Involving the Public in the Drafting of the Altha Tract Management Plan

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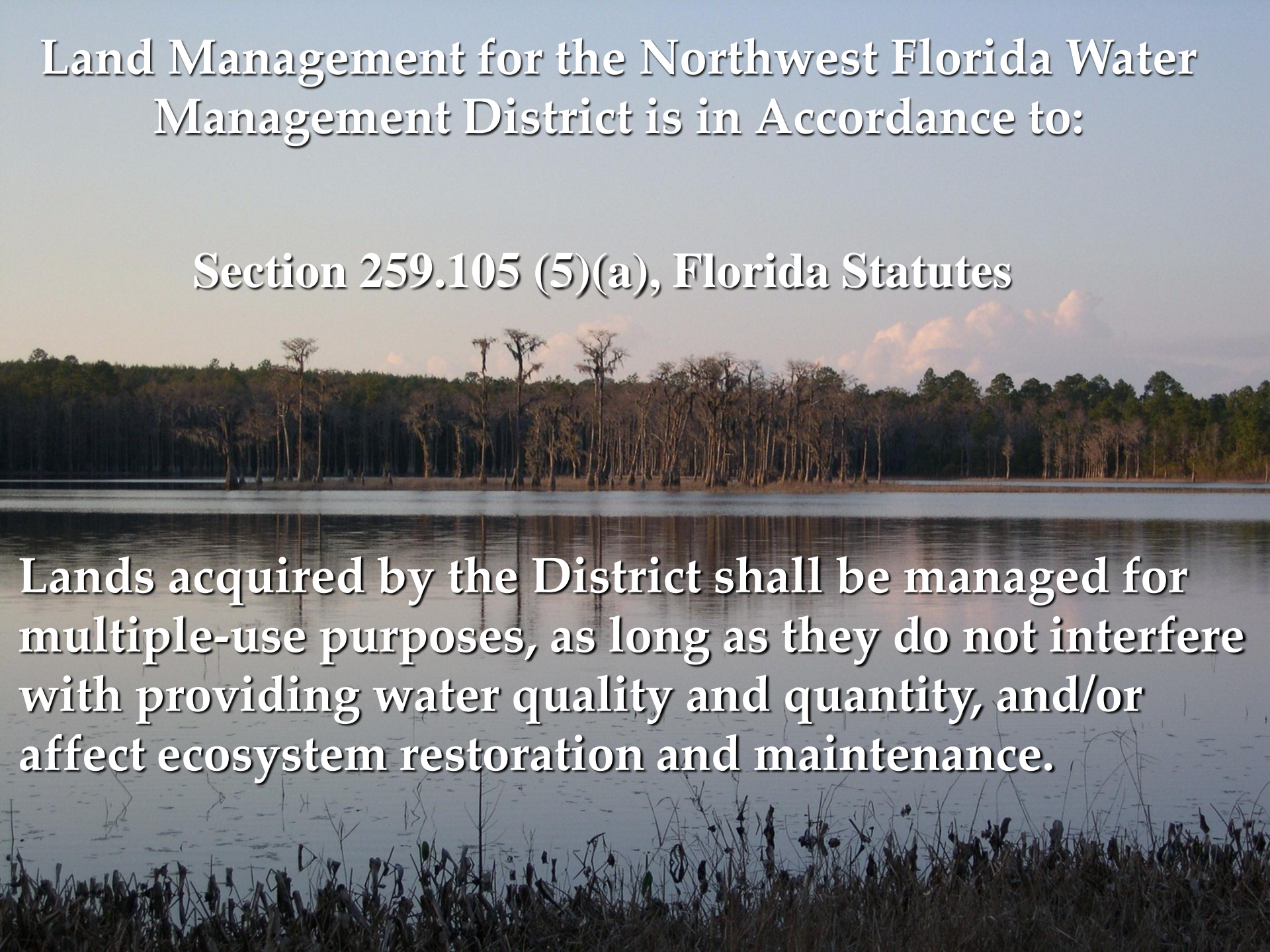
Practicum Objectives

➢ **Hold a series of public meetings in order to acquire feedback from interested individuals regarding the newly purchased Altha Tract.**

➢ **From these public meetings form stakeholder/task groups that can specifically advise the District on recreational and management solutions that could be incorporated into the management plan.**

➢ **Utilize the acquired NRLI skills in the development and implementation of the public meetings to achieve a truly collaborative effort.**

Land Management for the Northwest Florida Water Management District is in Accordance to:

Section 259.105 (5)(a), Florida Statutes

Lands acquired by the District shall be managed for multiple-use purposes, as long as they do not interfere with providing water quality and quantity, and/or affect ecosystem restoration and maintenance.
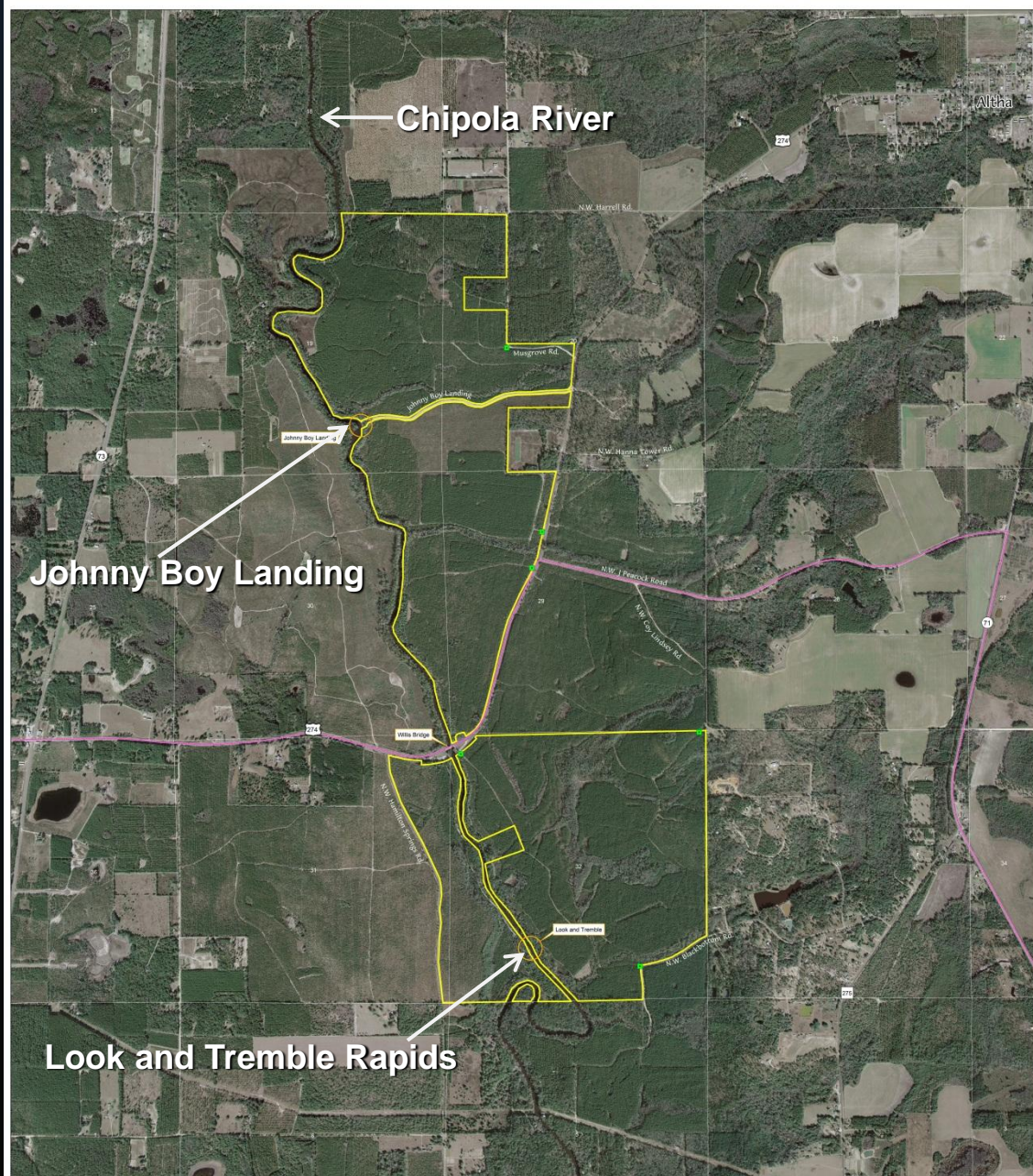
NORTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT LANDS

Northwest Florida Water Management District (Fee)

Northwest Florida Water Management District (Conservation Easements)

Map Created: January 7, 2011

7-17-001

210,992 Acres (Fee)
(March 2011)

Chipola River

Johnny Boy Landing

Look and Tremble Rapids

Proposed Access Points

Florida National Scenic
Trail

Chipola River
WMA

Chipola River Water Management Area - Altha Tract
1,377.76 acres
Calhoun County, Florida

0   625 1,250   2,500   3,750   5,000
Feet
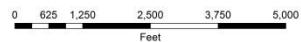
First Land Management Objective:

To provide water quality and quantity for the people in the Florida Panhandle.

➢ Our biggest concern on the Chipola River is the erosion that is occurring on the river bank. Which is causing siltation and degradation of the river water.

