What is the Coastal Wildlife Conservation Initiative?

A partnership strategy to address coastal issues that impact wildlife and their habitats.
CWCI Vision

To ensure the long-term conservation of native wildlife in coastal ecosystems throughout Florida in balance with human activities

Goals:
- Wildlife
- Habitat
- Socioeconomic
Why develop the CWCI?

- Initial Focus: Beaches (not limited to that)
- Most regulated habitat in Florida
- Issues – the same ones over & over
- FWC – statutory authority over wildlife
  - Doesn’t manage any beaches!
Coalition-Based Approach

- Examine nexus among existing programs

- Address gaps in
  - Information
  - Outreach
  - Management

- Coordinate on issues
  - Regional
  - Statewide
CWCI Outcome: Resources

- A Partnership Network
  - Searchable database of contacts / agencies & programs
  - Success stories / cases
  - Track research needs / results

- Leverage existing resources and efforts
  - Educational programs
  - Management
  - Research
CWCI Outcome: Resources

- Best Management Practices
- Guidelines
- Educational Materials
Who is developing the CWCI?

- FWC –
  Expertise & guidance from multiple divisions

- Partnerships are key –
  Local Governments, Regional Agencies, State Agencies, Federal Agencies

- Stakeholder input is vital –
  Community interests, conservation groups, researchers, commercial users, private property owners
Why is a Statewide Initiative needed?

- Many declining species dependent upon coastal areas
  - 17 listed species and subspecies use the coastal zone for all or part of their life cycle
  - Difficulties of individual species management plans:
    Exceed FWC staff capacity
    Potential for conflicting recommendations
Shorebirds

- More than 30 species use Florida’s coasts
- 6 listed species, 1 candidate species
- Require foraging, roosting, and nesting sites
- Use sandy beaches, mudflats, and dunes
- Threats:
  - habitat loss
  - habitat degradation
  - disturbance
Sea Turtles

- 5 species nest on Florida’s beaches
- All are listed

- Threats:
  - coastal armoring
  - habitat loss
  - artificial lighting
  - beach nourishment
  - predation
  - disturbance
  - pollution
Beach Mice

- 6 subspecies in Florida
  - 5 are federally listed
- Inhabit frontal and scrub dunes
- Threats:
  - habitat loss
  - fragmentation
Salt Marsh & Coastal Scrub

- Florida Mouse
- Seaside Sparrow
- Marsh Wren
- Florida Salt Marsh Vole
- Gulf Salt Marsh Mink
- Black Rail
Why is a Statewide Initiative needed?

- Many declining species dependent on coastal areas
- Increasing conflict between wildlife needs and human activities
Conflict: Human v. Human
Conflict: Human v. Habitat
Conflict: Human v. Wildlife
Conflict: Wildlife v. Wildlife
Why is a Statewide Initiative needed?

- Many declining species dependent on coastal areas
- Increasing conflict between wildlife needs and human activities
- Magnitude of existing threats and emerging issues
Threats to Wildlife and Habitat

- Habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation
Threats to Wildlife and Habitat

- Disturbance to wildlife
Emerging Issues

- Sea Level Rise
- Impacts of projected population growth

Current Land Use Patterns

Projected Land Use in 2060
Why is a Statewide Initiative needed?

- Many declining species dependent on coastal areas
- Increasing conflict between wildlife needs and human activities
- Magnitude of existing threats and emerging issues
- Many agencies and groups have a stake
Why is a Statewide Initiative needed?
Coastal Economics

- Beaches & near shore coastal waters – 33M tourists/yr
  $56B and 900,000 jobs
- Saltwater anglers – 2M contribute $3B in retail sales
- Florida State Parks – $936M direct benefit to local economies
- Coastal real estate – 367,000 properties
  $2B in property tax revenues

Ref: Florida Oceans and Coastal Council, 2008
Where do we go from here?
CWCI Action Plan

I. Partners identify conservation actions
   - Where do the actions fit within the CWCI goals and objectives?
   - What strategies are needed?
Key Strategies

- Education and Outreach
- Research
- Habitat Protection Measures
- Management of Wildlife and Habitat
- Regulatory Processes
- Voluntary Programs
- Incentive-based Programs
- Economic
CWCI Action Plan

II. Tool Shed Inventory

FWC Tools:

Florida Shorebird Alliance
Florida Bird Conservation Initiative
Climate Change Initiative
Wildlife Legacy Initiative
Marine Turtle Program
Florida Beaches Habitat Conservation Plan
Organize the Tool Shed

- Coastal Programs Database
  - Partners contribute information on their programs

- Web-based Access
  - Share the keys
III. Examine connections between existing coastal management programs

- Include all levels of government & non-governmental programs
- Identify areas of overlap
- Identify gaps
  - Functionally
  - Geographically
Statewide Gaps: FDEP

- Lack of coordination among & within agencies
- Response to disturbance of wildlife
- Impact of enforcement
- Management / protection of spoil islands & lands below MHWL
- Communication of research results
- Ecological carrying capacity for recreational use
- Public perception of a “healthy beach”
IV. Develop a CWCI Policy Team and Regional Working Groups

- Build upon the CWCI Framework
- Address regional and statewide issues – strategies, opportunities, creative techniques
- Explore funding mechanisms
Planning & Technical Advisory Group - FWC Coastal Team & Partners

Coastal Policy Team
CWCI = Partnership Network

- Understand existing programs
- Identify common objectives and needs
- Coordinate efforts & combine resources
- Find solutions to our most pressing issues
Questions or comments?
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