



HARRIS CHAIN OF LAKES

Management Plan Update



Background

- Similar to current management plans
- Guides future management on the HCOL
- Involvement with stakeholders throughout the process
- Define Goals, Objectives, and Actions for the Management Plan
- Limited to FWC jurisdiction



Task	2020												2021												2022				
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M
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STAKEHOLDER INPUT WORKSHOPS

- Completed April – August 2020
- 12 Input Workshops
 - 5 user specific
 - 5 site specific
 - 2 open forum
 - 60+ individual stakeholders
 - Various groups and NGO's represented
 - E.g., Local and National Fishing Clubs, Waterfowl Groups, Local Boating Clubs, the Audubon Society



STAKEHOLDER INPUT WORKSHOPS

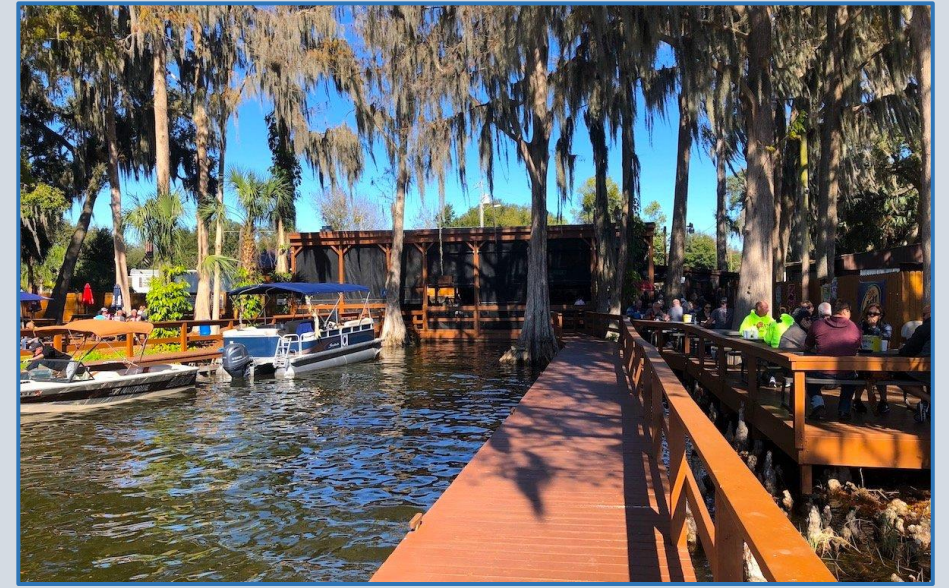
- Key Takeaways

- Navigation and Access
- Diversity of Habitat
- Diverse opinions regarding hydrilla
 - Bass anglers and waterfowl hunters want moderate to high coverage of hydrilla
 - Boaters and homeowners wanted low to no hydrilla coverage
- Concerns with treatment methods and management efficiency



STAKEHOLDER Interviews

- Completed August – October 2020
- 11 Interviews (14 Stakeholders)
 - 4 Commercial Businesses
 - 4 Local Government Representatives
 - 3 Management Agency Representatives



•Key Takeaways

- Lakes are an important economic component to local communities
- FWC's Management is important to local business and municipalities.
- Agency Representatives happy with trending water quality and subsequent habitat improvements

Online Survey

- Completed Winter 2020/21
- Major Focus
 - General Interaction with HCOL
 - Aquatic Plant Management
 - Hydrilla Management
 - Fish Management
 - FWC Communication



Harris Chain of Lakes Management Survey!

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is developing a comprehensive Lake Management Plan for the Harris Chain of Lakes, and is seeking input from stakeholders.

We are asking members of the public to participate in this survey to help us develop a management plan!

Contact Scott Bisping at 352-800-5027.

Scan the code to fill out the survey or go to [MyFWC.com/HCOLSurvey](https://myfwc.com/HCOLSurvey).



