

## July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001 Grant Cycle

### COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE GRANTS BY CATEGORY

#### Community Stewardship

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Florida Keys Greensweep Initiative  
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Sea Turtle Monitoring and Public Information  
Archie Carr Refuge: Pepper Free by 2003  
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#### Waterfronts

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#### OTHER FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM GRANTS Building Collaborative Processes for

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Coastal Program Support  
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Ocean Research Priorities for Florida  
Ocean and Coastal Policy Coordination  
Waterfronts Florida Program Administration

### Community Stewardship

#### **PROJECT: Baywatch For The Real Florida: Seagrass Monitoring**

#### **CONTACT:**

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**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$25,000

**DESCRIPTION:** Seagrass coverage in St. Andrew Bay has been on the decline since 1964. Based on aerial surveys taken between 1964 and 1992, we know that over 350 acres of seagrasses have been

lost in West Bay alone. Furthermore, seagrasses are damaged by boat propellers; it is estimated that more than 50% of the seagrass beds in the bay show signs of scarring. The problem is that no one knows why so many acres of seagrasses have been lost, and no one knows if species composition is changing in the bay system.

To answer these questions, the St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association (RMA) will start a seagrass monitoring program to better determine the health of this essential fisheries habitat. RMA will set up transects and collect data on species composition, seagrass density, seagrass canopy height, epiphyte abundance, and water quality. RMA will also create two videos that will be used to better educate the public. One video will show viewers the importance of this habitat. The second video will demonstrate how easy it is to start and maintain a seagrass monitoring program.

**PROJECT: Florida Keys Greensweep Initiative**

**CONTACT:**

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South Florida Regional Land Steward  
The Nature Conservancy  
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Key West, FL 33041-4958  
(305)296-3880  
FAX (305) 292-1763

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$25,000

**DESCRIPTION:** Invasive exotic plants are an insidious and pervasive threat to the ecological integrity of the Florida Keys' upland natural areas and they are growing stronger and more difficult to contain every day. Left uncontrolled, these weeds endanger the existence of the Keys' unique flora, fauna and natural communities and an important part of the resource-based economy they support. On the opposite side of this coin, the use of native plants in residential and commercial landscapes has proven slow to catch on in the Keys. Education concerning the benefits of native plants is lacking and there is a need for informed volunteers to help with natural area restoration. There is a pressing need for a proactive, organized program designed to involve local people in exotic plant control, native plant restoration and other terrestrial conservation projects. In order to create such a program The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has formalized its partnership with the Monroe County Cooperative Extension Service (Extension Service). The pairing of TNC' s biodiversity conservation experience and established volunteer management program (the Volunteer Stewardship Exchange) with the Extension Service' s expertise in environmental outreach is a natural fit with great potential for success. A third partner is the Florida Keys Invasive Exotics Task Force (Task Force), an interagency working group of 21 member organizations formed in 1996. In addition to TNC and the Extension Service this active group includes most of the Key's public and private land managers, Monroe County planners, a representative from the local office of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA), and other conservation professionals. The Task Force will play a primary role in identifying and prioritizing sites for volunteers to work.

**PROJECT: Coastal Wetland Nursery Program**

**CONTACT:**

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**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$25, 000

**DESCRIPTION:** Tampa BayWatch conserves and restores coastal wetland habitats in Tampa Bay through the establishment of salt marsh nurseries within the bay region's middle and high school ecology or science clubs. These nurseries are student-constructed and maintained and provide a

source of native wetland plants, specifically *Spartina alterniflora* (or more commonly known as smooth cordgrass) to be used in habitat restoration projects, while teaching students the value of maintaining a healthy environment. Each of the existing 11 Tampa BayWatch school wetland nurseries involves at least 150 - 250 students every year, for a total of approximately 2200 students participating in the program each year. There are plans to add more schools and nurseries, and in the Tampa Bay region by the end of the 2000/2001 school year. Upon inclusion of three new nurseries, the nursery ponds will be capable of supporting between one and two rooting cycles per year, for a potential program total of 70,000 to 140,000 plants, provided free of charge to local and state environmental agencies conducting habitat restoration projects. Ideally, these plants will result in enough salt marsh grasses to restore 14 - 20 new acres of tidal ponds per year. This is a significant contribution to the long-term health and recovery of the Tampa Bay estuary.

