



# Alachua County Forever

Where we've been – Where we're headed

Charlie Houder and Andi Christman  
Office of Land Conservation and Management

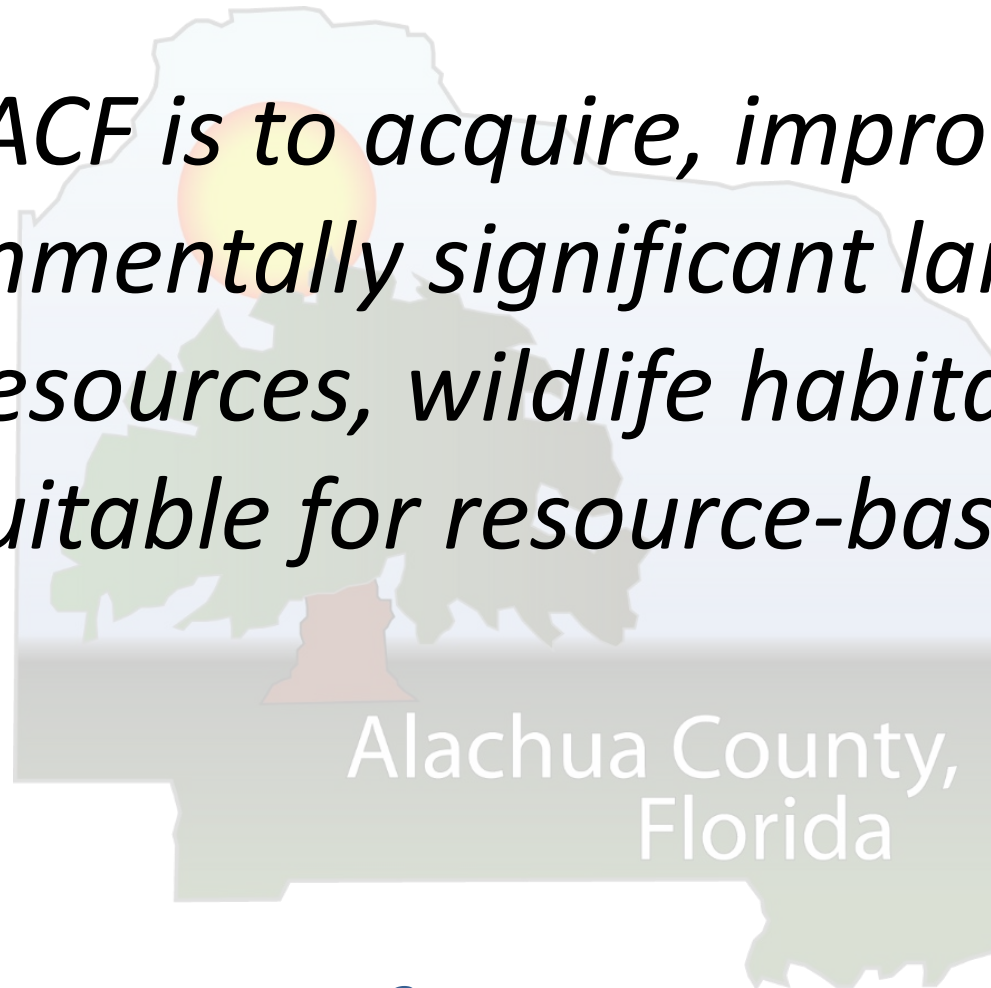
# Assessing ACF Program Accomplishments

- ACF Lessons Learned
- Plans for a future phase
- Priorities for the future
  - Updated Conservation Lands Focus Areas
  - Rural Lands Initiative



# 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.*



# ACF Acquisition Criteria

- Established through BoCC Resolution 18-101
- Expressed and quantified numerically through the Matrix

