

Grant Rule 68-1.003, Subsection 11

Proposed revisions to Florida's State Wildlife Grants Program Rule



Draft Rule – Consent Agenda
October 7, 2020



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

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*All photos in presentation courtesy of FWC staff.
Photos above represent species and habitats covered by Florida's State Wildlife Action Plan
and eligible for State Wildlife Grant funding.*

State Wildlife Grants and Grants Rule 68-1.003

State Wildlife Grants Program

- Federal funds through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
- For the benefit of Florida's Species of Greatest Conservation Need

68-1.003, F.A.C. – Grants Rule

- Outlines how the Commission administers grant programs
- Subsection 11 refers to several documents to administer State Wildlife Grant projects.



In 2001, as part of a national endeavor to aid conservation efforts for non-federally listed and non-game species and to encourage states to protect species before they become threatened, the United States Congress created the federal State Wildlife Grants program. It is administered by the USFWS, as part of the WSFR program.

State Wildlife Grants provide money to every state and territory to address the states highest priority conservation issues for Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Rule 68-1.003 Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) outlines how the Commission administers grant programs to provide grants to eligible agencies, facilities, organizations or persons. State Wildlife Grants are specifically addressed in subsection 11.

Proposed Revisions to 68-1.003, Subsection 11

- Proposed revisions include updates to the following documents:
 1. Florida's State Wildlife Grant Program Guidelines
 2. Application Form
 3. Initial Review Form
 4. Technical Review Form
 5. Final Review Form

- Updates remove out-of-date language and align with Rule 69I-72.002, F.A.C.



Subsection 11 of Rule 68-1.003 F.A.C. incorporates by reference Florida's State Wildlife Grant Program Guidelines, Application Form, Initial Review Form, Technical Review Form, and Final Review Form. Staff proposes to incorporate newly updated Program Guidelines, Application Form, Initial Review Form, Technical Review Form, and Final Review Form, all dated October 2020, into the rule. Revisions appear in these documents to remove reference to out-of-date language and to adjust the dollar threshold for equipment. The updates are necessary to reflect a recent reorganization in the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation which created the Wildlife Diversity Conservation Section and to align with recent changes in Rule 69I-72.002, F.A.C. Threshold for Recording Tangible Personal Property for Inventory Purposes. Other documents will remain the same.

Stakeholder Feedback

- The Notice of Development of Rulemaking was published on August 14, 2020
- Partners were able to request draft revised documents
- No significant concerns with the proposed revisions have been brought to the Program's attention

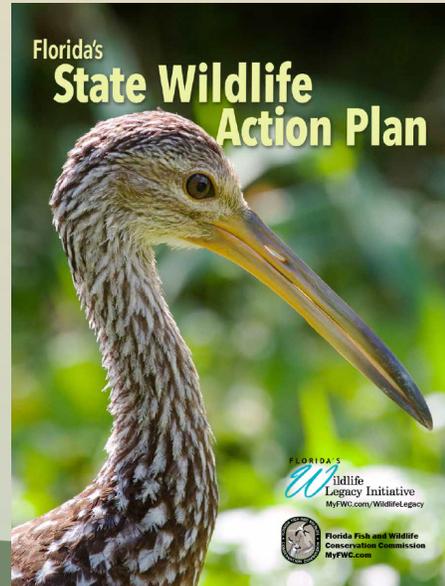


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Staff Recommendation

- Approval of proposed amendments to 68-1.003 F.A.C.
- Approval to publish notice of proposed rules and adopt as final without further hearing, unless requested.

If the rule is approved for both advertisement and final adoption, Commission staff will file the rules for adoption as allowed by s.120.54(3) Florida Statutes, without further public hearing



Staff recommends approval of the proposed amendments to 68-1.003 F.A.C. If the rule is approved for both advertisement and final adoption, Commission staff will file the rules for adoption as allowed by s.120.54(3) Florida Statutes, without further public hearing.

Photo: Cover of approved 2019 Florida's State Wildlife Action Plan