



# SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

February 25, 2014

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Chiefland, Florida

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Madison, Florida

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VIRGINIA SANCHEZ  
Old Town, Florida

GUY N. WILLIAMS  
Lake City, Florida

ANN B. SHORTELE, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Gainesville, Florida

The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee FL 32399-0001

Subject: 2014 Consolidated Annual Report

Dear Governor Scott:

In accordance with Section 373.036 (7), Florida Statutes, please find enclosed a copy of the Suwannee River Water Management District's 2014 Consolidated Annual Report. The report is also available for viewing on our website at [www.mysuwanneeriver.com](http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com) in the Business & Financial section.

This year's report emphasizes the following:

- Continuing emphasis on solution-oriented projects;
- Continuing strategic focus on water supply, water conservation, and springs; and
- Continuing fiscal accountability and efficiency in all areas of responsibility.

Please contact me at 800.226.1066 should you have any questions or like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ann B. Shortelle", is written over a blue circular stamp.

Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

ABS/bmp  
Enclosure

cc: SRWMD Governing Board  
Herschel T. Vinyard, Jr., Secretary, DEP

Water for Nature, Water for People

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The Honorable Don Gaetz, President  
Florida Senate  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Joe Negron  
Senate Committee on Appropriations, Chair  
& Joint Legislative Budget Commission, Alternate Chair  
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Charles S. "Charlie" Dean, Sr., Chair  
Senate Committee on Environmental  
Preservation and Conservation  
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The Honorable Jim Boyd, Chair  
House State Affairs Committee  
402 South Monroe Street  
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The Honorable Matthew H. "Matt" Caldwell, Chair  
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The Honorable Alan Hays, Chair  
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The Honorable Seth McKeel  
House Appropriations Committee, Chair  
& Joint Legislative Budget Commission, Alternating Chair  
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Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

The Honorable Ben Albritton, Chair  
House Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Appropriations Subcommittee  
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Ms. Cindy Kynoch, Staff Director  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
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Mr. Jeffrey Porter, Financial Administrator  
Office of Water Policy  
Department of Environmental Protection  
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Tallahassee, FL 32399

# Consolidated Annual Report

March 1, 2014



9225 CR 49  
Live Oak, Florida 32060  
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# ***Suwannee River Water Management District***

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Executive Director

Jon Dinges, P.E.  
Assistant Executive Director

Steven Minnis  
Governmental Affairs and Communications Director  
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[www.mysuwanneeriver.com](http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com)

[www.facebook.com/srwmd](http://www.facebook.com/srwmd)

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Five-Year Strategic Plan

(District Water Management Plan)

In accordance with Subsection 373.036(2)(e),  
Florida Statutes



*Water for Nature  
Water for People*



# Strategic Plan 2015-2019

**January 14, 2014**



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



The District's achievements during 2013 are highlighted by landmark state appropriations for protecting our springs and the passage of Senate Bill 244.

The Florida Families Budget made significant and vital investments to protect springs throughout the District. With the State's springs funding investment, roughly 45% of the District's budget is devoted to springs protection and restoration. The State appropriations for springs protection and restoration projects will have a substantial positive economic effect and will go a long way to ensuring that the region's recreational based economy continues to attract people from all over the world.

Additionally, the District received two spring project grants from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that aid in restoring water quality and quantity for marquee springs essential to our regional economy. The Ichetucknee Springshed Water Quality Improvement project will reduce Lake City's wastewater nutrient loading to the Ichetucknee Springs and River by converting the City's sprayfield into wetlands to provide additional treatment. The Middle Suwannee River Restoration and Aquifer Recharge project will benefit numerous first and second magnitude

springs and increase groundwater supplies in the region while rehydrating wetlands and ponds.

The District is grateful to Senator Dean and Representative Porter for sponsoring legislation that addresses cross-boundary impacts of groundwater withdrawals on an adjoining water management district water bodies.

Senate Bill 244 addresses cross-boundary impacts applying MFLs of adjoining districts that are adopted by DEP without duplicative rulemaking. Thus, Senate Bill 244 also reduces costs while protecting resources.

Last year the District published the Lower Santa Fe River, Ichetucknee River, and Priority Springs MFL report that indicates that these water bodies will be in recovery. The Governing Board approved a resolution requesting DEP to adopt these MFLs and their associated recovery strategies. District staff is developing draft recovery strategies in conjunction with DEP and St. Johns River Water Management District.

Other achievements include the successes of the District's cost-share programs. The agricultural cost-share program realized significant savings of groundwater supplies. The District partnered with agricultural producers to retrofit 70 irrigation systems with an estimated 5.2 million gallon per day of water savings.

The District over the past year partnered with 14 local governments through its Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) cost-share program to save water, provide flood protection, improve water quality, and restore natural systems.

The District also partnered with DEP to implement agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Santa Fe and Suwannee River basins. More than 1.36 million pounds of nitrogen annually is estimated to be prevented from entering the river and springs and more than 4.10 million gallons of water will be saved each year.

The District has had a very success year. I believe the District is moving in the right direction in becoming fiscally transparent and implementing programs and projects that will assist in protecting and restoring our water resources.

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*Donald J. Quincey, Jr.*  
*Chair*  
*Chiefland*  
*Lower Suwannee Basin*

*Alphonas Alexander*  
*Vice Chair*  
*Madison*  
*Upper Suwannee River Basin*

*Donald R. "Ray" Curtis III*  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
*Perry*  
*Coastal Rivers Basin*

*Kevin W. Brown*  
*Alachua County*  
*Santa Fe, Waccasassa Basins*

*George M. Cole, P.E., P.L.S., Ph.D.*  
*Monticello*  
*Aucilla River Basin*

*Virginia H. Johns*  
*Alachua*  
*At Large*

*Gary Jones*  
*Old Town*  
*At Large*

*Virginia Sanchez*  
*Old Town*  
*At Large*

*Guy N. Williams*  
*Lake City*  
*At Large*

*Ann B. Shortelle, Ph.D.*  
*Executive Director*  
*Gainesville*



## DISTRICT OVERVIEW

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

Under the direction of its Governing Board, the District's organization is structured by the Executive Office, Administrative Services Division, Land Resources Division, Water Supply Division, Water Resources Division, and Resource Management Division.