Alachua County Forever Site Evaluation Scoring Criteria Matrix. (SITE NAME) (DATE)					
CATEGORY	Criterion	WEIGHTING	Enter Criteria Value Based on Site Inspection	Average Criteria Score	Average Criteria Score Multiplied by Relative Importance
(I-1) PROTECTION OF WATER RESOURCES	A. Whether the property has geologic/hydrologic conditions that would easily enable contamination of vulnerable aquifers that have value as drinking water sources;		5		
	B. Whether the property serves an important groundwater recharge function;		5		
	C. Whether the property contains or has direct connections to lakes, creeks, rivers, springs, sinkholes, or wetlands for which conservation of the property will protect or improve surface water quality;		5		
	D. Whether the property serves an important flood management function.		5		
(I-2) PROTECTION OF NATURAL COMMUNITIES AND LANDSCAPES	A. Whether the property contains a diversity of natural communities;		5		
	B. Whether the natural communities present on the property are rare;		5		
	C. Whether there is ecological quality in the communities present on the property;		5		
	D. Whether the property is functionally connected to other natural communities;		5		
	E. Whether the property is adjacent to properties that are in public ownership or have other environmental protections such as conservation easements;		5		
	F. Whether the property is large enough to contribute substantially to conservation efforts;		5		
	G. Whether the property contains important, Florida-specific geologic features such as caves or springs;		5		
	H. Whether the property is relatively free from internal fragmentation from roads, power lines, and other features that create barriers and edge effects.		5		
(I-3) PROTECTION OF PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES	A. Whether the property serves as documented or potential habitat for rare, threatened, or endangered species or species of special concern;		5		
	B. Whether the property serves as documented or potential habitat for species with large home ranges;		5		
	C. Whether the property contains plants or animals that are endemic or near-endemic to Florida or Alachua County;		5		
	D. Whether the property serves as a special wildlife migration or aggregation site for activities such as breeding, roosting, colonial nesting, or over-wintering;		5		
	E. Whether the property offers high vegetation quality and species diversity;		5		
	F. Whether the property has low incidence of non-native invasive species.		5		
(I-4) SOCIAL AND HUMAN VALUES	A. Whether the property offers opportunities for compatible resource-based recreation, if appropriate;		5		
	B. Whether the property contributes to urban green space, provides a municipal defining greenbelt, provides scenic vistas, or has other value from an urban and regional planning perspective.		5		
	AVERAGE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN VALUES			5.00	
	RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CRITERIA SET IN THE OVERALL SCORE	1.3333			6.67
(II-1) MANAGEMENT ISSUES	A. Whether it will be practical to manage the property to protect its environmental, social and other values (examples include controlled burning, exotics removal, maintaining hydro-period, and so on);		5		
	B. Whether this management can be completed in a cost-effective manner.		5		
(II-2) ECONOMIC AND ACQUISITION ISSUES	A. Whether there is potential for purchasing the property with matching funds from municipal, state, federal, or private contributions;		5		
	B. Whether the overall resource values justifies the potential cost of acquisition;		5		
	C. Whether there is imminent threat of losing the environmental, social or other values of the property through development and/or lack of sufficient legislative protections (this requires analysis of current land use, zoning, owner intent, location and		5		
	AVERAGE FOR ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT VALUES			5.00	
	RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THIS CRITERIA SET IN THE OVERALL SCORE	0.6667			3.33
	TOTAL SCORE				10.00

# Wild Spaces Public Places 2016 - Acquisition

Property	Closing Date	Acreage	Land Cost	Partner Ac.	Partner Cost	Partner
Millhopper Flatwoods - Weiss	09/25/18	462.72	\$2,882,965.64	245.00	\$1,500,000.00	CoG
Paynes Prairie - Serenola	12/03/18	103.21	\$2,997,965.76	7.72	\$225,000.00	ACT
Lochloosa Slough - Fox Pen	01/15/19	383.35	\$876,491.51	194.49	\$444,685.48	ACT
Lake Tuscawilla - Franklin Crates	06/25/19	162.29	\$313,796.83			
Watermelon Pond- J. Kinnard	07/09/19	49.30	\$221,850.00			
Watermelon Pond-R&D Kinnard	07/09/19	15.00	\$67,500.00			
Wolfsheimer-Levy Pasture	07/11/19	106.89	\$290,873.34			
Buck Bay Flatwoods-Raydient	11/15/19	173.17	\$727,309.80			
Lochloosa Slough Flatwoods-Slough	12/12/19	1,861.15	\$4,821,882.00			
Lochloosa Connector - Smith & Smith	12/20/19	14.98	\$0.00			
Lochloosa Connector - Stephens	05/22/20	14.19	\$0.00			
Lake Santa Fe - Johnson	06/05/20	286.74	\$2,265,246.00			
Lochloosa Creek-White Pond	09/18/20	29.99	\$104,975.50			
Lake Santa Fe - Padgett	11/06/20	299.93	\$583,705.93			
Austin Cary - Weyerhaeuser Parcel E	01/15/21	1,250.66	\$3,371,104.00			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,213.56</b>	<b>\$19,525,666.31</b>	<b>447.21</b>	<b>\$2,169,685.48</b>	

# Wild Spaces Public Places 2016 – Future Acquisition

Property	Anticipated Closing Date	Acreage	Land Cost
WSPP Acquisitions to Date	<i>Acquired</i>	<b>5,213.56</b>	<b>\$19,525,666.31</b>
Lochloosa Slough - Fox Pen Connector	08/27/21	3,995.67	\$10,748,352.30
Watermelon Pond - Warny	4/21	79.42	Donation
Santa Fe River - Lundgren	4/21	232.84	Donation
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,521.49</b>	<b>\$30,274,018.61</b>

**Average land cost = \$3,179.55 per acre**



# WSPP Funding for Conservation

**\$47,705,999** WSPP revenues received (1/31/21, 45 months)

- **\$6,000,000** Municipal partnership projects

- **\$8,283,403** Park improvements and purchase and restoration of Cuscowilla

= **\$33,422,596** Remaining land conservation allocation

- **\$17,552,383** Land conservation acquisitions

+ **\$1,254,006** FCT reimbursement for Serenola Forest

= **\$17,124,219** Cash on hand for land conservation (1/31/21)

