

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

From: Dr. Thomas Eason, Director, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

Date: July 10, 2017

Subject: Consent Agenda, Designating Biological Review Groups for four Species of Special Concern

Purpose:

Staff will provide names for the Biological Review Groups (BRGs) for the harlequin darter, Homosassa shrew, osprey (Monroe County population), and Sherman's fox squirrel, pursuant to Chapter 68A-27, F.A.C.

Summary:

In 2010, as part of the updated listing process for state listed species, state listed species underwent status reviews using the listing criteria found in Chapter 68A-27, F.A.C. The harlequin darter, Homosassa shrew, osprey (Monroe county population) and the Sherman's fox squirrel were determined to be data deficient and they were therefore maintained as Species of Special Concern (SSC) until additional data could be obtained. Staff initiated studies to address the data gaps identified in the status reviews and the Species Action Plans for each of these species. Additionally, Objective 1 of the Imperiled Species Management Plan (ISMP), approved in November 2016, identifies the need to collect data and conduct status reviews for these remaining Species of Special Concern by 2017.

Per Chapter 68-27.0012, F.A.C., a Biological Review Group of three, five or seven scientists is designated by the Commission to determine if species meet any of the criteria for listing outlined in Chapter 68A-27.001. BRG members should have demonstrated knowledge of the species conservation and management. Proposed BRG members are:

Harlequin darter: John Knight (FWC, lead), Howard Jelks, and Bill Tate

Homosassa shrew: Chris Winchester (FWC, lead), John C. Kilgo, and Daniel Pearson

Osprey (Monroe County population): Tim Dellinger (FWC, lead), Rebeca Kimball, Michael McMillian, Karl E. Miller, and Lori Oberhofer

Sherman's fox squirrel: Elina Garrison (FWC, lead), Mike Connor, Andrew Edelman, Robert McCleery, Holly Ober

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the four Biological Review Groups.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Brad Gruver, Section Leader, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation