Lochloosa Slough Preserve Management Plan

Approved by Alachua County Board of County Commissioners Month Day, year

Approved Month Day, 2025

Alachua County
Environmental Protection Department
14 NE 1st Street
Gainesville, FL 32601

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Submitted By:

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Lochloosa Slough Preserve
Management Plan Summary

Date of Plan: TBD, 2025
Management Area: 6,266.8 acres
Location: Southeast Alachua County, approximately 4.5 miles south of Hawthorne, FL.
E911 address: 20079 SE US Hwy 301, Hawthorne and 16399 SE 225th Drive, Hawthorne, FL

Table 1. Acquisition Summary

Acquisition Name	Size (ac)	Acquisition Cost	Acquisition Date	Funding Source
Lochloosa Slough – Weyerhaeuser tract	1,861.15	$4,821,882	Dec. 12, 2019	WSPP*
Fox Pen Connector tract	3,937.22	$10,588,781.50	Jan. 24, 2022	WSPP
Colasante tract	348.57	$1,815,440.63	July 11, 2024	WSPP
Jackson Heirs tract	119.86	$317,256.19	Sept. 27, 2024	WSPP
TOTALS:	6,266.8	$17,543,360.32		

*Wild Spaces Public Places (WSPP) is an Alachua County voter approved surtax.

Summary

Lochloosa Slough Preserve is in southeastern Alachua County, just northeast of the Island Grove community and approximately 4.5 miles south of the intersection of US HWY 301 and SR 20 in Hawthorne. Outstanding ecological features of Lochloosa Slough Preserve include 2.5 miles of Lochloosa Slough and approximately 200 individual wetlands totaling over 1,500 wetland acres. The preserve is fully within the Florida Wildlife Corridor and is part of a 10,000-acre network of protected lands east of US Highway 301. Additionally, the preserve lies within four named major watersheds: the Lake Jeffords Outlet, Lochloosa Slough, Lochloosa Lake, and Orange Creek. The preserve was acquired to improve and manage environmentally significant lands, water resources, wildlife habitats, and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

Key Management Objectives

1. Maintain, enhance, or restore existing natural communities.
2. Inventory natural features of the site, including flora, fauna, and natural communities.
3. Protect populations of significant and listed plant and animal species.
4. Develop and implement a prescribed fire management plan.
5. Develop and implement a forest resource management plan.
6. Protect water resources.
7. Effectively and responsibly manage and protect cultural resources.
8. Promote public outdoor recreation and environmental education consistent with the mission of preserving the historic and natural resources of the site.

Resource Management Issues

- FIRE MANAGEMENT - Implement prescribed fire to restore and maintain fire-dependent natural communities within the preserve.
- FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - Implement a forest resource management strategy to convert planted timber to longleaf pine natural communities.
- RESTORATION - Restore approximately 3,600 acres of pine plantation with timber management and prescribed fire. Explore hydrological restoration projects. Monitor the condition of other natural communities.
- INVASIVE PLANTS - Monitor non-native plant species and take appropriate control measures.
- FERAL ANIMAL REMOVAL – Monitor for feral animals and remove as needed.
- CULTURAL RESOURCES - Protect known sites from disturbance and coordinate with Florida Division of Historical Resources regarding identification and protection of cultural sites.
- MONITORING - Monitor the preserve through field inspections and photo points to assess the effects of management activities and public use on the resources.

Site Development and Maintenance

- PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS – Develop parking and trailhead infrastructure, benches, bike racks, entrance signs, and interpretive signs and kiosks.
- RECREATION - Develop a network of trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian use.
- HUNTING - Cooperate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to propose a Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Establish areas for multi-year hunting license agreement(s).
- EDUCATION - Develop interpretive exhibits and trails.
- MAINTENANCE - Maintain all improvements.
- SECURITY - Conduct security patrols, install informational and regulatory signage, and maintain gates and boundary fencing.

I. INTRODUCTION

This management plan was developed to ensure that Lochloosa Slough Preserve will be managed in accordance with the goals of the Alachua County Forever Program (ACF). The ACF mission is to acquire, improve, and manage environmentally significant lands that protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation. The preserve was acquired by ACF using funds from the voter approved Wild Spaces and Public Places (WSPP) surtax. The WSPP surtax was approved by Alachua County voters in 2008, 2016, and again in 2022.

Lochloosa Slough Preserve is in southeastern Alachua County. Outstanding ecological features of the preserve include 2.5 miles of Lochloosa Slough and approximately 200 individual wetlands totaling over 1500 acres. The preserve is fully within the Florida Wildlife Corridor and is connected to a 10,000-acre network of protected public lands east of US HWY 301.

LOCATION

The 6,266.8-acre Lochloosa Slough Preserve is in southeastern Alachua County, approximately 4.5 miles south of Hawthorne, Florida. It is located east of Lochloosa Lake and north of St. Johns River Water Management District's (SJRWMD) Orange Creek Restoration Area (Exhibit A). A significant portion of the eastern boundary is the Alachua and Putnam County line. Primary access for staff and recreational users will be from SE 225th Drive. Additionally, staff can access the preserve through a network of 45 internal and external gates. There are two E911 addresses associated with the preserve: 20079 SE US Hwy 301, Hawthorne, FL and 16399 SE 225th Drive, Hawthorne, FL.

ACQUISITION HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE

Lochloosa Slough Preserve was acquired to improve and manage environmentally significant lands, protect water resources, wildlife habitat, and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation. The preserve lies within the Alachua County Forever – Lochloosa Slough Flatwoods Project Area, which was defined largely by the 1996 Alachua County Ecological Inventory Project produced by KBN consultants. KBN ranked the Lochloosa Slough Project 22nd out of 47 ecologically significant sites evaluated in Alachua County.

Alachua County acquired Lochloosa Slough Preserve through four fee simple purchases funded by the Wild Spaces and Public Spaces surtax. The first acquisition of 1,861 acres from the Weyerhaeuser Company, in collaboration with the Trust for Public Land, was purchased on December 12, 2019 for $4,821,882. The second acquisition, also from the Weyerhaeuser Company, of 3,973 acres was purchased on January 24, 2022 for $10,588,781.50. The third acquisition of 349 acres was purchased from the Colasante Family on July 11, 2024 for $1,815,440.63. The fourth acquisition of 120 acres was purchased from the Jackson Heirs on September 27, 2024 for $317,256.19. Deeds for all four acquisitions are available upon request.

NATURAL RESOURCES SUMMARY

The natural resources of Lochloosa Slough Preserve include twelve distinct natural communities, a 2.5-mile portion of Lochloosa Slough, and 1,560 acres of

wetlands. Many of the natural communities are in good condition. The most dominant natural community is basin marsh. Other natural communities present are baygall, basin swamp, bottomland forest, floodplain swamp, depression marsh, dome swamp, flatwoods/marsh lake, mesic hammock, mesic flatwoods, shrub bog, and wet flatwoods. The primary altered landcover type is pine plantation, consisting of 3,673 acres. Other altered landcover types include improved pasture and developed areas.

PREVIOUS USES

Prior to County acquisition, the parcels within Lochloosa Slough Preserve were used for hunting, silviculture, and cattle grazing. Historic documentation and community insights indicate that cattle grazing occurred on the preserve throughout most of the 20th century. Beginning in the 1960s, many of the upland portions of the preserve were converted to pine plantations through the establishment of raised beds. Since that time, periodic thinning, clearcut timber harvests, and reforestation have been conducted throughout the preserve. A portion of the present-day preserve was included in a WMA in the 1960s and '70s when the land was owned by the Owens-Illinois Container Corp. of America and other private landowners. Herty cup fragments found on the preserve indicate previous land use related to the turpentine and naval stores industries in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Archeological evidence within the preserve indicates use from 300 BCE – 800 CE during the Woodland Period. Other listed historic sites in the surrounding area date back as far as 8,500 BCE.

RECREATION

Proposed recreational opportunities within the preserve include hunting, fishing, hiking, bicycling, wildlife viewing, and equestrian use. All motorized vehicles, including e-bikes, are prohibited on the preserve without authorization. Recreational users will be able to access the preserve from four proposed parking locations on SE 225 Drive and one proposed parking location on SE 177 Avenue (Exhibit G). At least two of the parking areas on SE 225 Drive will be large enough to accommodate equestrian trailers.

A trail network will be established utilizing existing roads and firebreaks as well as newly installed trails where appropriate. Interpretive materials will be developed to educate visitors about the natural, cultural, and recreational resources within the preserve. In cooperation with FWC, a WMA is proposed for an approximately 5,303 acre portion of the preserve. Approximately 3,019 acres of the WMA will be open to hunting with no-cost quota permits on select days throughout archery, muzzleloader, general gun, small game, and spring turkey seasons. Outside of quota hunt dates, when no hunting is occurring, this portion of the WMA will be open for other recreational opportunities including hiking, biking and equestrian use. A separate area of approximately 2,284 acres in the WMA will be designated for hiking, biking, and equestrian use only. This area will be open year-round in accordance with the County Preserve operational hours posted at the trailheads (Exhibit G).

II. PURPOSE

The exclusive purpose of the Lochloosa Slough Preserve is to maintain, enhance, and restore unique natural and cultural resources, conserve critical water resources, and provide natural resource-based recreational opportunities compatible with stewardship priorities. The preserve will serve as a critical connection in a network of protected public lands within the Florida Wildlife Corridor. The management of the preserve will focus on maintaining the existing high quality natural communities and restoring areas impacted by previous land uses through mindful stewardship practices. The preserve will offer the public an enjoyable, educational, and nature-based recreational experience that fosters a deeper appreciation for the natural and cultural resources of Alachua County.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain, enhance, and restore natural communities.
    a. Implement prescribed fire in fire-dependent natural communities to manage fuel loads and to promote healthy functioning natural systems.
    b. Pursue restoration of degraded natural communities.
    c. Maintain or improve altered communities through timber harvests and plantings.
    d. Remove feral animals.
    e. Remove non-native invasive plants.
2. Monitor and document effects of management activities.
    a. Ensure that management activities do not negatively impact natural resources.
3. Continue to inventory flora and fauna.
4. Protect water and soil resources.
5. Document, protect, and monitor cultural resources.
6. Provide opportunities for educational, natural resource-based recreational experiences.
    a. Develop a network of trails for hiking, biking, and equestrian use.
    b. Develop interpretive materials appropriate to the resources of the preserve.
    c. Work with FWC to establish WMA rules and hunting opportunities.
7. Implement creative solutions to accomplish stewardship needs such as site security and maintenance.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN CONSISTENCY

Alachua County Comprehensive Plan directives that will be furthered by managing the site as proposed include, but are not limited to, the following (Alachua County Department of Growth Management, 2019):

- Policies and objectives in the Comprehensive Plan establish a level of service standard for recreation. Objective 1.1 and Policy 1.1.2 of the Recreation Element require Alachua County to maintain 5.0 acres (minimum) of improved resource-

based recreation sites per 1,000 persons in the unincorporated area of Alachua County.

- Historic Preservation Element Objective 3.1 directs the County to evaluate, and where appropriate, conserve, protect, or acquire sites and areas of archaeological significance. Policy 3.1.2 directs that significant archaeological sites shall be protected from destruction.
- Conservation and Open Space Element Policy 1.1.1 directs the County to promote the long-term maintenance of natural systems through a comprehensive approach that involves education, public participation, regulations, incentives, acquisition, intergovernmental coordination, and other appropriate mechanisms.
- Policies 2.2.1, 2.2.2, and 2.2.5 of the Conservation and Open Space Element require the County to encourage environmental stewardship and provide educational programs concerning natural resource issues, including native vegetative communities, invasive species control, and natural areas protection.
- Policy 2.2.8 of the Conservation and Open Space Element directs that, where consistent with natural resources protection, the County shall provide interactive opportunities for education, public viewing, and enjoyment of wildlife on County-acquired lands.
- Objective 3.2 and Policies 3.2.1, 3.2.2, and 3.2.3 of the Conservation and Open Space Element establish and define the preservation land use category and direct that a management plan shall be developed for each preservation area by the responsible public agency.
- Policy 4.1.4(c) of the Conservation and Open Space Element directs that prescribed burning for fuel reduction or maintenance of ecosystem health shall be in accordance with local, State, and federal regulations, and a land management plan, where required, and all applicable permits.
- Objective 4.9 of the Conservation and Open Space Element directs the County to maintain and enhance biodiversity by protecting significant habitats, providing habitat corridors, and preventing habitat fragmentation.
- Policies 4.10.1 and 4.10.4 of the Conservation and Open Space Element direct the County to develop management strategies for strategic ecosystems, including land acquisition and resource management. Lochloosa Slough Preserve lies within the East Lochloosa Forest and Lochloosa Slough Strategic Ecosystems identified in the Alachua County Ecological Inventory Project (KBN 1996).
- Policy 5.4.13 of the Conservation and Open Space Element requires the County to accommodate the use of prescribed fire for maintaining ecosystem health and wildfire prevention.
- Policy 5.6.8 of the Conservation and Open Space Element directs that with regards to wildfire prevention, the County shall implement a fuel management program that consists of prescribed burning, mechanical fuel reduction, and timber thinning, with special focus on the Wildland Urban Interface, and public awareness.
- Objective 6.2 of the Conservation and Open Space Element directs the County to implement the Alachua County Forever program.
- Objective 6.3 of the Conservation and Open Space Element directs the County to develop a linked open space network, or greenways system, for the protection,

enhancement, and restoration of functional and connected natural systems, while providing unique opportunities for recreation, multi-modal transportation, and economic development. Conservation and Open Space Policies 6.3.2, 6.3.3, and 6.3.6 detail the components of the greenways system.

- Objective 6.4 directs the County to coordinate with other programs for the acquisition and management of natural areas and open space, for recreational, open space, and conservation purposes, through Policies 6.4.1 and 6.4.2.
- Policies 6.6.5, 6.6.6, and 6.6.7 of the Conservation and Open Space Element direct Alachua County to restore and enhance degraded natural areas on County-acquired preservation, conservation, and recreation lands, including removal of invasive, non-native plants and animals, reforestation, re-establishment of fire regimes for fire-adapted ecosystems, and restoration of shorelines and natural hydrology, as needed.
- Policy 6.6.11 of the Conservation and Open Space Element directs the County to provide continued funding for ongoing operation and maintenance costs associated with County-acquired lands.

FUTURE LAND USE AND ZONING

All of the parcels within the preserve have a future land use designation of Rural/Agriculture. A small portion of parcels 20072-005-000 and 20126-004-000 have a future land use designation as Rural Cluster. All the parcels within the preserve have an Agricultural zoning designation.

Future Land Use and Zoning Strategies

Work with the County Growth Management Department to change future land use and zoning designations to Preservation for all parcels.

Registry of Protected Public Places

The Alachua County Registry of Protected Public Places was created as a result of a voter referendum approved on November 4, 2008 for the purpose of identifying fee-simple properties owned by Alachua County with conservation, recreation, or cultural values deemed worthy of the highest level of protection. When a preserve is listed on the registry, it may not be sold or converted to another land use that would result in a loss of conservation, recreation, or conservation value, except by a majority vote in an Alachua County election.

Lochloosa Slough Preserve has been determined to be worthy of this level of protection. Upon approval of the management plan, staff will initiate the procedures to add the preserve to the registry, and to change the future land use of all parcels that have not yet been changed to Preservation. Once the future land use change is complete, staff will initiate the procedure to change the zoning from Agriculture to Preservation for these parcels.

III. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

TOPOGRAPHY

Elevations within the preserve range from approximately 55 feet at a low point in the southeastern corner of the preserve to approximately 90 feet in the north central portion. Human alteration of the natural topography is evident throughout the preserve in the form of roads, swales, firebreaks, and raised beds and push piles associated with past timber management activities. The natural flow of Lochloosa Slough appears relatively unaltered within the preserve apart from channelized section where culverts were installed under SE 225 Drive, which appears to have been constructed in the late 1950s to early 1960s.

GEOLOGY

The geology underlying the preserve consists of Ocala limestone, overlain by the relatively impermeable Hawthorn Group, which is in turn overlain by undifferentiated sediments. The undifferentiated materials consist of sand, silt, and clay of recent to Pliocene age, while the Hawthorn Group is dominated by clay and clayey sand of Miocene age (Thomas et al. 1985). In this area of the County, the Floridan aquifer is confined by the Hawthorn Group, aquifer recharge is low, and aquifer vulnerability to pollution is lower than in the western portion of the County, where the Floridan aquifer is unconfined (Baker et al. 2005). No minerals of commercial value are known to exist within the preserve.

SOILS

Twenty-one soil types recognized by the Natural Resources Conservation Service are present within the preserve (Exhibit B) (Thomas et al. 1985). These soils range from moderately well drained to very poorly drained and are typically sandy on one or more horizons. Agricultural and forestry practices have altered upper portions of the soil profiles.

Primary soil erosion concerns are associated with several service roads that are below grade and are acting as channels for sheet flow during significant rain events. Plans to stabilize, raise, crown, and ditch these roads will alleviate the potential for future erosion. The natural soil types found within the preserve are briefly described in Appendix A.

HYDROLOGY

Sections of the preserve are in the Lochloosa Lake, Orange Creek, and Lake Jeffords Outlet watersheds, but most of the preserve is located within the Lochloosa Slough watershed. Water flows east from Lochloosa Lake into Lochloosa Slough. After traveling under US HWY 301, the slough enters the preserve along the west boundary and continues for approximately 2.5 miles before it crosses the east boundary and empties into Orange Creek in Putnam County. The eventual outflow is the St. Johns River. The entirety of Lochloosa Slough is on public lands. Flow in the slough fluctuates widely with rainfall. Annual average flow between 1982 and 1991 was 5 cubic feet per second (cf/s), with a range from 50 to 100 cf/s (Robinson et al. 1997 and Lippincott 2015).

Several of the forested wetlands within the preserve contribute to the baseflow of the Lochloosa Slough, resulting in water highly colored with tannins. Other important hydrologic features include a mosaic of isolated and interconnected wetland communities.

Onsite hydrology has been altered by historic land use activities including ditching, plantation bedding, and road construction. Staff will evaluate possible hydrologic restoration strategies as resources allow.

NATURAL AND ALTERED COMMUNITIES

Twelve distinct natural communities and five human-altered landcover types exist within Lochloosa Slough Preserve (Exhibit C), as classified by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI 2010). The natural communities range from xeric areas in the hammocks and flatwoods to the floodplain swamp in Lochloosa Slough. The dominant natural community within the preserve is basin marsh, which covers approximately 549 acres, or roughly 8% percent of the preserve.

The altered landcover types within the preserve include pine plantations, which cover approximately 3,673 acres, or roughly 57% percent of the preserve; approximately 40 acres of improved pasture; and approximately 3 acres of developed area. All the natural communities and the altered landcover types identified within the preserve are described in detail below and are summarized in Table 2.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Basin Marsh

Four areas of this community type exist on the preserve, covering approximately 549 acres. They are in fair to good condition, with some areas negatively impacted by fire exclusion. The largest basin marsh is an approximately 490 acre area at the north end of the property. It appeared to have an open marsh structure in 1939 aerial images, but over the decades has become increasingly hardwood-encroached and today has a vegetative structure more similar to a shrub bog or baygall. Loblolly bay *(Gordonia lasianthus)* and loblolly pine *(Pinus taeda)* are the dominant canopy and midstory species. Groundcover is sparse and consists of a variety of fern species.

Basin Swamp

This community type occupies approximately 273 acres within Lochloosa Slough Preserve, situated mostly between large areas of pine plantations and adjacent wetlands. The basin swamps are in good condition and are characterized by pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*) and swamp tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica var. biflora*). Other tree species include slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), swamp bay (*Persea palustris*), sweetbay (*Magnolia virginiana*), and loblolly bay. Buttonbush *(Cephalanthus occidentalis),* Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*), swamp dogwood (*Cornus foemina*), fetterbush (*Lyonia lucida*), wax myrtle (*Morella cerifera*), and titi (*Cyrilla racemiflora*) are common species found in the shrub layer. The herbaceous layer typically consists of maidencane (*Panicum hemitomon*), Virginia chain fern (*Woodwardia virginica*), lizard's tail (*Saururus cernuus*), and royal fern (*Osmunda spectabilis*). Sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum spp.*) typically will occur in patches where the soil is saturated but not

flooded. Vines are also present, including greenbriar (*Smilax spp.*), and eastern poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*).