➢ Trash that is dumped into the river includes beer cans and bottles, dryers, and other waste that can degrade the river and the natural experience.
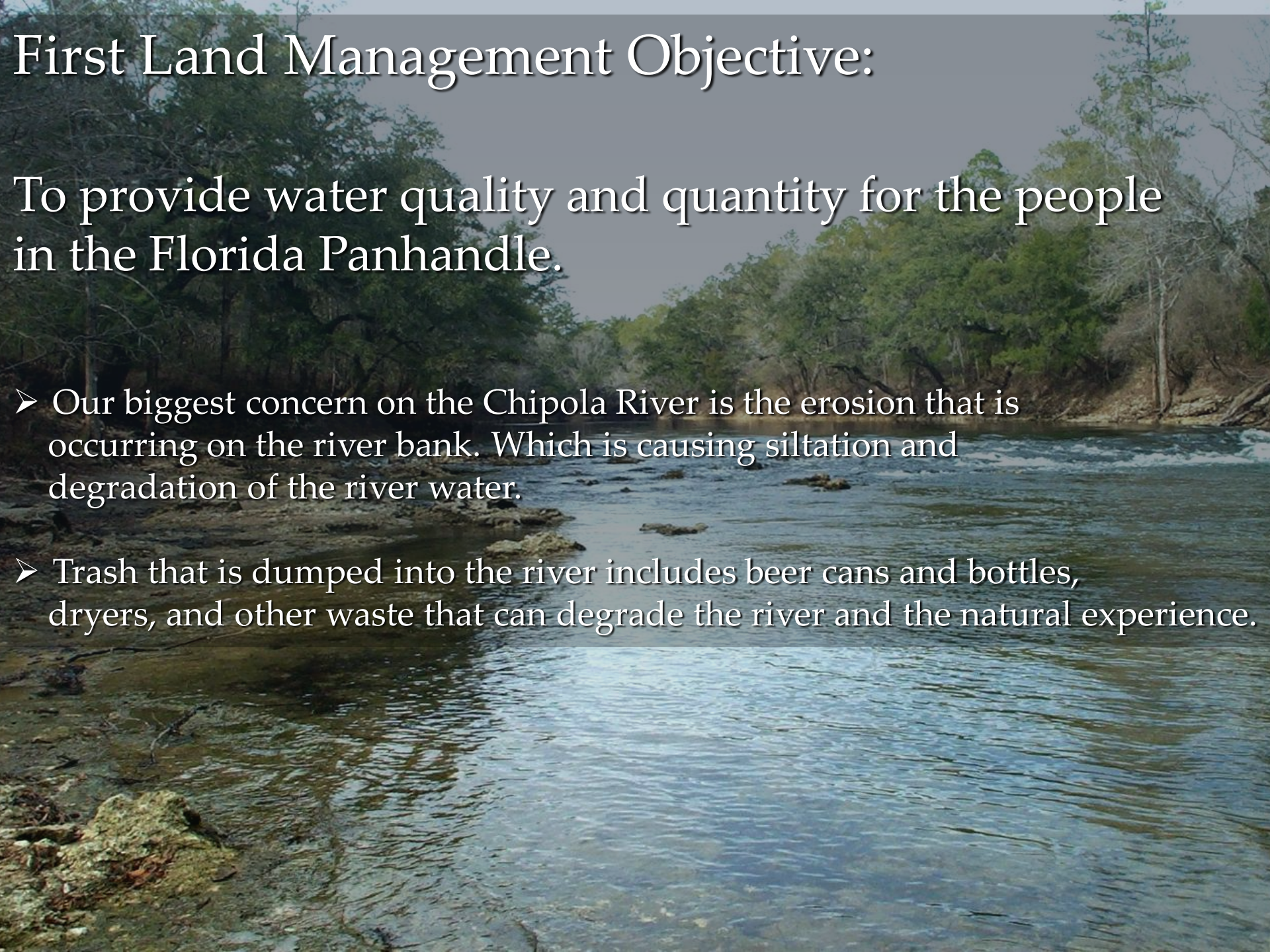
Johnny Boy Landing

Look and Tremble Rapids

Second Land Management Objective:

To restore and maintain the natural ecosystem.

➢ Timber harvests would include longleaf restoration cuts and slash pine thinning

➢ Prescribed burning will be utilized to maintain the fire dependent natural areas and reduce fuel loading

Third Land Management Objective:

To provide access and compatible (resource-based) public recreation.

➢ Land based recreation to include hunting, horseback riding and hiking

➢ Water based recreation to include fishing, swimming, canoeing, kayaking and tubing
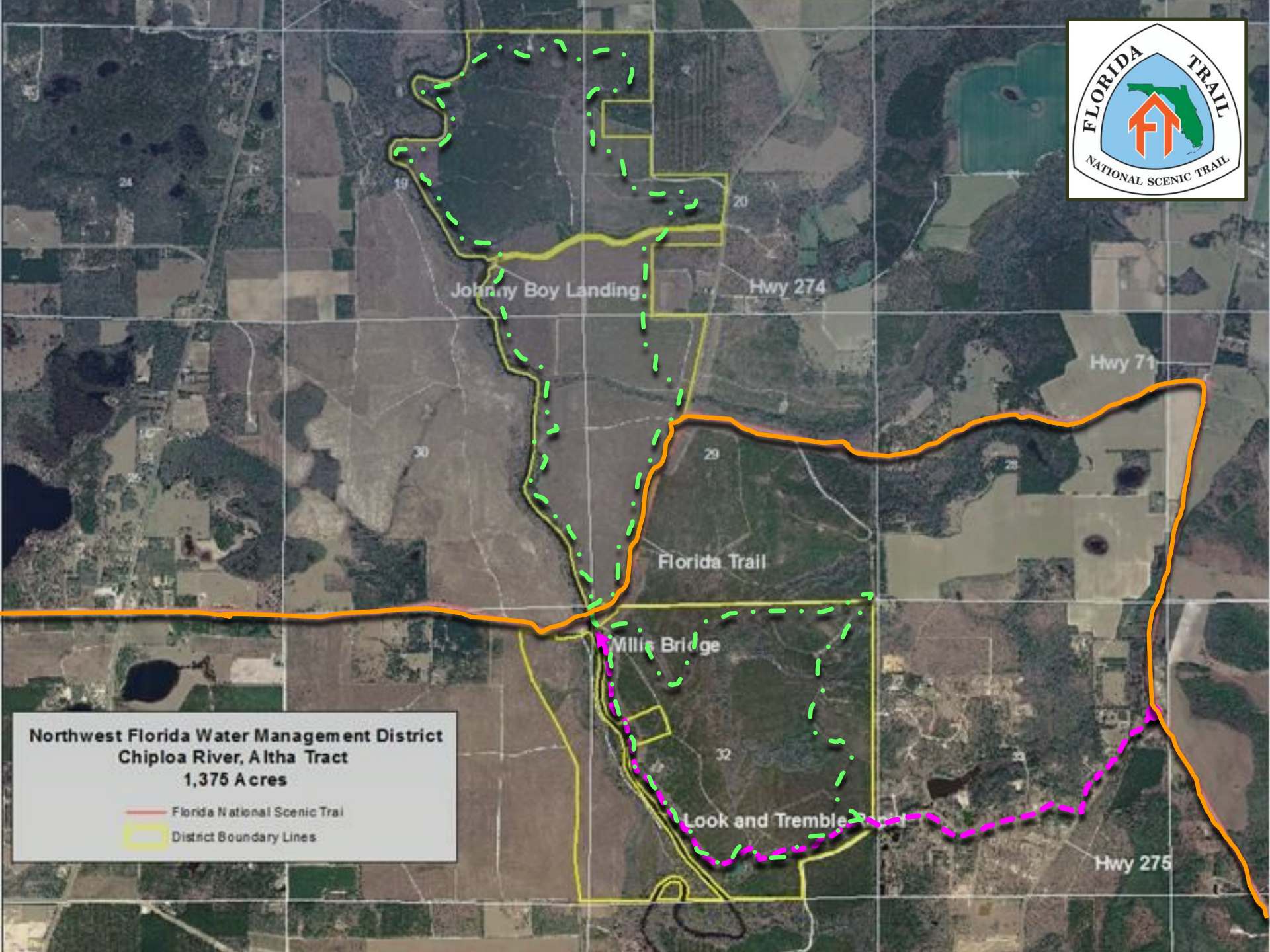
Northwest Florida Water Management District
Chipola River, Altha Tract
1,375 Acres