- **\$10,937,492** Fox Pen Connector purchase price and closing costs

+ **\$7,632,960** Expected WSPP revenues 2/1/21 – 7/31/21

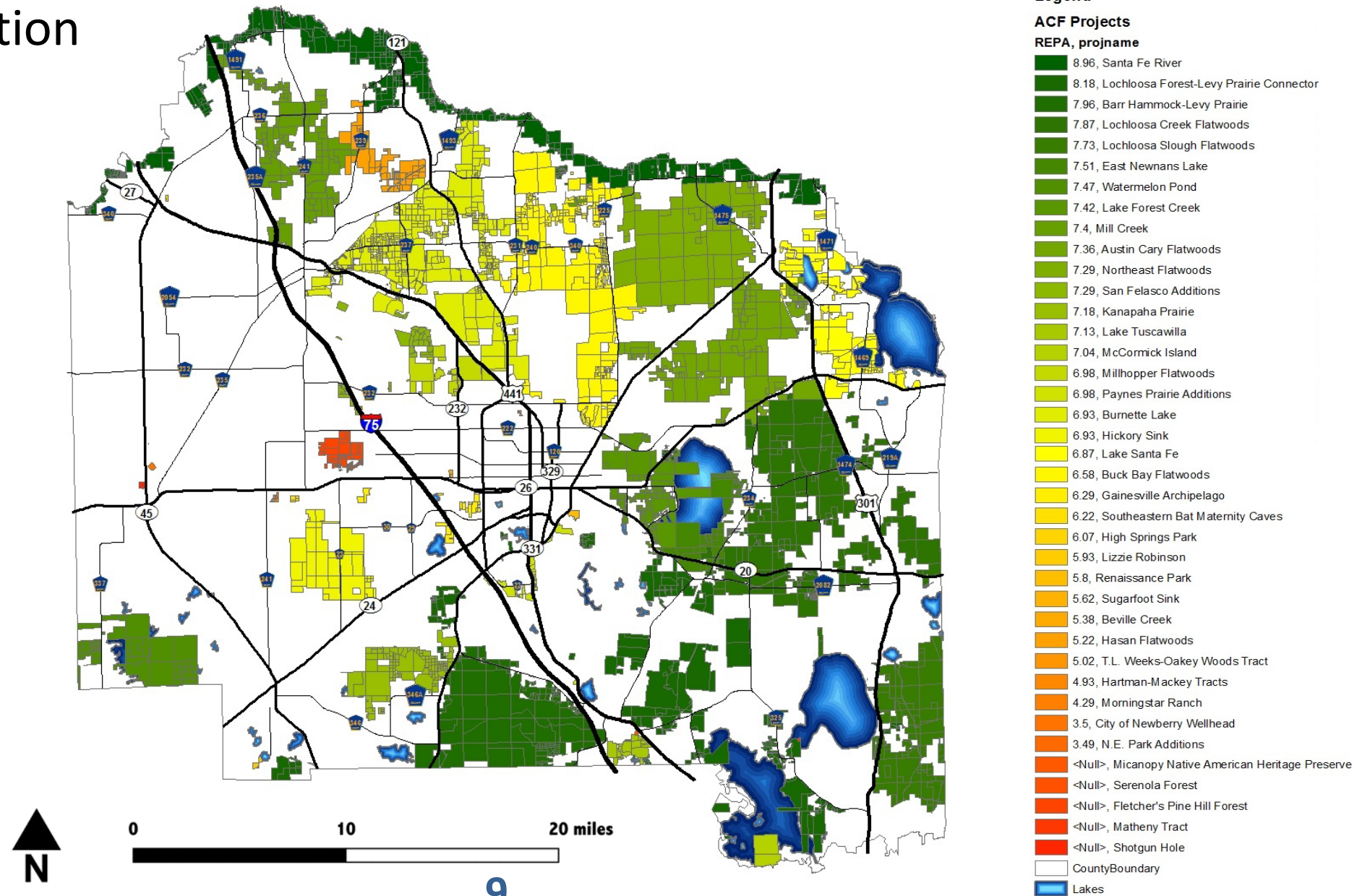
= **\$13,819,687** Estimated land conservation funding available 8/31/21