Baygall

This natural community is found in upland-wetland ecotones and covers approximately 492 acres throughout the preserve. The baygalls within the preserve are in good condition and typical in species composition, characterized by an overstory of loblolly bay, sweetbay, and swamp bay. The midstory consists of fetterbush, saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), wax myrtle, large gallberry (*Ilex coriacea*), myrtle dahoon (*Ilex cassine var. myrtifolia*), gallberry (*I. glabra*), muscadine (*Vitis rotundifolia)* and various species of greenbriar. There is often not a distinct stratum between the canopy and understory, which contributes to the impenetrable nature of this community type. The most common ferns found in the understory include cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomum*), netted chain fern (*Woodwardia areolata*), and Virginia chain fern (*W. virginica*).

Bottomland Forest

Bottomland forest exists as patches and gradients within the floodplain swamp matrix surrounding Lochloosa Slough in areas with shorter hydroperiods, greater hardwood diversity, and slight elevation differences. One distinct bottomland forest community of about 13 acres runs along the north edge of the slough just east of US HWY 301. The canopy is a diverse assemblage of hardwood species including swamp tupelo, red maple and sweetgum. Species typical of baygall and mesic hammock communities are also present, particularly in ecotonal areas. Occasional bald cypress can be found in the floodplain swamp ecotone.

The groundcover varies based on canopy cover and hydrology. It ranges from lizard's tail and wetland sedges in open water areas to slender wood oats *(Chasmanthium laxum)* in moist shady areas. Also present are many species of mosses, liverworts, and ferns, nodding nixie *(Apteria aphylla),* climbing hydrangea *(Hydrangea barbara)*, and an unidentified rein orchid *(Habenaria* sp*.)*.

Depression Marsh

Several small, isolated depression marshes exist within the preserve, covering approximately 107.6 acres in total. These depression marshes are in good condition, despite fire suppression and the ground disturbance associated with timber management activities in the adjacent pine plantations. The depression marshes have some degree of pine intrusion. Vegetation in the depression marshes is characterized by a low open understory of sedges, rushes, grasses, and other monocots including yellow eyed grasses *(Xyris spp.),* pipeworts *(*Family *Eriocaulaceae), and* Carolina redroot *(Lachnanthes caroliniana)*. Occasional trees or shrubs at the water's edge may include titi and swamp tupelo. These marshes provide habitat for many macroinvertebrates, amphibians, and birds. Green herons, great egrets, and other wading birds are often observed utilizing these communities within the preserve. Some of the larger marshes may ring an open water marsh pond.

Dome Swamp

Numerous dome swamps occur throughout Lochloosa Slough Preserve, covering approximately 55 acres. Uneven aged stands of Pond cypress and/or swamp tupelo give dome swamps their characteristic shape. A few of these communities include slash pine and red maple in the canopy. The edges of most of these swamps are vegetated with impenetrable thickets of fetterbush and titi. Buttonbush, Virginia chain fern, lizard's tail, assorted wetland grasses, and sphagnum moss form the understory.

Review of historic aerial photographs from the 1990s indicates that most of the dome swamps within the preserve have experienced minimal disturbance. Approximately ¾ of a mile east of gate 14, ditch channels were constructed connecting a central dome swamp to five adjacent dome swamps. County staff, with input from other cooperating agencies, will investigate this further to determine suitable actions to mitigate or remedy this altered hydrological connection.

Flatwoods/Marsh Lake

A band of flatwoods/marsh lakes stretches across the northern half of the preserve, covering approximately 98.6 acres in total. The lakes are in good condition and support a variety of plants and wildlife. Flatwoods lakes are characterized as open water zones with or without floating vegetation surrounded by flatwoods communities. Marsh lakes are open water lakes surrounded by a marsh system. Water in these systems generally flows from the uplands in the immediate area. These lakes may serve as aquifer recharge by acting as reservoirs, which release groundwater when adjacent water tables drop during droughts. Floating vegetation consists of yellow pondlily *(Nuphar advena),* American waterlily *(Nymphaea odorata),* and floating bladderworts *(Utricularia spp.)* Shoreline species include semiaquatic grasses and sedges, yellow-eyed grasses, peelbark and Virginia marsh St. John's worts (*H. fasciculatum and H. virginicum),* and southern and zigzag bladderworts *(U.juncea and U. subulata).* These lakes provide habitat for numerous amphibians, fish, and macroinvertebrates and are frequented by wading birds that feed on these aquatic species, including wood storks *(Mycteria americana).*

Floodplain Swamp

An approximately 375-acre forested wetland system predominantly characterized as floodplain swamp surrounds the flow path of Lochloosa Slough. The floodplain swamp community type is characterized by the canopy tree species bald cypress and swamp tupelo.

Floodplain swamps are closely associated with other forested wetland community types, such as bottomland forest. The ecotonal areas include hardwood trees such as sweetbay and red maple. Understory plants consist of netted chain fern, cinnamon fern, Virginia chain fern and lizard's tail. Midstory plants include swamp dogwood, buttonbush, fetterbush, and Virginia willow.

Isolated pools which form during dry periods are sometimes vegetated with duckweed (*Lemna* sp.). Amphibians found in the slough include two-toed amphiumas *(Amphiuma means*), eastern newts *(Notophthalmus viridescens*), and many frog species. Organic matter in the streambed provides habitat to numerous macroinvertebrates, including crayfish and aquatic larvae of damselfly and dragonfly.

Mesic Flatwoods

Approximately 37 acres of mesic flatwoods stretch along the west central portion of the preserve. The mesic flatwoods grades from xeric conditions in the north to hydric conditions in the south. The northern part of the mesic flatwoods has a midstory cover of fetterbush and saw palmetto with little to no canopy cover. Slash pine, longleaf pine and gallberry are conspicuously absent. Groundcover includes wiregrass and upland species such as trailing ratany *(Krameria lanceolata)* and grassleaf roseling *(Callisia graminea).* Pockets with xeric hammock and scrub characteristics have canopy cover of mature sand live oak and sand pine, with myrtle oak and rusty staggerbush in the midstory, and a patchy groundcover of deer moss.

In the southern part of the mesic flatwoods, slash pine makes up most of the canopy and gallberry replaces fetterbush as the dominant midstory cover. Groundcover includes wet flatwoods species, especially in the ecotone around the basin marsh and dome swamp communities. Significant wildlife associated with the flatwoods community found in the preserve include bobwhite quail *(Colinus virginianus),* fox squirrels *(Sciurus niger*), and gopher tortoises *(Gopherus polyphemus).*

Mesic Hammock

Mesic hammock is a community that occurs on a variety of upland soil types with a closed canopy of evergreen species and sabal palm. Pygmy rattlesnakes (*Sistrurus miliarius*) and wild turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) have been observed using the mesic hammock areas in the preserve.

Three areas of this community totaling about 75.5 acres occur within the preserve. In the southeastern corner of the preserve is an approximately 10.3-acre mesic hammock. Historical imagery from the late 1930s and the presence of large diameter (>16-20 inches DBH) live oaks indicate this area has not been disturbed. The surrounding pine plantation is dotted with occasional large live oaks that may indicate historic hammock conditions expanding beyond the present footprint. Historical imagery shows that this area was cleared in the late 1960s, presumably for cattle grazing, and has since regenerated. Mature pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), and live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) form the canopy layer; along with immature live oak and cabbage palm in the midstory. Common species found in the understory include saw palmetto, American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), and American holly (*Ilex opaca*).

An approximately 46.5-acre area of mesic hammock near the eastern boundary is drained by a seasonal shallow creek that feeds an adjacent hydric system of baygall and basin swamp. In this more hydric area, live oak, water oak, and sweetgum form the canopy along with baygall species. Saw palmetto, American beautyberry and fetterbush comprise the understory. The northern end of this hammock grades upwards and the presence of xeric upland plants suggests that adjacent areas may have been fire dependent upland communities before the conversion to pine plantation. Sand live oak is a prominent part of the canopy, and understory species include sparkleberry (*Vaccinium arboreum*), wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*), myrtle-leaf oak (*Quercus myrtifolia*), coral bean (*Erythrina herbacea*), and Tailed brackenfern (*Pteridium aquillinum*).

A third area of mesic hammock lies northeast of the slough just east of US HWY 301. This area has the most diverse and well-established canopy of the mesic hammock

areas. Southern magnolia, pignut hickory and live oak are codominant in the canopy, with individuals of all three species exceeding 14 inches in diameter. Several understory species in this area are not found elsewhere in the preserve. Midstory species include American olive *(Cartrema americanum),* Devil's walking stick *(Aralia spinosa),* and smallflower pawpaw (*Asimina parviflora*). Groundcover species include sarsaparilla vine *(Smilax pumila)* and partridgeberry *(Mitchella repens).* To the east, the ecotone between mesic hammock and what was probably once scrubby flatwoods takes on unique xeric characteristics. Here, sand live oak and mockernut hickory replace live oak and pignut hickory in the canopy. Midstory species unique to this area within the preserve are scrub palmetto (*Sabal etonia*) and hog plum (*Ximenia americana*).

Shrub Bog

There is one shrub bog on the west side of SE 225 Drive in the northwest part of the preserve, covering approximately 103 acres. Historical imagery indicates that this area was undisturbed from the late 1930s to the early 2000s, when it was extensively cleared. Linear disruptions in the vegetative structure have left alternating strips of dense shrubs and hardwoods, and sunny open areas that include many species of ferns, sedges, rushes, and yellow-eyed grasses. Flowering herbaceous plants include swamp loosestrife (*Decodon verticillatus*), green arrow arum (*Peltandra virginica*), and multiple St. John's wort (*Hypericum*) species. Overstory species consist of slash pine, loblolly bay, sweetbay, swamp bay, pond cypress and red maple. Shrub species include titi, fetterbush, large gallberry, and wax myrtle.

Wet Flatwoods

This natural community type covers approximately 367 acres of the preserve. Historical aerial imagery from the late 1930s through the early 1960s indicates that some of these areas were relatively open, presumably from cattle grazing. Aerial imagery from the early 1970s to the early 2000s indicates that as cattle were removed from the property, these areas became increasingly denser with vegetation typically found in this community type.

Typical conditions of fire-maintained wet flatwoods include a canopy of longleaf pine, slash pine, or pond pine with an understory of grasses, sedges, herbs, and low to no midstory. The current canopy cover is predominantly slash pine and loblolly pine. A midstory has emerged in some areas that includes sweetbay, loblolly bay, titi, large gallberry, fetterbush, blueberry *(Vaccinium* sp*.),* and red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*). Carnivorous plants thrive in fire-maintained wet flatwoods. Some wet flatwoods areas within the preserve support a diverse understory that includes endemic yellow milkwort *(Polygala rugellii),* small butterwort *(Pinguicula pumila),* and pink sundew *(Drosera rosea)*.

There are numerous small areas (typically less than ½ acre) within the upland pine plantations that are seasonally wetter than the adjacent areas that were likely historically wet flatwoods. The hydrologic implications of bedding in the pine plantations may have altered the distinction between wet flatwoods and depression wetlands within mesic flatwoods. Clearing and fire suppression have also altered the community structure in some areas. In most cases, these smaller embedded wetter areas will be managed the same as the adjacent, more upland pine plantations. Management actions will likely

include prescribed fire, and where appropriate, may include timber harvest, restoring hydrology impeded by pine row construction, and longleaf pine planting.

ALTERED COMMUNITIES

Developed

Two areas on the preserve were previously cleared for development. The larger of these is approximately 3 acres, located in the central part of the preserve. Review of old aerial photographs indicates that this area was developed sometime between 2009 and 2010, following a timber clearcut. Subsequently, the area was used as a hunt camp and a portion was maintained as food plots to support game hunting. There are signs of cultivation or harrowing and the area remains mostly treeless.

Another developed area of about 0.1 acres is the location of an old homestead on the Jackson Heirs acquisition. Two structures, a house and a barn, are found in this area along with some solid waste. Cultivated non-native shrubs and fruit trees can be found in this area, including citrus, pecan, crape myrtle, and azaleas.

The primary management action related to these clearings will be to include them when burning the surrounding natural areas as appropriate. Some clearings may be mowed periodically to provide habitat diversity for wildlife, while others will be left to grow naturally.

Improved Pasture

Improved pasture occurs in two areas north of the slough totaling about 39.4 acres. The largest improved pasture area surrounds the old homestead site on the Jackson Heirs acquisition. The groundcover is a mix of native and non-native grasses, predominantly bahia grass. Successional herbaceous plants such as dogfennel, American beautyberry, and blackberry species and hardy flatwoods species such as blackroot are also present.

Restoration management activities may include planting with longleaf pine and native understory species and including this area into the surrounding prescribed burn rotation.

Pine Plantation

This altered land cover type is approximately 3,276 acres, or 52% of the preserve. This is the largest cover type across the preserve. Historical imagery from the late 1930s - 1960s indicates that these areas were open pastures prior to being planted for industrial timber production. Since then, many of these areas have been thinned or clearcut and replanted with either slash pine or loblolly pine. The oldest area of this cover type is approximately 3.2 acres just south of gate 1 planted with slash pine in 1956. As the timber stands reach merchantable size, County staff will investigate the feasibility of reforesting these areas to longleaf pine.

Past industrial timber management practices eliminated much of the herbaceous understory in these areas. Fuel reduction mowing and prescribed fire may be used to facilitate the restoration process prior to a timber harvest and replanting. Some areas contain invasive species which will be treated before the introduction of prescribed fire.

Incidental cleared areas left by timber harvest activities are embedded within the pine plantations. Groundcover regeneration varies from early successional plants like dogfennel and grapevine to typical flatwoods species such as Mohr's thoroughwort (*Eupatorium mohrii*), Curtiss' dropseed (*Sporobolus curtissii*), and blackroot.

Approximately 597 acres of pine plantation within the preserve have been thinned, and in many places the understory is beginning to resemble what would typically be found in a mesic flatwoods community. Silkgrass (Pityopsis graminifolia) and Blazingstars (Liatris spp.) have been observed in areas where timber thinning has opened the canopy. Prescribed fire will be the primary tool utilized to facilitate the restoration process in thinned pine plantation areas.

Clearcut Pine Plantation

Approximately 398 acres was formerly used for industrial timber production but has since been harvested. Since the harvests have occurred, successional ground cover has reestablished, consisting mostly of broomsedge bluestem (*Andropogon virginicus*), bushy bluestem (*Andropogon glomeratus*), and blackberry (*Rubus spp.*). Fuel reduction mowing and herbicide application will be used to prepare these areas for reforestation with longleaf pine. Prescribed fire will be the primary tool to maintain this restoration process. By FY 2026, 375 acres of these areas will be planted in longleaf pine.

Approximately 7.8 acres of clearcut pine plantation near the center of the property has retained components that resemble scrubby flatwoods, including scattered longleaf pine, Chapman's oak (*Q. chapmanii*), myrtle oak (*Q. myrtifolia*), sand live oak (*Q. geminata*), post oak (*Q. stellata*) and suppressed wiregrass (*Aristida stricta*). The area has been fire suppressed but has surviving pyrophytic species that will likely respond positively to management with prescribed fire.

Table 2. Summary of natural communities, acreages, condition, and rarity.

Natural Community	**Approximate Acres**	**% of Area**	**Condition**	**FNAI Ranking**
Basin Marsh	549.8	8.77	Fair to Good	G4/S3
Basin Swamp	273.5	4.36	Good	G4/S3
Baygall	492.8	7.86	Good	G4/S4
Bottomland Forest	13.0	<1	Good	G4/S3
Depression Marsh	107.6	1.72	Fair to Good	G4/S4
Dome Swamp	55.1	<1	Very Good	G4/S4
Flatwoods/Marsh Lake	98.6	1.57	Good	G4/S4
Floodplain Swamp	375.2	5.99	Very Good	G4/S3
Mesic Flatwoods	37.6	<1	Fair to Good	G4/S4
Mesic Hammock	75.5	1.20	Good	G3/S3?
Shrub Bog	103.7	1.65	Good	G4/S3
Wet Flatwoods	367.0	5.86	Good	G4/S4
Altered Landcover Types	**Approximate Acres**	**% of Area**	**Condition**	**FNAI Ranking**
Clearcut Pine Plantation	398.3	6.36	N/A	N/A
Developed	3.2	<1	N/A	N/A

Pine Plantation	2679.2	42.75	N/A	N/A
Thinned Pine Plantation	597.3	9.53	N/A	N/A
Improved Pasture	39.4	<1	N/A	N/A

(Florida Natural Areas Inventory – FNAI 2010)

LISTED SPECIES

Plant and animal species occurring within Lochloosa Slough Preserve are observed and recorded on an ongoing basis (Exhibits D and E). These species are tracked by the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI). FNAI-tracked species are reported to FNAI using current element occurrence data forms. County staff supports researchers and other agencies tracking species by providing occurrence data and related land management information.

State Endangered Florida spinypod (*Matelea floridana*) and State Threatened giant orchid (*Orthochilus ecristatus*), blueflower butterwort (*Pinguicula caerulea*), and hooded pitcherplant (*Sarracenia minor*) have been recorded within the preserve (FNAI 2025). Cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*), royal fern (*Osmunda spectabilis*), saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), needle palm (*Rapidophyllum histrix*), and Florida greenfly orchid (*Epidendrum conopseum*) can also be found on the preserve and are all on the State of Florida's Commercially Exploited Plant List (FDACS 2025). Listed animal species known to occur within the preserve include the little blue heron, tricolored heron, and gopher tortoise, which are classified as threatened at the state level, as well as the wood stork, which is considered threatened at the federal level (FNAI 2025).

Listed Species Strategies

- Survey for listed species and document population locations and habitats.
- Report listed species occurrence data to FNAI using the appropriate Field Reporting Form.
- Provide species occurrence data and management information to researchers and other interested agencies.

INVENTORY OF NATURAL COMMUNITIES AND BIOTA

The flora, fauna, and natural communities will continue to be surveyed and tracked. All major management and restoration activities will be monitored on an annual basis or as needed using strategically placed photopoints. Photopoints are permanently designated locations where regular photos can be taken to track changes over time. The locations and data will be linked to a Geographic Information System (GIS) where changes will be documented. Baseline photos will be taken prior to initiating management activities.

Inventory Strategies

- Continue to survey flora, fauna, and natural communities.
- Continue to compile lists and maintain spatial data.
- Develop GIS database for tracking monitoring activities.
- Establish photopoints and monitor annually or as needed.

RESTORATION

The majority of the acreage within Lochloosa Slough Preserve requires some level of restoration. This may include removal of invasive species and offsite hardwoods, longleaf pine plantings, hydrological restoration, and the reintroduction of prescribed fire. During the initial management phase, staff will prioritize restoration in less degraded communities, while some heavily altered landcover types may be maintained in their current condition.

Over 50 percent of the preserve acreage was converted to pine plantation prior to County acquisition. The previous timber management practices replaced the naturally occurring longleaf pines, suppressed the native groundcover, and disrupted the hydrology of adjacent wetlands. Some stands have been thinned to mimic natural pine stand density and distribution, while others remain densely planted in rows of a single age class. The restoration efforts in these areas will focus on replacing dense, even aged pine plantations with open canopy, uneven aged longleaf pine forests. Most of the pines on the preserve, whether planted or natural, are established on what is presumed to have once been mesic or wet flatwoods. Reintroduction of prescribed fire paired with timber harvests may reveal characteristics of former natural communities. Planting of native groundcover may also be necessary to supplement natural recruitment in highly degraded areas. Similarly, in the areas designated as improved pasture, prescribed fire and planting of native species may be utilized in the restoration process.

