



MEMORANDUM

To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Kipp Frohlich, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation
Date: February 19, 2020
Subject: Consent Agenda - Amendments to State Wildlife Grant Program Rules

Purpose:

Obtain approval to publish a Notice of Change for Rule 68-1.003(11) Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) to respond to a request from the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee (JAPC).

Why:

Following publication of a proposed rule amendment approved by the Commission at its December 2019 meeting, comments were received from JAPC. In response to their review, staff reworded a portion of the Program Guidelines and these need to be incorporated into the rule.

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. Florida's share is \$2-2.5 million annually.
- 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) A change requested by JAPC has been made to the Metadata section in the Program Guidelines to clarify how grantees may submit their data to FWC and needs to be approved.

Affected Parties:

State Wildlife Grant applicants.

Summary:

Subsection 11 of Rule 68-1.003 F.A.C. incorporates by reference Florida's State Wildlife Grant Program Guidelines, Budget Forms and an Application Form. Staff received approval to update these items at the December 2019 Commission meeting. Based on the subsequent JAPC review, one paragraph in the Program Guidelines has been revised. This change in the section entitled "Metadata" clarifies how grantees are to provide metadata to the agency at completion of the grant.

If approved a Notice of Change will be published and the rule will be adopted as soon as possible.

Staff Recommendation:

Approve publication of a Notice of Change to Rule 68-1.003(11) F.A.C.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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