

**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION  
OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

between and among the

**U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

the

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

and the

**FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Whereas the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission desire to cooperate in science-based wildlife conservation; and

Whereas the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, represented by the Division of Migratory Bird Management and Directorate of the FWS Southeast Region, is authorized under Public Law 95-616 (92 Stat. 3110) November 8, 1978, to enter into cooperative agreements with state fish and wildlife departments for the purpose of developing research and training programs for fish and wildlife resources; and

Whereas the U.S. Geological Survey, as represented by the Cooperative Research Units and Directorate of the USGS Eastern Region, is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with state fish and wildlife departments under the same authorities as above for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

Whereas the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is empowered by the Constitution and laws of the state of Florida to enter into agreements and investigate questions relating to fish and wildlife, to initiate and conduct inquiries pertaining to such questions, and to conduct such biological research that in its opinion will conserve, improve, and enhance the status of the fish and wildlife resources in the state of Florida;

This Cooperative Agreement serves to establish the Southeastern (SE) Adaptive Management Group, and shall become effective upon the date of the last signature of the signatory parties. The parties to this Cooperative Agreement agree to the following provisions.

## I. Objectives

By mutual agreement of the parties, the SE Adaptive Management Group shall:

1. Conduct research that is focused on natural resources management;
2. Participate in appropriate forums for natural resource management;
3. Facilitate linkages between research and management of natural resources, in the spirit of adaptive resource management; and
4. Sustain a research focus on
  - identifying the structure, function, and patterns of wildlife habitats as they influence population dynamics
  - developing the theory and implementation of adaptive resource management as applied to wildlife populations and their habitats
  - developing technology that supports wildlife conservation

II. The U.S. Geological Survey shall:

1. Provide limited staffing and technical support to the SE Adaptive Management Group via the Florida Caribbean Science Center and the Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, including at least two staff scientists from the Florida Caribbean Science Center and other post-doctoral staff, research assistants, and graduate students from the Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit as needed and mutually agreed upon by the parties.
2. Provide through the Florida Caribbean Science Center office facilities for members of the SE Adaptive Management Group on campus at the Florida Caribbean Science Center (Center), along with access to Center computer networks and other administrative support as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties for the execution of the SE Adaptive Management Group program.
3. Provide access to the expertise, facilities, and resources available through the Cooperative Research Units program in accordance with the directions of the Unit Cooperators and in terms set forth in the Cooperative Agreements of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units.
4. Provide \$10,000 annually, as funds are available, for operational support of the SE Adaptive Management Group in meeting objectives identified in this Cooperative Agreement.

III. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall:

1. Provide limited staffing of FWS personnel, including one biologist in the Division of Migratory Bird Management, to be housed on-Center at the SE Adaptive Management Group facility at the Florida Caribbean Science Center.
2. Through joint efforts of the Division of Migratory Bird Management and the FWS-Southeast Region Directorate, identify research and technical assistance needs for FWS, and help in acquiring funds and in-kind support to meet those needs.
3. Provide \$10,000 annually, as funds are available, for operational support of the SE Adaptive Management Group in meeting objectives identified in this Cooperative Agreement. These funds are to be provided in equal shares by the FWS Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management and the FWS Regional Director - SE Region.

IV. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Commission) shall:

1. Provide access where feasible and appropriate and as needed to Commission managed lands, manpower, and in-kind support of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission for projects supported by the agency.

2. Following receipt and approval by the Commission of budgets and work plans describing work to be accomplished by the SE Adaptive Management Group, and contingent upon availability of funds, issue purchase orders to IFAS Sponsored Programs at the University of Florida in the amount of not more than \$10,000 per year for the operational support of the SE Adaptive Management Group, specifying a schedule of payments. Final payments shall be contingent upon receipt and approval of progress reports.

V. All parties shall:

1. Look for opportunities to partner with other agencies and conservation groups not currently included as signatories to this Cooperative Agreement, and as appropriate and by consensus, consider inviting other groups to join the Cooperative Agreement as signatories.
2. Cooperate in the planning, execution, and review of research and technical assistance provided by members of the SE Adaptive Management Group.

VI. Steering Committee

The SE Adaptive Management Group will be administered jointly by a steering committee consisting of one official member from each of the signatory organizational units. Each committee member will exercise the official vote of the organizational unit he/she represents.

Duties of the steering committee shall include:

1. Meeting at least once a year at a mutually agreed upon location.
2. Establishment of a mission statement and revision of objectives as necessary for the SE Adaptive Management Group.
3. Review and approval of work plans for research undertaken in support of this Cooperative Agreement.
4. Guidance to the SE Adaptive Management Group on development of annual and longer-range work plans and discussion of potential support for research and technology development to meet member expectations and needs.

VII. Other issues

1. This agreement does not replace line supervisory authorities of member organizations,

nor does it relieve staff in the SE Adaptive Management Group of their responsibilities under the implementing authorities of their parent organizations.

2. Participation of the parties in this agreement is not intended to place said parties in a position of liability for claims that arise as a result of project activities. Each party shall have responsibility for acts and injury to, or injury and damage caused by, its own personnel and its property, occurring incidental to the conduct of approved projects initiated under his agreement.
3. All funds contributed to the operation of the SE Adaptive Management Group under terms of this Cooperative Agreement will be obligated and controlled by the contributing agency using agency procurement mechanisms.
4. This Agreement becomes effective on the date of the last signature and will remain in force until terminated following 90 days written notice of one party to the other parties.
5. This Cooperative Agreement is to be reviewed and updated as appropriate at least every five years.

Approvals:

\_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Southeast Region

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Division of Migratory  
Bird Management

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Geological Survey - Eastern Region

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Geological Survey - Cooperative Research Units

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Date: \_\_\_\_\_