The District has about 320,000 people, representing roughly 2% of the State's population. According to the 2010 Water Supply Assessment the District's population is projected to grow to over 730,000 by the year 2030.



The District covers approximately 7,640 square miles which is nearly 12% of the State's land area. The District is the smallest of Florida's water management districts and covers all or part of 15 counties in north central Florida.

The region includes the highest concentration of first magnitude freshwater springs in the United States and the highest concentration of freshwater springs in the State. Additionally, some of State's most scenic and least-developed rivers, streams, lakes, and landscapes are located in the District.

The District covers 13 river basins, which include the following major rivers: Suwannee, Santa Fe, Withlacoochee, Aucilla, Alapaha, Ichetucknee, Fenholloway, Steinhatchee, Econfinia, Waccasassa, and Wacissa. Over 50% of the Aucilla, Alapaha, Withlacoochee, and Suwannee river basins are located in Georgia.

The District has projected water supply challenges in the Alapaha, Upper Santa Fe and Upper Suwannee river basins. Additionally, in the northeastern portion of the District, there is a declining trend in water levels within the Upper Floridan Aquifer water levels.

Water quality problems related to nutrient loading are an additional resource management issue. The District employs voluntary, locally-based, incentive programs like the Suwannee River Partnership to address these issues.

Additionally, the District supports the Florida Department of Environmental Protection with Basin Management Plan implementation.

The District's budget is derived from a combination of local property tax revenues, state appropriations and grants, and federal grants. The District has a low tax base that makes it difficult to achieve its statutory requirements without funding from the state legislature. Federal, state, and other sources make up approximately 57% of our funding.

The District faces challenges in managing the water and related resources as the region continues to grow and develop. The District's water resources are affected by groundwater withdrawals and pollution both inside and outside of its boundaries, including Georgia. Increasing water storage and aquifer replenishment are key strategies to ensuring adequate water supplies.

The District's core mission is to implement the programs described in Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, in order to manage water and related natural resources for the present and future residents of the region and the state. The guiding principles to carry out the mission are:



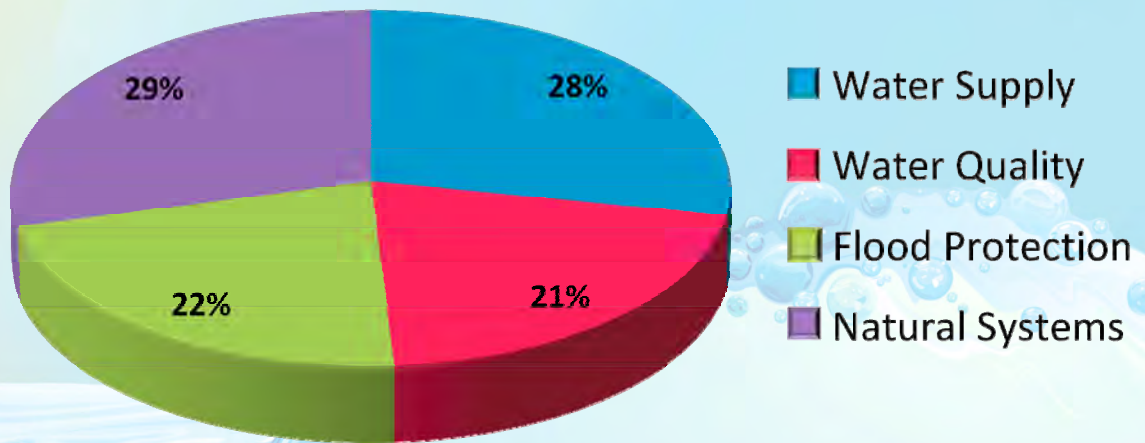


## DISTRICT OVERVIEW

- ★ To provide for the availability of water of sufficient quantity and quality to maintain natural systems and meet the full range of water needs.
- ★ To develop and implement regulatory programs that will ensure conservation and reasonable uses of water and related natural resources.
- ★ Ensure District priority water bodies are protected for current and future generations.
- ★ To encourage nonstructural surface water management techniques to manage flooding risks.
- ★ To provide a land acquisition and management program that ensures preservation, conservation, and appropriate public uses of water and related natural resources.
- ★ To use public funds in an efficient and effective manner and operate without debt.



### FY 2013-2014 Budget Percentage by Area of Responsibility





## DISTRICT OVERVIEW

### OUR MISSION

The Suwannee River Water Management District works to 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.

### OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The District Strategic Plan addresses our four areas of responsibility under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.): water supply, flood protection, water quality, and natural systems.

District programs cannot be accomplished solely with funding from the District's ad valorem tax base. To achieve the District's priorities, funding from the federal and state governments as well as from partnerships with public and private organizations are needed. Historically, there has been success in receiving funding from the federal and state governments and in developing partnerships with citizen groups, industry, and local, state, and federal agencies. However, with the economic downturn over the past several years the District has experienced a significant decline in funding from the state legislature, a situation expected to continue in future years.

The District has identified six strategic priorities that will guide its activities for 2015 – 2019.

#### Water Supply

★ **Sustainable Water Supply**

*Goal: Ensure an adequate and sustainable water supply for all reasonable-beneficial uses while protecting springs and other natural systems.*

★ **Water Conservation**

*Goal: Maximize water conservation for all water uses.*

#### Natural Systems and Water Quality

★ **Minimum Flows and Levels**

*Goal: Ensure District priority water bodies are protected for current and future generations.*

★ **Heartland Springs Initiative**

*Goal: Ensure springs have adequate flow, maintain good water quality, and sustain healthy biological communities.*

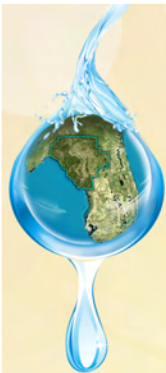
★ **Water Management Lands**

*Goal: Manage land and real estate interest to provide non-structural flood control, to protect surface and ground water quality, and to enhance water resources related natural systems.*

#### Flood Protection

**Non-Structural Flood Protection**

★ *Goal: Enhance flood risk information to protect life and property against flood hazards.*



# DISTRICT MAP



The Suwannee River Water Management District encompasses all or part\* of 15 counties in north-central Florida.

