

STRATEGIC PLAN 2007-2016



SUWANNEE
RIVER
WATER
MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT

DRAFT



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Alachua
Santa Fe, Waccasassa Basins

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Vice-Chair
Lawtey
At Large

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Aucilla River Basin

Kelby Andrews
Chiefland
Lower Suwannee Basin

Donald R. Everett, Jr.
Perry
Coastal River Basin

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Oliver J. "O.J." Lake
Lake City
Upper Suwannee Basin

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Louis C. Shiver
Mayo
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Jerry Scarborough
Executive Director,
Live Oak

A Message from the Chairman

Recently, a county within the District was listed by a national business magazine as being among the top one hundred fastest growing counties in the nation. For the District that statistic was both exciting and sobering. Exciting in the sense there are new economic opportunities for citizens. Sobering in the sense that with growth comes the challenge of conserving a landscape rich in open space and free-flowing rivers and springs.

This strategic plan describes how we are addressing the challenges of growth in many different ways.

The Suwannee River Wilderness Trail, a joint effort of the District and the Department of Environmental Protection, is now a reality. For the thousands who will be coming to enjoy the region's rivers and springs, facilities are in place to provide beautiful and safe stopover points that are also designed to reduce harmful impacts to riverbanks.

Cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency is providing updated flood maps which will help local governments and citizens better identify flood-prone areas, thereby helping to prevent threats to life and property during periods of heavy rainfall.

We are establishing minimum flows and levels for our rivers, springs and lakes - a critical action that will help maintain the balance between the water needs of our natural systems and the water needs of a growing economy.

With funding from Florida's Legislature we are bringing water reuse projects to our communities, thereby reducing demand on groundwater supplies. Agriculture is also doing its part to conserve water by cost-sharing with the District to retrofit irrigation systems to make them more water efficient.

The District's decades-long voluntary land acquisition program has brought hundreds of thousands of acres under protection. It is now clearer than ever how important these lands are to the protection of natural resources and to public recreational use as our population continues to grow.

These and many other activities for meeting the water management needs of the region are described in this plan. As always, we invite you to continue to partner with us to plan for a better future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William D. Pope', written in a cursive style.

William D. Pope



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Front Cover: Big Shoals on the Suwannee

Our Mission

The Suwannee River Water Management District will protect and manage water resources to support natural systems and the needs of the public.

Our Values

Teamwork: Working together to meet the needs of the organization, the public, and the natural resources.

Respect: Dealing fairly, embracing diversity, and considering the opinions of others.

Integrity: Being honest always, maintaining public trust, and being good stewards.

Professionalism: Displaying courtesy, respect and expertise in all that we do.

Public Service: Providing prompt, courteous and reliable responses to our customers.

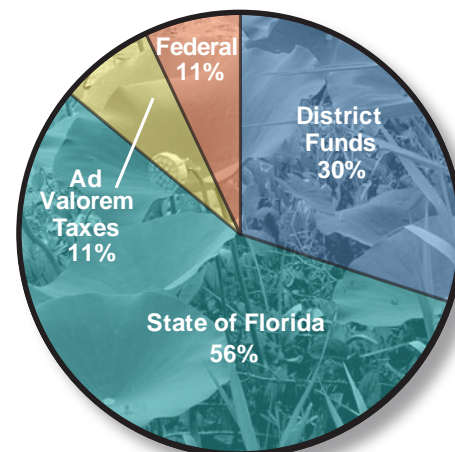
Agency Overview

A Governing Board of nine members, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state senate, sets policy and direction for the District. Board members serve four-year terms. The Board holds meetings and workshops monthly at the headquarters in Live Oak.

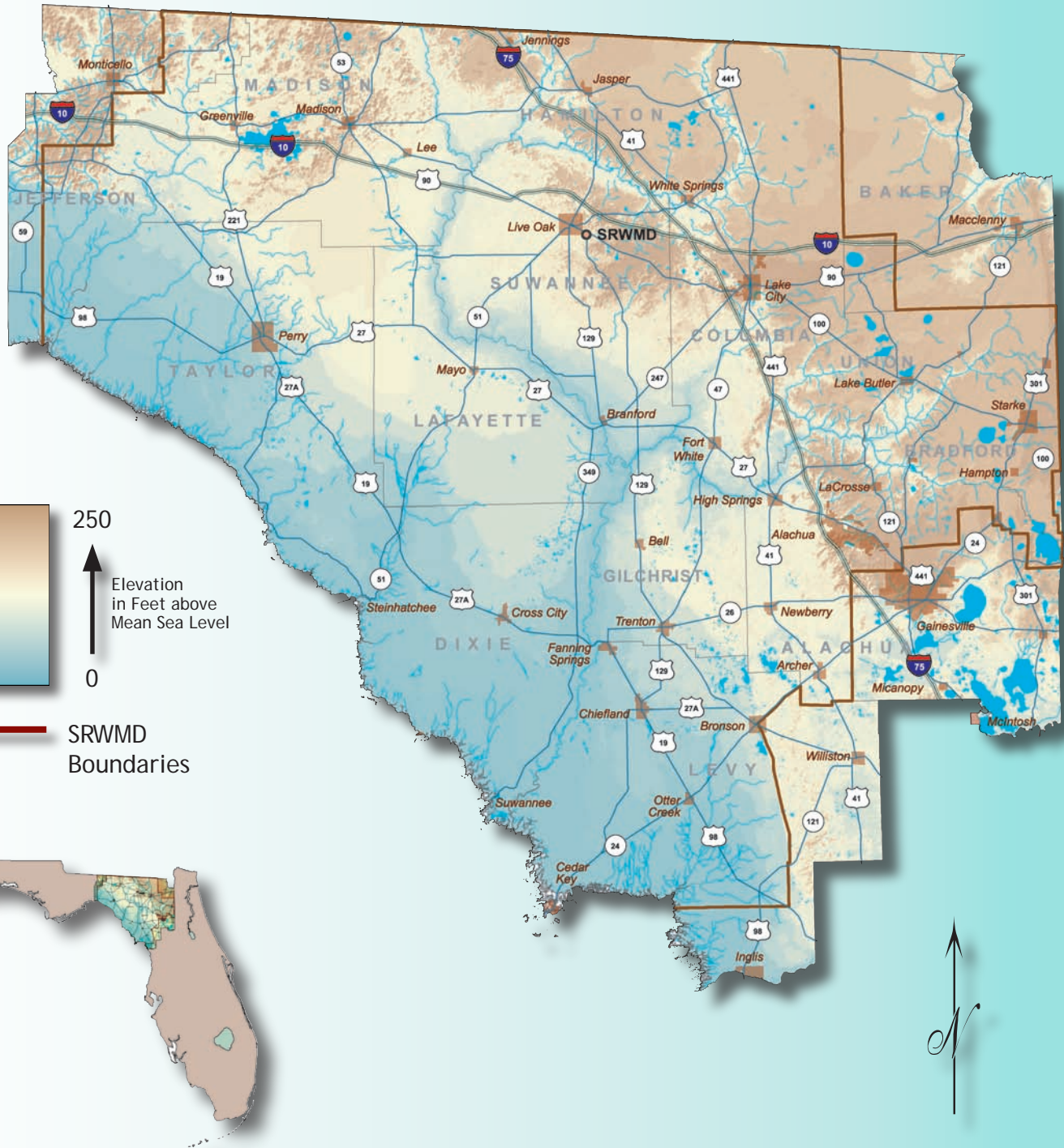
The Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) covers 7,600 square miles with a population of approximately 320,000. The region has the highest concentration of freshwater springs in the state and is highly rural in character.

Most of the region's residential growth is in unincorporated rural areas. The Interstate 75 corridor from Lake City to Gainesville is experiencing rapid development, and is projected to contain much of the future development. Total population growth by 2050 is projected to increase to about 750,000 residents.

SRWMD's budget is derived from a combination of local property tax revenues, state grants and federal funds. Locally-generated tax revenues are 11% of District's total budget—indicative of the lowest taxbase of any Florida water management district.



SRWMD
FY2007
Revenue
Sources





District Strategic Priorities

The District is charged with water supply, flood protection, water quality, and natural systems responsibilities under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, (F.S.). These responsibilities are implemented through the District's regulatory and management programs.

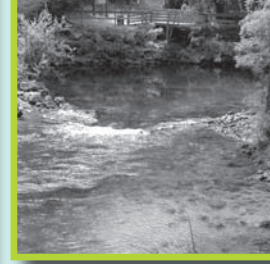
The District Strategic Plan, in combination with the Annual Budget and Work Plan ensures that regulatory and management priorities are accomplished.

The following ten Strategic Priorities guide the District's activities for 2007 - 2016. The strategic priorities are implemented through the nine major program areas beginning on page 8.

Plan for Future Water Supply Needs

The Water Protection and Sustainability Program established by the Legislature provides guidance and critical funding for protecting natural systems and developing alternative water supply and reuse. The District focus is on projects that offset ground water withdrawals while balancing the needs of our communities and natural systems.

Alternative water supply cost-share funding will be made available



to communities and other water users that have specific needs and who have provided assurances that projects will be implemented.

The District is committed to establishing Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) that will prevent significant harm for the water bodies listed on the MFL priority list. Close coordination with the state of Georgia will be required on interstate water bodies.

Facilitate Community-Based Water Supply and Flood Protection Initiatives

The District provides funding for well head protection, including wellfield acquisition, that helps assure the availability and quality of future public water supplies.

Cooperative funding for flood protection and stormwater management projects assists communities throughout the District in reducing flooding and improving water quality.

Federal funds administered by the District have made Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood insurance rate map modernization possible for the counties and cities of the District. These maps provide data for local development regulations and help communities avoid development activities in floodprone areas. The District's efforts are to ensure accessible and accurate floodplain data is readily available to communities.

Acquire Land to Protect Floodplains, Wetlands, and Other Natural Areas

The District has purchased 160,000 acres of land and has conservation easements over an additional 110,000 acres. These lands provide many benefits including floodwater storage and conveyance, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Over 315 river miles of river front are under protection.

Achieve Excellence in Managing District Lands

Lands acquired by the District are managed for many uses, including water resource benefits, fish and wildlife habitat, public use and recreation, and timber production. The Excellence in Land Management Program is a means for establishing and maintaining high standards in land management.

Restore Mallory Swamp and Other Altered Wetlands, Springs and Streams

Historic drainage alterations and the increasing impacts of development prior to District rules have created environmental impacts in some areas of the District. Most impacts can be successfully remedied with proper intergovernmental cooperation, engineering, and implementation.



Mallory Swamp, containing 30,500 acres, is an excellent example of how a large disturbed wetland can, over time, be returned to near natural conditions by restoring natural water flow and original plant communities.

Improve Water Management through Resource Monitoring and Reporting

The vital signs of the District's natural systems are monitored through an extensive system of water quality and quantity data networks. The information collected is used in the development of Minimum Flows and Levels, regulatory programs and land management activities and flood protection.

Improve Water Quality

Elevated nutrients in the Suwannee River, springs and groundwater led to the 1999 creation of the Suwannee River Partnership, a group of public and private interests working to implement voluntary Best Management Practices that will reduce nutrient levels.

