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|  | |  | | --- | | **GRADUATE STUDENT**  **TRAVEL GRANT**  **APPLICATION** | |  | |

**Travel applications must be received by deadline listed on**

[**http://snre.ifas.ufl.edu/academics/graduate/financial-support/graduate-student-travel-grants/**](http://snre.ifas.ufl.edu/academics/graduate/financial-support/graduate-student-travel-grants/)  **Email complete applications and or questions to: Ellen Bledsoe, ellen.bledsoe@ufl.edu**

Name and UFID: Melissa Moreno 0494-0864

Email: melimore86@ufl.edu

Advisor and Department: Dr. Bill Pine, SNRE

Have you ever received an SNRE travel grant? If so, when? No

(Applicants regain eligibility one year after grant was awarded)

Degree:  **X** M.S. Ph.D.

X

Expected Graduation Date (Semester/Year): Fall 2020

Travel Start Date: 01/15/2019 Travel End Date: 01/18/2019

Presentation Type: Oral Presentation Poster Presentation

X

Research Type: **X**Preliminary Final

Content: Research **X**conducted for SNRE thesis/dissertation

Research conducted for other purpose

Conference Name: rstudio::conf 2019

Location: Austin, TX

Conference is (Regional/National/International): National

**Estimate Budget**

(Refer to [http://fa.ufl.edu/uds/default.asp#travel)](http://fa.ufl.edu/uds/default.asp#travel) **Total Estimated Cost: $ 2848**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Airfare | $ 269 + tax | Mileage\* ($0.445/mi) | $ NA | Meals ($36/day) | $ 25 |
| Registration | $ $395 (conference) + $1300 (workshop) | State contract car rental\*\* | $ NA | Lodging | $ 807 + tax |

\*Only if using own vehicle; includes gas allowance and wear tear on vehicle. \*\*Avis or Enterprise state rate only.

**Additional Funding**

Will your advisor be providing additional travel funds via research grants or other funds?

**X** Yes No Unsure

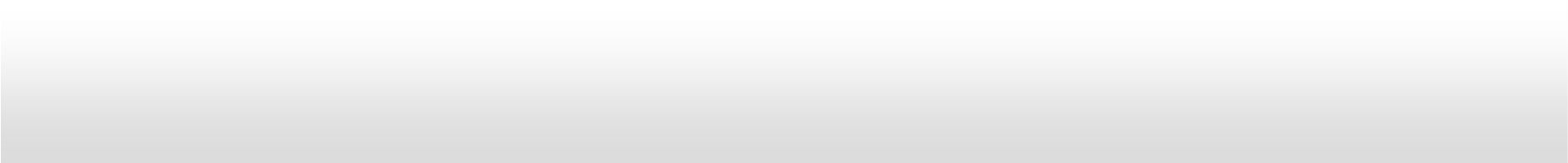
Have you received or applied for other travel grants for this trip?

Applied ,yes; received, no

(Please refer to [http://snre.ufl.edu/graduate/travel.htm)](http://snre.ufl.edu/graduate/travel.htm)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Award Type and Amount** | **Awarded** | **Funding Denied** | **Applied,**  **Decision**  **Pending** | **N/A** |
| IFAS matching (App. required)  $250 |  |  | Yes |  |
| GSC  $350 |  |  | Yes |  |
| RGP  $ |  |  | Yes |  |
| TCD  $350 |  |  |  | NA |
| IFAS Davidson  $300-domestic  $650-international |  |  |  | NA |
| Advisor’s Department department  $ |  |  | Approximately half of travel budget |  |
| Conference funding  $ |  |  |  | NA |
| Other source  $ |  |  |  | NA |

**Total Amount of Funding Already Awarded** $



For review only:

Is applicant active i

n SNRE GSC? (number of events attended) [ No, 0 attended ]

**Research Abstract:**

Please provide your abstract as it was submitted to the conference*.*

(Not presenting at conference, attending for academic learning, and professional development.)

The “Nature Coast” region of the northeastern Gulf of Mexico extending generally from the Waccasassa River to St. Marks, is a low-energy coastline characterized by extensive seagrass habitats, coastal marshes and upland habitats, and limited human development. This region has large state and federal public land holdings that together place about 24% of the land area in conservation. Private land holdings in the region are primarily used for forestry and agricultural operations Unlike most coastlines in the US, the Nature Coast is not extensively developed and waterfront development is mostly concentrated in small towns (<1000 people). A recent economic assessment has shows that about 13% of the jobs in this region are dependent on natural resources, and that these jobs, and the economy of the Big Bend, is highly dependent on “healthy” forests, rivers, and coasts. In contrast to more urban coastal areas of Florida which are perceived by the public and resource managers to be at greater risk of impairment due to human development, the Nature Coast is often considered pristine. Long-time local residents in this region including commercial shellfish harvesters have alternative perspectives based on their observed changes throughout the region including changes in the abundance and distribution of oysters, the persistence of coastal landforms including islands and shorelines, and large changes in fish populations. Recent research efforts have begun to quantify changes in the vegetation and oyster populations in this region and how these changes may be related to sea-level rise, changing freshwater availability, or climate. My research will focus on two areas (1) assess change in topographic coastal features including islands and coastlines with an emphasis on public land holdings near Cedar Key, Florida; (2) synthesize multiple decades of water quality data collected by agency cooperators and integrate these data with the assessment of spatial features. My work will help to provide information to inform conservation decisions such as directing mitigation efforts to protect vulnerable coastal areas and promote resources critical to the economy and ecosystems of the Big Bend.

**Methodology:**

Please provide a 100 word (or fewer) description of the methods used in the research in ways a non-expert of your field would understand*.*

My project is dependent on developing an efficient data work-flow of complex data of two types. The first will be a variety of imagery data including satellite, aerial imagery, and LiDAR. These data include reconstructions of coastal maps first created in the mid 1800’s. The second data challenge will be integrating water quality data collected at different times and locations by agency and academic partners beginning in the 1990’s in a common framework that allows for comparison. The presentation and integration of both data products will be made graphically through a representation of how these data appear over time.

**Essay:**

How will your presentation represent the interdisciplinary ecology program? *Please limit to approximately 250 words.*

(Not presenting at conference, attending for academic learning, and professional development.)

Though I am not presenting, I can still represent the University of Florida’s interdisciplinary ecology program by networking and engaging with professionals/academics at workshops and conference lectures. This is the first semester I am enrolled as a Master’s student, thus my research has just began. With the technical ability I will learn at this workshop, I will be better suited to efficiently continue my dissertation.

As being one of the few attending this conference from the University of Florida, I will represent students of the university that are interested in ecological data management. There has been a great need, currently, for data scientists in ecology fields because of technological advancement and it is important to continue learning alongside these advancements.