- |          |            |           |          |         |           |
|----------|------------|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|
| Alachua* | Baker*     | Bradford* | Columbia | Dixie   | Gilchrist |
| Hamilton | Jefferson* | Lafayette | Levy*    | Madison | Putnam*   |
| Suwannee | Taylor     | Union     |          |         |           |





# WATER SUPPLY

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY

## SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY

*Goal: Ensure an adequate and sustainable water supply for all reasonable-beneficial uses while protecting springs and other natural systems.*

The District collaborates with adjacent water management districts, the State of Florida, local governments, the State of Georgia, and other partners to help meet the our existing and future water needs. With increases in population growth, water demands, and impacts occurring from areas outside of the District, these relationships are more important than ever. Regular and frequent coordination has been instituted to understand existing and potential future impacts of water withdrawals outside the boundaries of SRWMD.

District boundaries are based on surface drainage areas called watersheds or water basins. However, groundwater, the primary source of most water used in north Florida, does not necessarily follow these boundaries. The decline in groundwater levels in the northeastern part of the District is suspected to have impacted a number of rivers and springs and triggered the need for water supply planning. Water supplies will not be adequate to meet future demands without significant impacts to water resources.

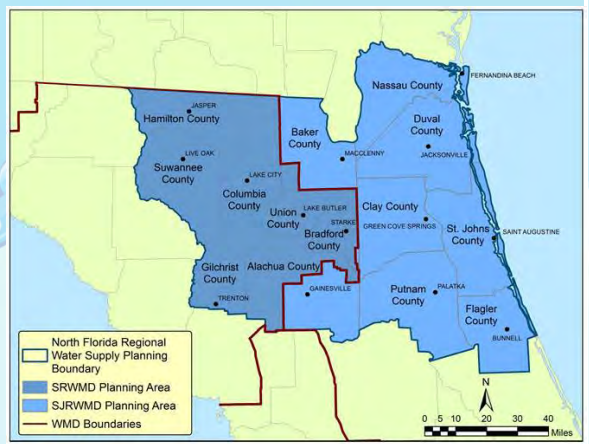
In September 2011, in recognition of the need to manage water resources on a regional basis, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the St. Johns River and Suwannee River water management districts entered into an interagency agreement that formalizes the coordination of water resource management in north Florida. The Interagency Agreement establishes a framework to collaborate on the scientific approach for addressing the groundwater declines in the region, development of minimum flows and

levels, and the joint development of a regional water supply plan.

Within the framework of the Interagency Agreement, the DEP and the St. Johns River and Suwannee River water management districts established the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership. The mission of the Partnership is protection of natural resources and cost-effective, sustainable water supplies in the St. Johns River and Suwannee River water management districts through collaborative planning, scientific-tool development and other partnership efforts.

Suwannee River and St. Johns River water management districts continue to engage in regional water supply planning through a stakeholder-based process. The Committee is a public forum for discussion and input into all the components of the regional water supply planning process. The Committee's role is to advise the districts and Department of Environmental Protection as the districts develop the components of the water supply plan. This process ensures a consensus-based decision-making process that includes public participation at each step.

### North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership Planning Region



Minimum flows and levels for priority rivers, springs, and lakes are vital metrics for determining health of the District's water resources and the availability of water to supply reasonable, beneficial uses. Existing and



## SUSTAINABLE WATER SUPPLY PLANNING

proposed minimum flows and levels for our rivers and springs verify that our water supplies are limited. Thus, management efforts must be adaptive and focus on protecting existing legal users, water resources and related natural systems. Through the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership, the District is working to establish minimum flows and levels that apply across water management district boundaries and develop recovery and prevention strategies to ensure that existing and future demands for water do not cause water bodies to fall below minimum flows and levels. Refer to the minimum flows and levels strategic priority for further detail on this effort.

Developing alternative water supplies that offset groundwater withdrawals, and encouraging water conservation and regional water supply development are critical components to ensure adequate water supply. Alternative water supplies offset dependency on groundwater and water resource development projects expand available sources to assist in maintaining sustainable resources and help make water sources resistant to drought.

Presently, the District is investigating the feasibility of and implementing aquifer recharge projects, and will pursue this and other water resource development projects to ensure a sustainable water supply. A priority project is the Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Aquifer Recharge Project initiated in fall 2013. This project will direct excess surface water runoff in Lafayette and Dixie Counties in and near Mallory Swamp to existing natural features and aquifer recharge wells to improve aquifer levels, enhance spring flows, and help sustain water supplies for agriculture and other priority uses. This project is made possible by funding and cooperation from the State of Florida, Dixie County, and the District.

The District will continue to pursue other aquifer recharge projects in critical areas, such as the northeastern portion of the District where aquifer levels have declined. Current priorities include potential aquifer recharge in eastern Bradford County.

Establishing and maintaining cooperative partnerships allows the District to facilitate effective approaches to eliminate or reduce existing resource impacts and prevent future adverse impacts.

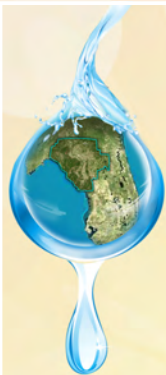
Regional Water Supply Authorities are an important partnership component for sustaining our limited water supplies. Partnerships such as the Nature Coast Regional Water Authority (Authority) are a critical link to ensure an adequate water supply. The Authority is a prime example of community partnerships that collaborate to address regional water supply issues. The District has worked with the Authority to acquire wellfield protection areas to ensure a high quality water supply source remains viable for existing citizens and for future generations.

