



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3519

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

This project aims to protect Miccosukee cultural tree islands in the Everglades. Water levels in the Everglades are anthropogenically managed to the detriment of wildlife and vegetation. During wet years, extended periods of inundation with water depths over 2.0 ft. higher than normal are common in the impounded marshes of the northern Everglades. During these high water events, animals move to elevated sites such as tree islands, where they often suffer deterioration of physical condition and increased susceptibility to parasites and disease as food stores become depleted. In 2018 and 2020/2021 even high elevation tree islands were inundated for 2-6 months depending on the tree island elevation. Deer does and fawns are particularly susceptible to the effects of prolonged high water. However, all wild life, from the Florida panther to the cotton mouse, are affected. No animals can survive hanging in a tree for this length of time. We propose to elevated five tree island heads.

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	250,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	250,000

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)	250,000	71%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	100,000	29%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2024-2025	350,000	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.**
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10. Has the entity requesting this project received any federal assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic?

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	Two restoration technicians salary	40,000
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 transport soil into the interior of the Everglades. Planks, native vegetation for planting on raised areas.	190,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		250,000

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 raise the elevation on the heads of five tree islands. The successful building up of tree islands in the Everglades will improve ecosystem viability, reduce threat to animal life from flooding and facilitate a restoration of economic ecotourism and hunting in South Florida. Currently tree islands are flooded for multiple months which kills the vegetation and animals that live on the tree islands. The plants and animals are culturally important to the Miccosukee and their culture and way of live.

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. Our biologists will monitor the vegetation and animal use of the tree islands to document the success of the project.

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

The direct benefit will be all people who visit the Everglades. The deterioration of the tree islands are having a substantial negative impact on cultural resources, including the Native species needed by Tribal members to practice their traditional religion and customs. Many thousands of local people recreate and explore the Everglades, restoring the animals in the Everglades is also important to the Gladesmen. Other befits 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, Gladesmen and people who visit the Everglades will be impacted by this project. 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 restoration of native fauna and flora species on the culturally important tree islands. drowning of the tree islands is causing havoc on the Everglades wildlife populations, leading to a dramatic decline in mammalian and reptilian species, as well as wading birds. The tree islands historically were the biological hotspots in the ecosystem. The outcome will be measured by the return of native species and increase in biodiversity. The Miccosukee Fish and Wildlife Department conducts annual wildlife surveys on tree islands, using remote cameras, and the data will be used to determine if there is an increase in animal use of the tree islands. We will also document the survival of planted vegetation and use by wildlife.

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