

Tab 1	SB 524 by Hooper; (Identical to H 00323) Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Trust Funds
Tab 2	SB 588 by Book (CO-INTRODUCERS) Ausley; (Identical to H 00217) Conservation Area Designations/Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area

The Florida Senate
COMMITTEE MEETING EXPANDED AGENDA

**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
 ENVIRONMENT, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

**Senator Albritton, Chair
 Senator Rodrigues, Vice Chair**

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 17, 2021

TIME: 3:30—6:00 p.m.

PLACE: Toni Jennings Committee Room, 110 Senate Building

MEMBERS: Senator Albritton, Chair; Senator Rodrigues, Vice Chair; Senators Ausley, Berman, Boyd, Bradley, Brodeur, Garcia, Mayfield, Stewart, and Thurston

TAB	BILL NO. and INTRODUCER	BILL DESCRIPTION and SENATE COMMITTEE ACTIONS	COMMITTEE ACTION
PUBLIC TESTIMONY WILL BE RECEIVED FROM ROOM A1 AT THE DONALD L. TUCKER CIVIC CENTER, 505 W PENSACOLA STREET, TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301			
1	SB 524 Hooper (Identical H 323)	Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Trust Funds; Revising the sources of funds that may be used for specified purposes for the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund; authorizing the commission to invest and reinvest funds and the interest thereof of the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund and the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund, respectively; revising the use of such funds for the marketing of the license plates; authorizing such funds to be used for commission administrative costs, etc. EN 02/01/2021 Favorable AEG 02/17/2021 Favorable AP	Favorable Yeas 10 Nays 0
2	SB 588 Book (Identical H 217)	Conservation Area Designations/Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area; Designating the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area as the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area; directing the Department of Environmental Protection to erect suitable markers, etc. EN 02/01/2021 Favorable AEG 02/17/2021 Favorable AP	Favorable Yeas 9 Nays 0
3	Update on the State Hemp Program, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services		Presented
4	Overview of Invasive Plants and Animals, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission		Presented
Other Related Meeting Documents			

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

BILL: SB 524

INTRODUCER: Senator Hooper

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Trust Funds

DATE: February 16, 2021

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Anderson	Rogers	EN	Favorable
2.	Reagan	Betta	AEG	Recommend: Favorable
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 524 revises several of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) trust funds to allow the agency to use trust fund revenues for administrative costs and to specifically authorize the investment of funds within the State Treasury. The bill codifies the FWC's existing practices.

The following trust funds are amended to allow for the use of trust fund revenues for administrative costs:

- Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund;
- Save the Manatee Trust Fund; and
- Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund.

The following trust funds are amended to authorize the investment of funds into the State Treasury:

- Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund;
- Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund;
- Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund;
- State Game Trust Fund;
- Save the Manatee Trust Fund; and
- Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund.

The annual projected fiscal impact to the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund is \$100,000 for administrative costs and the annual projected fiscal impact to the Save the Manatee Trust Fund is \$300,000 for administrative costs. These additional costs will offset the administrative costs of the other trust funds.

II. Present Situation:

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The FWC is responsible for regulating, managing, protecting, and conserving the state's fish and wildlife resources.¹ The FWC is governed by a board of seven members who are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate to five-year terms.² Under Art. IV, s. 9 of the Florida Constitution, the FWC is granted the authority to exercise the regulatory and executive powers of the state with respect to wild animal life, fresh water aquatic life, and marine life. The Legislature may enact laws that aid the FWC in its exercise of regulatory functions and executive powers in the areas of planning, budgeting, personnel management, and purchasing.³

The FWC administers 13 trust funds that serve to support their mission. The FWC currently invests proceeds and cash balances from the funds in accordance with ch. 215, F.S. The FWC has become aware that statutory language explicitly authorizing such practice in certain trust funds is necessary.⁴ The FWC stated that it has made a commitment to the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to correct the deficiency with authorizing language in those trust funds which provides for the investment and reinvestment of proceeds.⁵

Additionally, trust funds have historically been used by the FWC to contribute to the agency's administrative costs. According to the FWC certain trust funds require modifying language to allow supporting revenues to be used for agency administrative costs.⁶

The FWC indicated that it already has procedures in place for the investment of cash balances and the determination of the proportionate share of agency administrative costs.⁷

Trust Funds

Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund

The Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund may be used exclusively for the following purposes:

- Management and protection of existing Florida panther populations;
- Public education concerning the value of the panther and the necessity for panther management;
- Reestablishment of Florida panthers into areas of suitable habitat; and
- Promotion and marketing of the Florida panther license plate.⁸

¹ FLA. CONST. art. IV, s. 9.

² *Id.*; see also section 379.102(1), F.S.

³ FLA. CONST. art. IV, s. 9.

⁴ Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), *Agency Bill Analysis for SB 524* (Jan. 22, 2021) (on file with the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Section 379.205, F.S.

Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund

The Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund is a depository for funds from various marine-related and boating-related activities and is allowed to be administered for funding all of the following purposes:

- Marine research.
- Fishery enhancement.
- Marine law enforcement.
- Administration of licensing programs for recreational fishing, saltwater products sales, and related information and education activities.
- Operations of the FWC.
- Titling and registration of vessels.
- Marine turtle protection, research, and recovery activities from revenues that are specifically credited to the trust fund for these purposes.
- Rehabilitation of oyster harvesting areas from which special oyster surcharge fees are collected.
- Boating research, boating-related programs and activities, and law enforcement on state waters.
- The stone crab trap reduction program, the blue crab effort management program, the spiny lobster trap certificate program, and the trap retrieval program.⁹

Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund

The Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund is allowed to be used for the following purposes:

- Documentation of population trends of nongame wildlife and assessment of wildlife habitat;
- Establishment of effective conservation, management, and regulatory programs for nongame wildlife of the state; and
- Public education programs.¹⁰

State Game Trust Fund

The State Game Trust Fund comes from the administration of laws and regulations pertaining to birds, game, fur-bearing animals, freshwater fish, reptiles, and amphibians, and any other funds specifically provided for such purposes.¹¹ It is used for recreational boating activities and freshwater fisheries management and research, including funding local projects in counties where there are unmet needs for boating-related activities and where sufficient financial resources are unavailable.¹²

Save the Manatee Trust Fund

The Save the Manatee Trust Fund¹³ is used to fund all of the following purposes:

- A scientific census study of the manatee population in the state, which is conducted annually by the FWC and is used in the evaluation and development of manatee protection measures.

⁹ Section 379.208(1), F.S.

¹⁰ Section 379.209, F.S.

¹¹ Section 379.211, F.S.

¹² Section 206.606(1)(b), F.S.

¹³ Section 379.213, F.S.

- Annual funding of activities of the FWC and public and private organizations intended to provide manatee and marine mammal protection and recovery efforts.
- Manufacture and erection of informational and regulatory signs.
- Production, publication, and distribution of educational materials.
- Participation in manatee and marine mammal research programs, including carcass salvage and other programs.
- Programs intended to assist the recovery of the manatee as an endangered species, assist the recovery of the endangered or threatened marine mammals, and prevent the endangerment of other species of marine mammals.
- Other similar programs intended to protect and enhance the recovery of the manatee and other species of marine mammals.
- Promotion and marketing of the manatee license plate.¹⁴

Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund

The Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund¹⁵ is used for control, eradication, and regulation of aquatic weeds¹⁶ and nonnative, upland, invasive plant species on public lands,¹⁷ and research and planning related to these activities.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

Section 1 amends s. 379.205, F.S., to authorize the FWC to spend money from the interest derived from its investments and reinvestments in the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund. The bill allows the FWC to use revenues from the trust fund for administrative costs, in addition to currently allowed purposes.

Section 2 amends s. 379.208, F.S., to authorize the FWC to invest and reinvest the funds and interest derived from the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund.

Section 3 amends s. 379.209, F.S., to authorize the FWC to invest and reinvest the funds and interest derived from the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund.

Section 4 amends s. 379.211, F.S., to authorize the FWC to use revenues from the interest derived from its investments and reinvestments in the State Game Trust Fund.

Section 5 amends s. 379.213, F.S., to authorize the FWC to invest and reinvest the funds and interest derived from the Save the Manatee Trust Fund.

Section 6 amends s. 379.08058, F.S., to authorize the FWC to use funds from the manatee license plate annual use fee, which are deposited into the Save the Manatee Trust Fund, for administrative costs, in addition to currently allowed purposes.

¹⁴ Section 379.2431(4), F.S.

¹⁵ Section 379.214, F.S.

¹⁶ Sections 206.606(1)(a), 328.76(1), 369.20, and 369.22, F.S.

¹⁷ Section 369.252, F.S.

Section 7 amends s. 379.214, F.S., to authorize the FWC to invest and reinvest the funds and interest derived from the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund. The bill allows the FWC to use revenues from the trust fund for administrative costs, in addition to currently allowed purposes.

Section 8 provides that the bill will take effect on July 1, 2021.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

According to the FWC, the annual projected fiscal impact to the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund is \$100,000 for administrative costs and the annual projected fiscal impact to the Save the Manatee Trust Fund is \$300,000 for administrative costs. These additional costs will offset the administrative costs of the other trust funds.¹⁸

¹⁸ Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), *Agency Bill Analysis for SB 524* (Jan. 22, 2021) (on file with the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources).

The annual projected fiscal impact (based on the average interest earnings from the most recent three year period) to the funds that are being revised to authorize the investment of funds into the State Treasury is as follows:

- Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund: \$31,000.
- Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund: \$278,300.
- Non-Game Wildlife Trust Fund: \$100,000.
- State Game Trust Fund: \$331,250.
- Save the Manatee Trust Fund: \$11,800.
- Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund: \$137,800.¹⁹

The FWC currently invests these funds in the State Treasury, but does not have explicit authority to do so. If these changes are not enacted the DFS could prevent the FWC from investing these funds which would result in a loss of revenue.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill substantially amends the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 379.205, 379.208, 379.209, 379.211, 379.213, 320.08058, and 379.214.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

¹⁹ *Id.*

By Senator Hooper

16-00650-21

2021524__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission trust funds; amending s. 379.205, F.S.; revising the sources of funds that may be used for specified purposes for the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund; authorizing the funds to be used for commission administrative costs; amending ss. 379.208 and 379.209, F.S.; authorizing the commission to invest and reinvest funds and the interest thereof of the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund and the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund, respectively; amending s. 379.211, F.S.; authorizing the commission to invest and reinvest funds and the interest thereof of the State Game Trust Fund; deleting a provision limiting the use of such funds; amending s. 379.213, F.S.; authorizing the commission to invest and reinvest funds and the interest thereof of the Save the Manatee Trust Fund; amending s. 320.08058, F.S.; revising the authorized uses for funds of the Save the Manatee Trust Fund collected from sales of the manatee license plates to include administrative costs; revising the use of such funds for the marketing of the license plates; amending s. 379.214, F.S.; authorizing the commission to invest and reinvest the funds and the interest thereof of the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund; authorizing such funds to be used for commission administrative costs; providing an effective date.

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (2) of section 379.205, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.205 Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund.—

(2) The commission shall spend money from the fund and all interest derived from its investments and reinvestments ~~shall be spent~~ only for the following purposes:

(a) To manage and protect existing Florida panther populations by increasing panther food sources where food is a limiting factor, determining conflicts between public use and panther survival, maintaining sufficient genetic variability in existing populations, and undertaking management and enforcement activities that protect panther habitat.

(b) To educate the public concerning the value of the panther and the necessity for panther management.

(c) To reestablish Florida panthers into areas of suitable habitat, where feasible, by assessing the necessity of a captive breeding program for purposes of reintroduction of the panthers into the suitable habitat; selecting potential sites for reintroduction and investigating associated human sociological aspects; and assessing the potential for panther habitat acquisition.

(d) For Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission administrative costs and for the promotion to promote and marketing of market the Florida panther license plate as authorized under s. 320.08058.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 379.208, Florida

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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Statutes, is amended to read:

379.208 Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund;
purposes.—

(1) The Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shall serve as a broad-based depository for funds from various marine-related and boating-related activities. The commission may invest and reinvest the funds and the interest thereof of the trust fund and shall administer the trust fund ~~be administered by the commission~~ for the purposes of:

(a) Funding for marine research.

(b) Funding for fishery enhancement, including, but not limited to, fishery statistics development, artificial reefs, and fish hatcheries.

(c) Funding for marine law enforcement.

(d) Funding for administration of licensing programs for recreational fishing, saltwater products sales, and related information and education activities.

(e) Funding for the operations of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(f) Funding for titling and registration of vessels.

(g) Funding for marine turtle protection, research, and recovery activities from revenues that are specifically credited to the trust fund for these purposes.

(h) Funding activities for rehabilitation of oyster harvesting areas from which special oyster surcharge fees are collected, including relaying and transplanting live oysters.

(i) Funding for boating research, boating-related programs and activities, and for law enforcement on state waters.

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(j) Funding for the stone crab trap reduction program under s. 379.365, the blue crab effort management program under s. 379.366, the spiny lobster trap certificate program under s. 379.3671, and the trap retrieval program under s. 379.2424.

Section 3. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 379.209, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.209 Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund.—

(2) (a) There is established within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund. The fund shall be credited with moneys collected pursuant to ss. 319.32(3) and 320.02(8). Additional funds may be provided from legislative appropriations and by donations from interested individuals and organizations. The commission may invest and reinvest the funds and the interest thereof of the Nongame Wildlife Trust Fund. The commission shall designate an identifiable unit to administer the trust fund.

Section 4. Section 379.211, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

379.211 State Game Trust Fund.—The funds resulting from the operation of the commission and from the administration of the laws and regulations pertaining to birds, game, fur-bearing animals, freshwater fish, reptiles, and amphibians, together with any other funds specifically provided for such purposes shall constitute the State Game Trust Fund and shall be used by the commission as it shall deem fit, including the investment and reinvestment of the funds and the interest thereof, for the purpose of in carrying out this section. ~~The provisions hereof and for no other purposes, except that~~ annual use fees deposited into the trust fund from the sale of the Largemouth Bass license

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117 plate may be expended for the purposes provided under s.
 118 320.08058(17). The commission may not obligate itself beyond the
 119 current resources of the State Game Trust Fund unless
 120 specifically so authorized by the Legislature.

121 Section 5. Subsection (2) of section 379.213, Florida
 122 Statutes, is amended to read:

123 379.213 Save the Manatee Trust Fund.—

124 (2) The commission may invest and reinvest the funds and
 125 the interest thereof of the Save the Manatee Trust Fund. Funds
 126 to be credited to and uses of the trust fund shall be
 127 administered in accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ ss. 320.08058,
 128 328.66, 328.72, 328.74, 328.76, and 379.2431. The Fish and
 129 Wildlife Conservation Commission may receive donations for
 130 deposit into the Save the Manatee Trust Fund.

131 Section 6. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of
 132 section 320.08058, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

133 320.08058 Specialty license plates.—

134 (1) MANATEE LICENSE PLATES.—

135 (b) The manatee license plate annual use fee must be
 136 deposited into the Save the Manatee Trust Fund, created within
 137 the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and may ~~shall~~ be
 138 used only for commission administrative costs and the purposes
 139 specified in s. 379.2431(4).

140 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), up to 10 percent of the
 141 annual use fee deposited in the Save the Manatee Trust Fund from
 142 the sale of the manatee license plate may be used to promote and
 143 market the license plate ~~issued by the Department of Highway~~
 144 ~~Safety and Motor Vehicles after June 30, 2007.~~

145 Section 7. Subsection (2) of section 379.214, Florida

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146 Statutes, is amended to read:

147 379.214 Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund.—

148 (2) The commission may invest and reinvest the funds and
 149 the interest thereof of the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund.
 150 Funds to be credited to and uses of the trust fund shall be
 151 administered in accordance with ~~the provisions of~~ ss. 206.606,
 152 328.76, 369.20, 369.22, 369.252, and 379.502 and may also be
 153 used for commission administrative costs.

154 Section 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.



The Florida Senate

Committee Agenda Request

To: Senator Ben Albritton, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

Subject: Committee Agenda Request

Date: February 1, 2021

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill # 524**, relating to Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Trust Funds, be placed on the:

- ☒ committee agenda at your earliest possible convenience.
- ☐ next committee agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hooper", is written over a horizontal line.

Senator Ed Hooper
Florida Senate, District 16

The Florida Senate
BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

BILL: SB 588

INTRODUCER: Senators Book and Ausley

SUBJECT: Conservation Area Designations/Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area

DATE: February 16, 2021

REVISED: _____

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Anderson	Rogers	EN	Favorable
2.	Reagan	Betta	AEG	Recommend: Favorable
3.			AP	

I. Summary:

SB 588 designates the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area as the “Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area.”

The Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area was established in 2018 and consists of sovereignty submerged lands and state waters offshore of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties from the St. Lucie Inlet to the northern boundary of the Biscayne National Park.

The bill directs the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to erect suitable markers designating the conservation area.

The estimated cost to erect the designated markers required under this bill is indeterminate but can be absorbed within existing resources of the DEP.

The bill takes effect on July 1, 2021.

II. Present Situation:

Coral Reefs

Coral reefs in southeast Florida support a rich and diverse assemblage of stony corals, octocorals, macroalgae, sponges, and fishes.¹ Florida’s coral reef stretches for over 350 miles, from the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County past Key West to the Dry Tortugas.² It is the only coral reef system

¹ Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), *Coral Reef Conservation Program*, <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coral> (last visited Jan. 22, 2021).

² Florida’s Coral Reef, *Conserving Florida’s Coral Reef*, <https://floridascoralreef.org/> (last visited Jan. 22, 2021).

in the continental United States and is home to over 40 species of reef-building corals that provide shelter, food, and breeding sites for millions of plants and animals.³

Coral reefs are valuable natural resources. They protect coastlines by reducing wave energy from storms and hurricanes. They serve as a source of food and shelter and provide critical habitat for over 6,000 species, including commercially important fisheries.⁴ Many medicines, as well as other health and beauty products, are derived from marine plants, algae, and animals found on coral reefs.

People use coral reefs as a resource for recreation, education, scientific research, and public inspiration. Millions of tourists and local residents enjoy scuba diving, snorkeling, and fishing on Florida's coral reefs. These activities provide a source of income for the state and its coastal communities. The natural and artificial reefs along Southeast Florida and the Florida Keys along generate \$6.3 billion in sales and income, and sustain more than 71,000 jobs annually.⁵

Florida Coral Reef Conservation Program

The Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) within the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection of the DEP manages the northern section of the reef, from the St. Lucie Inlet to the northern border of Biscayne National Park.⁶ The CRCP coordinates research and monitoring, develops management strategies, and promotes partnerships to protect the coral reefs, hardbottom communities, and associated reef resources of southeast Florida.⁷

The CRCP implements and coordinates the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI). The SEFCRI identifies and implements priority actions needed to reduce key threats to coral reef resources in southeast Florida, through a local action strategy for collaborative action among government and non-governmental partners.⁸

³ *Id.*

⁴ DEP, *Coral Reef Conservation Program*, <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coral> (last visited Jan. 22, 2021); DEP, *Coral Reef Conservation Program 2020-2025 Strategic Plan*, 3 available at https://floridadep.gov/sites/default/files/CRCP%20Strategic%20Plan%202020-2025_FINAL_508%20compliant.pdf.

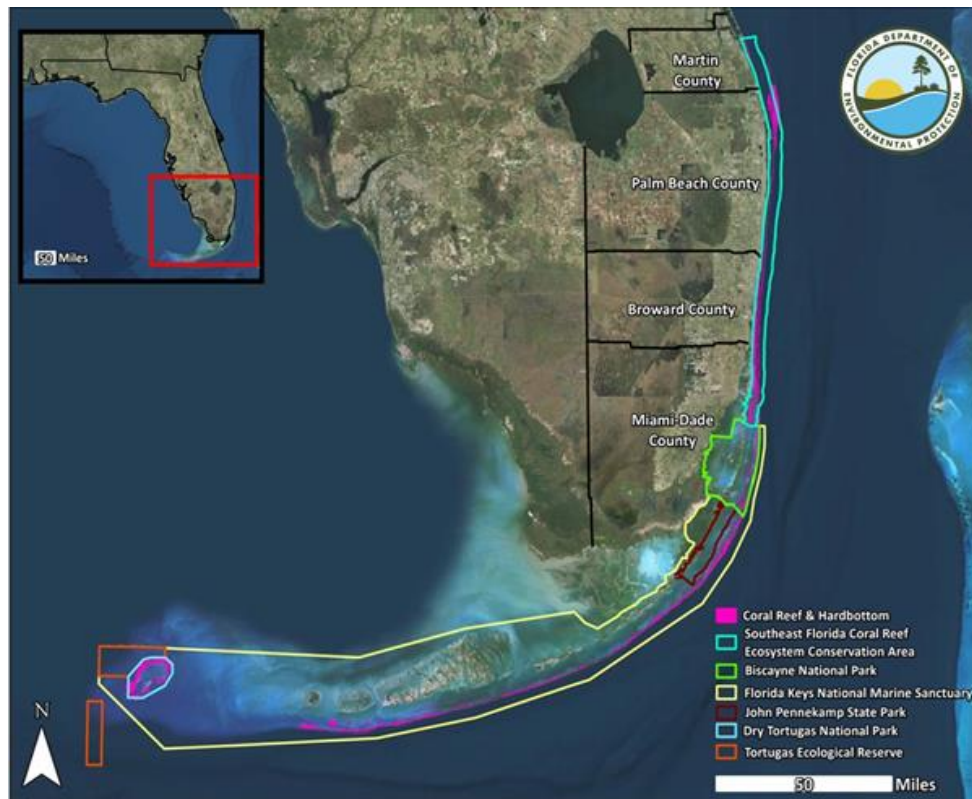
⁵ DEP, *Coral Reef Conservation Program 2020-2025 Strategic Plan* at 3.

⁶ DEP, *Coral Reef Conservation Program*, <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coral> (last visited Jan. 22, 2021).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI), *What is SEFCRI?*, <https://southeastfloridareefs.net/who-we-are/> (last visited Jan. 22, 2021).

Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area



The Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area, formerly referred to as the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative Region, was officially established on July 1, 2018.⁹ The conservation area shown in the map above¹⁰ includes the sovereign submerged lands and state waters offshore of Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties from the northern boundary of the Biscayne National Park to the St. Lucie Inlet.¹¹

The Florida Keys portion of the reef is recognized and protected by management plans of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges.¹² Prior to the designation of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area, the northern portion of the reef was unprotected and lacked a state-adopted management plan for its future sustainability and conservation.¹³ This section of the reef is affected by extremely high year-round usage and water quality degradation.

⁹ Chapter 2018-30, Laws of Fla.

¹⁰ DEP, *Coral ECA: Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area*, <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coral/content/coral-eca-southeast-florida-coral-reef-ecosystem-conservation-area> (last visited Jan. 22, 2021).

¹¹ Chapter 2018-30, Laws of Fla.

