

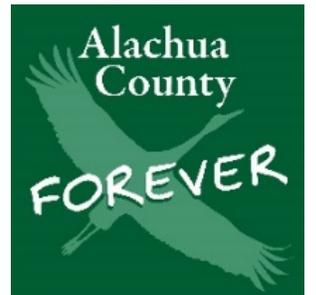
Management of Newly Acquired Conservation Lands

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Office of Land Conservation and Management

Alachua County Forever

The mission of ACF is to acquire, improve, and manage environmentally significant lands that protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

Alachua County,
Florida



New ACF Lands – Management Update

Property	Acquired	Preserve Name	Acreage	Manager
Millhopper Flatwoods - Weiss	09/25/18	Four Creeks Preserve	707.72	Alachua County/ COG
Paynes Prairie - Serenola	12/03/18	Serenola Forest	110.93	ACT
Lochloosa Slough - Fox Pen	01/15/19	Fox Pen	577.84	ACT/Alachua County
Lake Tusawilla - Franklin Crates	06/25/19	Tusawilla Headwaters	162.29	Alachua County
Watermelon Pond- J. Kinnard	07/09/19	Watermelon Pond Preserve	49.30	Alachua County
Watermelon Pond-R&D Kinnard	07/09/19	Watermelon Pond Preserve	15.00	Alachua County
Wolfsheimer-Levy Pasture	07/11/19	Barr Hammock Preserve	106.89	Alachua County
Buck Bay Flatwoods-Raydient	11/15/19	Buck Bay Flatwoods Preserve	173.17	Alachua County
Lochloosa Slough Flatwoods-Slough	12/12/19	Lochloosa Slough Preserve	1,861.15	Alachua County
Lochloosa Connector - Smith & Smith	12/20/19		14.98	Alachua County
Lochloosa Connector - Stephens	05/22/20		14.19	Alachua County
Lake Santa Fe - Johnson	06/05/20	Black Lake Preserve	286.74	Alachua County
Lochloosa Creek-White Pond	09/18/20	Phifer Flatwoods Preserve	29.99	Alachua County
Lake Santa Fe - Padgett	11/06/20	Lake Alto Preserve	299.93	Alachua County
Austin Cary - Weyerhaeuser Parcel E	01/15/21	Bee Tree Creek Preserve	1,250.66	Alachua County/UF
		TOTAL ACRES	5,213.56	

