

Application Form

Project Information

Project Title*

PFS24-03 Lower Santa Fe River Basin Groundwater Nitrate Assessment

Summary of Project*

Please be concise, 4-6 sentences at most. Later in the application space is available to state the details of your proposal.

The Santa Fe River basin is impaired for nutrients, specifically for nitrogen. Groundwater trends are best analyzed over a long period of time, as water quality shifts tend to occur slowly over time. Continued monitoring of wells would help identify trends in the lower Santa Fe River spring shed. ACEPD proposes to use wells previously sampled in two similar Tag Grant projects (PFS1415-02 and PFS20-02) with the goal of resampling between 80 and 83 wells in the Santa Fe River Basin. for nitrate, total phosphorus, potassium, and chloride. This project will include two sampling events in partnership with AquiferWatch, with one in the dry season and the other in the wet season. ACEPD and AquiferWatch will explore the data spatially, seasonally, and over time in looking for groundwater trends. ACEPD will share results with participating residents and will present findings at public forums including the Santa Fe Springs Protection Forum.

Grant Funds Requested:*

\$8,140.00

Matching Funds:

Matching funds from *inside* the organization.

\$10,618.00

Explanation of Matching Funds:

ACEPD will provide a match of staff time (318 hours for a Senior Environmental Specialist position and an intern) for an estimated contribution of \$10,618.00. Tasks will include project management, coordinating sampling activities; collecting samples from wells and springs for analyses; reviewing, summarizing, and mapping results; and providing the laboratory results to the homeowners along with springs protection information.

Matching Funds (other):

Matching funds from *outside* the organization.

\$0.00

Explanation of Matching Funds:

[Unanswered]

In-Kind Contributions (monetary value):

An in-kind contribution is a non-cash contribution of a good or a service. *State the cash value* of these items including estimated value of total volunteer hours.

\$0.00

Explanation of In-kind Contributions:

[Unanswered]

Total Project Cost:*

\$18,758.00

Is this a continuation of an existing PFS grant or next phase of work on previous grant?*

NO

If YES, please list include the prior Grant ID Number (e.g. PFS1819-02)

Describe your long-term plan, if any, to further diversify your funding base.

[Unanswered]

Has the organization received a PFS Grant before? (other than previously mentioned)*

YES

If YES, please explain: When and for what? Please include Grant ID Number (s).

- As part of PFS 1314-03 (Alachua County Poe and Hornsby Springs Nitrate Source Investigation) ACEPD sampled 44 wells in proximity to those springs and in the surrounding areas to assess water quality variability and evaluate nitrate concentrations in the groundwater. This project showed the variability of nitrate in groundwater and the need for additional sampling to better understand how nitrate in groundwater contributes to the springs along the Santa Fe River.
- PFS 1415-02 (Lower Santa Fe River Basin Springs and Groundwater Synoptic Nitrate Sampling and Outreach) furthered our assessment of nitrates in groundwater expanding the sampling efforts into western Gilchrist and southern Columbia counties. Approximately 80 wells were sampled twice during the project. There was considerable variability in nitrate concentrations among the wells sampled and the isotopic analyses indicated the origin of the nitrate was from mixed sources (organic and inorganic). Given the mixed sources for most samples, education and outreach is essential to achieve water quality improvements.
- PFS20-02 (Nitrate Concentrations in Groundwater of the Santa Fe River Basin and Outreach). ACEPD sampled selected wells for nitrate, total phosphorus, potassium and chloride, and mapped the results in the Santa Fe River Basin. After comparing data between the 2014-2015 project and 2020-2021 project we found there was no significant change in the nitrate concentration over time

Organization's Expertise:*

List experience, strengths, and competencies in springs conservation, research, and education.

- The Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD) has conducted groundwater, springs, and surface water monitoring in the Santa Fe River Basin since the mid-1980s. Work began with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Groundwater Monitoring Program (now Watershed Monitoring Program).
- ACEPD is made up of a diverse team of professionals that includes several experienced research scientists. Additionally, we often partner with or contract with the faculty at the University of Florida. The department conducts water quality monitoring of surface water, groundwater, and wastewater treatment plants in the region, thus is very aware of current issues. Staff has implemented various restoration projects for springs and stormwater systems.
- ACEPD hosts quarterly Springs Protection Forums where government agencies, professionals, researchers, and the general public discuss local springs protection issues and solutions. Through this forum, professional conferences, and statewide meetings, staff stay current with springs issues and solutions and lead the way for other local governments.
- Previous Springs Tag Grants awarded to ACEPD have all been successfully implemented within the budget.
- Staff have successfully worked with other agencies over the years to achieve common springs protection educational goals through landscaping, children's programming, outreach and training programs.

Project Outcomes:*

Explain how the project will advance further conservation of Florida springs.

Groundwater trends are best when analyzed over a long period of time, re-samples are needed across a broad range both temporarily and spatially is needed to identify those trends. Understanding groundwater trends both temporally and spatially will help managers identify key areas of concern. Information on problem areas can help managers understand what strategies may be working and where further conservation work is needed.

- The primary goal of this project is to spatially assess groundwater quality in terms of nitrate concentrations throughout the Santa Fe River Basin. Results will be analyzed in comparison with synoptic sampling conducted in 2014/2015 and 2019/2020 to understand water trends both temporally and spatially.
- The secondary goal of the project is to provide outreach information to private well owners whose wells are sampled as part of the project. We will share information with participants, present the findings at a Santa Fe Springs Protection Forum, and share the information with state and local agencies (Suwannee River Water Management District, Florida Department of Health, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection).

Results:*

Describe how the results will be measured. Are the results measurable, quantifiable, and qualitative?

- The primary goal of this project is to spatially assess groundwater quality in terms of nitrate concentrations throughout the Santa Fe River Basin. Results will be analyzed in comparison with synoptic sampling conducted in 2014/2015 and 2019/2020 to understand water trends both temporally and spatially. The secondary goal of the project is to provide outreach information to private well owners whose wells are sampled as part of the project. We will share information with participants, present the findings at a Santa Fe Springs Protection Forum, and share the information

with state and local agencies (Suwannee River Water Management District, Florida Department of Health, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection). The success of the project is quantifiable and will be measured by the number of wells sampled and the outreach conducted to inform the public about springs and springs protect.

Expected Outcomes applicable to other springs; Plan for disseminating results:*

This project will assess the water quality health in terms of nutrients for the Santa Fe River Basin. Findings from this project will be directly applicable to springs within the basin, which includes several Outstanding Florida Springs and numerous other springs. The results will be shared with other agencies (e.g. FWC, FDEP, Department of Health, and water management districts), presented and discussed at a Santa Fe River Springs Protection Forum meeting, and the final report may be posted on the Alachua County's website and will be available from ACEPD.

Does this project have the potential to change minds and behaviors to benefit springs?*

During the sampling of private wells, it is anticipated that individual discussions between ACEPD staff or AquiferWatch personnel with residents when sampling the wells will have a positive impact on behavior changes that benefit springs. The data from this project will be used to inform citizens of the importance of protecting springs by minimizing the use of pollutants. It is also possible that the compiled data set can influence County or State policy if alarming trends are identified.

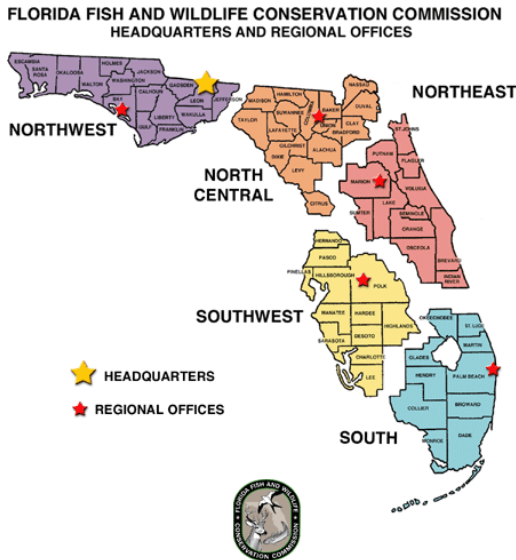
Possibilities:*

Does the project or its anticipated results have the potential to attract new funding, partners or on-the-ground conservation agreements?

Alachua County plans to partner with AquiferWatch on this project and will include their network of wells. AquiferWatch is a small non-profit organization and participating in projects like this one helps with their mission. It is possible that future partnerships will develop additional partners in the future. The Florida Springs Institute has successfully implemented citizen science programs and may be interested in including private wells in the future.

Geographic Area Served*

Please select the region(s) of Florida your project will impact. More than one area can be checked.