In FY 2023, County staff began restoring some of the clearcut pine stands following forestry site preparation practices. This entailed herbicide treatment and prescribed fire to control successional hardwoods, followed by planting of longleaf pine seedlings. By FY 2026, 375 acres of these areas will be planted in longleaf pine.

Non-native vegetation is managed in the preserve with a combination of in-house and contracted herbicide treatments. Staff aim to survey and treat 20 percent of the preserve acreage for non-native invasive plants annually with emphasis on rapidly reproducing species. Contracted treatments in 2021, 2022, and 2025 targeted heavily infested areas of the preserve. These projects focused on Caesar's weed (*Urena lobata*), Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*), mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*), popcorn tree (*Triadica sebifera*), and tropical soda apple (*Solanum viarum*). Staff will continue to monitor and manage non-native vegetation throughout the preserve.

In areas with significant hydrological disturbance, staff will evaluate possible restoration strategies as resources allow. These restoration strategies would result in increased flood storage capacity and improved water quality. This will return the preserve to a more natural hydrologic regime, enhancing ecological function and regional resiliency within the Lochloosa Watershed and Orange Creek Basin, for which the County is working to meet nutrient reduction allocations in accordance with the Orange Creek Basin Management Action Plan.

Restoration Strategies

- Utilize prescribed fire to control offsite hardwoods and increase groundcover diversity within pine-dominated natural communities.
- Thin planted pines to create a more natural forest structure.
- Remove offsite hardwoods that cannot be controlled with prescribed fire.
- Plant wiregrass in areas where it is unnaturally sparse or absent.

- Plant longleaf pine seedlings in areas with insufficient natural longleaf pine regeneration.
- Continue to manage invasive plants with integrated pest management, including herbicide.
- Restore scraped, piled, and plowed areas to natural grade when feasible.
- Maintain cleared areas for potential groundcover seed sources as appropriate.
- Establish photopoints and monitor restoration areas annually or as needed.
- Restore hog damaged areas by removing feral hogs and supplementing native plantings where needed.
- Coordinate with Environmental Protection Department Water Resources Program staff to consider hydrological restoration projects.

PRESCRIBED FIRE

Approximately 4,283 acres within Lochloosa Slough Preserve are fire-dependent natural communities. Prior to County acquisition, the fire history for the preserve is mostly unknown. Three wildfires have occurred in the central and northern portions of the preserve. Two of these wildfires occurred in June and July 2022, the third wildfire occurred in March 2025 totaling 172 acres. Fires naturally occur at a frequency of 1 to 3 years in pinelands across the southeast (FNAI 2010).

Prescribed fire will be utilized throughout the preserve to enhance groundcover diversity in all the fire-dependent natural communities, to help restore natural community structure, and to reduce fuel loads thereby decreasing the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Prescribed fire return intervals on the preserve vary by natural community type. Mesic flatwoods have an average return interval of 3.2 years. Wet flatwoods have fire return intervals between 5 and 7 years. The natural fire return interval for depression marsh and dome swamp communities are largely dependent upon the hydrologic conditions within those wetlands as well as the occurrence of fire in the surrounding uplands. Based upon these statistics, the target fire return interval for fire-dependent communities within the preserve will be 2 to 4 years. To meet that target, prescribed fire should be applied to roughly 1,070 to 2,141 acres annually. Vegetative response to prescribed fire may indicate the presence of natural communities not previously identified on site. Prescribed fire return intervals will be adjusted accordingly.

Fire preparation will typically include semi-annual mowing and/or harrowing of firebreaks. The preserve currently contains 60.3 miles of internal roads and firebreaks. Firebreaks may be abandoned or restored once fuel loading is reduced and burn blocks can be combined. Approximately 25 miles of additional firebreaks are planned for FY 2025 (Exhibit H). These newly installed firebreaks will facilitate the County's prescribed burn program and reduce the spread of wildfires. Some areas of the preserve with dense understory and midstory may require mechanical treatments, such as a fuel reduction mowing, to provide staff with safer access.

Annual notifications are mailed to neighbors of the preserve to inform them about prescribed fire activities planned for the upcoming year, and why prescribed fire is used as a management tool. Neighbors can request to be notified prior to a prescribed burn by contacting the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department at 352-264-6868.

Seasonal fire management plans are drafted by County staff and are implemented with authorization from the Florida Forest Service. Each plan addresses burn objectives, weather forecast, burn unit preparation, fuel loading, smoke management, safety, wildfire incident protocol, and neighbor notification. Smoke management will be a major planning factor in burn operations in regards to neighboring properties and roads, with US HWY 301 being the primary smoke management concern.

Prescribed Fire Strategies

- Develop and implement seasonal prescribed burn plans for the preserve.
- Continue to participate in the North Central Florida Prescribed Fire Council.
- Coordinate prescribed fire activities with the Florida Forest Service and cooperating agencies.
- Notify neighbors of planned prescribed fire activities.
- Conduct mechanical fuel reduction treatments where needed.
- Educate neighbors and visitors about the natural role of fire in Florida.
- Continue to maintain and enhance existing firebreaks as needed and install new firebreaks where appropriate.
- Abandon firebreaks when no longer needed.

NON-NATIVE / INVASIVE PLANTS

Based on current survey data, fifty-four non-native plant species are known to occur within Lochloosa Slough Preserve. Twenty-four species are listed by the Florida Invasive Species Council (FISC 2025) as Category I, six species are listed as Category II, and twenty-five non-native species occur in the preserve but do not have designated impact categories. The most prevalent Category I species include– air potato (*Dioscorea bulbifera*), Caesar's weed (*Urena lobata*), camphor-tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*), cogongrass (*Imperata cylindrica*), Japanese climbing fern (*Lygodium japonicum*), popcorn tree (*Triadica sebifera*), rose natalgrass (*Melinis repens*), small-leaf spiderwort (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), and tuberous sword fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*). Common Category II species include – Chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*) and Chinese ladder brake (*Pteris vittata*). Frequently occurring non-native species that are currently uncategorized include – bahiagrass (*Paspalum notatum*), centipedegrass (*Eremochloa ophiuroides*), hairy indigo (*Indigofera hirsute*), KR bluestem (*Bothriochloa ischaemum* var. *songarica*), and vaseygrass (*Paspalum urvillei*).

Non-native vegetation is found throughout the whole preserve, but the highest concentrations of invasive species occur in areas of high disturbance due to road construction and timber harvest operations. Preserve roads have higher densities of invasive grasses, likely due to contaminated fill material and equipment. Air potato and small-leaf spiderwort are found most frequently in the floodplain swamp surrounding the slough. Caesar's weed occurs most often in the thinned pine plantations in the southeast section of the preserve. Camphor trees are found mostly in the pine plantations south of the slough and concentrated in the unit west of 203rd Street. Japanese climbing fern occurs in small patches in the pine plantations throughout the preserve and in a larger patch north of the gate 14 road. Popcorn trees occur predominately in the wet disturbed areas south of the slough. Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) strategies are

being used to treat cogongrass, which is mostly found in small patches and one 2.5-acre patch in the southeast part of the preserve, as well as KR bluestem and rose natalgrass.

Non-native species are managed by a combination of in-house and contracted treatments. Contracted herbicide treatments in the fall of 2021 and the spring of 2022 targeted heavily infested areas of the preserve. The projects focused on Caesar's weed, Chinaberry, cogongrass, mimosa, popcorn tree, and tropical soda apple. Follow up visits and routine invasive vegetation surveys show that additional treatments are necessary to prevent the spread of these undesirable species. In the summer of 2025, an additional contracted herbicide treatment was implemented to target mainly air potato, Caesar's weed, cogongrass, and Japanese climbing fern. Staff regularly monitor the preserve for new infestations, assess the effectiveness of treatments, and plan follow-up actions. Generally, follow-up treatments in previously treated areas take priority over initiating new treatments.

A list of all native and non-native plant species currently known to occur on the preserve can be found (Exhibit D).

Invasive Plant Management Strategies

- Continue to survey and treat 20 percent of the preserve acreage for non-native invasive plants annually.
- Seek funding and grant opportunities to implement invasive plant control.
- Monitor treated sites and perform follow-up treatments.
- Update plant survey and treatment data into ACF GIS database.

Table 3. Non-native invasive plants occurring at Lochloosa Slough Preserve.

Common Name	Latin Name	FISC Category	Abundance and Frequency Observed
Air potato	*Dioscorea bulbifera*	I	Frequent small patches
Arrowhead vine	*Syngonium podophyllum*	I	Infrequent individuals
Asparagus fern	*Asparagus aethiopicus*	I	Infrequent individuals
Bahiagrass	*Paspalum notatum*	N/A	Infrequent small patches
Bigleaf periwinkle	*Vinca major*	N/A	Infrequent small patches
Black medick	*Medicago lupulina*	N/A	Infrequent small patches
Bleeding heart vine	*Clerodendrum thomsoniae*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Brazilian vervain	*Verbena brasiliensis*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Caesar's weed	*Urena lobata*	I	Frequent small patches
Camphor	*Cinnamomum camphora*	I	Infrequent individuals
Castor bean	*Ricinus communis*	II	Infrequent individuals
Centipedegrass	*Eremochloa ophiuroides*	N/A	Infrequent small patches
Chinaberry	*Melia azedarach*	II	Infrequent individuals
Chinese ladder brake	*Pteris vittata*	II	Infrequent small patches
Chinese privet	*Ligustrum sinense*	I	Infrequent small patches
Chinese wisteria	*Wisteria sinensis*	II	Infrequent small patches
Cogongrass	*Imperata cylindrica*	I	Frequent small patches

Colombian waxweed	*Cuphea carthagenensis*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Common asparagus fern	*Asparagus setaceus*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Common pear	*Pyrus communis*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Coral ardisia	*Ardisia crenata*	I	Infrequent small patches
Crape myrtle	*Lagerstroemia* spp.	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Cuban bulrush	*Cyperus blepharoleptos*	I	Infrequent small patches
Foxtail barley	*Hordeum jubatum*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Garden asparagus	*Asparagus officinalis*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Glossy privet	*Ligustrum lucidum*	I	Infrequent small patches
Goldenrain tree	*Koelreuteria paniculata*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Hairy indigo	*Indigofera hirsuta*	N/A	Infrequent small patches
Japanese climbing fern	*Lygodium japonicum*	I	Frequent small patches
Japanese clover	*Kummerowia striata*	N/A	Infrequent small patches
Japanese honeysuckle	*Lonicera japonica*	I	Infrequent small patches
KR bluestem	*Bothriochloa ischaemum var. songarica*	N/A	Infrequent small patches Roadsides / firebreaks
Lawn orchid	*Zeuxine strateumatica*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Mexican petunia	*Ruellia simplex*	I	Infrequent individuals
Mimosa	*Albizia julibrissin*	I	Infrequent individuals
Mondo grass	*Ophiopogon japonicus*	N/A	Infrequent small patches
Old World climbing fern	*Lygodium microphyllum*	I	Infrequent small patches
Pindo palm	*Butia odorata*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Popcorn tree	*Triadica sebifera*	I	Semi-frequent individuals
Sacred bamboo	*Nandina domestica*	I	Infrequent small patches
Showy rattlebox	*Crotalaria spectabilis*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Skyrocket	*Clerodendrum indicum*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Small-leaf spiderwort	*Tradescantia fluminensis*	I	Infrequent small patches
Sour orange	*Citrus* x *aurantium*	N/A	Infrequent individuals
Rose natalgrass	*Melinis repens*	I	Infrequent small patches
Torpedo grass	*Panicum repens*	I	Infrequent small patches
Tropical Mexican clover	*Richardia brasiliensis*	N/A	Infrequent small patches
Tropical soda apple	*Solanum viarum*	I	Infrequent individuals
Tuberous sword fern	*Nephrolepis cordifolia*	I	Frequent small patches
Vaseygrass	*Paspalum urvillei*	N/A	Frequent mid-sized patches
Wax begonia	*Begonia cucullata*	II	Infrequent individuals
Wedelia	*Sphagneticola trilobata*	II	Infrequent small patches
Wild taro	*Colocasia esculenta*	I	One known small patch
Winged yam	*Dioscorea alata*	I	One known small patch

(Florida Invasive Species Council – FISC 2025)

FERAL ANIMAL PROGRAM

Feral animals cause widespread ecological and agricultural damage throughout the southeastern United States. Feral hog rooting negatively impacts soil structure, water quality and native species. Evidence of destructive feral hog activity has been observed throughout the preserve and surrounding areas, particularly in wetlands. Staff regularly monitor the preserve for the presence of feral hogs. Upon the establishment of the WMA and hunter caretaker contracts, feral hog hunting opportunities will assist in reducing the population on the preserve.

Staff will continually monitor the preserve for the presence of additional feral animal species. If feral animals are discovered on the property, appropriate control measures will be taken to remove them.

Feral Animal Program Strategies

- Implement an effective feral hog removal program.
- Continue to monitor the site for feral animal species.
- Monitor and remove feral animal species.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Lochloosa Slough Preserve and the surrounding areas have a long history of human use. Three archaeological or historic sites listed by the Florida Master Site File (FMSF) are recorded within the preserve: AL00462, AL05684, and AL07460. Two of these sites have evidence of use by the Cades Pond and St. Johns Cultures during the Woodland Period, from 300 BCE – 800 CE. Listed historic sites in the surrounding area date back as far as 8,500 BCE. Herty cup fragments and cat faced stumps, dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, are found throughout the preserve and serve as evidence that this area was once used for turpentine production for the naval stores industry.

The discovery of potential sites will be documented with the Florida Master Site File. Staff will evaluate the potential listing of structures obtained during the fourth acquisition, including a house and barn, possibly dating back to the 1930s. Land management activities will be planned to avoid disturbance to known sites and any future sites.

Cultural Resource Management Strategies

- Record newly discovered sites with the Florida Master Site File.
- Routinely visit known sites and note any disturbance.
- Evaluate all land management activities for potential disturbance to cultural sites.
- Interpret cultural and historical resources of the preserve to the public.
- Evaluate opportunities to interpret Truth and Reconciliation on-site

IV. FOREST RESOURCES

Well managed forests contribute to a community's quality of life by protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting water resources, and providing natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

Most of the pinelands within Lochloosa Slough Preserve have been managed for timber production since the late 1960s. Eighty-nine distinct pine timber stands for a total of 3,445 acres have been identified across the preserve, delineated by species composition, approximate age, origin type (natural or planted), and status of past timber harvests (clearcuts and thinning). Data on all timber stands within the preserve have been incorporated into a program-wide timber stand GIS layer. Currently, there are 1,526 acres of planted slash pine, 1,544 acres of planted loblolly pine, and 64 acres of natural slash pine, all of which are at various stages of growth and management. Approximately 375 acres were clearcut prior to acquisition and were replanted with longleaf pine in FY 2024 through FY 2026 (Exhibit F).

All stands across the preserve will be periodically evaluated for timber harvest needs to maintain and enhance stand health. Timber harvesting will be done in accordance with the practices described in the Alachua County Timber Harvest Business Plan (Alachua County 2011) and the most recent version of the Florida Forest Service Silviculture Best Management Practices (FDACS 2008). Uneven-aged forest management techniques may include thinning, biomass harvest, seed tree and shelterwood harvest. Clearcutting may be used in stands degraded by insects, diseases, and fire or in poor quality loblolly pine stands. A common forestry practice after clearcutting is to apply an herbicide treatment to reduce competition from shrubs and hardwoods that would otherwise outcompete the planted pines. The County may implement these practices where needed to aid in the initial restoration phase of these sites. The reintroduction of prescribed fire eliminates the need for follow up broadcast herbicide treatments and fertilizer application.

With the goal of restoring, enhancing, and preserving the ecological values of the pine forests in the preserve, future forest management activities will focus on reestablishing uneven-aged, open pine forests with a diverse, native understory. Restoration will occur in phases over a period of many years, and will utilize pine timber harvesting, offsite hardwood and invasive species control, application of prescribed fire, and planting of native tree and groundcover species. Any revenue generated from forest management within the preserve will be used to fund future onsite restoration activities. Some heavily degraded planted pine stands may initially be managed as timber stands, rather than undergo extensive restoration efforts. This will allow staff to focus limited resources on areas where restoration is more achievable and use those severely degraded sites as a future source of revenue for continued restoration efforts on the preserve.

<u>Forest Management Strategies</u>

- Establish a timber harvest management plan.
- Control offsite hardwoods and non-native invasive species.
- Apply prescribed fire.
- Plant native tree and groundcover species as needed.
- Place revenues generated from forest management in a fund specifically designated for Lochloosa Slough Preserve to fund restoration activities within the preserve.

V. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Public input from residents around Lochloosa Slough Preserve has consistently emphasized the importance of hunting to the local community. Hunting opportunities on all County owned preserves must be aligned with the Alachua County Hunting Business Plan (Alachua County 2013). A local hunt club previously had an agreement with Weyerhaeuser Company for hunting access on the property; however, this agreement ended upon County acquisition. Since the County took ownership, hunting opportunities on the site have included limited-hunt license agreements for women and youth with the National Wild Turkey Federation from 2021 to 2026.

To provide the public with the most suitable opportunities for hunting in alignment with the Hunting Business Plan, staff have recommended a plan to establish both multi-year hunting license agreements and a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) as shown in Exhibit G.

Two separate multi-year hunting license agreements are being proposed for an approximate 962 acre area of the preserve. These agreements provide hunting opportunities in exchange for land management services on the preserve. ACF staff will work with the Procurement Department to advertise this opportunity and select groups of hunters.

The County is also partnering with FWC to create a WMA which will allow for public hunting at a scale that is not practical for County staff to manage. Partnering with FWC to establish a WMA will be mutually beneficial for FWC, Alachua County, and the public. This arrangement adds approximately 5,303 acres to the statewide WMA system. The proposed WMA will encompass areas that allow for public hunting opportunities as well as areas that are reserved for non-hunting recreation. Approximately 2,284 acres in the southern half of the WMA would be reserved for non-hunting recreation such as hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use. This non-hunting part of the preserve is isolated from proposed hunting areas by public roads (Exhibit G). The remaining area, approximately 3,019 acres, would be managed by FWC for quota permit hunts and would be open only to hunters with a permit during select dates. Outside of designated hunt dates this area would be open for non-hunting recreational opportunities. County staff will work with FWC staff to select which seasons will be offered, which dates those hunts will take place, and how many permits will be issued for each season. FWC manages the selection of these no-cost permits and enforcement of hunting quotas. These hunt dates would be advertised through the WMA brochure, County website, and public access points to the preserve.

By approving this management plan, the Alachua County BOCC endorses the intended establishment of a WMA, pending an Agreement between FWC and Alachua County including liability, indemnification and terms. Following this management plan approval, County staff will submit the WMA proposal, draft rules, proposed hunting dates, and Alachua County BOCC endorsement to the FWC commissioners. After approval by FWC, the County will collaborate with FWC to finalize the proposed rules and select hunting dates. FWC and the County will then enter a contractual agreement negotiation process to finalize the establishment of the WMA.

Recreational hunting of Florida black bears is prohibited on Alachua County-owned property where not inconsistent with applicable State statutes, in accordance with Alachua County Board of County Commissioners Resolution 2016-64.

VI. SITE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT

Site development and improvements are proposed to facilitate management operations on the preserve, and to provide natural resource-based recreational opportunities. Proposed developments include the establishment of additional parking lots, roads, trails, firebreaks, and fences. Existing infrastructure will continue to be maintained and improved. Until the preserve is open on a full-time basis, it may be accessed by appointment for staff-guided tours and volunteer events.

EXISTING PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Lochloosa Slough Preserve contains approximately 60 miles of interior roads and forty-five gates, most of which were established prior to County acquisition. Staff will evaluate the potential elimination of non-essential infrastructure.