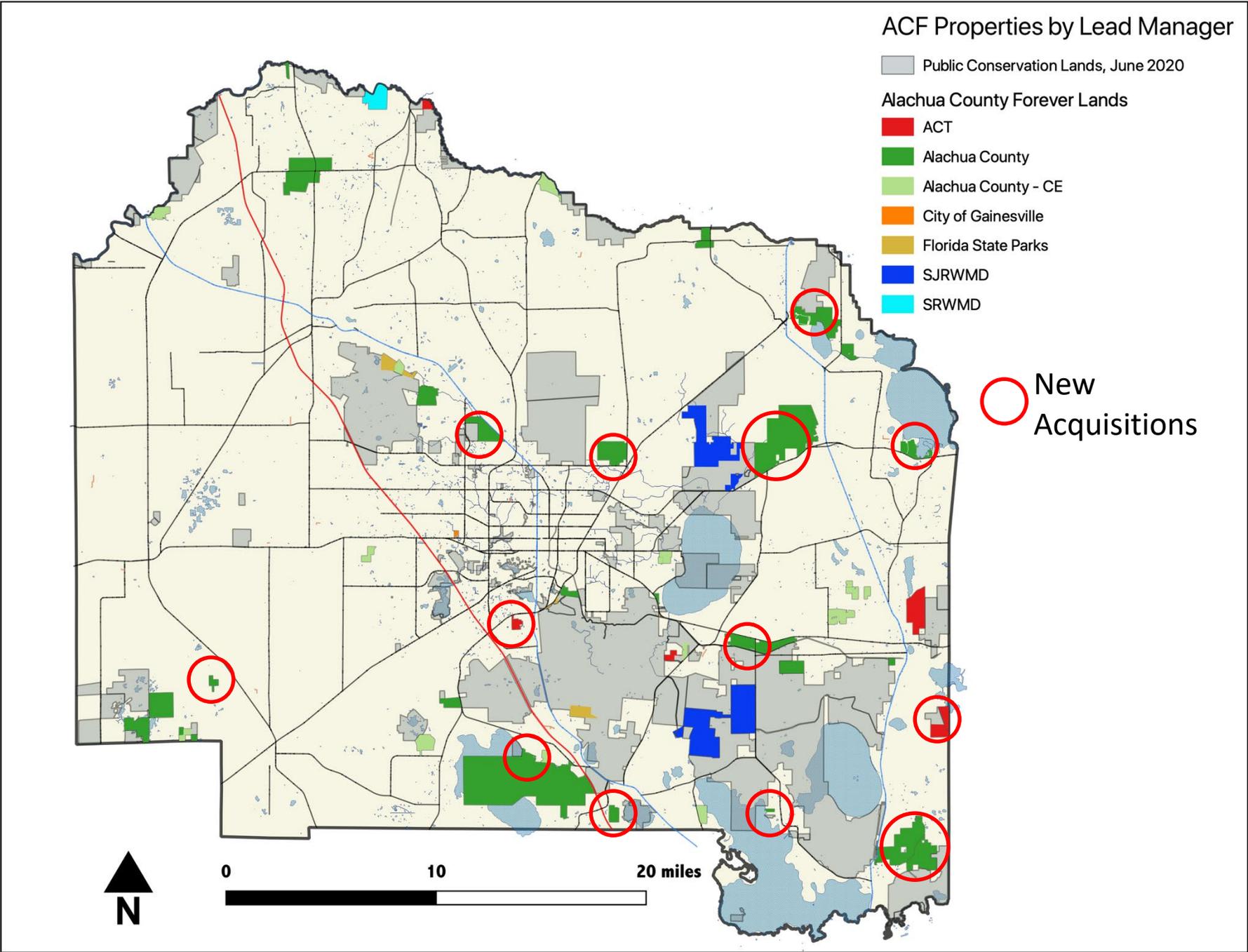
ACF Properties by Lead Manager

Public Conservation Lands, June 2020

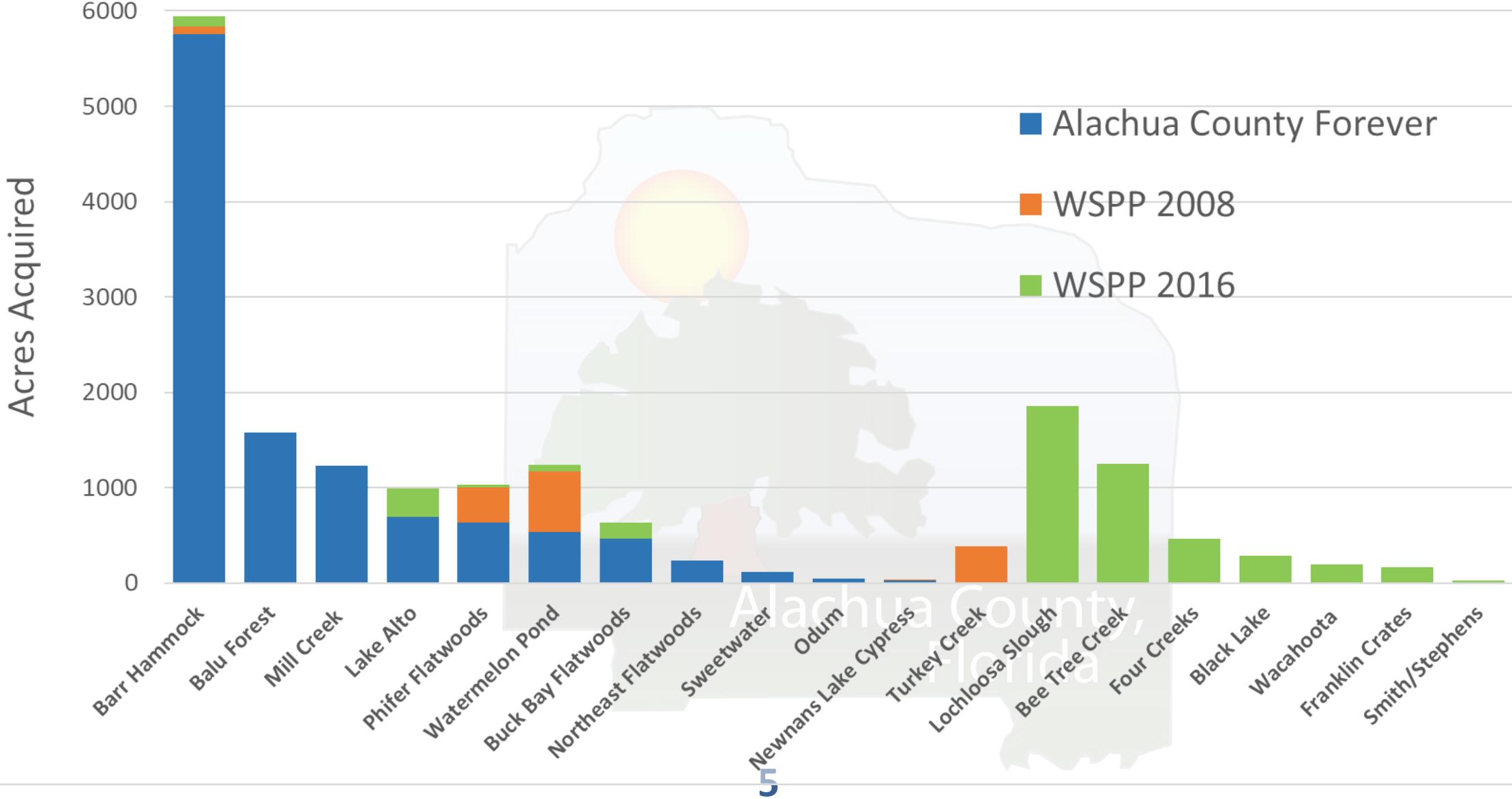
Achua County Forever Lands

- ACT
- Achua County
- Achua County - CE
- City of Gainesville
- Florida State Parks
- SJRWMD
- SRWMD