The High School Wetland Nursery Program (HSWNP) also instills in students an understanding and appreciation of the Tampa Bay estuary. Tampa BayWatch, along with the participating schools, conducts environmental educational outreach that involves students in hands-on habitat restoration and protection activities. The interaction among the students and with local scientists creates a heightened awareness within the community of the problems affecting the bay. The students are also trained to be mentors to other classmates, to help ensure the program's success in future years.

**PROJECT: Sea Turtle Monitoring and Public Information**

**CONTACT:**

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pdavis@co.palm-beach.fl.us

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$18, 500

**DESCRIPTION:** Sea turtle nesting data is used by many agencies and organizations for management purposes and education. Collection of consistent data is vital but is hampered by lack of enough people to survey and collect data and a consistent countrywide protocol. This project assist with volunteer monitoring and data collection coordination; development of a countrywide incentive program, and education of key user groups and property owners to reduce activities that negatively affect sea turtle nesting and survival.

A pilot volunteer-based monitoring program was initiated last year with FCMP funds and will be continued and expanded. The goal for the 2000 nesting season will be to use volunteers to monitor 2 miles of beach 7 days per week. The goal for the 2001 nesting season will be to establish monitoring programs on additional beaches that are currently not consistently monitored. This will be accomplished by using trained Program Coordinators to assist in the training and coordination of additional volunteers for these beaches. Data collected by 15 different entities that conduct sea turtle monitoring throughout Palm Beach must be collected consistently to be useful. This project proposes to adopt the data the data collection standards of the statewide Index Nesting Beach Survey as a County standard. In an effort to encourage permit holders to adopt these standards, an incentive program is proposed. The incentive program will provide supplies such as surplus computers, software, stakes, paint and cameras, volunteer manpower, training and other assistance. This project will also adopt County standards for the reporting of data. Permit holders receiving assistance will sign a pledge in which they agree to adopt countrywide standards for data collection and reporting.

**PROJECT: Archie Carr Refuge: Pepper Free by 2003**

**CONTACT:**

Raymond Mojica  
Brevard County Parks and Recreation  
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. B  
Viera, FL 32940  
(321) 633-2046

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$ 25, 000

**DESCRIPTION:** Brazilian pepper continues to invade the maritime hammock and coastal habitat of the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. Aggressive efforts have been made to treat all pepper plants on publicly owned lands within the Refuge. Until now, however, there has been little chance to include citizens in the eradication efforts directed toward private property. This project will offer quarterly community information meetings, as initiated through prior grants, to educate the homeowners about Brazilian pepper and appropriate treatments and update them on the progress of the "Archie Carr Refuge: Pepper-Free in 20003" project; will establish a volunteer "pepper buster" program; and provide funds for the cost of chemicals. Private lands directly adjacent to already treated conservation lands will be targeted first for removal of pepper.

The Brevard Pepper Busters, a volunteer group, was formed more than 5 years ago to initiate public awareness about Brazilian pepper. Any landowner living adjacent to the Indian River Lagoon who removes all the pepper growing along their shoreline will be offered free mangrove plants for shoreline planting. The home/business owners who totally eliminate pepper from their land will also be publicly recognized at the quarterly meetings. This project will establish a local citizen volunteer corps program for the south beaches. Brevard County is committed to eradication of Brazilian pepper and to the training of volunteers. All volunteers will be trained in the proper use of chemicals and provided with the appropriate safety equipment. Since these volunteers will be local homeowners, they can also serve as "pepper buster ambassadors" to the private land owners, educating their neighbors about Brazilian pepper and the Archie Carr Refuge: Pepper-Free in 2003 project.

**PROJECT: Barrier Island Stewardship Initiative**

**CONTACT:**

David Godfrey  
Executive Director  
Caribbean Conservation Corporation  
4424 NW 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite A-1, Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 373-6441

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$25,000

**DESCRIPTION:** In order to promote a greater community understanding and stewardship of the significant role Brevard County's barrier islands play in the survival of threatened and endangered sea turtles, as well as other imperiled Florida wildlife, the Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC) proposes to develop a partnership educational program with the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program that will provide visitors to the planned "Barrier Island Ecosystem Center" (Center) with high-quality, interactive exhibits and opportunities for in-field experiences with nesting sea turtles. The Richard King Mellon Foundation purchased a beachfront parcel of land within the Archie Carr NWR in south Brevard County and donated it to Brevard County for the purpose of building and operating a public learning center to raise awareness about the unique and fragile nature of barrier islands. Brevard County and its citizens are enthusiastically committed to building the center, and they are already in the final stages of preparing the master site plan. Brevard County approached CCC about becoming a partner in the development and operation of educational displays and programs at the Center. Specifically, the County is looking to CCC for assistance in designing exhibits that accurately tell the story of Archie Carr, sea turtles and the global significance of Brevard's south beaches. CCC accepted the offer to become a partner in the Center and views the opportunity as a way to expand CCC's existing public education and outreach activities in Brevard County.

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**Waterfronts**

**PROJECT: Panacea Revitalization Planning Project**

**CONTACT:**

Pam Portwood  
Grants and Special Project Coordinator

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Crawfordville, Florida 32326-0309  
(850) 926-0909  
pam.grants@nettally.com

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$25,000

**DESCRIPTION:** Wakulla County has received funding for several projects within the waterfront area of Dickerson Bay and Panacea. The County believes that an organized, comprehensive plan for the entire area, rather than a separate plan for each project, would have a greater, more positive impact on the community as a whole. The County believes that the solution to the overall needs of the community is to promote eco-tourism through implementation of a plan that will revitalize the waterfront area. The Waterfronts Florida Partnership is particularly appropriate for the Panacea waterfront area and the County is interested in applying for designation during the next cycle application. Unfortunately, the local government lacks resources to coordinate this planning effort and obtain assistance. This project provides a means for the County to obtain the necessary technical assistance, training, and financial assistance to position the community for the development of an effective, competitive application to the Waterfronts Florida Partnership.

**PROJECT: A Revitalized Coastal Destination at Vilano Beach**

**CONTACT:**

Georgia Katz  
Program Manager  
St. Johns County Planning Department  
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St. Augustine, FL 32085  
904-823-2478  
[georgiakatz\\_plandep@mail.com](mailto:georgiakatz_plandep@mail.com)

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$25,000

**DESCRIPTION:** Vilano Beach has no "sustainable community" in an area where the population of the surrounding residential area has grown substantially since 1995. Commercial services and existing businesses do not provide the support necessary to sustain nearby populations. The Vilano Road district was the main commercial street for this barrier island peninsula, but the area was severely affected by the relocation of State Road A1A and a new bridge constructed over the Intracoastal Waterway in 1995, taking drive-by traffic away from Vilano Road. Vilano Beach has been designated a Waterfronts Florida community, but the area designated as the Town Center District lacks a formal entrance and any indication of the existence of a town center or business district. This project will provide signage with attractive landscaping for a visual cohesiveness for the area, streetscaping and a Town Center design to provide a sense of place and help to establish a sustainable business district.

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**Remarkable Coastal Places**

**PROJECT: Marineland: A Remarkable Coastal Place**

**CONTACT:**

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Mayor  
Town of Marineland  
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Marineland, FL 32086  
(904) 471-1111 or 461-4044  
jcn@whitney.ufl.edu

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$25,000

**DESCRIPTION:** The Town of Marineland needs a master plan to make it a sustainable community for the future. The Town is a unique community, a kind of campus, rich in historical, cultural, scientific, educational, environmental, and recreational resources. The anchor for the Town and the driving force for the creation and conservation of its intrinsic resources was the Marineland attraction. Today, the 'company' that provided for all needs is gone and the attraction is in an economic decline. However, the Town's intrinsic resources not only remain but have become more significant. Against this backdrop of economic distress and resource value, a new mix of public and private owners has the challenge of revitalizing and transforming this remarkable coastal place into a sustainable community of the future. The problem is that municipal resources and infrastructure are extremely limited in shepherding this revitalization.

The Town will create a stakeholder's work group that will consist of a representative from each entity that owns and operates a program or facility in the Town. Project funds will employ a consultant for the Town to organize the stakeholders in developing the master plan. The issues that will be addressed include: public sector financial and technical assistance; economic redevelopment incentives for the non-governmental sector; enhancement of the Town's educational and scientific research institutions; residential development in the Town and the creation of a Town Center; utilities for a sustainable marine based community; environmental protection measures in land use; historic preservation; nature and heritage tourism as a sustaining economic enterprise; restoration and stabilization of the beaches; and hazard mitigation planning.

