

MEMORANDUM



To: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

From: Mr. Kipp Frohlich, Interim Director, Habitat and Species Conservation

Date: February 7, 2018

Subject: Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for 8 species

Purpose:

Provide an overview and seek approval for the Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for 8 state designated Threatened species.

Summary:

As part of the Imperiled Species Management Plan (ISMP) approval in 2016, staff was directed to create Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines (Guidelines) for all 57 species included in the ISMP. Eight Guidelines were approved in November 2016 and staff is now bringing an additional 8 Guidelines for Commission review. Guidelines contain information on species biology and habitat needs, identify what constitutes take through habitat modification, and provide guidance on survey methodology and voluntary conservation practices. The Guidelines outline activities not expected to cause take, methods for avoiding take and in some cases authorize take for certain activities such as emergency actions for human safety or certain forestry management activities. The Guidelines also provide options for achieving conservation benefit as required in Rule 68A-27.007 through a combination of minimization and mitigation when take cannot be avoided.

The 8 species for review are: Florida burrowing owl, Florida pine snake, Big Cypress fox squirrel, Barbour's map turtle, blackmouth shiner, saltmarsh topminnow, Santa Fe Cave crayfish, and the Black Creek crayfish. All 8 species are state designated Threatened species, and in addition to their state listing status, most have some existing protections in place through cave protection statutes, Forestry and Wildlife Agricultural Best Management Practices, Florida Department of Environmental Protection requirements for Outstanding Florida Waters, and overlap with FDEP Environmental Resource Permitting.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for the Florida burrowing owl, Florida pine snake, Big Cypress fox squirrel, Barbour's map turtle, Blackmouth shiner, Saltmarsh topminnow, Santa Fe Cave crayfish, and Black Creek crayfish.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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