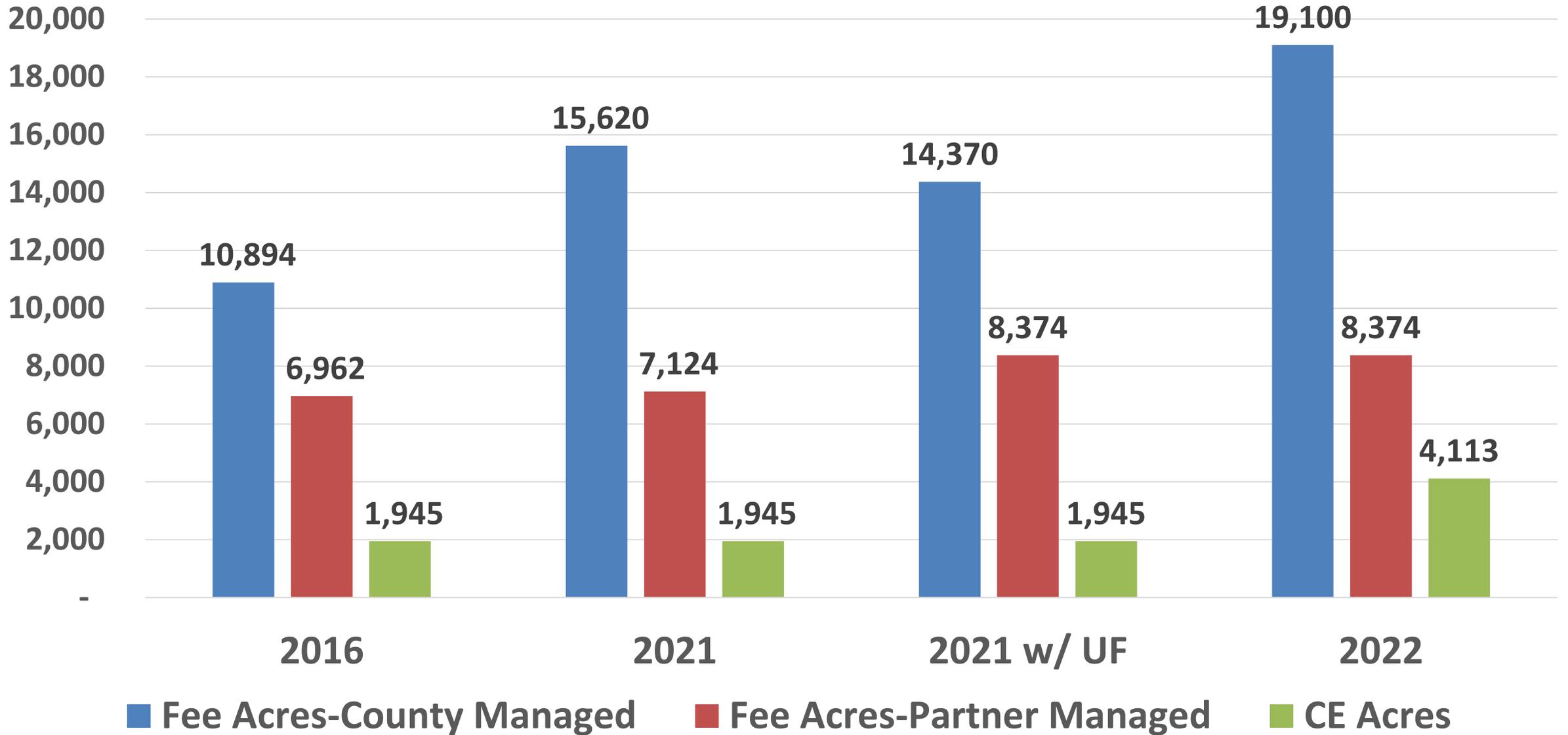
 New Acquisitions



Alachua County Forever Preserves by Funding Cycle

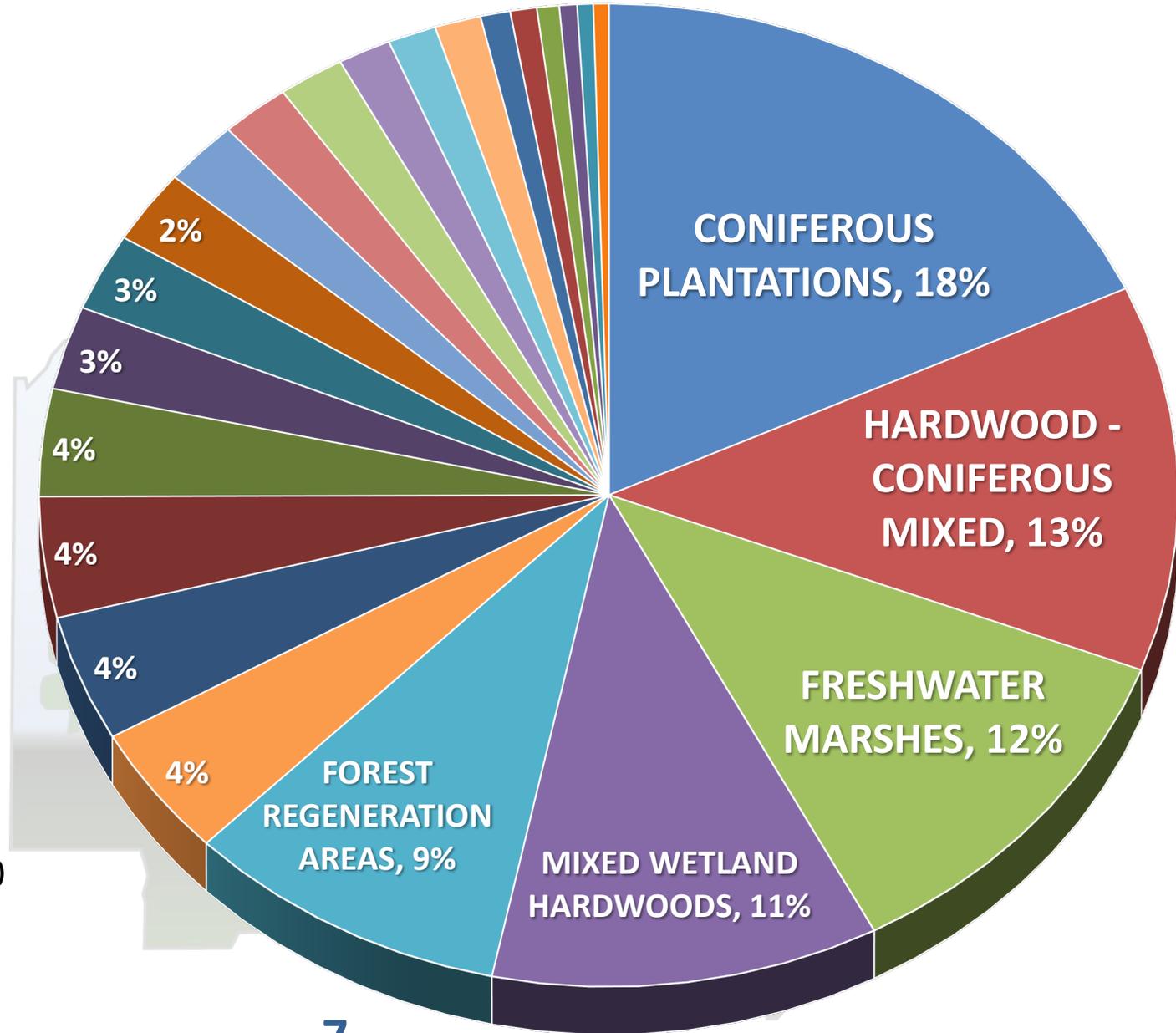


ACF Land by Manager



ACF Land Cover Types

- CONIFEROUS PLANTATIONS
- HARDWOOD - CONIFEROUS MIXED
- FRESHWATER MARSHES
- MIXED WETLAND HARDWOODS
- FOREST REGENERATION AREAS
- UPLAND HARDWOOD FORESTS
- PINE FLATWOODS
- CYPRESS
- IMPROVED PASTURES
- HYDRIC PINE FLATWOODS
- SHRUB AND BRUSHLAND
- TREELESS HYDRIC SAVANNA
- MIXED RANGELAND
- WETLAND FORESTED MIXED
- UPLAND CONIFEROUS FORESTS
- HERBACEOUS (DRY PRAIRIE)
- EMERGENT AQUATIC VEGETATION
- WET PRAIRIES
- LAKES
- STREAMS AND LAKE SWAMPS (BOTTOMLAND)
- FIELD CROPS
- UNIMPROVED PASTURES
- LONGLEAF PINE - XERIC OAK
- BAY SWAMPS



Steps Following Acquisition

- Site Security
- Site Assessment – Detailed Surveys-
- Mgt. Plan Draft
- Mgt. Plan Review (Internal, Partners, LCB, etc.)
- Public Meetings on Plan
- BoCC Approval of Plan
- Budget Planning/Requests
- Develop Infrastructure
- Plan for Appropriate Public Use on Suitable Properties



