In preparation for the 2015 Legislative Session, the Governor, House, and Senate instructed state agencies to identify programs, services, functions and activities that are currently being performed that may no longer be the highest and best use of state or federal resources. Essentially, this exercise asks agencies to recommend how current resources could be better used for other important programs, services, functions, and activities. Staff was asked to consider those functions where we may be currently limited by statutory language, proviso, or other mandates that could be changed and re-directed to higher priority work. Any issues that are identified are not restricted by funding source, but proposed reprioritizations must be an allowable use of existing funds. Agencies are only required to submit a total of three (3) issues in the Legislative Budget Request (LBR).

A. From: Transfer to Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services/Invasive Exotic Plant Research  
To: Wildlife Management Area Land Improvements

This proposal would reduce the transfer of funds to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services that help support invasive exotic plant research at the quarantine lab in Ft. Pierce for insects that must be quarantined before being released. Currently, the agency pays $844,171 from the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund (IPCTF) on a recurring basis to help support this program. The spending authority for $250,000 of these funds is proposed to be shifted to fund Wildlife Management Area land improvements from the Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund (IPCTF).

B. From: Wildlife Management Area User Pay  
To: Small Game Management Program

This proposal would reduce the agency’s spending authority for the Commission’s Wildlife Management Area User Pay Program by $179,820 and re-direct resources to a high priority need; enhancing small game management and increasing public opportunities for small game hunting. The Division of Hunting and Game Management (DHGM) anticipates reduced private landowner participation in the user pay program, due in large part, to market conditions. The agency pays up to $638,266 from the State Game Trust Fund (SGTF) on a recurring basis to help support this program. Increased attention to small game management, and especially the northern bobwhite quail, will provide increased opportunities for public hunting.
C. From: Finance & Budget Office OPS Support  
To: Finance & Budget Office Software Development

This proposal would redirect $26,000 OPS funding from the Administrative Trust Fund (ATF) within the Finance & Budget Office, to contractual services funding that would be used for software development. OPS support staff is used on a seasonal basis to extract data from state financial systems. This practice is labor intensive and allows for human error. Funds would be better spent to develop a business system that would extract data from state financial systems for use with trust fund monitoring and management reporting. Financial information would be available in a timely, efficient manner, and the potential for human error would be reduced.