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## **Public Access**

### **PROJECT: Blind Creek Park Dune Crossovers**

#### **CONTACT:**

Anna Smith  
Ecosystems Manager  
St. Lucie County  
2300 Virginia Avenue  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982  
(561) 462-1685  
FAX (561) 462-2103

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$50,000

**DESCRIPTION:** To enhance beach access for the general public, St. Lucie County is proposing to construct two elevated dune crossovers within the Blind Creek Park that meet the guidelines for the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The crossovers, constructed in accordance with DEP's Beach/Dune Walkway Guidelines, would concentrate foot traffic to one specific location over the dune, minimizing continual degradation to the dunes, while enhancing public access. The crossovers, one at Little Mud Creek and the other at Blind Creek within the park's boundaries, will be approximately 190 feet in length and approximately 100 feet in length, respectively, both 5 feet in width. Concurrently, the County has also taken the initiative to partner with other organizations for the restoration of approximately 1.5 miles of dune system within the Blind Creek Park site through the removal of invasive exotic plants on the dunes. With the construction of the elevated dune crossovers, the integrity of the restored dune would not be compromised nor be degraded due to foot traffic by the general public at these locations. FCMP funds would be utilized by the County to contract a construction firm to design, obtain permits and construct the elevated dune crossovers within Blind Creek Park. The framework of the crossovers will be made from pressure treated lumber while the decking of the crossovers will be constructed out of materials made from recycled Florida waste tires.

### **PROJECT: Ocean Bay Access, St. Lucie County**

#### **CONTACT:**

Don McLam  
Project Manager

St. Lucie Leisure Services  
2300 Virginia Avenue 2300 Virginia Avenue  
Fort Pierce, FL 34982-5652  
(561) 462-1514  
FAX (561) 462-1940

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$50,000

**DESCRIPTION:** The Ocean Bay site in St. Lucie County does not provide any access to the ocean or the Indian River Lagoon. This site was purchased to preserve rare coastal habitat and to provide passive recreation. The goal of this project is to provide trails and a dune crossover on the east side of A1A, and trails with possibly bridged areas on the west side of A1A. By developing specific walking areas, the public can safely walk from the parking lot to the ocean or river without impacting the native vegetation. The trail on the Indian River Lagoon side will weave through a hammock adjacent to a wastewater / reuse treatment plant to an existing mosquito impoundment dike. Specific items to be completed include a paved parking lot, permitting and construction of a ADA accessible dune crossover, and a nature trail on both the river and ocean side.

**PROJECT: Trails and Tales: A Tour of Barrier Island Habitats**

**CONTACT:**

Roymond Mojica  
Brevard County Parks and Recreation  
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way Bldg B  
Viera, FL 32940  
(321) 633-2046

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$50,000

**DESCRIPTION:** The Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program manages approximately 240 acres of land located on the barrier island of southern Brevard County within the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. These properties encompass dunes, coastal strand, maritime hammock and mangrove swamp habitats. Since these properties are natural lands, access is currently limited. This project will install trails, boardwalks, bridges, and educational kiosks along several properties stretching from the Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area, north to Melbourne Beach. Three individual trails will be developed: 1. Long Point Trail Loop; 2. The Maritime Hammock Trail Loop; and 3. The Coconut Point Trail Loop. The extent of development needed at each of these sites varies. Education will be a common theme for all of the proposed sites. Educational kiosks will display information on current research or management being conducted on site as well as general information about the history of the site, including historic aerial photos. Photographs and signs designed to highlight management efforts will be incorporated into all educational materials.

**PROJECT: Manatee County Blueways**

**CONTACT:**

Charlie Hunsicker  
Ecosystem Administrator  
Manatee County  
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Bradenton, Florida 34205  
(941) 745-3737  
FAX (813) 795-3490

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$25,000

**DESCRIPTION:** The Manatee County project will develop a series of connective canoe and kayak trails throughout the waterways of Manatee County. Currently, there are opportunities for canoeing however, the facilities are limited and novices may get lost, because there are no guided trail markings for area trails within the waterways. Launch areas are limited and there is a need for canoe maps to be disseminated within kiosks at the various trailheads depicting the waterway routes. The

project plan is to create ten miles of canoe trails through the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve, four miles along the Braden River, four miles in the Upper Manatee River, and five miles through Palma Sola Bay. Plans are to conduct field research utilizing GPS and to mark the trails by mile markers. Invasive exotics will be removed in the Terra Ceia Aquatic Preserve, to enhance access and improve habitat at this protected sanctuary. Two primitive new launch areas will be created, one at either Emerson Point Park or Riverview Pointe Preserve for canoeists to access and land and enjoy the nearby Desoto National Memorial and a second site at the SR70 Recreational Park to serve as a southern anchor for the Braden River blueway component. Each of the launch areas will be created through clearing of exotics, if necessary, grading to insure a desired slope and planting of appropriate vegetation. Manatee County will produce an overall blueways map or several canoe trail maps depicting the new waterway trails and mile marker program. The County will also produce new kiosks for these two launch areas in order to disseminate the canoe guides.

