



CENTER FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

September 14, 2022

Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative
P.O. Box 787
Hobe Sound, FL 33475

To Whom It May Concern,

The Center for Plant Conservation is pleased to add its voice to the support of the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters conservation initiative. As an organization devoted to *safeguarding rare plants by advancing science-based conservation practices, connecting and empowering plant conservationists, and inspiring all to protect biodiversity for future generations*, we see this initiative as a necessary protection of native plant communities and other native wildlife.

Last year the Center for Plant Conservation helped launch the The Florida Plant Rescue (FLPR). FLPR is a statewide seed collections initiative that aims to secure and safeguard Florida rare plant species in conservation collections to prevent their extinction. As home to over 2,840 native plant species from tropical and temperate origins, Florida ranks third in plant diversity in the United States and many species are found only in Florida. Saving seeds, spores, or other plant tissues in conservation collections at botanical gardens can safeguard plant species against extinction, yet the best strategy to preserve these plants is to preserve the land on which they reside.

We look forward to following and supporting this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Damon Waitt

Interim President and CEO, Center for Plant Conservation

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