To stabilize eroded and flood-prone sections of existing roads, six hardened low water crossings and several sections of road hardening were completed. There are several culverts throughout the preserve road system that will be monitored and maintained as needed or replaced with low water crossings as appropriate. Approximately 1,700 feet of road was constructed into the Jackson Heirs acquisition to allow for staff access (Exhibit H).

The total preserve boundary perimeter is 41.5 miles. Only a small portion, approximately 12.2 miles, of the preserve boundary perimeter has barbed wire fencing. There is also a long stretch of interior barbed wire fencing located along the road connecting gates 26 and 30, as well as on the Jackson Heirs acquisition. Additional interior fencing is possible given the historic use of cattle grazing on the property. Some of these fences are in good condition, while others are overgrown or partially collapsed. Existing fences serving a security purpose on the preserve will be maintained and repaired as needed. Damaged or unnecessary fencing will be removed as resources allow. Additional needs for fencing along the preserve boundary will be identified and installed in the future when feasible.

Additional existing infrastructure includes inactive powerlines, two wells, a septic tank, and two structures in the areas labeled as developed (Exhibit C). The Jackson Heirs acquisition has a house and barn on the property that may date back to the 1930s. The inclusion of these structures in the FMSF will be evaluated. Staff have assessed that the structures are unsafe and should be removed. ACF staff will work with other relevant County Departments to facilitate the proper removal of the structures in accordance with County Unified Development Code 406.79b and state statutes. One of the existing wells may be repaired to support prescribed fire activities. County staff and contractors will collaborate to properly remove and dispose of solid waste associated with this existing infrastructure. Legacy household solid waste is scattered throughout the preserve and active dumping occurs regularly along SE 225 Drive. Solid waste removal by staff and contractors will continue throughout the preserve as needed.

PROPOSED PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Proposed physical improvements to Lochloosa Slough Preserve are depicted on the Conceptual Site Plan (Exhibit G). The proposal includes specific improvements for public access and general land management such as additional firebreaks, fencing, road stabilization, and semi-pervious parking areas. Additional trail amenities including informational signs, kiosks, bike racks, and benches will be installed in appropriate locations on the preserve. Additional trail amenities may be established in the future.

Stabilization of roads may entail re-contouring existing soil within the roadbed before backfilling with crushed rock or stone to a grade that matches the surrounding conditions. Geotextile fabric and geo-webbing may be utilized beneath stone fill as necessary. The need for additional sections of road hardening and low water crossings will be evaluated by staff over time. All road improvement projects involving stream or water crossings will be installed in accordance with FFS Silviculture BMPs and notification of the St. Johns River Water Management District. Approximately 21 miles of marked trails are proposed utilizing mostly existing preserve roads and firebreaks for use by bicyclists, hikers, and equestrians. All motorized vehicles, including e-bikes, are prohibited on the preserve without authorization. County staff will coordinate with FWC to consider offering special use vehicular access onto a portion of the proposed WMA to qualifying members of the public. In some proposed locations, new trails would need to be installed to connect between existing roads. Interpretive signs, benches, and wildlife viewing areas may be established along the trail. It should be noted that much of the low-lying land within the preserve is occasionally flooded, limiting recreational trail access. In some instances, trails may be closed to avoid hazardous conditions for visitors, or to minimize negative impacts such as soil erosion. Recreational users will be able to access the preserve from four proposed parking locations on SE 225 Drive and one proposed parking area location on SE 177 Avenue
(Exhibit G). At least two of the parking areas that will be located on SE 225 Drive will be large enough to accommodate equestrian trailers.

Located just north of Lochloosa Slough Preserve is Fox Pen Preserve which is managed and jointly owned by Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) and currently open for public recreation. At the time of writing this plan, Fox Pen does not have an established network of trails that could connect to Lochloosa Slough Preserve. However, if the trail system of Fox Pen is expanded in the future, County staff may coordinate with ACT staff to provide a trail connection between the two sites.

To facilitate prescribed fire, at least 25 miles of additional firebreaks will be installed, mostly along the perimeter of the preserve (Exhibit H). In the development of the firebreaks, the disturbance of wetland soils and large or exceptional specimen trees will be avoided. Existing firebreaks may be abandoned in the future as burn units can be joined together into larger blocks.

To the greatest extent possible, infrastructure locations will be selected to minimize impacts on natural resources, listed plant and animal species, and known archaeological sites. Construction and maintenance of proposed physical improvements is contingent upon available funding and ability to obtain proper permits.

<u>Site Development and Improvement Strategies</u>

- Establish new firebreaks and abandon unused firebreaks.
- Install new perimeter fencing as needed.
- Stabilize additional sections of road and trail system.
- Establish marked trails utilizing existing roads and firebreaks.
- Design and install interpretive signs and benches.
- Develop outreach and interpretive materials for kiosk, brochure and signage.
- Design and install parking areas.
- Remove non-essential infrastructure and solid waste.

ACCESS

Four parking locations on SE 225 Drive and one parking area on SE 177 Avenue are proposed to provide public access to the preserve (Exhibit G). These sites were selected as the most suitable access points because they are located on relatively high and dry ground close to public roads and coincide with previously disturbed areas where the impact to large trees and wetlands is minimal. At least two of the parking areas on SE 225 will be large enough to accommodate equestrian trailers.

ACF staff will work with SJRWMD and the County Public Works Department to meet any necessary permitting requirements for driveways and parking areas. ACF staff will coordinate with the County Growth Management Department on construction permits. These parking areas are exempt from a full Developmental Review Committee evaluation per the Unified Land Development Code, Title 40 of the Land Development Regulations, Chapters 406.06 and 407.90. The driveway will provide public access to a stabilized parking area and trailhead. Some of the parking areas may need to be stabilized with semi-pervious lime rock, while others may be dry and hardpacked enough to avoid using additional surfacing material. Each trailhead will have an interpretive kiosk, fencing, bike racks, and informational and regulatory signage. Wayfinding signs, interpretive displays, and benches will be installed along the trail system where appropriate.

Existing roads throughout the preserve will be maintained for authorized vehicle access. Some roads may function as service roads, firebreaks, and/or recreational trails. County staff will coordinate with FWC to consider offering special use vehicular access onto a portion of the proposed WMA to qualifying members of the public.

Access Strategies

- Coordinate with SJRWMD, County Public Works and County Growth Management on permitting requirements for trailhead installations.
- Designate and maintain a network of access roads and gates.
- Designate and maintain a network of recreational trails.

EASEMENTS, CONCESSIONS, LEASES, AND REVENUES

Prior to County acquisition, there was a hunting lease on the preserve administered through Weyerhaeuser Company. That lease was not continued under County ownership. A 3,019 acre area in the northeast portion of the preserve is proposed to be open for hunting through a WMA agreement with FWC (Exhibit G).

Currently, there are two existing access easements. One of these is west of Southeast 225 Drive, near gate 26, allowing for access to an occupied inholding. The other is east of gates 20 and 21 on Southeast 225 Drive and has an existing utility easement.

A formal license agreement is currently in place with Wildcats Family LLC for road access to leased hunting land in adjacent Putnam County. The license agreement outlines specific allowable activities by the licensee. This agreement is valid until terminated by the County.

A formal license agreement is currently in place with the Gator Gobbler Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) to allow limited hunting opportunities for women and youth during deer and spring turkey seasons. This agreement will expire

prior to July 1, 2026, when the WMA establishment is expected to take effect. If the WMA is not established by this date, then the County may extend the agreement with the NWTF. A license agreement with FWC would be executed pending initial approval of the WMA establishment. Two separate multi-year hunting license agreements are being proposed for an approximate 962 acres of the preserve (Exhibit G). These agreements provide hunting opportunities in exchange for land management services on the preserve. ACF staff will work with the Procurement Department to advertise this opportunity and select groups of hunters.

Any revenue collected from the preserve, including funds generated from timber sales, will be placed in a separate account designated exclusively for funding the maintenance and resource management activities of Lochloosa Slough Preserve.

Currently there are no plans for establishing new easements or leases on the preserve.

Easements, Concessions, Leases and Revenues Strategies

- Pursue formal agreement with FWC for the establishment of a WMA.
- Select hunter caretakers for multi-year hunting agreements on designated portions of the preserve.
- Designate revenues from the preserve in a separate account to be used solely for the maintenance and resource management activities of the preserve.

VII. STEWARDSHIP NEEDS

MAINTENANCE

Perpetual maintenance of the site will entail regular work to keep fences, gates, roads, signs, and other physical improvements in functional condition. Because many of the roads in the preserve are utilized as firebreaks, annual maintenance may include mowing, harrowing, and clearing of the roads. Regular mowing and vertical trimming may be necessary to keep roads open and in good condition for shared use as recreational trails.

Boundary signs and markers, interpretive trail signs, and structures require periodic inspection, cleaning, and repair. Maintenance activities may be conducted by County staff, contractors, volunteers, and community service worker crews.

Maintenance Strategies

- Monitor fence lines quarterly for needed repairs.
- Mow and vertically trim roads, trails, and firebreaks as needed.
- Inspect boundary signs and markers annually and maintain as needed.
- Inspect interpretive signs and structures monthly and maintain as needed.
- Conduct maintenance activities in cooperation with contractors, volunteers, and community service workers.

SECURITY

General on-site security will be provided primarily by staff, contractors, and/or volunteers. The preserve boundary is only partially fenced. Unauthorized off-road vehicular usage occurs frequently. Unauthorized access will be evaluated and appropriate measures to discourage it will be implemented. These may include additional or more secure fencing and gates, placement of boulders or bollards, signage, and additional security patrols. Regulatory signage will be posted on site.

Security Strategies

- Provide regular security patrols.
- Install regulatory signage and physical barriers.
- Periodically update emergency response information.

STAFFING

Alachua County Forever staff will coordinate the management of Lochloosa Slough Preserve with assistance from other County departments, contractors, and volunteers.

VIII. REFERENCES

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IX. STEWARDSHIP PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE AND BUDGET

Task	Target Date	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Potential Cooperators
Land Use and Zoning				
Amend future land use to Preservation.	FY 25/26	Staff time	GF	ACGMD
Amend zoning to Conservation.	FY 25/26	Staff time	GF	ACGMD
Listed Species				
Survey preserve for listed species.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	FNPS, AAS, UF
Report listed and tracked species occurrence data to FNAI.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Provide species occurrence data and management information to researchers and other interested parties.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Biota and Natural Community Inventory				
Continue to inventory plants, animals, and natural communities.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	FNPS, AAS, UF
Maintain GIS database for tracking monitoring activities.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Establish and maintain photopoints in significant areas.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Restoration				
Utilize prescribed fire to mimic natural fire regime and increase native species diversity within pine-dominated natural communities.	Ongoing	Accounted for below under Prescribed Fire section	GF	FFS, Contractors
Thin planted pines to create a more natural forest structure	Ongoing	Staff time, revenue generating	GF, WSPP	Contractors
Remove offsite hardwoods that cannot be controlled with prescribed fire.	As Needed	Staff time. Hardwood harvest should be revenue neutral or produce timber proceeds. Herbicide cost TBD.	GF	Contractors
Plant wiregrass in areas where it is unnaturally sparse or absent.	As Needed	Staff time, cost of seedlings TBD	GF, WSPP	Contractor, Volunteers
Plant longleaf pine seedlings in areas which lack longleaf pine regeneration.	As Needed	Staff time, cost of seedlings TBD	GF, WSPP	Contractor, Volunteers
Control invasive plants with integrated pest management, including herbicide as needed.	Annually	Accounted for below under Non-native Invasive Plant section	GF, WSPP	FWC, contractors

Task	Target Date	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Potential Cooperators
Restore scraped, plowed, and piled areas to natural grade.	As Needed	TBD	GF	Contractor
Maintain cleared areas for potential groundcover seed sources.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Establish photopoints and monitor restoration areas annually or as needed.	FY 26	Staff time	GF	
Restore hog damaged areas by removing feral hogs and supplementing native plantings where needed.	Ongoing	Staff time, cost of seedlings	GF, WSPP	USDA
Assess restoration effort success, and plan additional restoration efforts as needed	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	EPD-Water Resources
Prescribed Fire				
Develop and implement seasonal prescribed burn plans for approximately 1,070 – 2,141 acres per year	Winter into Summer	Staff Time	GF	ACEPD, FFS
Conduct mechanical fuel reduction treatments when/where needed	As Needed	$450/ac	GF, WSPP	Contractors
Maintain approximately 60 miles of roads and firebreaks.	Harrow up to twice per year	$135.00/mile	GF	FFS, Contractors
Abandon/restore unnecessary firebreaks.	As Needed	TBD	GF, WSPP	Contractors
Notify preserve neighbors annually of planned prescribed burning.	Annually in November	Staff time and $100/year	GF	
Educate neighbors and preserve visitors about the benefits of prescribed fire.	Ongoing	Staff time, cost of interpretive materials	GF, WSPP	FFS
Non-native Invasive Plants				
Survey and treat 20% of the preserve for invasive plants annually.	Annually	Staff time	GF	
Treat all high priority invasive plant infestations annually at minimum.	Annually	$550.00/ acre	GF, WSPP	Contractors
Seek funding and grant opportunities to implement invasive plant control.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	FWC
Monitor treated sites and perform follow-up treatment.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Update invasive species survey and treatment data in database	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	

Task	Target Date	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Potential Cooperators
Feral Animals				
Implement an effective feral hog trapping and removal program.	FY 27	Staff time, TBD	GF, WSPP	ACAS, FWC, USDA, Contractors
Monitor the site for feral animal species.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Cultural Resources				
Record newly discovered sites with the Florida Master Site File.	As Needed	Staff time	GF	DHR
Routinely visit known sites and note any disturbance.	As Needed	Staff time	GF	DHR
Evaluate management activities for potential disturbance to cultural sites.	As Needed	TBD	GF	DHR
Interpret cultural and historical resources of the preserve.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	
Evaluate opportunities to interpret Truth and Reconciliation on-site	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	ACHC, DHR, UF, Volunteers
Forest Resources				
Establish a timber harvest management plan	FY 27	Staff time, TBD	GF, WSPP	Contractors
Control offsite hardwoods and non-native invasive species	Ongoing	Accounted for in previous sections	GF, WSPP	Contractors
Apply prescribed fire	Ongoing	Accounted for in Prescribed Fire section	GF	FFS
Plant native tree and groundcover species as needed	As Needed	Accounted for in Restoration section	GF, WSPP	Contractors
Place revenues generated from forest management in a designated fund for the preserve	Ongoing (account already established)	Activities should be cost neutral or provide timber revenue	GF, WSPP	
Site Development and Improvement				
Establish new firebreaks, improve firebreaks	FY 25	$120,000.00	GF	FFS, Contractors
Install new perimeter fencing as needed	FY 27	$20,000	WSPP	Contractors
Stabilize additional sections of road and trails	FY 30	$45,000.00/mile	GF, WSPP	Contractors
Establish marked trails utilizing roads and firelines.	FY 26	Staff time	GF, WSPP	Volunteers
Design, fabricate and install entrance signs, trail signs, benches, and wildlife viewing areas.	FY 26	$20,000.00	GF, WSPP	Contractors
Develop outreach and interpretive materials for kiosk, brochure and signage.	FY 26	$20,000	GF	Communications Office

Task	Target Date	Estimated Cost	Funding Source	Potential Cooperators
Establish parking areas	FY 26	$115,000.00	GF, WSPP	Contractors
Remove non-essential infrastructure and solid waste	Ongoing	Staff Time, TBD	GF, WSPP	Contractors, Volunteers
Maintenance				
Mow roads and firebreaks as needed during the growing season to maintain them in open condition for visitor use.	Seven times per year	Up to $14,000/year	WSPP, GF	Contractors
Inspect boundary signs and markers annually and maintain as needed.	Annually	Staff time	WSPP	Volunteers
Inspect interpretive signs and structures quarterly and maintain as needed.	Quarterly	Staff time	WSPP	Volunteers
Security				
Perform regular security inspections.	Ongoing	Staff time	GF	Volunteers, Contractors, ASO
Coordinate design and placement of regulatory signage with ASO and FWC.	As Needed	Staff time	GF	ASO, FWC
Fabricate and install regulatory signage.	As Needed	TBD	GF	Volunteers, ACPW, Contractors
Update emergency response information.	As Needed	Staff time	GF	FFS
Easements, Concessions, Leases and Revenues				
Designate revenues from the preserve in a segregated account solely for upkeep and maintenance on the preserve.	As Needed (account already established)	Staff time	Fund 261	
Select hunter caretakers for multi-year hunting agreements on designated portions of the preserve	FY 26	Staff time	GF	
Pursue formal agreement with FWC for the establishment of a WMA	FY 26	Staff time	GF	

Key to acronyms used in table IX

AAS	Alachua Audubon Society
ACAS	Alachua County Animal Services
ACEPD	Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
ACGMD	Alachua County Growth Management Department
ACHC	Alachua County Historical Commission
ACPW	Alachua County Public Works
ASO	Alachua County Sheriff's Office
DHR	Department of State Division of Historic Resources
FFS	Florida Forest Service
FNPS	Florida Native Plant Society
FWC	Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
GF	General Fund
GRU	Gainesville Regional Utilities
SJRWMD	St. John's River Water Management District
UF	University of Florida
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WSPP	Wild Spaces and Public Places Surtax

