

## RICK SCOTT GOVERNOR

## WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, native wildlife populations are an integral part of Florida's natural environment, and serve as an indicator for the overall health of Florida's statewide ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, each year in the United States more than 200 people are killed in wildlife-vehicle collisions, 26,000 are injured and more than 1.5 million animals are hit on roads; and

WHEREAS, the average cost of property damage from these collisions is over \$ 1 billion, and the total cost to society annually is \$ 8.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, the success of wildlife movement and survival in Florida remains dependent upon continued public education and increased understanding of the essential role migration corridors play in wildlife movement; and

WHEREAS, wildlife watching is one of the most popular outdoor recreational activities for residents and tourists in Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing September 18-24, 2011 as *Watch Out for Wildlife Awareness Week*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of September, in the year two thousand eleven.

Governor