
 COL All
 SCH VIIIB-2
 REDUCTIONS
 POS AMOUNT PRIORITY CODES

FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM 77000000

PRIORITY SUMMARY NARRATIVE:

In preparation for the 2010 Legislative Session, state agencies have again prepared a list of potential reductions equal to 10% of recurring appropriations. The following list includes reductions across all divisions within the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, reflecting each director's attempt to preserve essential core functions, reduce in areas that can potentially re-expand in the future, and eliminate activities that are perhaps a little less core to the agency mission than others. These issues are all important and valuable to the agency, and would not be eliminated by choice, but are offered here in recognition of the difficult choices Florida must face to develop a balanced budget for FY 2010-11.

The list includes a total of \$3,094,762 from General Revenue and \$16,662,340 from trust funds. Also, because so much of the agency budget and personnel are leveraged to bring in federal grant funding, an additional \$6.1 million in grant funding could be lost as a result of some of these cuts.

SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -

OPERATING			33B0000
ELIMINATE ALLIGATOR MARKETING AND			
EDUCATION		1	33B9100
TRUST FUNDS.....	150,000-		2000

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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate the appropriation to transfer funding to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services per Florida Statutes to conduct alligator marketing and education activities. Eliminating this transfer would not affect agency revenues or existing alligator management program elements. Although these activities are viewed by the alligator products industry as essential to their continued success, most of the fees that formed the original basis for the issue have been abolished. The appropriation was not provided during FY 2002-03 through FY 2006-07. A non-recurring appropriation was provided during FY 2007-08 and the recurring appropriation was reinstated for FY 2008-09. Amendments to statutes are necessary in order to effectively implement this reduction.

REDUCE IN-STATE TRAVEL, SUPPLIES,			
AND TRAINING		2	33B1900

TRUST FUNDS.....	27,500-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate a significant portion of in-state travel by the Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director. Reducing executive management's travel limits opportunities to foster public understanding and appreciation for the economical and community importance of conserving Florida's fish and wildlife habitat. In addition, curtailing

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 OPERATING 33B0000
 REDUCE IN-STATE TRAVEL, SUPPLIES,
 AND TRAINING 2 33B1900

executive management's travel will restrict collaboration between the Commission and other state/federal natural resources agencies that enhances the total conservation effort in Florida. This reduction will significantly impact the ability of the Executive Director's office to provide staff important in-service training to maintain and enhance their efficiency and effectiveness. This reduction will impact the Office's ability to produce material used in internal and external meeting that foster our conservation message.

REDUCE PUBLIC COMMENTING 3 33B1800
 OPERATIONAL EXPENSES

TRUST FUNDS..... 6,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

The public commenting position coordinates the Division of Marine Fisheries Management's role in agency commenting processes that are administered through the Office of Policy and Stakeholder Coordination. Reduction of expenses will eliminate attendance at meetings and other expenses associated with coordinating marine fisheries concerns with other local, state, and federal agencies. The travel expenses associated with this position currently allow the agency to be represented at meetings where advance work ensures that agency concerns or recommendations are incorporated into development projects, habitat restoration or mitigation and projects reviewed under the Coastal Zone Management Act.

REDUCE OCEANARIA REIMBURSEMENT
 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM\UNIVERSARY OF
 FLORIDA MARINE MAMMAL PROGRAM\
 COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE 4 33B7000

TRUST FUNDS..... 496,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

The Commission has managed the Oceanaria Reimbursement Assistance Program for rescued, rehabilitated, and released Florida manatees since 1991. Since July 2000, \$1.15 million annually has been available to reimburse the three contracted and federally permitted manatee rehabilitation facilities in Florida: Lowry Park Zoo, Miami Seaquarium, and Sea World Florida. These facilities are involved in the rescue and full-time acute-care, veterinarian-based rehabilitation of manatees. This reduction will reduce the annual amount available for reimbursement to permitted

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SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
REDUCE OCEANARIA REIMBURSEMENT			
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM\UNIVERSARY OF			
FLORIDA MARINE MAMMAL PROGRAM\ COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE	4		33B7000

facilities by \$296,000 (from \$1.15 million to \$824,000), which will reduce or eliminate in some areas, the Commission's options to rescue and rehabilitate injured manatees. Presently, the oceanaria are reimbursed for only about 65% of qualified expenses. A reduction in the reimbursement amount to \$824,000 will result in a reimbursement rate of only 47%, which will likely result in some oceanaria discontinuing their participation in the program.