EXHIBIT A: LOCATION MAP

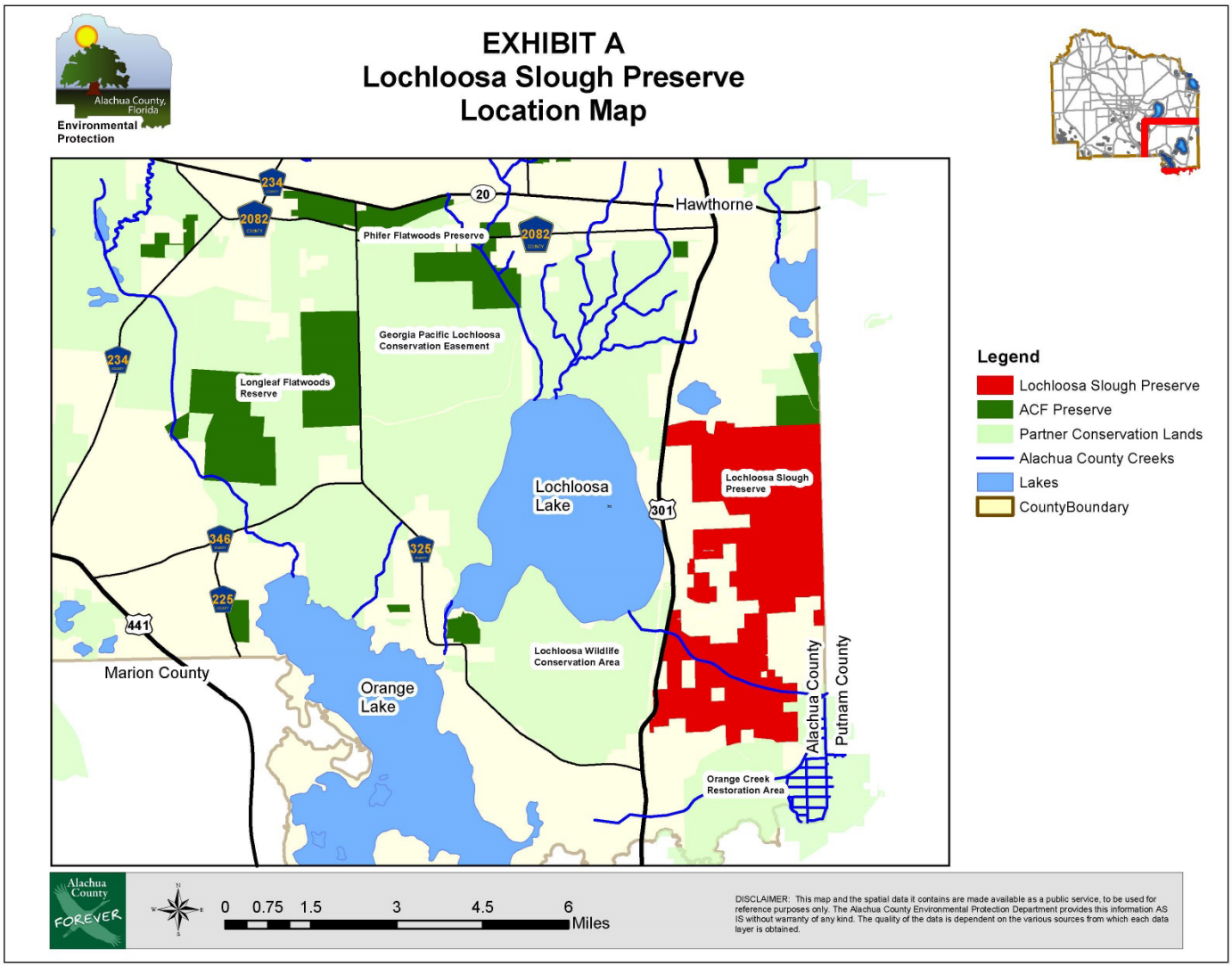

EXHIBIT B: SOILS MAP

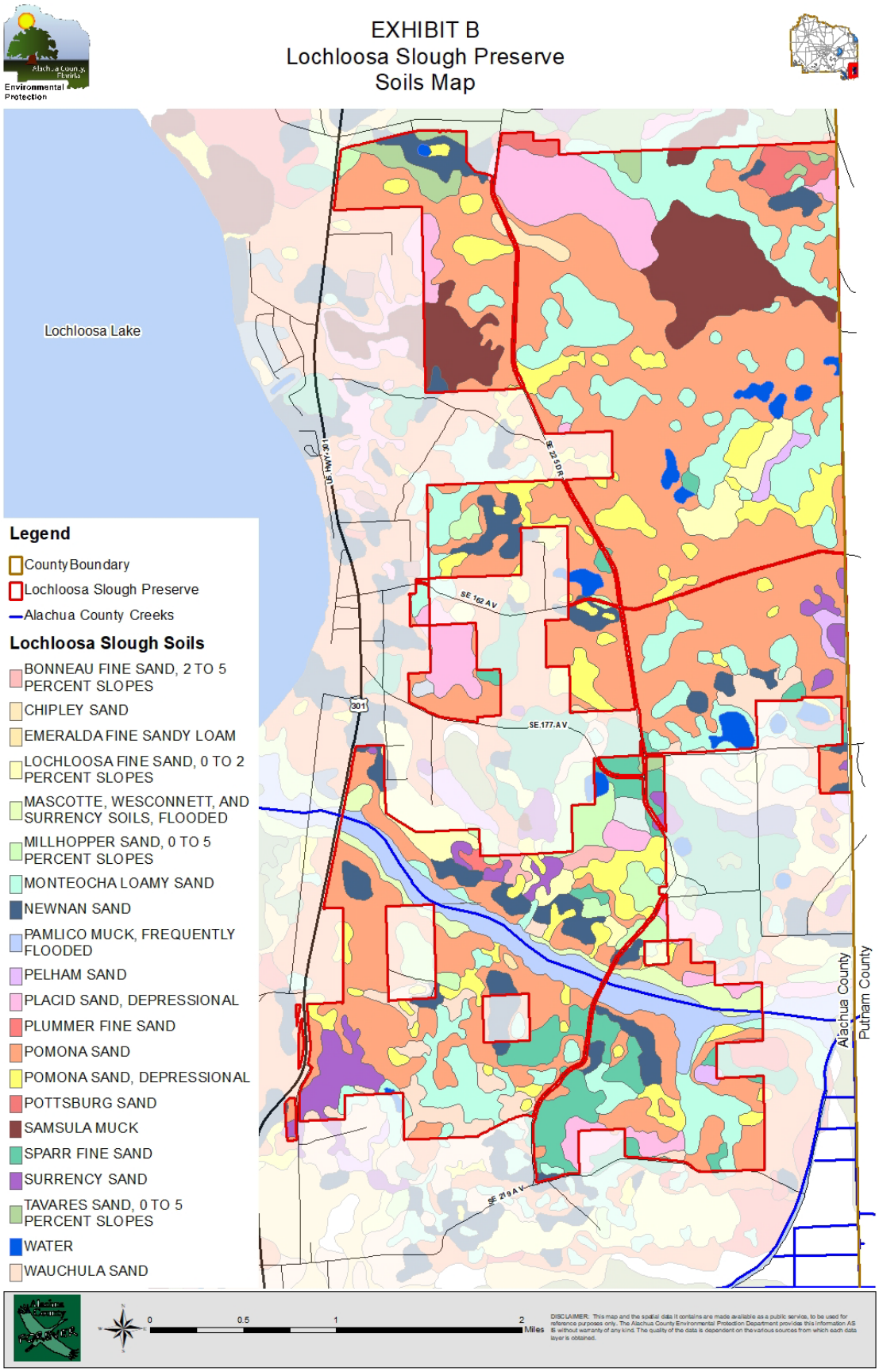

EXHIBIT C: NATURAL COMMUNITY MAP

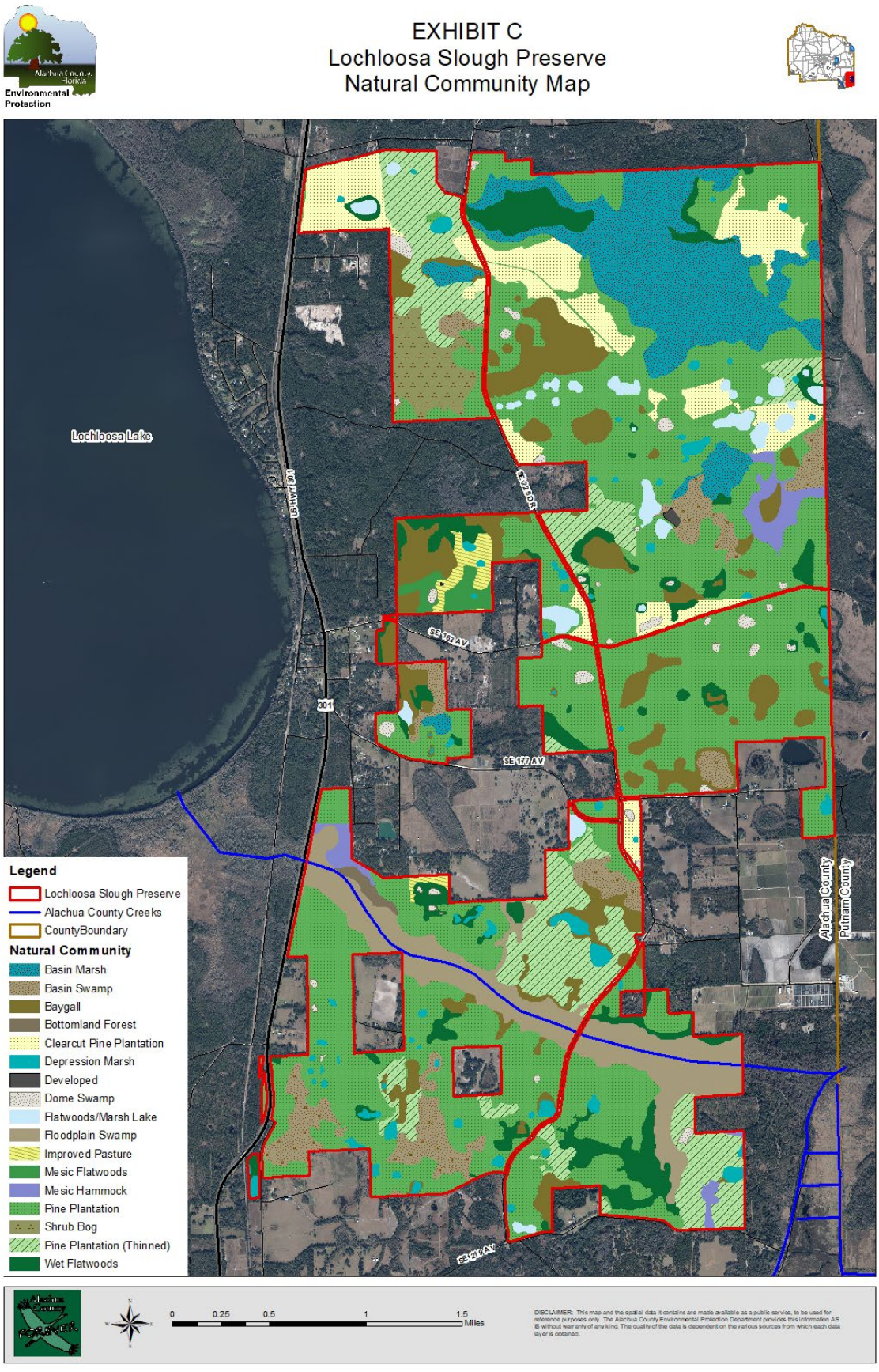

EXHIBIT D: LOCHLOOSA SLOUGH PRESERVE PLANT SPECIES LIST

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
LICHENS				
Cladonia sp.	DEER MOSS			
Usnea sp.	USNEA			
BRYOPHYTES				
Palhinhaea cernua	STAGHORN CLUBMOSS			
Pyrrhobryum spiniforme	PYRRHOBRYUM MOSS			
Sphagnum sp.	SPHAGNUM MOSS			
PTERIDOPHYTES				
Asplenium platyneuron	EBONY SPLEENWORT			
Lygodium japonicum	JAPANESE CLIMBING FERN			Invasive
Lygodium microphyllum	OLD WORLD CLIMBING FERN			Invasive
Nephrolepis cordifolia	TUBEROUS SWORD FERN			Invasive
Osmunda spectabilis	ROYAL FERN			CE
Osmundastrum cinnamomeum	CINNAMON FERN			CE
Pleopeltis polypodioides var. *michauxiana*	RESURRECTION FERN			
Pteridium aquilinum var. *pseudocaudatum*	TAILED BRACKEN			
Pteris vittata	CHINESE LADDER BRAKE			Invasive
Woodwardia areolata	NETTED CHAIN FERN			
Woodwardia virginica	VIRGINIA CHAIN FERN			
GYMNOSPERMS				
Juniperus virginiana	RED CEDAR			
Pinus clausa	SAND PINE			
Pinus elliottii	SLASH PINE			
Pinus palustris	LONGLEAF PINE			
Pinus taeda	LOBLOLLY PINE			
Taxodium ascendans	POND CYPRESS			
Taxodium distichum	BALD CYPRESS			
MONOCOTS				
Amphicarpum muehlenbergianum	BLUE MAIDENCANE			
Andropogon cretaceus	PURPLE BLUESTEM			
Andropogon glomeratus	BUSHY BLUESTEM			

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
Andropogon virginicus	BROOMSEDGE BLUESTEM			
Apteria aphylla	NODDING NIXIE			
Asparagus aethiopicus	ASPARAGUS FERN			Invasive
Asparagus officianalis	GARDEN ASPARAGUS			Non-native
Asparagus setaceus	COMMON ASPARAGUS FERN			Non-native
Aristida beyrichiana	WIREGRASS			
Aristida spiciformis	BOTTLEBRUSH THREE-AWN			
Axonopus furcatus	BIG CARPETGRASS			
Bothriochloa ischaemum var. *songarica*	KR BLUESTEM			Non-native
Butia odorata	PINDO PALM			Non-native
Callisia graminea	GRASSLEAF ROSELING			
Canna flacida	BANDANA OF THE EVERGLADES			
Carex alata	BROADWING SEDGE			
Carex striata	WALTER'S SEDGE			
Chasmanthium laxum	SLENDER WOODOATS			
Cladium jamaicense	JAMAICA SWAMP SAWGRASS			
Coleataenia rigidula ssp. *condensa*	DENSE PANIC GRASS			
Colocasia esculenta	WILD TARO			Invasive
Commelina erecta	WHITEMOUTH DAYFLOWER			
Commelina virginica	VIRGINIA DAYFLOWER			
Cyperus blepharoleptos	CUBAN BULLRUSH			Invasive
Cyperus spp.	FLATSEDGES			
Dichanthelium commutatum	VARIABLE WITCHGRASS			
Dichanthelium dicotomum	SHINING WITCHGRASS			
Dichanthelium enisfolium	SMALL -EAVED WITCHGRASS			
Digitaria filiformis	SLENDER CRABGRASS			
Dioscorea alata	WINGED YAM			Invasive
Dioscorea bulbifera	AIR-POTATO			Invasive
Eleocharis baldwinii	BALDWIN'S SPIKERUSH			
Epidendrum conopseum	GREEN-FLY ORCHID	G4/S4		CE
Eremechloa ophiuroides	CENTIPEDE GRASS			Non-native
Eustachys petraea	PINEWOODS FINGERGRASS			
Fuirena scirpoidea	SOUTHERN UMBRELLASEDGE			
Habenaria sp.	REINORCHIDS			
Hordeum jubatum	FOXTAIL BARLEY			Non-native
Hymenachne hemitomon	MAIDENCANE			
Juncus dichotomus	FORKED RUSH			
Juncus effusus	SOFT RUSH			
Juncus marginatus	GRASSLEAF RUSH			
Juncus scirpoides	NEEDLEPOD RUSH			
Lachnanthes caroliana	CAROLINA REDROOT			
Lachnocaulon anceps	WHITEHEAD BOGBUTTON			
Lachnocaulon minus	SMALL'S BOGBUTTON			

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
Melinis repens	ROSE NATALGRASS			Invasive
Oplismenus hirtellus	WOODSGRASS; BASKETGRASS			
Ophiopogon japonicus	MONDO GRASS			Non-native
Orthochilus ecristatus	GIANT ORCHID	G4/S4	ST	
Panicum anceps	BEAKED PANICUM			
Panicum hemitomon	MAIDENCANE			
Panicum repens	TORPEDOGRASS			Invasive
Paspalum notatum	BAHIAGRASS			Non-native
Paspalum setaceum	THIN PASPALUM			
Paspalum urvillei	VASEYGRASS			Non-native
Peltandra virginica	GREEN ARROW ARUM			
Phanopyrum gymnocarpon	SAVANNAH PANICUM			
Piriqueta cistoides	PITTED STRIPESEED			
Pontederia cordata	PICKERELWEED			
Rapidophyllum histrix	NEEDLE PALM	G4/ S4		CE
Rhynchospora brachychaeta	WEST INDIAN BEAKSEDGE			
Rhynchospora cephalantha var. *cephalantha*	BUNCHED BEAKSEDGE			
Rhynchospora colorata	STARRUSH WHITE-TOP			
Rhynchospora corniculata	SHORTBRISTLE HORNED BEAKSEDGE			
Rhynchospora inundata	NARROWFRUIT HORNED BEAKSEDGE			
Rhynchospora microcephala	BUNCHED BEAKSEDGE			
Rhynchospora miliacea	MILLET BEAKSEDGE			
Sabal etonia	SCRUB PALM	G4		
Sabal minor	BLUE-STEM PALM			
Sabal palmetto	CABBAGE PALM			
Saccharum giganteum	SUGARCANE PLUMEGRASS			
Sagittaria graminea	GRASSY ARROWHEAD			
Sagittaria isoetiformis	QUILLWORT ARROWHEAD			
Scleria ciliata	HAIRY NUTRUSH			
Scleria triglomerata	WHIP NUTRUSH			
Serenoa repens	SAW PALMETTO			CE
Setaria parviflora	KNOTROOT FOXTAIL			
Smilax auriculata	EARLEAF GREENBRIER			
Smilax bona-nox	SAW GREENBRIER			
Smilax glauca	CAT GREENBRIER			
Smilax pumila	SARSAPARILLA VINE			
Smilax sp.	GREENBRIER			
Smilax tamnoides	BRISTLY GREENBRIER			
Smilax walteri	CORAL GREENBRIER			
Spiranthes vernalis	SPRING LADIES TRESSES			
Stenotaphrum secundatum	ST. AUGUSTINEGRASS			
Syngonanthus flavidulus	YELLOW HATPINS			

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
Tillandsia recurvada	BALL MOSS			
Tillandsia usneoides	SPANISH MOSS			
Tradescantia fluminensis	SMALL-LEAF SPIDERWORT			Invasive
Tridens flavus	PURPLETOP TRIDENS			
Tripsacum dactyloides var. dactyloides	EASTERN GAMMA GRASS			
Xyris elliotii	ELLIOT'S YELLOW-EYED GRASS			
Xyris jupicai	RICHARD'S YELLOW-EYED GRASS			
Yucca filamentosa	ADAMS NEEDLE			
Zeuxine strateumatica	LAWN ORCHID			Non-native
DICOTS				
Acer negundo	BOX ELDER			
Acer rubrum	RED MAPLE			
Aeschynomene americana	SHYLEAF			
Agalinis sp.	FALSE FOXGLOVE			
Ageratina jucunda	HAMMOCK SNAKEROOT			
Albizia julibrissin	MIMOSA			Invasive
Apios americana	GROUND NUT			
Aralia spinosa	DEVILS WALKINGSTICK			
Ardisia crenata	SCRATCHTHROAT			Invasive
Arnoglossum floridanum	FLORIDA INDIAN PLANTAIN			Endemic
Artemisia campestris	FIELD WORMWOOD			
Asemeia grandiflora	SHOWY MILKWORT			
Asimina angustifolia	SLIM LEAF PAWPAW			
Asimina parviflora	SMALLFLOWER PAWPAW			
Asimina pygmaea	DWARF PAWPAW			
Asimina reticulata	NETTED PAWPAW			
Baccharis halimifolia	GROUNDSEL TREE			
Bacopa caroliniana	LEMON BACOPA			
Bacopa innominata	TROPICAL WATERHYSSOP			
Begonia cucullata	WAX BEGONIA			Invasive
Bejaria racemosa	TARFLOWER			
Berlandiera subcaulis	FLORIDA GREENEYES			Endemic
Bidens alba	SPANISH NEEDLE			
Bidens mitis	SMALLFRUIT BEGGARTICKS			
Boehmeria cylindrica	FALSE NETTLE; BOG HEMP			
Buchnera floridana	FLORIDA BLUEHEARTS			
Callicarpa americana	AMERICAN BEAUTYBERRY			
Campis radicans	TRUMPET CREEPER			
Carphephorus corymbosus	COASTALPLAIN CHAFFHEAD			
Carphephorus odoratissima	VANILLA LEAF			
Carphephorus paniculatus	DEERTONGUE			

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
Cartrema americanum	WILD OLIVE, AMERICAN DEVILWOOD			
Carya glabra	PIGNUT HICKORY			
Carya illinoinensis	PECAN			
Carya tomentosa	MOCKERNUT HICKORY			
Celtis laevigata	SUGARBERRY			
Centella erecta	SPADELEAF, AMERICAN COINWORT			
Centrosema virginianum	BUTTERFLY PEA			
Cephalanthus occidentalis	COMMON BUTTONBUSH			
Chamaecrista fasciculata	PARTRIDGE PEA			
Chionanthus virginicus	WHITE FRINGETREE; OLD-MANS'S BEARD			
Cinnamomum camphora	CAMPHORTREE			Invasive
Cirsium horridulum	PURPLE THISTLE, HORRID THISTLE			
Citrus x aurantium	SOUR ORANGE			Non-native
Clematis reticulata	NETLEAF LEATHER FLOWER			
Clerodendron indicum	SKYROCKET			Non-native
Clerodendrum thomsoniae	BLEEDING HEART VINE			Non-native
Cnidoscolus stimulosus	TREAD-SOFTLY; FINGER-ROT			
Coreopsis leavenworthii	LEAVENWORTH'S COREOPSIS			
Cornus foemina	SWAMP DOGWOOD			
Crocanthemum carolinianum	CAROLINA ROCKROSE			
Crocanthemum corymbosum	PINEBARREN FROSTWEED			
Crotalaria pallida var. obovata	SMOOTH RATTLEBOX			
Crotalaria rotundifolia	RABBITBELLS			
Crotalaria spectabilis	SHOWY RATTLEBOX			Non-native
Croton michauxii	MICHAUX'S CROTON			
Cuphea carthagenensis	COLOMBIAN WAXWEED			Non-native
Cyrilla racemiflora	TITI			
Decodon verticillatus	WILLOW-HERB; SWAMP LOOSESTRIFE			
Desmodium paniculatum var. paniculatum	PANICLED TICK-TREFOIL			
Dichondra carolinensis	CAROLINA PONYSFOOT			
Diodia virginiana	VIRGINIA BUTTONWEED			
Diospyros virginiana	COMMON PERSIMMON			
Drosera capillaris	PINK SUNDEW			
Elephantopus elatus	TALL ELEPHANTSFOOT			
Erechtites hieraciifolius	AMERICAN BURNWEED			
Erigeron canadensis	CANADIAN HORSEWEED			
Erigeron vernus	EARLY WHITETOP FLEABANE			
Eryngium aromaticum	FRAGRANT ERYNGO			
Eryngium baldwinii	BALDWIN'S ERYNGO			
Erythrina herbacea	CORALBEAN; CHEROKEE BEAN			
Eubotrys racemosus	SWAMP DOGHOBBLE			
Euonymus americanus	AMERICAN STRAWBERRYBUSH			

