

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT (SJRWMD) SILVER SPRINGS SPRINGSHED AGRICULTURAL BMP COST-SHARE

Program Objectives

The objective of the SJRWMD Silver Springs Springshed Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Program is to engage farmers, growers, and ranchers in the Silver Springs Springshed in the shared goals of water conservation and run-off nutrient reduction; thereby helping to assure the sustainability of agriculture within the region while addressing the Silver Springs Basin Management Action Plan and Minimum Flow Prevention Strategy.

Eligible Projects/Equipment

Project types and cost-share items that will be considered for funding include those listed below; however, other ideas that would further the program's objectives may be proposed. Permitting and preparation of bids will not be considered eligible for funding.

Projects and Equipment:

- Surface Drip Irrigation
- Center pivot or Linear Move Overhead
- Center Pivot Retrofits
- Expanded Waste Storage
- Soil Moisture/Climate Sensor Telemetry
- Fertilizer Application Equipment with GPS
- Other Conservation/Quality Projects that meet program objectives
- Micro-Irrigation
- Irrigation/Drain Tile
- Tailwater Recovery and Reuse
- Over Saran Irrigation (Freeze Protection)
- Precision Agriculture Equipment
- Variable Frequency Drive for pumps

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for project funding under this initiative, both the project and the grower must satisfy program eligibility criteria described below. In addition, the project must be located primarily within the boundaries of the Silver Springs Springshed (see attached map). For location confirmation, please call Suzanne Archer at 407-620-8133 with parcel identification number.

Grower Eligibility Criteria

The Grower applicant must:

- Be enrolled (or become enrolled) in the applicable Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) best management practices (BMPs). FDACS representatives will confirm enrollment in applicable FDACS' BMPs or will conduct a site visit to enroll funded applicants, if not previously enrolled.
- Own the land or have control of the land for the anticipated life of the project or equipment, agree to Mobile Irrigation Lab evaluations and water quality monitoring, if requested by SJRWMD.

Project Eligibility Criteria

The project must:

- Benefit the resource by conserving water, making water available and/or reducing offsite nutrient loading of Nitrogen and/or Phosphorus.
- Support at least one of the SJRWMD Core Missions (water supply, water quality, flood protection or natural systems protection).
- Be located primarily within the boundaries of the Silver Springs Springshed (see attached map).
- Be for existing production. Projects to expand production areas will not be considered.
- Satisfying at least one of the following categories of cost-effectiveness, as based on SJRWMD's calculations:
 - Conservation cost of \$3.00/kgal saved or less
 - Cost per pound of annual Total Nitrogen (TN) removal of \$60 or less
 - Cost per pound of annual Total Phosphorous (TP) removal of \$200 or less

In addition, the agricultural operation must be in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations, SJRWMD rules and regulations (including, but not limited to, Land Management rules), SJRWMD-issued permits, and SJRWMD funding agreements.

Eligible projects include those that convert to a lower quality source, conserve water and/or reduce nutrient run-off. Projects that do not fall within the scope of the program may not be considered.

Outstanding Florida Springs Minimum Flows and Levels

Cost-share recipients who are subject to any Minimum Flows and Levels for Outstanding Florida Springs with a project that will create a resource benefit that could be used to offset impacts from their existing permitted water use, will be required to designate the water resource as a receiving entity of any excess benefit up to a maximum of the percentage of funding provided by SJRWMD for the project, and to modify their Consumptive Use Permit(s) accordingly.

Application Form

The application form is attached. Applications are due March 14, 2022.

Cost-Share Amounts

Projects and/or Equipment:

Cost-share will be up to 75%, not to exceed \$500,000 annually, for the engineering, design, construction and implementation costs of an approved project. The applicant will be expected to cover maintenance costs; however, requests for items associated with long-term maintenance (such as drip tape or center pivot retrofits) may be considered for funding. Examples of projects include irrigation retrofits and tailwater recovery and reuse. Equipment may include items such as variable rate fertilizer spreaders, soil moisture sensors and irrigation controllers.

Please note that this is a reimbursement program. Proof of payment will be required prior to reimbursement. Multiple invoices may be submitted to assist with cash flow.

Application, Review, and Selection Process

Application – Interested applicants who meet the eligibility criteria should submit an application, along with requested documents (listed in application, Section G-4). For assistance with the application process and to submit applications by regular mail, email, or fax, contact:

Kristi Cushman
4049 Reid Street
Palatka, Florida 32178

Cell: 407-620-8133
Fax: 386-329-4555
Email: sarcher@sjrwmd.com

Site Visit – A site visit after the project is completed will be scheduled to verify that the project was implemented as proposed in the application.