Florida National Scenic Trail
District Boundary Lines

Johnny Boy Landing

Hwy 274

Hwy 71

Florida Trail

Mills Bridge

Look and Tremble

Hwy 275

FLORIDA TRAIL
NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

Paddle Sports

NRLI TOOLS and TECHNIQUES

The Triangle of Satisfaction

Procedural

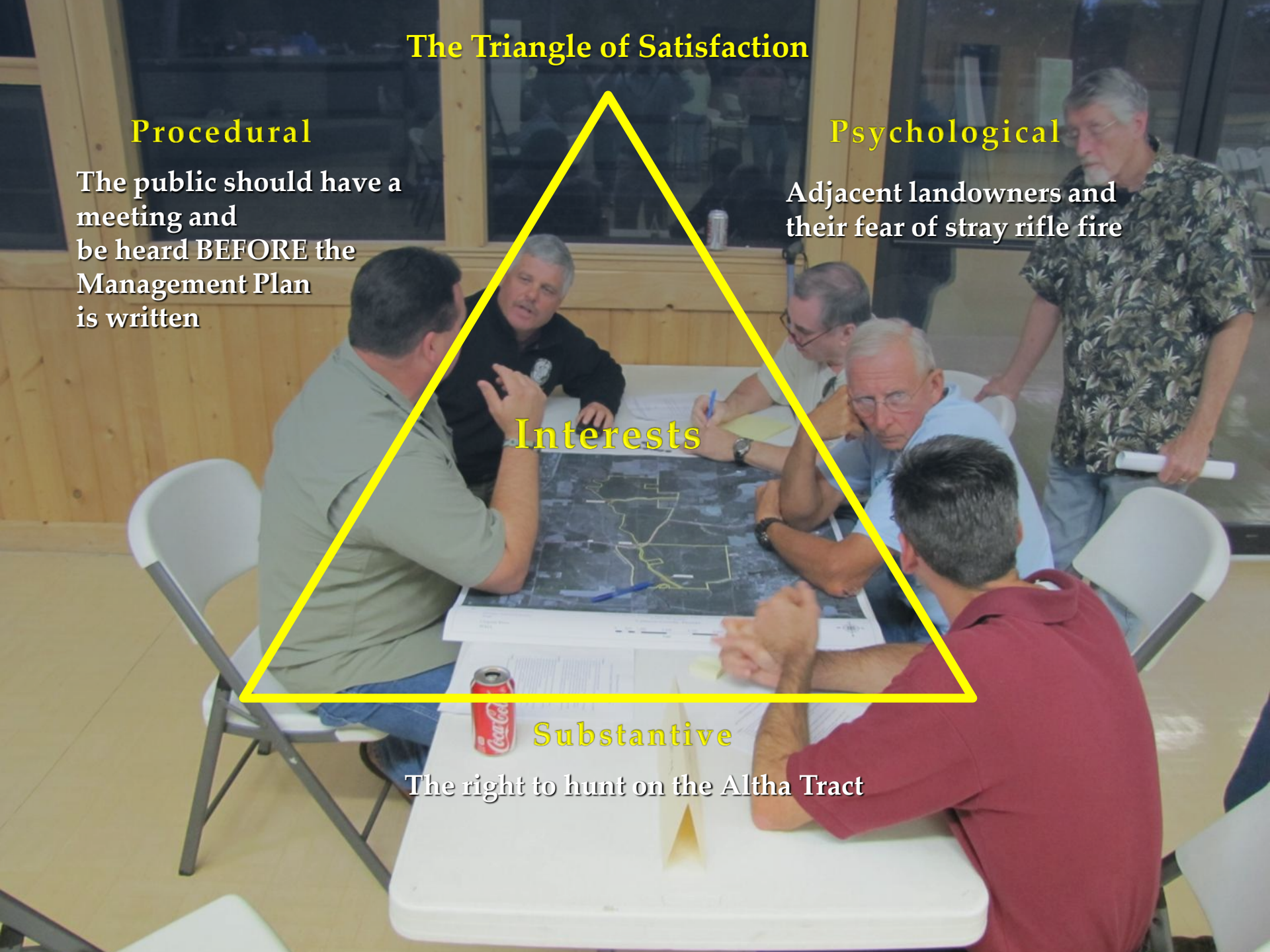The public should have a meeting and be heard BEFORE the Management Plan is written

Psychological

Adjacent landowners and their fear of stray rifle fire

Interests

Substantive

The right to hunt on the Altha Tract

CONTENT:

Sign-up and Comment Sheets
Introduction and Overview
Development of Stakeholder Groups
Meeting Design: Agenda, Top 3 Issues, Top 3 Solutions, and Visual Summary
Next Steps: Keeping the Participants Informed