This reduction will reduce the University of Florida Marine Mammal Program by \$200,000, down to \$650,000 annually. This program is a joint endeavor of the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine and the Commission. This program was developed to promote the health and understanding of marine mammals in Florida and is one of the few initiatives in the country training veterinarians, veterinary medical students, and related professionals in the care of marine mammals. This program has also provided much needed expertise to the Commission's Marine Mammal Pathobiology Lab (MMPL) through externships and specialized pathology services. This reduction will eliminate at least three positions at the University and much needed support for the Commission in determining cause of death for salvaged manatee carcasses.

REDUCE PLANNING AND FACILITATION ASSISTANCE	5		33B2100
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TRUST FUNDS.....	6,000-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will reduce the expert facilitation and management of public meetings by external facilitators with advanced knowledge or training related to specific species or topics. Expert facilitation or mediation of potentially complex, contentious, or topic specific meetings supports productive meeting outcomes for constituents and staff.

ELIMINATE MANATEE PROTECTION PLAN GRANTS	6		33B2200
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TRUST FUNDS.....	68,185-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate funding available to assist counties in the development of manatee protection plans. Most

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<u>FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM</u>			77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
ELIMINATE MANATEE PROTECTION PLAN			
GRANTS		6	33B2200

counties have already completed their plans and there has been little demand for this assistance funding in recent years.

REDUCE TRANSFER TO DEPARTMENT OF			
AGRICULTURE/INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND			
AGRICULTURE SERVICES (IFAS) FOR			
INVASIVE EXOTIC PLANT RESEARCH		7	33B2300

TRUST FUNDS.....	129,758-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue reduces the ability to fund invasive exotic plant research at a quarantine lab in Ft. Pierce for plants and animals that must be quarantined before being released. Currently, the agency pays \$844,171 on a recurring basis to help support this program. A cut of \$129,758 will reduce the current contribution by 15%.

REDUCE PRINTING FOR STAKEHOLDERS			
AND PARTNERS		8	33B2400

TRUST FUNDS.....	3,000-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue reduces printed materials available to stakeholders and partners for their knowledge and use in decision making and support of agency issues. It will also reduce the amount of printing support provided to other divisions related to public information, rule making, and other agency issues.

REDUCE ENHANCED WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT		9	33B8300
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TRUST FUNDS.....	784,309-		2000
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 SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -
 OPERATING 33B0000
 REDUCE ENHANCED WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT 9 33B8300

SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue reduces the land management program's ability to manage Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) areas. This reduction will result in significant decreases in vital land management operations on public lands in the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system that protect fish and wildlife resources and deliver public access and recreational opportunities. Staffing on some land units within the WMA system would have to be reduced resulting in the reduction of land management activities and maintenance of infrastructure for public access and recreational opportunities. The proposed budget reduction will reduce current levels of service and protection of previous investments made in areas such as exotic plant control, prescribed burning, community restoration, imperiled species recovery, and maintenance of public use infrastructure such as roads, trails, and boardwalks.

SHIFT BLACKWATER FISH PRODUCTION
 FACILITY TO GRANT FUNDING 10 33B1700
 TRUST FUNDS..... 4.00- 331,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

Currently 4 FTE positions and \$331,000 support freshwater fish production facilities at Blackwater Fish Hatchery in Santa Rosa County. This facility provides annual fish production (750,000-1,000,000 striped bass, hybrid striped bass, largemouth bass, panfish, and channel catfish) for stocking in fresh water at 25-30 Florida panhandle lakes, rivers, and streams. A shift of \$331,000 from state funding to Sport Fish Restoration federal grant funding will allow fish stocking activities to continue. The shift to federal grant funding (Sport Fish Restoration Program) will subject fish produced and stocked by the hatchery to federal requirements such as NEPA and Endangered Species Act (Section 7) review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

REDUCE FLORIDA WILDLIFE MAGAZINE
 CONTENT AND CIRCULATION 11 33B2700
 TRUST FUNDS..... 16,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue reduces the number of conservation messages we can deliver to the public, decrease circulation of the Florida

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FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM			77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
REDUCE FLORIDA WILDLIFE MAGAZINE			
CONTENT AND CIRCULATION		11	33B2700

Wildlife Magazine, and reduce magazine content by 8 pages.

ELIMINATE GENERAL REVENUE FUNDED		12	33B3100
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER POSITIONS			
	52.00-		
GENERAL REVENUE FUND.....	2,706,184-		1000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue along with Priority Number 24 will eliminate 143 law enforcement officer positions, reducing the total number of sworn positions from 721 to 578. The per officer savings is \$52,042 including salaries and benefits, salary incentive, and HR contract costs.

