



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

Call for Research Pre-proposals February 3, 2006

Related to Invasive Plant Management in Florida For Fiscal Year 2006-2007

Effective management of invasive non-native plants on Florida's public lands and waterways requires science-based policy and methodology. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Invasive Plant Management annually provides funds to scientific researchers in support of the Bureau's aquatic and upland plant management programs. Funded projects in research may vary from basic life-history studies of invasive species to better invasive plant control methodology.

Areas of particular current interest include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Biological control research for *Hydrilla verticillata* (including grass carp), *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Hygrophila polysperma*, *Pistia stratiotes*, *Lygodium microphyllum* L. *japonicum*, *Paederia foetida*, *Panicum repens*, and *Schinus terebinthifolius*
- Improved practices for chemical control of *Colocasia esculenta*, *Dioscorea bulbifera*, *Eichhornia crassipes*, *Pistia stratiotes*, *Hymenachne amplexicaulis*, *Lygodium microphyllum*, *L. japonicum*, and *Ruellia brittoniana*, and especially for controlling *Hydrilla verticillata* infestations in large lake systems
- Ecological and economic impacts of invasive non-native plant species in Florida
- Use of native plants for aquatic system restoration following control of invasive non-native plants
- Endothall bioassays on apple snails
- Evaluation and cost effectiveness of different types of tussock shredding machines and aquatic plant harvesters
- Relationships between wildlife and the amount of vegetation control
- Research on the impact and control of blue-green algae *Lyngbya* and *Cylindrospermopsis*
- Susceptibility of native vegetation to increased concentrations of fluridone
- Impacts of epiphytic algae within the Order Stigonematales on apple snails and the birds that consume them – an AVM-related issue

Application

Pre-proposals should be no more than two pages in length, single spaced typed, and should contain the following elements:

Date, Project Title, & Contact Information – Be sure to include the name(s) of the investigator(s) or applicant(s), the affiliation, address, phone and fax numbers, and email.

Need for the Research – Relate the proposed work to invasive plant management in Florida and set forth one or more specific objectives. Extensive references to background literature are not necessary. Invasive

species targeted in the project should be among those listed as Category I or II by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC); please see their web site for the list at www.fleppc.org.

Methods – Succinctly outline the specific activities that will accomplish the research objective(s), i.e., the proposed methods for data collection and analysis. Collaboration or partnering with other agencies or organizations is encouraged.

Deliverables – A mid-point status report (due on December 15, 2006) and a fiscal-year final report (due on June 15, 2007) are required; simply state that they will be provided. The status report indicates progress toward the objectives and includes any preliminary results. The final report should include analysis of results, discussion, and recommendations as appropriate. Notation of presentations made and reprints of published results from funded projects are welcomed and encouraged.

Schedule – Provide a brief timeframe for the proposed work. Keep in mind that Bureau-funded projects are intended to be short-term. If the proposed tasks cover more than one state fiscal year (July 1-June 30), group them by year. Also, take into account that actual activity time may be shortened within a given year due to the time necessary for establishing a formal contract or contract task assignment.

Budget – Briefly summarize a proposed budget. Bureau funds available for these projects vary from year to year and can be committed only on a yearly basis; thus, projects are evaluated annually for new and continued funding. For proposals spanning more than one state fiscal year, group the costs by year. The Bureau does not fund capital outlay expenses (computers, vehicles, etc.), tuition fees, or faculty salaries; university administrative overhead is limited to 5%. Keep in mind that the Bureau has limited funds; cost sharing is encouraged. A typical maximum funding for a year of university-research ranges from \$20,000 to \$35,000.

The deadline for submission of pre-proposals for FY06-07 is April 7, 2006.

Electronic submission is preferred: Send a MS Word document file to Don.schmitz@dep.state.fl.us. Send paper copies to Don C. Schmitz, Research Program Manager, BIPM, FDEP, 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 705, Tallahassee, FL 32399 (Phone: 850-245-2818; SC 205-2818). Early submissions are acceptable.

Evaluation

All pre-proposals will be evaluated in a two-step process. In the first phase, review comments are solicited from bureau-wide staff and from other interested parties, while members of a research review committee (6 to 8 Bureau administrators and biologists) will review the pre-proposals by project topic according to their sense of program priority needs. For the second step, the committee meets and reviews comments as a group, agrees on priorities, and ranks the pre-proposals. **Applicants with high-ranking pre-proposals having some likelihood of being funded will be notified in early July by email and requested to submit a full research project proposal along with a completed DEP Research Contract Budget form by the end of July, 2006.**