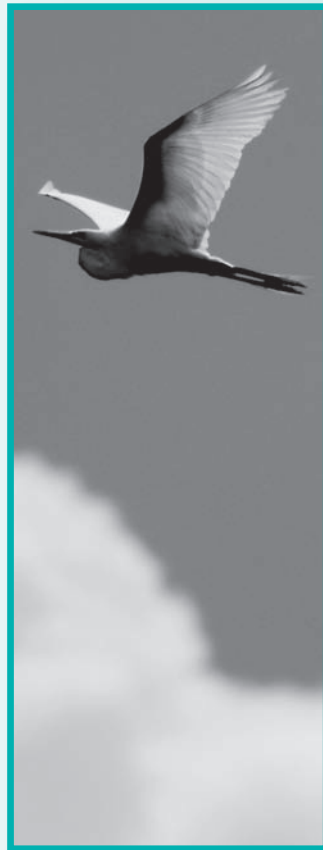
The District, as a member of the Partnership, collects water quality data, provides information on nutrient trends, provides District cost-share funds to farmers to implement Best Management Practices, and administers cost-share funds in cooperation with other agencies.



Protect, Restore, and Promote Excellence in the Management of Community-Owned Springs

Springs are among the most visible and prized natural and recreational resources. Public agencies at all levels own and manage the region's famous springs, and these valuable natural resources need protection and proper management.

Setting and achieving a high standard for protecting and managing our publicly-owned springs requires a high degree of cooperation and coordination. The District can help ensure that our springs are clean and healthy now and in the future by providing technical and funding assistance to local governments to upgrade the quality of spring management.



Achieve Environmental Protection through Effective Regulatory Programs

District rules provide protection for natural resources and help improve the quality of development. Permits are required for activities that affect water quality, flooding and stormwater management, water supplies, and impacts to water-related natural systems.

An effective regulatory program establishes conditions for avoiding or mitigating impacts to natural resources. The District works with landowners and others to ensure that land uses follow procedures, and implements rules and regulations fairly and efficiently.

Maintain Highly Trained and Service Oriented Employees

The District maintains a motivated, highly trained staff. Retaining experienced individuals and providing them the most up-to-date, efficient tools help ensure outstanding public service.

Water Supply Planning and Management

Goal: Assure a sustainable water supply

The District collaborates with local governments and other partners

to help meet the water needs of communities. With the rapidly increasing population growth of recent years, this relationship is more important than ever.

The Water Protection and Sustainability Program established by the 2005 Legislature provides policy guidance and funding that will allow the District to be more effective in meeting future water needs. The District is committed to provide 60 million dollars over a ten-year period to implement water supply and protection projects as the legislature continues to provide funds. The District is working with local partners to identify and develop alternative water supplies consistent with legislative directives.

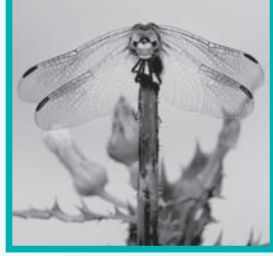
The development of Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs) for rivers, springs and lakes is included under the water supply program. MFL establishment is critical and will help ensure that future demands for water will not cause adverse impacts to water resources and related natural systems.

The development of Minimum Flows and Levels is required by Chapter 373.042, F.S., to protect water resources from significant harm. MFLs determine the amount of water needed to sustain the benefits and functions of natural systems from water withdrawals, diversions, or other alterations.

Water Supply Development Strategies

- Coordinate with all users in protecting and managing water supplies





- Provide water supply and facility planning assistance to local governments
- Develop partnerships to implement alternative water supply projects that offset ground water withdrawals
- Assist local governments with well-field acquisition and protection
- Promote water use conservation through cost-share, public outreach, and technical assistance projects

Board action

- Implement MFLs through resource regulation and monitoring

Success Indicators

- Number of local governments assisted in implementing wellfield development and protection plans
- Number of alternative water supply projects implemented
- Number of water conservation measures established
- Amount of groundwater withdrawals offset
- Number of alternative source master plans approved
- Number of alternative source ordinances adopted
- Number of waterbodies with established MFLs

Minimum Flows and Levels Strategies

The MFL Priority List and the MFL strategic plan guide MFL development and implementation.

The six-step process for MFL establishment is:

- Compile and assess hydrologic, ecologic, and related data
- Analyze and use existing best available information
- Select target criteria
- Select minimum flows and levels standards
- Adopt standards through Governing

Program Funding

The Water Supply Program is funded by the Water Protection and Sustainability Trust Fund, District funds, and local government funds.

Water Supply Planning and Management Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-16
Water Supply Planning	Complete Community Water Supply Assessments		Update District Water Supply Assessment			
Wellfield Supply Development	Provide Technical Assistance to Communities					→
Alternative Water Supply Projects	Develop and Execute Project Agreements with Local Governments					→
Minimum Flows and Levels Establishment	Waccasassa River Upper Santa Fe River	Withlacoochee River Upper Suwannee River and Springs Lower Santa Fe River and Springs Alapaha River Middle Suwannee River and Springs		Econfina River Fenholloway River 4 Lakes Aucilla River Wacissa River and Springs Steinhatchee River	10 Lakes	



Quality Communities

Goal: Assist communities in meeting stormwater management, flood protection and water supply needs

The Governing Board recognizes that water-related infrastructure is vital to quality of life. Developing partnerships is an excellent way to solve community water-related challenges. The Quality Communities Program assists communities in developing and implementing water supply, stormwater management, stormwater utility, floodplain mapping and flood protection projects.

By pooling resources and leveraging funds, more can be accomplished for the communities than could be done individually. For example, the District and the City of Live Oak developed a partnership to pool resources and develop the District's first stormwater utility. The stormwater utility will provide funding to implement stormwater management projects.

Quality Communities Strategies

Water Supply

- Acquire wellfields and wellhead protection areas
- Provide grant funding for engineering analyses and feasibility studies that improve stormwater management, flood protection, and water quality

Stormwater Management and Flood Protection

- Create and provide updated Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs)
- Provide grant funding for engineering analyses and feasibility studies
- Provide cost-share assistance for stormwater management facilities and utilities
- Assist with land acquisition for stormwater management



Wastewater Management

- Provide cost-share funds for wastewater feasibility studies
- Provide cost-share for developing reuse projects using reclaimed wastewater

Springs Protection and Surface Water Restoration Projects

- Provide engineering and technical assistance for hydrologic restoration projects
- Provide financial and technical support for springs protection and restoration projects

Success Indicators

- Number of District communities assisted
- Number of counties with digital flood insurance rate map coverage

- Number of Communities with flood protection management
- Number of Florida Forever Resource Development projects completed
- Number of communities with long-term, sustainable water supply
- Number of water conservation projects implemented
- Amount of water conserved
- Number of Greenways and Trails completed

Funding Sources for the Quality Communities Program

The Quality Communities Program is funded by District revenues, state grants and legislative appropriations, federal funds, local revenues, and in-kind contributions.

Quality Community Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-16
Stormwater Management	Implement Projects in Trenton, Jasper, Starke, and Columbia County	Develop New Community Projects				
Stormwater Utilities Development	Complete Utilities with Lake City, City of Alachua	Develop New Community Projects				
Flood Map Updates	Complete Taylor and Union Counties	Complete Madison and Hamilton Counties	Complete Alachua, Bradford, Jefferson and Levy Counties			
Wellfield Acquisition and Development	Complete Fanning Springs, Live Oak, Madison	Complete Starke and Waldo				
Wastewater Management	Develop Alternative Water Supply Partnerships					
Springs Protection & Surface Water Restoration	Develop Springs Management Partnerships					

Resource Monitoring

Goal: Monitor and report on the condition of the District's water resources

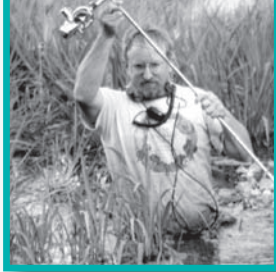
Effective water management requires accurate information on the condition of water and related natural resources. Collecting and analyzing data from monitoring networks allows the District to understand how natural resources change over time and how to protect their ecological integrity.

The Water Assessment Regional Network (WARN) directly supports District strategies by providing a wide range of data on water quality and quantity. The data is used to identify long-term trends, and identify potential management challenges.

The groundwater Trend and Status networks include hundreds of groundwater sampling points, which allow the determination of long-term trends of water quality in the Floridan Aquifers.

Groundwater and surfacewater levels and rainfall networks provide data for water supply planning, water supply development, water conservation management, water use permitting, minimum flows and levels (MFLs), and environmental protection and restoration projects. River levels and rainfall data are provided to the National Weather Service for use in flood forecasting. During flood events, the District is a primary source of flooding information for the public.





Associated with data collection efforts are activities for the procurement of laboratory analysis services, quality assurance and quality control, database management and development of data reports and interpretation. A pilot project in the Manatee Springs area of Levy County is evaluating how the use of electronic data collection technology can improve access to information from all networks.

- Routinely evaluate monitoring data to ensure data quality, assess network status, and make necessary changes

Success Indicators

- Completion of pilot automated data collection project
- Number of monitoring stations using digital technology
- Updated annual water resources report

WARN Monitoring Strategies

- Monitor surfacewater and groundwater quality, aquatic biology, surfacewater levels and flows (rivers/streams, springs, and lakes), groundwater levels, and rainfall to determine short-term and long-term changes
- Improve public access to data resources
- Convert monitoring networks to automated capability to improve data flow and reliability

Funding Sources for the WARN Monitoring Program

The District's Water Assessment Regional Network is funded through District revenue and the Surfacewater Improvement and Management (SWIM) program.

Resource Monitoring Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-16
Surface Water Quality, and Biology Monitoring	Complete Network Assessment			Complete Network Assessment		
Groundwater Quality Monitoring	Re-randomize Status Network Complete Network Assessment			Re-randomize Status Network Complete Network Assessment		
Surface Water Levels Monitoring	Complete and Evaluate Network Automation Pilot Project Complete Network Assessment			Complete Network Assessment		
Groundwater Levels Monitoring						



Land Acquisition

Goal: Implement the Florida Forever Work Plan to acquire water management lands

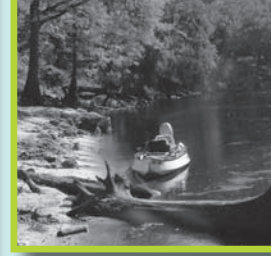
The District has been acquiring water management lands since 1984 under a succession of acquisition programs—Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever. Together, these programs have realized the protection of over 326,000 acres of land in north-central Florida. A District priority is the acquisition of lands within the 100-year floodplain of the Suwannee River, its tributaries, and other rivers. The District now owns 315 miles of riverfront.

All District lands are open to the public.

Where appropriate, conservation easements and other less-than-fee purchases can provide adequate protection at a lower cost to the public. Management costs are reduced and the property remains on the tax roll because the title is still held by the private owner. Approximately 47 percent of land acquisitions have been achieved using less-than-fee ownership.

The public benefits of the District's acquisition program include nonstructural flood protection, water quality and water recharge protection, open space, passive recreation and access to District lands, habitat for fish and wildlife, and land for water supply protection.

