



Call for Research Pre-proposals

February 13, 2009

Related to Invasive Plant Management in Florida

For Fiscal Year 2009-2010

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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Effective management of invasive non-native plants on Florida's public lands and waterways requires science-based policy and methodology. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Invasive Plant Management Section annually provides funds to scientific researchers in support of the Section's aquatic and upland plant management programs. Funded projects in research may vary from basic life-history studies of invasive species to better invasive plant control methodology.

Areas of particular current research interest include, **but are not limited to**, the following:

- Improved practices for chemical control of *Dioscorea bulbifera*, *Pistia stratiotes*, *Hymenachne amplexicaulis*, *Lygodium microphyllum*, *L. japonicum*, *Nymphoides cristata*, *Ruellia brittoniana*, and especially for controlling *Hydrilla verticillata* infestations in large lake systems
- Island apple snail (*Pomacea insularum*) impacts & control in Florida's waterways
- Effects of climate change on invasive non-native plant populations in Florida
- Relationships between wildlife and the amount of vegetation control
- Research on the causes, impacts, and control of blue-green algae populations of *Lyngbya* and *Cylindrospermopsis*
- A study on the genetic variation (haplotypes) of Phragmites populations in the ~ 35 public waterways
- Research on the rearing, transportation, establishment, and the impacts of newly approved biological control agents in Florida
- Research on the potential invasiveness of non-native bioenergy production plant species candidates in Florida (*Arundo donax*, *Pennisetum purpureum*, etc.).

Application

Pre-proposals should be no more than two or three pages in length; single spaced typed, and should contain the following elements:

Date, Project Title, & Contact Information – Be sure to include the name(s) of the investigator(s) or applicant(s), the affiliation, address, phone, cell, and fax numbers, and email.

Need for Research – Relate the proposed work to invasive plant management in Florida and set forth one or more specific objectives. Please list these research objectives in bullet format within the text of your Need for Research. Extensive references to background literature are not necessary. Invasive species targeted in the project should be among those listed as Category I or II by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC); please see their web site for the list at www.fleppc.org.

Methods – Succinctly outline the specific activities that will accomplish the research objective(s), i.e., the proposed methods for data collection and analysis. Collaboration or partnering with other agencies or organizations is encouraged.

Deliverables – A mid-point status report (due on December 15, 2009) and a fiscal-year final report (due on June 1, 2010) are required; simply state that they will be provided. The status

report indicates progress toward the objectives and includes any preliminary results. The final report should include analysis of results, discussion, and recommendations as appropriate. Notation of presentations made and reprints of published results from funded projects are welcomed and encouraged.

Schedule – Provide a brief timeframe for the proposed work. Keep in mind that Section-funded projects are intended to be short-term (1 to 3 years). If the proposed tasks cover more than one state fiscal year (July 1-June 30), group them by year. Also, take into account that actual activity time may be shortened within a given year due to the time necessary for establishing a formal contract or contract task assignment.

Budget – Briefly summarize a proposed budget. Section funds available for these projects vary from year to year and can be committed only on a yearly basis; thus, projects are evaluated annually for new and continued funding. For proposals spanning more than one state fiscal year, group the costs by year. The Section does not fund capital outlay expenses (computers, vehicles, etc.), tuition fees, or faculty salaries; university administrative overhead is limited to **10%**. Keep in mind that the Section has limited funds; cost sharing is encouraged and please list outside contributions. A typical maximum funding for a year of university-research ranges from \$20,000 to \$35,000. Only government agencies and public and accredited universities/colleges are eligible for receiving Section research funds that exceed \$25,000 for each research project for each fiscal year. Private environmental firms and others are limited to \$25,000 for each fiscal year and they can only be awarded one project unless they submit multiple proposals, and when combined together, total less than or equal to \$25,000).

Note: Because of the poor economic conditions in Florida and the cost cutting measures that will take place during the Spring 09 Florida Legislative Session, it is unknown if or how much funding will be available for new FY 09-10 research projects as of this date.

The deadline for submission of pre-proposals for FY09-10 is April 24, 2009.

Electronic submission is strongly preferred: Send an MSWord document file (**no pdfs**) to Don.schmitz@myfwc.com. Send paper copies to Don C. Schmitz, Research Program Manager, IPMS, FWC, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 705, Tallahassee, FL 32399 (Phone: 850-245-2818; SC 205-2818). **Early submissions are acceptable.**

Evaluation

All pre-proposals will be evaluated in a two-step process. In the first phase, review comments are solicited from Section-wide staff and from other interested parties, while members of a research review committee (5 Section administrators) will review the pre-proposals by project topic according to their sense of program priority needs.

For the second step, the committee meets and reviews comments as a group, agrees on priorities, and ranks the pre-proposals. **Applicants with high-ranking pre-proposals having some likelihood of being funded will be notified in early July 2009 by email and requested to submit a full research project proposal along with a completed FWC Research Contract Budget form by the end of July, 2009.**