

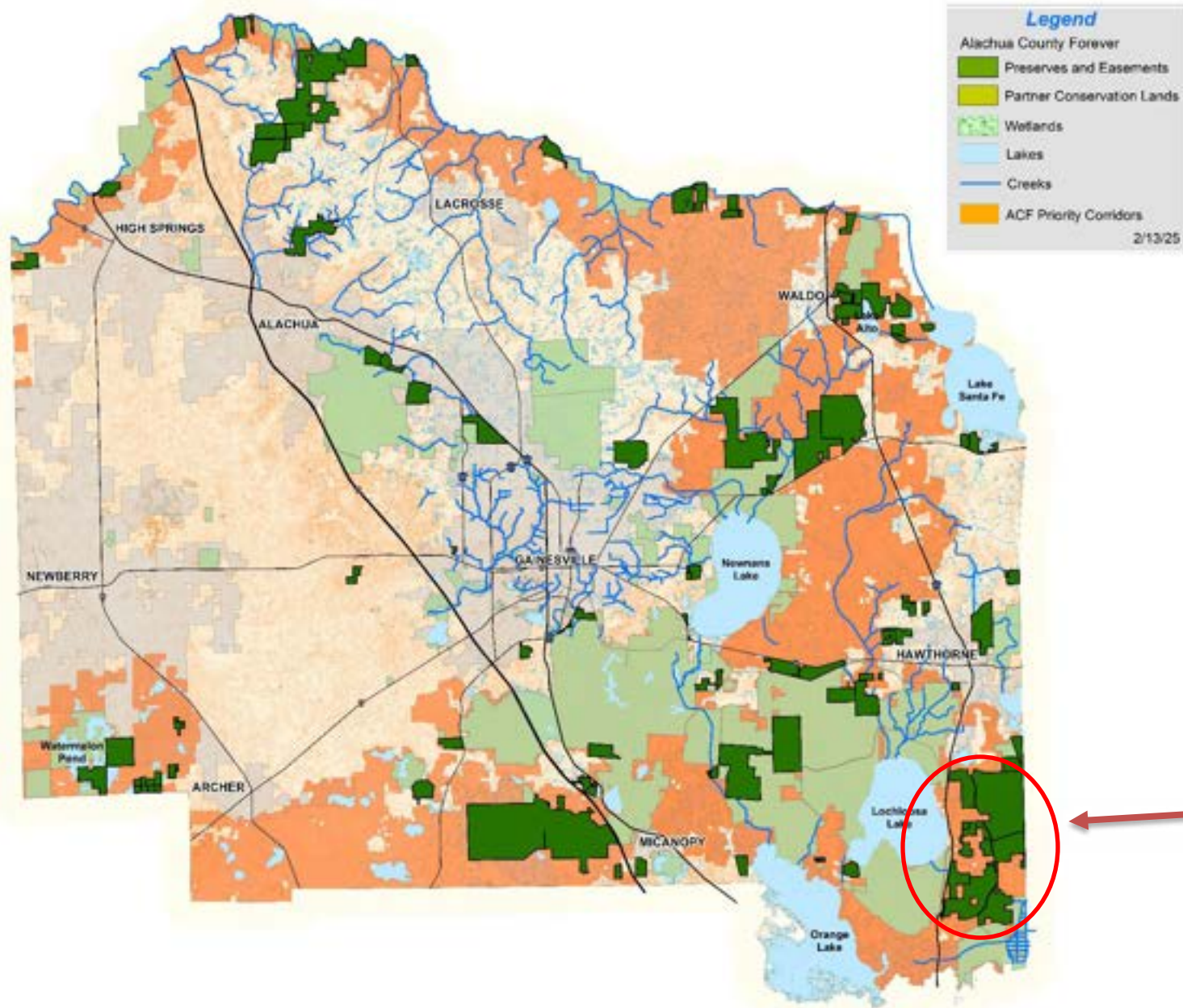


Lochloosa Slough Preserve Public Input Workshop

NRLI Practicum:

**Jyoti Parmar, Jacob
Thompson, Ryan Kennelly**



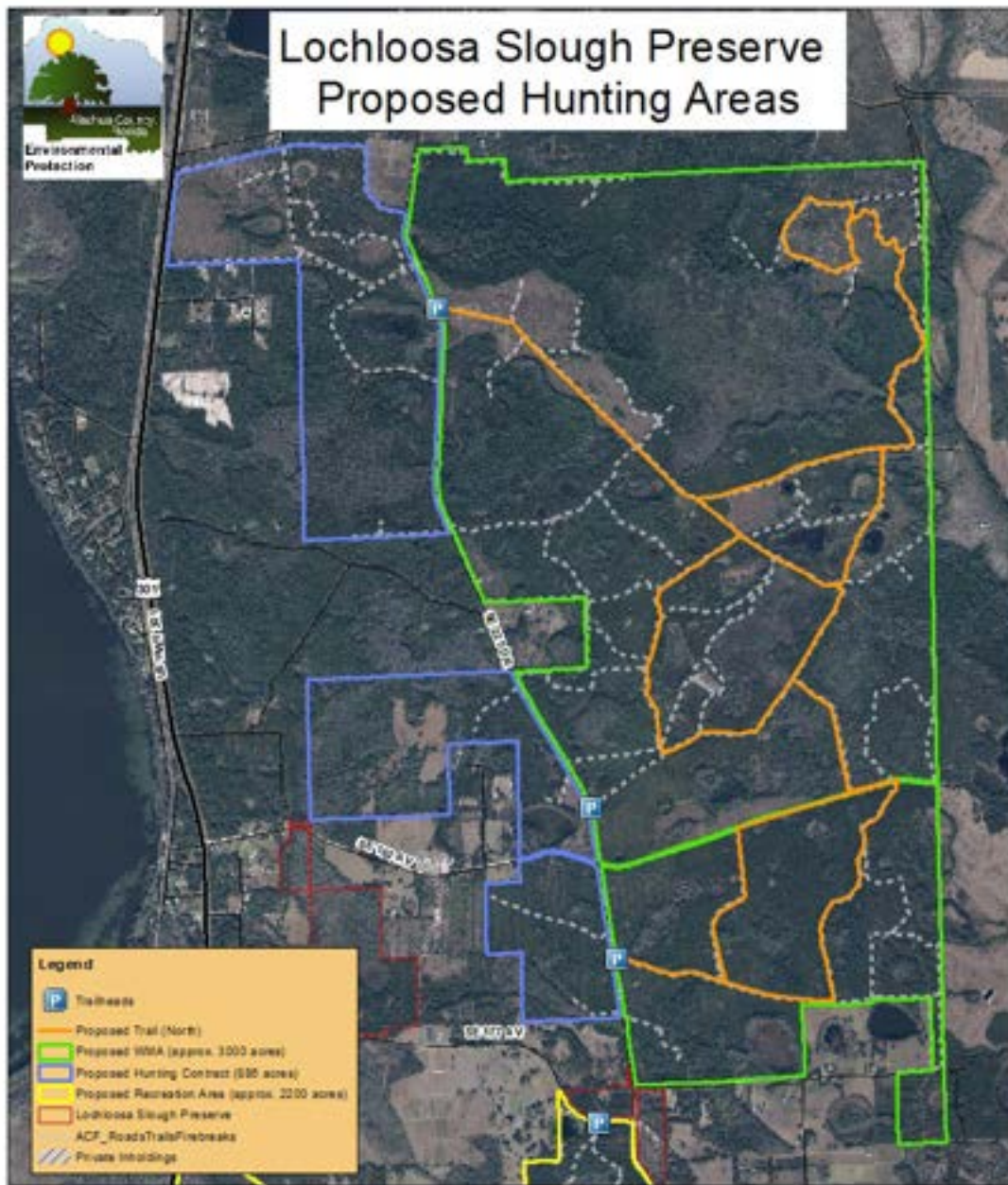


**Lochloosa Slough
Preserve; 6,265 acres.
(4 acquisitions)**

Issues Summary



- **County acquisition of Lochloosa Slough Preserve**
- **Historic use of property “cut off”**
- **Perceptions of County owning land**
- **What are the County’s plans for the land**
 - Management Plan
 - Recreation
 - Hunting or not



Challenges



Protecting Clean Water



Solid waste dumping



Bay tree poaching



Boundary Lines



Trespass



Wildlife violations and dumping

Relevant Parties



Workshop invitations sent to:

