

# Agencies to pitch Loxahatchee River preservation projects

Board to hear requests for \$3.5 million in funding

By Michelle Sheldon  
Staff Writer

Environmental agencies on Monday will outline to Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative board members why 16 river restoration and preservation-related projects should receive \$3.5 million-plus in the 2006 legislative budget.

Funding requests include everything from \$75,000 for a Palm Beach County project to restore the Delaware Scrub Natural Area in Jupiter to \$80,000 for exhibit assistance when the Loxahatchee River District next year expands its Loxahatchee River Environmental Center.

The largest chunk is \$812,000 for the Town of Jupi-

ter Jones Creek parcel acquisition and hydrological restoration.

The Preservation Initiative each year creates a package of projects for state legislative funding and has received more than \$13 million from the state since it formed five years ago as a means of seeking financial support for preserving Florida's first "Wild & Scenic" river.

Applications for fiscal year 2006 funds were due July 1 and, after hearing agency presentations at Monday's meeting, Preservation Initiative board members will take project descriptions home for review and then rank them in order of priority at their August meeting, said Special Projects Administrator Kristen Thomson.

The state announced in June that the Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative

## If you go

**WHAT:** Loxahatchee River Preservation Initiative meeting

**WHEN:** Noon, Monday, July 11

**WHERE:** Town of Jupiter Emergency Operations Center, 3133 Washington St.

**DETAILS:** Environmental agencies will present projects for which they would like state funding for fiscal year 2006

**INFORMATION:** (561) 746-5134 or visit [www.lrpi.org](http://www.lrpi.org)

would receive full funding for its \$3.5 million fiscal year 2005 legislative funding requests. Included in the funding package is \$400,000 for a Jupiter Inlet District C-18 canal sediment removal effort and \$504,000 Jonathan Dickinson State Park exotic and pest plant control effort.

Applications for 2006 funding also include:

- A Martin County Cypress Creek/Loxahatchee project: \$500,000
- A Palm Beach County Cypress

Creek restoration phase III: \$125,000

➤ Loxahatchee River District/South Florida Water Management District monitoring: \$20,000

➤ Phase III of a Martin County Kitching Creek project: \$500,000

➤ Phase II of Palm Beach County Limestone Creek restoration project: \$330,000

➤ A Martin County Little Club Stormwater Quality Retrofit project: \$400,000

➤ Loxahatchee River District/South Florida Water Management District seagrass/algae monitoring: \$20,000

➤ A Loxahatchee River District septic tank maintenance program: \$35,000

➤ A Loxahatchee River District/

South Florida Water Management District River Water Quality Trends and Standards project: \$20,000

➤ Phase II of a Town of Jupiter urban stormwater management system rehab project: \$200,000

➤ South Indian River Water Control District canal sludge removal project including exotics removal in outfall right-of-ways: \$45,000