CONTEXT:
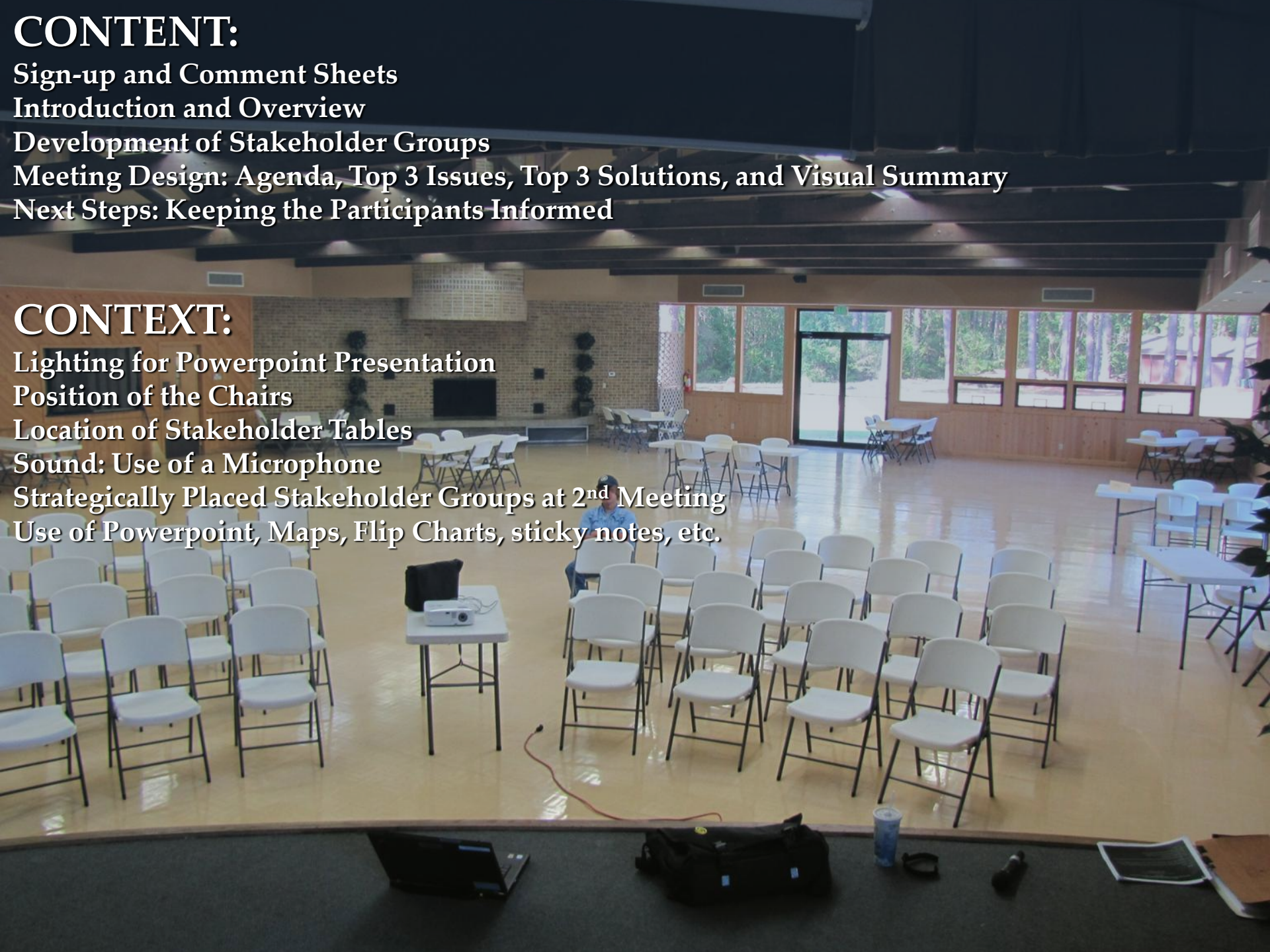
Lighting for Powerpoint Presentation
Position of the Chairs
Location of Stakeholder Tables
Sound: Use of a Microphone
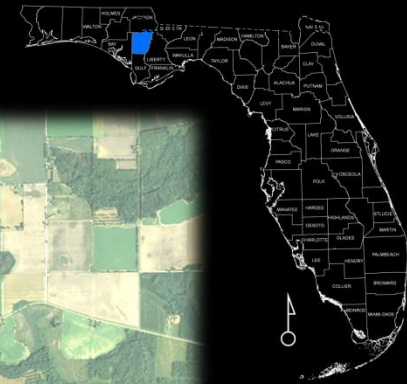Strategically Placed Stakeholder Groups at 2nd Meeting
Use of Powerpoint, Maps, Flip Charts, sticky notes, etc.

5 LEVELS of INVOLVEMENT

The Implementation of The Altha Tract Mgmt Plan

Ownership & Commitment

FINAL DRAFT Review

Convergence & Alignment

3rd Public Meeting: DRAFT Plan Review

Extensive Discussion

2nd Public Meeting: Stakeholder Groups

Comments & Questions

Leadership & 1st Public Meeting

Presenting & Reporting

The Altha Tract Leadership Meeting at the Calhoun County Courthouse

Adjacent Private Landowners

Johnny Boy Landing

Florida National Scenic Trail

Look-and-Tremble Rapids

DOT Rest Stop at Chipola River

IN ATTENDANCE:

FWC

Calhoun County Sherriff

Calhoun County Administrator

NWFWMD

USFS

Results of the First Public Meeting

➤ Approximately 40 people attended, who expressed their concerns and opinions about the Altha Tract

➤ 18 pages of notes from the meeting were developed from flip charts, staff notes, comment sheets, e-mails and telephone calls

➤ 8 stakeholder groups were identified, plus an open stakeholder group to be used by anyone who might be interested in forming a group

Proposed Stakeholder Groups

1. Neighbors

2. Hunting

3. Fishing

4. Horseback Riding

5. River Clean-Up/Erosion Control

6. Hiking /Hiking Trails

7. Paddle Sports

8. Picnicking and Swimming

9. Open Stakeholder Group

Results of the Second Meeting

➢ Again, 40 people participated in the meeting with just under half being new participants

➢ The top three issues and their solutions were obtained from 6 of the 8 stakeholder groups

