

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners  
**From:** Dr. Thomas Eason, Director, Habitat and Species Conservation  
**Date:** December 7, 2017  
**Subject:** Final Action -- Port Orange Critical Wildlife Area

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**Purpose:**

Provide the Commission with the final proposal for the establishment of Port Orange Critical Wildlife Area (CWA).

**Summary:**

Critical Wildlife Areas are established by the Commission to protect important concentrations of wildlife from human disturbance during critical periods of their life cycle. On November 16, 2016, after multiple Commission discussions and extensive work with stakeholders, the Commission approved 13 new CWAs and 5 re-establishments. Port Orange, in Volusia County, was part of the original proposed suite of CWAs and was included in presentations at the June 2016 and September 2016 Commission meetings. However, Port Orange was delayed for consideration to resolve uncertainty regarding ownership and easements, and was not included in the final presentation at the November 2016 meeting. Subsequently, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Division of State Lands has clarified the State of Florida is the owner of the island and surrounding submerged lands and they have provided the necessary letter of consent to establish the CWA. Easement concerns have been resolved and a Memorandum of Understanding between FWC and Florida Inland Navigation District is being prepared.

Port Orange is an important site for brown pelicans, American oystercatchers and many other species of birds. This CWA will establish a seasonal closure from January 1 through August 31. Staff is presenting the proposed Port Orange CWA for final Commission approval.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of the Port Orange Critical Wildlife Area.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Kipp Frohlich, Deputy Director, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation