

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Rich Virgil, P.E., Field Operations Division

DATE: September 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Land Management Services Agreement

Agenda Item Background:

Cooperative agreements with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) have been executed since 1991 to provide cost-effective public-use and land management support on District managed lands, which has helped reduce the need for additional staffing within the Land Stewardship Section. In October 2007, the District entered into Agreement Number 4600000961 with FWC to provide public use, law enforcement support, and land management services on District managed lands. This Agreement has been routinely amended over the years.

Through this Agreement, the FWC administers the public hunting program including law enforcement support on 18 different District properties. Additionally, this Agreement provides funding for the operation of hunter check stations, the administration of managed public waterfowl hunts on STA 1W, STA 2, and STA 3/4 in coordination with the District, and assisting in the management of public recreation on 242,494 acres of District acquired property.

The District's funding of this Agreement further provides for two full time wildlife biologist positions and seasonal employees on the DuPuis and CREW Wildlife and Environmental Areas. These positions help establish and administer public use programs, develop area specific public use regulations, assist with land management activities such as prescribed burning and habitat restoration, and provide wildlife management services on District lands for listed and non-listed wildlife species.

This request is to authorize a three-year extension to the existing Agreement Number 4600000961-A07 with FWC to provide additional years of resource management services on included lands, in an amount not to exceed \$657,000. Approval of Agreement Number 4600000961-A08 will help ensure public recreation on District lands, and help ensure these lands are managed in an environmentally beneficial manner.

Additional Item Background:

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities

This item will provide public use and land management support to ensure public recreational opportunities and District acquired lands are managed appropriately and for the benefit of the public in accordance with Section 373.1391, F.S. The Land Resources Bureau is responsible for implementing this contract and managing lands acquired by the District for environmental resource and public recreation benefits.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

Rich Virgil, P.E., rvirgil@sfwmd.gov, 561-682-6759

ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-0904](#)

[Presentation Backup](#)