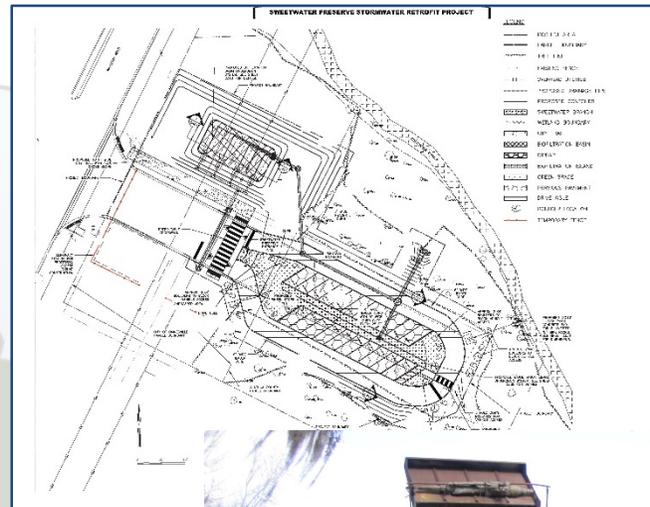
Initial Challenges

- Legacy Solid Waste
- Road/Trail Conditions
- Public Safety
- Invasive Species
- Others...



Steps Prior to Opening to the Public

- Master Site Plan
- Public Buy-in
- Public Safety
- Trail Layout
- Planning and Engineering
- Budget
- Purchasing/Contracting/Legal Review
- Permitting
- Phasing?



New ACF Lands – Management Update

Property	Preserve Name	Acreage	Manager	Open*	Plan Status
Millhopper Flatwoods - Weiss	Four Creeks Preserve	707.72	Alachua County/ City of Gainesville	✓	IN DRAFT
Paynes Prairie - Serenola	Serenola Forest	110.93	ACT	✓	<i>IN DRAFT(Partner)</i>
Lochloosa Slough - Fox Pen	Fox Pen	577.84	ACT/Alachua County	✓	<i>Due from Partner</i>
Lake Tusawilla - Franklin Crates	Tusawilla Headwaters	162.29	Alachua County	APPT	IN DRAFT
Watermelon Pond- J. Kinnard	Watermelon Pond Preserve	49.30	Alachua County	APPT	Data Collection
Watermelon Pond-R&D Kinnard	Watermelon Pond Preserve	15.00	Alachua County	APPT	Data Collection
Wolfsheimer-Levy Pasture	Barr Hammock Preserve	106.89	Alachua County	✓	IN DRAFT
Buck Bay Flatwoods-Raydient	Buck Bay Flatwoods Preserve	173.17	Alachua County	2022	IN DRAFT
Lochloosa Slough Flatwoods-Slough	Lochloosa Slough Preserve	1,861.15	Alachua County	2025	Data Collection
Lochloosa Connector - Smith & Smith		14.98	Alachua County	APPT	Data Collection
Lochloosa Connector - Stephens		14.19	Alachua County	APPT	Data Collection
Lake Santa Fe - Johnson	Black Lake Preserve	286.74	Alachua County	2023	Site Cleanup
Lochloosa Creek-White Pond	Phifer Flatwoods Preserve	29.99	Alachua County	✓	IN DRAFT
Lake Santa Fe - Padgett	Lake Alto Preserve	299.93	Alachua County	2024	Data Collection
Austin Cary - Weyerhaeuser Parcel E	Bee Tree Creek Preserve	1,250.66	Alachua County/ University of Florida	2024	Data Collection
				* Projected Opening	

