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United States Fish and Wildlife Service
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Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Region 4)
Endangered Species Act,
Sect. 6 “Traditional” Conservation Grants

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE- BUDGET NARRATIVE 2024-2025, SEGMENT E-9-33

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
CONSUMER SERVICES

FLORIDA FOREST SERVICE

FLORIDA STATEWIDE ENDANGERED AND THREATENED
PLANT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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**FLORIDA STATEWIDE ENDANGERED AND THREATENED PLANT
CONSERVATION PROGRAM, BUDGET NARRATIVE 2024-2025
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FLORIDA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE
BUDGET NARRATIVE 2024-25
OCTOBER 1, 2024 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2025

Summary of Financial Management and Eligibility: The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) administers the Florida Statewide Endangered and Threatened Plant Conservation Program (the Program) in accordance with federal 2 CFR § 200.302 financial management requirements through FDACS Administrative Policies and Procedures (No. 4-29 *Federal Financial Assistance Subrecipient Agreement and Monitoring*) and the State of Florida Statutes (Section 215.971 *Agreements funded with federal or state assistance*). A *Full Authorities Cooperative Agreement* is currently in place (signed April 13, 2018) and FDACS renews this Cooperative Agreement on an annual basis. The Program ensures all Subrecipients conducting rare plant projects have Unique Entity Identifiers and are registered in the SAM.gov database. SAM.gov registration expiration dates are monitored through the Program’s application process and throughout the entire project term. All projects are conducted within the United States of America and mostly within the State of Florida, sometimes in cooperation with another state.

The Program administers subrecipient projects as per FDACS Administrative Policies and Procedures (No. 4-29 *Federal Financial Assistance Subrecipient Agreement and Monitoring*) and provides the following guidelines. The Indirect Cost maximum is 10% on the federal portion and 15% on the matching portion. Fringe benefits are a maximum of 35% unless approved. Travel costs are the following maximum level (some scenarios may require higher travel funding, but appropriate documentation and approval must be made): mileage \$0.445/mile, breakfast \$6; lunch \$11; dinner \$19; and, per diem \$80; or, if more, then costs (same as above) + hotel expense (\$175 max.). Salary charge per hour from rare plant conservation staff and volunteers are reflected as a footnote in each Cost Schedule for each project within this Budget Narrative, in the following pages. If partial funding is awarded to the Program, Tasks and Cost Schedule are provided in the Project Narratives portion of this Application for Federal Assistance, to assist the Program or subrecipients and how to conduct the project with less funds than allocated, as per Task.

1. Florida Plant Conservation Program Administration, Management, and Research (Florida Forest Service - “State” Match as per AFA form 424). The objectives of this project are to: administer the Florida Plant Conservation Program (the Program) through the timely completion and submission of both federal and state documents; administer plant conservation projects conducted by various organizations and provide access to online list of report titles; and, conduct *in situ* mapping, management, and monitoring of known rare plant populations and restoration of their habitat, if needed.

Federal	\$ 79,356.31
State Match	26,500.00
Total	\$105,856.31

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This is a full-time salary position within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). The position is housed within the Florida Forest Service (FFS), a division of FDACS and is stationed in Tallahassee, Florida. The salary per hour for this full-time staff position is \$23.23/hour (38% Fringe Benefits). FDACS Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate is 16.3% (exp. June 30, 2024). \$2,000 is requested for travel throughout the State of Florida, \$1,000 is requested for supplies and includes herbicide, uniforms, field supplies, electronic devices such as GPS, cameras, etc., and other items needed for fieldwork and travel throughout the State of Florida. If expenses are not used, they are provided to the State Natural Heritage Program to upload federally listed and at-risk plant species GIS data from LWRSF into the Natural Heritage Program database (Job 7) and hire contract work that benefits targeted populations of rare plants.

Matching funds are generated by FDACS FFS administrative staff working in the FDACS Conner Bldg. Office Complex in Tallahassee, helping to administer the Program and Federal Financial Aid Subrecipient Agreements. State forest staff also produce matching funds with rare plant conservation on their state forests and includes annual surveys for federally listed plants, guiding researchers, and generally working with federally listed and at-risk plant populations. Volunteer work is valued at \$10/hr. and organized on several state forests with the Program's biologist to remove invasive plants from around rare plants and to conduct rare plant surveys. Additionally, matching funds include state vehicle use, maintenance, and repair and fuel.

2. Lake Wales Ridge Scrub Plant Monitoring and Management Plan Development

(Florida Forest Service - "State" Match as per AFA form 424). The objectives of this project are to: continue monitoring programs for 16 federally listed scrub species on public lands; determine population trends, survival, growth, fecundity, and recruitment for selected species using Level 2 and 3 monitoring; plan and implement habitat management in locations where these species occur or where there is potential of occurrence; and, to evaluate and research the effects of management activities on selected federally listed plant and lichen populations on at least three sites.