¹² DEP, *Coral ECA: Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area*, <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/coral/content/coral-eca-southeast-florida-coral-reef-ecosystem-conservation-area> (last visited Jan. 22, 2021).

¹³ *Id.*

Kristin Jacobs

Kristin Jacobs was a member of the Florida House of Representatives, representing District 96 in Broward County, from 2014 until her passing in 2020. She was the prime sponsor of House Bill 53 in 2018, which established the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area.¹⁴ Prior to her time in the Legislature, she served as Broward County Commissioner for 16 years and Mayor of Broward County for two terms and was twice chosen by the President of the United States to serve on national task forces dealing with climate resiliency and ocean protection.¹⁵ Representative Jacobs was known as a “tireless advocate for Florida’s environment, wildlife, and families.”¹⁶ She was also one of the original signers and champions of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact.¹⁷ Representative Jacobs passed away on April 11, 2020.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The bill designates the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area as the “Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area.”

The bill directs the DEP to erect suitable markers designating the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area.

The bill provides an effective date of July 1, 2021.

IV. Constitutional Issues:**A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

¹⁴ Chapter 2018-30, Laws of Fla.

¹⁵ Florida House of Representatives, *Kristin Diane Jacobs*, <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/details.aspx?MemberId=4613&LegislativeTermId=88> (last visited Jan. 22, 2021); Southeast Florida Regional Compact for Climate Change (Compact), *Remembering Kristin Jacobs* available at <http://createsend.com/t/j-19A118D31C20C57E2540EF23F30FEDED> (last visited Feb. 11, 2021).

¹⁶ Florida House of Representatives, Speaker Jose R. Oliva, *In Memoriam Representative Kristin Diane Jacobs 1959-2020* (Apr. 11, 2020) (on file with the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources).

¹⁷ Compact, *Remembering Kristin Jacobs*.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The estimated cost to erect the designated markers required under the bill is indeterminate at this time. However, the agency can absorb this cost within existing resources.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII. Related Issues:

None.

VIII. Statutes Affected:

This bill creates an undesignated section of law.

IX. Additional Information:

A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

By Senator Book

32-00026-21

2021588__

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to conservation area designations;
designating the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem
Conservation Area as the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef
Ecosystem Conservation Area; directing the Department
of Environmental Protection to erect suitable markers;
providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation
Area designated; Department of Environmental Protection to erect
suitable markers.-

(1) The Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation
Area, as established by chapter 2018-30, Laws of Florida, is
designated as the "Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem
Conservation Area."

(2) The Department of Environmental Protection is directed
to erect suitable markers designating the Kristin Jacobs Coral
Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area as described in subsection (1).

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.



The Florida Senate

Committee Agenda Request

To: Senator Ben Albritton, Chair
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

Subject: Committee Agenda Request

Date: February 1, 2021

I respectfully request that **Senate Bill 588**, relating to Conservation Area Designations/Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area, be placed on the:

- ☐ committee agenda at your earliest possible convenience.
- ☒ next committee agenda.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Book".

Senator Lauren Book
Florida Senate, District 32

THE FLORIDA SENATE
APPEARANCE RECORD

(Deliver BOTH copies of this form to the Senator or Senate Professional Staff conducting the meeting)

FEB 17th 2022

Meeting Date

SB588

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name DAVID SARDAN

Job Title STATESMAN Environmentalist

Address 66 Wintergreen Dr

Phone 352 805 6597

Street

Fortland Park

State

Zip

FL 34731

Email

gotferdaye195@gmail.com

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against

(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Environmental / Our Sunshine STATE OCEANS

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

YOU MUST PRINT AND DELIVER THIS FORM TO THE ASSIGNED TESTIMONY ROOM

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

February 17 2021

Meeting Date

588

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Conservation Area Designation/Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Consercation Area

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Edgar G. Fernandez

Job Title _____

Address 201 W Park Avenue, Suite 100

Phone (866) 960-5939

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

Email Edgar@Anfieldflorida.com

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Broward, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

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THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

2/17/2021

Meeting Date

SB 588

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic SB 588 concerning Kristen Jacobs Conservation Area

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Ryder Rudd

Job Title SVP at McGuire Woods Consulting

Address 115 E Park Ave Suite 1

Phone 850-294-3767

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

City

State

Zip

Email RRUDD@mwcllc.com

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing The Nature Conservancy

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

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S-001 (10/14/14)

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Duplicate

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

2/17/21

Meeting Date

SB 588

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic _____

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jeff Scala

Job Title Associate Director of Public Policy

Address 100 South Monroe Street

Phone (850) 922-4300

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32301

Email jscala@fl-counties.com

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☒ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Association of Counties

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)

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THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

2/17/21

Meeting Date

SB 588

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Senate Bill 588

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Noah Valenstein

Job Title Secretary, Dept of Environmental Protection

Address 3900 Commonwealth Blvd

Phone _____

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32399

Email _____

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☐ Information

Waive Speaking: ☒ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing FL Dept of Environmental Protection

Appearing at request of Chair: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

While it is a Senate tradition to encourage public testimony, time may not permit all persons wishing to speak to be heard at this meeting. Those who do speak may be asked to limit their remarks so that as many persons as possible can be heard.

This form is part of the public record for this meeting.

S-001 (10/14/14)



Public Interest

Interested parties list 5000+

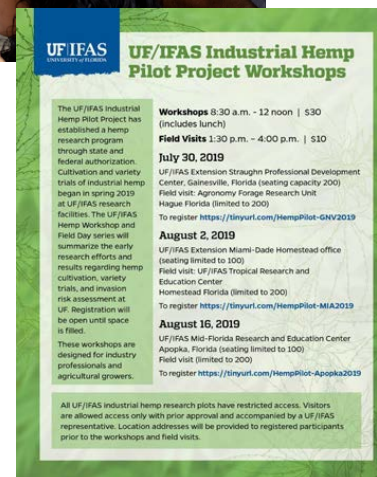


'FRESH FROM FLORIDA'
CBD hemp products on their way with new law

Legal CBD could be a big boost for Florida hemp farmers
Posted By Dara Kam, News Service of Florida on Fri, Jul 26, 2019 at 2:47 pm

ORLANDO WEEKLY
Listen now 06:42

wfsu
PUBLIC MEDIA

UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project Workshops

The UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project has established a hemp research program through state and federal authorization. Cultivation and variety trials of industrial hemp began in spring 2019 at UF/IFAS research facilities. The UF/IFAS Hemp Workshop and Field Day series will summarize the early research efforts and results regarding hemp cultivation, variety trials, and invasion risk assessment at UF. Registration will be open until space is filled.

Workshops 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon | \$30 (includes lunch)
Field Visits 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | \$10

July 30, 2019
UF/IFAS Extension Straughn Professional Development Center, Gainesville, Florida (seating capacity 200)
Field visit: Agronomy Forage Research Unit, Hague, Florida (limited to 200)
To register: <https://tinyurl.com/HempPilot-GNV2019>

August 2, 2019
UF/IFAS Extension Miami-Dade Homestead office (seating limited to 100)
Field visit: UF/IFAS Tropical Research and Education Center, Homestead, Florida (limited to 200)
To register: <https://tinyurl.com/HempPilot-MIA2019>

August 16, 2019
UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center, Apopka, Florida (seating limited to 100)
Field visit (limited to 200)
To register: <https://tinyurl.com/HempPilot-Apopka2019>

All UF/IFAS industrial hemp research plots have restricted access. Visitors are allowed access only with prior approval and accompanied by a UF/IFAS representative. Location addresses will be provided to registered participants prior to the workshops and field visits.

Orlando Sentinel SUBSCRIBE

Hemp's healing potential has Florida farmers high on the now-legal crop

By DARA KAM
NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA
JUL 26, 2019 | 12:16 PM



Program Progress

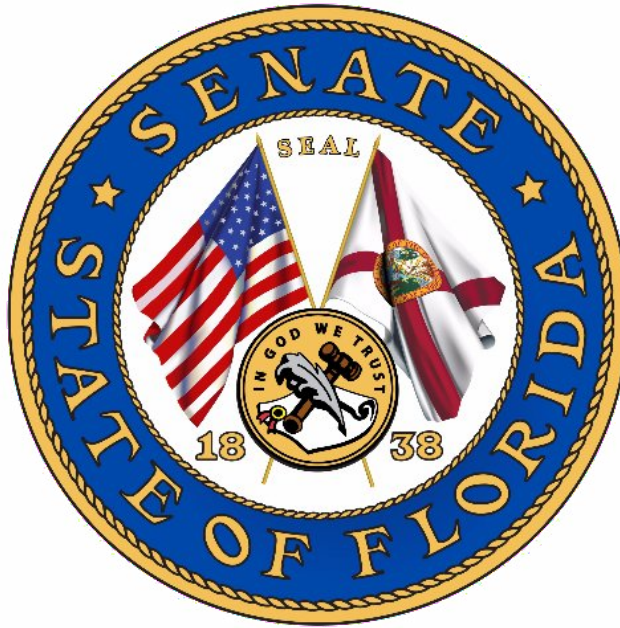
✓ Assembled team

Our Team



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

SB 1020



May 3, 2019

Rule Development for SB 1020

5B – 57.014 State Hemp Program

5E – 3 Feed Rule

5E – 4 Seed Rule

5K – 4.034 Food Safety

5K – 10.006 Dairy Rule

Rule Workshops and Adoption



June 20, 2019 – Pembroke Pines

June 21, 2019 – Tampa

June 24, 2019 – Tallahassee

900+ attended

190+ public comments

4 of the 5 rules were adopted and effective on 1/1/2020.

The last rule (cultivation) was adopted and effective 4/2020.

USDA Plan Approval for Florida



The Florida Hemp Plan was approved by the USDA in April 2020

Along with traditional paper applications, FDACS accepts and issues licenses through an online portal.

This allowed FDACS to issue our first license to cultivate hemp in late April.

The USDA has issued their final rule as of 1/19/2021, with an effective date of 3/22/2021.

Florida's rules align well with the USDA final rule.

