

Summary of Public Comments from Public Meetings for A.R.M. Loxahatchee Visitor Services Planning-  
comments ongoing

Welcome and Orient:

- Improve facilities, especially ADA

Hunting and Fishing:

- Keep hunting the same
- Open entire refuge for hunting
- Hunt only exotic and invasive species (pythons, hogs, exotic fish)
- Expand hunting areas
- No hunting should be allowed
- No hunting in the interior
- Increase alligator hunting
- Oppose alligator hunting
- Allow night bow fishing and frog gigging
- Allow airboats, mud motors, buggies, ATVs, outboards for hunting and fishing
- Do not allow airboats for hunting and fishing
- Fishing line and hook receptacles should be at all docks
- No extra hunt days but expand hours
- Open refuge to year round hunting and fishing
- Manage by FLA Fish and Game rules
- No fishing should be allowed
- Fishing piers
- Increase waterfowl hunting
- Biological assessment needed before increasing hunting
- Allow small game hunt
- Do not allow small game hunt
- Allow specialty hunts

Wildlife Observation, Photography, Interpretation, and Environmental Education:

- Add photo blinds
- Add selfie station
- Off-season birding and herpetofauna activities
- Expand tram program
- No activities that involve noise and disrupting wildlife
- Add islands for nesting and roosting to accommodate wildlife observation and photography and observation towers for environmental education.
- Focus on educational programs
- Increase staff to support environmental education
- Expand the boardwalk
- Add wildlife observation blinds
- Hands on environmental education

#### Other Recreational Uses:

- No airboating
- Allow airboating
- Allow mud motors
- No air cooled engines or jet drives
- More access
- Limited airboating for traditional uses
- Open entire perimeter for a continuous trail for biking, hiking, etc...
- Passive recreation only
- Allow camping
- Camping platforms with bathrooms
- No pets should be allowed
- No weddings
- Allow night access
- Increase kayak/canoe trails
- Buy more land for recreation
- Plant cypress trees for hiking trails

#### Outreach, Partnerships, and Volunteers:

- Increase outreach to school and school group activities
- Work to make public aware of Refuge
- Need more volunteers
- Host groups to volunteer for “clean up” days
- Partner with schools for more volunteer opportunities
- Volunteer programs to remove invasives

#### Recreational Fees:

- Expand Visitor Center and charge fees for public events
- Reevaluate the entrance fee
- Have Volunteer or staff at the entrance fee gate to ensure payment
- Evaluate “pay to play” for hunting
- Increase fees

#### Concessions and Commercial Uses:

- Simplify concession rules
- Increase concessions and locations
- No single use plastics at concessions
- No commercial uses should be allowed
- No concessions

#### Strazzulla Unit:

- Open for limited quota hunting

- Increase hunting
- Add fishing pier
- Add observation towers
- Add launch for non-motorized boats
- Expand public access
- Add trails
- Add invasive species hunts
- Allow camping
- Add boardwalk
- Offer shuttle boat to Visitor Center
- Create some open waters
- Maintain snags for bird use
- Recycling should be available
- Litter should be minimized