**PROJECT: Nature Greenway Access to Town Center**

**CONTACT:**

Georgia Katz  
Special Projects Coordinator  
4020 Lewis Speedway  
St. Augustine, FL 32095  
(904) 823-2478  
FAX: (904) 823-2498  
georgiakatz\_plandept@mail.com

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$50,000

**DESCRIPTION:** At present there is no access to the habitat of the tidal marsh on the Intracoastal Waterway side of Vilano Beach. It is important that tourists and residents have the opportunity to have as intimate a relationship with the ecology of the area as possible and at the same time be educated in how to protect that environment. The Florida Department of Transportation has completed a foot and bicycle path which connects the City of St. Augustine with the western end of the Vilano Bridge. However, there is no continuing footpath or sidewalk at the eastern end of the bridge for pedestrians and no foot or bike path to connect the residential area north of the bridge with the proposed town center district on the south side of the bridge. A nature Walkway and Bikeway Trail over the marsh to the Town Center District will be constructed for a walkover distance of approximately 540 feet; have directional and informational displays at each end and several other places on the trail; provide ADA disability access for pedestrians and bicycles to travel west or north; provide opportunity to create favorable wildlife habitat; integrate environmental areas into the Town Center District design for passive recreational uses such as parks and/or nature trails. [Back to top](#)

**OTHER FCMP GRANTS**

**PROJECT: Building Collaborative Processes for Addressing Coastal Issues**

**CONTACT:**

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FAX (352) 392-847  
rusty@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$20,000

**DESCRIPTION:** The Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI) is a joint project of the University of Florida and Florida State University. Its goal is to help rising leaders develop the skills to build consensus around contentious environmental issues and move beyond conflict to find solutions. The NRLI trains Floridians who have a stake in the use and conservation of our natural resources and



draws Institute Fellows from land management agencies and resource-based industries, from environmental and conservation organizations, local government, people who own and manage lands, educators and elected officials, and people who are concerned about the way resources are managed. Institute graduates will help the people, industries, and agencies of Florida collaborate in achieving the often conflicting goals of protecting the environments while fostering economic development. The program consists of nine elements, two of which are directly related to the management of coastal resources, specifically a unit on coral reefs and the Florida Keys, and a unit on barrier island development. The FCMP will provide expertise to develop the units and funding for NRLI administration support.

**PROJECT: "City of Wonders" Exhibit Support**

**CONTACT:**

Chucha Barber  
Mary Brogan Museum  
350 S. Duval Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 513-0700 x229

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$20,000

**DESCRIPTION:** The "City of Wonders" is an outreach project of the Florida League of Cities. It is a traveling exhibit illustrating how cities work and will travel to the science museums in eight Florida cities: Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Orlando, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach. The exhibit will have four components: the safe city, the busy city, the fun city, and the green city. The FCMP will provide expertise and partial funding support for the "green city," which will illustrate four specific program areas: resource protection, public access, special area management planning, and public participation.

**PROJECT: Coastal Application of Sustainable Florida Standards**

**CONTACT:**

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Administrative Assistant  
Council for Sustainable Florida  
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Tallahassee, Florida 32302  
(850) 425-1733  
FAX: (850) 425-8490

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$50,000

**DESCRIPTION:** The Council of Sustainable Florida (CSF) provides a diverse nonpartisan forum on innovative policies and practices for sustainability in Florida. The CSF is a private sector partner for the FCMP, offering participation and input on a variety of issues, including setting priorities and development programs; and by facilitating information transfer from Sustainable Florida award recipients to peers in coastal communities. The CSF has set core standards for a Sustainable Florida; these comprise guidelines for management structures and decision-making based on best practices in several major sectors. An award review competition has been developed and applicants are recognized for performance, leadership, and initiative in reaching those standards.

Under this project, four workshops will be conducted to share information from winning applicants. CSF will work with FCMP to: (1) select model case studies, (2) plan workshops, (3) invite participants, (4) prepare agendas and program materials, (5) conduct and facilitate the events, and (6) develop a contact data base for continued communication and involvement. Workshops will be conducted in Florida coastal communities chosen by the FCMP and CSF staffs. The submission of coastal case studies will identify new and varied leadership on which FCMP can build future programs and partnerships. The CSF Awards Committee will work with the FCMP in designing special recognition of coastal award recipients. FCMP officials will be invited to participate in meetings of the CSF Coastal

Committee and Board of Directors. CSF will continue to work with FCMP officials to identify strategies to maximize input and exchange of ideas on current FCMP priorities and programs.

**PROJECT: Coastal Program Support**

**CONTACT:**

Lynn Griffin  
Environmental Manager  
Department of Environmental Protection  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., Mail Station 047  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000  
(904) 487-2231  
FAX (904) 922-5380

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$40,000

**DESCRIPTION:** DEP's Office of Intergovernmental Programs (OIP) is understaffed to meet the significant workload assigned to it. In particular, coordination of clearinghouse-federal consistency reviews for the department is a considerable task since DEP is responsible for administering 11 of the FCMP's 23 enforceable policies. In addition, this coordination is a key element of the Department's watershed initiatives. OIP is responsible for coordinating federal consistency reviews and reviews of related coastal projects, facilitating policy development, program activity tracking, monitoring federal and state review timelines, assisting with permit-consistency review tracking, and training department in review procedures. In addition, OIP is adapting all its federal coordination procedures to be integrated with the department's comprehensive plan review coordination and watershed initiatives. To meet these challenges and meet its coastal management program responsibilities, the department needs financial assistance. This task provides funding for a staff position to conduct and coordinate such reviews and activities.

**PROJECT: Coastal Program Support**

**CONTACT:**

Beth Frost  
Senior Management Analyst  
Department of Community Affairs  
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
(850) 488-2356  
FAX: (850) 488-3309

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$30,000

**DESCRIPTION:** The Florida Coastal Management Program will continue a program of coordination, technical support, and review through the DCA Division of Community Planning to assist local governments in dealing with the cumulative and secondary impacts of coastal development, primarily through the federal consistency process; through local government efforts to revise and update local comprehensive plans pursuant to Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 9J-5, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.); and through local government actions regarding review and approval of developments of regional impact (DRI) pursuant to Chapter 380, F.S., and Chapter 9J-2, F.A.C. This task provides some funding for travel expenses for staff in the Division of Community Planning to meet with local government staff, elected officials, and citizens of 35 coastal counties and designated coastal municipalities. Such meetings, workshops, and hearings may be attended to coordinate responses or address concerns dealing with projects subject to federal consistency; to provide technical assistance for comprehensive plan evaluation and appraisal reports (EAR) or plan amendments; to facilitate the review and approval of DRIs; and to provide technical assistance as necessary to address the cumulative and secondary impacts of coastal development. Salaries and fringe benefits of six Division administrators also provide match for the overall cooperative agreement.

**PROJECT: Evaluating and Integrating Hazard Mitigation Assistance**

**CONTACT:**

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Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100  
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FAX: (850) 922-5623

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$80,000

**DESCRIPTION:** The Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) provided over \$8 million to fund the development of Local Mitigation Strategies in each of Florida's 67 counties. This two-year process, which is coming to a close, involved developing a unified disaster loss reduction strategy for each county and the municipalities located therein. In coordination with this effort, the DCA initiated the Florida Showcase Community Project, a demonstration project in disaster loss reduction designed to highlight state-of-the-art disaster mitigation techniques and foster community partnerships. The Showcase initiative has been directed to the City of Deerfield Beach / Broward County, Escambia County / Pensacola, and most recently the Tampa Bay Region.

The problems which now need to be addressed are twofold: 1) how to continue offering technical assistance to communities to support the implementation and enhancement of their Local Mitigation Strategies, and 2) how to expand the programmatic innovations demonstrated in the Florida Showcase Community Project communities statewide. The goal of this proposal is to create an improved mechanism for providing technical assistance on hazard mitigation to local governments in Florida. This will be accomplished by integrating the demonstration project initiatives of the Florida Showcase Community Project into the ongoing technical assistance provided to local governments to implement and enhance their Local Mitigation Strategies. This objective will be met through a series of three strategies involving: 1) program evaluation, 2) supporting local governments in implementing mitigation initiatives, and 3) developing a comprehensive protocol for directing technical assistance to communities.

**PROJECT: Florida Blueways Strategic Implementation**

**CONTACT:**

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chris.friel@fwc.state.fl.us

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$80,000

**DESCRIPTION:** Current and projected resource issues highlight the need for a policy framework that will integrate management across the coastal, nearshore, and marine environments. Florida Blueways is a multi-year initiative to create the information base and management support needed to initiate such a framework. The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) has been working with the FCMP on the project since 1998. The design and implementation of the project are driven both by FMRI's scientific expertise and GIS capabilities and by the FCMP's management experience.

The Blueways project collects and integrates ecological, human use, and management information for Florida's coastal ocean and estuarine environments. A GIS-based program is being used to integrate and update data. By combining layers showing environmental conditions, resource uses, and existing management efforts, Blueways provides a place-based description of competing opportunities in the coastal and marine environment. Ultimately the FCMP hopes to expand Blueways to a state-wide

analysis that allows true ecosystem-scale management. This year's project will complete the ecological, human use, and management characterizations for Charlotte Harbor. Much of this work will be accomplished in cooperation with the FCMP's recently awarded Coastal Services Center Fellow. Once the Charlotte Harbor region is completed, the project will focus on extending the process to other estuaries across the state. Also during the project year, state decision-makers will be brought to the table to review the project and to discuss the management framework needed to effectively utilize Blueways to coordinate management across coastal and ocean areas.

**PROJECT: Florida Seagrass Management Toolbox**

**CONTACT:**

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**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$100,000

**DESCRIPTION:** Much of Florida's natural seagrass coverage has been lost over the last 50 years, and degradation continues at alarming rates. The Florida Marine Research Institute (FMRI) has done extensive seagrass research and has produced boaters' guides aimed at minimizing impacts to seagrass. FMRI's statewide assessment of seagrass distribution and scarring (supported by the FCMP) recommended that local-level management pursue tools to increase seagrass protection. The FGOC's Final Report recommended numerous strategies and actions for improving Florida's management of marine resources, including the application of innovative techniques for habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement, and supporting efforts that protect critical habitats such as wetlands, seagrass, and sargassum. This project will build upon these efforts by initiating a statewide dialogue about seagrass management and providing technical assistance to improve local-level management. A statewide meeting of federal and state interests will solicit targeted input and commitment from selected agencies to build a systematic and consistent approach to statewide seagrass management. A working group will be formed to continue state-level meetings over the course of the year. In addition, targeted technical and scientific assistance will be provided to a number of local governments. Local-level efforts will focus on those areas identified as priority regions by the 1995 study and subsequent research. Local workshops will be held to discuss seagrass status and potential management measures that could increase seagrass protection. Technical assistance to local managers may include strategic assessments of local seagrass distribution and abundance, channel marking and boat ramp signage strategies, boaters and angler guides, identification of restoration sites and restoration priority rankings, and assessment and delineation of limited-motoring zones.

**PROJECT: New Best Management Practices for Coastal Citrus**

**CONTACT:**

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**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:**\$40,000

**DESCRIPTION:** Section 6217 requires coastal states to address pollutants impacting coastal waters. All of the state's 833,701 acres of citrus are located within the coastal zone and are subject to management measures for nonpoint source pollution. The primary sources of agricultural nonpoint

source pollutants are nutrients and in particular, nitrogen and phosphorus. Unfortunately, very little work has been done recently on developing and testing new BMPs for Florida's citrus groves and very few have been evaluated in the field.

This project seeks to demonstrate and validate new BMPs to reduce nutrients entering coastal waters and to make them available to citrus growers to assure them of a sustainable future, both environmentally and economically. This project will make available to citrus growers two new BMPs for fertilization: foliar fertilization and the application of organic matter to reduce nutrient discharge while maintaining profitability. Foliar fertilization is the application of small amounts of appropriate fertilizers to a plant's foliage for assimilation and use by the plant as a source of nutrients. Foliar fertilization as a new, innovative BMP would reduce the amount of ground applied fertilizer. This project would validate the environmental benefits of foliar fertilization as a BMP. The soil application of organic materials to citrus is the second new BMP to be validated by this project. This BMP will use applications of urban plant debris as a mulch that is overlaid on a prior application of chicken manure. The discharged stormwater from each site receiving a particular fertility program would be monitored and assessed as to its environmental benefit or shortcoming based on nutrient loading.

**PROJECT: Key West Quality Enhancement Program**

**CONTACT:**

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Mayor  
City of Key West  
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Key West, FL 33041-1409  
(305)292-8180

**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$80,000

**DESCRIPTION:** The City of Key West is located within a National Marine Sanctuary and has been designated an Area of Critical State Concern by the Florida Legislature. The city's location at approximately one foot above sea level and having less than one half inch of soil above the lime rock aquifer provide a unique set of geologic conditions which makes the nearshore water quality vulnerable to pollution. Stormwater facilities are only able to remove minimal amounts of sediments and heavy metals during rain events when stormwater runoff enters the near shore waters directly or indirectly. Impacts to water quality have been further exacerbated by houseboats discharging wastewater directly into surface water instead of pumping their holding tanks. Many marinas and the harbor surrounding Key West contain an unidentified number of permanent live-a-boards. The city is providing sewage pump out facilities, free parking, dingy dock sites, and marina services such as showers and laundry facilities as incentives to get boats anchored around the city to utilize moorings provided at city marinas. Boats anchored offshore are currently damaging seagrasses and discharging untreated waste into the bay.

On numerous occasions the Monroe County Health Department has issued health advisories and posted signs prohibiting swimming at several public beaches in Key West due to high fecal coliform counts and the presence of the enterococci bacteria. The DEP and FKNMS are conducting limited sampling of near shore waters and the harbor. The Legislature has provided some funding to continue sampling, but it is insufficient. The City budgeted some funds for construction of restroom facilities for individuals who rent slips or mooring stations and has committed some funding for the purchase of mooring stations. Additional sites need to be tested and marina management techniques need to be employed to reduce nonprofit source pollution.

**PROJECT: Ocean Research Priorities for Florida**

**CONTACT:**

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**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$30,000

**DESCRIPTION:** This project proposes a consensus building process to be designed to identify ocean research priorities that address recommendations made by the Florida Governor's Ocean Committee (FGOC) in its 1999 final report. The work of the FGOC is part of the approved Section 309 Ocean Resources Strategy. This specific project was begun in fiscal year (FY) 1999-2000 with formation of a summit steering committee to provide guidance on the design and development of the process, to develop a white paper to analyze the FGOC recommendations, to hold an initial summit to further discuss and refine the management needs/info/gaps, and to hold a mini-summit to identify research to address needs/info/gaps. The project during FY 2000-01 will hold a final summit to meet and develop a report on ocean research priorities to seek legislative and foundation support. The same contractor will be hired for all phases of existing (FY 1999-2000) and proposed (FY 2000-2001) project work.

**PROJECT: Ocean and Coastal Policy Coordination**

**CONTACT:**

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**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$83, 000

**DESCRIPTION:** Florida's favorable climate, top-rated beaches and overall high quality of life attract large numbers of visitors and residents, which results in conflicts between the need to accommodate a growing population and the need to protect Florida's natural resources. These conflicts must be addressed because much of Florida's economy and quality of life are dependent upon the maintenance of its natural environment, particularly its coastal and marine resources. To ensure that Florida maintains this balance, it is essential that environmental policy coordination be provided among all entities associated with ocean and coastal resource management.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Office of Legislative and Governmental Affairs (OLGA) is responsible for coordinating a number of programs and activities for the Department, including congressional affairs, federal projects review, comprehensive plans, transportation issues, Gulf of Mexico Program, federal consistency procedures and coordination of offshore activities. In addition, OLGA is the lead state office representing the Governor for outer continental shelf (OCS) activities and is responsible for developing the state's position regarding mineral activities in federal waters of the OCS. This framework provides a logical setting for specialized coordination of ocean and coastal resource management issues. The goal of the project is to facilitate such coordination efforts and provide support for policy initiatives related to activities affecting the ocean and coastal environment. Project funds will allow OLGA to coordinate with federal, interstate, intrastate, regional and local levels of government, as well as interest groups and the public, to implement the Governor's policies and to accomplish specific project objectives aimed at natural resource protection, conservation, restoration and enhancement.

**PROJECT: Waterfronts Florida Program Administration**

**CONTACT:**

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**FCMP FUNDING AMOUNT:** \$115,000

**DESCRIPTION:** This project supports continuation of the [Waterfronts Florida](#) program developed as part of the approved Section 309 Special Area Management Plan Strategy begun in 1997-98. The Waterfronts Florida program provides technical assistance and training to designated communities involved in waterfront revitalization and results in the completion of special management plans for participating communities to use for guidance and direction during their redevelopment efforts. The program designates three communities every two years and provides technical assistance, training, and limited financial assistance (from the FCMP) to those selected communities. The waterfront revitalization targets four major issue areas: environmental resource protection, public access, retention of viable traditional waterfront economies, and hazard mitigation. The revitalization is done through four components: designation of the participating communities; organization of the local effort within the communities; visualization of a revitalization plan, and implementation of the vision and plan. Designation and organization occur primarily during the first year; visualization and implementation occur primarily during the second year.