

SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: HB 2153

SPONSOR: Committee on General Appropriations

SUBJECT: Conservation and Recreation Lands Trust Fund

DATE: April 16, 2000 REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Hendon</u>	<u>Hadi</u>	<u>FP</u>	<u>Favorable</u>
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____

I. Summary:

Creates the Conservation and Recreation Lands Program Trust Fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide for the management of conservation and recreation lands by the department. A dedicated trust fund for these funds will allow the department and the Legislature to more easily track the use of these funds.

II. Present Situation:

Land management has been a legislative concern for a number of years, with questions raised over whether state lands are being properly managed. Land management was the subject of a Senate interim project for both the 1999 (98-53) for 2000 (2000-61) sessions. The 1997 Legislature increased the amount of the Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Trust Fund reserved for land management to 1.5% of the cumulative total of Preservation 2000 (and now Florida Forever) bond proceeds. Since the cumulative total of bond proceeds increases by approximately \$300 million each year, the actual appropriations for land management activities from the CARL Trust Fund increased from \$12 million in FY 1995-96 to over \$44 million in FY 1999-2000.

These funds are allocated to the agencies that manage state lands (Department of Environmental Protection, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and Department of State). The funding is distributed using a formula developed by the Executive Office of the Governor based on the total acreage and the cost to manage various types of lands. Funds are distributed through the Department of Environmental Protection's budget and agencies request spending authority for the CARL funds through their agency legislative budget request.

With the exception of the Department of Environmental Protection, land management agencies deposit the CARL management funds in an existing agency trust fund. Once budget authority is

provided in the agency trust fund, there is currently no way to identify these expenditures as CARL management funds.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

This bill creates the Conservation and Recreation Lands Program Trust Fund within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to provide visibility for conservation and recreation land management appropriations and expenditures effective July 1, 2000. The bill provides that the fund shall be terminated on July 1, 2004, unless terminated sooner, and prior to termination, shall be subject to the trust fund review process.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.