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
Eupatorium capillifolium	DOGFENNEL			
Eupatorium leptophyllum	FALSEFENNEL			
Eupatorium mohrii	MOHR'S THOROUGHWORT			
Euthamia caroliniana	SLENDER FLATTOP GOLDENROD			
Galactia floridana	FLORIDA MILK PEA			
Galium sp.	BEDSTRAW			
Galium uniflora	ONE FLOWERED BEDSTRAW			
Gaylussacia dumosa	DWARF HUCKLEBERRY			
Gaylussacia frondosa	BLUE HUCKLEBERRY			
Gelsemium sempervirens	YELLOW JESSAMINE			
Gordonia lasianthus	LOBLOLLY BAY			
Gratiola sp.	HEDGE-HYSSOP			
Helianthus angustifolius	SWAMP SUNFLOWER			
Houstonia procumbens	INNOCENCE; ROUNDLEAF BLUET			
Hydrangea barbara	CLIMBING HYDRANGEA			
Hydrocotyle bonariensis	LARGELEAF MARSHPENNYWORT			
Hypericum cistifolium	ROUNDPOD ST. JOHN'S WORT			
Hypericum fasciculatum	PEELBARK ST. JOHN'S WORT			
Hypericum gentianoides	PINEWEED			
Hypericum hypercoides	ST. ANDREW'S CROSS			
Hypericum mutilum	DWARF ST.JOHNS WORT			
Hypericum myrtifolium	MYRTLE LEAF ST.JOHNS WORT			
Hypericum tenuifolium	ATLANTIC ST.JOHN'S WORT			
Hypericum tetrapetalum	FOURPETAL ST.JOHN'S WORT			
Hypericum virginicum	VIRGINIA MARSH ST.JOHN'S WORT			
Ilex ambigua	CAROLINA HOLLY			
Ilex cassine	DAHOON			
Ilex glabra	GALLBERRY			
Ilex opaca	AMERICAN HOLLY			
Ilex vomitoria	YOUPON HOLLY			
Indigofera hirsuta	HAIRY INDIGO			Non-native
Itea virginica	VIRGINIA SWEETSPIRE			
Kalmia hirsuta	HAIRY LAUREL			
Koelreuteria paniculata	GOLDENRAIN TREE			Non-native
Krameria lanceolata	TRAILING RATANY			
Kummerowia striata	JAPANESE CLOVER			Non-native
Lactuca floridana	WOODLAND LETTUCE			
Lagerstroemia spp.	CRAPE MYRTLE			Non-native
Lechea torreyi var. congesta	SANDHILL PINWEED			
Liatris sp.				
Liatris tenuifolia	SHORTLEAF BLAZING STAR			
Ligustrum lucidum	GLOSSY PRIVET			Invasive
Ligustrum sinense	CHINESE PRIVET			Invasive

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
Licania michauxii	GOPHER APPLE			
Linaria canadensis	CANADIAN TOADFLAX			
Lonicera japonica	JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE			Invasive
Liquidambar styraciflua	SWEETGUM			
Ludwigia arcuata	PIEDMONT PRIMROSEWILLOW			
Ludwigia maritima	SEASIDE PRIMROSEWILLOW			
Ludwigia microcarpa	SMALLFRUIT PRIMROSEWILLOW			
Ludwigia octovalvus	MEXICAN PRIMROSEWILLOW			
Ludwigia suffruticosa	SHRUBBY PRIMROSEWILLOW			
Lycopus rubellus	TAPERLEAF WATERHOREHOUND			
Lyonia ferrugenia	RUSTY STAGGERBUSH			
Lyonia fruticosa	COASTALPLAIN STAGGERBUSH			
Lyonia ligustrina	MALEBERRY			
Lyonia lucida	FETTERBUSH			
Lythrum alatum	WINGED LOOSESTRIFE			
Magnolia grandiflora	SOUTHERN MAGNOLIA			
Magnolia virginiana	SWEETBAY			
Matalea floridana	FLORIDA SPINYPOD	G2, S2	SE	
Medicago lupulina	BLACK MEDICK			Non-native
Melia azedarach	CHINABERRY			Invasive
Melothria pendula	CREEPING CUCUMBER			
Mikania cordifolia	FLORIDA KEYS HEMPVINE			
Mikania scandens	CLIMBING HEMPVINE			
Mitchella repens	PARTRIDGEBERRY			
Mitreola sessilifolia	SWAMP HORNPOD			
Morella cerifera	WAX MYRTLE			
Nandina domestica	SACRED BAMBOO			Invasive
Nekemias arborea	PEPPERVINE			
Nuphar advena	YELLOW PONDLILY			
Nymphaea odorata	AMERICAN WHITE WATERLILY			
Nyssa sylvatica var. *biflora*	SWAMP TUPELO			
Oenothera simulans	SOUTHERN BEEBLOSSOM			
Opuntia mescantha	PRICKLY PEAR			
Oxalis corniculata	COMMON YELLOW WOODSORREL			
Parthenocissus quinquefolia	VIRGINIA CREEPER			
Passiflora incarnata	PURPLE PASSIONFLOWER			
Penstemon multifloris	MANYFLOWER BEARD TONGUE			
Persea borbonia	RED BAY			
Persea palustris	SWAMP BAY			
Persicaria setacea	BOG SMARTWEED			
Phyla nodiflora	TURKEY TANGLE FROGFRUIT			
Phytolacca americana	AMERICAN POKEWEED			
Piloblephis rigida	WILD PENNYROYAL			

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
Pinguicula caerulea	BLUE BUTTERWORT	S3	ST	
Pinguicula pumila	SMALL BUTTERWORT			
Pityopsis graminifolia	NARROWLEAF SILKGRASS			
Pluchea baccharis	ROSY CAMPHORWEED			
Pluchea foetida	STINKING CAMPHORWEED			
Polygala lutea	ORANGE MILKWORT			
Polygala nana	CANDYROOT			
Polygala rugellii	YELLOW MILKWORT			
Polypremum procumbens	RUSTWEED			
Proserpina pectinata	COMBLEAF MERMAIDWEED			
Prunus sp.	PLUM			
Prunus caroliniana	CAROLINA LAURELCHERRY			
Prunus serotina	BLACK CHERRY			
Pseudognaphalium obtusifolium	RABBIT TOBACCO			
Pterocaulon pycnostachyum	BLACKROOT			
Ptilimnium capillaceum	MOCK BISHOPSWEED			
Pyrus communis	COMMON PEAR			Non-native
Quercus geminata	SAND LIVE OAK			
Quercus hemisphaerica	LAUREL OAK			
Quercus laurifolia	LAUREL OAK; DIAMOND OAK			
Quercus margaretta	SAND POST OAK			
Quercus myrtifolia	MYRTLE OAK			
Quercus nigra	WATER OAK			
Quercus virginiana	LIVE OAK			
Rhexia mariana	PALE MEADOWBEAUTY			
Rhexia nashii	MAID MARIAN			
Rhexia petiolata	SHORT STEMMED MEADOWBEAUTY			
Rhus copallinum	WINGED SUMAC			
Richardia brasiliensis	TROPICAL MEXICAN CLOVER			Non-native
Ricinus communis	CASTOR BEAN			Invasive
Rubus argutus	SAWTOOTH BLACKBERRY			
Rubus cuneifolius	SAND BLACKBERRY			
Rudbeckia mollis	SOFTHAIR CONEFLOWER			
Ruellia simplex	MEXICAN PETUNIA			Invasive
Rumex verticillatus	SWAMP DOCK			
Sabatia brevifolia	SHORTLEAF ROSE GENTIAN			
Sabatia grandiflora	LARGEFLOWER ROSE GENTIAN			
Salix sp.	WILLOW			
Salvia lyrata	LYRE-LEAF SAGE			
Sambucus nigra subsp. canadensis	AMERICAN ELDER; ELDERBERRY			
Sanicula canadensis	CANADIAN BLACKSNAKEROOT			
Sarracenea minor	HOODED PITCHERPLANT		ST	
Saururus cernuus	LIZARD'S TAIL			

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
Sesbania herbacea	DANGLEPOD			
Solanum viarum	TROPICAL SODA APPLE			Invasive
Solidago chapmanii	CHAPMAN'S GOLDENROD			
Solidago spp.	GOLDENROD			
Sophronanthe pilosa	SHAGGY HEDGEHYSSOP			
Sphagneticola trilobata	WEDELIA			Invasive
Stillingia sylvatica	QUEENSDELIGHT			
Symphiotrichum eliottii	ELLIOT'S ASTER			
Teucrium canadense	CANADIAN GERMANDER			
Torenia crustacea	MALAYSIAN FALSE PIMPERNEL			Non-native
Toxicodendron radicans	EASTERN POISON IVY			
Triadica sebiferum	POPCORN TREE/ CHINESE TALLOW			Invasive
Trichostema dichotemum	FORKED BLUECURLS			
Ulmus americana	AMERICAN ELM			
Urena lobata	CAESAR'S WEED			Invasive
Utricularia juncea	SOUTHERN BLADDERWORT			
Utricularia subulata	ZIGZAG BLADDERWORT			
Vaccinium arboreum	SPARKLEBERRY			
Vaccinium corymbosum	HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY			
Vaccinium elliottii	ELLIOTT'S BLUEBERRY			
Vaccinium fuscatum	HAIRY HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY			
Vaccinium myrsinites	SHINY BLUEBERRY			
Vaccinium stamineum	DEERBERRY			
Verbena brasiliensis	BRAZILIAN VERVAIN			Non-native
Viburnum nudum	POSSUMHAW			
Vinca major	BIGLEAF PERIWINKLE			Non-native
Viola sororia	COMMON BLUE VIOLET			
Vitis rotundifolia	MUSCADINE			
Wisteria sinensis	CHINESE WISTERIA			Invasive
Ximenia americana	TALLOW WOOD; HOG PLUM			
Zanthoxylum clava-herculis	HERCULES'-CLUB			

FNAI GLOBAL ELEMENT RANK
G1 = Critically imperiled globally.
G2 = Imperiled globally.
G3 = Either very rare and/or found locally in a restricted range.
G4 = Apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range).
G5 = Demonstrably secure globally.
FNAI STATE ELEMENT RANK
S1 = Critically imperiled in Florida.
S2 = Imperiled in Florida.
S3 = Either very rare and/or found locally in a restricted range.
S4 = Apparently secure in Florida (may be rare in parts of range).
S5 = Demonstrably secure in Florida.
STATE LEGAL STATUS
FT(S/A) = Federal Threatened due to similarity of appearance
ST = State population listed as Threatened by the FFWCC. (Wunderlin, FNAI 2025)

EXHIBIT E: LOCHLOOSA SLOUGH PRESERVE ANIMAL SPECIES LIST

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
BIRDS				
Accipiter cooperii	COOPER'S HAWK			
Aix sponsa	WOOD DUCK			
Anas fulvigula	MOTTLED DUCK			
Anhinga anhinga	ANHINGA			
Antigone canadensis	SANDHILL CRANE			
Antrostomus carolinensis	CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW			
Archilochus colubris	RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD			
Ardea alba	GREAT EGRET			
Ardea herodias	GREAT BLUE HERON			
Baeolophus bicolor	TUFTED TITMOUSE			
Bombycilla cedrorum	CEDAR WAXWING			
Branta canadensis	CANADA GOOSE			
Bubo virginianus	GREAT HORNED OWL			
Bubulcus ibis	CATTLE EGRET			
Buteo lineatus	RED-SHOULDERED HAWK			
Butorides virescens	GREEN HERON			
Cardinalis cardinalis	NORTHERN CARDINAL			
Cathartes aura	TURKEY VULTURE			
Chaetura pelagica	CHIMNEY SWIFT			
Charadrius vociferus	KILLDEER			
Chordeiles minor	COMMON NIGHTHAWK			
Coccyzus americanus	YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO			
Colaptes auratus	NORTHERN FLICKER			
Colinus virginianus	NORTHERN BOBWHITE QUAIL			
Columba livia	ROCK PIGEON			Non-native
Coragyps atratus	BLACK VULTURE			
Corvus brachyrhynchos	AMERICAN CROW			
Cyanocitta cristata	BLUE JAY			
Dendrocygna autumnalis	BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK			
Dryobates pubescens	DOWNY WOODPECKER			
Dryocopus pileatus	PILEATED WOODPECKER			
Dumetella carolinensis	GRAY CATBIRD			
Egretta caerulea	LITTLE BLUE HERON	S4	ST	
Egretta thula	SNOWY EGRET	S3		
Egretta tricolor	TRICOLORED HERON	S4	ST	
Elanoides forficatus	SWALLOW-TAILED KITE	S2		
Eudocimus albus	WHITE IBIS	S4		
Fulica americana	AMERICAN COOT			
Gallinula galeata	COMMON GALLINULE			

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
Geothlypis trichas	COMMON YELLOWTHROAT			
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	BALD EAGLE	S3		
Hirundo rustica	BARN SWALLOW			
Megaceryle alcyon	BELTED KINGFISHER			
Melanerpes carolinus	RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER			
Meleagris gallopavo	WILD TURKEY			
Mimus polyglottos	NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD			
Mniotilta varia	BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER			
Mycteria americana	WOOD STORK	G4 / S2	T, PDL	
Myiarchus crinitus	GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER	S3		
Nyctanassa violacea	YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON	S3		
Nycticorax nycticorax	BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON			
Pandion haliaetus	OSPREY	S3S4		
Parkesia noveboracensis	NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH			
Phalacrocorax auritus	DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT			
Pipilo erythrophthalmus	EASTERN TOWHEE			
Piranga rubra	SUMMER TANAGER			
Podilymbus podiceps	PIED-BILLED GREBE			
Poecile carolinensis	CAROLINA CHICKADEE			
Polioptila caerulea	BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER			
Sayornis phoebe	EASTERN PHOEBE			
Seiurus aurocapilla	OVENBIRD			
Setophaga americana	NORTHERN PARULA			
Setophaga citrina	HOODED WARBLER			
Setophaga palmarum	PALM WARBLER			
Setophaga petechia	YELLOW WARBLER			
Setophaga pinus	PINE WARBLER			
Setophaga ruticilla	AMERICAN REDSTART	S2		
Sialia sialis	EASTERN BLUEBIRD			
Sitta pusilla	BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH			
Sphyrapicus varius	YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER			
Spizella passerina	CHIPPING SPARROW			
Strix varia	BARRED OWL			
Tachycineta bicolor	TREE SWALLOW			
Thryothorus ludovicianus	CAROLINA WREN			
Troglodytes aedon	HOUSE WREN			
Turdus migratorius	AMERICAN ROBIN			
Vireo griseus	WHITE-EYED VIREO			
Vireo olivaceus	RED-EYED VIREO			
Vireo solitarius	BLUE-HEADED VIREO			
Zenaida macroura	MOURNING DOVE			

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
MAMMALS				
Canis latrans	COYOTE			Non-native
Dasypus novemcinctus	NINE BANDED ARMADILLO			Non-native
Didelphis virginiana	VIRGINIA OPOSSUM			
Felis rufus	BOBCAT			
Lutra canadensis	RIVER OTTER			
Neofiber alleni	ROUND-TAILED MUSKRAT	G2 / S2		
Odocoileus virginianus	WHITE-TAILED DEER			
Procyon lotor	RACCOON			
Scalopus aquaticus	EASTERN MOLE			
Sciurus carolinensis	EASTERN GREY SQUIRREL			
Sciurus niger niger	SOUTHEASTERN FOX SQUIRREL	S3		
Sus scrofa	WILD PIG			Non-native
Sylvilagus floridanus	EASTERN COTTONTAIL			
Sylvilagus palustris	MARSH RABBIT			
Tadarida brasiliensis	MEXICAN FREE-TAILED BAT			
Ursus americanus floridanus	FLORIDA BLACK BEAR	G5T4 / S4		
INVERTEBRATES				
Amblyomma americanum	LONE STAR TICK			
Antidrymaeus dormani	MANATEE TREESNAIL			
Argiope aurantia	YELLOW GARDEN SPIDER			
Atlides halesus	GREAT PURPLE HAIRSTREAK			
Bombus pensylvanicus	AMERICAN BUMBLE BEE			
Calopteryx maculata	EBONY JEWELWING			
Celithemis amanda	AMANDA'S PENNANT			
Dermacentor variabilis	AMERICAN DOG TICK			
Dione vanillae	GULF FRITILLARY			
Dolomedes albineus	WHITE-BANDED FISHING SPIDER			
Erythemis simplicicollis	EASTERN PONDHAWK			
Erythrodiplax minuscula	LITTLE BLUE DRAGONLET			
Florinda coccinea	BLACKTAILED RED SHEETWEAVER			
Gasteracantha cancriformis	SPINYBACKED ORBWEAVER			
Heliconius charithonia	ZEBRA LONGWING BUTTERFLY			
Hyalophora cecropia	CECROPIA MOTH			
Hypena baltimoralis	BALTIMORE SNOUT			
Ixodes scapularis	BLACKLEGGED TICK			
Ledaea perditalis	LOST OWLET			
Leucauge venusta	ORCHARD ORBWEAVER			
Libellula auripennis	GOLDEN-WINGED SKIMMER			
Libellula vibrans	GREAT BLUE SKIMMER			

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
Lucilia sericata	COMMON GREEN BOTTLE FLY			
Macaria aequiferaria	WOODY ANGLE			
Nephila clavipes	GOLDEN ORB WEAVER			
Pachydiplax longipennis	BLUE DASHER			
Papilio palamedes	PALAMEDES SWALLOWTAIL			
Papilio polyxenes asterius	EASTERN BLACK SWALLOWTAIL			
Parapoynx allionealis	WATERMILFOIL LEAFCUTTER MOTH			
Phoebis sennae	CLOUDLESS SULPHUR			
Pselliopus cinctus	RINGED ASSASSIN BUG			
Renia adspergillus	SPECKLED RENIA MOTH			
Renia sobrialis	SOBER RENIA MOTH			
Romalea microptera	EASTERN LUBBER GRASSHOPPER			
Schistocerca americana	AMERICAN BIRD GRASSHOPPER			
Schistocerca damnifica	MISCHIEVOUS BIRD GRASSHOPPER			

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Acris gryllus	SOUTHERN CRICKET FROG			
Agkistrodon conanti	FLORIDA COTTONMOUTH			
Agkistrodon piscivorus	WATER MOCCASSIN			
Alligator mississippiensis	AMERICAN ALLIGATOR		SAT / FT(S/A)	
Amphiuma means	TWO-TOED AMPHIUMA			
Anaxyrus quercicus	OAK TOAD			
Anaxyrus terrestris	SOUTHERN TOAD			
Anolis carolinensis	GREEN ANOLE			
Anolis sagrei	BROWN ANOLE			Non-native
Coluber constrictor	BLACK RACER			
Coluber constrictor	NORTH AMERICAN RACER			
Crotalus adamanteus	EASTERN DIAMONDBACK			
Gopherus polyphemus	GOPHER TORTOISE	G3 / S3	ST	
Hyla cinerea	AMERICAN GREEN TREE FROG			
Hyla femoralis	PINEWOODS TREEFROG			
Lithobates catesbeianus	AMERICAN BULLFROG			
Lithobates Clamitans	BRONZE FROG			
Lithobates grylio	PIG FROG			
Notophthalmus viridescens	EASTERN NEWT			
Pantherophis alleghaniensis	EASTERN RATSNAKE			
Plestiodon laticeps	BROADHEAD SKINK			
Pseudacris crucifer	SPRING PEEPER			
Rana sphenocephala	SOUTHERN LEOPARD FROG			
Scaphiopus holbrookii	EASTERN SPADEFOOT TOAD			
Sceloporus undulatus	EASTERN FENCE LIZARD			

Species	Common name	Rank	Status	Consideration
Scincella lateralis	LITTLE BROWN SKINK			
Sistrurus miliarius barbouri	DUSKY PYGMY RATTLESNAKE			
Terrapene carolina bauri	FLORIDA BOX TURTLE			

FNAI GLOBAL ELEMENT RANK
G1 = Critically imperiled globally.
G2 = Imperiled globally.
G3 = Either very rare and/or found locally in a restricted range.
G4 = Apparently secure globally (may be rare in parts of range).
G5 = Demonstrably secure globally.
FNAI STATE ELEMENT RANK
S1 = Critically imperiled in Florida.
S2 = Imperiled in Florida.
S3 = Either very rare and/or found locally in a restricted range.
S4 = Apparently secure in Florida (may be rare in parts of range).
S5 = Demonstrably secure in Florida.
FEDERAL LEGAL STATUS
E = Endangered: species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
E, PDL = Species currently listed endangered but has been proposed for delisting.
T = Threatened: species likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
SAT = Treated as threatened due to similarity of appearance to a species which is federally listed.
STATE LEGAL STATUS
FT(S/A) = Federal Threatened due to similarity of appearance
ST = State population listed as Threatened by the FFWCC.

