
FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL COALITION MEETING

5 – 6 JANUARY 2017





MEETING AGENDA • 9 AM TO 4 PM

12 pm LUNCH provided by the **Florida Trail Association**

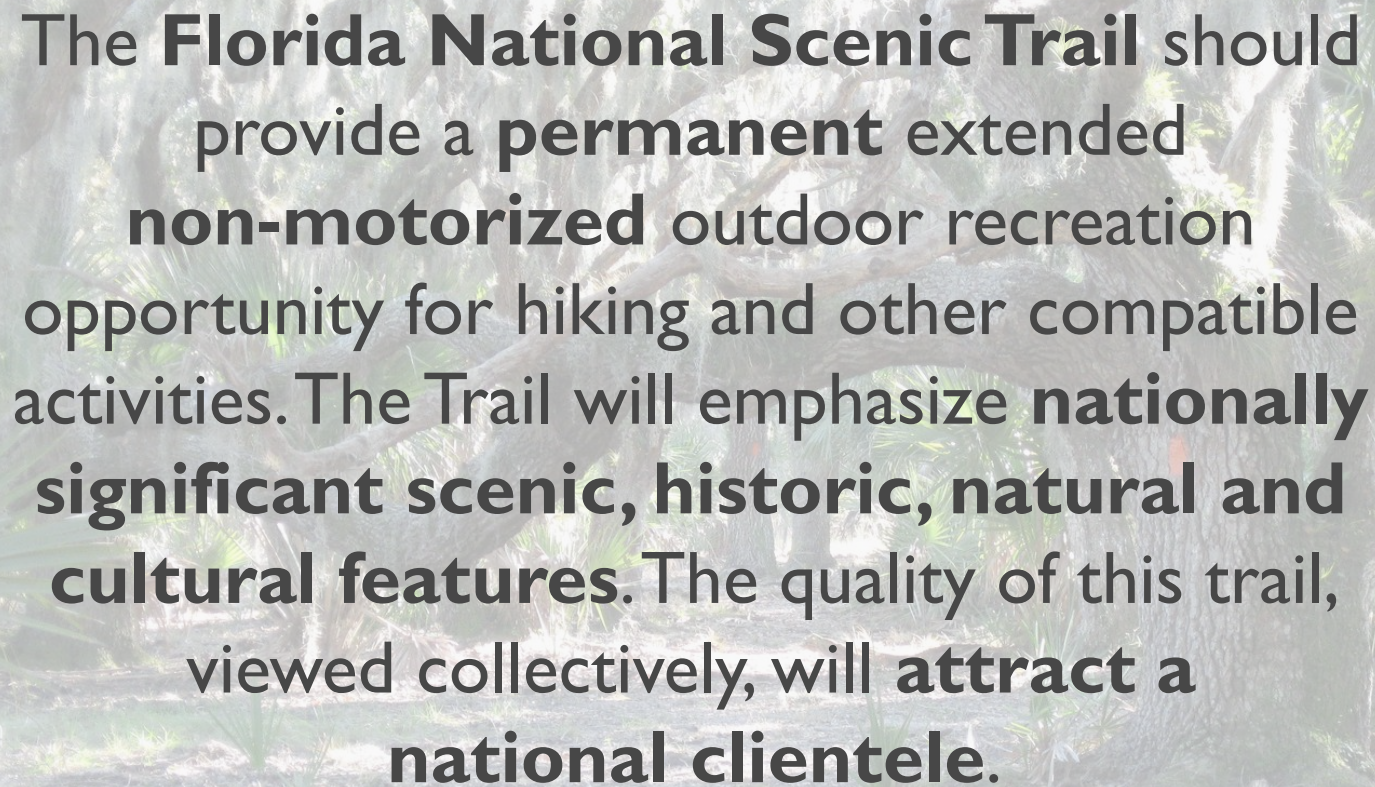
- 9:00 ■ Welcome and Introduction
- 9:15 ■ Strategic Plan Accomplishments: 2012- Present
- 11:00 ■ Coalition Member Updates
- 12:00 ■ Lunch Break
- 1:00 ■ 2018 Strategic Plan Update Process
- 1:30 ■ Discussion and Presentation of the 2018 Strategic Goals
- 3:15 ■ Meeting Wrap Up

FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL COALITION





COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PURPOSE



The **Florida National Scenic Trail** should provide a **permanent** extended **non-motorized** outdoor recreation opportunity for hiking and other compatible activities. The Trail will emphasize **nationally significant scenic, historic, natural and cultural features**. The quality of this trail, viewed collectively, will **attract a national clientele**.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PURPOSE

COALITION BACKGROUND

- Formed at the invitation of the National Forests in FL (2010)
- Composed primarily of land managers of the FNST
- Meets twice annually to review progress towards the 2012 – 2017 Strategic Plan and discuss coordinated management of the Florida National Scenic Trail
- ** It is not a decision making body



ROLE OF THE COALITION

- Complete the FNST Strategic Plan, oversee implementation of the plan, and work together to ensure accountability to goals and outcomes
- Oversee adherence to trail standards for access, safety, signage, and interpretation to achieve the optimum recreation experience
- Serve as Trail supporters and advocates and assist in attracting financial and human resources for Trail development, maintenance and promotion
- Foster coordination among various interests, networks, and stakeholders throughout the State.



CURRENT COALITION MEMBERS

- USDA, Forest Service
- USDOJ, National Park Service
- USDOJ, Fish & Wildlife Service
- Florida Forest Service
- FDEP, Division of State Parks
- FDEP, Office of Greenways and Trails
- Florida Trail Association
- Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- University of Florida – School of Forest Research & Conservation
- Orange, Osceola & Taylor Counties
- Suwannee River Water Management District
- *Previously Filled Seats: Department of Defense, Private Land Owner*



FEDERAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ACT

- The 1972 Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) was passed to make certain that citizen involvement in federal decisions is equitable, and that no one individual or group has undue influence over government decisions.
- The Florida National Scenic Trail Coalition is not a decision making body, but rather a gathering of land managers, partners and users of the FNST to seek out information regarding, and to regularly discuss, issues and needs surrounding the Florida National Scenic Trail. The Forest Service will inform members of the group by reading this statement prior to meetings and also inform new members in writing that the agency cannot obtain the group's consensus advice or recommendations without triggering FACA.
- Meetings are open to the public and summaries are available on-line at www.fs.usda.gov/fnst



5 YEARS IN REVIEW

FOR THE FNST COALITION





GOAL I: COMPLETE THE TRAIL

A photograph of a forest trail. In the foreground, a tree trunk with rough, grey bark is visible, featuring a red circular marker. In the background, two hikers are walking away on a dirt path, surrounded by lush green trees and foliage. The image is slightly blurred to emphasize the text overlay.

Add **100** new scenic and designated miles of FNST towards completion of a high quality trail.