# Acquisition Lessons Learned

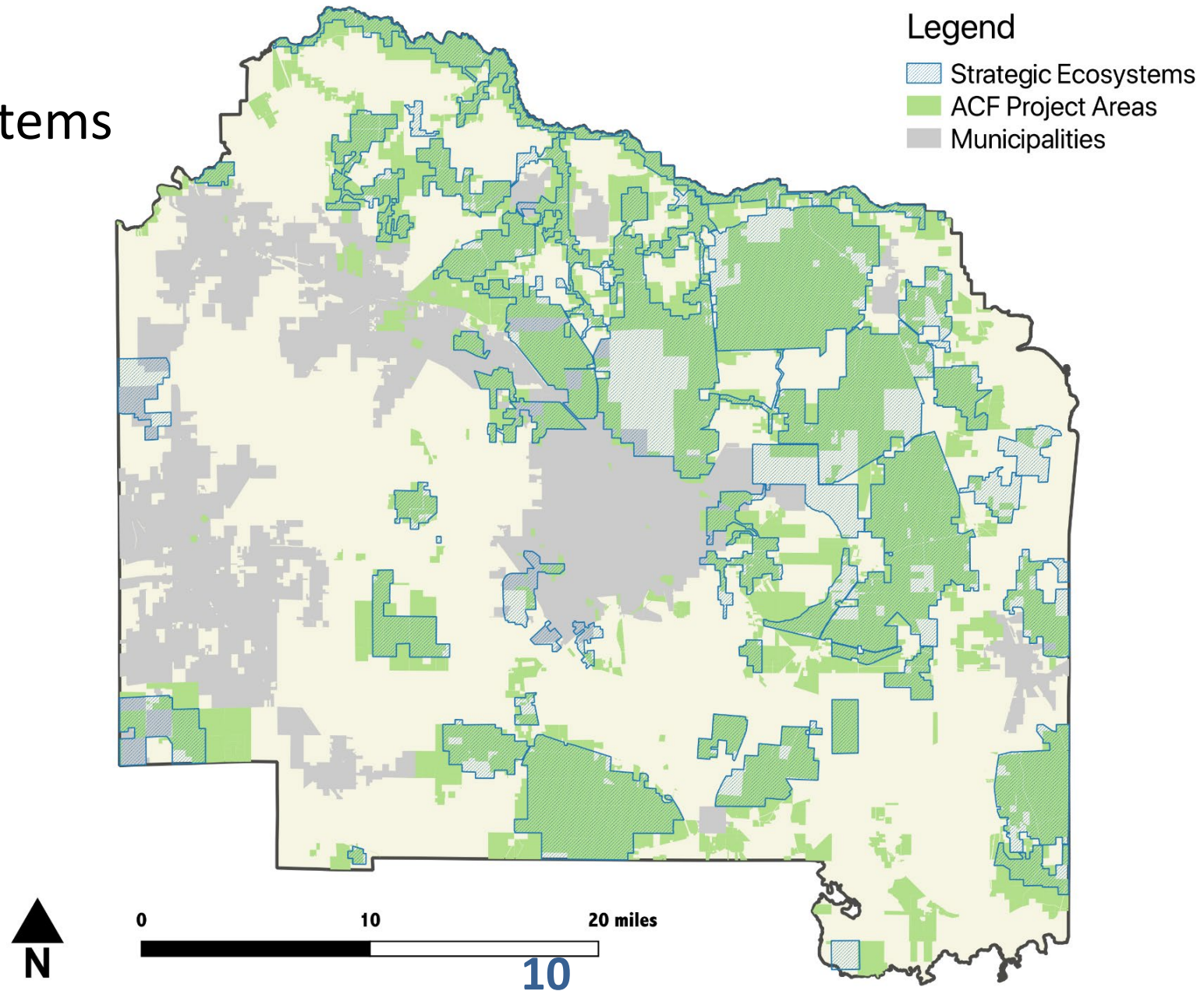
- ACF addresses local needs that can't be met through state-level focus.
- ACF is ecosystem-focused, and not designed to do everything
  - Parks
  - Agricultural Land Preservation
- Bigger and wetter properties are less expensive.
- The future is smaller and more expensive.
- Adapt to opportunities... and always be prepared for them.
- A fiscally sound program with high standards builds support and attracts partners.
- Evaluation tools should be updated as landscape data and models are improved.