North Central

Why are grant funds necessary?*

While our water and water pollution does not respect our political boundaries, ACEPD has a limited operating budget and cannot expend funds outside of Alachua County. Grant funding is necessary to expand this monitoring program into Gilchrist and Columbia Counties.

Project time-frame:*

A project time-frame usually includes an intended start and finish date and lists all project related milestones, activities and deliverables.

12 months.

August 2023- Begin sampling planning.

November 2023- First sampling event

May 2024- Second sampling event

Fall 2024- Data evaluation and report completion

December 2024- Final report submission

Cooperating Partners:

ACEPD will contract AquiferWatch, Inc. for support in collecting groundwater data and interpretation of the data and Advance Environmental Laboratories for sample analysis.

Financial: If awarded, how will the grant award be spent?

Salaries & Benefits:

\$0.00

Salaries and Benefits Details (please give an itemized list):

Contracted Services:

\$8,140.00

Contracted Services Details (please give an itemized list):

Lab costs \$40 per sample: nitrate, Cl, K and TP \$6,640.00

AquiferWatch: Collection of 50 samples at \$30.00 per sample. \$1,500.00

Total \$8,140.00

Facilities & Equipment:

\$0.00

Facility and Equipment Details (please give an itemized list):

Travel:

\$0.00

Travel Details (please give an itemized list):

N/A

Supplies:

\$0.00

Supplies Details (please give itemized list):

[Unanswered]

Other Expenses:

\$0.00

Other Expenses Details (please give itemized list):

[Unanswered]

TOTAL*

Note: The total of the proposed spending categories in the project budget must equal Grant Funds Requested.

\$8,140.00

File Uploads

Please share any additional links and/or upload documents/photos to further support the Foundation's understanding of your project.

Optional File Upload 1

Optional File Upload 2

Optional File Upload 3

Optional File Upload 4

Optional Link 1

Optional Link 2

PFS24-03 Lower Santa Fe River Basin Groundwater Nitrate Assessment

PFS24 Protect Florida Springs Grants 2023-2024

Alachua County

Stacie Greco
408 W University Ave
Suite 106
Gainesville, FL 32601

Sgreco@alachuacounty.us
O: 352-264-6829

Efrain Tavaréz

etavaréz@alachuacounty.us

FollowUp Form

Terms & Conditions

The Board of Directors of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. (Foundation) is pleased to inform you that your Protect Florida Springs (PFS) tag grant request listed below has been approved for funding. Grant funds will become available October 1, 2023. This agreement details the responsibilities of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida and your organization ("Grantee"), and the terms and conditions of the 2024 Protect Florida Springs Grant that has been awarded to your organization.

Please note that the Foundation requires this agreement to be signed and submitted before any grant funds can be released.

Project Title

PFS24-03 Lower Santa Fe River Basin Groundwater Nitrate Assessment

Amount Awarded

\$8,140.00

Grant ID:

PFS24-03

1. The project is limited to expenditures for goods or services as indicated in the proposal budget submitted in your Grant Application which is hereby incorporated into this Grant Agreement.

2. As project manager, it is your responsibility to contract for such goods and/or services that you require within scope of the Project Budget. Invoices must be sufficiently itemized so as to permit audit of charges incurred. Invoices submitted for payment must be signed by the project manager and submitted in a timely fashion. All vendors paid by the Foundation pursuant to this grant award must provide a completed W-9 to the Foundation at the time of the vendor's first invoice submission. Submit payments to the Foundation Grant Administrator, Anita Forester, either by email to aforester@wildlifeflorida.org or by ground delivery to:

Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc.
Post Office Box 11010
Tallahassee, FL 32302

3. Your grant number (Grant ID) MUST appear on all correspondence and paperwork related to this grant. Grantee may not and cannot pledge the Foundation's credit or make the Foundation a guarantor of any payment or surety for any contract, debt, obligation, lien, or any form of indebtedness.

4. Equipment purchased with grant funds becomes the property of your organization and must be labeled with tags "Donated by the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc." where appropriate. Grantee is not permitted to act as a reseller of equipment purchased with grant funds. If property purchased with grant funds can no longer be used by the organization for the intended purpose outlined in the proposal, please contact the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida Grants Administrator, Anita Forester, at aforester@wildlifeflorida.org.