GOAL I: COMPLETE THE TRAIL

5 YEAR MILEAGE SUMMARY

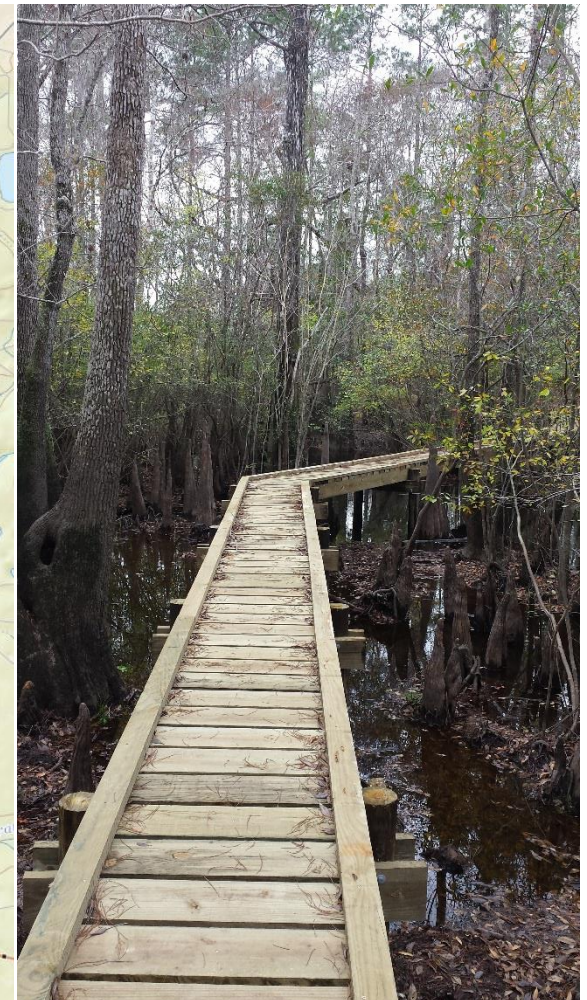
Designated Trail		Trail Connectors	
Miles Developed	Miles Removed	Miles Developed	Miles Removed
83.4	51	41.5	56.2
32.4 Net Miles Developed		14.7 Net Miles Removed	

NOTABLE TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

- Choctawhatchee River Section
- Kissimmee River Reroute
- Camp Blanding
- White Springs



Addition of the Choctawhatchee River Section

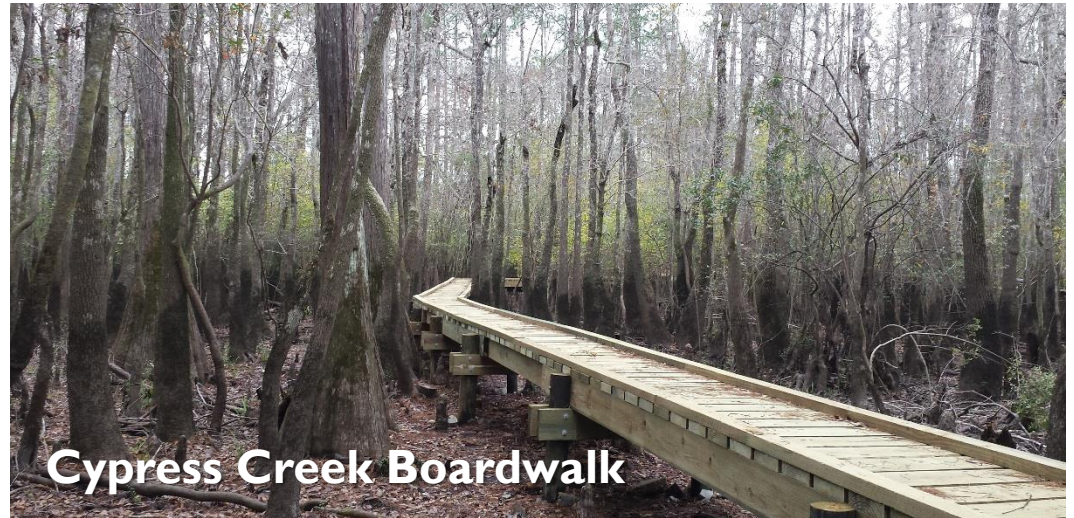
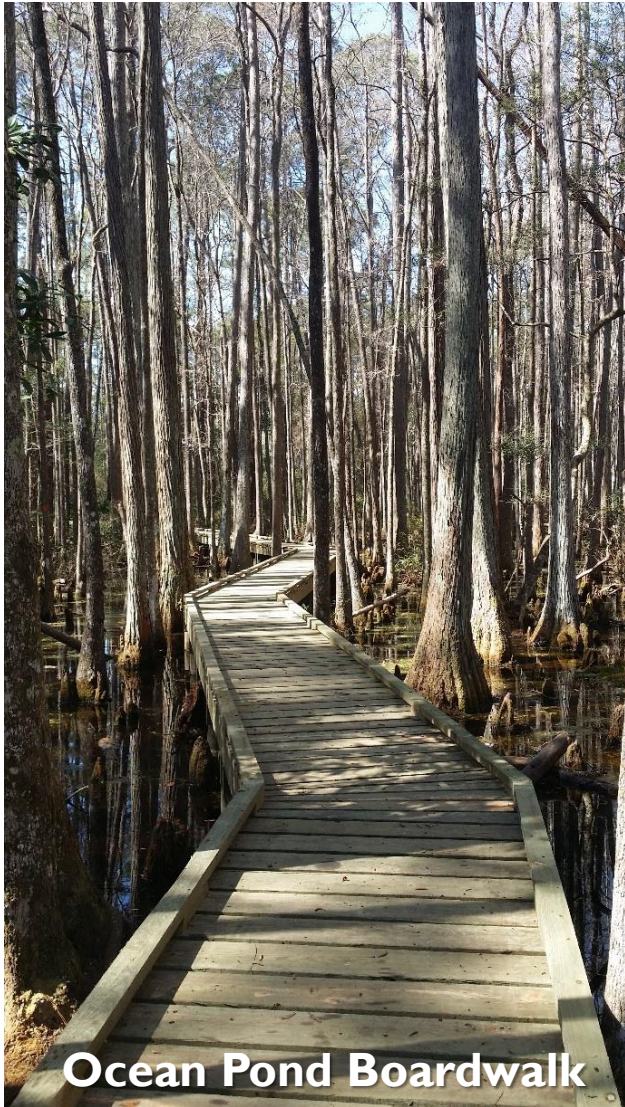


REVIEW OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



Swift Creek Bridge

COMPLETED INFRASTRUCTURE



UPCOMING INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

- Sopchoppy Bridge – ANF
- Spring Creek Complex – St. Marks NWR
- Alaqua Bridge – Eglin AFB
- Econlockhatchee River Bridge – Little Big Econ SF
- Ocala Boardwalk – Ocala NF





GOAL 2: STANDARDS

A group of people, including some in uniform, are gathered outdoors in a sandy, grassy area. They are looking at informational signs. The background shows a clear blue sky with some clouds and a line of trees in the distance.

100% of existing designated FNST
meets the recreation, information, and
interpretive Trail **standards** within its
resource classification category of 1-5.

GOAL 2: STANDARDS

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

100% Trail Classes Implemented and Maintained to Standard



Class

Description

Recreation Experience

1

Natural, unmodified setting with low to no human impact on the environment.

Example: designated wilderness areas.

Requires advanced planning and a great degree of self sufficiency.

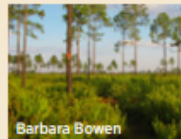
High likelihood of wildlife encounter and native ecosystems.

2

Natural appearing environment, essentially unmodified setting with minimal site controls or landscape alterations.

Example: typical managed forest.

Natural characteristics and recreation experience similar to Class 1 but more moderately challenging.



3

Semi-natural environment with visible human impacts or manipulated landscapes.

Example: wildlife refuges managed for a specific habitat or for recreation.

Requires some preparation and self sufficiency. Users may find directional signing and interpretation of key focal spots.

Good wildlife and natural landscape viewing opportunities with a greater chance of encountering other users.

4

Semi-natural environment which is culturally modified yet attractive.

Example: agricultural lands or county parks.

Natural characteristics and recreation experience similar to Class 3 but with more developed infrastructure and access to services.



5

Highly modified, potentially urban environments where vegetation is often planted and maintained.

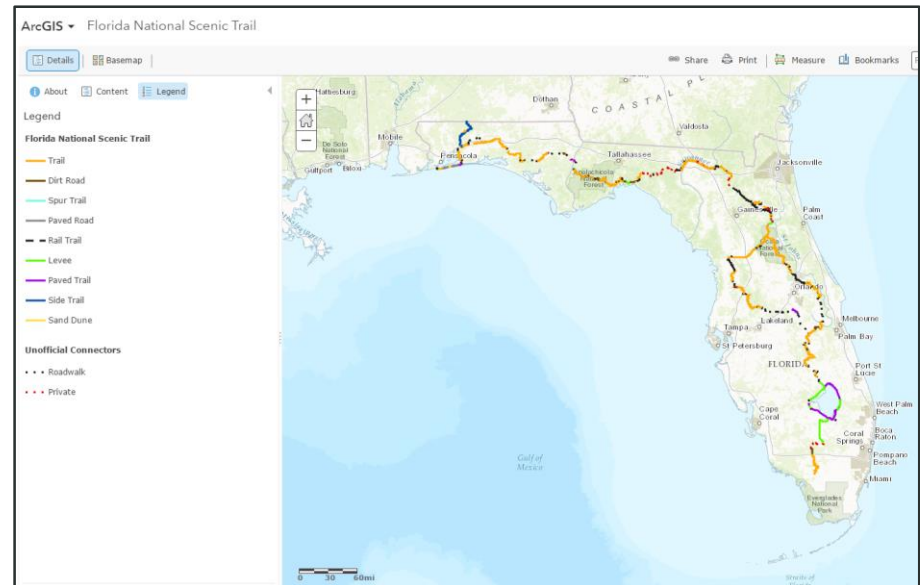
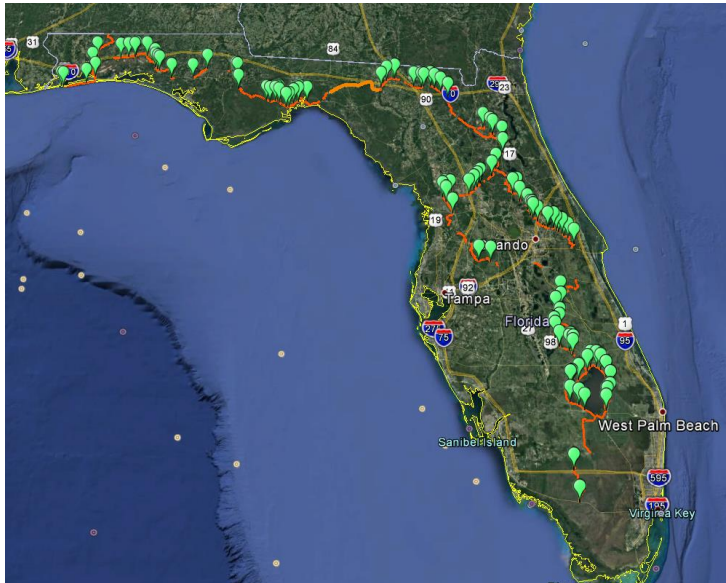
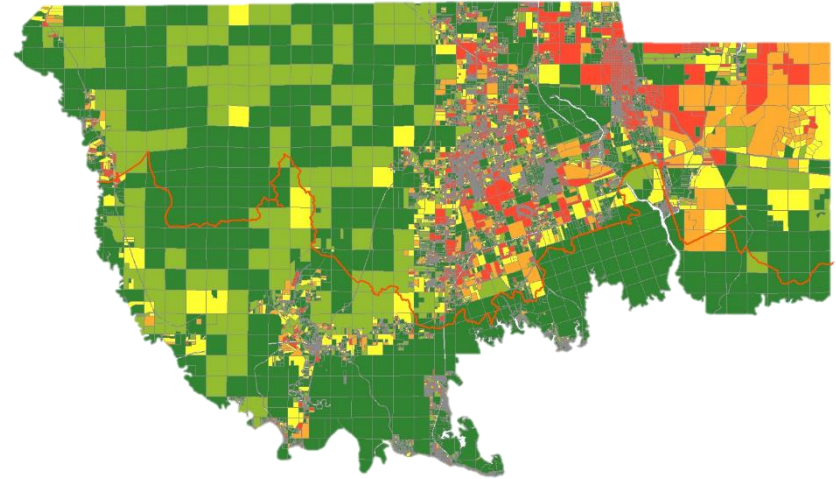
Example: rail trails or paved trails that traverse communities.

Requires little to no self sufficiency. Users can expect a high level of infrastructure and multiple uses.

Less of a natural environment, although aesthetically pleasing and accessible. Very likely that you will encounter other users.

MAPPING AND INVENTORIES

- ArcGIS Online Interface
- Statewide Highway and Railroad Crossings Inventory
- Trailhead and Kiosk Inventory




SIGNAGE AND PERMITTING

- Northern and Southern Termini
- Statewide Signage, Crossings and Permitting with FDOT
- Developed Standard Trailhead Kiosk Information





GOAL 3: PARTNERSHIPS

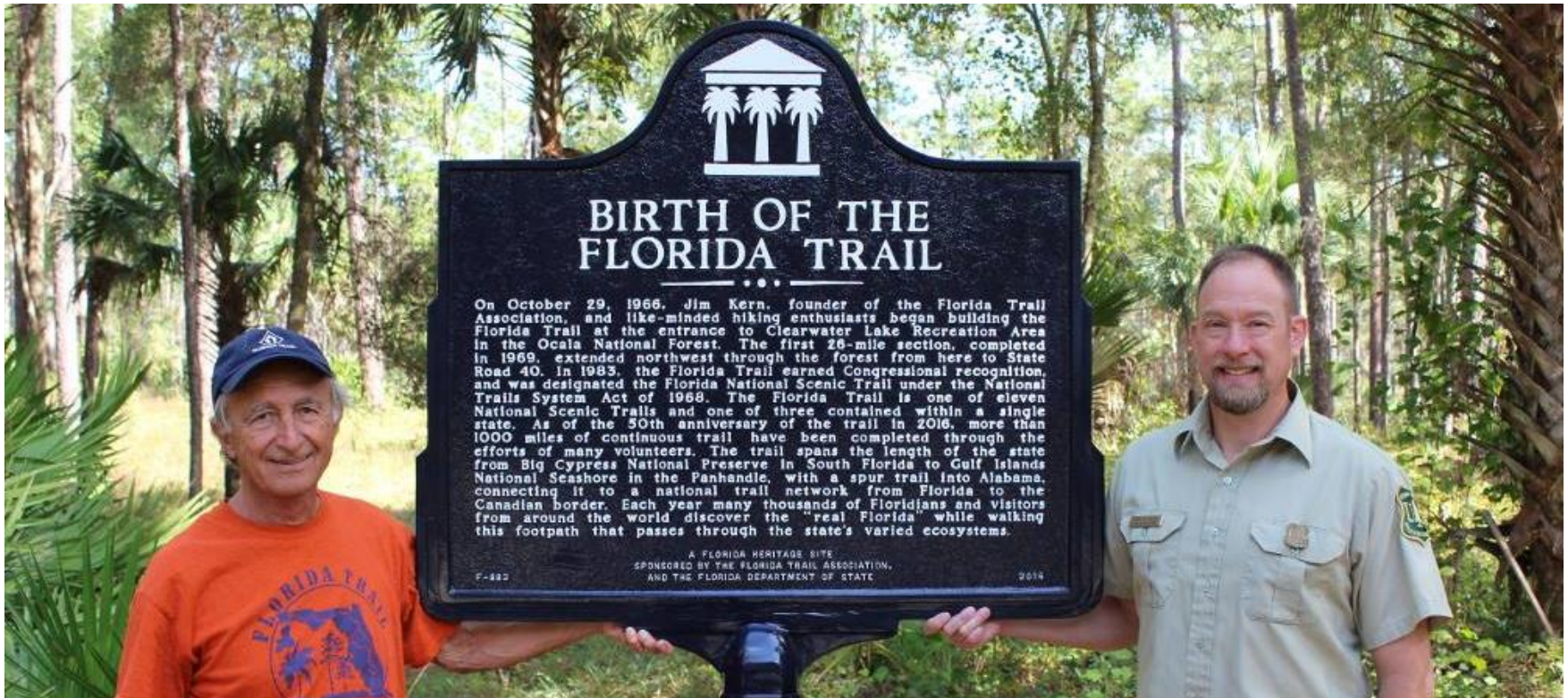
A photograph of five people (three men and two women) standing outdoors behind a brick fire pit. The fire pit has a logo on its front that reads "FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL" and "Gulf Islands National Seashore". The people are dressed in casual outdoor attire, including hats and sunglasses. The background shows a clear sky and some vegetation.

Each of the FNST land managers proactively contribute to Trail development, maintenance and promotion of their segment as part of a larger whole.

GOAL 3: PARTNERSHIPS

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Transition from Certification Agreements to U.S. Forest Service MOUs
- Streamlined Infrastructure Review Process



NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

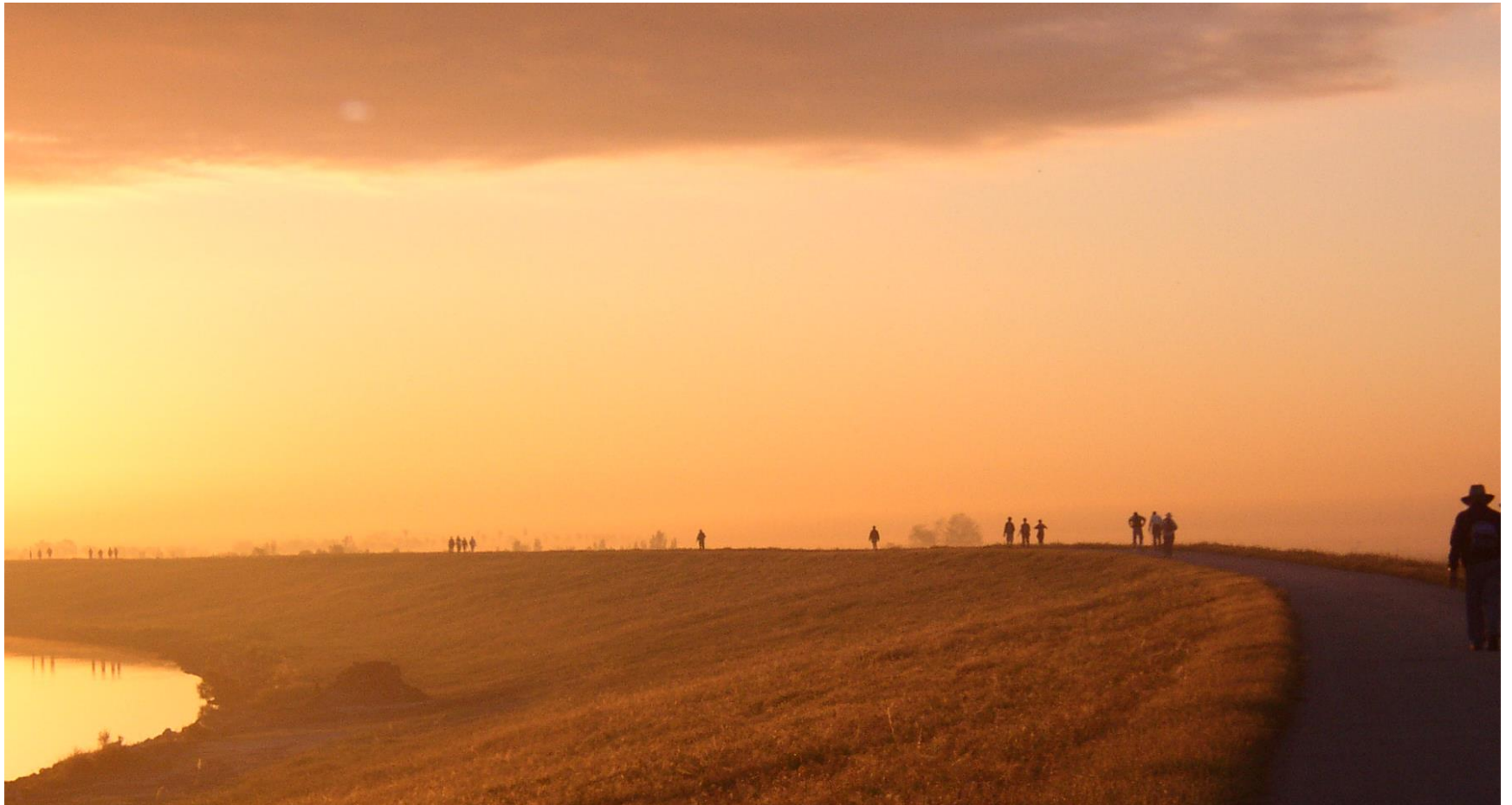
- Florida Trail Association
- Framing Our Community
- FNST Project Requests




