

## **Ober-Read & Nikuni Supply KTM Demo Unit for Everglades Competition to Solve Worldwide Phosphorous Pollution**

**Ovideo, FL (January 16, 2019)** - Ober-Read & Associates and Nikuni America have partnered with the University of Idaho Department of Food Science to help solve a major worldwide pollution problem. In September 2018 the Everglades Foundation received a \$1 Million investment from the State of Florida to solve worldwide phosphorus pollution through competition and innovation. As a part of the state's partnership, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD) will provide funding, the host site location and technical expertise to support the **George Barley Water Prize**. The partnership is for the final stage of the prize's multi-year innovation competition, where the final four teams will travel to Lake Jesup from across the globe to see whose technologies can tackle phosphorus in the most cost-effective and scalable way. The Nikuni KTM microbubble pump is extremely effective in removing phosphorous salts from the treated water, which are then recovered for reuse.

The **George Barley Water Prize** is the first water prize of its kind – a \$10-million competition that has drawn innovators from all over the world to pursue their unique solutions to make the problems Florida is experiencing today in the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee a thing of the past.

"The George Barley Water Prize is our best hope for Lake Jesup, the Great Lakes, our coastal estuaries, the Everglades and waterways across the globe that are suffering from excess phosphorous," said Eric Eikenberg, CEO of The Everglades Foundation, Dr. Ann Shortelle, SJRWMD Executive Director said, "We are grateful for the opportunity to provide our expertise and land at Lake Jesup for these teams to test their innovative technologies that could change the way we treat water quality concerns across our state. It's through these types of partnerships we are able to find creative solutions to restore our natural resources for residents, visitors and future generations."

The University of Idaho is one of four finalists for the water prize. They qualified at a prototype testing held in Ontario this past fall. 1 MGD Production models will be tested on-site at Lake Jessup in summer 2020.

### **About The Everglades Foundation**

The Everglades Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to leading efforts to restore and protect the greater Everglades ecosystem. Since its founding in 1993 by a group of local outdoor enthusiasts, the Foundation has become a respected and important advocate for the sustainability of one of the world's most unique ecosystems. For more information, please visit [EvergladesFoundation.org](http://EvergladesFoundation.org).

