

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

From: Jessica Crawford, Legislative Affairs Director
Charlotte Jerrett, Chief Financial Officer

Date: October 3, 2019

Subject: Legislative and Budget Report

Purpose:

Provide an overview of the 2020 Legislative Session and obtain Commission approval of:

- (1) Proposed Agency Legislative Package
- (2) Proposed Legislative Budget Request FY 20/21
 - a. New Funding Issues
 - b. Schedule VIIIIB – 10% Funding Reductions Issues (exercise required by the Legislature and Governor)

Summary:

Before proposing any changes to current legislation, proposals are thoroughly reviewed and vetted through the internal Legislative Review Team (LRT). Those proposals are advanced to FWC leadership for further review before being brought to the Commission for action. Details of the items proposed are provided in an attachment to this memo.

The Legislature requires that the head of each state agency annually submit a Legislative Budget Request (LBR), based on the agency's judgement of its own needs. The FY 20/21 LBR was due September 16, 2019 (30 days earlier than usually scheduled because Legislative Session starts in January instead of March).

As directed by the Commission, staff has developed budget requests that align with Commission Policy Focal Areas, Agency Strategic Initiatives and additional policy guidance from Commissioners. Staff has been coordinating these requests and other elements of the budget development with Commissioner Sole as the Commissioner's appointed budget liaison. Trust fund balances have been heavily impacted from hurricane recovery efforts. Budget issues fall within these general major groupings:

- A. Strategic Initiative: Invasive Exotic/Conflict Wildlife
- B. Policy Focal Area: Habitat Conservation and Management (Amendment One Directed Documentary Stamp Tax Purposes)
 1. Comprehensive Ecological Management
 2. Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Enhancements
 3. ADA or Life/Health Safety Issues for WMA facilities
- C. Derelict Vessel Removal
- D. Grant Funded Initiatives (applicable to Commission Policy Focal Areas)

Staff Recommendation:

Approval of the 2020 Agency Legislative Package, the FY 2020/21 LBR and supporting Schedule VIIIIB.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Jessica Crawford, Legislative Affairs Director
Charlotte Jerrett, Chief Financial Officer