FDACS Hemp Team

Division of
Agricultural
Environmental
Services (AES)

Seeds, pesticides, fertilizer, and animal feed

Division of Plant
Industry (DPI)

Cultivation

Division of Food
Safety (FS)

Processing, manufacturing, and retailing

Agricultural Environmental Services Progress

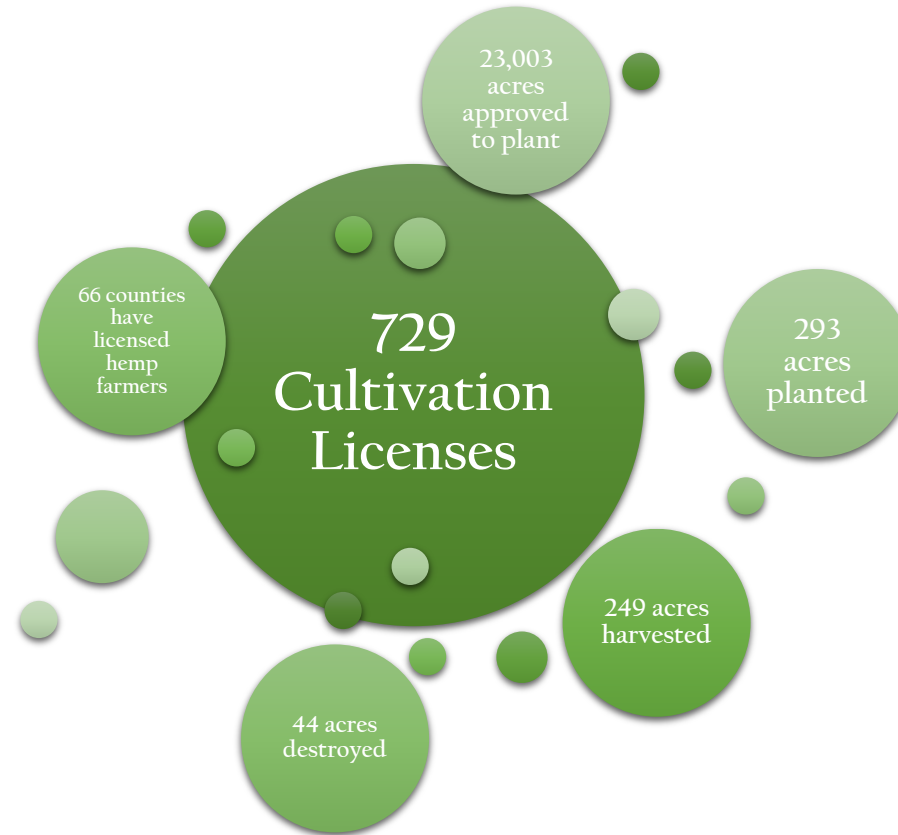
Seed Dealer
Permits

●18

Animal Feed
Dealer Permits

●29

Plant Industry Progress



Food Safety Progress

Retail

● 7,194

Manufacturers

● 280

Warehouses

● 219

Distributors

● 38

Processors/Extractors

● 15

Program Progress

- ✓ Assembled team
- ✓ Continued research

Pilot Projects



2019 Seed and Clone



2020
Hemp 4 Water



2019 Seed and Clone
First to Approve
6 seeds & 1 cultivar



2020



2020
Pharmaceutical and Seed



2020

Education



Cannabis Law
course



Industry Certification
class and degree

Research Needed

The Federal Farm Bill had Pilot Research Programs ending in 2020. Congress extended authorization through Sep-2021.

The need for ongoing research is important.

The Florida statute follows the Farm Bill.

Program Progress

- ✓ Assembled team
- ✓ Continuing research
- ✓ Connecting with Floridians

Industry Knowledge & Resources

Website <https://www.fdacs.gov/Cannabis-Hemp/Hemp-CBD-in-Florida>

Our Hemp page has detailed information on every aspect of the program.

Webinars

FDACS has hosted 10 informational webinars for the industry with 75 to 140 attendees per session.

Law Enforcement Education

Ag Law Officer Major Ben Burns has met with law enforcement across the state, in-person and virtually, over the past two years. He has also written a reference document which we share on our website.

State Programs

In November of 2020, Holly and team hosted the first virtual state hemp regulators conference. Guest speakers included many SMEs from the USDA, DEA, and others.

Outreach and Response

The Hemp team conducts speaking events 2x a month and answers numerous calls and emails every week on the program.

Industry Knowledge & Resources

Cultivation Education for Farmer



Both FAMU and UF have been hosting, and continue to host meetings to share research, cultivation updates, and networking events for Hemp Farmers in Florida.

Florida Hemp Associations



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Program Progress

- ✓ Assembled team
- ✓ Continued research
- ✓ Connected with Floridians
- ✓ **Formed Hemp Advisory Council**

Hemp Advisory Council

Hemp Advisory Council formed as directed in SB 1020.

3 Seats remain unappointed.

Next Meeting is 2/4/2021

Current Members

Senator Ben Albritton

Senator Ray Rodrigues

Holly Bell, FDACS Director of Cannabis

Tara Tedrow, JD

Laura Fuentes, RPh, CEO Greenroads

Dr. Stephan Leong, FAMU Hemp Pilot Program

Dr. Robert Gilbert, Dean UF IFAS

John Hoblick, President Florida Farm Bureau

Michael Joyner, President Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association

Director David Coffman, Director FDLE Lab

Sheriff Mike Adkinson, Walton County Sheriff

Leonard Dietzen, JD, Florida Police Chief's Association

Program Progress

- ✓ Assembled team
- ✓ Continued research
- ✓ Connected with Floridians
- ✓ Formed Hemp Advisory Council
- ✓ Collaborated with sister agencies

Sister Agency Collaboration

- FDLE, DOH, and DBPR
- Educational webinar series to assist with field operations and industry knowledge.
- Holding meetings with DBPR to ensure the industry is permitted properly and our field teams are communicating.



Looking Ahead

1. Education
2. Florida Hemp logo
3. Economic development
4. Industry data collection
5. Regulation of the industry
6. Ag Water best management practices
7. Continued collaboration with all law enforcement
8. Continued testing of products for consumer protection



Industry Growth in Hamilton County

Green Point Research purchased a 32-acre vacant complex for logistics and drying.

The Cannabis Center of Excellence plans to have 20 employees as the build out continues.



Industry Growth in Hamilton County

In December, over 150k pounds of hemp biomass was shipped out of the facility to customers across the Southeast, primarily Florida.

Green Point's 110-acre fall harvest in Hamilton County was FL's **LARGEST** legal hemp harvest with local partner farm, the Murphy Farm.

Farming expansion in Hamilton County for 2021 is already underway.



Industry Growth In Ocala

63,000 square foot hemp complex.

Projecting hiring 30 employees in 2021

Knox Horticulture is a hemp genetics provider.

Titan Processors is a state-of-the-art facility for processing and drying of hemp.



Industry Growth in Ocala

Trust Wellness is a hemp white labeler with the ability to manufacture multiple products.

Greene's Reserve is a manufacturer of tobacco-free full spectrum hemp snuff.



Industry Growth in Umatilla

Purchased a repurposed and empty citrus processing facility in 2020.

15 employees with plans to expand in 2021.

The facility will dry, process, manufacturer, and distribute hemp products.



Industry Growth in Umatilla

Treadwell Farms purchased hemp from 10 farmers from Central Florida in the 2020 season.

Treadwell Farms also created a coalition of farmers called Florida Hemp Farmers to work together to successfully grow hemp in our region.



Industry Growth in Tampa

Global Widgets is a hemp white labeler that manufacturers over 1000 different products which are shipped through out the country.

They purchased and refurbished a vacant 110,000 square foot building in March 2019.

In 2020 they purchased an adjacent 10,000 square foot building due to growth.

They employee 190 team members and are growing. They currently have 8 open positions.



Thank you!

Holly Bell

Director of Cannabis

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Holly.Bell@fdacs.gov

www.fdacs.gov/Cannabis





**Senate Agriculture Environment and
General Government Appropriations Subcommittee
February 17, 2021**

Statutory Mandate

In accordance with Florida Statute 1004.4473(d), “Industrial Hemp Pilot Project” or “Pilot Project” is defined as a project that includes research of industrial hemp and any aspect of cultivation, harvesting, processing, market research, and sales of approved industrial hemp agricultural, industrial, and commercial products.

Project Implementation



2017 Established by Florida Legislature

2018 Farm Bill & Florida Hemp Program

2019 Board of Trustees Partnership Approval

2020 FDACS Seed Memorandum & Guidance

2020 Seed & Cultivar Approval

2021 USDA Pilot Project Extension

Research Goal

To conduct research on industrial hemp (*cannabis sativa*) with industry partners that will lead to the development of a viable and sustainable hemp industry for the state of Florida and its farmers.

Pilot Project Partners



Scott Burgett
COO & Co-Founder



Jeff Sharkey
Partner & Director of Regulatory Compliance

Doug Warren
COO & Industrial Hemp Researcher

Approved Seeds

PARTNER	STRAIN	THC	CBD	APPROVAL
Sunshine Hemp	Master Kush (Auto Flower)	0.246%	4.87%	June 23, 2020
	Early Abacus	0.202%	4.64%	June 23, 2020
	CBG Hepius	0.156%	5.95%	June 23, 2020
	Master Kush Spectrum	0.234 %	3.87%	June 23, 2020
Green Earth Cannaceuticals	NBS 071920	0.023%	5.843%	September 29, 2020

Approved Clones

PARTNER	STRAIN	THC	CBD	APPROVAL
Green Earth Cannaceuticals	Boax	0.254%	7.164%	June 22, 2020
	Cherry Cherry	0.269%	6.88%	June 22, 2020
	Panakeia	0.000%	6.52%	December 18, 2020
	Stout	0.111%	6.379%	June 22, 2020
	Sweetened	0.134%	3.407%	June 22, 2020
	Trump	0.244%	8.176%	June 22, 2020

Research Sites



Belong Farms

Brenner Groves Farms

BTS Nursery

Bubar Farms

Carma Corps International

Darby Boyz

Five Oaks Farms

GEC Headquarters



GEC North

Golden Hill Farms

Henry Farms

Hook-R-Farms

LD Ranch

Liners Farms

Noble Century Farms

Oglesby Site No. 1



GEC North

Oglesby Site No. 2

Shambu Garden

SJ Ranch

Southern Sun

Star Manufacturing

Sunshine Farms

Vilo Farms



Eustis, FL

Kenansville, FL

Punta Gorda, FL

St. Cloud, FL

- **≤2 Outdoor Acres**
- **4,000 Clones Planted**
- **Varieties:**
Cherry Citrus, CBD Therapy
- **Total Crop Harvest:**
Over 8,500 lbs (wet weight)
~4,000 lbs (dry weight)
(All material lost during drying process).





2-acre Outdoor Mesh house

3,000 sq. ft. Greenhouse

7,000 Seeds Planted

Varieties: Berry Blossom, Cherry Blossom, Cherry Bubblegum No. 2, Cherry Soda, Denver Cherry Wine, Early Abacus, Grape Soda, Hepious, La Crème, Merlot, MK Spectrum, Riki Auto Soda, Spectrum 303, Trump, West Side

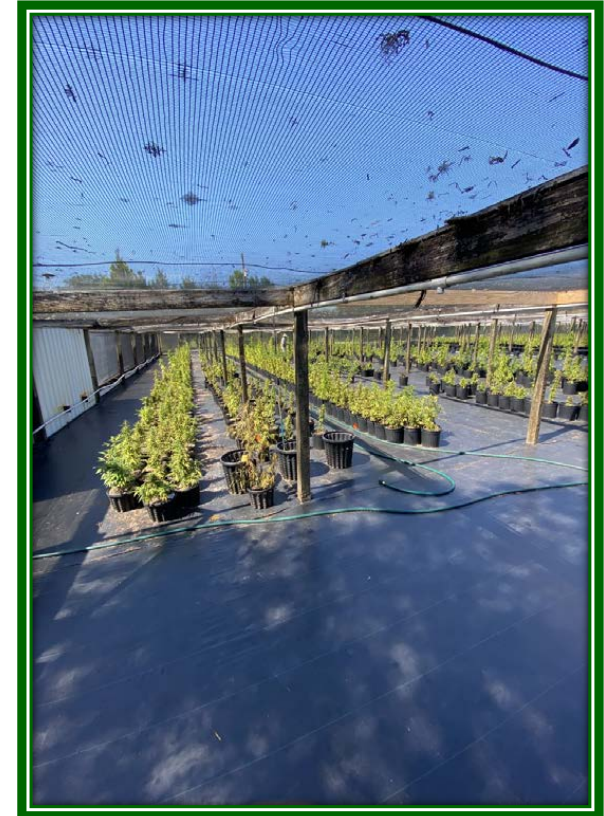
Total Crop Harvest: (Wet Weight)

MK Auto – 1,000 lbs

Hepious – 500 lbs

MK Spectrum – 500 lbs

Early Abacus – 500 lbs



Industry Challenges

Material overdried by a mobile hemp drying company.