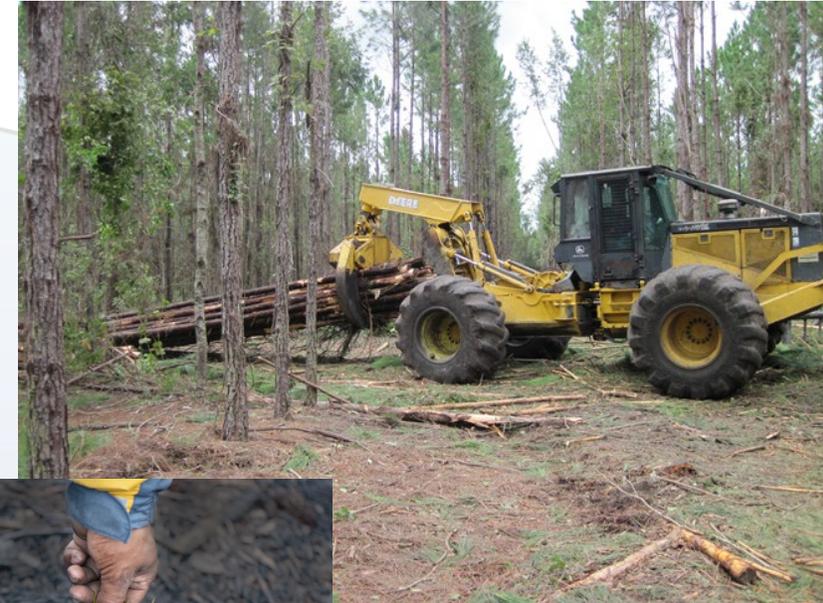
ACF Key Management Responsibilities

- Inventory and planning
- Natural resource management
 - Prescribed burning
 - Invasive species control
- Infrastructure maintenance
- Public use management
- Acquisition support
 - Evaluation of nominations
 - Land Conservation Board liaison

