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January 28, 2021

Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative
P.O. Box 787
Hobe Sound, FL 33475

Subject: Loxa-Lucie Headwaters

To Whom it May Concern,

Initially formed in 1998, the Rivers Coalition has grown to a consortium of over 100 Treasure-Coast based organizations whose Mission is to stop discharges into the St. Lucie River from Lake Okeechobee and to fight for a safe, healthy, and ecologically balanced St. Lucie River Estuary and Indian River Lagoon, and the natural resources that are vital to the economy and quality of life of Martin County and the Treasure Coast.

At our monthly meeting in November 2020, members of the Rivers Coalition were pleased to learn about the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters Initiative, a land conservation project in southeastern Martin County that seeks to improve hydrological conditions in areas that drain into the South Fork of the St. Lucie River and into Kitching Creek in the watershed of the portion of the Loxahatchee Rivers that has been designated as Wild and Scenic.

The Winding South Fork of the St. Lucie River is an area that frequently suffers from poor water quality, even when discharges are not occurring from Lake Okeechobee through the St. Lucie Locks. The acquisition and transfer of undeveloped, privately-owned properties in the headwaters of the South Fork into conservation ownership and management and the subsequent hydrological restoration of these properties will have a beneficial effect on water quality.

Because this work complements other activities designed to address factors that currently adversely affect the quality of our surface waters, the Rivers Coalition Board of Directors is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Loxa-Lucie Headwaters conservation initiative

Sincerely,

Mark Perry

Chairman
Rivers Coalition Board of Directors