

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

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

Date: September 2, 2015

Subject: Florida Panther: Direction for Program Strategic Priorities

Purpose:

To provide the Commission a revised panther position statement for discussion and to provide staff direction on program strategic priorities.

Summary:

At the June Commission meeting staff from FWRI and HSC provided an update on panther research, management and recovery and a draft document entitled *Florida Panther Recovery and Management: Strategic Priorities* was presented for discussion. The Commission directed staff to incorporate specific input from individual Commissioners as well as consider input from the public and then subsequently update the document and bring it back for further consideration.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend approval of revised document: *Florida Panther Recovery and Management: Strategic Priorities*.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Kipp Frohlich, Deputy Director, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

Attachment: Revised Draft Position Statement: *Florida Panther Recovery and Management: Strategic Priorities*

Briefing Points:

- This item received extensive public testimony at the June Commission meeting and we received substantial written comments from stakeholders.
- Staff have revised the document to incorporate changes requested by individual Commissioners.
- Staff have evaluated public comment and have made a number of proposed revisions that are responsive to public input and clarified points that may have resulted in public misunderstanding.
- FWC panther program staff have provided additional science-based input to inform the revised document.
- Nothing in this document changes the existing listing status or protection for the panther under law.