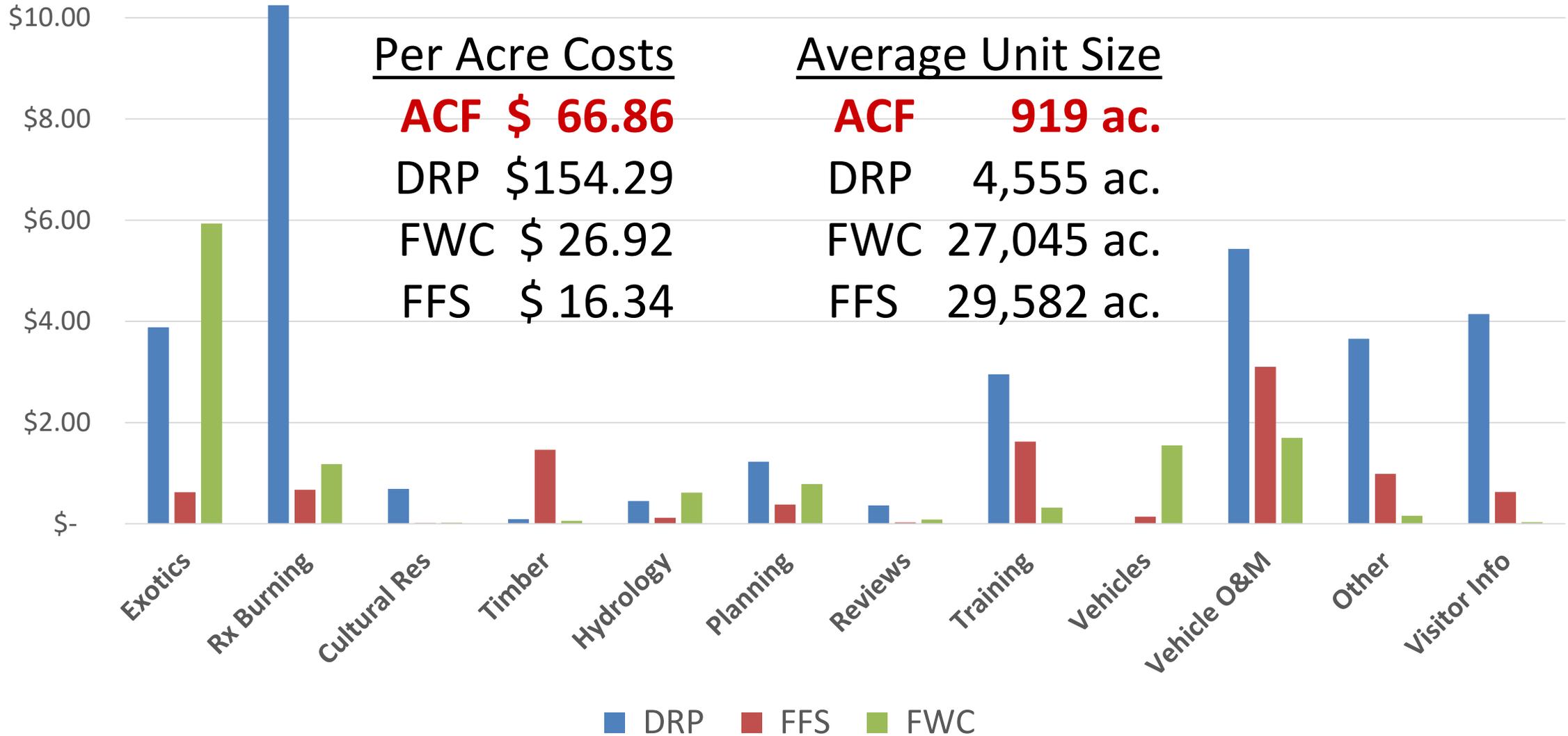


Examples of Ongoing Projects

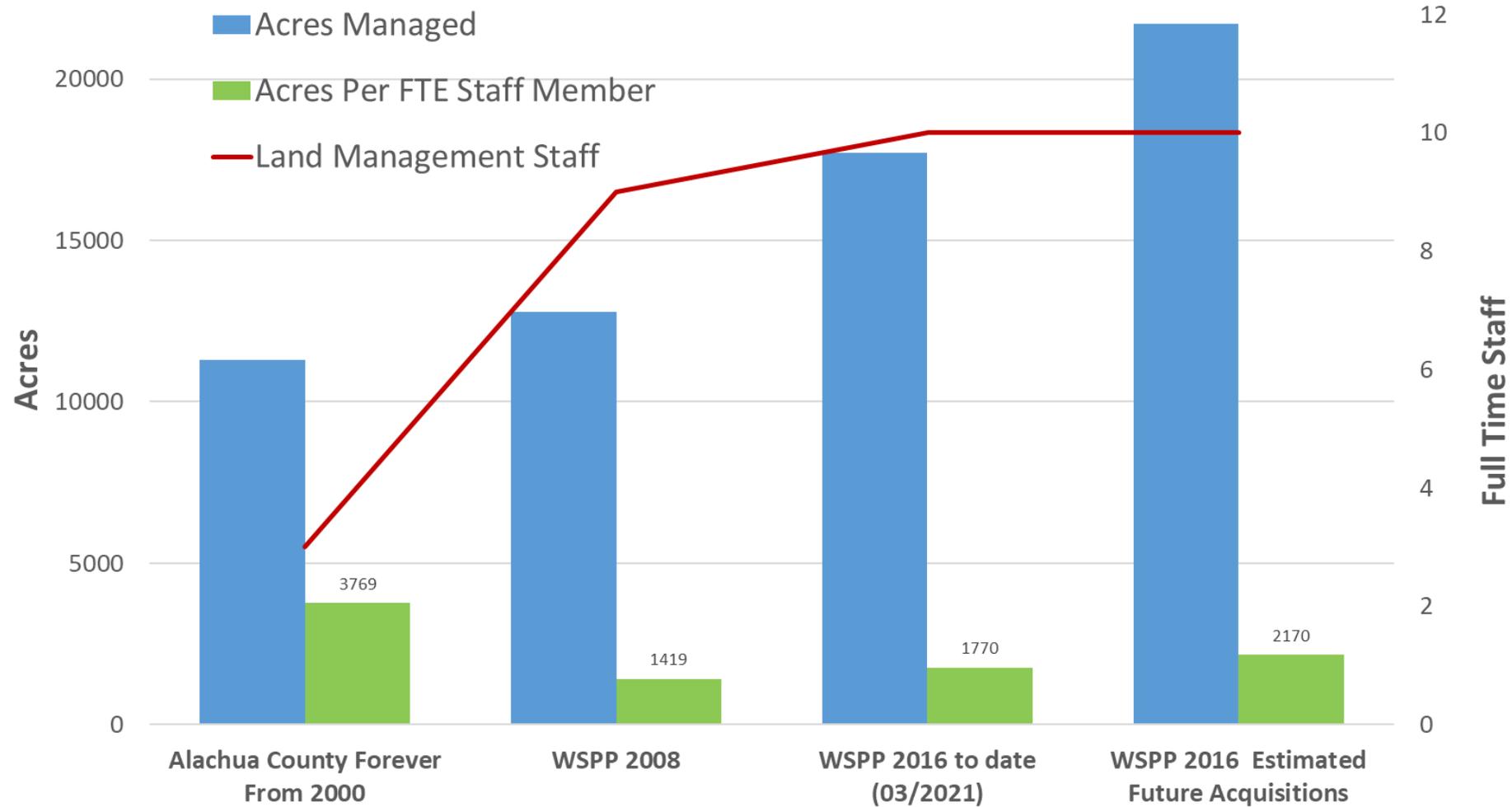
- **Solid Waste:** Black Lake Preserve Site Cleanup, Wacahoota Cleanup
- **Infrastructure:** Sweetwater Parking Lot, Four Creeks Parking lot, Turkey Creek Overlook
- **Habitat Restoration:**
 - Timber harvest & Reforestation
 - Restoration
 - Invasive Species Management
 - Prescribed Burning



Per Acre Land Management Costs by Agency (2020)