The District also collaborates with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Florida Department of Environmental Protection to improve agricultural water use efficiency. Irrigation systems are assessed for water use efficiency and retrofitted with water-saving equipment through cost-sharing agreements with farmers. The District also partners with farmers to collect water use data, which is vital information for the water supply planning process.

The District's water use permitting program helps ensure that adverse impacts to our water supplies and natural systems do not occur and existing legal users are protected.

### Program Funding

Funding sources include state appropriations, federal grants, permit fees, and ad valorem taxes.



## WATER SUPPLY

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY

### WATER CONSERVATION

**Goal: Maximize water conservation for all water uses.**

The District continues to increase its water conservation efforts. Significant progress has been achieved with a number of public supply systems, agricultural users, and industrial/commercial facilities in the implementation of conservation practices. Conservation measures are encouraged through management incentives and regulatory mechanisms.



The Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) has been instrumental in implementing conservation partnerships with the agriculture community in the Suwannee River Basin. During 2013, SRP assisted with Mobile Irrigation Lab (MIL) services to perform 225 evaluations to determine irrigation system efficiency and uniformity for agricultural producers that are estimated to have a water savings of 102,000 gallons per acre per crop season or assuming two crops per year there is approximately 2.2 million gallons per day (mgd) water savings.

The District is continuing its partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to implement a Basin management Action Plan (BMAP) grant for new water conservation technologies in the Santa Fe River and

Suwannee River basins such as retrofitting center pivots irrigation systems to make them more water efficient. This partnership during the past year retrofitted 61 irrigation systems in the Santa Fe River Basin and 33 irrigation systems in the Suwannee River Basin resulting in a combined estimated water savings of 4.1 mgd.

In FY 2013 the District initiated an agricultural cost-share program to agricultural producers to implement irrigation efficiencies to reduce groundwater pumpage. The District funded 289 irrigation efficiency projects that estimated to have a water savings of 5.2 mgd.

Participants in both the BMAP grant and District agricultural cost-share programs are required to implement best management practices and voluntarily participate in the District's water use monitoring program.

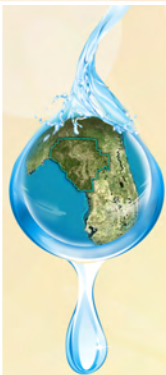
The District's Ag Team provides assistance to agricultural operations to help ensure irrigation conservation measures are implemented in the permitting process.

Also, the District initiated the Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) cost-share partnership program in FY 2013. This program provides funding assistance to governmental entities for projects that furthers the District's core mission. During FY 2013 the District funded 6 water conservation projects with an estimated water savings of over 0.2 mgd and two reclaimed water projects with an estimated groundwater savings of more than 0.2 mgd.

During the past year, the District established a position devoted to encouraging and fostering water conservation throughout its 15-county region.

Public supply conservation coordination with local governments has also been successful in reducing groundwater withdrawals. Many public supply systems are implementing the Conserve Florida program that guides utilities in developing conservation plans. The District has the highest rate of participation by public supply utilities among the water management districts.





## WATER CONSERVATION

The District encourages implementation of urban conservation practices such as Florida-Friendly Landscaping™, and Water CHAMP SM (Conservation Hotel and Motel Program).

The District is also a partner in the Florida Water Star SM program. This program provides water efficiency audits for residential, business, and commercial enterprises.

Conservation is an efficient and effective means to reduce demands on our water supplies. It is estimated that over half of residential water use is for lawn and landscape irrigation. Installation of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ will result in significant savings to our water sources.

Year-round lawn and landscaping irrigation measures are in effect throughout the District. These measures apply to residential landscaping, public or commercial recreation areas, and businesses that are not regulated by a District water use permit.

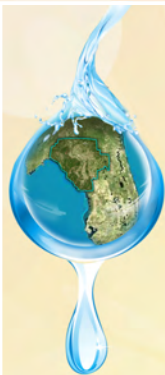
The District has made available for our local governments a model year-round irrigation and water shortage ordinance. To date roughly 25% of the District's communities have adopted some form of the model ordinance.

As increasing demands are placed upon our water resources, we all must make conservation a way of life. We all play a role in conservation and in being a good steward of our most precious resource.

### Program Funding

Funding sources include state grants, federal grants, and ad valorem taxes.





# NATURAL SYSTEMS

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY

## MINIMUM FLOWS AND LEVELS

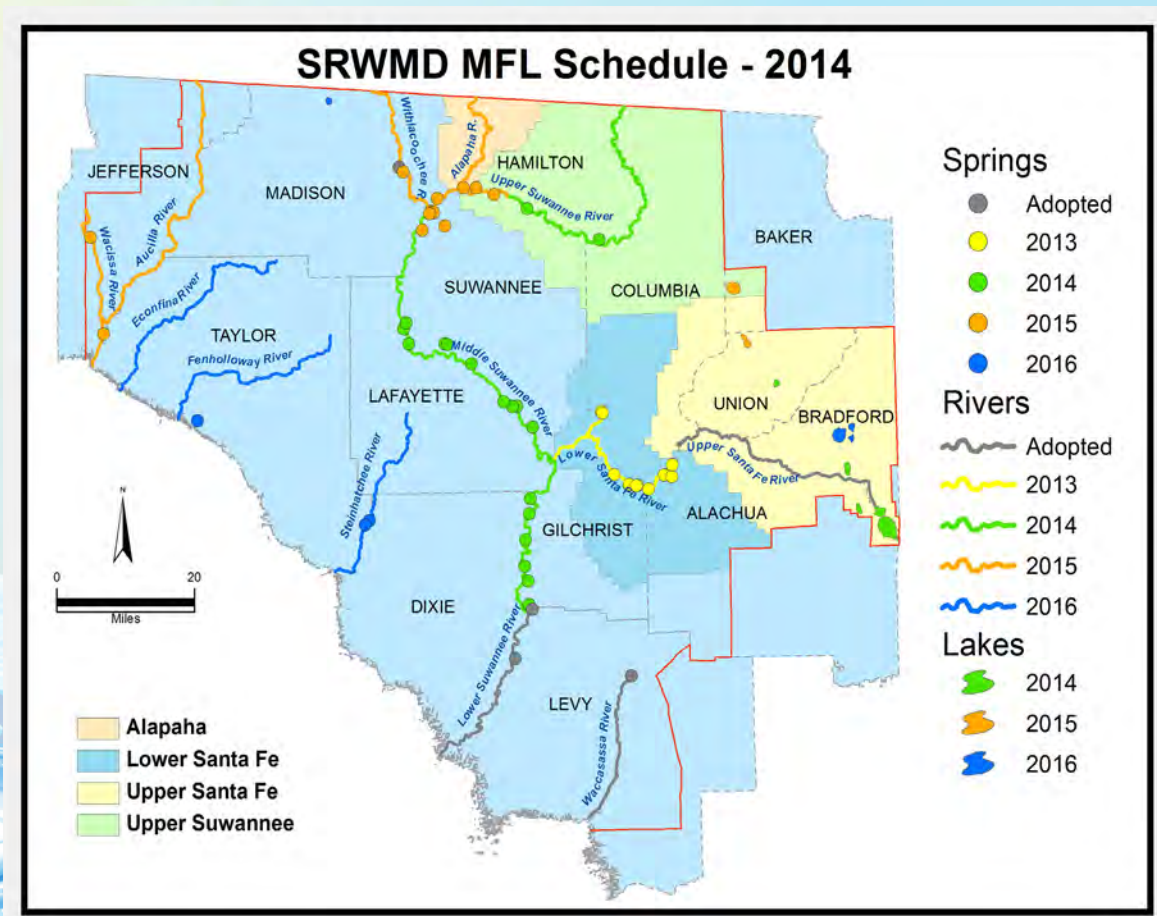
**Goal:** *Ensure District priority water bodies are protected for current and future generations.*

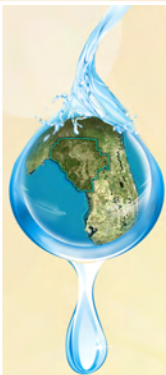
Establishing minimum flows and levels (MFLs) is a State of Florida requirement pursuant to section 373.041, Florida Statutes. MFLs are vital to ensure protection of our springs, rivers, lakes, and groundwater systems. MFLs are the minimum water levels and/or flows established by the District Governing Board as necessary to

prevent significant harm from water withdrawals to the water resources or ecology of an area. MFLs identify a range of water levels and flows above which water may be available for consumptive use. In addition, MFLs protect nonconsumptive uses of water. Nonconsumptive uses include the water necessary for navigation and recreation, for fish and wildlife habitat and other water resource values pursuant to Chapter 62-40.473, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

The MFLs program provides technical information to support water supply planning, the consumptive use permitting program (Chapter 40B-2, F.A.C.), and the environmental resource permitting (ERP) program (Chapter 40B-4, F.A.C.).

**Minimum Flows and Levels Map**





## MINIMUM FLOWS AND LEVELS

The District's MFLs program is a science-based process. This process uses the best available information to determine the recommended MFLs.

The District's MFLs program ensures that decisions regarding flows and levels are informed by a rigorous scientific process, using best available information. Best available information includes meteorological, hydrological, and ecological data reflecting a historical range of drought and flood conditions. The science supporting MFLs is voluntarily subjected to an independent peer review process initiated by the District.

The District's Governing Board is required to develop recovery strategies in those cases where a water body currently does not meet its MFL and prevention strategies in those cases where a water body is projected to fall below its MFL. The prevention and recovery strategies must be adopted concurrently with the minimum flows and levels.

Annually, the District publishes a priority list of MFL water bodies with an anticipated completion schedule. This list is reviewed annually and submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for review and approval. A map of the current MFL water bodies is shown in Figure X. The District has also identified priority water bodies that are potentially affected by withdrawals in an adjacent water management district.

For those MFL water bodies potentially affected by withdrawals in an adjacent water management district, the District can engage a statutory process effective July 1, 2013, to request that the Department of Environmental Protection adopt the minimum flows and levels and any associated prevention and recovery strategies, with the District providing technical support during adoption. The District is currently engaging this process for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and priority springs and is working within the context of the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership to complete the effort for these priority water bodies.

Development and adoption of MFLs and a recovery strategy for the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and priority springs presents a new paradigm for Florida. DEP adoption of the MFLs and recovery strategy will mean that existing and future water users in each water management district will need to work with the districts in the consumptive use permitting process to ensure the recovery strategy is effective. To be effective, it is necessary that regulatory strategies be consistent and equitable across water management district boundaries.

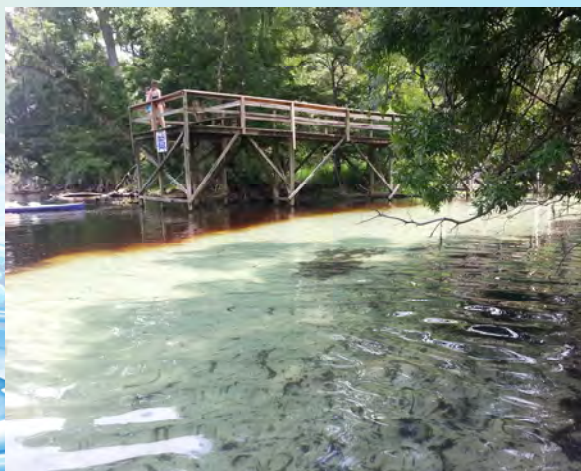
In addition, water management districts will work together in recovery strategies to enhance water conservation and implement water resource development and alternative water supply projects to meet the goals of recovering the MFL water bodies.

