

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

From: Dr. Thomas Eason, Director, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

Date: February 10, 2016

Subject: Private Lands Innovation Strategic Initiative Update

Purpose: To provide the Commission an update on the development of a Private Lands Innovation Strategic Initiative and current examples from across the agency of staff contributing to the implementation of innovative strategies designed to promote public-private conservation partnerships.

Summary: During the June 2014 Commission Meeting, FWC Commissioners discussed current and future fish and wildlife conservation opportunities associated with private lands in Florida. The discussion identified important elements of successful conservation partnerships with private landowners. Since that time, FWC staff formed a Private Lands Innovation Strategic Initiative Team and this cross-agency team has been developing a plan that includes goals, strategies and measures for this initiative. As part of the planning process, the team has identified existing activities that are ongoing and will contribute to achievement of the goals for this initiative. This staff report is provided to update the Commission on staff's efforts to develop and implement measures to support conservation efforts of private landowners and to promote public-private conservation partnerships.

Staff Recommendations: This item is being presented for informational purposes and any discussion or direction that the Commission may have.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:
Scott Sanders, Director of Conservation Planning Services