- Novice farmers.
- Lack of planting materials, finances, underdeveloped market infrastructures.
- Pest management.
- Humid Florida climate and mold prevention.
- Flood and hurricane damage.
- Lack of reliable facilities for drying and processing.
- High cost for testing material.



Plant stalk split from hurricane winds.



Hemp cola rotted by mold.

Pilot Program 2021-2022

Plan of Work 2021-2022

- Continue research and data collection on existing farms and permits to further approve hemp strains for Florida farmers.
- FAMU has obtained its own hemp permit for its agricultural research site in Quincy and will use this location for additional research in the pilot program.
- Hiring of a geneticist to study hemp genetics to develop new and improved varieties.

Expected Results

- Identify additional hemp strains that will thrive safely and compliant under Florida conditions.
- Identify good/responsible production and management practices for all hemp growers in Florida.
- Identify, research and study more in-depth uses of hemp within the pharmaceutical, nutraceutical and building industries.

Pilot Project Coordinators

Charles A. Weatherford, Ph.D.

Vice President for Research

Stephen Leong, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research

Reis D. Alsberry, Esq.

Director of Technology Transfer

Matthew Mizereck

Hemp Planting Site Monitor

UF/IFAS Hemp Pilot Project Update

Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government
February 17, 2021

Jerry Fankhauser, Assistant Director -
Florida Agricultural Experiment Station - UF/IFAS
Lead Oversight Manager, UF/IFAS Hemp Pilot Project

Dr. Robert Gilbert
Dean for Research – UF/IFAS
Director, Florida Agricultural Experiment Station

Dr. Zack Brym, Assistant Professor – Agronomy
Lead Scientist, UF/IFAS Hemp Pilot Project



UF | IFAS Research
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

UF | IFAS
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



**INDUSTRIAL HEMP
PROGRAM**

UF/IFAS Office of the Dean for Research

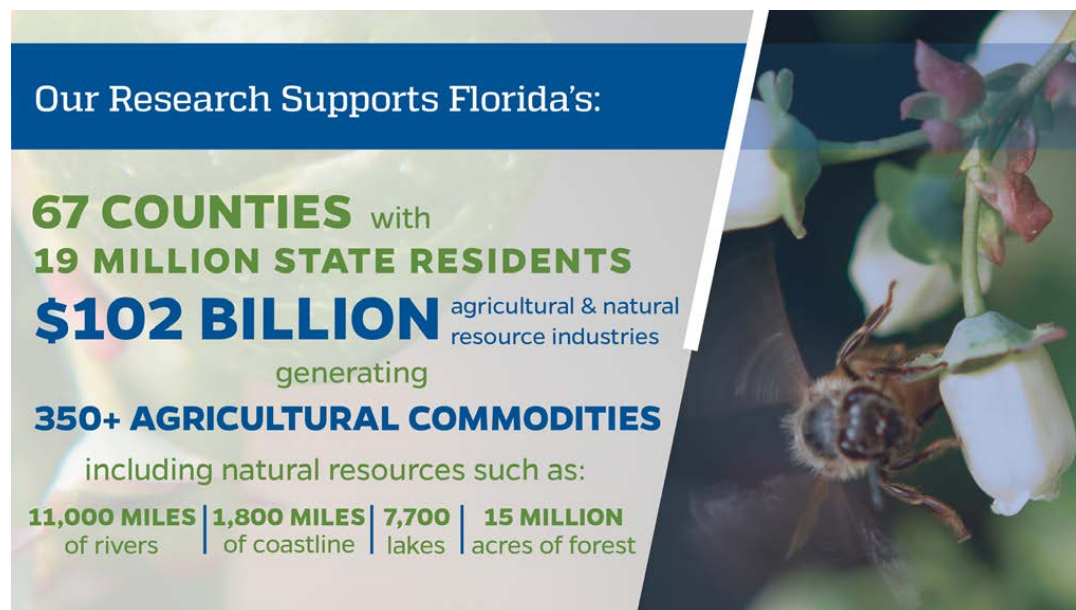
UF/IFAS Hemp Pilot Project Logistics

Dr. Rob Gilbert, Dean & Director of Florida Agricultural Experiment Station (FAES) - Initially Lead Oversight Manager

Jerry Fankhauser, Assistant Director of FAES & Current Lead Oversight Manager

My experience...

- Former director of Purdue Agricultural Centers & Assistant Director of Indiana Ag. Experiment Station (2000-2017)
- Managed two outlying research stations at Purdue University (1988-1995 & 1997-2000)
- Technical Service Representative for *American Cyanamid* in northern Ohio (1995-1997)



UF/IFAS Hemp Research Authorization

Industrial Hemp Pilot Projects

2014 US Farm Bill

2017 Florida Statute

2018 FDACS Rule & BOT Approval

2019 Planting Permits

Dec. 2019 BOT
Approval

Mandate

- **Industry-funded**
- **2-year pilot project (2019 – 2021)**
- **Report project outcomes to FL Governor & State Legislators**

Response (Initial Approval)

- **Hemp production limited to UF facilities**
- **Genetics through variety trials without breeding efforts**
- **Processing and market research without product sales**

December 2019 UF BOT Approval

Research & Extension Request to
UF Board of Trustees

- **Qualify Project Partners**
- **Pursue State & Industry Funding**
- **Develop Cultivar Approval Program**

UF | IFAS Research
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Low THC *Cannabis sativa*... Hemp

The Plant

Cannabis sativa with THC < 0.3% per dry weight

Botanically: Indistinguishable from marijuana

Legally: Distinguished by THC content

Economically: Potentially valuable alternative crop

Ecologically: Potential invasive species



The Crop

Fiber (Stem)



Grain (Seed)



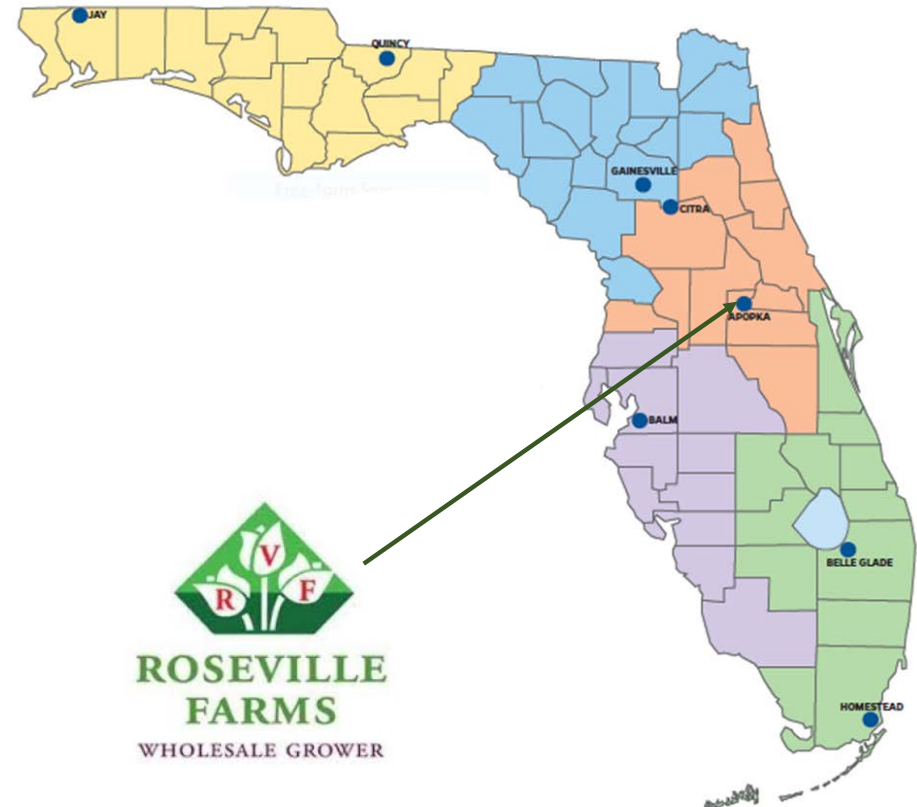
Flower (CBD+)



UF/IFAS Hemp Pilot Project – Permitted Locations

Apopka – Mid-Florida REC
Balm – Gulf Coast REC
Belle Glade – Everglades REC
Citra – Plant Science REU
Gainesville – Agronomy Labs and Greenhouses
Gainesville – Bivens Arm
Gainesville – McCarty Hall (Buildings B & D)
Gainesville – Plant Diagnostic Center
Gainesville – Translational Drug Development Core
Homestead – Tropical REC
Immokalee – Southwest Florida REC
Jay – West Florida REC
Quincy – North Florida REC

Plus... over 20 qualified project partner
(QPP) locations



UF/IFAS Hemp Pilot Project

What have we learned...

- As with 2019 studies, many varieties planted in 2020 still exceeded the total THC threshold ($\leq 0.3\%$ per dry weight).
- Varietal trial work across state does show some promising genetics, but date-of-planting and management are important in growth and development.
- Much like any other commodity grown in Florida, there are environmental and biotic challenges with hemp production.
- On-farm trials (SEEDIT funding) should lead to better information regarding economics and overall production risks.



UF/IFAS Industrial Hemp Pilot Project: On-Farm Trial

Community, Commitment, & Collaboration

Ancient City Hemp, LLC; Saint Augustine, FL

Overall Goal
To help develop and support a profitable and sustainable hemp industry in Florida by addressing critical agronomic challenges.

Report the best available information for cultivation, harvesting, processing, and economic impact of industrial hemp.



The Science of Better Living



UF/IFAS Site Contacts
Christian Christensen, Ph D
Director – Hastings Agricultural Extension Center
Email: ctchrist@ufl.edu

Zachary Brym, Ph D
Assistant Professor of Agroecology
Email: brymz@ufl.edu



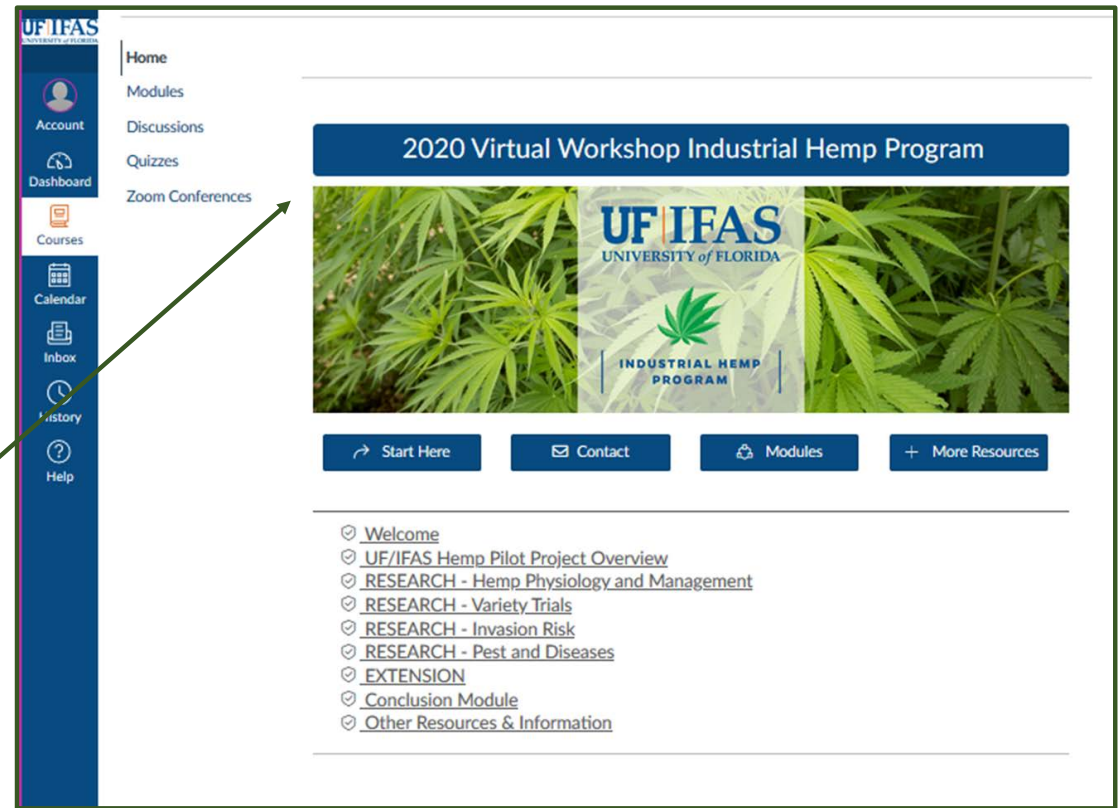
UF/IFAS Hemp Pilot Project

How we are communicating our findings...

