



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3517

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

This Operation plans to use multiple strategies to remove as many invasive Burmese pythons as possible from the Everglades ecosystem, including but not limited to, specially trained python K-9 units, surveys of likely habitats, and nighttime spotlighting when the species is most active. We plan to travel into the Everglades, via airboat, swamp buggy and full tracks, to remove pythons on tree islands, hammocks and ridges away from the roads and levies. The successful removal of pythons from the Everglades will improve ecosystem viability, reduce threat to human and domestic animal life, and facilitate a restoration of economic ecotourism and hunting in South Florida.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

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

Type of Funding	Amount
Operations	200,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	200,000

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)	200,000	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	200,000	100%

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

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

9. Is future funding likely to be requested?

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?



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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)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

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.

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

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Project oversight and management. Report writing, data analysis and presentations.	14,500
Other Salary and Benefits	Administration salary costs associated with running the project.	5,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Office supplies, printing, etc	500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Operational Costs: Other		
Salary and Benefits	Salaries for two invasive species biologists.	140,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel expenses into the interior of the Everglades via airboat, swamp buggy and full track vehicles. It is expensive to travel into the Everglades and cost includes fuel and operating expenses. Supplies: batteries, snake bags, headlamps, etc.	40,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	N/A	0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		200,000

14. Program Performance

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



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The purpose of this project is to remove invasive Burmese pythons. Pythons are having a negative impact on the Everglades ecosystem, ecotourism of which is the primary driver of the local economy. This Operation plans to use multiple strategies to remove as many invasive pythons as possible from the Everglades ecosystem, including but not limited to, specially trained python K-9 units, surveys of likely habitats, and nighttime spotlighting when the species is most active. The successful removal of pythons from the Everglades will improve ecosystem viability, reduce threat to human and domestic animal life, and facilitate a restoration of economic ecotourism and hunting in South Florida.

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

The Miccosukee Tribe shall provide the expertise, and vehicles to complete the project. The Invasive Species Biologists will go via airboat, swamp buggy, and full track (depending on the area) to the interior parts (tree islands, ridges, hammocks) of the Everglades to locate, capture and remove pythons from the ecosystem.

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

The direct benefit will be the removal of pythons. These invasive species are having a substantial negative impact on cultural resources, including the Native species needed by Tribal members to practice their traditional religion. Other benefits will be to the one million visitors a year, who come to the everglades to see the native wildlife and ecosystem.

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

The Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes and people who live in the proximity to the Everglades will be impacted by this project. These pythons pose a threat to domestic species, as well as humans. The Burmese python can reach lengths up to 20 feet, and are capable of killing an adult human. We expect to impact > 5000 people.

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

The expected outcome is the removal of pythons and a resulting increase in native species. This invasive species is causing havoc on the Everglades wildlife populations, leading to a dramatic decline in mammalian and reptilian species, as well as wading birds. The outcome will be measured by the number of pythons captured and removed on an annual basis, and the return of native species. The Miccosukee Fish and Wildlife Department conducts annual wildlife surveys and the data will be used to determine if there is an increase in small mammals after the removal of pythons.

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?

Unused funds must be returned with a 10% surcharge.

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



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Non Profit 501(c)(3)

Non Profit 501(c)(4)

Local Entity

University or College

Other (please specify) Federally Recognized Tribal Nation, organized pursuant to Indian Reorganization Act of 1934

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