# The Conservation Priorities

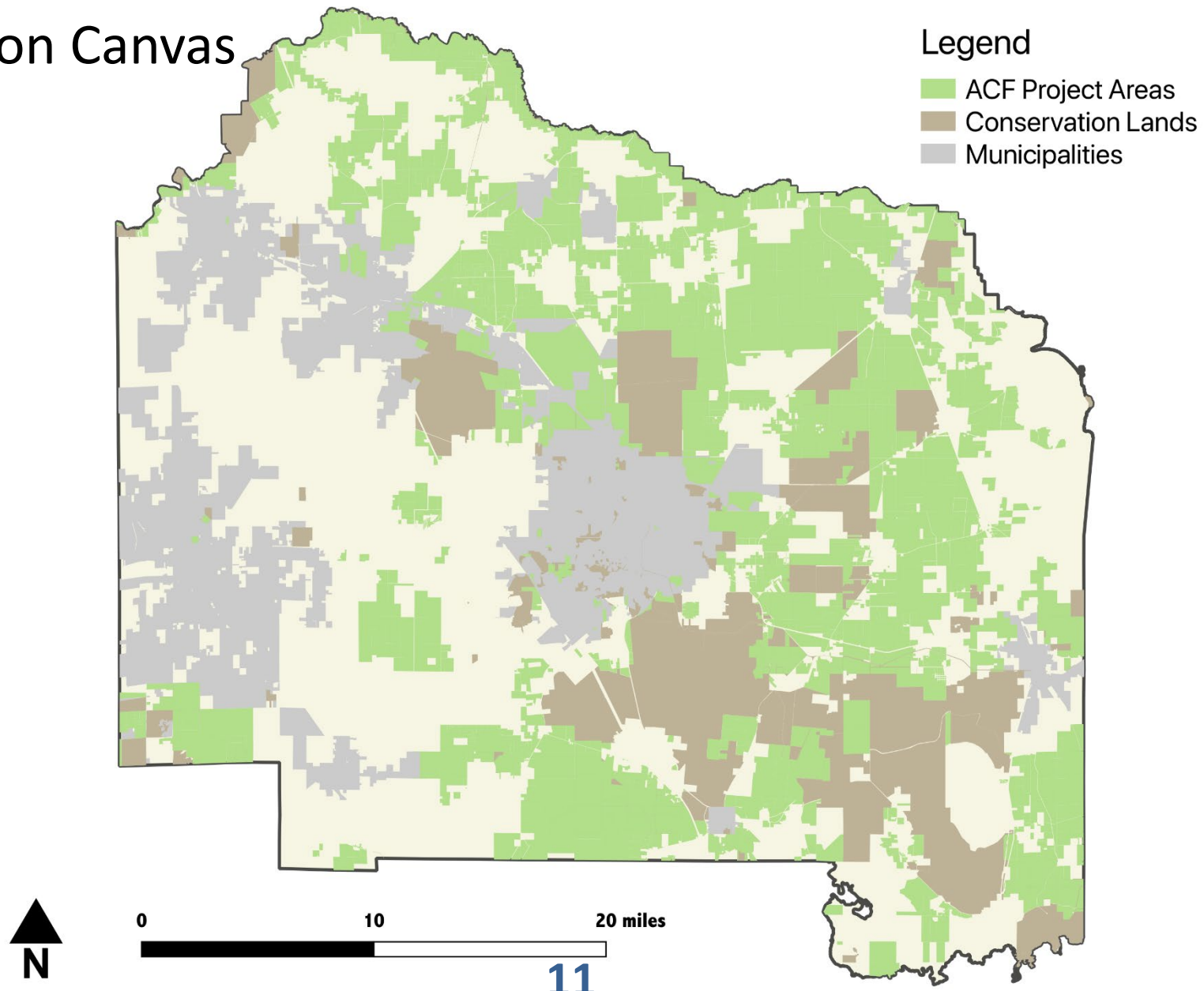


# ACF Projects vs Strategic Ecosystems

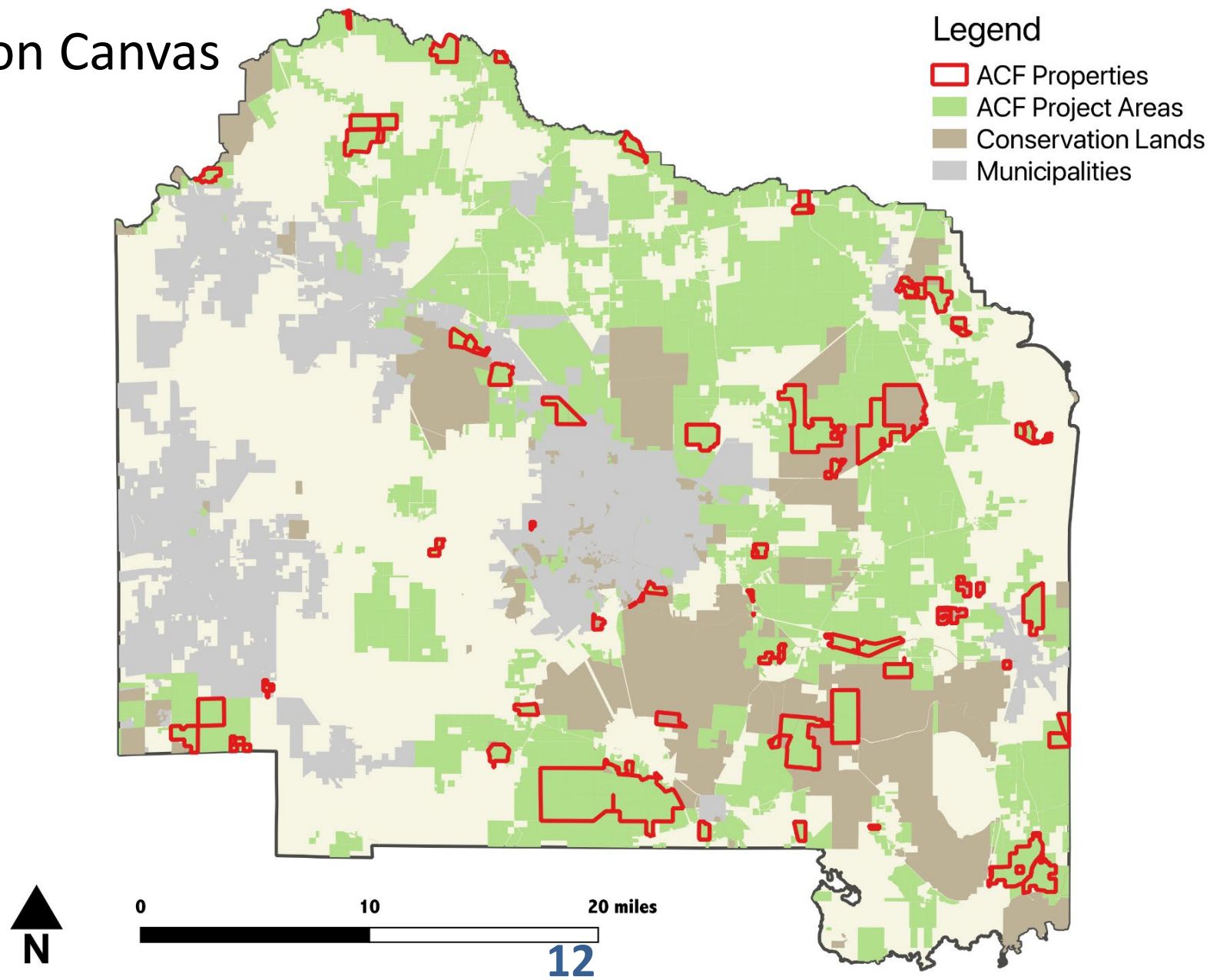




