

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Thomas Eason, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation
Date: September 2, 2015
Subject: Agriculture Wildlife Best Management Practices for State Imperiled Species

Purpose:

The purpose of this item is to request approval to publish a proposed rule amendment to Chapter 68A-27.007(2) (d) Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The amendment is administrative in nature, adding a reference to Chapter 5M-18 F.A.C., created by Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and approved in June 2015, which adopts Agriculture Wildlife Best Management Practices (BMPs) for State Imperiled Species.

Summary:

Commission staff have continued to work cooperatively with the FDACS, landowners, and other stakeholders to legislatively authorize, develop, and adopt BMPs to protect wildlife species. In November 2014, FDACS adopted Forestry Wildlife BMPs for State Imperiled Species in Chapter 5I-8 F.A.C.. In December 2015, FWC approved changes to Chapter 68A-27.007 (2) (d) F.A.C., adding reference to this new rule. In June 2015, the FDACS adopted Agriculture Wildlife BMPs for State Imperiled Species in Chapter 5M-18 F.A.C. Staff is seeking approval to publish a Notice of Proposed Rule to add a reference to Chapter 5M-18 F.A.C. in Chapter 68A-27.007 Permits and Authorizations for the Take of Florida Endangered and Threatened Species.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff is requesting Commission approval to advertise the proposed rule amendment and file for adoption as soon as possible. If the rule amendment is approved for both advertisement and final adoption, Commission staff will file the rule for adoption as allowed by s. 120.54(3) Florida Statutes, without further public hearing.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Scott Sanders, Office of Conservation Planning Services