

**STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA
BOARD OF GOVERNORS**
July 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Request for Classification of the Econfina River Field Research Station as a Special Purpose Center by the University of Central Florida

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Consider approval of the Request for Classification of the Econfina River Field Research Station as a Special Purpose Center by the University of Central Florida.

AUTHORITY FOR BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACTION

Article IX, Section 7, Florida Constitution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The University of Central Florida (UCF) requests the approval of Econfina River Field Research Station as a Special Purpose Center pursuant to Board of Governors Regulation 8.009. A Special Purpose Center is a unit of a university, apart from the main campus, that provides certain special, clearly defined programs or services, such as research or public service, and reflects a relatively permanent commitment by a university for the foreseeable future. The facility must be university owned, leased, or jointly used with another public institution. Special Purpose Centers typically do not offer instructional programs or courses leading to a postsecondary degree.

The Econfina River Field Research Station is an approximately .25-acre parcel of land developed with an approximate 2,080 square foot residential structure building located on the west bank of the Econfina River, northeast of the entrance of the Econfina River State Park in Taylor County. The facility will be used as a research station that will also provide undergraduate students with short field experiences within walking distance of the main campus, where the actual courses will be housed and delivered. Undergraduate research experiences will also be provided at the research station. The site will provide collaborative opportunities for research for the Departments of Biology, Anthropology, Chemistry, Scientific and Technical Communication, Tourism, and Civil, Environmental, & Construction Engineering. All departments will use the facility for faculty research and student research opportunities connected to fieldwork. In addition to research, the local community will be served through demonstrations for school children and visits from the general public and school groups. Interpretive displays will be developed as well as demonstrations and classes for school children related to archeology, history of the region, and biological and hydrological characteristics of the region. This will not be a dedicated teaching site for UCF and no postsecondary courses or degrees will be offered at the site. The lease between the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Recreation and Parks and UCF Board of Trustees is for 19 years at a rate of \$8,000 per year.

Effective upon approval from the Board of Governors, Econfinia River Field Research Station will begin faculty field research in fall 2020.

If approved by the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, this request will be forwarded to the Full Board for consideration.

Supporting Documentation Included:

In Academic and Student Affairs
Committee Materials