

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

From: Kipp Frohlich, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation

Date: October 2, 2019

Subject: Consent Agenda, Designating Biological Review Groups for the American Flamingo and the Striped Newt

Purpose:

Obtain approval of the designation of Biological Review Group members for the American flamingo and striped newt species evaluation requests, pursuant to Chapter 68A-27, Florida Administrative Code (FAC).

Summary:

The Commission received requests to evaluate the American flamingo and the striped newt to determine if either meet criteria for listing as State Threatened. The evaluation requests met the requirements for completeness and staff used the submitted data and all other available information to conduct a biological vulnerability screening for each species. Based on the results of the staff screening, both species are recommended for a full evaluation by a Biological Review Group (BRG) designated by the Commission.

The listing process, including designation of a BRG, is described in Rule 68A-27.0012, FAC. The listing process requires a BRG of three, five or seven scientists be designated by the Commission to determine if a species meets any of the criteria for listing outlined in Rule 68A-27.001, FAC. BRG members must have demonstrated knowledge of species conservation and management.

Proposed BRG members are:

American flamingo: Andrew Cox (FWC, lead), Felicity Arengo, Mark Cook, Jerome Lorenz, and Ricardo Zambrano (FWC).

Striped newt : Kevin Enge (FWC, lead), Aubrey Greene (FWC), Steve Johnson, Ryan Means, and Dirk Stevenson.

The BRG findings will be included in a peer-reviewed biological status report to be presented to the Commission with the staff listing recommendation at a future meeting.

Staff Recommendation:

Approval of members proposed for two Biological Review Groups.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Dr. Brad Gruver, Section Leader, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation