



# Florida Wildlife Corridor Voices Roundtable



# 1. Explore Students' Perspectives: "Take a Stand"

- Pepperoni is the best pizza topping.
- Florida's beaches are the best in the world.
- Panthers are the most important animal in Florida.
- I would hike some or all of the 1,400 mile Florida Trail.
- I am connected to the Florida Wildlife Corridor.
- People need to protect as much Florida land as possible from development.
- People should be able to build on land anywhere in Florida for housing, roads, and for other economic purposes.
- Panther range should expand throughout all of Florida.



### 3. Determine the Key Voices and Develop a Position

- Watch the film “Saving the Florida Wildlife Corridor” (10:08).
- Add to your list the roles of those in the film who take a stand about the corridor and land development.



## 4. Determine the Key Voices and Develop a Position

### Florida Wildlife Corridor Voices:

- Conservationist / Photographer
- Rancher
- Fishing Guide
- Tourism Operator / Indigenous Leader
- Tree Farmer

What other key constituents or influencers were on your list?



## 5. Determine the Key Voices and Develop a Position

Prepare a 30-second (3-4 sentence) opening statement that summarizes your perspective, including evidence from resources to support your proposed outcome:

- What are the three main outcomes your constituent would like to see in a proposal?
- What is critical/need to have? What is nice to have?
- Are there any external pressures or constraints that might influence the constituent's perspective?



## 5. Determine Key Voices and Develop a Position

### **Carlton Ward Jr.**

Photographer, representing Conservationists and Wildlife Scientists

“We've done a tremendous job over the past 50 years in setting the pace for conservation in Florida. And now we need to finish that journey because we're fighting a tremendous onslaught of development, 100,000 acres a year lost to housing and to roads and to shopping malls. By 2070, if development continues at the same pace, we're projected to lose 5 million acres of rural and natural land in the state of Florida. And that's nearly all the missing links in the Florida Wildlife Corridor. If we don't protect the Corridor now, most of our state parks and national parks are gonna be islands surrounded by development. And that's a world I want my kids to inherit.”



- What are three main outcomes your constituent would like to see in a proposal? *Florida needs a fully funded wildlife corridor, including wildlife crossings over or under highways or busy roads. Florida also needs to continue funding protections, research, and rehabilitation for the Florida panther.*
- What is critical/need to have? What is nice to have? *All of these outcomes are critical to the survival of the Florida panther.*
- Are there any external pressures or constraints that might influence the constituent's perspective? *100,000 acres a year are lost to housing, roads and shopping malls; By 2070, we could lose 5 million acres of Florida rural and natural land.*



## Summary of position:

*We need to make sure the Florida Wildlife Corridor is fully funded. If we don't, 100,000 acres a year will be lost to housing, roads, and shopping malls. By 2070, we could lose 5 million acres of Florida rural and natural land, and then there would be islands of protected land with no connections, no corridor, and wildlife would struggle to survive.*





## 9. A Roundtable Discussion to Develop a Proposal

### Expectations and Tools of Mediation:

- Empathy
- Listening
- Structure
- Gratitude
- Acknowledgment of perspectives
- Acknowledgment of possible biases



## 10. A Roundtable Discussion to Develop a Proposal

How would you allot funds across these necessary industries and programs?

- Transportation
- Land protection and management
- Tourist development
- Endangered species and wildlife monitoring, research, and rehabilitation



## 11. Present and Debrief

- Were constituents able to collaborate even with different perspectives?
- What are some ways that you communicated well as a group? What would you change?
- How did your perspective shift, if at all, after conversation with other constituents?



## 12. Present and Debrief

Watch the video “The Florida Wildlife Corridor Act” (3:41), and discuss:

- What do you imagine the constituents were feeling at this moment?
- Which constituent perspective did you connect with most? Why?
- What would be your next steps as that individual?