Online Survey

- 484 Respondents
- ~36% of respondents were lakefront homeowners with all lakes on the chain represented.
- Various groups represented in the survey
 - Angling and recreational boating were most popular primary activity selected.
 - Most anglers targeted Largemouth Bass



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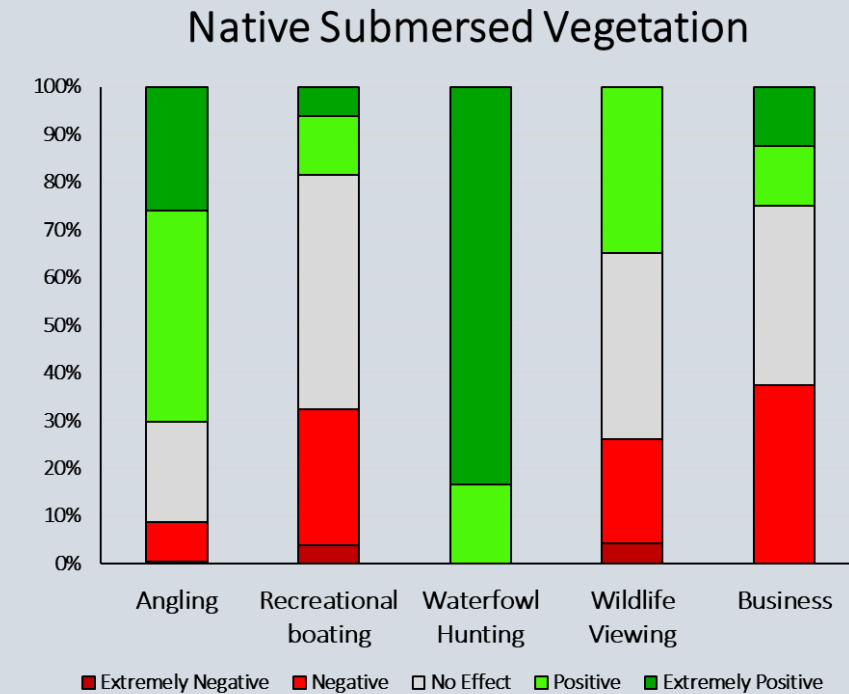
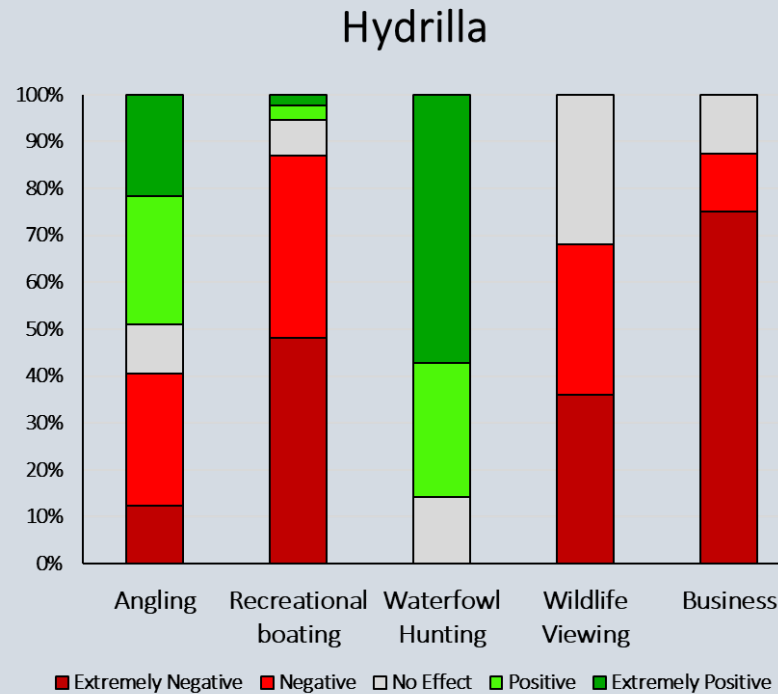
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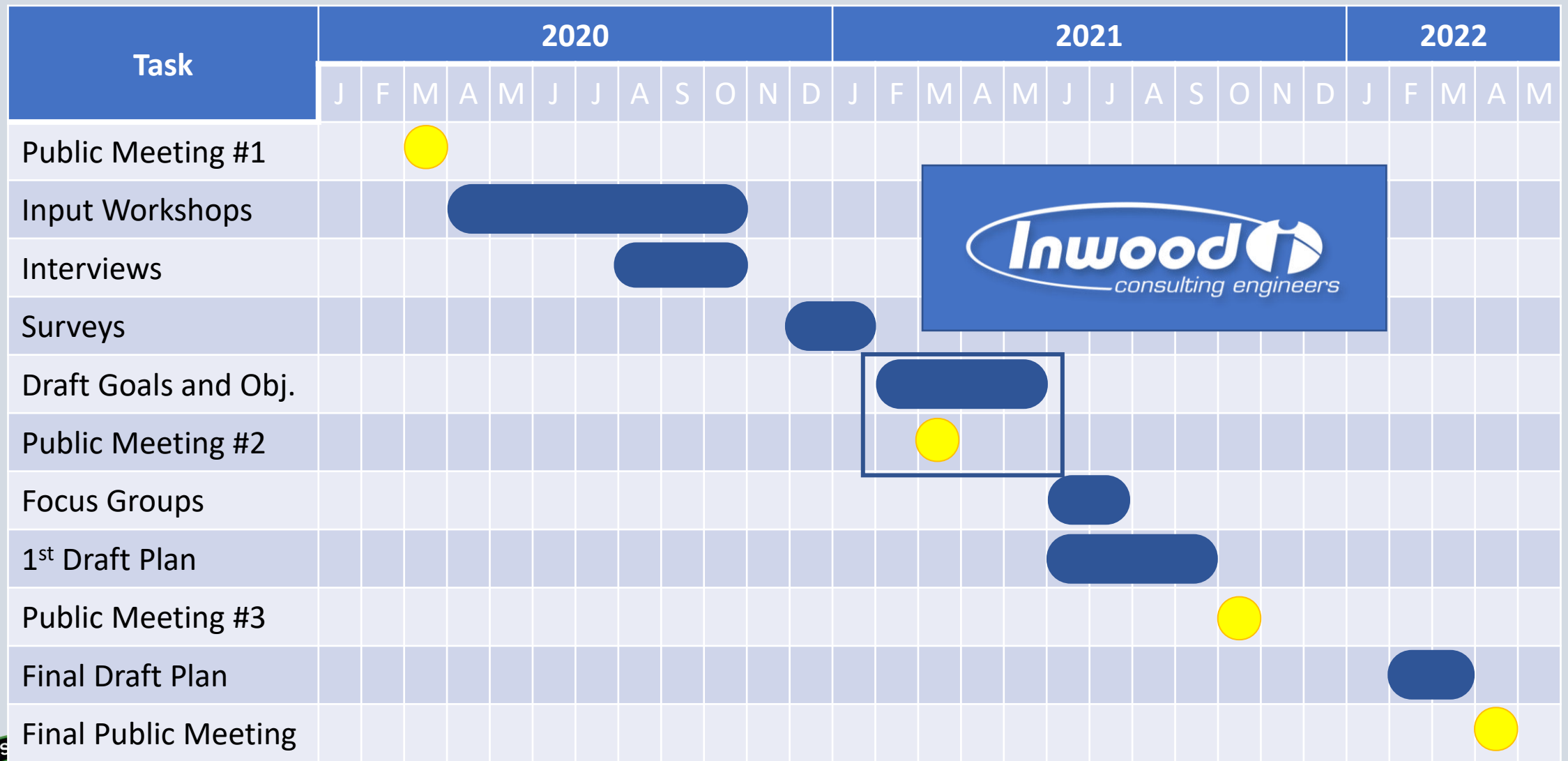
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Key Takeaways

- Measuring FWC's Management success
 - Access/Navigating freely
 - Quality of Bass Fishery
 - Coverage of all Submersed Vegetation
- Communication
 - Email
 - FWC Website
 - Social Media
- Submersed Vegetation





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Draft Goals and Objectives

- 3 Focal Areas
 - Fish and Wildlife Management
 - Habitat Management
 - Communication and Interagency Communication



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**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

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Lake Management Plans



The FWC is charged as the lead agency for managing fish and wildlife, and their habitats, on Florida's aquatic resources. Therefore, the agency is refining a process to develop specific Management Plans for high priority waterbodies that will focus on the management of fish, wildlife and habitat. The development of these management plans will allow for local stakeholders and FWC staff to jointly craft management targets and approaches that will ensure the long-term well-being of these resources and their benefit to people. The FWC encourages people to be a part of this process and provide input on lakes in their area.

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

[Harris Chain of Lakes Draft Goals and Objectives](#)

[Lake Okeechobee Draft Goals and Objectives](#)

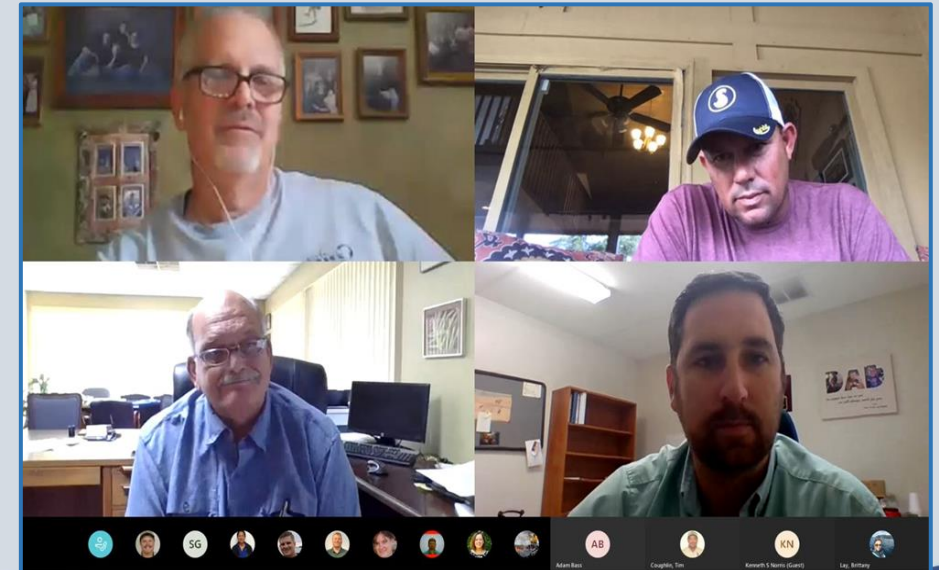
[Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Draft Goals and Objectives](#)