The land acquisition program is strictly voluntary—all land acquisition projects are negotiated with willing sellers at appraised market value. Lands available for sale are evaluated by District staff, reviewed with the Governing Board, and included in the District's land acquisition planning process.



Land Acquisition Strategies

- Protect the 100-year floodplain, headwater wetlands and freshwater spring systems of the District's major rivers
- Preserve natural floodplain function areas on the major river systems in this region
- Assist local governments in the acquisition of lands for wellhead protection
- Continue to use a resource-based selection process to target the most important and sensitive remaining lands available
- Emphasize the use of voluntary sale by willing sellers of large ownerships of reasonably priced resource lands

- Encourage the use of alternative acquisition techniques such as conservation easements as a cost-effective means of protection

Success Indicators

- Acres of land acquired consistent with the District's Florida Forever Plan
- Acres acquired for wellfield protection
- Percentage of Florida Forever goals achieved
- Percentage of Florida Forever acquisition projects acquired versus projects approved

Land Acquisition Funding

Lands are acquired with funds from the Florida Forever Trust Fund, funds from the sale of surplus lands, and revenues generated from activities on District lands (e.g., timber sales).

Land Acquisition Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-16
Suwannee River and Tributaries	Acquire Dowling Park River Camp Tracts Acquire Carter Conservation Easement	Pursue Acquisitions in the 100-yr Floodplain				
Coastal Rivers	Acquire Mallory Swamp Addition and Alligator Creek Conservation Easement Acquire McEnany Conservation Easements	Acquire Plum Creek/Waccasassa Corridor				
Wellhead Protection	Acquire Wellfield for Ft. White	Acquire Well fields for Fanning Springs, Live Oak and Madison	Acquire Wellfields for Starke and Waldo			
Surface Water Restoration Water Resource Development	Starke Project Completed	Acquire Stormwater Management Areas for Jasper and Live Oak	Acquire Stormwater Management Areas for Lake City and Trenton			

Land Stewardship

Goal: Manage District-owned lands in accordance with the Excellence in Land Management standards and guidelines

Acquiring land for water management purposes is just the beginning of the District's commitment to resource protection. Caring for the public's investment is an ongoing responsibility.

The Excellence in Land Management (ELM) Program encompasses a wide range of responsibilities—water management and nonstructural flood protection, public access and use, habitat management, and hydrologic restoration.

The ELM Program objectives fall in four categories (1) Resource Protection - Protect, Enhance and/or Restore Natural and Cultural Resources (2) Public Use - Provide Opportunities for High Quality, Compatible Recreation (3) Communications - Coordinate with Public and Private Stakeholders (4) Fiscal Responsibility - Manage District Lands in an Efficient Manner.

Land Management Strategies

- Develop, update, and implement land management plans for all properties
- Provide opportunities for public input and review of management plans
- Guide public use of District lands to the most suitable areas and provide appropriate public use facilities to reduce impacts to land and water resources
- Restore natural hydrology and native vegetation
- Use prescribed fire to restore and enhance habitat and natural communities
- Promote sustainable forestry in appropriate areas to provide alternate sources of revenue for land management





- Engage in cooperative land management programs where feasible to maximize public benefit

Success Indicators

- Increasing scores reported in Excellence in Land Management Program annual reports
- Percent of facilities and recreation sites that meet standards
- Percent of Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) indicators that are found to be “in

compliance” or “exceeds requirements” by third party auditors

- Percent of natural communities, maintained by fire, that are burned within their natural fire return interval
- Number of acres of non-native invasive plants treated

Funding Sources for Land Management

Land management funds are from the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, revenues generated from timber sales and other fees from District lands.

Land Stewardship Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-16
Excellence in Land Management	Develop and Report Performance Trends Conduct External SFI Audit			Implement Facilities Maintenance Standards	Conduct External SFI Audit	
Land Management Planning	Complete Land Management GIS Structure	Populate GIS with Operations Data	Develop Annual Work Plan Using GIS			
Public Use and Recreation	Inventory Recreation Facilities Complete RO Ranch Plan Conduct Public Satisfaction Survey	Develop Facility Upgrade Plan Develop RO Ranch Facilities	Upgrade Facilities to Meet Standards		Conduct Public Satisfaction Survey	
Prescribed Fire	Conduct Burns on 7,500 Acres			Conduct Burns on 12,000 Acres		
Suwannee River Wilderness Trail	Complete River Camps, Peacock Slough, & Adams Trust	Complete Dowling Park Design Fletcher Landing	Complete Fletcher Landing Monitor Public Use Impacts			
Timber Management	Reforest 1,400 acres Implement Planned Harvests	Reforest 1,500 acres				



Watershed Management

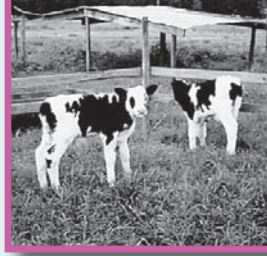
Goal: Develop partnerships to address water resource issues through voluntary, cooperative programs and projects

Watershed management activities focus on developing partnerships for improving water quality, acquiring water use data, improving agricultural water use efficiency, and protecting springs. Partnerships help the District achieve its mission by bringing landowners, organizations, citizens and agencies together to share in responsibilities and achievements.

The Partnership brings landowners and agencies together to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce nutrient contamination. The Partnership now has 61 member agencies and organizations and throughout the entire District. The District supports the Partnership by assisting in BMP planning, funding and implementation, providing water quality data and in administering outreach and educational programs.

The District works closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and the Suwannee Valley Resource Conservation and Development Council to improve agricultural water use efficiency. Over 200 irrigation systems are being assessed for water use efficiency and retrofitted with water-saving equipment through cost-sharing agreements with farmers. The District is also cooperating with farmers to collect irrigation water use data from over 200 center pivot systems.