(FNAI 2025)

EXHIBIT F: FOREST RESOURCES

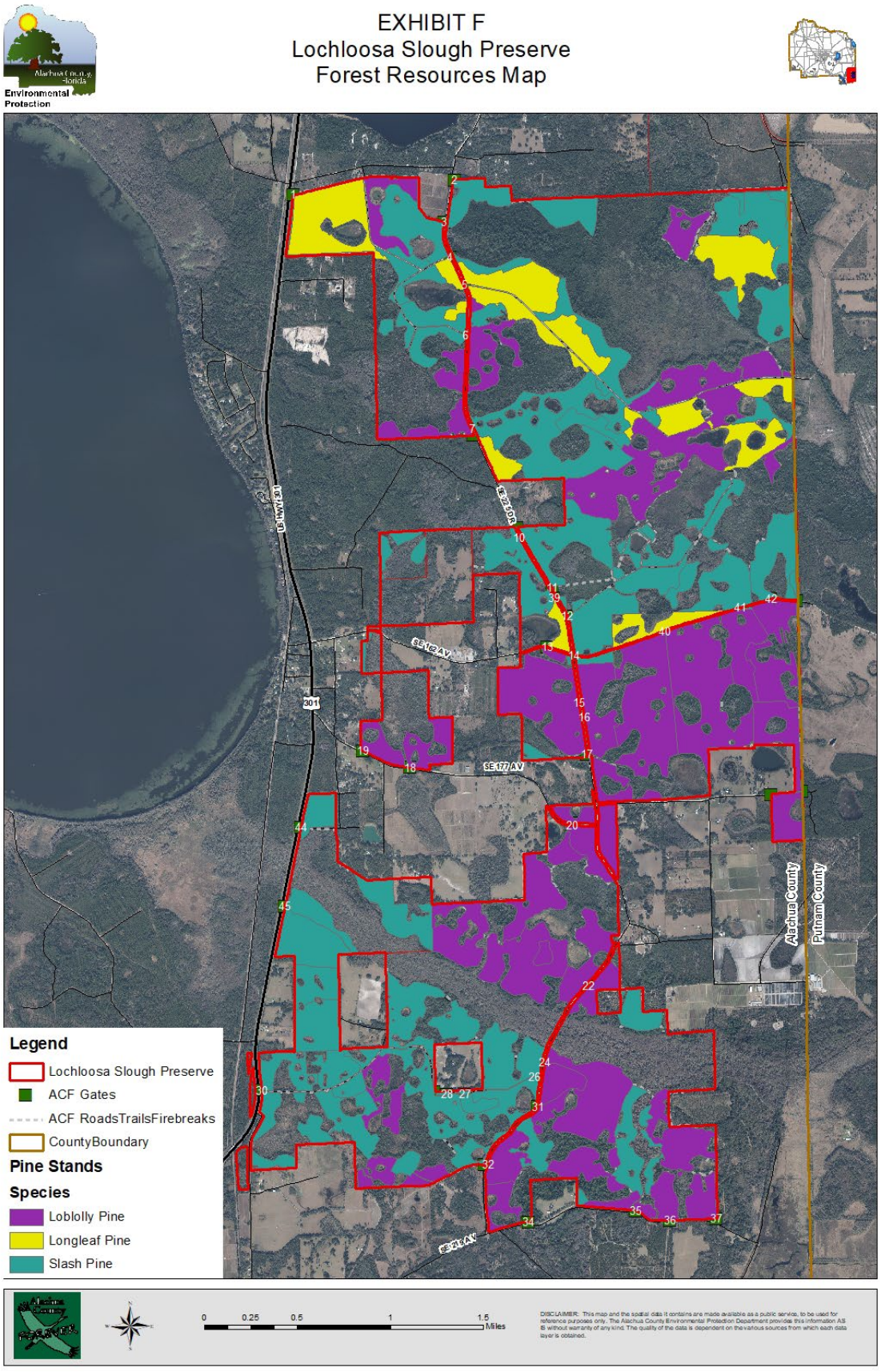

EXHIBIT G: CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN

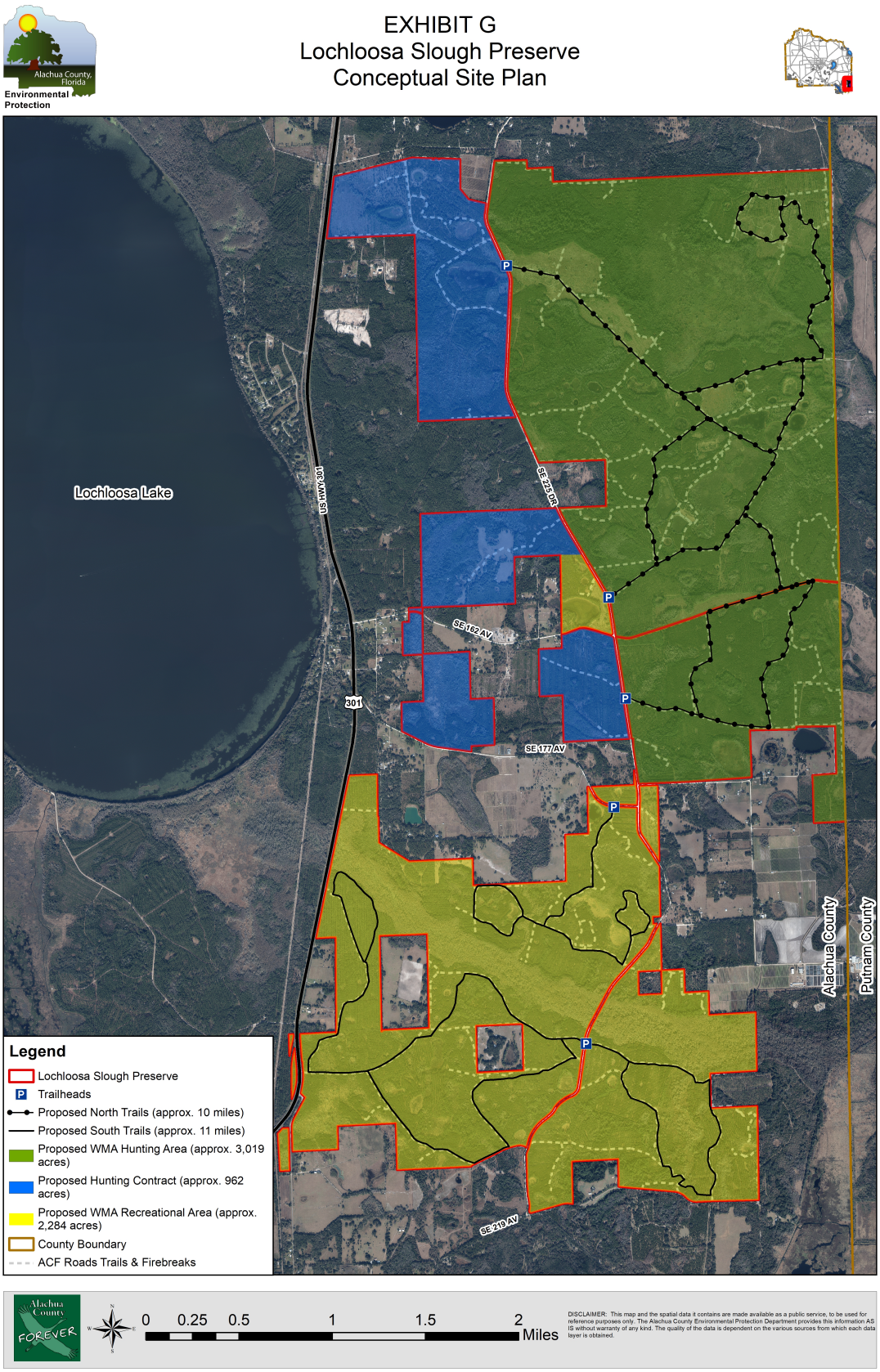

EXHIBIT H: COMPLETED ROAD AND FIRELINE IMPROVEMENT MAP

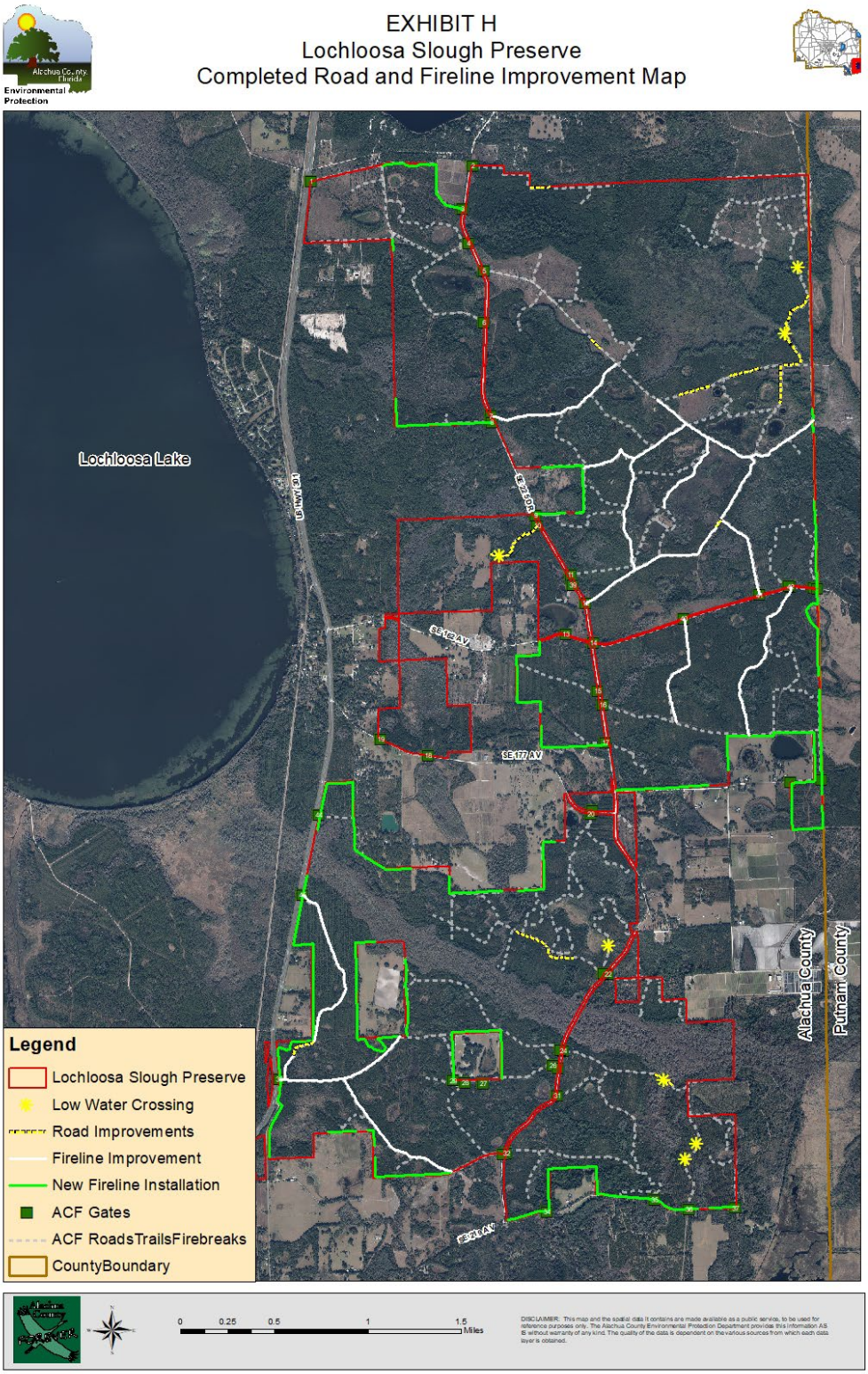

EXHIBIT I: MANAGEMENT PLANNING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

PUBLIC MEETING NOTES

Three community workshops and a site visit were held during the management plan writing phase to share information about plans for the preserve and seek public comments on the proposals. The first workshop was held on June 9, 2022 after the purchase of the Fox Pen Connector tract, to introduce the ACF Program to the community, share the staff's initial vision for the preserve, and gauge community reaction to the acquisitions. A second workshop was held on April 15, 2025 to update interested parties on specifics of the recreational opportunities staff were considering onsite, including establishing a WMA with FWC and allowing for no-cost quota permit hunting on a portion of the preserve. A site visit was conducted on August 9, 2025 to familiarize the public with the natural communities and management practices of the preserve. A final public workshop was held on August 14, 2025 to share the fully drafted 10-year Management Plan and receive public comments and feedback on proposals for the site. Each of these events and associated comments are outlined here. All full comments have been saved on file with ACF, but some comments included here are summarized for length.

Public Workshop – June 9, 2022
Location: Little Orange Creek Nature Park – 24115 SE Hawthorne Rd, Hawthorne, FL
Thursday June 9, 2022, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Present: Alachua County Staff – Charlie Houder, Andi Christman, Scott Crosby, Ryan Kennelly, David Hoyt, Michael Nelson, Jesse Natwick, Andy Natwick, John Riordan, Wesley Wells, Emily Uhlmann. Cooperator Staff – Barry Coulliette (ACT), Allen Loadholtz (FFS), Chad Williamson (FFS), Amy Copeland (SJRWMD). Twenty-six interested community members.

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction – *Charlie Houder*
2. Program and Preserve Overview – *Andi Christman*
    a. ACF Program mission
    b. Natural resources and land management plans
    c. Potential recreational opportunities and WMA establishment concept
3. Breakout Tables – *various staff*
    a. Recreational opportunities
    b. Land management activities
    c. Hunting opportunities
4. Adjourn

Public Comments Lochloosa Slough Public Workshops June 9, 2022

Barry Coulliette – Representing: Self

Manage Timber for Money. Don't kill stand of timber with fire. Sell and put money back into property. Establish Long Leaf Pine ASAP. Keep neighbors informed of major land use changes. Plant more Long Leaf Pines. Use Fire

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Glenn W. Pinner – Representing: Self

Are cattle grazing leases possible?

Suzette King – Representing: Self

Horse trails/access please. We can use existing roads but please mark them. Improve access roads – pave or surface.

Jesse Morris – Representing: Self

I want horse trails.

Vivien Morris – Representing: Self

I am interested in equestrian trails & accessibility to horses.

Richard Evans – Representing: Self

Will this possibly prompt the repair of 219th Avenue? I am in favor of the controlled burns.

Graham Partain – Representing: Self

Thank you so much for this. I am very interested in creating safe cycling corridors through natural areas like this. We utilize many WMA service roads and the preservation area roads. They are typically low traffic and peaceful.

Is there any change of connecting this to Holden Park Rd/LK Susan Road? Maybe a small easement for a corridor to pass through? Would make for a nice east/west passage to other areas.

John Bogue – Representing: Self (*sent via email*)

Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the meeting as I just received the card in the snail mail yesterday and already have plans for that day/time. Can notifications of future meetings, etc. regarding the preserve be emailed in advance so dates/times can be known in advance?

Will the meeting be recorded and/or will there be notes taken and posted for those who couldn't attend?

I do have some input regarding the area surrounding my internal parcel. If hunting in that area of the preserve is allowed. I'd like to suggest a 200 yard no hunt buffer around my property for safety reasons.

General comments from the breakout table discussions:

- Interest in better maintenance or paving of public roads to and from the preserve to improve ease of access. Also concern about this, especially related to taxes.
- Desire for equestrian trails – short and long loops
- Connect the north and south ends with trails
- Provide access to different areas
- Provide multiple trailheads
- Concerns about homeowner security near trailheads
- Use barbless wire for child safety
- Provide equestrian trails in norther tract
- Possible hiking on Fox Pen (across Holden Park Road).
- Improve County maintenance of roads.
- Concern about increase in traffic
- Concern about vehicle "shenanigans" on 225th Dr.
- Concern about declining condition of roads in Island Grove when land gets taken off the tax roll.
- Fire related comments:
    - Manage the timber for monetary value
    - Use fire to manage what's growing on the ground, don't intentionally kill pines
- Hunting related comments:
    - Generational hunting access reduced by this acquisition
    - Subsistence hunting is locally important
    - This acquisition is now permanent protection from development
    - Concern about residents in other parts of the County having control over what happens on the preserve.
    - What if the County votes to develop the preserve?
    - Biggest use that I would like to continue is safe, full hunting access.
    - Additional non-hunting access points, for example, from Fox Pen.
    - Hunting opportunities should be for Alachua County residents, especially Island Grove, local residents, or handicapped residents.
    - Keep in mind that the creation of this preserve has displaced some local hunters/subsistence hunters. This is a food desert with resource insecurity (Hawthorne, Island Grove). Consider local, longtime disadvantaged hunters as high priority for hunting opportunities.
    - No dog hunting.
    - Inquiry about plans to include hunting on ACT's Fox Pen or including in WMA

Public Workshop – April 15, 2025
Location: Shell Elementary School, 21633 SE 65th Ave, Hawthorne, FL
Tuesday April 15, 2025, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Present: Alachua County Staff – Andi Christman, Ryan Kennelly, Michael Nelson, Jesse Natwick, Matthew Barker, Tessa Ricker, Milo Neelands. Cooperator Staff – Jyoti Parmar (Sierra Club), Jacob Thompson (Army Corps of Engineers), Rachel Townsend (ACT), Barry Coulliette (ACT), Amelia McKnight (FFS), Amy Copeland (SJRWMD). Thirty-eight interested community members.

