

ITEM 16:

2021 Florida Ecological Greenways Network update.

STAFF REMARKS:

In Fiscal Year 2020-21, the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI), in collaboration with Dr. Tom Hoctor at the University of Florida Center for Landscape Conservation Planning, updated the Florida Ecological Greenways Network (FEGN) under a contract with DEP Division of State Lands (DSL). Of the five FEGN priorities, 1, 2 and 3 are defined in the recently enacted Florida Wildlife Corridor Act ([section 259.1055, Florida Statutes](#)).

The FEGN identifies areas of opportunity for protecting a statewide network of ecological hubs and linkages designed to maintain large, landscape-scale ecological functions including priority species habitat and ecosystem services throughout the state. It is also used as the primary data layer to inform Florida Forever and other state and regional land acquisition programs regarding the location of the most important wildlife and ecological corridors and large, intact landscapes in the state.

Mr. Jon Oetting, Chief of Conservation Planning Services at FNAI will present on the science used for this recent update to the FEGN specifically highlighting priorities 1, 2 and 3. He will also present an extra data layer developed specifically for the DSL to further inform acquisition priorities within Florida Forever projects. The intent of this presentation is for Council members to be informed on data updates to FEGN.

DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

None required

ARC RECOMMENDATION:

None required