



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3645

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

The request proposes that by July 2024 the Florida Department of Environmental Protection engages the University of Florida Water Institute to provide an updated, independent assessment of the science and economics of Ocklawaha River restoration vs. retention of the Kirkpatrick Dam and Rodman Reservoir based on all relevant existing data and reports from federal, state, and regional agencies, universities, and other sources. Since the earlier assessments, many economic, environmental, and public safety conditions have changed, and new data and reports are available. This work has important implications for flood protection and community resilience, fishing, outdoor recreation, economic development, and the Florida Wildlife Corridor from the Ocala to the Osceola National Forest. A qualified vendor would also update FDEP cost projections developed in 1997. With this information available by December 2024, state leaders can make an informed decision on the future of the dam.

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	500,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	500,000

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)	500,000	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	500,000	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.



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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 lead at the Florida Water Institute to manage the project.	30,000
Other Salary and Benefits	Other salary and benefits for 6-8 UF faculty members and staff from various disciplines within the University to perform the independent science and economics assessment.	270,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other		0
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Development of planning level cost estimates for restoration of the Ocklawaha River as set forth in the pending Environmental Resource Permit, prepared by FDEP for action by SJRWMD.	200,000
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		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		500,000

14. Program Performance

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



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Provide an updated, independent assessment of Ocklawaha River restoration vs. retention of the Kirkpatrick Dam and Rodman Reservoir that includes the following: 1) Compilation and assessment of all relevant existing science and economic data and reports from federal, state, and regional agencies, universities and other sources. 2) Prepares updated planning level cost projections for Ocklawaha River restoration as described in pending FDEP permit. 3) Provides updated information to allow state leaders to make an informed decision on the future of the Kirkpatrick Dam and Rodman Reservoir based on updated and best available science, economics and costs.

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

1) Assessment of water and natural resources including impacts to the Ocklawaha and St. Johns Rivers and Silver Springs under restoration vs. retention of Kirkpatrick Dam and Rodman Reservoir. This includes topics such as water quality, downstream flow, water quality, springs restoration, fish and manatee habitat, wildlife impacts and other relevant areas.
 2) Assessment of impacts to people and property upstream and downstream of the Kirkpatrick Dam and Rodman Reservoir
 3) Assessment of impacts to economic activity including tourism, job creation, economic development, and economic self-sufficiency
 4) Reduction of economic risks and taxpayer costs including repair and maintenance, loss of people and property, devaluation of property due to environmental conditions, opportunity costs such as the loss of existing state and federal funding

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

The independent science and economic report will provide state leaders and their constituents with the information necessary to make an informed decision on the future of the dam and understand how that decision could impact effected individuals and communities.

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

The 217-mile river system impacted by this decision extends from the headwaters of the Ocklawaha at Lake Apopka to the Atlantic Ocean at Jacksonville. This project would serve communities of the Ocklawaha Harris Chain of Lakes, Silver Springs, Ocklawaha River and St. Johns River including Welaka and Palatka and northward along the 100 mile St. Johns River Estuary including Green Cove Springs and Jacksonville. The restoration impacts at least 12 counties with rivers, tributaries and drainage basins connected to this system. State, national and international visitors use this system on a regular basis.

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

The project will provide state leaders a decision support tool to help them make an informed decision and achieve the best economic and conservation outcomes on the future of the dam in 2025 and, if restoration is pursued, leverage millions in federal funds in areas such as fish passage and recreation improvements. Using best available reports, UFWI may include data on return on investment, visitation and tourism, job and business creation, economic risks, and outdoor recreation. Existing data and analysis related to conservation may include but is not limited to system-wide fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, water flow, springs and river system health, wildlife corridor, wetlands, aquatic weed management and fishery changes.
 Measures: FDEP, FWC and SJRWMD data; Tourism data, Office of Economic Opportunity, Florida Dept. of Business and Professional Regulation

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 repayment of the funds.

15. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address



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Fiscal Year 2024-2025

LFIR # 3645

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) State agency

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