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction – *Jyoti Parmar and Jacob Thompson*
2. Program and Preserve Overview – *Ryan Kennelly*
    a. ACF Program mission
    b. Natural resources and land stewardship activities occurring and planned
    c. Proposed recreational opportunities, including WMA establishment:
        i. Hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use
        ii. Public hunting areas
        iii. Hunter Caretaker licensee areas
3. Breakout Group Discussions – *all staff*
4. Report back from group discussions – *Ryan Kennelly, Jyoti Parmar, Jacob Thompson*
5. Final Comment opportunity
6. Adjourn

Public Comments

Lochloosa Slough Public Workshop

April 15, 2025

Suzette King – Representing: Self

Re: Equestrian Paths: In wet places gravel or crushed is better than lime rock.

Ron Akins – VP NWTF – Representing: Gator Gobblers

NWTF – Gator Gobblers would like to continue to host youth and women hunts. We have a current contract and understand we may need to relocate these hunts.

Mackenzie Fix – Representing: Self

Restrictions on hunting surrounding houses. Warning signs to be courteous to neighbors. Limit parking on the side of the road.

Larry Reeves – Representing: Self

I live at 301 on the north corner of the contract hunt area. We have lived on our farm for 55 + years. I have hunted and fished on all of this area for over 60 years. I would like to be notified when you are taking applications for the contract hunting area.

Kassie Paulson & Daniel – Representing: Selves

I am interested in close residential permit hunting in blue areas.

Dana Moore/Alexis Macaulay – Representing: Misty Morning Hounds (drag mounted foxhunting group)

This is a great plan, with allocation for non-hunting areas year-round, as well as hunting areas that would be open for public access after the hunting season is over. If at some point, there were an on-site land manager/game officer possibly located near the inholding piece, he would be able to monitor activities and discourage dumping. If the property was opened up to anglers at some point that could possibly be set up on an appointment type schedule with this person – maybe two weekends a month, or whatever fit demand – where this person could ferry them into those ponds/slough, and then just get a call when they are ready to leave. It would also help keep trash in check at fishing areas and give the ability to hold those offenders responsible – certainly it would discourage trash dumping.

Other suggestions when considering equestrian use is a request for small to medium rounded river rock or pea gravel for stabilization purposes. Love the idea of a mounting block in the parking area – and to have large parking areas to accommodate larger rigs and horse trailers. For our particular situation, it would be extremely helpful to be able to have a single vehicle able to access inside the property for hound and rider safety and emergency situations, as well as for blocking hounds from roadways and private property. It would also allow non-riders to enjoy the sport as spectators.

Joe and Angela Moore – Representing: Selves

We are the family that lives on the property that borders the Jackson Heir Tract. We want to thank you again for holding a community input meeting. We also commend your job of working to preserve the land and natural resources that are so close to our home. We ask that our family be considered for the hunting lease opportunities.

Gary Kiebzak – Representing: Self (*comments summarized by staff, see files for full details*)

1. Concern for increased traffic going to preserve. Suggesting that signage directing traffic to the preserve should be from Hawthorne (or perhaps 219th).
2. Concern for animal displacement if there is increased activity in the preserve.
3. Not opposed to hunting. I would like consideration to be given limiting the caliber of firearms allowed for hunting.

4. Suggests signs for no dumping and cameras to discourage illegal dumping.
5. Asking, has any thought been given to using local residents as volunteers to monitor activity at the preserve?

Brandie Mckinney – Representing: F.A.C.T. – Farming Alachua County Together (*comments summarized by staff, see files for full details*)

While the current land use plan may focus on public gathering and entertainment spaces, we encourage the county and stakeholders to consider restorative agricultural practices and natural historic solutions that align with Florida's ecological heritage and current environmental goals. These opportunities include Free-range cattle grazing for soil and ecosystem restoration, ecological role of wild hogs in invasive plant management, and considering alternatives to herbicide applications.

<u>Comments from Breakout Group Discussions:</u>

- Provide locals opportunity for County hunter lease
- Provide multi-user opportunities
- Concerns about privacy
- Litter/dumping clean up – add a dumpster along the road
- Reduce litter from users
- Protect the resource
- ADA accessibility
- Google Maps already shows a trailhead
- I'm in favor of the County's acquisition of this property, I want the peace and quiet
- Cycling opportunities – location seems kind of wet
- I want horse trails
- Watershed protection important
- Concerns about increased traffic – road improvements already overdue, this will just bring more traffic; dust concerns; suggestion to use a traffic counter to monitor volume
- Southern area seems wet for hiking
- Concerns about buffering private land (especially from hunting)
- Concerns about people hunting right on property boundaries
- Want reassurance for communication of when hunting seasons are in effect
- Soft or un-rocked trail surface preferred for horses
- Hardpacked trail surface better for bikes
- Open the property for a site visit prior to next public meeting
- Objections to broadcast herbicide treatments (Weyerhaeuser was heavy-handed in this regard)
- Questions about mitigation of tree farm impacts
- Questions about timber management

- What happens with timber revenue?
- Roller chopping suggested as a less expensive, more practical means of helping reduce impacts of plantation beds
- Comment about expanding hours of rural collection center and restrictions on amount being dropped of to help reduce dumping along the roads
- Desire for plant and animal lists/observations
- Desire for data on visitor use impacts on wildlife
- Discussion on WMA being closed to non-hunting recreation during established hunt dates
- Suggestion to post private property signs near the WMA and signs for no-hunting areas near private areas
- Discussion on benefits of WMA bringing Law Enforcement help
- Discussion of land management tools: prescribed fire, invasive plant management (herbicide use), longleaf pine planting
- Discussion of natural open areas and wetlands
- Multiuse trails v single use trails
- Discussion on vehicle access for hunters on WMA via designated lock on gates
- Orienteering opportunities
- E-bike use and impacts on road conditions and wildlife
- Trail surface material – natural soil and limerock
- For trailer parking, larger lots recommended
- Discussion on possibility/use of multi-agency parking lots/trail systems
- Suggestion of a boardwalk to the slough/fishing access
- Estimated opening of summer 2026
- Providing a fishing day use permit opportunity
- Dumping concerns

Site Visit – August 9, 2025
Location: Lochloosa Slough Preserve – 16399 SE 225th Drive, Hawthorne, FL
Saturday August 9, 2025, 9:00 – 10:00 am

Present: Alachua County Staff – Andi Christman, Michael Nelson, Tessa Ricker. Cooperator Staff – Amy Copeland (SJRWMD). Fourteen interested community members.

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction – Michael Nelson
    a. ACF Program mission
    b. Natural resources and land stewardship activities
    c. Proposed recreational opportunities
2. Field Trip – Tessa Ricker
    a. Site 1 – Prescribed fire, plantings, forest resources, and invasives
    b. Site 2 – Wetland restoration, water resources, and road improvements
3. Adjourn

Public Comments
Lochloosa Slough Site Visit
August 9, 2025

Nancy Murphy – Representing Self

Lovely ride! Nice information about the management and conservation actions being taken.

Karen & Russ Douglas – Representing Selves

Contact info for burn information.

Interesting in volunteering.

Richard Bracham – Representing Self

Nice ride! Please notify of date for commission agenda for management plan

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Public Workshop – August 14, 2025
Location: Lochloosa Community Church – 16503 SE 210th Terrace, Hawthorne, FL
Thursday August 14, 2025, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Present: Alachua County Staff – Andi Christman, Ryan Kennelly, Michael Nelson, Jesse Natwick, Matthew Barker, Tessa Ricker, Milo Neelands, Christina Altizer. Cooperator Staff – Amy Copeland (SJRWMD), Jesse Frazier (FFS). Thirty-five interested community members.

Agenda

1. Welcome table & sign in
2. Introduce goals for the meeting – *Mike Nelson*
3. Presentation on Management Plan – *Mike Nelson*
    a. Program overview
    b. Background information on the preserve
    c. Ongoing and proposed natural and cultural resource management activities
    d. Proposed recreational opportunities, including the establishment of a WMA
    e. Questions
4. Breakout group discussions – *All County staff*
5. Wrap up & thank you

Public Comments

Lochloosa Slough Management Plan Meeting

August 14, 2025

Benjamin Fix – Representing Self/177th Street Community

We ask to please clearly mark boundaries and do your best to keep guests from approaching our fence lines. We raise livestock, shoot/hunt on our property as a way of life. If you have any questions, please contact me. Please move trail East of Gate 16 away from property line!

Linnea Danielsen – Representing Self

Please notify me before burning. I have severe allergies and asthma. Please try to keep smoke away from 21917 SE 162nd Avenue or let me evacuate.

Thomas Murphy – Representing Self

Very well presented both on the trail ride and the meeting at Lochloosa Community Church. Exhibits and Management Plan were excellent. The new road to the Jackson property is very well planned and well done.

Larry Reeves – Representing Self

I live just North of the hunter/caretaker property on our 148 acre farm. I have hunted all of this property since the 1960's. I would like to be notified at the appropriate time to apply for the hunter/caretaker permit.

David Cochran – Representing Self

East of Gate 16. My property is at the proposed trail. Would like it not so close to my property.

Nancy Cochran – Representing Self

I propose to move trail slightly away from property Gate 16 East. Property line 24622 SE 177th Avenue.

Severely asthmatic. Please notify of prescribed burns.

Larger buffer away from property line for hunting.

Timothy Freeman – Representing Self

Several landowners adjacent to the hunting areas have expressed concern about stray firing of rifles onto their properties. It has been expressed that the county has no plan to address except the lottery for permitting. I've asked about establishing no hunt buffers around private property and the response from EPD will not be doing this. Steps as simple as closing fire lanes adjacent to private property during hunting season would be a positive step to address this concern.

Julie Tompkins – Representing Self

I am very concerned about the proposed trails around my property. I see where they will pass by the northeast end of the property. They will be able to see my home and livestock. I feel I can remedy this by planting trees. What really concerns me is the trail to the south. It looks as though folks would be walking on my easement. I have a gate on 225th Dr for the purpose of keeping traffic out. I would hope the County would change their route as to not impose on my privacy and security. Thank you for any help you could give me regarding this matter.

<u>Comments from Breakout Group Discussions:</u>

- Smoke concerns – neighbors with asthma
- Lots of gopher tortoises – consider them in management
- Want cooperative management with neighbors
- Quail are important – consider them in management
- Concerned about number of quota permits
- Neighbors would like buffers from hunted areas
- Hunters should remove all equipment and stands

Neighbors should be considered in hunter/caretaker agreements

APPENDIX A – SOIL DESCRIPTIONS

Bonneau fine sand, 2 to 5% slope

These soils are gently sloping, moderately well drained in areas of about 10 to 40 acres on uplands. They have sandy surface and subsurface layers 20 to 40 inches thick, and moderately slowly permeable sandy loam over slowly to very slowly permeable sandy clay loam subsoils. These soils have a water table at a depth between 40 and 60 inches for 1 to 3 months most years. The water table may be perched at a depth of about 36 to 40 inches for less than 1 month during some years.

Chipley sand

This is a nearly level, and somewhat poorly drained soil which occurs in small areas of flatwoods, and in transition zones between flatwoods and uplands. The surface and underlying layers are primarily sandy with rapid permeability to a depth of more than 80 inches. During normal years, the water table in this soil type is 20 to 40 inches below surface for 2 to 4 months, receding well below this during dry periods, and briefly rising to 15 to 20 inches below surface during very wet periods.

Emeralda fine sandy loam

This nearly level, poorly drained soil is in areas of about 15 to 100 acres on rolling uplands of the prairies and in broad wet areas of the flatwoods. The soils have a surface layer of sandy loam over sand, a sandy subsurface layer, and sandy clay over sandy clay loam subsoil. In normal years these hydric soils have a water table less than 10 inches below the surface for 4 to 6 months.

Lochloosa fine sands, 0-2% slopes

This nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soil is sandy in the upper horizons with sandy loam and sandy clay loam in subsoil layers. This Lochloosa soil has a water table that is 30 to 40 inches below the surface for 2 to 4 months during most years, but rises to 15 to 30 inches for 2 to 4 weeks during most years. Surface runoff is slow. The available water capacity is medium to high in the sandy surface and subsurface layers and medium in the subsoil. Natural fertility is low in the sandy surface and subsurface layers and medium in the loamy subsoil. Organic matter content is low to moderately low in the surface layer.

Lochloosa fine sands, 2 to 5 % slopes

This gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained soil is in the small and large areas on the rolling uplands. Slopes are slightly convex. The areas are irregular in shape and range from about 10 to 100 acres.

Mascotte, Wesconnett and Surrency (MWS) soils, flooded

This soil association consists of poorly and very poorly drained soils found in areas of flats, depressions, and on low stream terraces. The water table is within 18 inches of the surface for 1

to 4 months, and depressional areas hold standing water for several months during most years. Available water capacity is high to very high in the surface layer and medium in the subsurface layer and subsoil. Natural fertility is medium in the surface layer and low in the subsurface layer and subsoil. Organic matter content is high to very high in the surface layer

Millhopper sand, 0 to 5% slopes

This nearly level to gently sloping, moderately well drained soil typically occurs in 10- to 250-acre areas on uplands and on slightly rolling knolls in the broad flatwoods. The soils have rapidly permeable sandy surface and subsurface layers. The subsoil has moderately rapid permeability in the upper loamy sand layer, and moderately slow permeability in the mid subsoil sandy clay loam and lower subsoil sandy loam layers. The water table is at a depth of 40 to 60 inches for 1 to 4 months most years, and at a depth of 60 to 72 inches for 2 to 4 months. This soil type underlies mesic flatwoods and xeric pineland communities within the Preserve.

Monteocha loamy sand

This nearly level, very poorly drained soil is in wet ponds and shallow depressional areas in the flatwoods. This sandy or sandy loamy soil has a water table that is within 10 inches of the surface for more than 6 months during most years. Most areas are covered with water for more than 4 months. Available water capacity is high to very high in the surface layer and medium in the subsurface layer and subsoil. Natural fertility is medium in the surface layer and low in the subsurface layer and subsoil. Organic matter content is high to very high in the surface layer.

Newnan sand

This is a nearly level somewhat poorly drained soil occurring on nearly level to slightly convex slopes in broad areas within the flatwoods ranging from about 10 to 250 acres. The water table is at a depth of 18 to 30 inches for one to two months, and 30 to 60 inches for 2 to 5 months during most years. It recedes to more than 60 inches below the surface during drier periods.

Pamlico muck, frequently flooded

The Pamlico series consists of very poorly drained soils that formed in decomposed organic material underlain by dominantly sandy sediment. The soils are on nearly level flood plains, bays and depressions of the Coastal Plain. Slopes are less than 1 percent. This soil type exists entirely within the Lochloosa slough.

Pelham sand

This nearly level, poorly drained soil is in small and large areas in the flatwoods. Slopes are nearly smooth and range from 0 to 2 percent. These soils are generally sandy in the upper horizons with sandy loam and sandy clay loam in the subsoil layers. The water table is less than 10 inches below the surface for 1 to 4 months during most years. The water table recedes below a depth of 40 inches during dry seasons. Surface runoff is slow. The available water capacity is

low in the surface and subsurface layers and medium in the loamy subsoil. Natural fertility is low in the upper 29 inches and medium below 29 inches. The organic matter is moderately low.

Placid sand, depressional

This nearly level, very poorly drained soil is found in poorly defined drainageways and in wet depressional areas. This soil type has a water table that is within 10 inches of the surface for 6 to 12 months of the year. The surface is usually covered with water for 6 months or more. The available water capacity is high to a depth of about 15 inches and low below this depth. Permeability is rapid throughout. Internal drainage is slow because it is impeded by the water table. Natural fertility and organic matter content are high to a depth of about 15 inches and very low below this depth.

Plummer fine sand

This nearly level, poorly drained soil is sandy in the upper horizons with sandy loam and sandy clay loam in the subsoil. This Plummer soil has a water table that is at a depth of less than 10 inches for 1 to 3 months and is at a depth of 10 to 40 inches for about 3 to 4 months during most years. It recedes to more than 40 inches during drier seasons. The available water capacity is medium to high in the surface and subsurface layers and low to medium in the subsoil. Natural fertility is low. Organic matter content is moderately low.

Pomona sand

This nearly level poorly drained sandy soil has a water table that is less than 10 inches from the surface for 2 to 6 months during most years. Surface runoff is slow. The available water capacity is very low. Permeability is very rapid. The natural fertility is low. Organic matter content of the surface layer is moderately low to moderate.

Pomona sand, depressional

This nearly level, very poorly drained soil is in shallow depressional areas and along narrow drainageways in the flatwoods. Soils are sandy with a spodic horizon at approximately 30 inches below the soil surface. Lower soil layers are loamy sands and sandy loams. In this Pomona soil, the water table is less than 10 inches below the surface for about 6 months or more. Water is on the surface for about 4 months or more during most years. The available water capacity is low in the surface and subsurface layers and low to high in the subsoil. Natural fertility is low. Organic matter content in the surface layer is moderately low.

Pompano sand

This nearly level, poorly drained soil is on poorly defined flats in the broad flatwoods and in shallow depressions in the sandy, rolling uplands. Slopes are nearly smooth on the broad flats

and are slightly concave in the shallow depressions. They range from 0 to 2 %. The shape of the areas is variable. They are usually relatively small in size and range from about 10 to 45 acres.

Pottsburg sand

This is a nearly level, poorly drained soil in the broad areas of the flatwoods. All layers of this soil are sandy to a depth of 86 inches or more. The areas are usually irregular in shape and range from about 15 to 250 acres. These soils have a water table that is at a depth of less than 12 inches for 1 to 4 months and is at a depth of 12 to 40 inches for 4 months or longer during most years.

Samsula muck

This is a nearly level, very poorly drained organic soil. The surface layers are comprised of organic muck underlain by sand. The Samsula soil has water at or on the surface for more than 6 months during most years. The water table is within 10 inches of the surface for most of the remainder of the year, except during long, extended dry periods. The available water capacity is very high in the organic layer. It is very low in the underlying sandy layer. Permeability is rapid. Natural fertility is medium. Organic matter content in the surface layer is very high.

Sparr fine sand

This nearly level, somewhat poorly drained soil is sandy in the upper horizons with loamy sands and sandy loams in lower horizons. This Sparr soil has a water table that is at a depth of 20 to 30 inches for about 1 to 2 months and at a depth of 30 to 40 inches for about 2 to 3 months during most years. During dry seasons it recedes to a depth of more than 40 inches. Surface runoff is slow. The available water capacity is medium in the sandy surface layer, low in the sandy subsurface layer, and medium in the loamy subsoil. Natural fertility is low to a depth of about 48 inches and medium below this depth. Organic matter content is low to moderately low.

Surrency sand

This nearly level, very poorly drained soil is typically located in ponds and depressional areas in the broad flatwoods and in areas of wet prairie on uplands. The areas are relatively small and range from about 10 to 40 acres. The surface and subsurface layers are sandy, over sandy clay loam subsoil. In normal years these hydric soils have a seasonal high-water table within 6 inches of the surface for 2 to 6 months or more. In other months the water table is usually below these depths. These soils are also ponded frequently for long duration with water approximately 2 feet above the surface. Within Lochloosa Slough Preserve, Surrency sand underlies forested wetland communities.

Tavares sand, 0 to 5% slopes

This is a nearly level to gently sloping, and moderately well-drained soil, which is typically deep and sandy. The water table is at a depth of 40 to 72 inches below the surface for at least six months each year and is deeper than 72 inches during times of drought. Surface runoff is slow,

and permeability is rapid to very rapid. Organic content is low to moderate in the surface layer, and natural fertility is low.

Wauchula sand

This nearly level, poorly drained soil occurs in flatwoods with nearly smooth slopes. The surface and subsurface layers are composed of sands ranging from black to light brownish gray in color. The subsoil consists of sand in the upper part underlain by loamy, sandy loam, and loamy sand layers in the lower part. The water table in Wauchula sand is less than 10 inches below surface for 1 to 4 months, and 10 to 40 inches for 6 months in most years. During dry periods, the water table recedes below 40 inches.

(Florida Department of Environmental Protection 2024)