The District's Springs Protection and Management Project supports management of local, publicly owned springs through



technical assistance, cost-share funding, interagency coordination, and outreach and education programs. Working with local government partners, an assessment will be done for each spring. Then a management plan will be created that describes the technical assistance, management, funding, and outreach and education programs needed to make each spring an outstanding natural and public use resource.

Watershed Management Strategies

- Assist farmers in implementing BMPs to improve the quality of ground and surface waters
- Retrofit irrigation systems to achieve water savings
- Monitor agricultural water use
- Partner with local governments for improved springs protection and management
- Partner with the Florida Springs Initiative

- for improved springs protection
- Communicate the value of water resources partnerships to the public and landowners

Success Indicators

- Number of farms with agreements to implement nutrient-related BMPs
- Number of spring assessments completed
- Number of local governments cooperating in springs management programs
- Number of irrigation systems evaluated for water efficiency
- Number of irrigation systems retrofitted for improved water conservation
- Number of irrigation systems reporting water use
- Number of springs protected

Funding Sources for the Suwannee River Partnership

Funding sources are the USDA-NRCS, FDACS, SRWMD, legislative appropriations, and private landowners.

Watershed Management Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-16
Suwannee River Partnership	Administer Dairy, Poultry, Nursery and Row Crop Cost Share Agreements	Complete Phase I Outreach Program				
Springs Protection and Management	Complete Springs Assessments for Hart, Royal, Charles, Guarnto, Little River, Rum Island and Poe Springs	Complete and Begin Impementation of Springs Management Plans for Hart, Royal, Charles, Guarnto, Little River, Rum Island and Poe Springs				
Agricultural Water Use Monitoring	Complete Water Use Reporting Data Base	Complete Installation of Water Use Monitoring Equipment	Annual Water Use Report			
Agricultural Water Management and Conservation		Complete Irrigation Efficiency Retrofits				



Restoration

Goal: Restore altered hydrologic systems and natural communities to reduce flooding impacts and protect and improve water quality, water supplies, and natural systems

Lands acquired by the District have often undergone changes and alterations by prior landowners, including hydrologic and vegetative changes. Restoration activities on District-owned land help restore those lands to their native condition and ensure the sustainability of water resources benefits.

While focused on District lands, restoration activities and projects are considered in the context of watersheds and hydrologic regimes that extend beyond District ownership, and sometimes include other public and private lands.

Current priorities include completing the Mallory Swamp restoration plan implementation, streambank and hydraulics restoration (which includes ongoing, routine riverbank assessments and inspections as well as specific restoration projects), and natural community restoration (including wetlands mitigation responsibilities and projects and restoration of upland communities).

Regulatory Strategies

- Restore historic and native drainage patterns and hydroperiods of wetlands and floodplains
- ♦ Restore Natural Community Restoration Areas through intensive land management activities
- ♦ Restore and stabilize streambanks system into permit application review
- Implement basin-specific management standards



Success Indicators

- Acres of wetlands or floodplains improved through hydrologic improvements
- Percent of Natural Community Restoration Area that meet restoration success criteria
- Number of Streambank Restoration Area projects completed

Funding the Restoration Program

Restoration activities on District lands are funded by the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, revenues from timber sales, Federal grants, and FDOT mitigation funds.



Restoration Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-16
Mallory Swamp	Upgrade Hydrologic Structures Chop and Burn Flatwoods and Bogs					
Natural Communities	Restore Lake Rowell Wetlands Restore Middle Suwannee Sandhills	Construct Alligator Creek Sediment Basin				
Rivers and Springs	Rehabilitate Stream Banks at Ruth Spring Tract and Log Landing Develop Suwannee Spring Restoration Plan	Rehabilitate Stream Banks at Allen Mill Pond, Swift Creek, Pott Spring and Blue Sink Restore Suwannee Spring				



Regulations

Goal: Ensure that District regulations provide effective resource protection and are fairly administered

The District implements Environmental Resources Permitting (ERP), Water Use Permitting (WUP), and Water Well Construction and Contractor Licensing programs as directed by Ch. 373, F.S.

Environmental Resources Permitting regulates stormwater discharges generated by development and activities that affect surface waters, wetlands, and related natural systems as authorized in Part IV of Ch. 373, F.S.

Water Use Permitting ensures that proposed water uses are reasonable and beneficial, are in the public interest, and will not cause harm to natural systems or existing permitted water uses.

Water Well Construction and Contractor Licensing regulations ensure the integrity of groundwater aquifers by establishing standards for well construction, and ensuring that well contractors meet minimum basic qualifications.

Regulatory Strategies

- Clearly communicate regulatory requirements by:
 - ♦ Conducting workshops with the regulated community
 - ♦ Maintaining a website with online resources
 - ♦ Providing a high level of assistance to permittees through the use of pre-application conferences and site visits
- Conduct a timely review and evaluation of permit applications
- Ensure prompt and thorough compliance and enforcement of regulations to reduce violations
- Integrate Geographic Information System into permit application review
- Implement basin-specific management standards



- Improve the effectiveness of District regulations through periodic review and evaluation
- Coordinate programs with other local, state and federal agencies
- Implement the Department of Transportation's Efficient Transportation Decision Making Process (DOT ETDM) to streamline transportation projects
- Ensure water uses are sustainable through adoption and implementation of minimum flows and levels

Success Indicators

- Percent of complete applications reviewed within statutory deadlines
- Percent of permitted projects with completed as-built certifications
- Implementation of updated ERP surface water manual
- Implementation of updated WUP Rule
- Percent of regulated systems in compliance

Regulatory Program Funding

The District's regulatory programs are funded by State grants, Legislative appropriations, interagency revenues, permit fees, and license fees.

