

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Kipp Frohlich, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation
Date: September 26, 2018
Subject: Staff Report - Overview of the Invasive Plant Management Program

Purpose:

Provide information on FWC's Invasive Plant Management (IPM) program and how staff is working to protect native habitats from the negative impacts that can be caused by invasive plant species.

Summary:

The IPM program has a long history in Florida, starting with the passage of the federal Rivers and Harbors Act in 1899, and it has gone through many iterations to become the IPM program operated by FWC today. The purpose of the IPM program is to prevent invasive plants and noxious weeds from negatively impacting native plant communities, fish and wildlife habitat and navigation. This is done through a variety of tools and techniques, employed on both terrestrial and aquatic habitats throughout Florida. The IPM program is responsible for controlling invasive plants on public conservation lands and public waters as defined in Section 369.20, Florida Statutes, and guided by Rules 68F-54 and 68F-20, Florida Administrative Code.

The IPM program operates through a series of contracts and cooperative agreements and partners with many local and county governments, private contractors, public universities, as well as Water Management Districts to achieve its mission. Building broad support with partners and stakeholders for management actions is key to the success of the program, and FWC works closely with stakeholders and research partners to achieve this goal.

Staff Recommendation:

This presentation is for informational purposes only. Staff is not requesting Commission action at this time.

Staff Contact and Presenter: Matt Phillips, Section Leader, Invasive Plant Management Section