



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 2126

1. **Project Title**

2. **Senate Sponsor**

3. **Date of Request**

4. **Project/Program Description**

The project will acquire 225 acres of property in Wakulla County, benefiting surface and ground water protections. The property to be protected will also lead to the relocation of a proposed fuel site which will prevent possible contamination of the Chips Hole Cave System and Wakulla Springs. Upon successful acquisition of the project site a preserve will be established allowing for public access and limited recreation opportunities.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. **Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	0
Fixed Capital Outlay	3,782,000
Total State Funds Requested	3,782,000

7. **Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 (including matching funds available for this project)**

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	3,782,000	100%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	3,782,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?** No

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future funding likely to be requested?** No

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

10. **Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?**

No



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If yes, indicate the amount of funds received and what the funds were used for.

Complete questions 11 and 12 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

11. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

Yes

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

no construction at this time.

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

no construction at this time.

12. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

Conservation Florida Inc.

13. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits		0
Other Salary and Benefits	Conservation Florida staff time.	100,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	travel, community engagement.	82,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	All Due diligence items including surveyys, appraisals, studies, etc. Real Estate Closing Costs.	150,000
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering	land acquisition.	3,450,000
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		3,782,000

14. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

These dollars are non-recurring capital expenditures for the purpose of purchasing 225 acres in Wakulla County that will lead to the protection of the Chips Hole Cave System. This land acquisition will lead to the protection of Wakulla Springs by relocating a proposed fuel station from development over the Chips Hole Cave System. Once acquired the property will be managed as a wildlands preserve for the benefit of the public and for natural resource protection.



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b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Conservation Florida Inc. has worked with the landowners involved, multiple community members and organizations, as well as Wakulla County to plan this real estate transaction. Conservation Florida Inc, will provide it real estate expertise in the acquisition process including collecting and evaluating all due diligence items and assessments and guiding the project through the closing process. Upon successful acquisition Conservation Florida Inc. will work to establish the site as a preserve in partnership with Wakulla County for the benefit of the public and for natural resource based limited recreation.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

The protection of surface and groundwater through the perpetual protection of the Chips Hole property. In addition public access and limited recreation will benefit the citizens of Wakulla County and the surrounding region.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The project will protect 225 acres of property that will protect water resources in Wakulla County and protect the Wakulla Springs system. The citizens of Wakulla County, 30,000 plus, will benefit from these protections.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Perpetual protection of this property will prevent development that would negatively impact the Chips Hole Cave system and thus Wakulla Springs. Protection of Chips Hole as well as the underground cave system that runs under this property is the best method for water resource protection.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for the contract?

Failure to meet deliverables will result in loss of funds.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

16. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)



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d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number

17. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number