

October 2, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: UF/IFAS Faculty

FROM: Jackie Burns



SUBJECT: Call for Interdisciplinary Research on Invasive Species

Invasions of non-native species are a global environmental problem, oftentimes causing severe ecological and economic damage in natural areas and managed systems. The state of Florida is situated on the “front lines” with a subtropical climate that is suitable for the establishment of many non-native species that are regularly introduced accidentally or intentionally through international travel and trade. UF/IFAS faculty are well-positioned to conduct interdisciplinary research to generate solutions for preventing and managing invasive species. The UF/IFAS Dean for Research Office, with funding from the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, is requesting proposals to support interdisciplinary research on invasive species.

Award Scope: The overall goal is to further our fundamental understanding of the invasion process (including modes of introduction, traits of invaders and susceptible habitats, and mechanisms of spread), as well as impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem processes. The intent is to facilitate development and success of research teams focused on one or more stages of the invasion process, including risk assessment, introduction and establishment, spread, and/or impact, with emphasis on the conceptual mechanisms, patterns, and processes that underlie invasions of non-native species. Research approaches may be focused on individual stages or may be cross-cutting among multiple stages, and may include the biological, ecological, or evolutionary foundations of invasions, human dimensions, modeling, inventory, policy formulation, biosecurity and/or risk assessment. Proposals should address fundamental questions in invasion ecology, which may or may not have immediate management implications. Proposals that focus on the biology, ecology, or management of a single species will be lower priority unless the primary research questions are framed in a broader conceptual context. Funds should be used to create synergies among team members and provide a platform for future success that results in eventual significant extramural funding.

Awards: A total of up to \$500,000 will be awarded to faculty teams to support 12-18 month research efforts. There is no minimum or maximum award size. Successful grants will be announced on or near **December 20, 2017** and must be spent in their entirety by **June 30, 2019** (18 months).

Eligibility: The PI of the proposal must be a faculty member with a tenure home in UF/IFAS, with a budgeted research appointment, and a NIFA approved REEport project at the time of submission. At least two additional faculty from other disciplines (i.e., departments or research focal areas) must be Co-PIs.

Faculty may be PI on only one application, but may be Co-PI on others.

Award Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- 1) Quality of proposal and research design over the funding period;
- 2) Potential impact of the research;
- 3) Potential for the seed funding and pilot research to lead to future extramural funding; and
- 4) Impact of funding on development of interdisciplinary team science capacity of UF/IFAS.

How to apply: There will be a two stage application process. Letters of Intent (LOI) are due **October 23, 2017**.

The LOI information should be submitted here (<https://researchtools.ifas.ufl.edu/iris>) and includes:

- a. Project title
- b. PI and Co-PI information (name, tenure home, unit, UF email, % research appointment, discipline/expertise)
- c. Experiment Station (REEport) Project – Hatch, Multi-state or McIntire-Stennis – title and number
- d. LOI narrative (limited to 350 words)
- e. Estimated total budget and brief justification (note that funds cannot be transferred outside of IFAS, and PI or Co-PI salary may not be included)

LOI Evaluation: LOIs will be evaluated using the criteria listed above. LOIs not adhering to the specified format or not submitted by October 23, 2017 will not be considered. The review panel will make recommendations for invitations to submit full proposals to the Dean for Research; if selected, details will be sent to PIs and full (5-page) proposals will be due **December 4, 2017**.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email John Davis (jmdavis@ufl.edu) or Linda Smith (lasmm@ufl.edu) or call us at 352-392-1784.