- UF/IFAS statewide Hemp Communications Team (20 members)
- Numerous Fact Sheets, archived presentations, and Extension documents available online.
- Just launched 2020-2021 Virtual Hemp Workshop (over 120 registered to date).

Link:

<https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/hemp/news/events/>



UF/IFAS Hemp Cultivar Approval Program

- Hemp seed certification or approval is more suited for an Association of Official Seed Certifying Agency (AOSCA).
- UF/IFAS saw need to test and verify hemp cultivars (propagules) for the high cannabinoid hemp sector (CBD, CBG).
- UF/IFAS sought university leadership and general counsel approval to engage in a cultivar verification program.
- Hemp Team Faculty at the UF/IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center-Apopka agreed to oversee 12-week grow and testing effort.
- UF/IFAS Qualified Project Partner, Roseville Farms, agreed to host the 12-week grow for the benefit of the emerging CBD/CBG hemp industry in Florida.



UF/IFAS Hemp Cultivar Approval Program

12-week Grow Process in Controlled Environment

- Clonal propagules are “stuck” and allowed to root and develop under 18-hour photoperiod – **3 weeks**
- Vegetative growth under 18-hour photoperiod – **5 weeks**
- Reproductive (flower) growth and development under 10-hour photoperiod - **4 weeks**



24/7 datalogging of
growth environment.



UF/IFAS Hemp Cultivar Approval Program

End of 12-week Grow - Total THC Test

- Representative sample of cultivar flowers and other plant parts are sent to DEA-approved Lab for statutorily required Total THC test.
- Cultivars that performed well in 12-week grow and have 3.0% (or less) by dry weight total THC can be approved.
- **21** cultivars approved to date.



ROSEVILLE FARMS LLC 3251 N PONKAN PINES RD APOPKA, FL 32712		Certificate of Analysis		ACS LABORATORY CANNABIS & HEMP BEYOND COMPLIANCE	
Order #: ROS201008-010050	Order Date: 2020-10-08	Collection Date: 2020-10-15	Report Date: 2020-10-16		
Batch #: 0001 Sample #: AAAQ670 Specimen Type: CBD/HEMP Flower & Plants (Ingestion) Extracted From: Plant sample Description: top 8 inches bud and leaf		Initial Gross Weight: 35.727 g Specimen Weight: 202.33 mg Method: SOP-3			
Potency Tested		 The photos on this report are of a sample collected by the lab and may vary from the final packaging.			
<u>Total CBD</u> 5.471%		<u>Total THC</u> 0.227%		<u>Total CBG</u> 0.201%	
<u>Total CBN</u> Not Detected		<u>Other Cannabinoids</u> 0.014%		<u>Total Cannabinoids</u> 5.914%	

UF/IFAS Hemp Pilot Project

Summary

- Still looking for adapted hemp genetics for Florida growers.
- Weeds, diseases, insects, and other pests are an issue that needs further research to better understand control options.
- UF/IFAS continues to work hard to communicate research results and findings (via online documents and virtual offerings).
- UF/IFAS has taken leadership to provide an open and credible process for verification of hemp cultivars (clonal propagules) for the emerging hemp industry in Florida.
- Learn more at UF/IFAS Hemp Pilot Project website: <https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/hemp/>



Thank you – questions?

UF | IFAS Research
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA


**INDUSTRIAL HEMP
PROGRAM**

YOU MUST PRINT AND DELIVER THIS FORM TO THE ASSIGNED TESTIMONY ROOM

THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

2/17/2021

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Update on the State Hemp Program

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Holly Bell

Job Title Director of Cannabis

Address 400 S. Monroe St PL 10 Capitol

Phone 850-617-7700

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32399

Email holly.bell@fdacs.gov

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☐ No

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S-001 (10/14/14)

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THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

February 17, 2021

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic FAMU Industrial Hemp Pilot Project

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Danielle McBeth

Job Title Director of Government Relations

Address Lee Hall, Suite 400

Phone (850) 599-3995

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32307

City

State

Zip

Email danielle.mcbeth@famu.edu

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Florida A&M University

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

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S-001 (10/14/14)

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THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

2/17/2021

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic UF/IFAS Hemp Pilot Project Update

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Jerry Fankhauser

Job Title Assistant Director Florida Agricultural Experiment Station

Address P.O. Box 110200,

Phone 850-270-4010

Street

Gainesville

FL

32611-0200

Email gfankhauser@ufl.edu

City

State

Zip

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences IFAS

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☐ Yes ☒ No

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S-001 (10/14/14)

Overview of Invasive Plants and Animals



Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

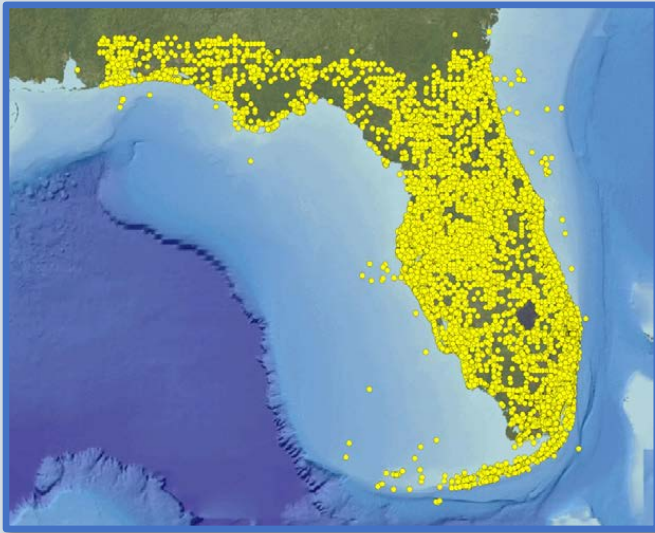
February 17, 2021

Melissa Tucker, Director, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

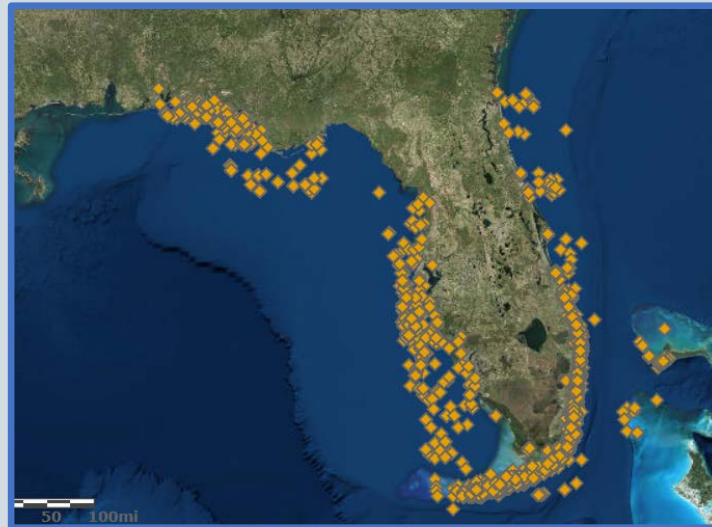


Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

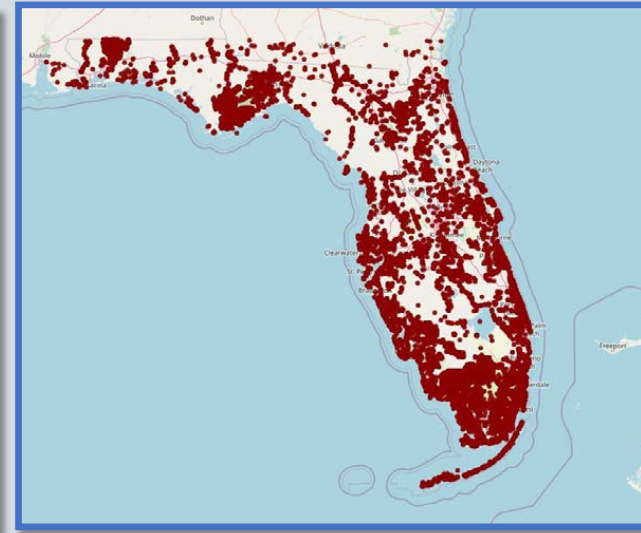
Nonnative Species in Florida



Nonnative Fish and Wildlife in
Florida 1924 – Present
FWC Database



Lionfish reports
1985-Present
USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic Species
Database



Water hyacinth, climbing fern and
Brazilian pepper locations
2020
EDDMaps Database



Impacts of Invasive Fish, Wildlife and Plants

- Ecological impacts
 - Competition with native species
 - Habitat alteration
 - Direct predation by animals
 - Disease and parasites
- Human health and safety
- Economic impacts



FWC's Role

- Prevention
 - Risk assessment/screening
 - Regulation
 - Enforcement
 - Education and Outreach
- Control and Management
 - Early detection/rapid response (EDRR)
 - Removal
- Research Support and Innovation
- Partner and Stakeholder Coordination



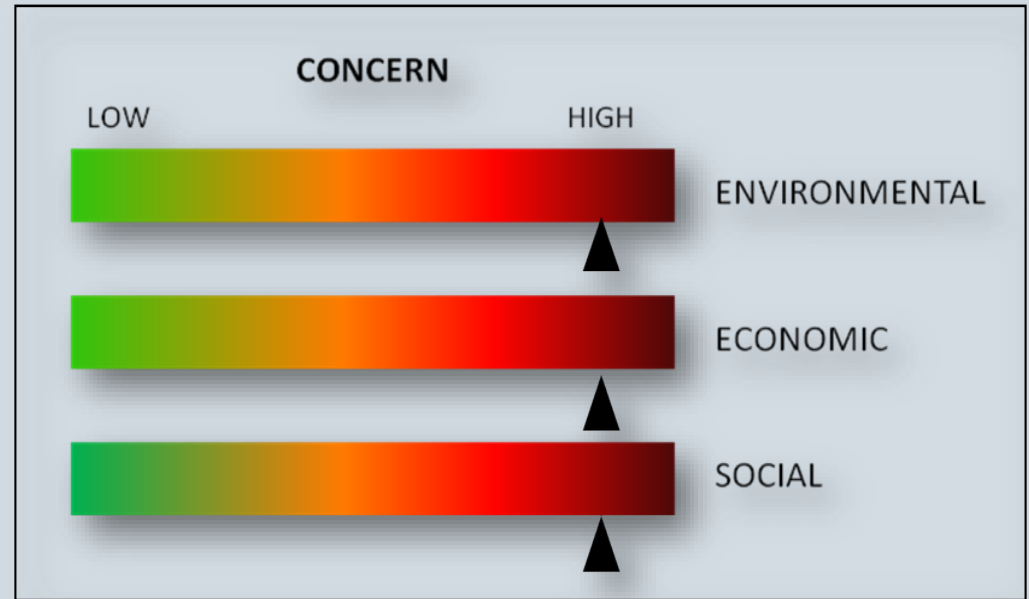
FWC Invasive Species Budget

Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Nonnative Fish and Wildlife Program	\$2,497,215	\$2,497,215	\$3,638,140
Invasive Plants	\$39,286,642	\$39,294,713	\$40,072,668
Lionfish Control	\$1,276,764	\$1,276,764	\$1,224,281
Law Enforcement	\$5,022,501	\$5,022,501	\$5,022,501
Total By Year	\$48,083,122	\$48,091,193	\$49,957,590