PARTNER UPDATE

Alex Stigliano
FTA Program Director





GOAL 4: PROMOTION

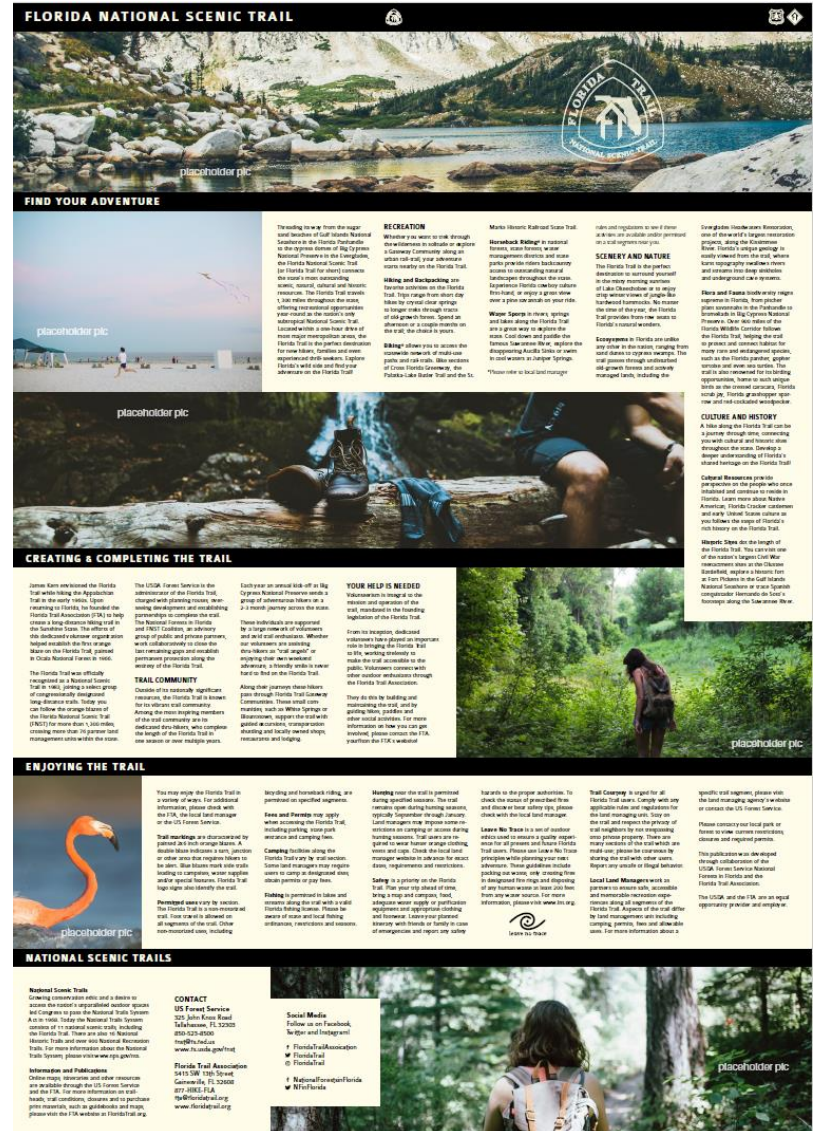


100% of Trail recreationists **know they are on the FNST**, know the significance of the Trail, and know how their experience is part of the larger whole.

GOAL 4: PROMOTION

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- FNST Brochure
- Iconic Photographs of the FNST
- Top Destinations



FLORIDA TRAIL JUNIOR EXPLORER



Fun on the trail!

Sometimes the most exciting things you discover outdoors are the smallest. Keep your eyes peeled for these items on your adventure along the Florida Trail.



Tools of the trade 3



Maps give you a birds-eye-view of the area you are hiking and show landmarks and directions to get to a destination. Every map has a north arrow, which shows you direction, and a scale, which represents the real distance on the ground.



A **compass** has a magnetic needle that always points north. North is one of four **cardinal directions**. The others are south, east, and west.

The Florida Trail Is a beautiful place to See the great outdoors!