- Neighbor email list
 - Jimmy White/Wildcat Hunt Club
 - NWTF
 - San Felasco Mountain Bike group
 - Off the Grid Racing
 - Florida Trails Association
 - Alachua Audubon
 - Local land trusts
 - FWC
 - Other county departments/programs
 - Partner agencies
 - UF Restoration Ecology professor
 - Scouts
 - Luther Springs Camp
 - Florida Defenders of the Environment
 - Local African American Remembrance organization
 - Mayor/City of Hawthorne
 - Finer Foundation
 - Hawthorne school PTA
- Facebook groups-
- Lochloosa Lake/Harbor and Friends FB group
 - Florida Boys Fishing FB group
 - Hawthorne Equestrian Club

Relevant Parties

- Relevant party invitations sent a few weeks prior to the workshop
- Flyers posted in Hawthorne
- Invitations through calls, email and social media

DISCOVER 200
1824 – 2024
ALACHUA COUNTY
BICENTENNIAL

**LOCHLOOSA SLOUGH
PRESERVE PUBLIC
INPUT WORKSHOP**

Alachua County
FOREVER

Lochloosa Slough Preserve

Group discussion topics include:

- Hunting
- Hiking
- Bicycling
- Horseback riding
- General nature observation.

Legend

- Lochloosa Slough Preserve
- Alachua County
- County boundaries

WORKSHOP DETAILS

TUESDAY APRIL 15, 6:00–7:30 PM

SHELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 21633 SE 65TH AVE, HAWTHORNE, FL

For more information, contact Ryan Kennelly at rkennelly@alachuacounty.us or (352) 727-0432

NRLI Techniques



Competencies skills, tools, techniques, and/or strategies we used throughout the practicum

Intentional Design:

- Defined purpose of event with desired outcomes to gather feedback from a balanced representation of possible user groups. (not only hunters)
- Identified key interested parties – expanded definition
- Developed custom outreach plan to **achieve a balanced user group** at the meeting
 - Going to where people are and how they get their information
 - Using the right ambassadors for outreach

NRLI Techniques



Competencies skills, tools, techniques, and/or strategies we used throughout the practicum

- Detailed process agenda with **alternative activities for different scenarios:**
 - Adjusting size of breakout groups to keep an intimate conversational feel depending on audience
 - Alternative prompts for warm up/intro
 - Pivoting from buzz groups if group was not buzzing
 - More than enough prompts for the breakout groups

NRLI Techniques



Competencies skills, tools, techniques, and/or strategies we used throughout the practicum

Identities and setting expectations:

- At check-in:
 - Colored & pre-numbered stickers to **identify the interest group** (eg: hiking, hunting, equestrian, etc.) and assigned **breakout groups**. Introductions & setting expectations:
- Comment cards sought feedback on the event format, as well as the recreation plans

NRLI Techniques



Throughout the meeting, we designed interaction between attendees in increasing larger doses using NRLI techniques to break down silos:

- Name tags (not strangers)
- Stickers identifying their interest groups
- Numbers on the stickers identifying their breakout group
- Warm-up intro questions
- Breakout groups
 - Facilitated by NRLI fellows, with a staff member to answer technical questions, and a staff member to record notes/comments.

Outcome



- Feedback on hunting proposal was mostly well received
- No major push back on other recreation plans
- Format worked well for *this* situation
- Repeating in the future?
- View of ACF for hosting this workshop.

Lessons Learned



- **Functional:**
 - Timekeeper, collaboration between Fellows and County staff, seating options and acoustics of the room, get out onto the property, signage to get people to the right location
- **Political:**
 - Including City of Hawthorne in process
- **Public perception v. staff perception:**
 - This is their *lives* - it's not *just* a preserve (local food insecurity, sense of tradition); "The County" v. ACF Program. Find Common Ground.

Lessons Learned



- **Targeted invites**
 - Helped get more friendly voices in the room
 - Need to post on community Facebook groups
- **Smaller breakout groups more inviting for some people to speak out**
- **Conversation v. Q&A**

Next Steps



- Use feedback to finalize 10-Year Management Plan (fall 2025)
- Potential WMA Establishment & public opening (summer 2026)
- Follow up meeting, potentially including field component

Next Steps



- Incorporating some of these elements as we transition back to in person meetings.
- Using NRLI skills to interact with relevant parties.
- Use numbered-sticker method for future meetings.
- Using techniques to find commonalities between groups that don't communicate with each other.
- Use small breakout groups without barriers.