# The Conservation Canvas

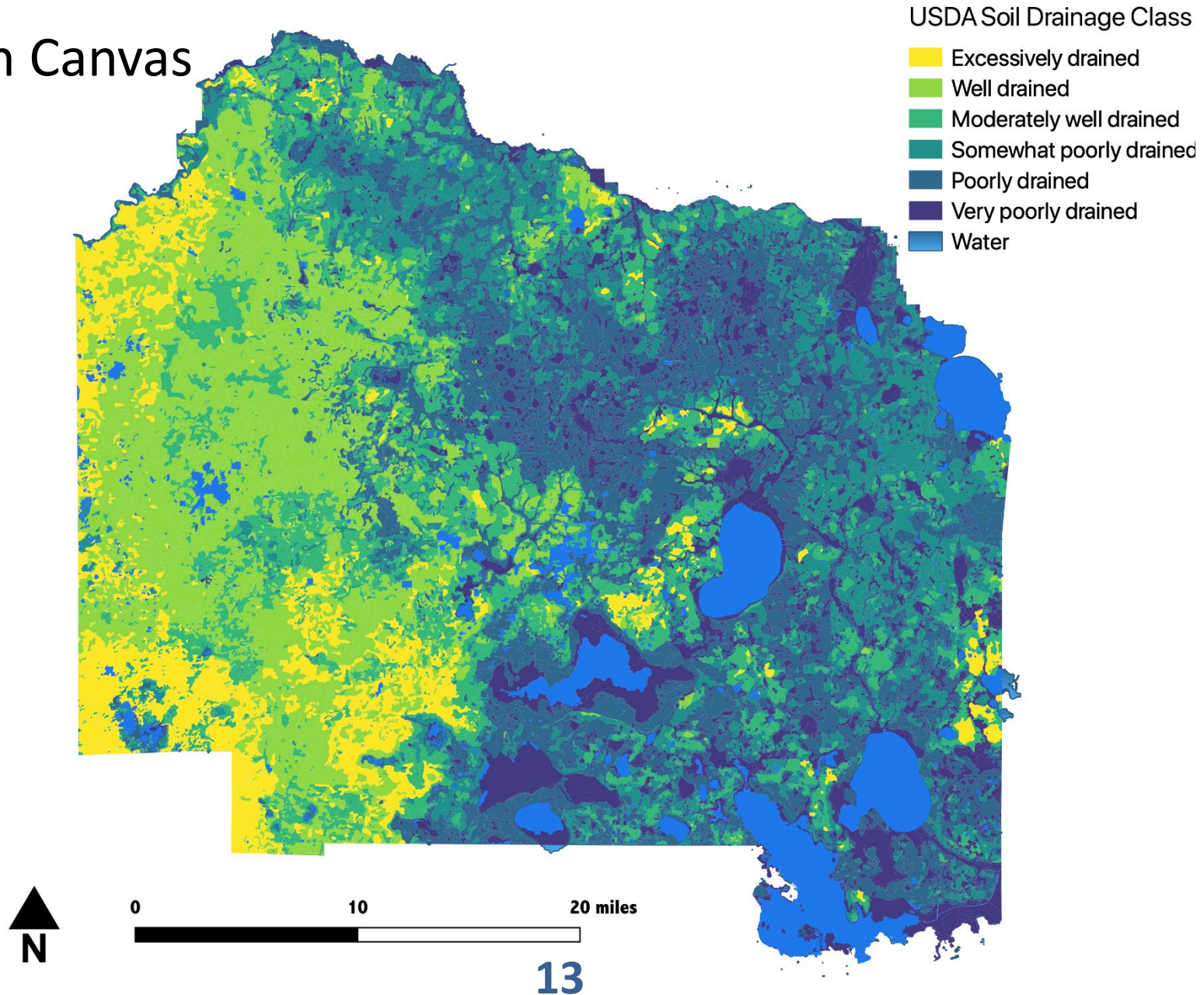


# The Conservation Canvas



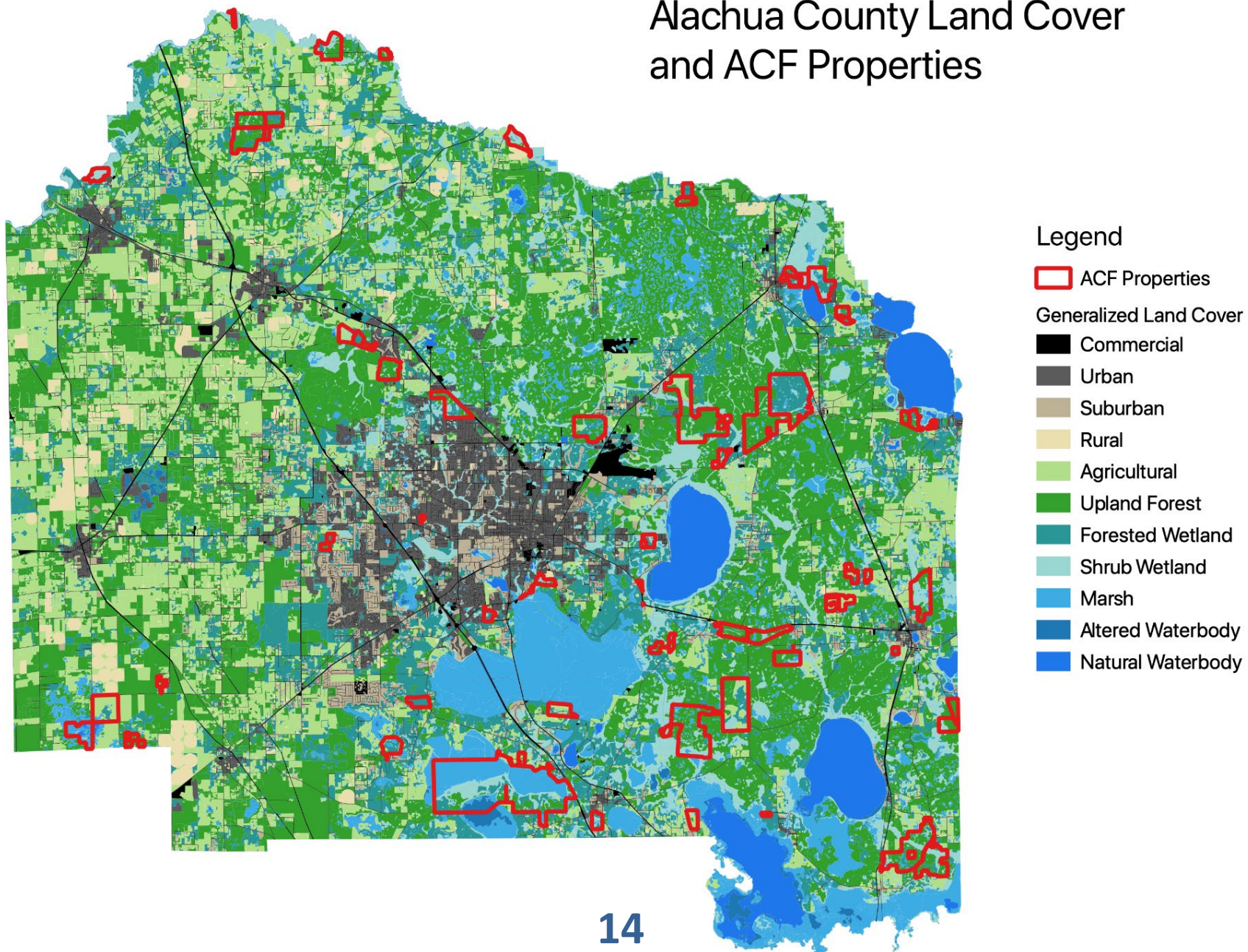


# The Conservation Canvas



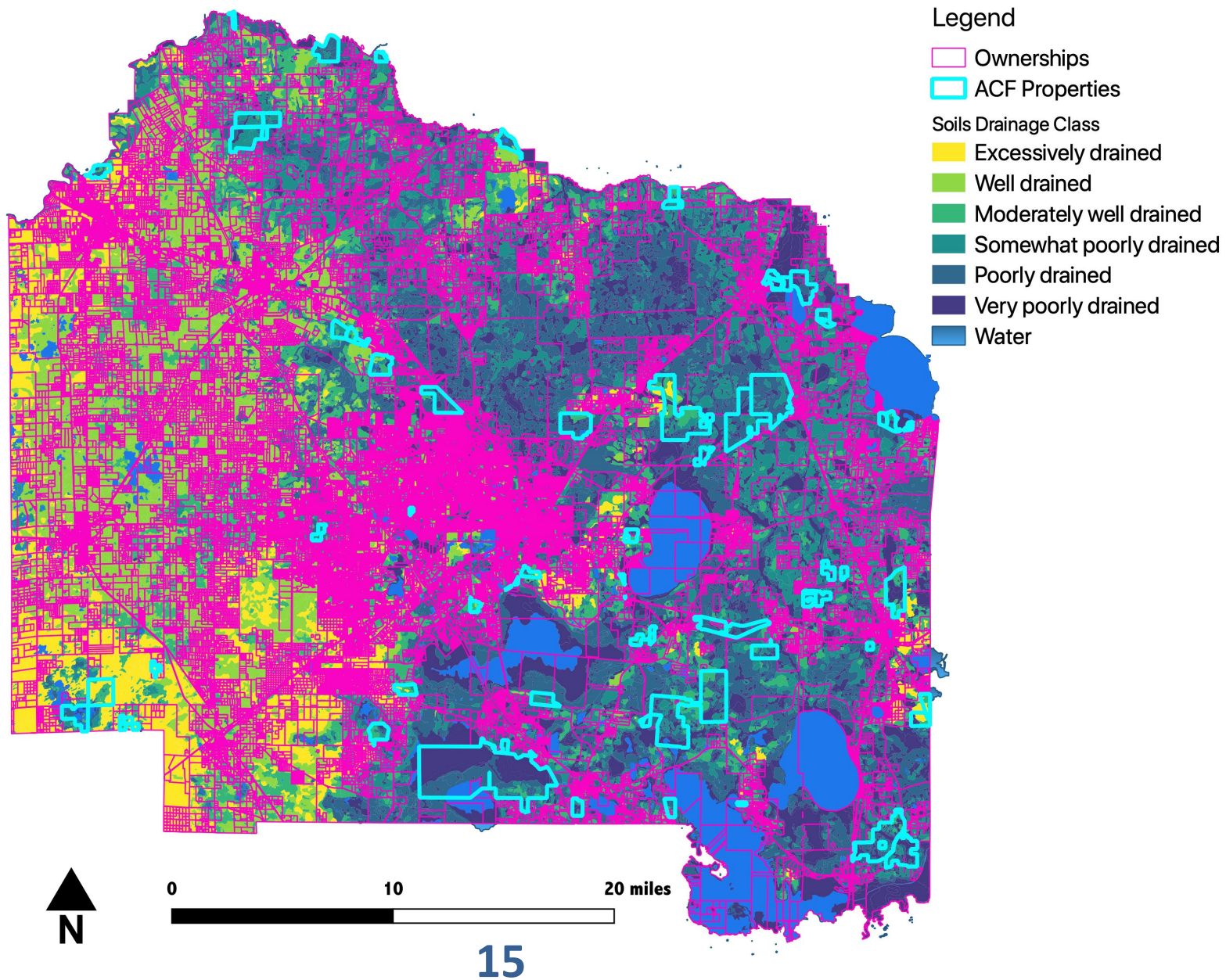


