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GOV. SCOTT PROPOSES HISTORIC INVESTMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENT

\$1.7 Billion for Florida's World-Class Beaches, Springs, State Parks, Everglades and Natural Treasures

NAPLES, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced that he will propose more than \$1.7 billion to protect Florida's environment as part of his 2018-2019 recommended budget. This \$1.7 billion funding for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is a more than \$220 million increase over the current year.

The proposed funding will include:

- A historic investment of \$55 million for Florida's springs;
- A historic investment of \$100 million for Florida's beaches;
- A record \$355 million for Everglades restoration;
- A record \$50 million for Florida's state parks; and
- \$50 million for Florida Forever to help preserve and protect our natural lands

Governor Scott said, "People from across the world come to Florida because of our state's beautiful natural treasures. Over the past seven years, we have made historic strides to protect Florida's lands, invest record funding in the Everglades and Florida's springs, and preserve our beloved beaches. To make sure our state remains beautiful for generations to come, I am proud to announce today that my recommended budget will include \$1.7 billion to protect and preserve Florida's environment.

"This funding includes historic investments in our iconic springs, world-renowned Everglades, award-winning state parks and beautiful beaches, which is especially important following impacts by Hurricane Irma. I am also proud to be recommending \$100 million to preserve and protect our natural lands, including \$50 million for Florida Forever. Our natural treasures are so important to Florida's economy and tourism industry and the many families that rely on them. I look forward to working with the Legislature during the upcoming session on these strategic investments to help preserve our environment for Florida's children, future residents and visitors."

Additional environmental funding will be included in the Governor's recommended 2018-2019 budget. More details on the Governor's proposed budget will be made available in the coming weeks.

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