



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM (FY 2011)
SECOND HALF - 111th CONGRESS

1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT

Miami Dade County Park and Recreation Department

2. DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSONS, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE AND FAX NUMBER(S), & E-MAIL ADDRESS

Joe Maguire, Natural Areas Manager
Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department
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3. PROJECT NAME

Exotic Wildlife Control

4. BACKGROUND

South Florida has the ideal combination of natural characteristics that predisposes it for invasion by non-native species. Subtropical climate, abundance of lakes and wetlands, and the patchwork of human disturbance (canals, farms, and urban development) together create conditions that are perfect for the establishment and expansion of plants and animals from other parts of the world. Exotic wildlife poses several significant threats to native ecosystems, native wildlife species, and public health and safety. Some exotic species physically alter habitats by extensive digging or rooting (e.g. feral pigs, armadillos, iguanas). Many exotic wildlife prey on native species and pose a tremendous threat (feral cats, pythons, boa constrictors, Nile monitor lizards, iguanas). This is particularly problematic in Miami-Dade County where native wildlife (including migratory birds) are concentrated in fragmented habitats and become easy prey for predatory exotic species. Some exotic species pose threats to human health by transmitting disease (feral cats and dogs) or creating unsanitary conditions for humans (iguanas, Muscovy ducks, feral cats).

The Florida Invasive Animal Task Team (FIATT) of South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force/Working Group has developed a priority advisory invasive

animal list of problematic species. Currently, of the known and thriving animal species introduced into south Florida, 4 are amphibians, 32 are fish, 12 are birds, 46 are reptiles, 17 are mammals, and approximately 79 are invertebrates. FIATT has identified 32 introduced species that should be considered high priority for control. These include feral cats, pythons, boa constrictors, monitor lizards, and green and spiny-tailed iguanas.

Managing and controlling invasive exotic animals is difficult, expensive and requires a long-term commitment. No single agency is equipped to deal with the myriad of exotic wildlife now established in South Florida. Miami-Dade County manages more than 20,000 acres of native ecosystems spread across more than 80 different properties. There is a tremendous outcry from the public to control exotic wildlife species inhabiting the nature preserves in the county.

This year alone, the County's Natural Areas Management Division has spent numerous hours on wildlife activities / species such as:

- Nile Monitor and Tegu - Trapping in conjunction with National Park and Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Iguanas - Trapping, surveying, management plan
- Exotic snakes - capture and removal of boas (Deering) and Pythons (South Dade Wetlands)
- Africanized Bee - coordinate hive / swarm removals, tracking, training
- American Crocodiles - coordinate investigation of complaints w/ FWC, public education, training
- Sacred ibis - education, discussions with Florida Fish & Wildlife
- General wildlife monitoring - in conjunction with site inspections
- Research permitting - various wildlife-related research projects
- Response to calls regarding injured wildlife, feral animals
- Mosquito Control - coordination meetings
- Imperiled Butterfly Working Group - quarterly meetings, field surveys, coordinate with researchers
- ECISMA (Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) - meetings, correspondence, collaboration
- FIATT Meetings (Florida Invasive Animal Task Team)

The project that we are proposing will expand the capability of our land managing division to coordinate with state and federal control programs, initiate local control program for the exotic wildlife inhabiting our nature preserves, establish a trapping campaign using private contractors, and educate the public about issues such as pet care and prevention of new invasions.

5. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The Department will hire a Biologist to develop a policy plan for the removal, control, and monitoring of wildlife for all of Miami-Dade County, and advocate and educate 36 municipalities and federally-owned Environmentally Endangered Land sites which it manages. In addition, the Wildlife Biologist would coordinate public education. The budget includes a vehicle modified to appropriately transport trapped wildlife, operating expenses and funds for contractual services.

6. AMOUNT REQUESTED

\$500,000

- 7. APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE OF JURISDICTION (Please include federal agency of jurisdiction and account)**
None
- 8. RATIONALE FOR FUNDING PROPOSAL (Including verification that County has signed necessary cost sharing agreements if applicable)**
- 9. ARE GRANT, FORMULA, OR ENTITLEMENT FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT, INITIATIVE, OR ACTIVITY? (If so, please indicate and explain rationale for requesting a separate appropriation earmark, as opposed to accessing other federal funds)**
There are no other federal or state grant opportunities known to us for this project.
- 10. INTENDED RECIPIENT(S) OF FUNDING**
Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department
- 11. MATCHING FUNDS (List amount and source. Are Local and State matching funds required for this funding source? If so, please indicate the state or local match, as well as % of federal match required by the Federal Government)**
None available
- 12. HISTORY OF FEDERAL FUNDING (List agency funding and amount funded per year over the last 5 years)**
No previous assistance has been provided for this project.
- 13. HISTORY OF COUNTY FUNDING (List each fiscal year and amount funded)**
No previous assistance has been provided for this project.
- 14. AMOUNT RECOMMENDED IN THIS YEAR'S FEDERAL BUDGET (include agency funding this item) \$770,000.**
- 15. IS THERE A DOCUMENTED NEED FOR THE PROJECT: INCLUDING DEPARTMENT REPORTS OR BCC ACTION? (If so, please provide documentation)**
None
- 16. WAS THIS PROJECT HEARD BEFORE A PUBLICLY NOTICED MEETING OR BODY OF ELECTED OFFICIALS (MUNICIPAL, COUNTY OR STATE)? (List hearing body or meeting date)**
No
- 17. PRIORITIZE YOUR REQUESTS NUMERICALLY**
Three (3)