



MEMORANDUM

To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Kipp Frohlich, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation
Date: December 11, 2019
Subject: Consent Agenda - Amendments to Grant Program Rules

Purpose: Obtain approval to amend the State Wildlife Grant Program Rule to reflect new requirements for 2019.

Why: There is a need to clarify the objectives to match federal requirements and address restrictions placed on State Wildlife Grant funds by the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR 200). Staff included these changes in updated Program Guidelines and forms, and the amendment will incorporate the revised documents.

Top Points:

1. The State Wildlife Grant Program provides federal funds, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program, to state wildlife agency's for programs that benefit the species of greatest conservation need.
2. The FWC administers these federal funds and the documents referenced in rule are updated frequently by staff to reflect Program updates and changes in federal requirements.
3. Updates to the Program Guidelines, a Budget Form for Non-Commission Principal Investigators, and the Application Form are necessary to ensure FWC is meeting all federal requirements for receiving and distributing these funds.

Affected Parties: State Wildlife Grant applicants.

Summary: Subsection 11 of Rule 68-1.003 Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) incorporates by reference Florida's State Wildlife Grant Program Guidelines dated February 2019 as well as Budget Forms and an Application Form dated February 2017. Staff proposes to incorporate newly updated Program Guidelines, a Budget Form for Non-Commission Principal Investigators, and the Application Form dated December 2019, into the rule. Revisions appear in the Guidelines document, Budget Form for Non-Commission Principal Investigators, and Application Form to clarify Standard Objective language as well as restrictions placed on distribution of funds by the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR 200). Other documents will remain the same.

The WSFR Program updated their Standard Objective language, and this has been included in Program Guidelines and Application Form. These Standard Objectives will be used in the national Tracking and Reporting Accomplishments for the Conservation of Species (TRACS) system. There are 36 Standard Objectives including the following examples, "Directly restore, enhance, remove, create or manage X acres by Y," and "Directly manage X species by Y."

Additional information for the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act is collected on the Budget Form for Non-Commission Principal Investigators. The additional questions pertain to how much of the Grantees' business or organization's annual gross revenue comes from federal funding, if the public has access to information about the compensation of the executives of the business or organization, and if not, requests that information. The Commission must report this information under the Act.

The CFR does not allow fixed amount awards with State Wildlife Grant funds. Language has been clarified in the Guidelines regarding payment and agreement language for Non-Commission Grantees.

The Notice of Development of Rulemaking was published on October 17, 2019. A notice of proposed changes was also issued via GovDelivery to all interested parties on October 16, 2019. Although no comments have been received, to date, if significant concerns with the proposed revisions are received, they will be addressed.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve the proposed amendments to 68-1.003 F.A.C. If approved, these changes will be advertised and filed for adoption without further hearing, unless requested by a member of the public.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Brian Branciforte and Andrea Alden, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation