



**Plum Creek**

*Growing Value from Exceptional Resources*



**ALACHUA**  
**CONSERVATION**  
**T R U S T**

## ***News Release***

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For immediate release  
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### **Plum Creek and Alachua Conservation Trust Announce Conservation of Phifer Flatwoods**

**GAINESVILLE, Fla.** - Plum Creek Timber Company and Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) today announced that Phifer Flatwoods has been permanently conserved following ACT's recent purchase of the 658-acre property from Plum Creek. Phifer Flatwoods, located halfway between Gainesville and Hawthorne, Fla., is valued for the many recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat it provides.

A ceremony recognizing the land transfer was held today at Phifer Flatwoods, with representatives from ACT, Plum Creek, Alachua County, the Florida Wildlife Federation and local interest groups in attendance.

"Protecting this land is a spectacular win for the environment," said Lauren Day, executive director of the Alachua Conservation Trust. "The property is beautiful in its own right, but is also important because it provides a critical link in the wildlife corridor east of Lake Pithlachocco. We are grateful to Plum Creek for allowing us to purchase this property. The purchase of Phifer Flatwoods by ACT demonstrates the strength of land trusts in accessing private funding and in moving quickly to protect important properties when they become available."

"Plum Creek recognizes that the Phifer Flatwoods property is treasured by many," said Rick Holley, president and chief executive officer. "Plum Creek is pleased to work with the Alachua Conservation Trust to permanently conserve this property so that the importance of this special area will continue to be recognized into the future."

The Phifer Flatwoods property is important to both recreationalists and conservationists. Bikers, horseback riders and hikers enjoy the Gainesville-Hawthorne State Rail Trail, which runs along

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three miles of property's southern border. The 27,400-acre Lochloosa Wildlife Management Area, owned by Plum Creek and the St. Johns River Water Management District, is adjacent to the property. Phifer Flatwoods is also a critical link in a regional wildlife corridor that runs between the Ocala National Forest and the Okefenokee Swamp. This corridor is used by large mammals, such as the Florida black bear, and by migratory birds, and has a diversity of plant life in its mosaic of uplands and wetlands.

The property was purchased by ACT using funds donated and loaned by private individuals and non-profit environmental organizations including The Florida Wildlife Federation and the Norcross Wildlife Foundation. Private support came from more than 300 individuals. Alachua Conservation Trust plans to partner with either Florida Communities Trust or Alachua County Forever in owning the property.

Plum Creek owns more than 580,000 acres of timberland in Florida and participates in a number of land conservation initiatives in the state.

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The mission of Alachua Conservation Trust (ACT) is to protect the natural, historic, scenic and recreational resources in and around Alachua County, Florida. ACT is a local, non-profit land trust that works with landowners to protect our great places. Since its incorporation in 1988, ACT has facilitated more than 12,000 acres of public land purchases and private conservation easements. For more information, visit the Alachua Conservation Trust website at [www.alachuaconservationtrust.org](http://www.alachuaconservationtrust.org).

Plum Creek is one of the largest private timberland owners in the nation, with approximately 8 million acres of timberlands in major timber producing regions of the United States and 10 wood products manufacturing facilities in the Northwest.