MEMORANDUM

To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

From: Rae Waddell, Director, Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network

Date: September 8, 2016

Subject: Strategic Follow-Up: Expanding Participation in Conservation and FYCCN Update

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Purpose:
To provide the Commission an update on the recent and current activities regarding the Expanding Participation in Conservation Strategic Initiative and an update on the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FYCCN).

Summary:
The goal of the Expanding Participation in Conservation Strategic Initiative is to increase conservation participation among youth and families representing Florida's diverse population by expanding partnerships to implement the FYCCN and other programs that promote fishing, hunting, boating, wildlife viewing, shooting sports, and conservation appreciation.

The FYCCN, which creates partnerships to connect youth and families with positive fish and wildlife oriented outdoor experiences, provides the foundation for a lifetime of enjoyment and support for conservation. This strategic initiative also aligns with the agency's other strategic initiatives and Commission Policy Focal Areas.

FWC educational programs provide youth and families with the core concepts that enable them to understand the need for conservation and create the next generation of stewards. One goal of the Expanding Participation in Conservation initiative is to leverage all FWC youth and family programs to provide stewardship and hands-on activities. Efforts are underway to recruit diverse audiences and potential partners that serve them in order to increase their conservation participation in FYCCN and other conservation education programs. Over 320 partner sites have joined FYCCN to provide programming and have helped FWC reach over a half of a million youth in the past four years.

During the presentation, staff will provide updates on this initiative and outcomes.

Staff Recommendation:
This presentation is for informational purposes and any discussion or direction that the Commission may have.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter
Rae Waddell, Director, Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network