



May 24, 2024

Subject: Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative for the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem

To Whom It May Concern:

The Florida Wildlife Federation (Federation) is thrilled to endorse the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters conservation initiative within the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem. As a statewide organization dedicated to conserving Florida's wildlife, habitats, and natural resources through education, advocacy, and science-based stewardship, the Federation is committed to supporting public conservation land acquisition within Florida Forever priority projects.

The Federation supports this initiative as the acquisition of land within the headwaters of the Loxahatchee and St. Lucie Rivers will not only protect water quality, restore wetland hydrology, and safeguard wildlife habitat, but also provide the public with access to nature and opportunities for recreation. This initiative aims to enhance wildlife habitat connectivity, creating a permanently protected corridor of almost 70,000 undeveloped acres among already conserved public lands in Jonathan Dickinson and Atlantic Ridge State Parks. The Loxa-Lucie headwaters are within the Atlantic Ridge Ecosystem priority project on the Florida Forever list, our transparent and science-based conservation land acquisition program, for which the Federation continues to advocate for robust and meaningful funding from our State Legislature.

The Florida Wildlife Federation is pleased to enthusiastically endorse the Loxa-Lucie headwaters initiative, which aims to further the protection of Florida's land, water, and wildlife.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CDK".

Casey Darling Kniffin  
Conservation Policy Director  
Florida Wildlife Federation