

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

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

Date: June 22, 2016

Subject: Proposed Critical Wildlife Area establishments and re-establishments

Purpose:

To provide the Commission with an overview of potential sites for consideration as new Critical Wildlife Areas (CWAs), along with proposed revisions to several existing CWAs.

Summary:

CWAs are established by FWC to protect important concentrations of wildlife and manage human activities to minimize and avoid disturbances during critical periods of their life cycle (68A-19.005 F.A.C.). Currently, there are 20 CWAs in Florida. Based on Commission direction at the April meeting staff have begun exploring additional sites that may meet the criteria for establishment as new CWAs. In addition, staff are reviewing existing CWAs to assess possible changes that would enhance the conservation benefits. Staff will present the results of their investigations including possible new CWAs and any recommended changes to existing CWAs. The presentation will include the location of each site, site ownership, what species are present, and the potential management issues that could create disturbances during critical periods of their life cycle. Based on Commission direction, staff will further investigate each new potential site and those existing sites being considered for modifications, solicit public input including working closely with stakeholders and local governments.

Staff Recommendation:

This presentation is to provide information regarding potential CWAs and the CWA planning process, and receive Commission direction for moving forward with CWA establishment and modification.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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