5. The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt [Federal ID # 59-3277808] [State of Florida

Consumer's Certificate of Exemption # 85-8012624063C-7]. Copies of appropriate documentation are available upon request.

6. Changes in the scope of work to the original Foundation approved grant project/program must be requested in writing through the Foundation grant administrator for consideration. You may not assign this agreement or the grant award to another person or organization. This agreement and the rights created by it are intended for the sole benefit of the Grantee, and no third party including any vendor recipients of grant award funds, have any rights under this Agreement. No third party may rely upon this Agreement or the rights and representations created by it for any purpose.

7. As the grantee, you have authority to shift grant funds within your approved budget up to five percent (5%) of your total grant award. You may not shift funds to create a new budget item. You may only shift funds to an item or items that already exist in the approved application. Requests for approval for fund shifts of more than five percent (5%) of the grant award total must be in writing to the Foundation Grant Administrator, Anita Forester, aforester@wildlifeflorida.org. Approvals of fund shifts in excess of five percent are at the sole discretion of the Foundation.

8. Each project is allowed a window of twelve months for completion. Your grant will become effective on **October 1, 2023**. Your expiration date is **September 30, 2024**.

9. The Foundation may contact you approximately six months after your project begins to gauge the progress and discuss any success or obstacles you may be encountering. In the event Grantee elects to terminate or abandon the Project before its completion, the Foundation reserves the right to obtain a refund from Grantee of grant award funds expended on the Project.

10. If you are not able to complete your project within the stated time frame, you may request a one-time-only extension of six months. The Foundation reserves the right to approve or deny any request for extension. If an extension is granted, no further extensions will be allowed. Before an extension is granted, the Foundation will require a progress report on the project.

11. The Foundation requires submission of a *final report* within three calendar months of project completion. All grantees are required to submit report through the Foundation's online grant management reporting tool. An auto reminder will be emailed with the log-in page as the deadline approaches. Reporting can be completed sooner by simply logging into the grant management system at your convenience.

12. The Foundation maintains a list on the Foundation's website of grant projects. This is intended as a positive public relations tool to showcase our grantees and their projects. To that end, the Foundation will request information on specific project locations, web links, photographs, video clips, etc. Providing this information is a condition of acceptance of this grant.

13. Grantee agrees to participate in media requests related to the project, including designated spokesperson speaking with media on the record and providing access to the project for photography/videography as appropriate.

14. Any unspent grant funds remaining at close of business on **December 31, 2024** will revert to the Foundation. Eligible Project expenditures incurred by grantee within the grant period (**October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024**) must be submitted to the Foundation by this date. If an extension has been granted, unspent funds will revert 90 days after the new assigned end date. *Note: If these dates fall on a non-business day, then the next business day will substitute.*

15. The Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, Inc. is providing the financial support for this project and expects recognition on any signage, publicity or printed materials related to the program/project. Note: Reasonable costs incurred to comply with this paragraph (signage printing, etc.) are an allowable grant expense.

a. For projects involving the creation of a poster, printed report, video, website or other such media product, please contact the Foundation's Director of Communications, Michelle Ashton, at mashton@wildlifeflorida.org to discuss the best way of acknowledging the Foundation's support.

b. When recognizing the grant project, please mention the following:

This research [or project, etc.] was funded with the help of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida via proceeds from the 'Protect Florida Springs' license plate.

c. If applicable, we will provide you with signage to post at project locations. You are required to send us a photo of the signage posted at the location.

d. In press releases and other media outreach, please include the following paragraph about the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida:

This project is funded in part by a grant from the nonprofit Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida (FWFF) via proceeds from the 'Protect Florida Springs' license plate. Since its founding, the Foundation has raised and given away more than \$66 million for conservation, outdoor recreation and youth programs and camps. For more information, please visit www.wildlifeflorida.org.

e. The Foundation logo and the tag logo are available HERE for inclusion on any such recognition. The Foundation's logos are trademarks and servicemarks made available to grantee on a limited license basis, subject to the Foundation's instructions for use and publication, and without any grant of title or interest in the same. Grantee will retain all indicia of trademark ownership on all logos and will discontinue use of logos upon instruction from the Foundation.

f. The grantee will provide photographs or video footage created of the process and finished product. If creating this content is part of the grant award, grantee will provide all raw footage to the grantor.