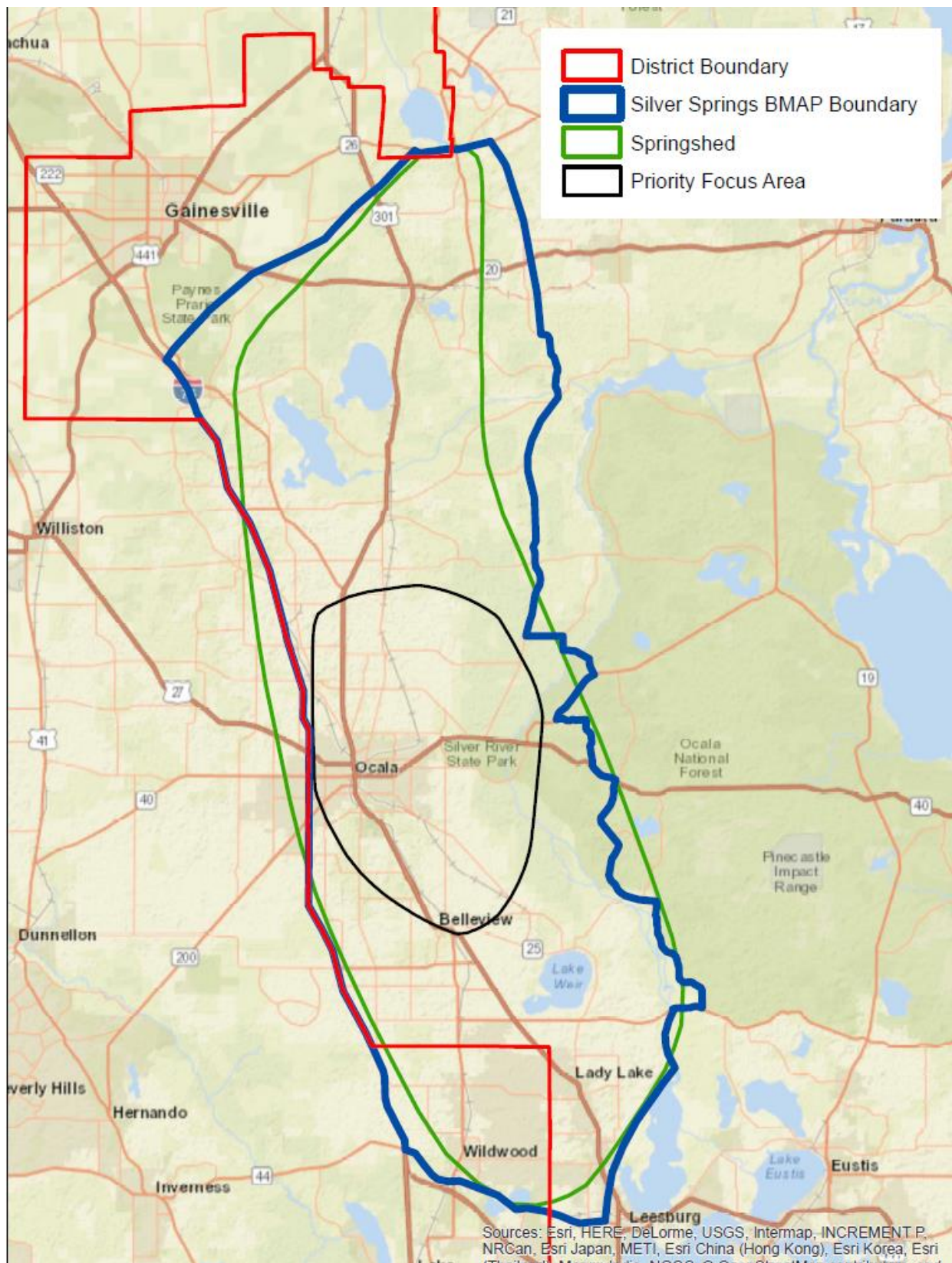
Project Selection – SJRWMD staff will review applications to ensure projects satisfy the Program's goals and eligibility criteria. Final selection of eligible projects is subject to Governing Board approval.

Cost-Share Agreement and Payment Process

Quotes from consultants, contractors and equipment vendors will be required as part of the cost-share application. If a project proposal or practice/equipment funding request is selected and approved for funding, the applicant will be notified and will enter into a cost-share contract with SJRWMD. A Statement of Work will be developed for each project that describes the work to be performed and/or the results to be achieved. Within the Statement of Work, tasks will be defined that will form the basis for payments. The Statement of Work will constitute SJRWMD's Notice to Proceed to the Applicant for the purchase and installation of any BMP project.

Upon completion of each task, the applicant will submit an invoice and proof of payment to SJRWMD. Applicants should also include (1) dated, color photographs of the projects installed and (2) pre- and post- installation MIL reports for conservation projects, if applicable. SJRWMD will issue a check made out to the applicant. Verification of tasks by SJRWMD personnel may be required prior to issuance of payment.

If applicant was not enrolled in the applicable FDACS BMPs at the time of application, enrollment must occur prior to payment.



Proposed projects may fall within either the blue or green lines.

Silver Springs Ag BMP Cost Share

Agricultural Cost-Share Process Overview