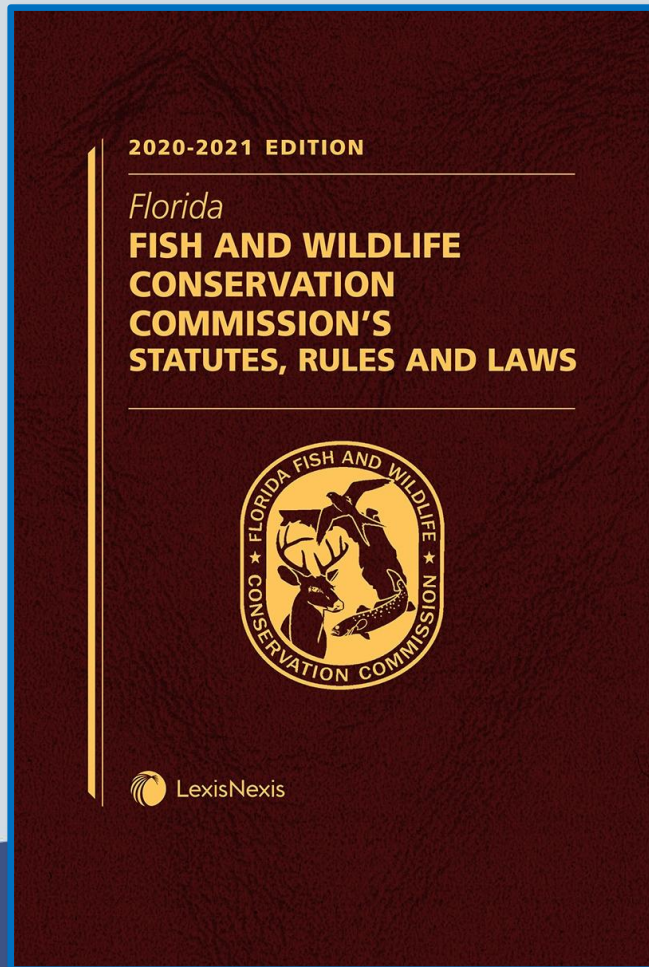


Prevention: Risk Assessment/Screening

- Not all nonnative species are invasive
- Assessment of risk
- Level of concern may change based on location



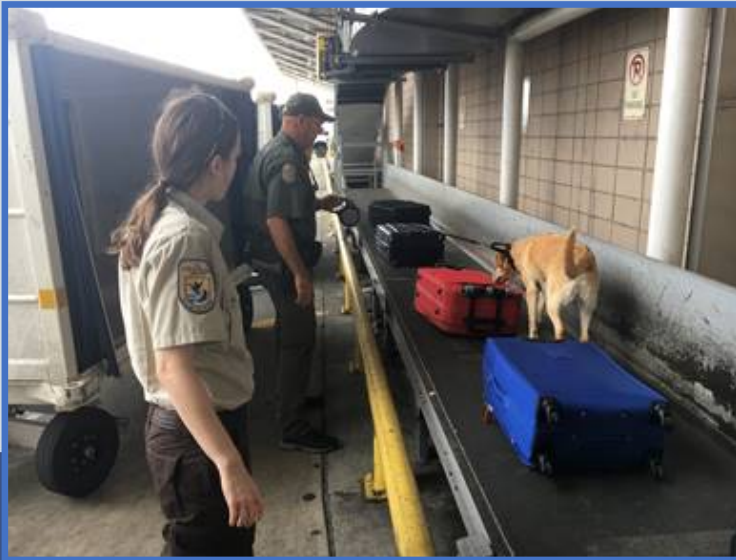
Prevention: Regulation



- Rules and Statutes address ownership of plants, fish and wildlife
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services oversees non-native plant regulations

Prevention: Enforcement

- Captive wildlife inspections
- Port Investigations
 - NOAA, USFWS
- FDACS – plant importation



Prevention: Education and Outreach



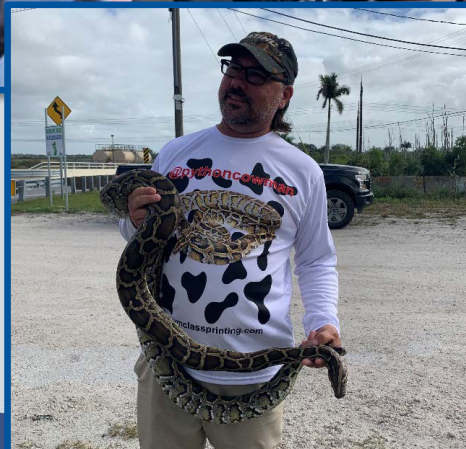
- Outreach events
- Awareness campaigns
- Technical assistance
- Exotic Pet Amnesty Program
- Training



Prevention: Education and Outreach

Pythons

- Python Bowl 2020
- Python Youth Hunt



Prevention: Education and Outreach

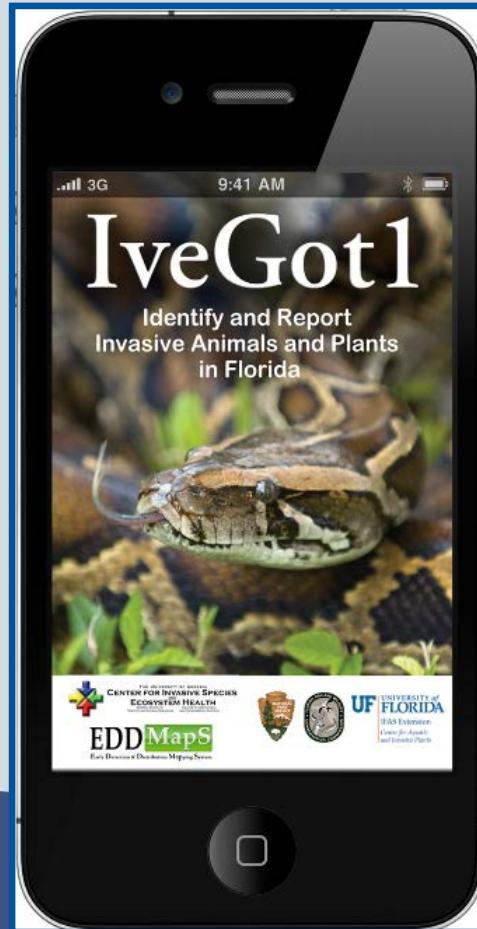
Lionfish

- Annual Lionfish Removal and Awareness Festival
- Commercial consumption marketing and promotion



Control and Management: Early Detection/Rapid Response

- Reporting
- Verification
- Evaluation
- Response



Control and Management: Removal Efforts

Pythons and Tegus

- Python Removal Contractors increased captures by 200% since 2017
- **12,000** removed total since 2000



- **10,000** tegus removed since 2012
- **1,800+** tegus removed during 2020

Control and Management: Removal Efforts

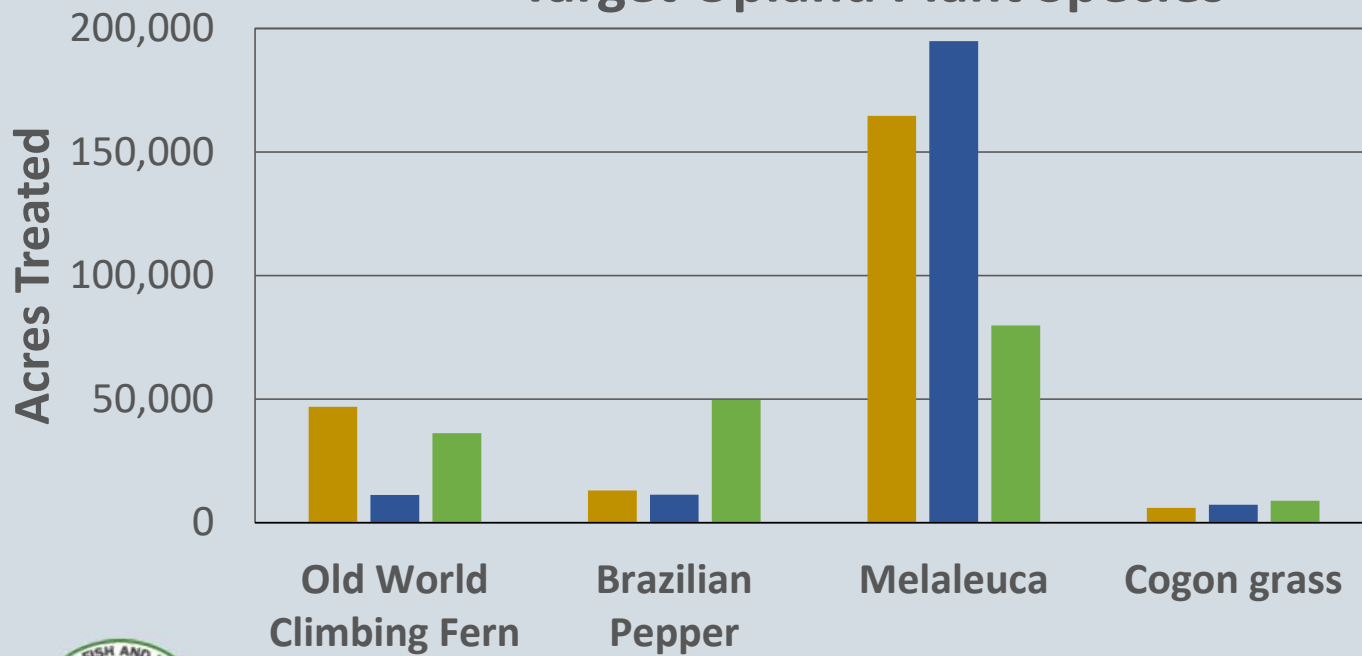
Lionfish

- Incentive programs for removal
- Direct removal by FWC
- Harvest reported since 2011: **826,328**



Control and Management: Upland Plants

Acres Treated 2017 to 2020
Target Upland Plant Species



■ 2019-20 230,448 acres
■ 2018-19 224,554 acres
■ 2017-18 174,597 acres



Control and Management: Old World Climbing Fern

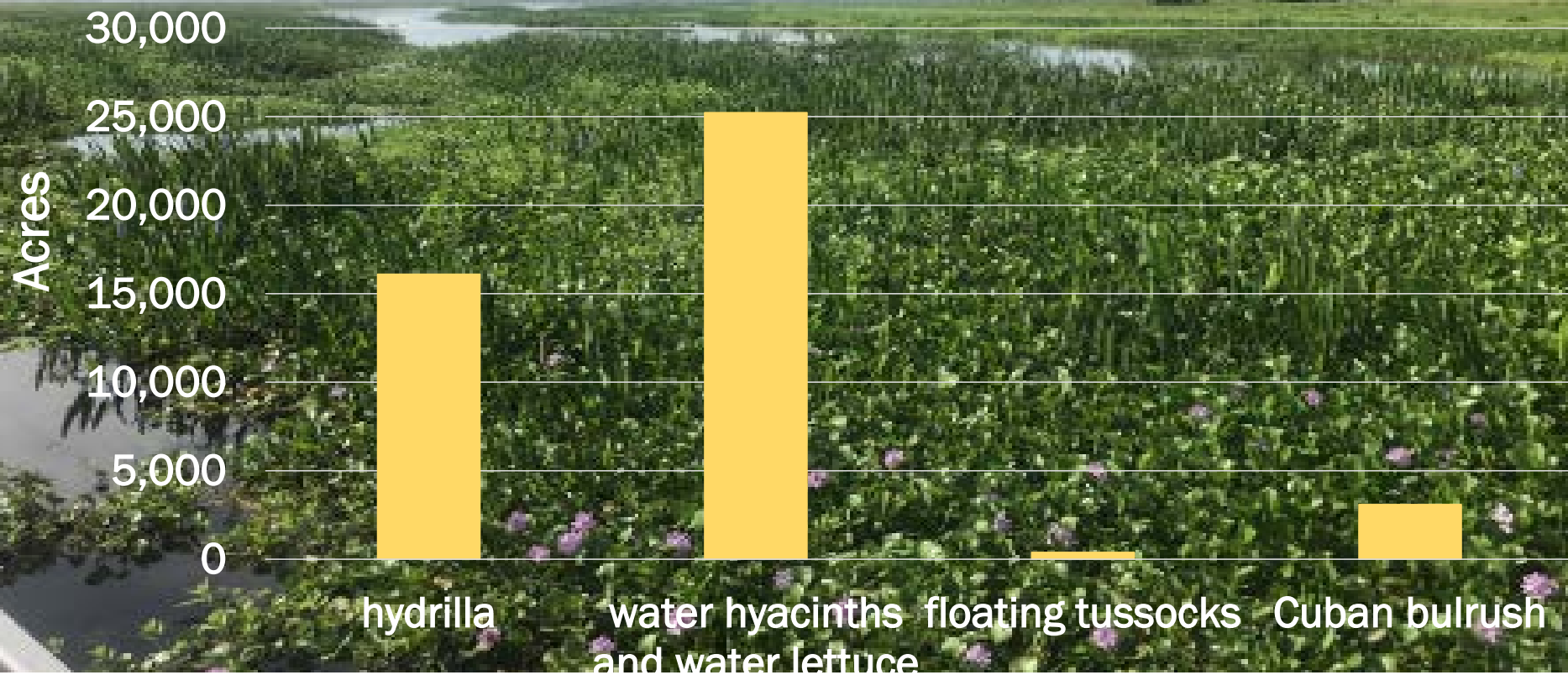
Before Treatment



After Treatment



Control and Management: Aquatic Plant Treatments

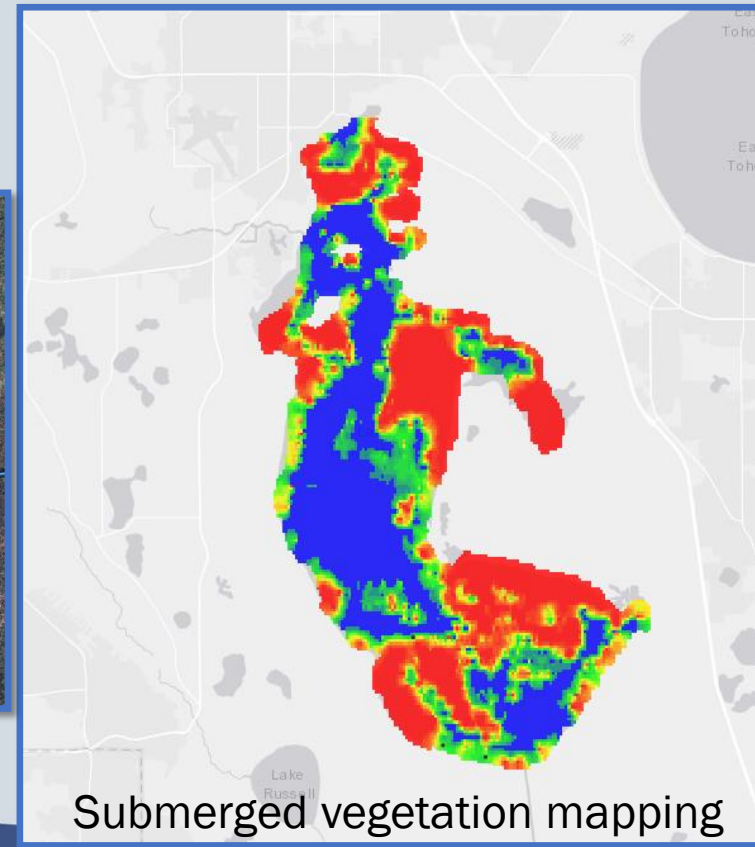
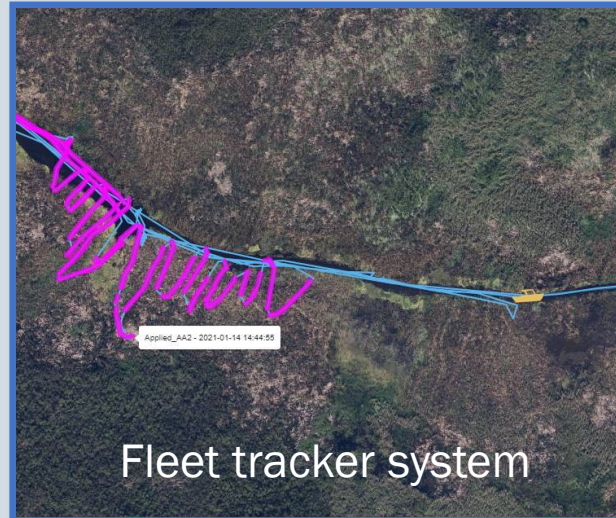


Research Support and Innovations

- Understanding impacts
- Improving detections
- Treatments and accountability
- Technology advancements



Research Support and Innovations: Invasive Plants



Partner and Stakeholder Coordination

- Florida Python Control Plan
- Aquatic Plant Management Technical Assistance Group
- Lake Management Plans
 - Lake Okeechobee
 - Kissimmee Chain of Lakes
 - Harris Chain of Lakes



Future Direction: Making a Difference

- Coordinate with partners and with public
- Prevent new high-risk species establishment
- Continue and increase control efforts
- Increase focus on innovation
- Continue education and outreach



- More invasives removed
- Range expansion reversed
- Fewer impacts to native species
- Prevent future problems





Thank You



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THE FLORIDA SENATE

APPEARANCE RECORD

February 17, 2021

Meeting Date

Bill Number (if applicable)

Topic Overview of Invasive Plants & Animals

Amendment Barcode (if applicable)

Name Melissa Tucker

Job Title Director, Division of Habitat & Species Conservation

Address 620 S. Meridian Street

Phone 386-623-0986

Street

Tallahassee

FL

32399-1600

City

State

Zip

Email Melissa.Tucker@MyFWC.com

Speaking: ☐ For ☐ Against ☒ Information

Waive Speaking: ☐ In Support ☐ Against
(The Chair will read this information into the record.)

Representing Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Appearing at request of Chair: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Lobbyist registered with Legislature: ☒ Yes ☐ No

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S-001 (10/14/14)



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:

Banking and Insurance, *Chair*
Agriculture
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Environment, and General Government
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,
Tourism, and Economic Development
Criminal Justice
Judiciary

JOINT COMMITTEE:

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

SENATOR JIM BOYD
21st District

February 11, 2021

Senator Ben Albritton
201 Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Chairman Albritton:

I am writing to request approval to be excused from the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2021, due to testing positive for Covid-19.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Boyd".

Jim Boyd

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Giovanni Betta".

cc: Giovanni Betta
Caroline Goodner

REPLY TO:

- 717 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida 34205 (941) 742-6445
- 312 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5021

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

WILTON SIMPSON
President of the Senate

AARON BEAN
President Pro Tempore

CourtSmart Tag Report

Room: EL 110

Case No.:

Type:

Caption: Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government **Judge:**

Started: 2/17/2021 3:33:23 PM

Ends: 2/17/2021 5:18:01 PM

Length: 01:44:39

3:33:23 PM	Sen. Albritton (Chair)
3:35:36 PM	S 524
3:35:48 PM	Sen. Hooper
3:37:45 PM	S 588
3:37:56 PM	Sen. Ausley
3:40:49 PM	David Serdar, Citizen
3:44:17 PM	Sen. Albritton
3:44:32 PM	Edgar Fernandez, Lobbyist, Broward, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties (waives in support)
3:44:41 PM	Ryder Rudd, Senior Vice President, McGuire Woods Consulting, The Nature Conservancy (waives in support)
3:44:48 PM	Jeff Scala, Associate Director of Public Policy, Florida Association of Counties (waives in support)
3:44:55 PM	Noah Valenstein, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (waives in support)
3:45:30 PM	Sen. Rodrigues
3:45:47 PM	Sen. Albritton
3:47:30 PM	TAB 3 - Update on the State Hemp Program, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
3:47:42 PM	Holly Bell, Director of Cannabis, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
4:03:10 PM	Sen. Ausley
4:03:43 PM	H. Bell
4:04:19 PM	Sen. Ausley
4:04:37 PM	Sen. Berman
4:04:56 PM	H. Bell
4:05:04 PM	Sen. Albritton
4:06:58 PM	H. Bell
4:09:20 PM	Sen. Albritton
4:09:59 PM	H. Bell
4:10:12 PM	Sen. Albritton
4:10:40 PM	H. Bell
4:10:48 PM	Sen. Albritton
4:11:57 PM	Danielle McBeth, Director of Government Relations, Florida A&M University
4:22:18 PM	Sen. Albritton
4:22:27 PM	D. McBeth
4:23:48 PM	Jerry Fankhauser, Assistant Director of the Florida Agriculture Experiment Station, University of Florida
4:40:26 PM	Sen. Albritton
4:40:57 PM	J. Fankhauser
4:42:13 PM	Sen. Albritton
4:42:59 PM	J. Fankhauser
4:44:10 PM	Sen. Albritton
4:44:30 PM	J. Fankhauser
4:46:11 PM	TAB 4 - Overview of Invasive Plants and Animals, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
4:46:31 PM	Melissa Tucker, Director, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
5:02:15 PM	Sen. Stewart
5:02:46 PM	M. Tucker
5:03:37 PM	Sen. Berman
5:04:03 PM	M. Tucker
5:04:43 PM	Sen. Berman
5:04:54 PM	M. Tucker
5:05:14 PM	Sen. Brodeur
5:05:51 PM	M. Tucker
5:06:27 PM	Sen. Brodeur
5:07:05 PM	M. Tucker
5:07:32 PM	Sen. Thurston

5:07:46 PM	M. Tucker
5:08:18 PM	Sen. Thurston
5:08:25 PM	M. Tucker
5:08:44 PM	Sen. Albritton
5:09:23 PM	Sen. Thurston
5:09:30 PM	M. Tucker
5:09:40 PM	Sen. Albritton
5:10:16 PM	M. Tucker
5:10:22 PM	Sen. Thurston
5:10:42 PM	Sen. Albritton
5:10:58 PM	Sen. Mayfield
5:14:32 PM	Sen. Albritton