g. For projects whose final product does not fit any of the above categories, the Foundation and the Grantee agree to negotiate in good faith to ensure that the Foundation and the Protect Florida Springs Tag grant program receive appropriate recognition. Refer any questions on this matter to the Foundation.

h. Grantee is an independent contractor and not an officer, employee agent, joint venture or partner of the Foundation. Grantee has no authority to bind the Foundation and will not represent to others such authority. Grantee remains solely responsible for its acts, conduct, expenses and that of its employees or agents. Grantee also remains solely responsible for the costs of its personnel carrying out the Project, including all applicable employee compensation and benefits, workers compensation insurance, and associated payroll tax withholding. All Project work shall be performed by or under the supervision of Grantee and its personnel or agents, and not by the Foundation. In no instance shall the Foundation be deemed the joint employer of any Grantee personnel, and Grantee will indemnify and hold the Foundation harmless in the event of any such claim.

16. The Foundation further requests 5 copies of any product that is produced in any tangible media of expression, (copyrighted) to be provided with the final project report. Please coordinate with the Foundation's Grant Administrator, Anita Forester, at aforester@wildlifeflorida.org.

17. The Foundation will receive a royalty-free, non-exclusive, perpetual unrestricted license to use and reproduce any and all books, manuals, films, photographs, designs, drawings, inventions, discoveries, or other copyrighted materials developed using Protect Florida Springs Tag funds. This will be for the Foundation's use in promoting its programs, sharing materials with government and non-profit partners. The Foundation will not sell or otherwise derive financial benefit from such copyright use. The Foundation asks to receive a copy of any copyrighted materials in a standard digital format upon the completion of the grant.

18. Grantee will be liable for and indemnify, defend, and hold the Foundation and all its directors, officers, employees, and agents harmless from all claims, suits, judgments, damages, expenses (including attorney's fees), arising out of any act or omission or neglect by Grantee and its agents, employees, and subcontractors in the performance of the Project. Grantee assumes all liability in the performance of the Project, and the Foundation's award of grant funds hereunder shall in no way constitute an assessment of the safety, engineering, feasibility,

legality or the like of the Project nor relieve Grantee of its sole liability therefor. Grantee remains solely responsible for complying with all applicable law (federal, state, and local) governing the Project.

19. The Foundation may request that you provide information, including video or photographs, for the Foundation's publications or website describing the project and its impact. It may further request that a report on the project be presented to the Foundation Board of Directors.

20. Remaining grant balances are available in the online grant management system or by contacting the Foundation's Grant Administrator, Anita Forester aforester@wildlifeflorida.org.

21. Acceptance of a Wildlife Foundation of Florida Tag License Plates grant is considered acceptance of state financial assistance as a subrecipient from the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, , **CSFA Number 76.103.**

Entities receiving state financial assistance are required to follow the audit and accountability requirements for state projects as stated in Section 215.97, Florida Statutes, applicable rules of the Department of Financial Services, rules of the Auditor General, and requirements from the State Projects Compliance Supplement. Subrecipients, as a condition of receiving state financial assistance, must permit the independent auditor of the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of Financial Services, and the Auditor General access to the subrecipient's records and the subrecipient's independent auditor's working papers as necessary to comply with Section 215.97, Florida Statutes. All records including original receipts must be kept for a minimum of three years beyond the project end date. We will be periodically reviewing projects and expenditures.

Acceptance of Terms & Conditions*

This grant is conditional upon Grantee's acceptance of the terms and conditions set forth herein. By selecting the "I Accept Grant Terms and Conditions" below Grantee agrees to accept and comply with the stated terms and conditions of this grant.

Authorized Signature*

The electronic signature on this document of the person authorized to make legal contracts for Grantee will represent Grantee's acceptance of this award and agreement to comply with the stated terms and conditions of this grant. Please signify your agreement to the foregoing terms and conditions by typing in your Name, Title, and Date in the spaces below. You must be an authorized officer of the Grantee duly empowered to make legal contracts for the Grantee. [The collaborate tool at the top of this page will allow you to share access to this document.](#)

Title* Michele Lieberman, County Manager

Date*

Additional Requirements

Thank you! We wish you all the best with your project.

Approved as to Form

Alachua County
Attorney

PFS24-03 Lower Santa Fe River Basin Groundwater Nitrate Assessment

PFS24 Protect Florida Springs Grants 2023-2024

Alachua County

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