➢ Stakeholder groups identified infrastructure on maps and were summarized for the draft management plan

➢ Consensus was reached between other stakeholder groups (Neighbors/Hunters)

➢ Stakeholder groups were interested in forming task groups that would work with the District
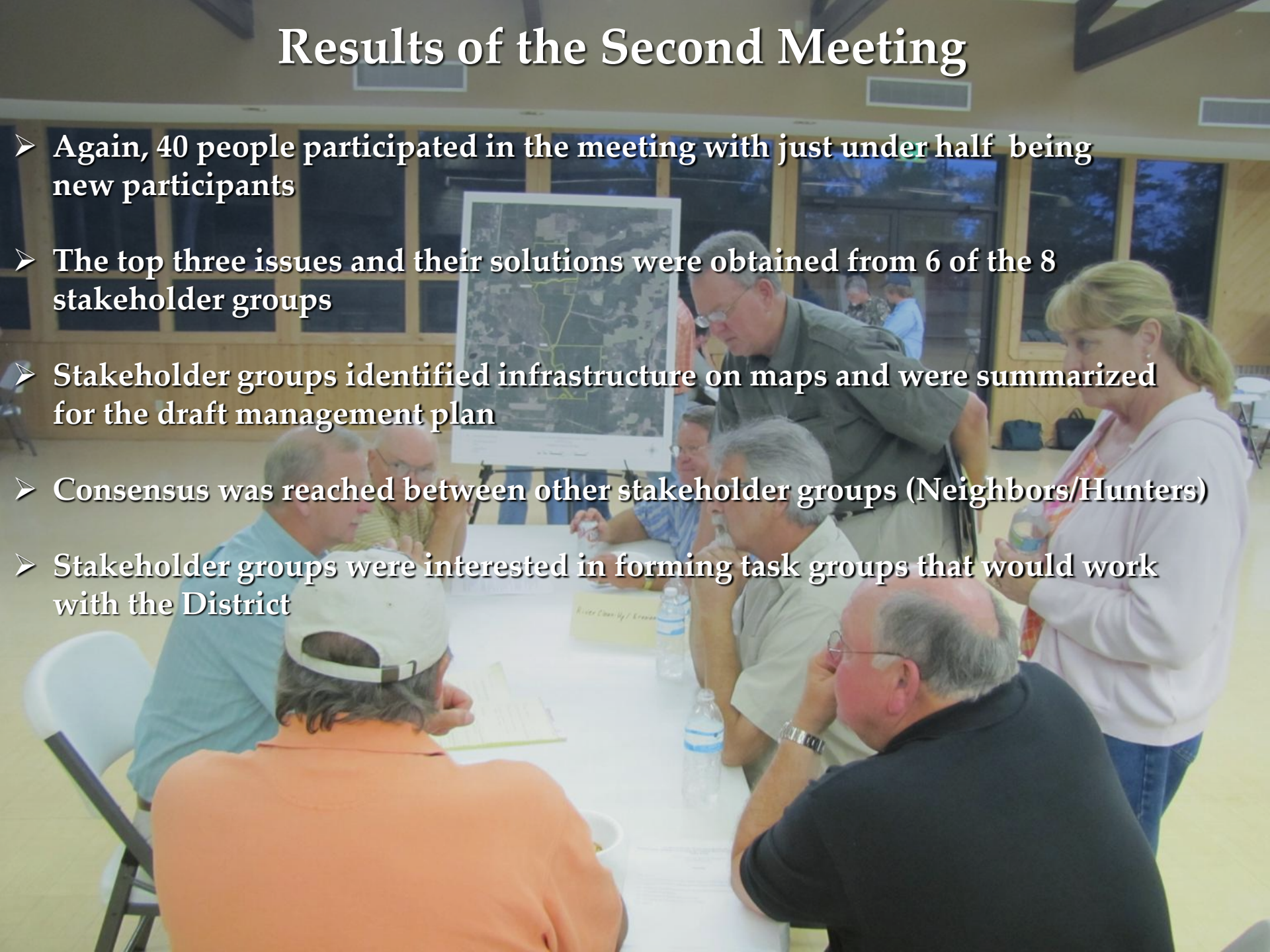
VISUAL SUMMARY of
SECOND MEETING

Holding Pond

Upper Compartment
First Priority for
Horse Trail Development

Proposed
Upper Loop Hiking Trail

Upper Compartment
Phase III
Hiking Trail Development

Johnny Boy Landing

Hwy 274

Hwy 71

Middle Compartment
Second Priority for
Horse Trail Development

Blue Hole Springs

Middle Compartment
Phase II
Hiking Trail Development

Proposed
Middle Loop Hiking Trail

Florida Trail

Willis Bridge

Northwest Florida Water Management District
Chipola River, Altha Tract
Proposed Activities

