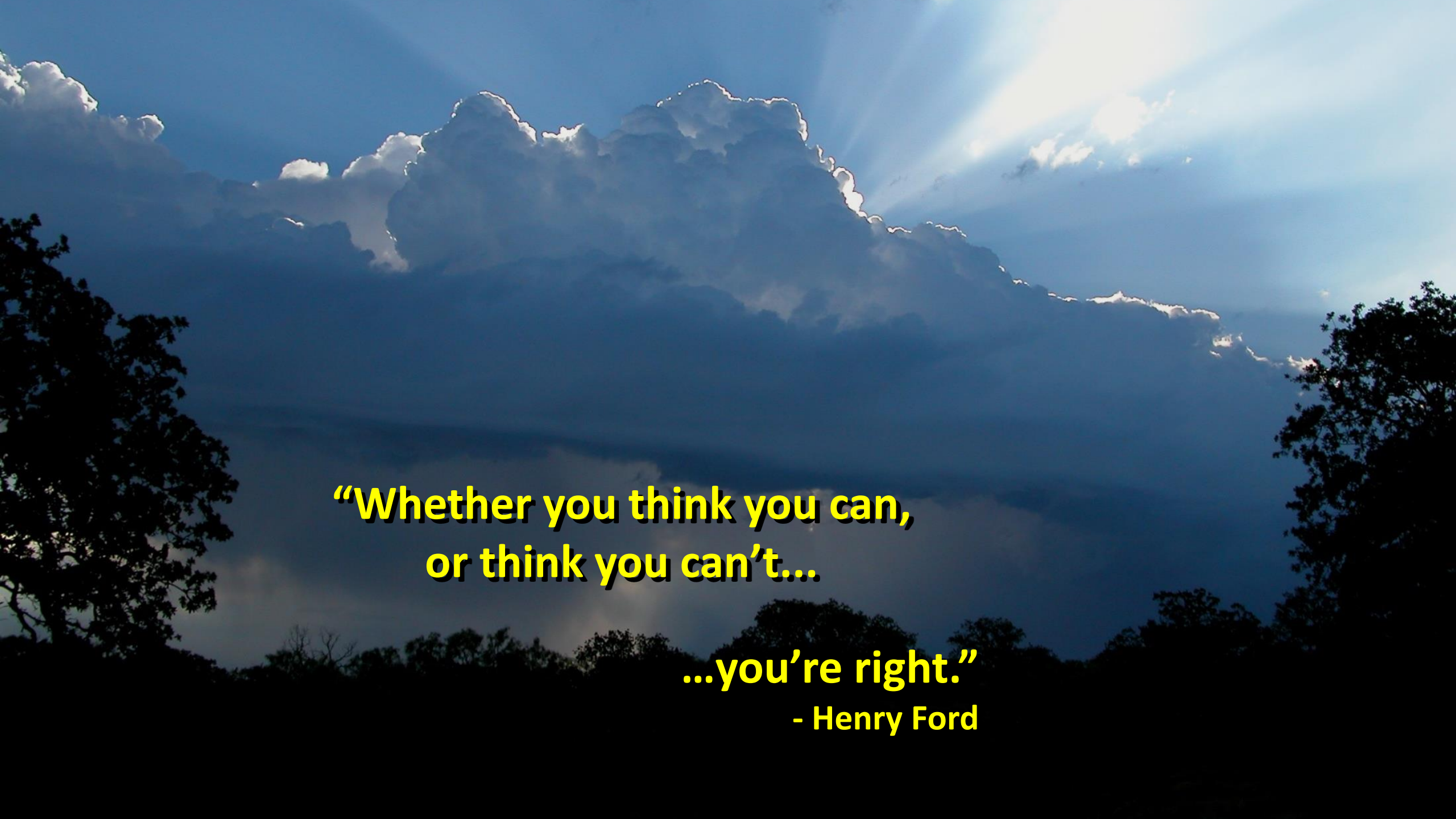
- **Over 300 pigs removed (over 23,000 lbs)**
- **Sightings greatly reduced.**
- **No additional human:hog encounters.**
- **Damage greatly reduced and sporadic.**
- **Cooperative efforts with neighboring landowners.**
- **Not newsworthy.**
- **Only one sounder on property over 41 months (July 2009 – January 2013)**
 - **Sounder removed in less than 30 days in June 2011**



Keys to Success

- **Work openly with all stakeholders**
 - Keep no secrets but give no details
 - Do not hide from the media
- **Employ sensitivity & media training**
 - Choose your words carefully
- **Include all possibilities in plan**
 - An effective plan can be a shield against potential problems





**“Whether you think you can,
or think you can’t...**

...you’re right.”

- Henry Ford

Importance of Cooperation in Wild Pig Control



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