

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

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

Date: September 2, 2015

Subject: Update on comprehensive waste management efforts to reduce bear conflict

Purpose:

At the June 2015 Meeting, Commissioners approved an agency policy paper and accompanying resolution on the importance of comprehensive waste management practices for bear conservation and human safety. Staff will provide an update on their efforts regarding this issue.

Summary:

As part of FWC's comprehensive approach to bear management, staff has been working on solutions for waste management issues because human-provided foods and attractants are the leading cause of human-bear conflicts. In order to fully capitalize on recent efforts by the Commission, staff are preparing a Bear Waste Management Action Plan based on the previously signed waste management resolution and policy paper, including the following:

- high conflict counties, cities, and neighborhoods mapped as focus areas for engagement on waste management solutions;
- waste providers for each community will be identified;
- status of meetings with waste management representatives; and,
- commercial dumpsters that have been retro fit.

Staff are also evaluating human-bear conflict types and levels, whether the area has access to residential bear-resistant trashcans through their waste service company, willingness of residents to pay additional costs to have bear-resistant trashcans, support for local regulations that require securing trash, and other important factors. Staff will present the status of the plan development, engagement with stakeholders, and other staff efforts to address waste management solutions.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff is presenting for informational purposes and any feedback the Commission may have.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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