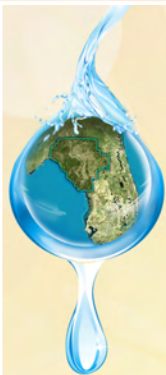
To date, the District has adopted and implemented MFLs for the Lower Suwannee River, Upper Santa Fe River, and Waccasassa River, Little Fanning Spring, Fanning Spring, Madison Blue Spring, Manatee Spring, and Levy Blue Spring.

State funding is essential for the District to develop and establish MFLs. The District's ad valorem revenue is not sufficient to support the funding needs of the program.

### Program Funding

Funding sources include state appropriations and ad valorem taxes.





# WATER QUALITY AND NATURAL SYSTEMS

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY

### HEARTLAND SPRINGS INITIATIVE

***Goal: Ensure springs have adequate flow, maintain good water quality, and sustain healthy biological communities.***

Springs are among the most visible and prized natural and recreational water resources of the District.

The District has the highest concentration of first magnitude springs in the United States and the highest concentration of springs in Florida is within the District. There are 305 known springs within the District. During low flow periods the Suwannee River, Santa Fe River, and Withlacoochee River essentially become spring runs due to substantial groundwater inputs. Other rivers such as the Ichetucknee and Wacissa are primarily spring-fed year round.

This unique environmental condition truly makes the District the springs heartland of Florida. The Heartland Springs Initiative is a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach involving every aspect of the District's management and regulatory programs.

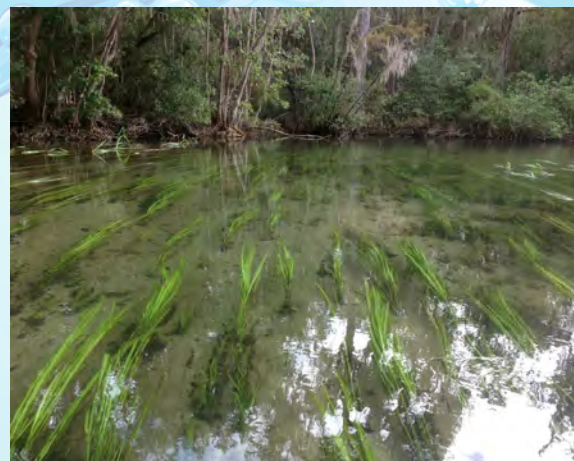
The highly interactive character of ground and surface water in the District makes springs much like the proverbial "canary in the coal mine". If the aquifer can't support sufficient flow of good quality water it becomes less likely our springs' biological communities will be healthy. In addition, spring health is also promoted when the harmful effects of invasive species and disturbance are minimized.

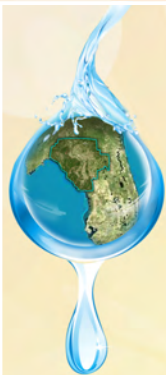
Springs provide a vast array of recreational opportunities. These recreational opportunities in turn are important economic drivers and create jobs for the region. Therefore, preserving the flows, water quality and biological health of our springs will best reflect our ultimate success in protecting the water resources of the region and the State.

Monitoring is a fundamental element of the District's Heartland Springs Initiative. Hydrologic, water quality and biological monitoring of water resources linked to springs provides the assessment tools available to gauge springs' health and the effectiveness of restoration efforts. Data are used to identify long-term trends and identify management challenges. The District monitors 38 priority springs to assess their condition and plans to increase its monitoring of key biological features.

Setting and achieving a high standard for protecting and managing our springs requires monitoring of their critical attributes. An important step is the establishment of minimum flows and levels (MFLs). Establishing MFLs for priority springs is imperative to ensure long-term protection. To date, the District has developed and implemented MFLs for the following springs: Fanning Spring, Little Fanning Spring, Madison Blue Spring, Manatee Spring, and Levy Blue Spring. In addition, a MFL for the Lower Santa Fe River is anticipated in 2014 and will help protect this river whose baseflow is dominated by the contributions from many springs along the river.

To protect and improve water quality the District will work with the Department of Environmental Protection in developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to identify water quality impairment and then to develop Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) designed to restore water quality. These efforts by





## HEARTLAND SPRINGS INITIATIVE

necessity will be done in cooperation and coordination with stakeholders, partners, and permittees.

By 2014 there should be two adopted BMAPs within the District, one for the Santa Fe River and one for the middle and lower Suwannee River. As part of the Santa Fe BMAP, FDEP, FDACS and the District have established a restoration focus area (RFA) in the Ginnie springshed. Restoration efforts will be focused within the RFA to more carefully document the effectiveness of restoration efforts. In this way efforts that are most effective can be broadened to the entire basin.

Only through a concerted focus of technical, political, and economic resources can North Florida's springs be preserved for future generations. Effective springshed management depends on comprehensive partnerships for managing water quantity and quality. Landowners, citizens, and local, state, and federal agencies must share the responsibility to preserve our springs for future generations.

Springshed management is achieved through research, technical assistance, cost-share funding, interagency coordination, regulation, and education programs. Springshed identification is accomplished by a combination of groundwater elevation, water quality measurements and modeling. The District intends to increase its efforts in delineating springsheds and identifying activities responsible for excessive nutrient pollution.

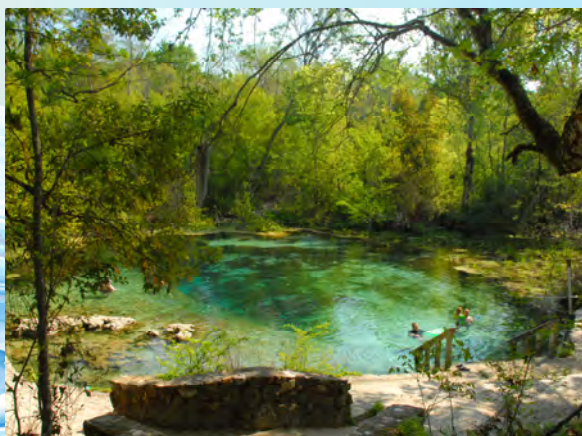
In 2013 the District was awarded funding from DEP for two springs restoration projects; the first and expansion of the Mallory Swamp recharge project that will benefit a variety of springs along the middle Suwannee River and some the Ichetucknee springs. The second project involves the conversion of Lake City's wastewater sprayfield into a constructed treatment wetland that will reduce nitrogen concentrations before the water recharges the aquifer through a system of sinks along the Ichetucknee Trace and thus well connected to springs along the Ichetucknee River.