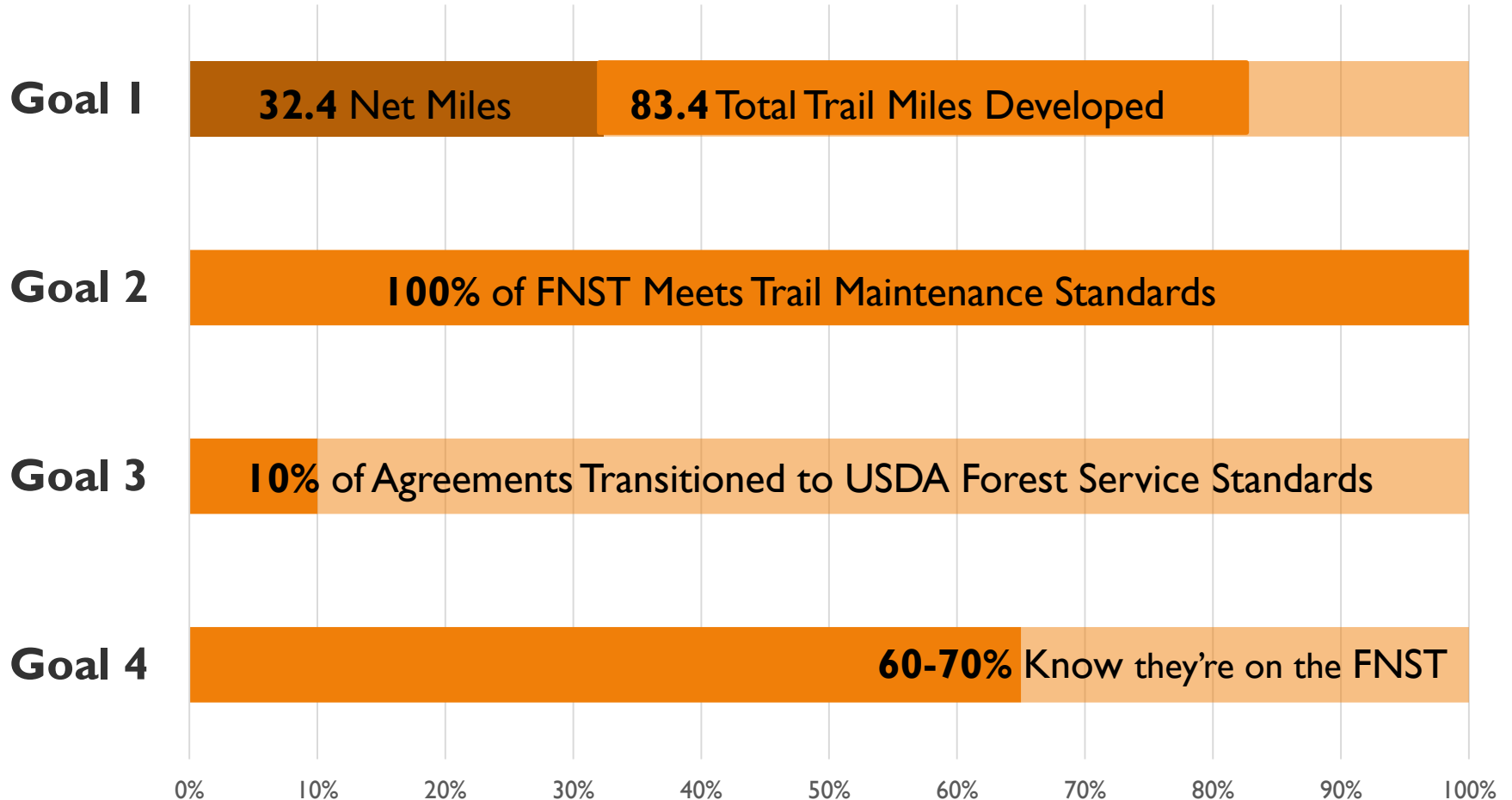


PROMOTION UPDATE

Taylor V. Stein
Professor and Graduate Coordinator



SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

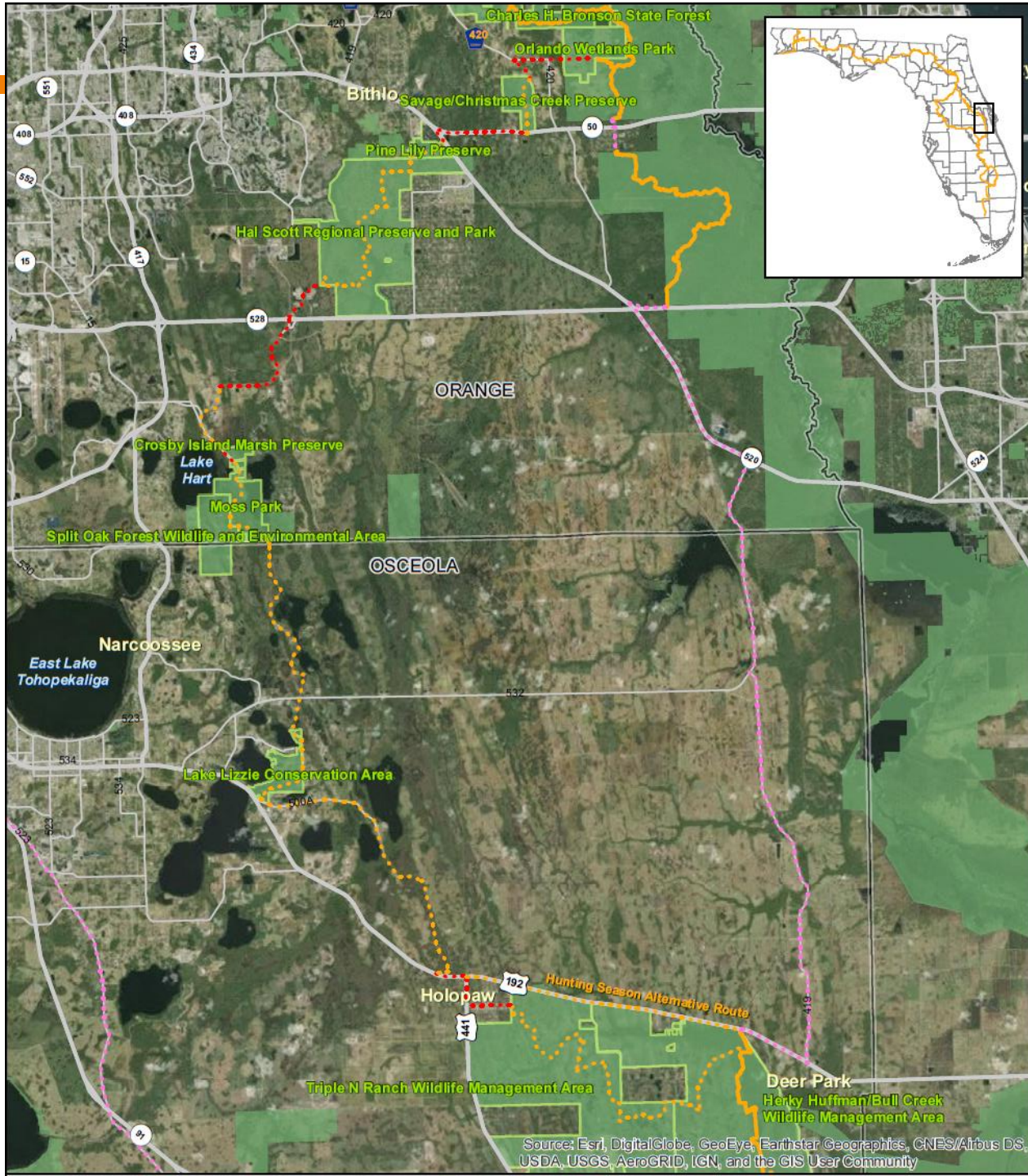


ON TO THE NEXT 5 YEARS!





