

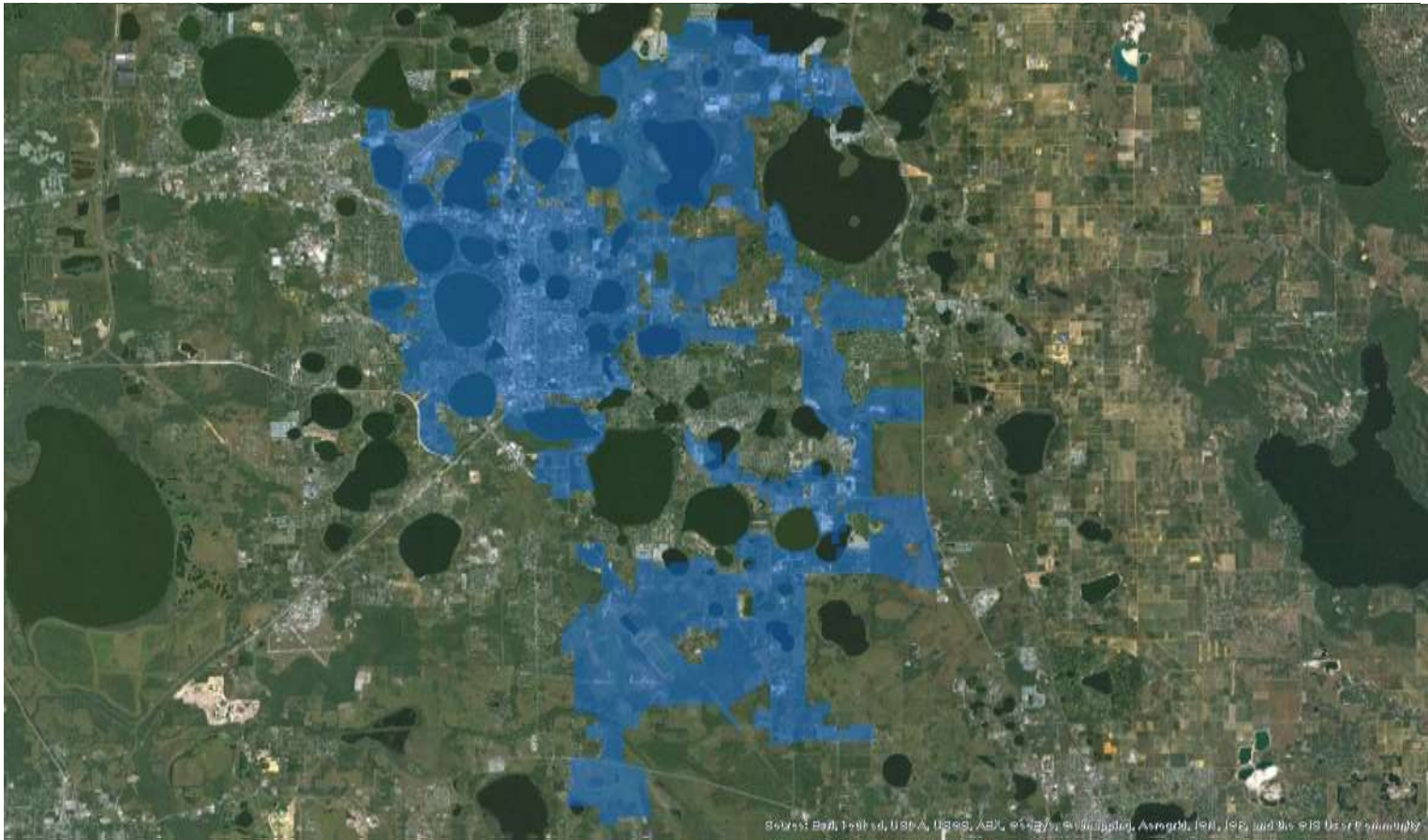
Developing the Winter Haven Research Cooperative

“A collaborative approach for providing scientific mentorship, and collecting information to found the basis for management decisions.”

M.J. Carnevale
Environmental Scientist

WINTER HAVEN
The Chain of Lakes City

Location:



Background:

- State DOE Ranks Polk 59/67
- Winter Haven Chamber of Commerce Report
 - More mentoring
 - More professional development
 - Students fail to see the applicability of lessons
 - More sponsored extra curricular activities

Background:

- Shift in management philosophy
 - Increased accountability
 - Measured results
 - Increased Transparency
 - Adaptability

Objectives:

- Provide students with hands on experience and scientific mentorship
- Provide the education system with organized research projects and resources to carry them out
- Fulfill municipal research needs

Stakeholders:

- Education system staff
 - Provide an enriched experience
- Students
 - Gain experience and confidence
- City Staff
 - Determine how to be more effective
- Community members
 - Satisfaction in helping others
 - Learning about municipal research

WINTER HAVEN

The Chain of Lakes City



Timeline:

- Preliminary projects
 - **Winter 2012**
 - City Staff
 - Lake front vegetation
 - Urban Forestry Inventory Maintenance
 - Surficial aquifer level monitoring
- Met with faculty and students from schools
 - **Winter 2013**
 - Assessed interests
 - Explored how students could learn from projects
- Applied for over \$2 million in grant funding
 - **Winter 2013**

Timeline:

- Meeting with all school representatives
 - **Spring 2013**
 - Needs
 - Haves
- Determine evaluation methods
 - **Summer 2013**
 - Determine how to measure cooperative's impacts
- Look for ideal candidates
 - **Fall 2013**
- Initiate projects
 - **Spring 2014**

Possible evolution:

- Expand
 - Number of projects
 - Number of students
 - Divisions of City
 - Number of school

NRLI:

- Meeting Management
- Negotiation
- Understanding the issues
- Empathy
- Lessons from a wiser generation

Questions?

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City of Winter Haven

Natural Resources Division

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