This allows remediation and best management practices (BMPs) to be focused where they will provide the greatest benefit. Stormwater, water quality restoration, and reuse projects have been developed and implemented in priority springshed basins to reduce groundwater declines, protect or improve water quality, and offset existing groundwater withdrawals.

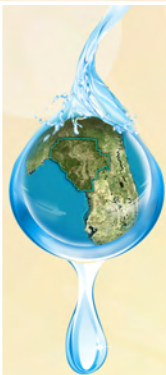
A model for springshed management is establishing and working via partnerships. Within the District there are two successful partnership examples.

One such example is The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP). TIP is based on the development of a locally-led effort to protect the Ichetucknee River and its springs. Participating groups include the City of Lake City, Columbia County, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, the County Extension Office, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), the District, and others. TIP has been successful in developing and implementing education and outreach tools.

The Suwannee River Partnership (SRP) is another example of a successful springshed private-public partnership management program. SRP brings landowners and agencies together to implement BMPs to reduce nutrient inputs and implement water conservation measures. SRP has 64 member agencies and organizations. SRP farmer participation is significant and involves 90% of dairy, 100% of poultry, and 76% of crop farmers throughout the District. The SRP now has more than 277,000 acres within the Suwannee River Water acres







## HEARTLAND SPRINGS INITIATIVE

within the Suwannee River Water Management District enrolled in one or more FDACS BMP programs. Estimated nitrogen reduction is 3,250 tons per year. Estimated water saving is one billion of gallons of water per year.

The District supports TIP and SRP by planning, funding, and implementing BMPs; initiating projects; providing water quality and quantity data; and administering outreach and educational programs.

The District manages two cost-share programs, one with funding from FDEP, to retrofit agricultural irrigation systems for greater water and nutrient use efficiency.

Land acquisition is another tool that the District uses to protect and preserve our springs. Benefits to springs associated with land acquisition and management include protection of high recharge areas, reduced nutrient loading in sensitive areas, resource based recreation and habitat preservation. One of the District's key criteria in all acquisition types is springs protection. Altogether, the District has acquired thousands of acres within various springsheds to protect springs.

The District's regulatory programs also assist in ensuring that development activities do not cause adverse impacts to spring flow and quality. Evaluation of proposed activities requiring permits helps to make sure that regulatory criteria are met.

The District and FDEP supported nearly \$3M in cost-share programs aimed at improving agricultural irrigation and nutrient use efficiency. Combined these efforts resulted in 9.3 million gallons per day in water savings and will annually reduce nitrogen inputs by 1.4 million pounds.

The District, FDACS and FDEP collectively have begun focusing springs restoration efforts in the Ginnie springshed. This effort will help determine the efforts which most effectively help restore springs and can be applied more broadly.