Regulations Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-16
Regulatory Compliance Verification	Enhance Inspection and As-Built Program Refine Water Use Compliance					
Database Development	Develop Water Use Data Management System					
Transportation Projects	Implement ETDM				Assess & Renew ETDM Agreement	
ERP Rule Development	Develop Surface Water Manual	Adopt Surface Water Manual in 40B-4				
Water Use Program Development	Complete Amendments to 40B-2 WUP Rule Complete 40B-2 Basis of Review Development					
Water Well Program	Complete Amendments to 40B-3	Initiate On-line Permitting				
Minimum Flows and Levels Rule Development and Adoption	Waccasassa River	Upper Santa Fe and Springs Alapaha River and Springs Withlacoochee River and Springs Middle Suwannee River and Springs Upper Suwannee River	Lower Santa Fe River and Springs	Steinhatchee River and Springs Econfina River Fenholloway River	Aucilla River and Springs Wacissa River and Springs 14 Lakes	

Mission Support

Goal: Ensure that District operations and activities support and facilitate fulfillment of the District's mission and statutory responsibilities

The District successfully operates with a small, well-trained workforce that has the tools and knowledge to get the job done. Based on ongoing surveys conducted by the District, the staff typically exceeds external and internal customer expectations. This is an outcome of our commitment to the values of the District and of providing staff with the training and technology needed to operate in an increasingly complex and demanding service environment.

The Governing Board's application of process improvement changes since 2000 has yielded numerous benefits in program and project planning, tracking, and reporting. A structured, team-based program planning and management process provides accountability and process efficiency. All projects are required to have a Project Execution Plan that shows, task by task, how a project will be done. Each project team also uses an action register database to keep programs, projects and activities on schedule and consistent with District priorities.

In addition to specific program deliverables and milestones, there are many recurring support activities. These include:

- Information Technology support, database management, and services
- Daily IT backups and security procedures
- Clearing all invoiced accounts payable within two weeks
- Records automation, filing, and retrieval services
- Comprehensive program budgeting and expenditure tracking
- Contracts facilitation and tracking services
- Staff training and development assistance, support, and tracking



ArcGIS Mapping



IT Services



Contracts



Finance



Website



Human Resources



Doing Business with the Suwannee River Water Management District

25 County Road 100
Oak, Florida 32060
Phone: 386.362.1001 or 386.362.1066 (FL toll free)
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- Budget and work plan development, review, and approval services
- Maintaining and refining project planning and management tools
- Communication and outreach services

Program Strategies

- Update computer technology on a rotating three-year cycle to prevent obsolescence
- Develop and communicate annual work plan priorities through process management
- Implement leadership development for program and project staff
- Closely monitor contract development and execution
- Maintain emergency preparedness and continuity of operation plans

- Provide efficient and timely procurement services, ensuring the highest value for taxpayer dollars spent
- Provide incentive and motivation for District staff's continued excellent performance
- Provide technical Geographic Information System (GIS) development assistance to local governments

Success Indicators

- Annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report certification
- Number of employee training courses and sessions per year (or average hours of training per year per employee)
- Number of communities assisted in applying Geographic Information System technology to local management needs

Mission Support Deliverables and Milestones

Categories	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012-16
Human Resources	Establish an Interactive Data Base for Employee Development Plan	Develop Online Employment Application Process	Implement Enterprise-Wide Position Application Review and Evaluation Process	Develop Inter-District Position Application Review and Evaluation Process		
Information Technology	Fully Implement ArcGIS 9	Fully Implement SDE/GIS Functionality Revise Webpage Structure	Complete GIS Water Information System Provide Portal-Based Access to All District Tabular Data	Develop Inter-District Web-Based Information Exchange Protocols	Fully Integrate Voice, Data, GIS Information Protocols	
	← Provide GIS Technical Assistance →					
Finance	Update Project Workplan and Project Budget Development Process	Automate Workplan Development Process	Provide Portal-Based Access to All Financial Data	Develop and Evaluate Portal-Based Project Evaluation Tools	Evaluate Project Expenditure Projection Tools	Use Expert Systems to Guide Expenditures

Suwannee River Wilderness Trail



Suwannee River Wilderness Trail is a system of public and private recreation

and visitor facilities focused on paddling the Suwannee River from White Springs to the coastal town of Suwannee. The Wilderness Trail was designed around recreation hubs, for example, state parks and small towns that feature activity centers, visitor services, and proximity to the river. From these hubs, visitors can explore the surrounding areas by canoe, bicycle, horseback or foot.

The District has partnered with Florida State Parks to build comfortable cabins and rustic river camps for overnight stays along the Wilderness Trail. Three river camps have been completed on District lands with one under construction and two in the planning stages. They are accessible only by foot or from the river and offer screened sleeping platforms, restrooms, and pavilions for dining and group activities.