Federal	\$ 67,800
State Match	23,000
Total	\$ 90,800

Equipment purchased in 2017 with Endangered Species Act, Sect. 6 "Traditional Funds" (CFDA #15-615, USFWS Service Award FL E-F17AP00801 (Segment E-9-26 of the Program): Ford truck, four-wheel drive, ½ ton, V-6, Crew Cab \$29,425.50. Status: In use and working very well for this project.

This is a full-time salary position within the FDACS FFS at Lake Wales Ridge State Forest (LWRSF) in Frostproof, Florida. The salary per hour for this full-time staff position is \$20.44/hour (40% Fringe Benefits). FDACS Indirect Cost Rate is 16.3% (exp. June 30, 2024). \$1,000 is requested for travel and \$1,000 is requested for supplies, as this project requires purchase of field gear required to conduct intense qualitative and quantitative monitoring. If expenses are not used,

APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL ASSISTANCE
2024-25 BUDGET NARRATIVE/WORK PLAN (cont.)

they are provided to the State Natural Heritage Program to upload federally listed and at-risk plant species GIS data from LWRSF into the Natural Heritage Program database (Job 7) and to hire contract work that benefits targeted populations of rare plants at LWRSF.

Matching funds are generated by FDACS FFS staff (including work from the Program's Coordinator) working in the FDACS FFS Headquarters at LWRSF, helping to administer the Program and mapping, managing, and monitoring the 16 federally listed plant and lichen species. Volunteers assist in many ways and on many levels at LWRSF, requiring different skills. Generally their work is valued between \$10/hr. and \$30/hr. Additionally, matching funds include maintenance, repair, and fuel for the Program's 4-wheel drive vehicle (described above).

3. Florida Goldenaster Post Delisting Monitoring (Florida State University, Florida Natural Areas Inventory - "State" Match as per AFA form 424). The objectives of this project are to: comply with Post Delisting Monitoring (PDM) Plan by monitoring number of individuals and phenological stage in November through December for at least half of the *C. floridana* populations listed in PDM Plan, and monitor condition of the habitat for each subpopulation. In future years if the Program is funded, monitoring will be conducted for at least five years. Each population will be monitored every other year.

Federal	\$ 15,350
Other Match	\$ 5,118 (25%)
Total	\$ 20,468

The salaries for staff to conduct this project are \$27 per hour for an estimated 315 hours (44% Fringe Benefits) from the federal portion and \$27 per volunteer hour for an estimated 110 hours from the matching portion. \$400 in gas and mileage, \$500 in travel per diem, and \$1,200 in hotel costs are proposed from the matching portion. \$500 is proposed for supplies from the federal portion and \$500 from the matching portion. The Indirect Cost rate is 10% of Total Direct Charges on the federal side (\$1,550) and 15% (\$767) on the matching side. \$1,000 for rent is proposed from the federal portion.

4. Florida Goldenaster Post Delisting: Target Populations (Florida Forest Service - "State" Match as per AFA form 424). The main objectives of this project are to: comply with the *C. floridana* PDM Plan by having local, private contractors and/or organizations that currently work with land managers to manage and monitor *C. floridana* to visit targeted PDM Plan populations and to monitor number of individuals and phenological stage in November through December; and, 2) monitor condition of the habitat for each subpopulation.

Federal	\$ 2,400
Other Match	\$ 800 (25%)
Total	\$ 3,200

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2024-25 BUDGET NARRATIVE/WORK PLAN (cont.)

The salaries for staff to conduct this project are \$60 per hour for an estimated 24 hours (40% Fringe Benefits) from the federal portion and \$15 per hour (volunteers) for an estimated 54 hours from the matching portion. \$50 in gas and mileage is proposed (for day trips only) from the federal portion. There are no Indirect Cost rate charges.

5. Management of *Macbridea alba* and *Pinguicula ionantha* on the Apalachicola Lowland Preserve (Coastal Plains Institute - “Other” Match as per AFA form 424). The objectives of this project are to: utilize prescribed fire on a privately owned preserve in a way that mimics the natural ecological fire regime and benefits *in situ* *M. alba* and *P. ionantha*; implement quantitative rare plant surveys and plant monitoring; remove select woody shrubs and trees that outcompete rare plants on the preserve; and, to become a recipient site for imperiled plant reintroduction, introduction, or augmentation for all four targeted species.

Federal	\$ 14,479
Other Match	\$ 5,510 (27%)
Total	\$ 19,989

The salaries for staff to conduct this project are \$25 per hour for an estimated 278 hours (36% Fringe Benefits) from the federal portion and \$25 per volunteer hour for an estimated 112 hours from the matching portion. \$1,440 in gas and mileage is proposed (for day trips only) from the federal portion and \$960 are proposed from the matching portion. \$1,000 is proposed for supplies from the federal portion and \$500 from the matching portion. The Indirect Cost rate is 10% of Total Direct Charges (\$1,564).

6. Conservation Research of the Recovery of Florida *Ziziphus* (Archbold Biological Station - “Other” Match as per AFA form 424). The objectives of this project are to: conduct demographic monitoring and analysis of wild and translocated *P. celata* populations; collaborate with molecular geneticists to document genetic diversity among wild multi-clonal populations and propagated plants from seeds for inclusion in a genetics database; improve cultivation methods using tissue culture and seed collection. Tissue culture will focus on improving methodology using the *ex situ* collections, and seed collection will target any reproductive plants in both *ex situ* and wild populations to improve germination protocols; conduct small-scale augmentation(s) to pre-existing translocated populations; perform pollen crosses on *ex situ*, seed-propagated plants at Bok Tower Gardens to determine mating types; perform GIS analysis to identify new search areas and coordinate searches for undiscovered populations of Florida *ziziphus*; organize and host the Ad Hoc Florida *Ziziphus* Recovery Team Meeting; and, prepare and submit quarterly and annual reports.

Federal	\$ 25,000
Other Match	8,334
Total	\$ 33,334

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2024-25 BUDGET NARRATIVE/WORK PLAN (cont.)

The salaries for staff and internship positions per hour to conduct this project are \$42 for the Program Director and \$21 for research assistant (35% Fringe Benefits) for an estimated 485 hours of federal funds expended and 176 hours estimated for matching funds. \$2,777 are proposed for supplies from federal funds and \$0 from matching funds. Archbold Biological Station has been approved for a higher rate of mileage (\$0.625/mile) because of the extremely challenging landscape and resulting damage to vehicles. Mileage requested on the federal match is \$750 and \$0 on the matching side. \$1,000 is requested from the federal side to fund Missouri Botanical Garden to conduct conservation genetic research and \$2,000 is requested from the federal side to fund the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens to propagate plants using a variety of tissue-culture techniques at the Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife. The Indirect Cost rate is 10% of Total Direct Costs (\$2,273) on the federal portion and 15% on the matching portion (\$1,087).

7. Conservation and Research Supporting Florida Torreya (Florida Native Plant Society - “Other” Match as per AFA form 424). The objectives of this project are to: gain a clearer understanding of the current state of this species through surveys of privately-owned lands within its range, collecting locations, data, genetic material, and cuttings for *ex situ* conservation; develop working relationships with private landowners in the region and aid them in best management practices to conserve this species; collect canker and other fungal samples causing their decline for research institutions; set up and monitor seed and seedling trials within the native range; document and monitor ongoing habitat changes and their effects on the tree; and, provide current, research-backed information to the public on the plight of the species and the fungus infecting it.

Federal	\$ 18,042
Other Match	\$ 6,068 (25%)
Total	\$ 24,110

The federal portion of this project is only made up of salaries for staff and internship positions per hour and are \$41.82, \$24.99, and \$21 per hour, for 40, 480, and 160 hours respectively. Salaries for the matching portion are \$27.40 and \$27.68 for staff and volunteers for at least 172 hours. Volunteer estimated cost is federal minimum wage or near cost per hour of salary of staff doing similar work. Fringe Benefits are \$0. Matching portion funds are a proposed \$597 for travel and \$717 are proposed for supplies. The Indirect Cost rate is less than 10% of Total Direct Charges (\$1,014).

8. Conservation and Research Supporting Blushing Scrub Balm (*Dicerandra modesta*) and Longspurred Mint (*Dicerandra cornutissima*) (Florida Native Plant Society - “Other” Match as per AFA form 424). The objectives of the proposed study are: to annually census blushing scrub balm and longspurred mint individuals to determine if populations are growing or shrinking over time (+/- 20%); document recruitment patterns and survival across a range of management zones and disturbance regimes; share data and analysis with land managers; and, work to restore degraded habitat and assist in the management of these important publicly-owned properties.

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Federal	\$ 16,649
Other Match	5,557
Total	\$ 22,206

The salaries for staff and internship positions per hour to conduct this project are \$41.82 and \$27.40 per hour for an estimated 370 hours (no Fringe Benefits proposed) for the federal match and \$27.68 per hour for match funding for at least 180 hrs. \$1,019 are proposed for supplies from the federal match portion and none from matching funds. Volunteer estimated cost is federal minimum wage or near cost per hour of salary of staff doing similar work. No mileage (travel) funding is requested from the federal portion but \$575.05 is proposed to be expended with matching funds. The Indirect Cost rate is less than 10% of Total Direct Charges (\$1,490).

9. Sandhill Habitat Restoration for in situ Preservation of the Federally Endangered Clasping Warea (*Warea amplexifolia*) and Other Listed Species (Bok Tower Gardens - “Other” Match as per AFA form 424). The project objectives are: restoring a significant portion of the sandhill habitat at one site in Polk County, Florida; study the seed dispersal of clasping warea; monitor the natural and introduced clasping warea at one site; and, conduct a rare plant population introduction.

Federal	\$ 12,000
State Match	4,000 (25% of Total)
Total	\$ 16,000

The salaries for staff per hour to conduct this project are \$39.23 and \$23.50 per hour (28% Fringe Benefits) for an estimated 124 hours from the federal portion. The salary costs for the matching portion are \$39.23/hr. for 83 hours. Volunteer estimated cost (\$1,454) on matching portion is federal minimum wage or near cost per hour of staff salary doing similar work. \$100 from matching portion (day trips only) and \$50 in matching funds is proposed to be expended for \$0.445/mile mileage. \$1,000 in supplies are proposed from the federal portion. There is no Indirect Cost rate from the federal portion and matching portion equals is 0.075% of Total Direct Charges (\$300).

10. Linking Secondary Metabolite Expression and Genotype in *Ziziphus celata* as a Guide to Optimize Genetic Diversity in a Population Augmentation Following Sandhill Restoration in Polk County (South Florida State College - “State” Match as per AFA form 424). The objectives of this project are to: identify metabolites present in *Ziziphus celata* fruit, leaf and stem tissues at different stages of growth; determine the differential expression of metabolites present in the plants on the basis of relative quantitation; identify and distinguish compounds expressed by *Ziziphus celata* from those expressed by endophytic fungi; propagate clones of genotypes currently under- or unrepresented; introduce seedlings and/or clones in a managed site; and, improve habitat at a managed site for *Ziziphus celata*.

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Federal	\$ 12,000
State Match	4,000 (25% of Total)
Total	\$ 16,000

The salary for staff to conduct this project is \$25.50 and \$23.50 per hour (22% Fringe Benefits) for 77 hours from the federal portion. On the matching portion, salary is proposed at \$25 per hour for at least 20 hours and volunteers will work 50 hrs. and be valued at \$20/hr. for \$1,000. Proposed supplies cost \$5,171 from the federal portion and include reagents, lab and field supplies, collection and processing materials, office materials, volunteer water and snacks, and irrigation materials. Supplies from the matching portion are proposed for \$1,890 and include the same expensive lab items as above. Travel/mileage is proposed to be \$100 in fuel costs for day trips only from the federal portion. There is no Indirect Cost on the federal portion and \$500 on the matching portion.

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FLORIDA STATEWIDE ENDANGERED AND THREATENED PLANT CONSERVATION PROGRAM BUDGET NARRATIVE TABLE OF PROPOSED 2024-2025 (SEGMENT E-9-33) PROJECTS, OCTOBER 1, 2024 THROUGH April 30, 2025 FEDERAL (75% or less), MATCH (25+%), AND TOTAL COST AMOUNTS					
Proposed Projects, Organization	Federal Match	State Match	Local Match	Other Match	Total
1. <i>Florida Plant Conservation Program...</i> Florida Forest Service.	\$79,356.31	\$26,500	\$0	\$0	\$105,856.31
2. <i>Lake Wales Ridge Scrub Plant Monitoring...</i> Florida Forest Service.	\$67,800	\$23,000	\$0	\$0	\$90,800
3. <i>Florida Goldenaster Post Delisting Monitoring...</i> Florida State University	\$15,350	\$5,118	\$0	\$0	\$20,468
4. <i>Florida Goldenaster Post Delisting: Target Pops...</i> Florida Forest Service	\$2,400	\$800	\$0	\$0	\$3,200
5. <i>Management of Macbridea alba and ...</i> Coastal Plains Institute, Inc.	\$14,479	\$0	\$0	\$5,510	\$19,989
6. <i>Conservation Research of the Recovery ...</i> Archbold Biological Research Station.	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$8,334	\$33,334
7. <i>Conservation and Research Supporting Florida Torreya...</i> Florida Native Plant Society.	\$18,042	\$0	\$0	\$6,068	\$24,110
8. <i>Conservation and Research Supporting Dicerandra...</i> Florida Native Plant Society.	\$16,649	\$0	\$0	\$5,557	\$22,206
9. <i>Sandhill Habitat Restoration for in situ Preservation of the Federally Endangered Claspig Warea...</i> Bok Tower Gardens	\$12,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$16,000
10. <i>Linking Secondary Metabolite Expression and Genotype in Ziziphus celata as a Guide to Optimize Genetic Diversity...</i> South Florida State College	\$12,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$16,000
Total Federal, State, Local, and Other Match, Total Funding 2024-25	\$263,076.31	\$58,618	\$0	\$30,269	\$351,963.31
Total Federal Match, Non-federal Match, Total Funding 2024-25	\$263,076.31	\$88,887			\$351,963.31