

## **Withlacoochee Region Upland Invasive Exotic Plant Working Group (WRIP) Project Ranking Criteria**

### **Changes as of March 26, 2003**

WRIP will evaluate exotic plant removal projects utilizing the following weighted criteria. These criteria are in accordance with the Cooperative Upland Invasive-Exotic Plant Control Program and will be addressed in the "Proposal Information" section of the Regional Working Group Standard Proposal Format.

### **Program Goals:**

**Priority # 1:** Eradication of new populations of upland invasive exotic plant species on Florida's Public Conservation Lands.

**Priority # 2:** Containment of large existing populations through the control of outliers (nascent foci) on Florida's Public Conservation Lands.

### **Minimum Program Eligibility:**

- Project must be on public land managed for natural resources conservation purposes.
- Plant species eligible for control must be upland species listed on the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council's Category I or Category II priority list.
- Follow-up monitoring and maintenance of control site by managing site steward is available in perpetuity.

### **Ranking Criteria:**

1. Score 0-10: Are there currently cooperative cost share/matching funds or in-kind services available through the management steward **for leveraging funds**?
2. Target exotic species: a) is recognized as having high invasive potential and b) has Current Control Technologies already established for its control. Score 0-5: The target exotic species is a Regional Priority 1 (WRIP) species (cogon grass, *Imperata cylindrica*; Chinese tallow, *Sapium sebiferum*; skunk vine, *Paederia foetida*).
3. Score 0-5: Will this project benefit specific threatened or endangered, FNAI-listed, or other sensitive floral or faunal habitat features of the site?
4. Score 0-10: Site has relatively high restoration/recovery potential: a) significant patches of native vegetation remain in site, or on perimeter for natural recruitment; b) native seed bank is shown to be present on site; and/or c) revegetation planting is practical and funded.
5. Score 0-8: Public education/outreach programs will further the awareness of the impact of invasive exotic plants.

### **Regional Ranking Criteria:**

6. Score 0-10: Is this a population of an EPPC Category I/Category II species new to the region that could expand and cause greater problems in the future?
7. Score 0-5: Other possible benefits: initial site quality, site connectivity, tract size, control strategy/methods on adjacent properties, etc.

**\*\*\*\*NEW FOR MAINTENANCE PROJECTS\*\*\*\***

### **Additional Regional Ranking Criteria – Maintenance Projects only**

**8. Minimum Maintenance Program eligibility requirement-** Provide explanation for inability to complete maintenance/follow-up treatments on the previous control project/s in project area. (ie. What happened that prevented you from handling the maintenance treatments in-house?)

9. Score 0-15: Identify specific means to be used to implement a maintenance program on the project area in the future.