## Alachua County Land Cover and ACF Properties

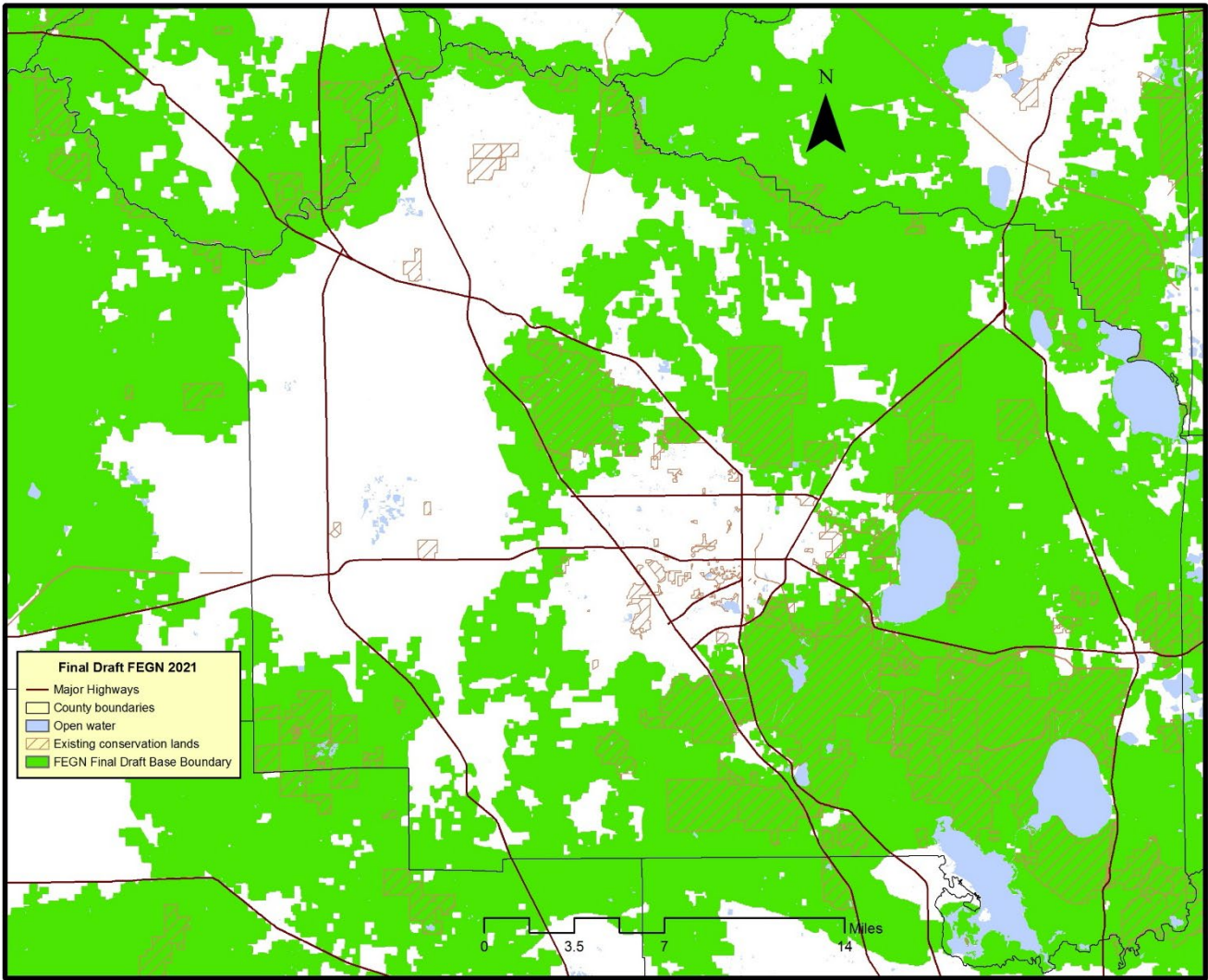




# The Conservation Challenge



# Potential Expansion of Ecological Greenways





# What are the greatest needs going forward?

- Continuity with 20 years of ACF program priorities
- Connectivity/Corridors
- Climate resiliency
- Surface water protection
- Rural lands initiative