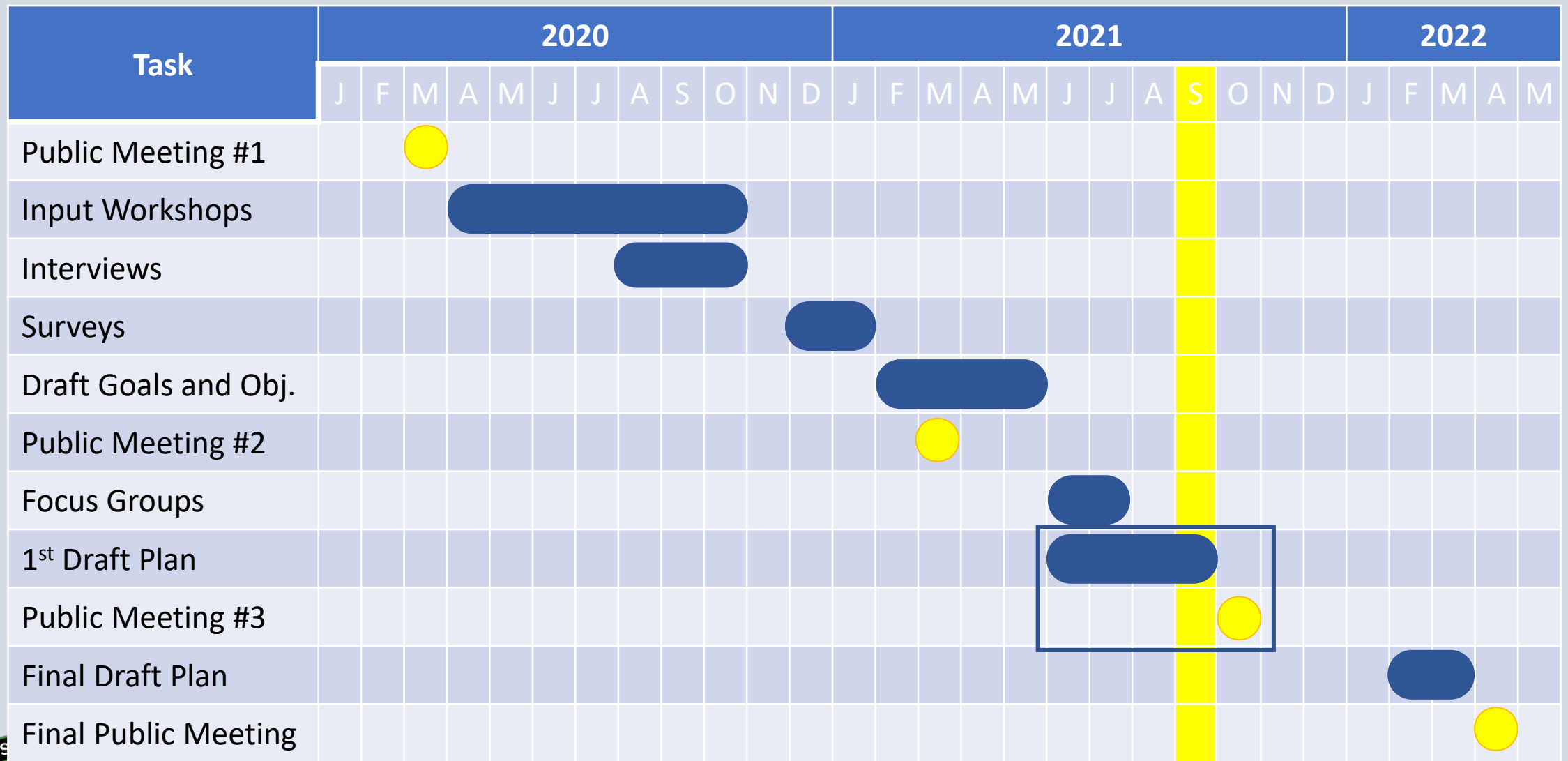
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Focus Groups

- Focus Group Meetings
 - June – July 2021
 - Held 8 focus groups (in-person and virtual)
 - Guided discussion with stakeholders regarding draft goals and objectives
 - Feedback will be used to prepare 1st Full Draft of Plan







Harris Chain of Lakes Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Plan



PUBLIC MEETING

Register now to join us on March 9, 2021 from 6-8 p.m. for the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Management Plan Virtual Public Meeting. Those unable to view the webinar can listen to the meeting by calling +1 (415) 655-0060 and entering the access code 113-078-615.

[REGISTER](#)



The Harris Chain of Lakes is a series of natural lakes that form the headwaters of the Ocklawaha River in Lake and Orange counties in Florida. The chain is an important resource in Florida and offers many recreational activities including fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife viewing. It is composed of 10 lakes, Apopka, Harris, Griffin, Eustis, Dora, Beauclair, Carlton, Yale, Denham and Trout, totaling over 75,000 acres of surface area.



<https://myfwc.com/conservation/management-plans/lake/harris/>

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