Proposer or designated leader of a student group

Name: Gabriel A. Somarriba
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Experience or training related to proposed project:

I am an avid freshwater fisherman and aquarium keeper, having used dipnets, sampling sienes, minnow traps, cast nets, and rod and reel to capture specimens; I am also well versed in native Florida freshwater species, having identified most of the ichthyofauna in the waterways near my home.

Sponsor:

Name: Dr. Lawrence M. Page
Department: Department of Zoology
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Title: Improve the Content, Look, and Links of the Online Information about NATL's Fish

Project Summary: To sample and record the diversity of NATL's ichthyofauna, better understand NATL's freshwater ecology, and to make this data available to the public via the fish page on the NATL website.

Starting Date: January 23, 2015

Completion Date: June 23, 2015

Description of Project:

The purpose of this project is to survey the fish species of NATL's SEEP, Central Marsh, and sinkhole areas using several different standard sampling techniques to provide a more accurate picture of the NATL's freshwater ecosystems. This data will be added to the existing fish species data on the NATL website so that it may be readily available to students, faculty, and visitors.

Procedures and Objectives

The first objective will be to deploy 12 funnel minnow traps in SEEP, the Central Marsh, and the sinkhole. These traps will be deployed on 5 monthly 3-day trapping periods, checked daily, and removed after the 3 days.

The second objective will be the use of dipnets and a small freshwater seine net to collect specimens during the same time periods that the traps are in place. All excess specimens and non-fish organisms captured will be returned to their habitat unharmed. Sampling with the nets will be done in the same manner each time to ensure uniformity in the samples.

The third objective will be the addition of new data to the NATL website including pictures, links, and written information for visitors. The information will consist of data collected in the field as well as information based on our observations while conducting the project. Changes and additions will be made to the NATL website via Morgan Conn, the original creator of the fish webpage

Representative specimens collected during this survey will be preserved and given to the Ichthyology Collections for positive identification and cataloguing Any observations on hydrology of the area that may impact fish populations will be included in my report.

Potential Lasting Impacts to NATL

The sampling methods we will employ are relatively unobtrusive and the temporary structures(traps) will be removed once the collection is complete. The specimens collected and kept for preservation will be limited to the specimens caught in our traps and nets, ensuring no major lasting ecological damage as this is very likely only a very miniscule fraction of the entire NATL population.

What Will be Provided to the NAAC by the End of the Project

Once the project has been completed, we will provide the NAAC with an Excel spreadsheet of all the species we collect, images of the fish species we collect for the website, paragraphs of information based on our findings to be be posted on the fish webpage to add to its content, and links to informative webpages for each fish species.

Budget

Transportation	$200

Minnow Traps(12)	$180
Waders(1)	$70
Total	$450

Value to Future Visitors to NATL

This project will provide all visitors to NATL with a better understanding of its ecosystem and biodiversity. Being a relatively new environment, proper cataloguing of the SEEP's species is critical to understanding how ecological succession takes place in manmade wetlands; valuable information to anyone hoping to undertake such a project and create a thriving ecosystem. The Central Marsh and the sinkhole are also habitats which have been noticeably modified since the land was shaped into a stormwater retention area, and understanding their ichthyofauna may give us a better understanding of their ecological history. This more complete picture will also be of use to any students or faculty members conducting research on freshwater ecology.

Provision for periodic communication with NAAC administration

I will schedule to meet with the NAAC Chair monthly on a convenient day to discuss new findings, progress, and any suggestions they may have to make the project more effective. Digital photographs will also be provided to keep the NAAC members informed about the specimens we collect as well as the environments we collect them in.

Signatures

Student_____ Date_____

Sponsor_____ Date_____