

P.O. Box 16914 West Palm Beach, FL, 33478 <u>www.auduboneverglades.org</u> January 27, 2025

To whomever it May Concern,

The Audubon Everglades Board of Directors has unanimously voted to support the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative.

As a conservation organization whose mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, wildlife, and their habitats, Audubon Everglades applaud the work of this hardworking and visionary group of conservationists in their effort to acquire critically important lands bisected by Bridge Road that will connect Jonathan Dickinson State Park and Atlantic Ridge Preserve State Park, and which will provide protection in perpetuity to endangered species like the endemic Florida Scrub Jay and secretive Red-cockaded Woodpecker, as well as to the iconic Bald Eagle.

Acquiring this critical 138-acre parcel will also help permanently restore historical Waterflows in what will become a connected land mass of approximately 70,000 acres, will create a wildlife corridor benefitting all local flora and fauna, and will prevent future habitat fragmentation that future roads and development in this area could bring.

We wish to express our gratitude to the efforts of the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative, reiterate our support of their vision and mission, and express our excitement for all the benefits it will bring to our local ecosystem.

Scott Zucker President Audubon Everglades

Audubon Everglades is dedicated to conserving and restoring natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, wildlife, and their habitats. Through education, advocacy, and hands-on initiatives, the organization fosters environmental stewardship and promotes biodiversity across the community.