COALITION MEMBER UPDATES



2018 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE





STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

TIMELINE

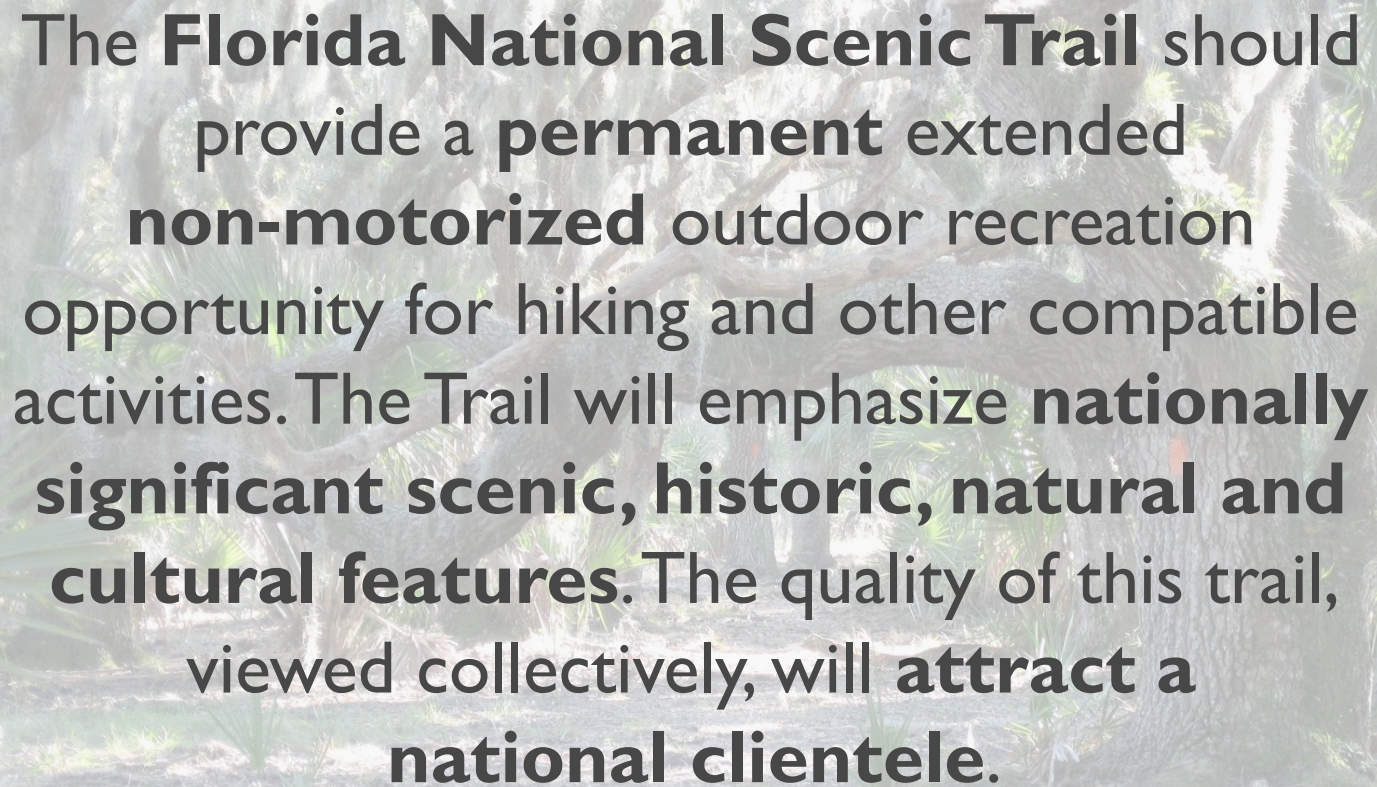
- June Coalition Meeting Draft Review
- January 2018 Approval by Forest Supervisor

GOALS

- Develop Measureable Outcomes
- Clarify Goals, Objectives and Strategies
- Build from Accomplishments of the First Strategic Plan



COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PURPOSE



The **Florida National Scenic Trail** should provide a **permanent** extended **non-motorized** outdoor recreation opportunity for hiking and other compatible activities. The Trail will emphasize **nationally significant scenic, historic, natural and cultural features**. The quality of this trail, viewed collectively, will **attract a national clientele**.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PURPOSE

FNST COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OBJECTIVES

- Focus on the qualities which make it unique from a national perspective.
 - Subtropical climate
 - Fauna and flora
 - Cultural resources (historic and prehistoric)
 - Water-based environments
- Emphasize FNST protection and permanency
- Provide a continuous outdoor recreation trail.
- Provide easy access from urban population areas.
- Where possible and appropriate, provide access for handicapped and other special populations on specified portions of the trail.



- Promote outdoor recreation opportunities for a variety of users (such as, campers, hikers, bird watchers, horseback riders, bicyclists, backpackers, fishermen, and canoeists), limited principally by the carrying capacity of the area and the Congressional restriction on motorized use.
- Emphasize interpretation on the trail, reflecting a diversity of land use, historical values, and resource management objectives from preservation to industrial.
- Utilize public lands whenever possible. Only when public lands are not available will the use of private lands be considered. Trail segments on private property will be primarily travel routes providing continuity, safety and enjoyable passage for the users.
- Be commensurate with its national significance in location, design, construction, and maintenance while reflecting the type and value of traffic planned' and limited by the standards established for special legislated areas through which it passes.





GOAL I: COMPLETE THE TRAIL



COMPLETE THE TRAIL

ORIGINAL GOAL

Add **100 new scenic and designated miles** of FNST towards completion of a high quality trail.

NEW GOAL

Add **50 new scenic miles** of FNST towards completion of a high quality trail



GROUP BREAK OUT QUESTIONS

1. In a state with a focus on paved, multi-use Sun Trails, how can a natural footpath remain relevant?
2. What is your organization's capacity for supporting acquisition in conjunction with the Florida National Scenic Trail?



GOAL 2: STANDARDS



STANDARDS

ORIGINAL GOAL

100% of existing designated FNST **meets the recreation, information, and interpretive Trail standards** within its **resource classification category** of 1-5.

NEW GOAL

100% of existing designated FNST is **managed to standard** within its **resource classification category**.



GROUP BREAK OUT QUESTIONS

1. What would it take to incorporate these standards into your management plans?
2. Is there a product we could provide to make your agency more committed to the trail?
3. Given the objectives, on your land, what are the compatible recreational uses on the trail?
4. What is the best way to report on and maintain a flow of information between our team and your organization?



GOAL 3: PARTNERSHIPS



PARTNERSHIPS

ORIGINAL GOAL

Each of the FNST land managers **proactively contribute** to Trail development, maintenance and promotion of their segment as part of a larger whole.

