



Alachua County

Lochloosa Creek - Little Orange Creek



Purchase Date: April 6, 2012
Seller: The Conservation Fund/Plum Creek Timberlands
Purchase Price: \$1,775,000 **Size:** 702 acres
USFWS/NAWCA: \$1,000,000 **County:** \$775,000

- The property is located to the east of SR 301, north of SR 20 and south of CR 1474 northeast of the Town of Hawthorne.
- It is immediately adjacent to the Little Orange Creek Nature Preserve, owned and managed by the Friends of Little Orange Creek, Inc., Putnam Land Conservancy and the Town of Hawthorne.
- The Little Orange Creek Tract contains a mosaic of upland and wetland natural communities. However most of the uplands have been converted to pine plantation and will be restored as a natural community. The wetlands are in good condition and are extensive throughout the site. The wetlands provides good habitat for birds and amphibians and a few gopher tortoise burrows were observed. Royal fern was found in the basin swamp community.
- Protection of the Little Orange Creek which begins on the north end of the property as a basin swamp is a key feature of the property.
- The property will be managed by Alachua Conservation Trust, who brought a \$1 million grant, funded by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's North American Wetland Conservation Act program to the table.
- This is the 42nd acquisition by the ACF Program and the 14th using the Wild Spaces and Public Places Surtax, approved by the voters in 2008 to extend the ACF Program.



ALACHUA COUNTY FOREVER MISSION

Approved in November 2000 by the voters, to acquire, improve and manage the county's environmentally sensitive lands to protect water resources, wildlife habitats and natural areas suitable for resource-based recreation.

Program Notes

- ✓ Alachua County Forever responds to public nominations.
- ✓ Property owners must be willing. Condemnation of property is not permitted under Alachua County Forever.
- ✓ Projects evaluated by staff and the Land Conservation Board.
- ✓ Criteria include protection of water resources, habitats, species, social value, manageability, and the economics of the acquisition.
- ✓ The County Commission approves acquisition projects.
- ✓ County can acquire property outright or certain rights through less-than-fee mechanisms such as conservation easements.
- ✓ Offers are made based on independent, private appraisals.
- ✓ Program funded by \$29 million in voter-approved bonds and \$15 million in Sales Surtax.
- ✓ Program actively seeks state, federal and private grants.
- ✓ Properties are managed as preserves.
- ✓ Resource-compatible, passive recreation is encouraged on sites where appropriate.



For more information:
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Alachua County Commission

Paula M. DeLaney, Chair
 Mike Byerly, Vice-Chair
 Susan Baird
 Winston Bradley
 Lee Pinkoson

Administration

Richard A. Drummond, County Manager
 Chris Bird, Environmental Protection Dept. Director

