

Managing Phosphorus Sustainability in Agricultural System

The Everglades Forever Act (1994) requires annual P levels in Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) surface run-off be reduced by at least 25% relative to historic trends.

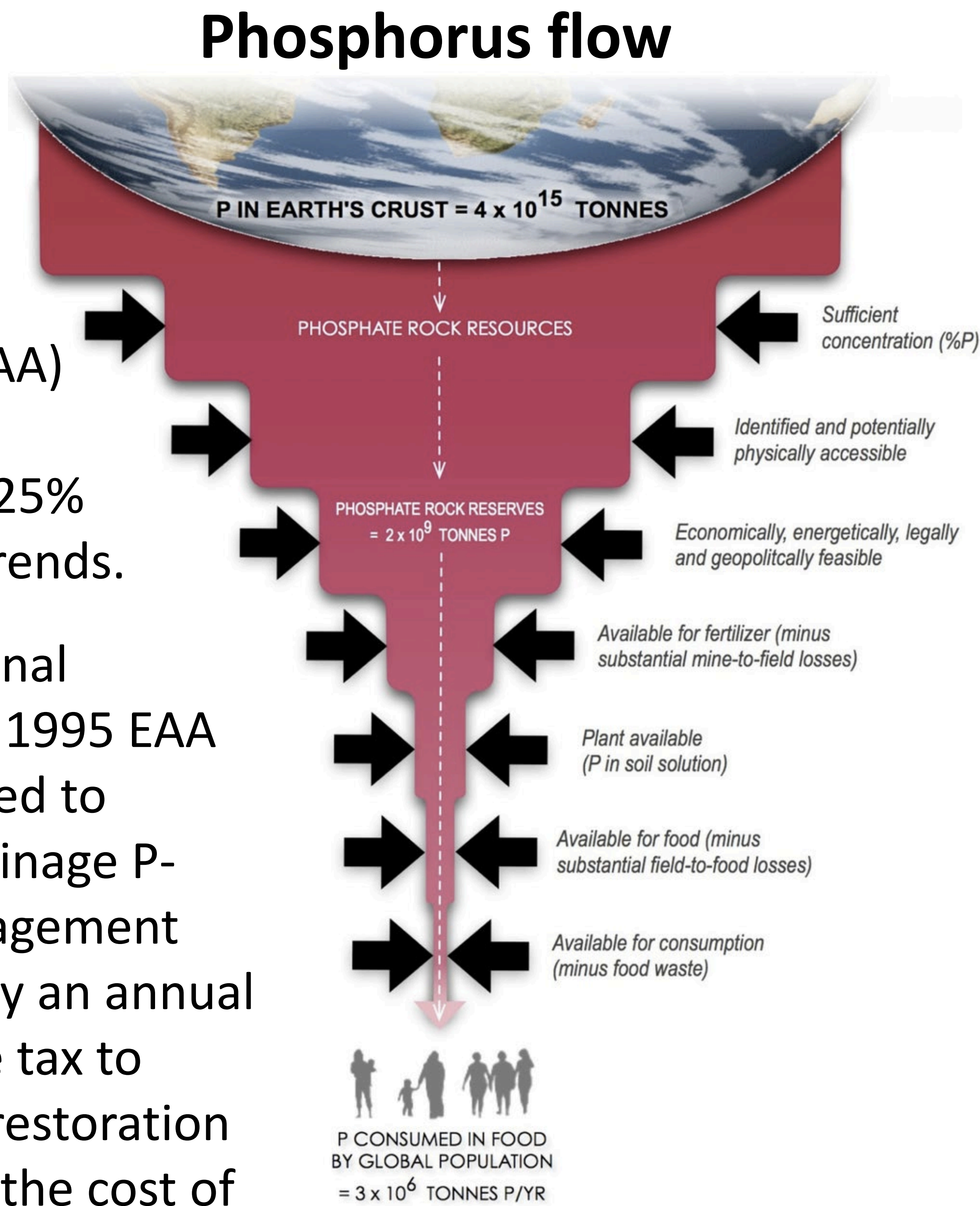
To achieve this regional regulatory target, in 1995 EAA farmers were required to implement farm-drainage P-reduction best management practices (BMPs), pay an annual agricultural privilege tax to support Everglades restoration initiatives, and bear the cost of monitoring their farm drainage water quality.