Camping
Swimming
Landing
Hunting Access
Toilets
Parking
Springs
Holding Pond
Florida National Scenic Trail
Proposed FL National Scenic Trail
Loop Trails
District Boundary Lines

Lower Compartment
Phase I
Hiking Trail Development

Proposed
Lower Loop Hiking Trail

Look and Tremble Rapids

Improve Parking

Hwy 275

Sis Hole

Proposed
Florida National Scenic Trail
Alternative

Residential Area
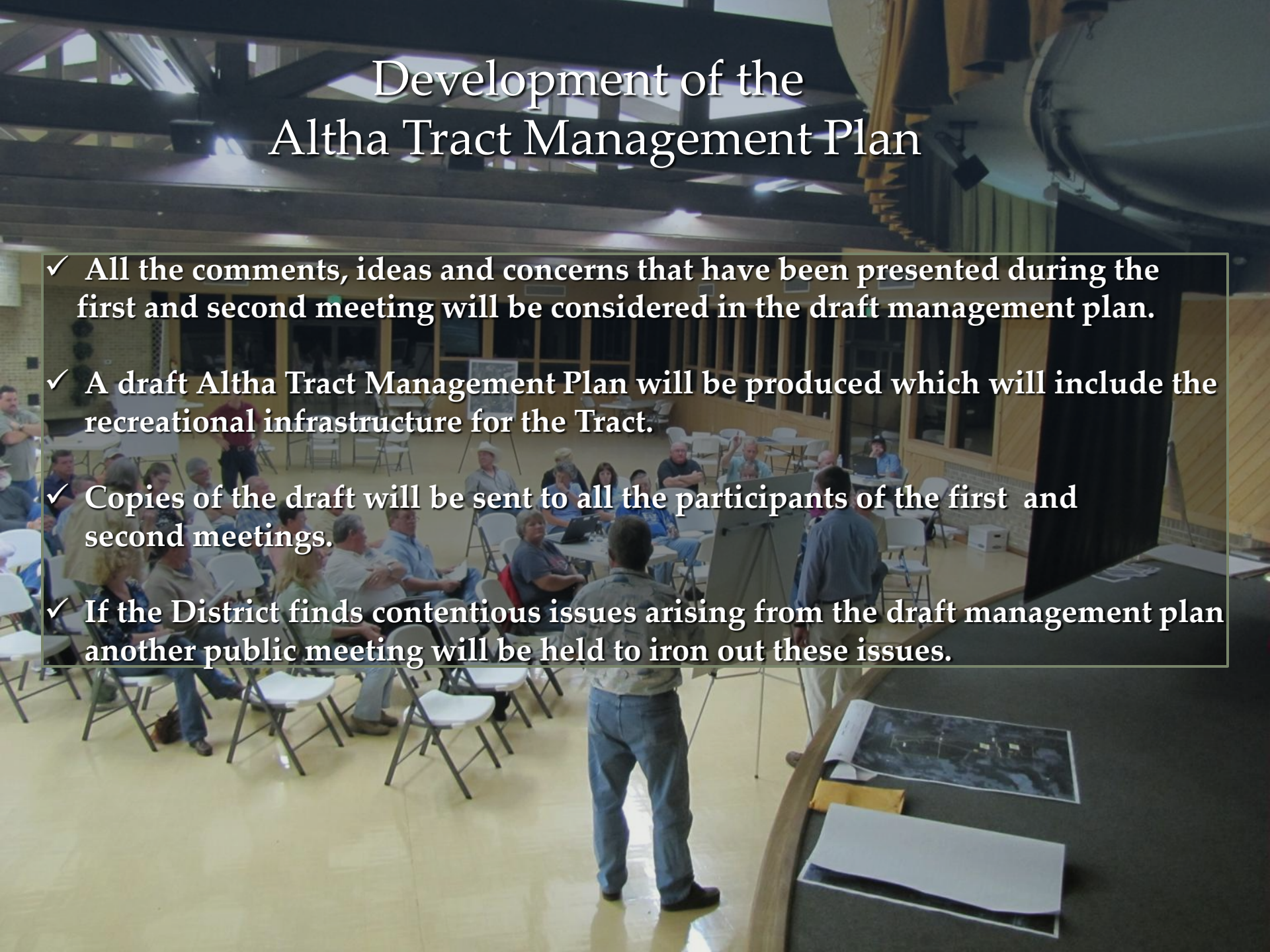
Development of the
Altha Tract Management Plan

✓ All the comments, ideas and concerns that have been presented during the first and second meeting will be considered in the draft management plan.

✓ A draft Altha Tract Management Plan will be produced which will include the recreational infrastructure for the Tract.

✓ Copies of the draft will be sent to all the participants of the first and second meetings.

✓ If the District finds contentious issues arising from the draft management plan another public meeting will be held to iron out these issues.

John?

ANY QUESTIONS?