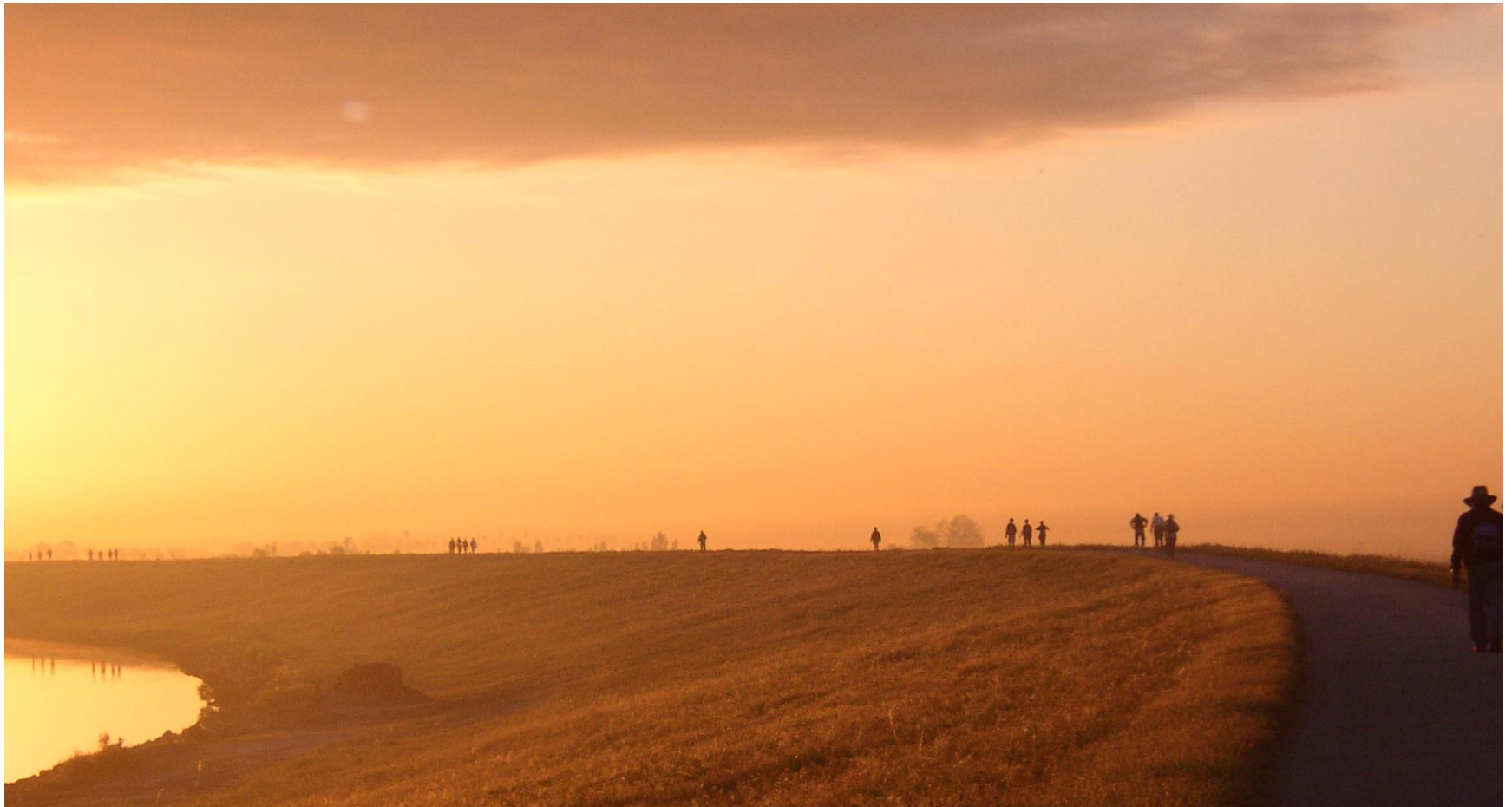
NEW GOAL

100% of FNST land managers **proactively contribute** to Trail development, maintenance and promotion of their segment as part of a larger whole.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Does the FNST assist your organization in feeling ownership of the Florida National Scenic Trail? Should the Coalition be continued as is?
2. How should we measure and report 'success' with our partnerships?



GOAL 4: PROMOTION



PROMOTION

ORIGINAL GOAL

100% of Trail recreationists **know they are on the FNST**, know the significance of the Trail, and know how their experience is part of the larger whole.

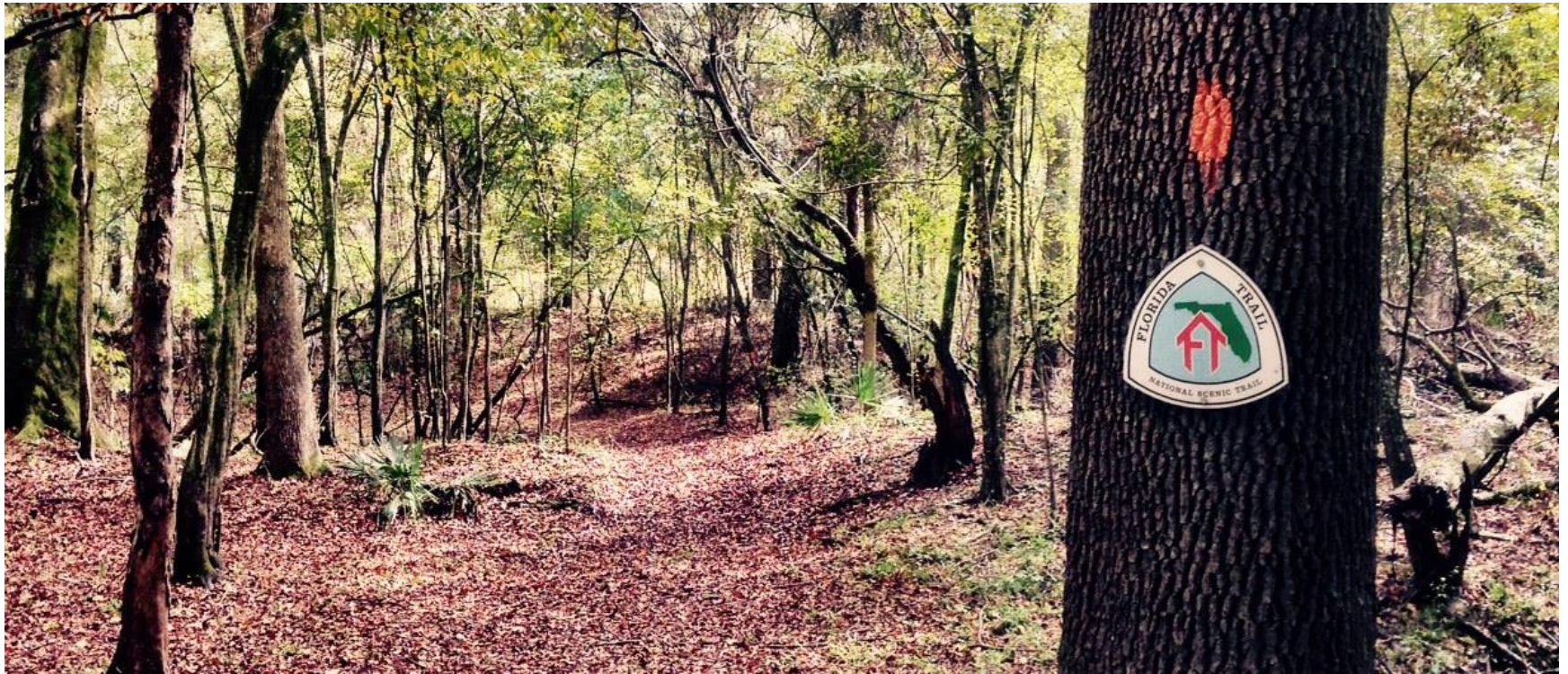
NEW GOAL

Add **100,000** new annual **FNST** recreationists.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Do you have any creative ideas for promoting the Florida National Scenic Trail?
- Do you know of any opportunities to incorporate the Florida National Scenic Trail into existing events?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION TODAY!



REMAINING QUESTIONS &
SCHEDULING OUR NEXT MEETING