Since 1996, the EAA has annually complied with the minimum 25% P-reduction requirement (averaging a 55% reduction) as part of the BMP program.

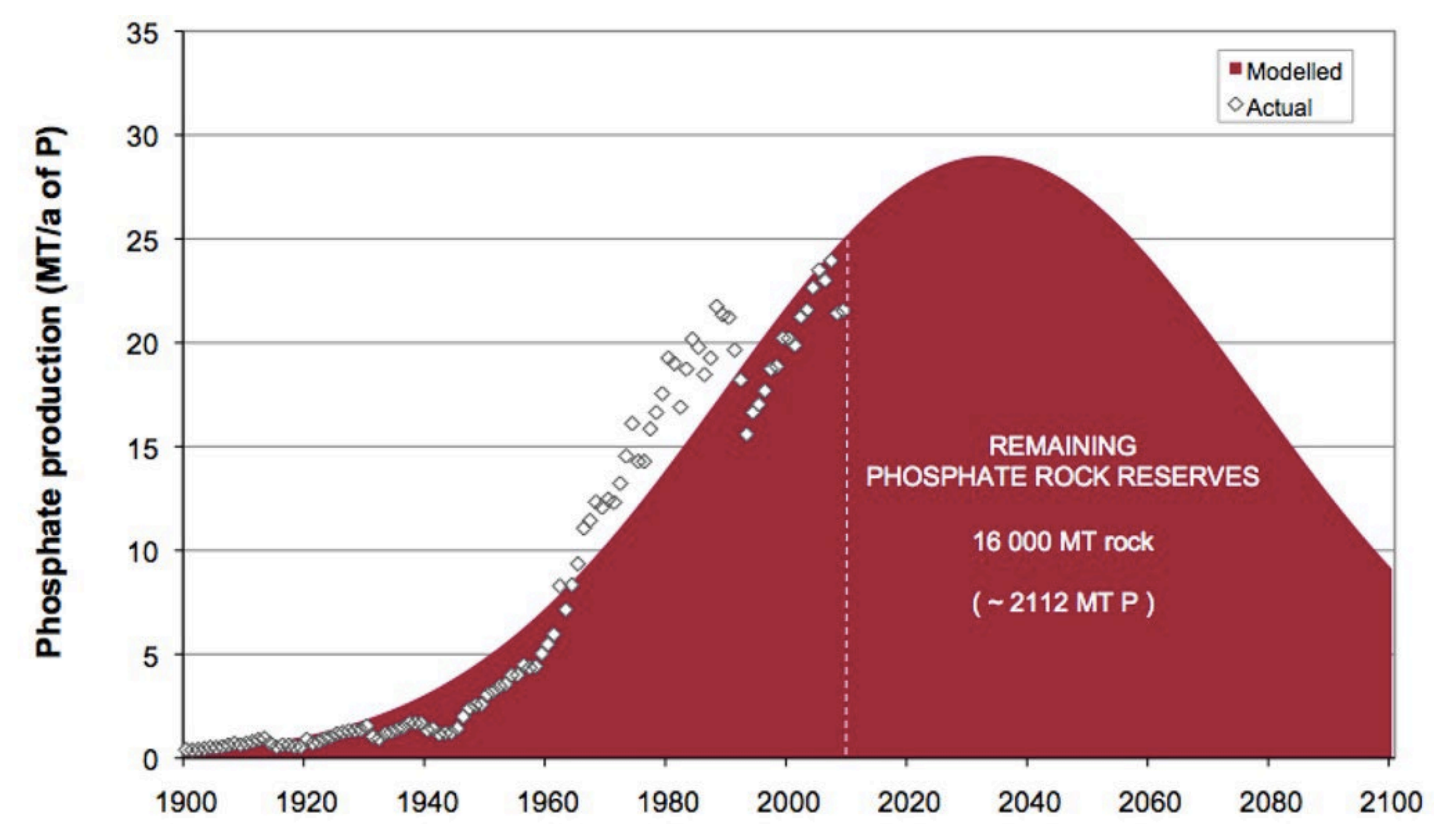
Over the life of the program has prevented over 3000 metric tons of P from entering the Everglades Protection Area.

This has resulted in developing better policies to manage phosphorus use in the EAA.

During the last 20 years, Florida has invested \$1.8 billion in phosphorus control.



Remaining phosphate rock reserves



Phosphorus distribution (Top 5 cm of soil)