Strategic Plan Program Summary

Programs		Responsibilities		
	Water Supply	Flood Protection	Water Quality	Natural Systems
Water Supply Planning	Provide District-Wide Water Supply Planning, Local Planning Assistance		Ensure Water Supply Protection	Conduct Minimum Flows and Levels Research and Development
Resource Monitoring	Provide Data for Water Supply Planning	Provide Accurate Water Levels, Flows, and Rainfall Data for Flood Forecasting	Identify Status and Trends in Water Quality and Aquatic Biology	Provide Data for Establishing Minimum Flows and Levels
Land Management	Protect Groundwater Supplies and Recharge Functions	Provide Floodwater Storage and Conveyance, Nonstructural Management	Manage Conservation Lands for Water Quality Protection	Conserve, Restore, and Protect Habitat and Natural Hydrologic Regimes
Quality Communities	Secure Wellfields for Future Water Supply Needs	Resolve Flooding Problems, Prevent Future Problems	Restore Impacted Areas and Provide Project Assistance to Improve Water Quality	Provide Open Space and Urban Habitat Areas
Watershed Management	Implement Water Supply Conservation Projects, and Source Protection Projects	Restore and Protect Springs in Riverine Floodplains	Improve Water Quality and Provide Groundwater Recharge Protection	Protect and Restore Springs and Springsheds
Restoration	Restore and Protect Groundwater Recharge Areas	Hydrologic Restoration Reduce Flood Impacts	Improve Water Quality Treatment for Natural Systems	Restore Habitat and Natural Ecological Communities
Mission Support	Supports All Areas of Responsibility by Providing Human Resource, Technical, Financial, Budgeting, and Outreach Services			
Land Acquisition	Acquire Land for Wellfield Protection and Water Supply Production	Acquire Land for Nonstructural Flood Protection Strategy	Prevent Water Quality Degradation	Protect Natural Communities and Provide Habitat for Fish and Wildlife
Regulations	Provide Water Supplies for Reasonable and Beneficial Uses and the Protection of Water Supplies	Environmental Resource Permitting Ensures that Flood Protection Levels of Service are Met	Protect Water Quality from Nonpoint Sources through Environmental Resource Permitting	Environmental Resource Permitting Regulates Activities that Impact Wetlands and Natural Systems

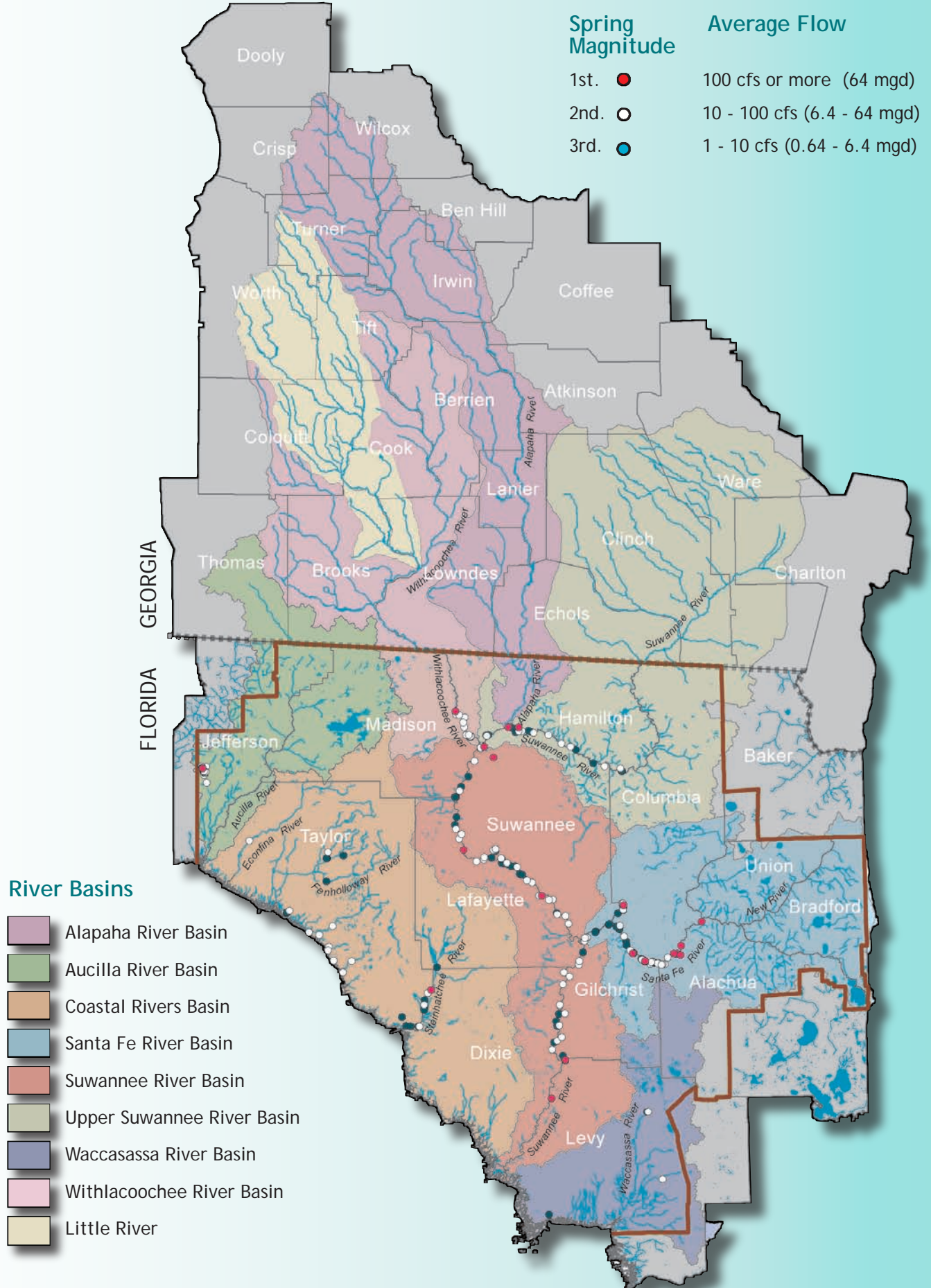
District Land Ownership



SRWMD Land Ownership

-  SRWMD Conservation Easement
-  SRWMD Lands in Fee Ownership
-  District Boundary

Springs and River Basins





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Suwannee River Water Management District

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