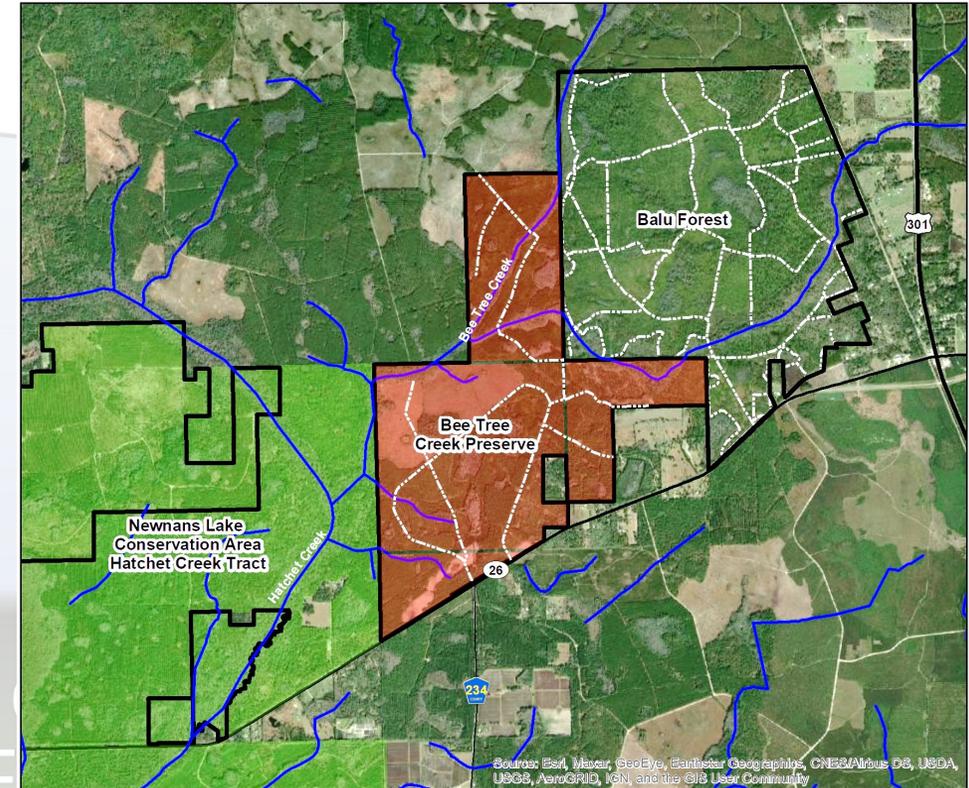


Alachua County Forever Land Management Staff Levels



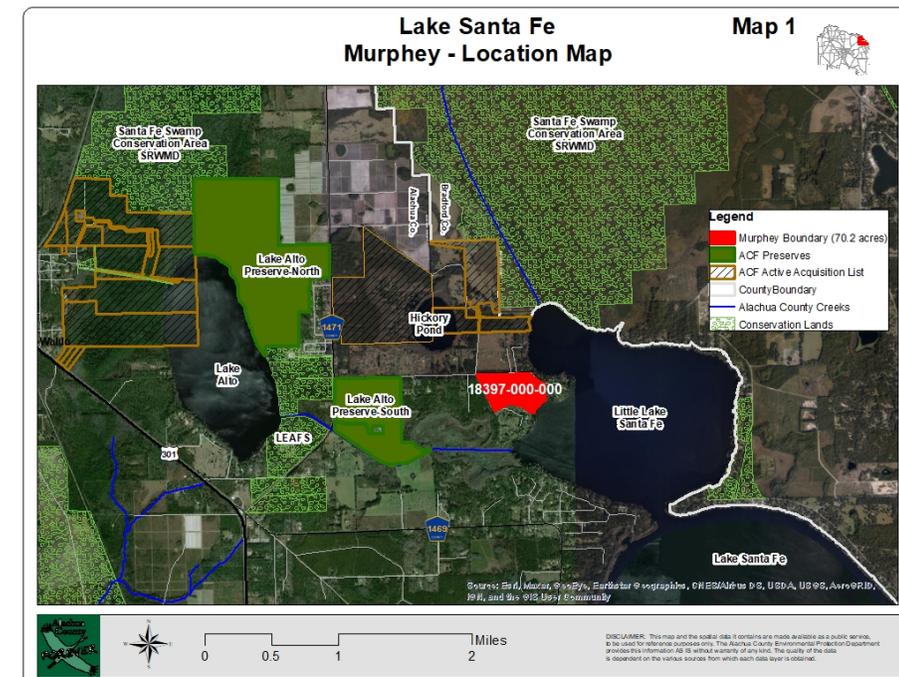
Partnership Opportunities

- Management of Bee Tree Creek Preserve by the UF School of Forests, Fisheries and Geomatic Sciences
- Management of public hunting at Lochloosa Slough by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



Other Management Responsibilities

- Conservation Easements
 - Monitoring Current and Future Easements
 - Implementing an Agricultural Protection Program (West side Greenbelt)
- Balu Forest
- Cuscowilla
- Santa Fe Lake - Murphey Tract
- Assistance to Parks (invasives)



Management Lessons Learned

- ACF is still developing into a mature land management program.
 - New lands carry heavy start-up requirements/costs
 - Centralized field support building will increase efficiency
 - Achieving optimal mix of staff and contractors is a work in progress
 - Preserve management requires both short term and long term funding strategies.
- Preserve staffing needs dramatically increase with public access (163% per ACF 3/2016).
- Small preserves have many of the same land management costs as large preserves.
- Conservation Easements require significant staff resources in order to maintain environmental gains.