Resolution

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission hereby declares:

WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Commission) is a duly constituted governmental agency, created to manage fish and wildlife in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, black bears have recovered from population declines and are a conservation success story for Florida and the Commission; and

WHEREAS, black bears are attracted to unsecured garbage at residences and businesses found in bear range; and

WHEREAS, the majority of human-bear conflicts are associated with unsecured garbage, and some of those conflicts have resulted in injury to people; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is charged with managing black bears in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Commission works with Florida's counties, municipalities, and homeowner's associations to reduce conflicts with black bears; and

WHEREAS, the Commission will continue to respond to human-bear conflicts including removal of black bears from communities, education efforts, and enforcement of wildlife feeding prohibitions.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Commission:

1. That the Commission does hereby encourage Florida counties, municipalities and homeowners' associations in black bear range to pass ordinances or bylaws that require garbage be secured from black bears; and

2. That the Commission shall provide model ordinances or bylaws to be used in developing such ordinances or bylaws; and

3. That such model ordinances or bylaws shall provide incentives whenever possible to assist in implementing the ordinances or bylaws; and

4. That the Commission will continue a strong education and outreach effort on living in black bear range to reduce human-bear conflicts; and

5. That the Commission will continue to aggressively remove bears where they may pose a threat to public safety; and

6. That the Commission will continue effective enforcement of wildlife feeding prohibitions to protect public safety.

DONE AND RESOLVED in this duly constituted and assembled meeting in Sarasota, Florida, this 24th day of June, 2015.
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Chairman Richard A. Corbett

Attest:

With the support of the following Commission members:

Vice Chairman Brian E. Yablonksi

Commissioner Richard Hanas

Commissioner Charles W. Roberta III

Commissioner Ronald M. Bergeron

Commissioner Aiese P. Priddy

Commissioner Adrien Do Rivières