

Resolution

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
hereby declares on this day:

WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is a duly constituted governmental agency, created to serve the people and conserve the fish and wildlife resources of the great State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Commission's responsibility includes the conservation and management of Florida's fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, Florida is recognized as one of the most biologically diverse states in the nation, and is home to more than 16,000 species of native fish, wildlife and invertebrates, of which at least 557 are found nowhere else on earth; and

WHEREAS, Florida's natural resources provide a great benefit to the state's economy, with a total annual economic impact from hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, boating, and the seafood industry adding \$42.8 billion to the state's economy and creating more than 347,000 jobs for Florida families; and

WHEREAS, Congress passed the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937, the Dingell-Johnson Act in 1950, and key additions like the Wallop-Breaux Amendment in 1984, all of which established dedicated funds to support conservation and science-based management of game and sport fish species financed by hunters, recreational shooters, anglers and boaters; and

WHEREAS, a similar sustainable, predictable and dedicated funding mechanism is needed to address significant conservation needs for thousands of species under state management jurisdiction in addition to those species that are hunted or fished; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's State Wildlife Action Plan works toward the conservation of all Florida species including those species not listed as game or sport fish; and

WHEREAS, the State Wildlife Action Plan details species of greatest conservation need and vital habitats that require action to ensure future generations can enjoy a diversity of fish and wildlife resources in Florida, and

WHEREAS, there is a recognized need to expand the funding base for fish and wildlife conservation in Florida and throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the recent Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources, made up of 26 business and conservation leaders, was tasked with recommending a new funding mechanism to support state fish and wildlife conservation to ensure the sustainability of all fish and wildlife for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Ribbon Panel has called for the enactment of federal legislation to allocate \$1.3 billion in existing funding from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal land and waters for the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to effectively implement state wildlife action plans and conserve thousands of species of greatest conservation need; and



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WHEREAS, the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife was established to advocate for and deliver on the recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel;

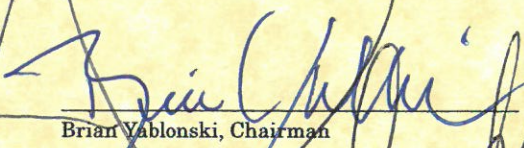
WHEREAS, the potential additional funds available for Florida's State Wildlife Action Plan would be approximately \$50 million annually, and securing dedicated federal funding is likely to require a state match similar to that in place for the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts.

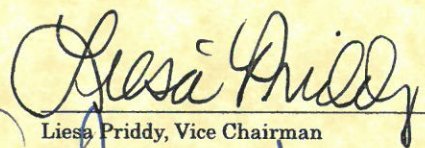
NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Commission:

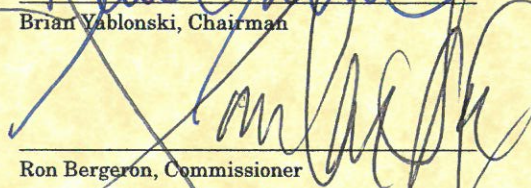
- That the Commission supports the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources recommendation that Congress dedicate \$1.3 billion dollars annually in existing revenue from the development of energy and mineral resources on federal lands and waters to the Wildlife Conservation Restoration Program to diversify funding and management for all wildlife; and
- That the Commission supports the efforts and is honored to be recognized as a member of the Alliance for America's Fish and Wildlife;
- That the Commission supports efforts that would broaden dedicated funding mechanisms for wildlife conservation and implementation of Florida's State Wildlife Action Plan, and to serve as the state's match if new dedicated federal funding is secured; and
- That the Commission respectfully requests the Florida Congressional Delegation support federal legislation that would implement this recommendation, and encourages other state fish and wildlife agencies throughout the nation to do the same;
- That the Commission encourages Florida's conservation community to join efforts to promote passage of this important legislation.

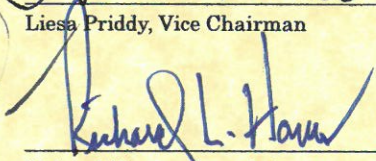
DONE AND RESOLVED in this duly constituted and assembled meeting in Orlando, Florida, this 11th day of July, 2017.

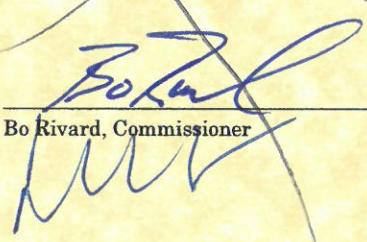
On behalf of the
**FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

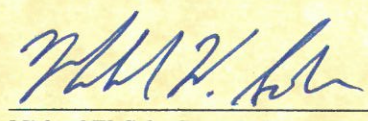

Brian Yablonski, Chairman

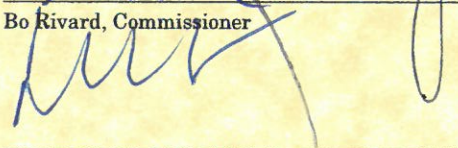

Liesa Priddy, Vice Chairman


Ron Bergeron, Commissioner


Richard Hanas, Commissioner


Bo Rivard, Commissioner


Michael W. Sole, Commissioner


Robert A. Spottswood, Commissioner

Attest: 



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Commission**

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