

# Natural Resources Leadership Institute

## *Seeking collaborative solutions for natural resource challenges*

In Florida, time-consuming and expensive disputes often emerge over issues such as endangered species, land use, coastal and marine resources, and water quality and quantity. Effective leadership in managing such issues requires a specialized set of skills, tools, and strategies to build trust and promote collaboration among competing interests.

In recognition of this need, the Florida Natural Resources Leadership Institute (NRLI) was founded in 1998. Its mission is to bring together professionals from sectors that impact or are impacted by natural resource issues and provide them with the training required to find inclusive solutions to seemingly intractable problems.

## NRLI VISION

NRLI seeks to impact decision making in Florida by creating a network of professionals with members in every county and across all natural resource sectors who can effectively address natural resource issues through collaborative leadership and conflict management.

## SECTORS REPRESENTED

- ✓ Federal government
- ✓ State government
- ✓ Municipalities
- ✓ Nonprofits
- ✓ Tribal entities & community orgs
- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Private sector/industry
- ✓ Academia, extension, and more!



*"NRLI was a life-changing experience for me. After working in sharply polarizing environments for decades, I felt like I had finally found a community that could see a different way forward. I now experience the world differently both personally and professionally."*

*-NRLI Alumna, private environmental consultant*

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

NRLI is an eight-month professional development program. Each intensive three-day session is held in a different part of the state and focuses on a specific and contentious natural resource issue.

Sessions include:

- Immersion in the issue/topic through first-hand experience with the resource;
- Engagement with stakeholders from diverse institutions/organizations and perspectives; and
- Practical, experiential training in skills, concepts, tools, and strategies for effective collaborative decision making, conflict management, communication, and negotiation.

To assure that the skills learned in NRLI go beyond the classroom, a practicum is built into the program. Fellows develop a project that allows them to apply skills and concepts learned in NRLI to actual conflict, decision making, or leadership situations in their organizations or communities.

Each NRLI class is composed of about 20 Fellows hailing from a broad array of natural resource professions and sectors. To-date, NRLI has trained 340 people from over 130 organizations.