Out of the agency's \$32 million recurring General Revenue (GR) budget, \$28 million (87.5%) supports the Division of Law Enforcement. It is unavoidable to include some portion of law enforcement in any need to significantly reduce agency GR appropriations. Due to the Division of Law Enforcement's primary role of fish, wildlife and boating safety law enforcement patrol, the vast majority of its appropriations are used for salaries of employees that provide or support the patrol function. Reducing the number of employees is the only viable solution to reducing large amounts of funding.

A reduction of 143 sworn law enforcement officer positions will significantly impede the ability of the Division of Law Enforcement to provide law enforcement services to the resources and citizens of Florida, meet our constitutional mandate of protecting fish and wildlife resources, and provide homeland security or disaster relief services when needed. The reduction will result in reduced high visibility patrols in manatee areas, panther areas, wildlife management areas, and popular boating and fishing areas, currently serving as a deterrent to illegal activities. Our ability to respond rapidly to calls for service from the public will be reduced and available officers will have to cover larger patrol zones.

The health and safety of the public will be jeopardized if these positions are eliminated; reducing our ability to adequately provide boating safety patrol, respond to search and rescue missions, investigate boating accidents and respond to critical incidents that have a direct impact on the safety of Florida's citizens and visitors. Our ability to respond to man-made and natural disasters will also be adversely impacted. Responding safely to major catastrophic events requires extensive training, preparations, logistics and scheduling. Having less people to respond to such events presents additional workload and dangers to those that do respond.

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<u>FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM</u>			77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
REDUCE VIDEO SUPPORT AND CONTRACTED			
SERVICES		13	33B2500
TRUST FUNDS.....	37,500-		2000

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SCH VIIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

The Commission's videos are primarily used to convey conservation messages in a way that the public immediately recognizes. A reduction in this area will reduce messaging to the public on a wide range of issues, such as imperiled species, law enforcement, and changes in fishing license requirements.

REDUCE RED TIDE MONITORING AND RESEARCH		14	33B5000
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GENERAL REVENUE FUND.....	388,578-		1000
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SCH VIIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate, or severely curtail, collaborative research and monitoring efforts between Mote Marine Laboratory and the Commission to: (1) determine the role of natural and human factors contributing to red tide formation and intensity, (2) implement automated technology to provide continuous, real-time monitoring of conditions where red tides develop and persist, including a new beach alert system, (3) monitor waters in support of shellfish safety regulations initiated by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and (4) investigate the linkage between land-based nutrient pollution and red tide strength and persistence. The projects to be eliminated are critical to our understanding of red tides and their impacts. Loss of this monitoring and research capability will dramatically curtail red tide information available to state and local agencies responsible for shellfish safety and reporting on beach conditions for visitors.

Funding for the cooperative red tide research and monitoring program was reduced by nearly \$3 million last year, which represents about a 60% reduction. This additional reduction would further curtail critical monitoring and event response capability which is already extremely limited. Economic impacts of red tides in Florida have been estimated to exceed \$20 million annually. This program, which fosters collaborations between the Commission and numerous partners (universities, local governments, non-profit research labs, and citizens groups), funds projects designed to minimize the size, intensity, or duration of red tide blooms or reduce the environmental, economic, social, or public health impacts of future red tides in Florida. Exploring environmentally sound methods to reduce or eliminate the effects of red tide is important economically and socially to Floridians and visitors.

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FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM			77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
REDUCE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA			
BROCHURE PRINTING		15	33B8100
TRUST FUNDS.....	32,458-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue reduces the number of Wildlife Management Area brochures printed from more than 1,200,000 to about 750,000. Each year, the Commission produces brochures for each of its Wildlife Management Areas to explain area-specific rules and aid recreational users, including hunting and fishing enthusiasts. Currently brochures are printed and distributed to local offices and partners for distribution to the public. The proposed reduction in printing will reduce waste and increase efficiency, but frustrate some constituents who are left without easy access to printed brochures. When supplies are exhausted, downloadable brochures will remain available on the Web for recreationists to view and print on their own.

SHIFT FRESHWATER FISHERIES RESEARCH			
TO GRANT FUNDING		16	33B7400
TRUST FUNDS.....	5.00- 300,000-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will shift the funding for several freshwater fisheries research and monitoring projects, including field sampling to assess sportfish populations and efforts to determine the impacts of reduced freshwater flows, to grant funding putting these projects on a more tenuous footing regarding future funding. Obligation of grant funds to these projects will also restrict our use of grant funds in the future to respond to emerging fisheries issues.

ELIMINATE AGENCY TECHNOLOGY			
IMPROVEMENTS		17	33B4500
TRUST FUNDS.....	77,000-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate the use of Marine Fisheries Management expense funds to pay for or contribute to technology

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FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM			77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
ELIMINATE AGENCY TECHNOLOGY			
IMPROVEMENTS		17	33B4500

improvements and upgrades. Loss of these funds will severely reduce the ability of the division to contribute to agency-level technology improvements that contribute to overall efficiency and improved communications, record-keeping and customer service. As an example, in FY 2008-09 funds were used to pay most of the costs associated with a document scanning and management program and purchase of equipment for a video-conference meeting room.

REDUCE FLORIDA BASS CONSERVATION			
CENTER OPERATIONS		18	33B7200
TRUST FUNDS.....	200,000-		2000

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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

Approximately 40%-45% of our annual fish production will be eliminated (1.4 million fish) in order to ensure the newly constructed \$15 million state-of-the-art hatchery facility is sufficiently maintained. This reduction eliminates any possibility for the Center to achieve its maximum design capability to produce 3.6 - 6.75 million fish annually.

SHIFT SALTWATER HATCHERY OPERATIONS			
TO GRANT FUNDING		19	33B7500
TRUST FUNDS.....	500,000-		2000

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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will shift a portion of the funding for Florida's only saltwater sportfish hatchery from state funding to grant funding, putting the project on a more tenuous footing regarding future funding security. Moving hatchery support to grant funding will also curtail our ability to use future grant funding to respond to emerging fisheries issues. The saltwater hatchery program is highly supported by the public and angling community, and is in the planning stages for a statewide expansion via public/private partnerships.

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 SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -
 OPERATING 33B0000
 REDUCE COMMUNITY RELATIONS
 OPERATIONS 20 33B2600
 TRUST FUNDS..... 45,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will affect our ability to serve the public by limiting our ability to cover statewide stories and by decreasing temporary support services, including coverage of the agency's main telephone line.

REDUCE LAKE RESTORATION PROJECTS 21 33B1300
 TRUST FUNDS..... 612,426- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue will reduce the ability to fund aquatic habitat management and restoration projects. Impact will be significant since a program reduction of 50% for FY 2009-10 was necessitated due to declines in doc stamp revenues. An additional reduction in spending authority will limit maintenance operations that are needed to maintain habitat quality and protect investments previously made on lake restoration projects. Reduced funding will also result in fewer aquatic habitat enhancement projects in public waterways, and limit maintenance or repair of water management infrastructure on state owned lands. Engineering services for some lake and wetland projects will be delayed, as will start up and planning for future restoration projects. Monetary contributions to partners for various enhancement and restoration projects will be reduced or withdrawn. Monitoring of aquatic plant and animal communities needed to evaluate present and future restoration activities will be reduced. A significant portion of the aquatic habitat enhancement projects are conducted by private sector contractors and reduced funding would directly impact the economic situation of these private contractors.

ELIMINATE GREAT BIRDING TRAIL
 WEBSITE ENHANCEMENT 22 33B2900
 TRUST FUNDS..... 9,050- 2000
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FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM			77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
ELIMINATE GREAT BIRDING TRAIL			
WEBSITE ENHANCEMENT		22	33B2900

SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate funding necessary to complete this project. Phase I redesign of the website is complete and this funding would complete the build-out. The redesigned website will provide improved service to residents and visitors using the Great Florida Birding Trail.

REDUCE NUISANCE ALLIGATOR TRAPPER			
STIPEND		23	33B9000
TRUST FUNDS.....	105,000-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue will reduce the appropriation by half to pay nuisance-alligator trappers a fee for alligators taken under the statewide nuisance alligator program. There will be no impact on agency revenues or existing alligator management program elements. This reduction will have a financial impact on contract nuisance alligator trappers, and some trappers may not wish to continue providing these services with a reduce stipend. Commission staff, however, believe that new contract trappers can be readily recruited and hired to cover any loss of current trappers without any significant interruption in service to the public.

ELIMINATE TRUST FUND FUNDED LAW			
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS		24	33B3200
TRUST FUNDS.....	91.00-		2000
	4,735,822-		
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue along with Priority Number 12 will eliminate 143 law enforcement officer positions, reducing the total number of sworn positions from 721 to 578. The per officer savings is \$52,042 including salaries and benefits, salary incentive, and HR contract costs.

Out of the agency's \$32 million recurring General Revenue (GR) budget, \$28 million (87.5%) supports the Division of Law Enforcement. It is unavoidable to include some portion of law enforcement in any need to significantly reduce agency GR

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<u>FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM</u>			77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
ELIMINATE TRUST FUND FUNDED LAW			
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS	24		33B3200

appropriations. Due to the Division of Law Enforcement's primary role of fish, wildlife, and boating safety law enforcement patrol, the vast majority of its appropriations are used for salaries of employees that provide or support the patrol function. Reducing the number of employees is the only viable solution to reducing large amounts of funding.

A reduction of 143 sworn law enforcement officer positions will significantly impede the ability of the Division of Law Enforcement to provide law enforcement services to the resources and citizens of Florida, meet our constitutional mandate of protecting fish and wildlife resources, and provide homeland security or disaster relief services when needed. The reduction will result in reduced high visibility patrols in manatee areas, panther areas, wildlife management areas, and popular boating and fishing areas, currently servicing as a deterrent to illegal activities. Our ability to respond rapidly to calls for service from the public will be reduced and available officers will have to cover larger patrol zones.

The health and safety of the public will be jeopardized if these positions are eliminated; reducing our ability to adequately provide boating safety patrol, respond to search and rescue missions, investigate boating accidents and respond to critical incidents that have a direct impact on the safety of Florida's citizens and visitors. Our ability to respond to man-made and natural disasters will also be adversely impacted. Responding safely to major catastrophic events requires extensive training, preparation, logistics and scheduling. Having less people to respond to such events presents additional workload and dangers to those that do respond.

ELIMINATE YOUTH WILDLIFE VIEWING			
SKILLS PROGRAM	25		33B3300
TRUST FUNDS.....	16,784-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue eliminates funding necessary to complete the development of this partnership program. Phase I was completed last fiscal year. This phase will finalize development of resource materials and delivery to partners that will work with children and families to learn about and build outdoor skills. Project partners include Audubon of Florida, Florida Park and Recreation Association, Florida libraries and Get Outdoors Florida. Partners are supporting the project with resources for promotion, training, and program delivery.

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 SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -
 OPERATING 33B0000
 REDUCE NON-CARL LAND MANAGEMENT 26 33B1200

TRUST FUNDS..... 368,641- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue reduces the ability to manage new and current lands. Impact will be significant as a program reduction of 63% for FY 2009-10, necessitated due to declines in doc stamp revenues, is already affecting funding directed to land management operations pursuant to Chapter 201.15(5), F.S. An additional reduction will further diminish wildlife protection, public recreational opportunities, and land management programs on private, state, or federally owned lands within the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) system where the Commission is either a designated lead manager or a secondary cooperator. Staffing on some land units within the WMA system will have to be reduced resulting in the reduction of land management activities and maintenance of infrastructure for public access and recreational activities. Reduced funding will affect long-term resource protection programs such as community restoration and imperiled species recovery. In some cases such as exotic plant control, recent accomplishments may be compromised or negated if funding is inadequate to support necessary maintenance treatments.

REDUCE MARINE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
 SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDING 27 33B1600

TRUST FUNDS..... 35,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issues reduces the Division's recurring budget available to fund special marine fisheries management projects such as angler surveys or short-term studies addressing new or emerging management questions. Loss of these funds will severely limit the Division's ability to address emerging regulatory or management issues through such mechanisms as public opinion surveys or directed studies. As an example in FY 2007-08 funds were used to fund a stakeholder mail survey to gather information about the goliath grouper fishery in Florida and to support a license renewal campaign in cooperation with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation.

REDUCE INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT 28 33B3500

TRUST FUNDS..... 4,041,138- 2000
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 SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -
 OPERATING 33B0000
 REDUCE INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT 28 33B3500

SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue reduces the ability to manage aquatic and terrestrial invasive plants. Impact will be significant as a program reduction of 33% for FY 2009-10 was necessitated due to declines in documentary stamp revenues. An additional reduction in funding will result in significantly fewer aquatic plant control projects in public waterways and upland invasive plant control projects on public conservation lands. Delays or cancellation of plant control projects can cause geometric increases in growth of invasive plants. With the significant program funding reductions that have already occurred in FY 2009-10, the upland plant management program is not able to initiate any new projects, only able to keep a small percentage of previous project sites from becoming re-infested. Any additional cuts will result in fewer project5 sites being funded, ultimately resulting in additional sites becoming re-infested after having spent significant tax dollars getting the invasive plants under control.

Increasing invasive plant populations can have adverse impacts on recreation such as fishing, hunting, boating, swimming, ecotourism as well as adversely impacting beneficial native habitat that is critical for the management of fish and wildlife. These impacts will adversely affect the economy of communities in close proximity to these resources. In addition, excessive invasive plant populations in public waterways can restrict water flow and cause flooding during resulting in danger to human health and safety. A significant portion of the invasive plant control projects are conducted by contractors in the private sector. Reduced funding will directly impact the economic situation of these private contractors.

REDUCE MARINE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
 HEARINGS, WORKSHOPS, AND ADVISORY
 GROUP ACTIVITIES 29 33B5500

TRUST FUNDS..... 35,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

The division will reduce the expected number of administrative hearings, public workshops and training activities for employees. This will require affected commercial fishermen to travel farther to attend informal administrative hearings and will have a fiscal impact on petitioners. It would reduce the number of locations at which public workshops would be held around the state for pending regulatory actions of the Commission. It will reduce the available funds for in-service training. All of these reductions hinder the ability of the Division to provide a high level of customer service and technical competence and to receive the maximum possible public input on potential actions of the agency. This reduction will limit the ability of the agency to garner public support for regulatory programs that are needed to successfully protect and maintain Florida's marine fisheries resources and fishing industries.

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REDUCTIONS				
POS	AMOUNT	PRIORITY	CODES	

FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM				77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -				
OPERATING				33B0000
REDUCE FUNDING FOR PUBLIC ACCESS				
IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE ON				
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS		30		33B3400
TRUST FUNDS.....	162,790-			2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This 20% reduction in CARL funding will eliminate the Interpretive Planning and Writing subsection within the Office of Recreation Services. Four part-time OPS positions equivalent to 2 FTE's will be eliminated. As a result, the office will no longer be able to provide interpretive writing and photography services to the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation and other divisions, which include wildlife management area entry kiosk maps, interpretive signs and materials, and developing and maintaining the wildlife management area website. The Office of Recreation Services will not be able to conduct special projects, such as Wildlife 2060, writing for news media, Florida Monthly magazine, etc. Eliminating this function will result in fewer interpretive signs on the management areas, the loss of consistent and professional appearance and durability of interpretive materials and the inability to replace existing, aging interpretive panels. Impacts will include less positive land management reviews, a reduction of service to the public and possible increase in resource damage or safety issues since many interpretive materials inform the public about these issues. The remainder of the reduction will be absorbed by the design and construction subsection of the Office. This will significantly reduce resources for building and maintaining public access amenities such as entrance kiosks, parking and hunter check stations, wildlife-viewing structures, trails and restrooms. In addition, one part-time OPS Construction Manager position will be eliminated.

Impacts will include less positive land management reviews, a reduction in service to the public, deferred maintenance of existing structures resulting in potential safety issues. The Office of Recreation Services will be much less able to assist divisions with special projects such as design, permitting, bidding and construction supervision of the new Lake City Regional Office building or the Gainesville Research Lab equipment building. This reduction of service will result in increased workload and costs to field staff that lack experience and expertise to manage construction projects.

REDUCE THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION				
TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING		31		33B3700
TRUST FUNDS.....	75,000-			2000
	=====			

SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate the majority of the dollars this office spends in the replacement of antiquated computer equipment. The focus of this spending is cost savings, productivity and cost avoidance for the agency. Without this funding the Office of Information Technology will be unable to continue funding in key areas such as video

 COL All
 SCH VIIIIB-2
 REDUCTIONS
 POS AMOUNT PRIORITY CODES

FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM 77000000
 SCHEDULE VIIIIB REDUCTIONS -
 OPERATING 33B0000
 REDUCE THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION
 TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE SPENDING 31 33B3700

teleconferencing, as well as replacement of antiquated personal computers and servers that are past their warranty period.

REDUCE PUBLIC INFORMATION RELATED TO GAME WILDLIFE 32 33B9300
 TRUST FUNDS..... 60,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate direct-mail marketing materials promoting public hunting opportunities as well as public service announcements pertaining to mallard/mottled duck hybridization and alligator safety. The direct-mail marketing materials promote specific public hunting opportunities, namely, special-opportunity and spring turkey hunts. The televised public service announcements are designed to (1) increase public awareness and cooperation to conserve Florida's unique duck species (Florida's mottled duck) and (2) promote public safety and increase awareness concerning Florida's alligator population. The proposed reduction in outreach will decrease our efforts to inform the public, potentially reduces public safety related to alligators, compromises conservation efforts for Florida's mottled duck, and many result in lowered public satisfaction.

ELIMINATE PUBLIC DOVE FIELDS 33 33B9400
 TRUST FUNDS..... 77,700- 2000
 =====

SCH VIIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

Providing public hunting opportunity is part of the core mission of the Division of Hunting and Game Management. This issue will reduce public dove opportunity. Dove hunting is considered one of the best ways to introduce youths and new hunters to hunting and is extremely popular among hunters in general. It will also result in a reduction in agency revenues of about \$40,000 - \$60,000 from dove permits. Funds are used for OPS staff, equipment, and supplies needed to plant and maintain wildlife foods on agricultural fields to attract doves and provide habitat for many other species of wildlife.

COL All			
SCH VIIIB-2			
REDUCTIONS			
POS	AMOUNT	PRIORITY	CODES

FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM			77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -			
OPERATING			33B0000
REDUCE MARINE FISHERIES REGULATIONS			
PUBLICATIONS		34	33B7300
TRUST FUNDS.....	112,000-		2000
	=====		

SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate a significant portion of non-grant funding available for publication of recreational fishing regulations. It will result in fewer copies of recreational fishing regulations being printed and distributed throughout Florida. Recreational regulations will go from two printings per year to one printing, with a greater likelihood of regulations being out of date. Depending on future contract amounts, it could result in severely reducing or eliminating the publication of a Spanish-language version of the recreational regulations.

This reduction will similarly reduce or eliminate funds for printing and distribution of once-per-year commercial regulations summaries, including a Spanish-language version. Regular publication of saltwater fishing regulations is an essential service for fishermen to know and understand current rules limiting or controlling fishing activity and to maximize compliance in the interest of fish and wildlife conservation.

REDUCE HABITAT RESTORATION		35	33B8500
TRUST FUNDS.....	461,100-		2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue reduces the ability to provide habitat management and restoration for Florida's gopher tortoises with the possibility of it not occurring in some key regions Florida. Habitat management is a primary tool for long term conservation of gopher tortoises as described in the Commission's management plan that was developed with input from more than 180 stakeholders. The number of acres managed and contracts for managing habitat will be reduced and could prevent Florida from reaching its conservation goal and objectives in conserving gopher tortoises.

REDUCE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OTHER			
PERSONAL SERVICES (OPS) EMPLOYEES		36	33B3600
TRUST FUNDS.....	275,000-		2000
	=====		

COL All
SCH VIIIB-2
REDUCTIONS
POS AMOUNT PRIORITY CODES

FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM 77000000
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -
OPERATING 33B0000
REDUCE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OTHER
PERSONAL SERVICES (OPS) EMPLOYEES 36 33B3600

SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will reduce the number of OPS employees in the application support/development area. The area of impact will affect the support of application maintenance and development across Division boundaries. This action will severely reduce the Office of Information Technology's ability to respond to bud fixes, agency enhancement requests, and modification requests based on rule or statutory change. The impact will range from potential inability to issue permits affecting revenue for the agency, to officer safety/public safety issues arising from our inability to maintain applications for our law enforcement division.

REDUCE STAKEHOLDER AND PARTNER MEETINGS 37 33B4100
TRUST FUNDS..... 13,000- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This issue reduces stakeholder and partner meetings, forums, and facilitated or mediated discussions or negotiations to identify common interests, reduces conflicts and jointly develops issue resolutions. These meetings support management of the 'people side' of complex conservation activities and effective interactions with constituency groups who provide input, recognition and support for issues presented by Commissioners and senior staff.

REDUCE LICENSE PLATE SALES PROMOTION 38 33B2800
TRUST FUNDS..... 38,500- 2000
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

Specialty license tags produce much needed revenue from voluntary donations and raise the level of awareness of the needs of fish and wildlife among members of the public. A reduction in this area may reduce the amount of revenue received to support manatee and panther conservation.

 COL All
 SCH VIII B-2
 REDUCTIONS
 POS AMOUNT PRIORITY CODES

FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM 77000000
 SCHEDULE VIII B REDUCTIONS -
 OPERATING 33B0000
 REDUCE NONGAME WILDLIFE RESEARCH
 PROGRAMS 33B7600
 TRUST FUNDS..... 6.00- 655,000- 2000

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SCH VIII B-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate research and monitoring efforts on several imperiled and non-game species and their habitats in Florida. Long standing partnerships with other governmental agencies (local, state, and federal), non-governmental organizations, and individuals focused on conserving and restoring imperiled bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species will cease. For many of these species, the Commission is the primary or sole data collector and loss of these programs will have a long term impact on our partners ability to restore populations. The species impacted include bald eagle, grasshopper sparrows, painted bunting, American Oystercatcher, American Kestrel, black bear, beach mice and gopher tortoise. This reduction will eliminate six staff members, many of whom are world-recognized species experts and leaders in cooperative conservation efforts.

ELIMINATE MARINE HABITAT MANAGEMENT 40 33B8600
 TRUST FUNDS..... 5.00- 376,972- 2000

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SCH VIII B-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

Marine Habitat Management staff within the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation oversees development of marine/estuarine habitat restoration programs. Loss of dedicated staff will eliminate our ability to request, secure, and oversee grants to improve, enhance or restore coastal habitat; hinder our ability to provide timely, science-based comments on development projects affecting marine habitats; eliminate Commission representation on a variety of working groups and task forces necessary to ensure fish, wildlife and their habitats are considered in decision-making; and significantly reduce the ability of the agency to use influencing and partnerships to effect positive conservation measures for marine habitats. Staff identify, prioritize, and implement marine/estuarine habitat restoration programs that have concurrent benefits to user groups and commercial interests. They provide leadership and technical expertise to multiple working groups, councils and task forces that plan and implement marine habitat restoration and enhancement projects. Activities also include coordination with stakeholders in the development of comprehensive habitat protection strategies; and with volunteer user groups for the enhancement and protection of coastal resources.

COL All				
SCH VIIIB-2				
REDUCTIONS				
POS	AMOUNT	PRIORITY	CODES	

FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM			77000000	
SCHEDULE VIIIB REDUCTIONS -				
OPERATING			33B0000	
ELIMINATE MARINE HABITAT PROGRAMS		41	33B7700	
TRUST FUNDS.....	6.00-		2000	
	397,650-			
	=====			

SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

This reduction will eliminate activities related to marine habitat research and management as follows: (1) 2 FTE positions, \$131,000, and \$1,918,000 in grant revenues - the Commission's participation in coral reef monitoring that provides long-term coral health and population trends in the Florida Keys. It will eliminate the Commission's capability to participate in health assessments of the Florida reef tract, which currently does not have a positive trend. We will lose our ability to directly participate in research that provides information necessary for coral management; (2) 3 FTE positions, \$210,000, and \$1,300,000 in grant revenues - the Commission will no longer participate in resource damage assessments associated with vessel groundings that result in monetary awards to the State of Florida for resource damages caused by vessel groundings. The Commission will no longer have staff to conduct seagrass research and will end its ongoing pre- and post-surveys of the effectiveness of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program on improving the marine habitats of Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay; (3) 1 FTE position, \$56,650, and \$1,316,000 in grant revenues - Sophisticated Geographic Information System (GIS) support will end for marine habitat mapping. This support is used in multiple ways by scientists, resources managers and the public for developing strategies to improve marine habitat quality and management. Uses of GIS range from helping to locate optimal artificial reef placement, aquaculture permit assessment, predicting distribution of commercially important fish, location of seagrass beds and coral reefs for inclusion in boater guides, and generally transferring geographic information to the public about the marine ecosystem. The Commission's ability to execute statutorily-mandated scientific work will be reduced or eliminated and \$4.5 million in grant revenue will be turned away.

ADJUSTMENTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT AND				
FLOW THROUGH APPROPRIATIONS		42	33B1500	
TRUST FUNDS.....	789,057-		2000	
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SCH VIIIB-2 NARR 10-11 NOTES:

Due to system constraints, a number of appropriations were included in the 10% target calculation which do not produce savings when cut. In order to meet the 10% goal, a share of those appropriations is included here along with the disclosure that they are not suitable for producing savings that can help offset a state shortfall. The agency maintains a significant number of contracts where we receive direct reimbursement for the costs we incur. These appropriations would generate no savings if cut because the contractors will not pay us for work not done. An adjustment of \$486,320 from the Division of Law Enforcement and an adjustment of \$302,737 from the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute is included as a reduction to contracts to account for this portion of the agency 10% goal.

	COL All SCH VIIIB-2 REDUCTIONS		
	POS	AMOUNT	PRIORITY
			CODES
FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM			77000000
TOTAL: FISH/WILDLIFE CONSERV COMM			77000000
BY FUND TYPE			
GENERAL REVENUE FUND		3,094,762-	1000
TRUST FUNDS		16,662,340-	2000

TOTAL POSITIONS.....		175.00-	
TOTAL DEPARTMENT.....		19,757,102-	
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