



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Glenda E. Hood

Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

April, 2004

Dear Friends of Florida archaeology,

Please consider this an invitation to attend a public meeting to discuss the future of Florida's Isolated Finds (IF) policy. As you may know, the Florida Historical Commission has advised the Division of Historical Resources to abolish the policy due to wide-spread non-compliance. Upon the receipt of much input from the public, both pro and con, the Bureau of Archaeological Research is organizing public meetings to garner additional input and to foster communication. Your participation would be much appreciated.

The Isolated Finds policy was intended to allow the Division of Historical Resources a legal means for transferring ownership of state property (artifacts) located in Florida's rivers to their finders in return for information about the location and type of artifact. In the years since the IF policy was instituted in 1996, 921 IF reports have been filed with the Bureau of Archaeological Research, and over 5,000 artifacts have been reported, primarily Native American objects of stone, bone, and ceramic. Despite the diligence and dedication of a small group of river divers to encourage reporting, the policy has not generated the quantity of reports that were expected from the numbers of divers known to collect in Florida's rivers. News that the policy was recommended for abolishment, however, generated much correspondence from the river diving community. For this reason, the Bureau of Archaeological Research seeks to learn more about public opinion of the IF policy and what should be done with it.

The Bureau intends to hold at least two public meetings to discuss the IF policy. **The first is scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 2004, at 4:00pm, in the Museum Theater, Ground Floor of the R.A. Gray Building, 500 South Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250.** You are invited to attend and to provide your opinions and suggestions. Please invite others as well; [a flyer is included for posting](#). If you cannot attend, please feel free to contact [Della Scott-Ireton](#) by email (dscott@dos.state.fl.us), phone (850/245-6317), or mail at the address above.

Thank you for your time and your interest. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ryan J. Wheeler, Ph.D.

Chief, Bureau of Archaeological Research

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

☐ Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6435

☐ Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436

☐ Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

☐ Historical Museums
(850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

☐ Palm Beach Regional Office
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