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The Foundation for The Gator Nation An Equal Opportunity Institution

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in support of the grant application of Edwin's Elementary School in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. As a University of Florida faculty attached to an off-campus teaching program located nearby on the Milton campus of Pensacola State College for the last 20 years, I have had the privilege of supporting local school districts with workshops for teachers and hands on restoration activities for students in the panhandle of Florida in the past. My research and teaching focuses on restoration of upland, wetland, and coastal ecosystems including restoration of barrier island vegetation. Volunteers from local schools have participated in several of my research projects. My first experience with the Okaloosa County School District as a UF faculty was in 1996 when my colleagues and I taught a science lesson to the 7th graders (about 120 students) at Pryor Middle School in preparation for the inclusion of those students in a restoration project on Santa Rosa Island after hurricane Opal. These students planted over 3000 sea oats in one day as part of a research project conducted by myself and other UF faculty. In addition, the UF teaching program at Milton consists of two programs, Plant science and Natural Resource Conservation. Our teaching program has produced several science teachers who teach in high school and middle schools in the region.

I would be glad to provide consultation to teachers and students on classroom lessons or hands-on activities focusing on ecosystem health and restoration. .

Sincerely,

Debbie Miller

Undergraduate Coordinator

Professor, Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

Milton Campus, West Florida Research and Education Center

The Foundation for The Gator Nation An Equal Opportunity Institution

Okaloosa County

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April 10, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the UF/IFAS Okaloosa County Extension and Master Naturalist Program, I fully support Edwins Elementary School in its efforts to enhance the science experiential learning for students. As a partnering organization, we are committed to providing consultation on

project development, teacher workshops that utilize the Master Naturalist curriculum, and assisting with student fields that reinforce the theories, methodologies, and skills taught. Please contact me for further information if needed.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dunning

Commercial Horticulture

UF/IFAS Extension-Okaloosa County

UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Lynda Penry
561 Pocahontas Drive
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547-3221
April 13, 2015

Marlene VanDyke
c/o Edwins Elementary
7 SW Wright Parkway
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Dear Ms. VanDyke,

Our organization Okaloosa County Master Gardener Association supports the Urban Agriculture program at Edwins Elementary in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. Our members, volunteers, consult with Ms. Sherri Harkins, offering advice and guidance as she plans the substantial units for the students. Ms. Harkins organizes the sessions into small groups and some of our members have provided instructional lessons for these weekly meetings; rotating between the groups.

We are advocates of the program sponsored by Ms. Harkins and would enjoy continuing in this working relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynda Penry".

Lynda Penry, President
Okaloosa County Master Gardener Association


title on T drive
Species Profiles
Managed Species
Imperiled Species
[Listing Process](#)
[Listing Action & Petitions](#)
[Biological Status Review](#)
[Species Action Plans](#)
[Management Plans](#)
[Protected Wildlife Permits](#)
[Reports](#)
[Links](#)
[Listed Species](#)
Nonnative Species
Invasive Plants
Captive Wildlife
Wildlife Assistance
Living with Wildlife
Habitat Information
Health and Disease

A New Conservation Model for Florida Species

The FWC has been working toward the development of the Imperiled Species Management Plan (ISMP) since 2012. FWC introduced draft Species Action Plans in 2013 and will release a draft Imperiled Species Management Plan in 2015 that will be the blueprint for conserving 60 species on Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species list

We invite you to be part of the process. You have the opportunity to learn about these birds, fish, frogs, invertebrates, mammals and reptiles that contribute to keeping Florida's natural areas functioning and alive. You will be able to read and comment on the Imperiled Species Management Plan.

The FWC adopted its new conservation model in September 2010 to evaluate the status of species listed as state-threatened or species of special concern. The process started with Biological Status Reviews (BSR), a health checkup for each species. With that step done, the next focus is to draft plans to manage these species through specific objectives and actions.

The species action plans will identify needed conservation actions, how to accomplish these actions and who will be involved. Following development of the species action plans, staff will look across all of the plans for common elements in order to develop more comprehensive conservation strategies. This step will help us identify priority needs and beneficial management for multiple species and habitats.

[View more...](#)

Your Opportunity to Participate in the Imperiled Species Management Plan



Here is your chance to read, review and comment on the draft Imperiled Species Management Plan (ISMP) for wildlife species in Florida. This comprehensive plan addresses 60 species and identifies priority actions from each of the 49 Species Action Plans.

The comprehensive ISMP contains summaries of each Species Action Plan, Integrated Conservation Strategies, a Law and Policy Chapter, an Implementation Chapter, Review and Revision schedule, and Impacts Assessment.

Your input as a member of the public or stakeholder group is valued, because FWC staff will use your feedback to improve the draft Imperiled Species Management Plan.

The SWIM program is implemented by the Northwest Florida Water Management District, working cooperatively with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/>) (DEP), other state and federal agencies, local governments, and private initiatives to accomplish watershed protection and restoration objectives.

SWIM Plans

SWIM plans are developed to address, on a watershed basis, cumulative anthropogenic impacts on water quality and aquatic habitats. They incorporate comprehensive strategies to both restore and to protect watershed resources. Implementation is accomplished through a variety of activities, such as retrofitting stormwater management systems to improve water quality and flood protection; restoring wetland and aquatic habitats; evaluating resource conditions and freshwater needs; protecting and restoring springs; and providing public outreach and awareness.

The SWIM program also supports coordination of state and federal grants and implementation of cooperative capital improvement projects with local governments.

Historically, SWIM plan implementation has integrated and leveraged a variety of funding sources, including SWIM (sections 373.451-373.459, F.S.), the Water Management Lands Trust Fund (section 373.59, F.S. (http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0300-0399/0373/Sections/0373.59.html)), the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Trust Fund (section 403.1651, F.S. (<http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/403.1651>)), Florida Forever (section 259.105 (http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0200-0299/0259/Sections/0259.105.html) and section 373.199, F.S. (http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&Search_String=&URL=0300-0399/0373/Sections/0373.199.html)), legislative special appropriations, the Water Protection and Sustainability Program (section 403.890, F.S. (<http://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2012/403.890>)), state and federal grants, and funding through local government partnerships. Cumulatively, the overall effort has resulted in significant protection and improvement of water resources District-wide.

SWIM priority waterbodies of the Northwest Florida Water Management District are listed below. The waterbodies listed are inclusive of all tributaries, sub-embayments, and contributing watershed areas.

Watershed

SWIM Plan Status



(/water-resources/swim/apalachicola/)

Apalachicola River and Bay Watershed
 (/water-resources/swim/apalachicola/)
Apalachicola River, Apalachicola Bay and adjacent estuarine waters, Chipola River, New River, Lake Seminole

Plan update approved 1996

Pensacola Bay System (/water-resources/swim/pensacola-bay/)

Plan update