

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: November 21, 2008

SUBJECT: Jonathan Dickinson State Park, Wild and Scenic River Corridor
Exotic/Pest Plant Control Phase III

Background: This is a Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative (LRPI) project, which receives funding through state appropriations. Exotic pest plants have a strong foothold in many of the ecosystems within Jonathan Dickinson State Park. Efforts are continuing to reduce major areas of infestation and restoring sites so that native plants and animals have the opportunity to occupy these areas. The project is entirely within Jonathan Dickinson State Park in southeastern Martin County and northeastern Palm Beach County.

How this helps meet the District's 10-Year Strategic Plan: This LRPI project for exotic/pest plant control supports the Coastal Watersheds Program goal to restore coastal watersheds and receiving water bodies through local initiatives and partnerships.

Funding Source: This is a one year cost share agreement with the Florida Park Service for Wild and Scenic River Corridor Exotic/Pest Plant Control Phase III, in the amount of \$350,000, of which the District's total contribution is \$175,000 in dedicated funds (state appropriations), for which funds are budgeted.

This Board item impacts what areas of the District, both resource areas and geography: Coastal Ecosystems Division staff is responsible for management of state appropriated funds for this project. The project is located in the Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Martin and Palm Beach counties along the Loxahatchee River.

What concerns could this Board item raise? The state appropriations are allocated based on the request of the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative for specific projects. The Florida Division of Recreation and Parks is active in this process and has used the money for projects that restore and protect the Loxahatchee River. The District is responsible for the administration of state appropriations.

Why should the Governing Board approve this item? This project is important to the overall restoration and protection of the Loxahatchee River. The continued efforts to eradicate invasive vegetation would allow native plants and animals the opportunity to inhabit the restored areas.

CM/bhw
Attachments – Resolution, Aerial