

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners
From: Kipp Frohlich, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation
Date: October 7, 2020
Subject: Draft Rule – Delegations of Authority to the Executive Director

Purpose:

Obtain approval to amend Rule 68-1.009, F.A.C. Delegations of Authority to the Executive Director.

Why:

Florida Forever acquisitions are led by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, with a small portion of funds allocated in some years to the FWC for the acquisition of inholdings or areas adjacent to Wildlife Management Areas. Allowing the Executive Director to approve acquisition agreements up to \$1,000,000 in Commission funding will improve the process and timing of acquiring additions when using Commission funding and would eliminate the need for temporary delegations on a project by project basis.

Top Points:

- 1) Acquisitions are done in partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands, with final approval by the Governor and Cabinet.
- 2) Allows Executive Director to approve acquisition agreements up to \$1,000,000 in Commission funding for areas that add to the Wildlife Management Area system.
- 3) Allowing this delegation of authority would help streamline and expedite the acquisition process.

Affected Parties: None anticipated.

Summary:

Delegations of Authority to the Executive Director are incorporated into Rule 68-1.009, F.A.C. by reference. Review and updates to the Delegations are part of the ongoing process to streamline FWC functions. The proposed changes will update the date of incorporation and amend the current delegation. This modified delegation will allow the Executive Director to approve acquisition agreements (purchase or option agreements) that include up to \$1,000,000 in Commission funding, consistent with previous temporary delegations granted to the Executive Director authorizing the Executive Director to approve acquisition agreements until final approval could be obtained at a subsequent Commission meeting. If this delegation is approved, temporary delegations would not be needed. The revised delegation of authority will help streamline and expedite the acquisition process, which is undertaken in partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of State Lands. Final approval for acquisitions is provided by the Governor and Cabinet.

Staff Recommendation:

Approval to publish revisions to Rule 68-1.009, F.A.C., and file for adoption without further hearing, unless requested.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter: Tom Houston, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation