



**Florida Fish
and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission**

Commissioners

Rodney Barreto
Chairman
Coral Gables

Steven Hudson
Vice Chairman
Fort Lauderdale

Preston Farnior
Tampa

Joshua Kellam
Palm Beach Gardens

Gary Lester
Oxford

Albert Maury
Coral Gables

Sonya Rood
St. Augustine

**Office of the
Executive Director**
Roger A. Young
Executive Director

Charles "Rett" Boyd
Assistant Executive Director

George Warthen
Chief Conservation Officer

Jessica Crawford
Chief of Staff

850-487-3796
850-921-5786 FAX

*Managing fish and wildlife
resources for their long-term
well-being and the benefit
of people.*

To Whom it May Concern:

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is focused on working with partner agencies, non-profit groups, businesses, and residents to reduce human-bear conflicts. The primary driver of conflicts with people is the availability of food for bears in communities, which is mostly in the form of unsecured garbage. Since 2007, the FWC has provided over \$2.1 million in cost-share funds to the 16 counties with the highest number of human-bear conflicts. The cost-share aspect involves the FWC buying or funding the materials or containers and the resident or business donating their labor to install or operate the new equipment.

The funds have come from two different sources: Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida using proceeds from sales of the Conserve Wildlife Tag (CWT) specialty license plates and allocations from the Florida Legislature.

As of July 1, 2025, the FWC received a \$100,000 CWT grant to cost-share bear-resistant equipment. We would like to work with Marion County and provide \$25,000 to help fund bear resistant residential garbage cans and dumpsters for Marion County residents to help reduce their human-bear conflicts.

Sincerely,

Michael Orlando

FWC Bear Management Program Coordinator

620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1600
Voice: 850-488-4676

Hearing/speech-impaired:
800-955-8771 (T)
800-955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com