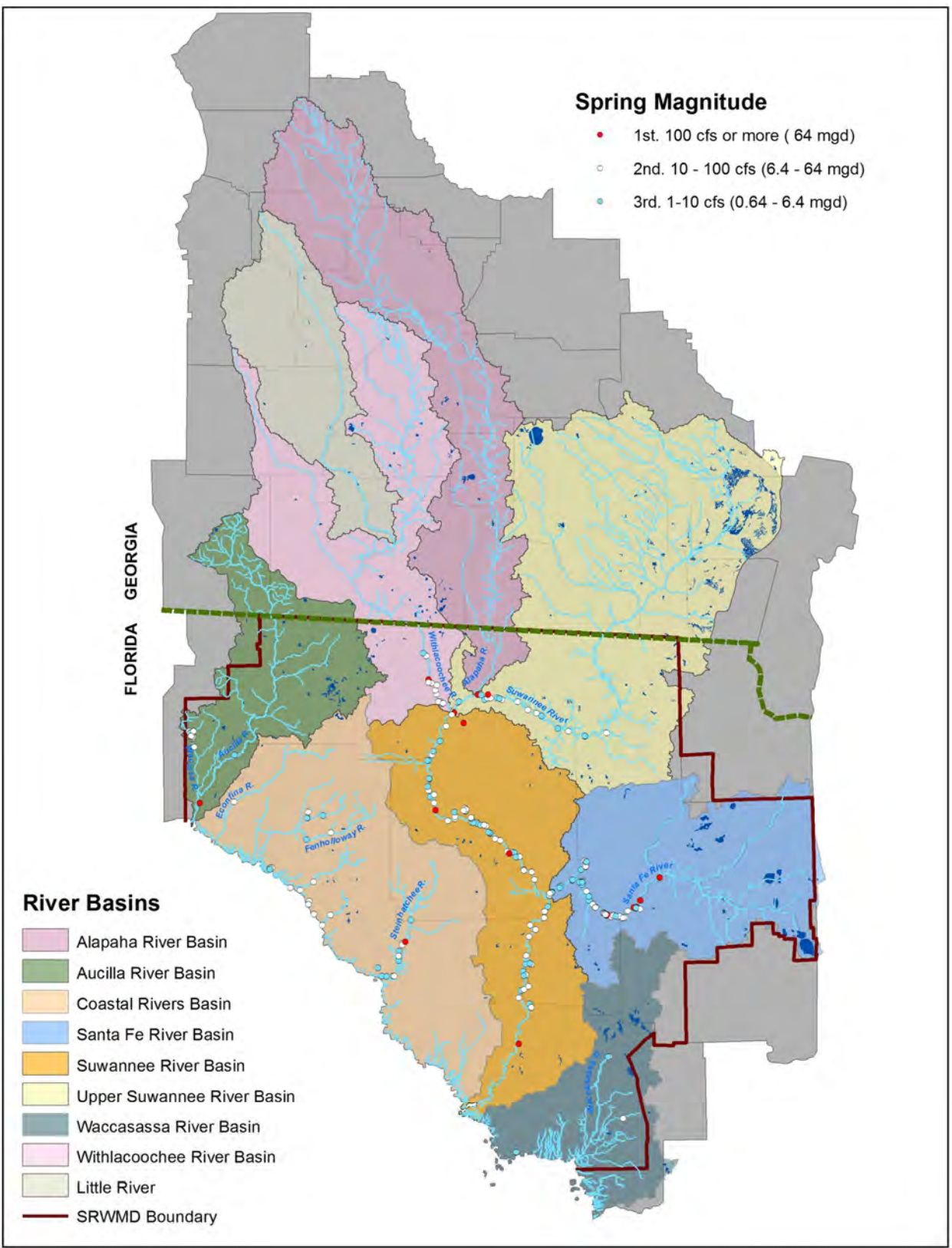
### Program Funding

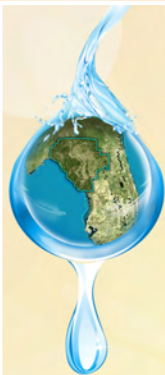
Funding sources include state appropriations, state grants, permit fees, and ad valorem taxes.





# GENERAL SPRINGS AND RIVER BASINS MAP





## NATURAL SYSTEMS

### STRATEGIC PRIORITY

### WATER MANAGEMENT LANDS

*Goal: Manage land and real estate interests to provide non-structural flood control, to protect surface and groundwater quality, and to enhance water resources related natural systems.*

The acquisition and management of real property interests encompass a set of tools to achieve the District's water resource objectives. The majority of District-owned fee and conservation easement lands are located along rivers and streams, headwaters, and water recharge areas. Public ownership of these lands or conservation easements provide a host of benefits including:

- Preserving floodplain areas to maintain storage capacity, attenuate floodwaters, and mitigate flood risk,
- Preserving natural buffers along water bodies where adjacent uses have a high potential to degrade surface water quality,
- Preventing groundwater contamination by maintaining low intensity land uses,
- Preserving and/or restoring spring areas to improve inputs to surface and groundwater,
- Providing land for dispersed water storage or water resource development projects, and
- Preserving and/or restoring natural communities throughout the area to support or enhance populations of native species.

Under the Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever programs, the District has acquired interests in over 285,000 acres. It currently holds fee title to 158,369 acres and conservation easements over an additional 125,809 acres.

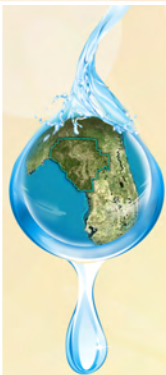
The land acquisition program is strictly voluntary—all land acquisition projects are negotiated with willing sellers within the constraints of appraised market value. Lands available for sale are evaluated by District staff,

reviewed and approved by the Governing Board, and included in the District's land acquisition planning process.

In order to ensure that the public is receiving the greatest water resource benefit from its lands, the District has reviewed its holding to identify any areas that may not be needed for conservation purposes. Such lands are declared surplus and either sold on the private market or transferred to other units of government. The proceeds of any sales are dedicated to the acquisition of lands with higher water resource value.

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. 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.





## WATER MANAGEMENT

A primary role of the District's land management effort is to restore or enhance the natural systems that provide water resource benefits. This is done first by restoring the historic hydrologic regime. The District is reversing past drainage practices to rehydrate wetlands and store water on the landscape.

This water can then recharge the aquifer or help to maintain stream flow during times of drought.

Next, District staff works to restore and maintain the natural plant communities on the property. Where past land uses have degraded wetlands, the District may plant wetland species or in some other way manage the mix of species occurring on the site.

The District's timber management activities are aimed at restoring the multi-aged stands of pine on their appropriate sites. Since many natural communities, particularly those dominated by pine, are adapted to fire, the District makes extensive use of prescribed burning. All District operations follow best management practices to ensure that there are no offsite impacts.

Increasingly, all of Florida's natural areas are under threat from invasive exotic plants. These plants have the potential to displace native species and disrupt sensitive ecosystems. The District monitors and treats infestations in order to keep the invaders under control.



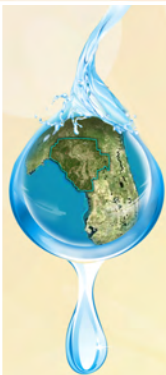
District lands are a valuable recreational resource for the region. Besides providing public access to the Suwannee and other rivers in the District, these lands offer opportunities for hunting, camping, and trail use. Recreational improvements on District lands are designed to improve the user experience without degrading the water resource benefits for which the land was acquired.

To maximize the effectiveness of the public's investment in water management lands, the District has implemented a surplus lands program. The object of this program is to surplus those lands that do not meet the acquisition resource value criteria established by the District. Proceeds from surplus land sales will be used to protect higher resource value lands.

### Program Funding

Funding sources include the Water Management Lands Trust Fund, Surplus Lands Sales, and Timber Sales.





# FLOOD PROTECTION

## STRATEGIC PRIORITY

## NON-STRUCTURAL FLOOD PROTECTION

**Goal:** Enhance flood risk information to protect life and property against flood hazards.

Flooding is a natural and common occurrence in many areas throughout the District. The District uses a non-structural approach to address flood issues. In the early years of the District, the governing board members decided the District would not construct canals, conveyances and pump stations as a method to control flooding, which is common in other parts of the state. However, stormwater facilities (retention ponds and outfall structures) on lands being developed would be required through the regulation (permitting) process, to ensure that each new development would not contribute to new flooding.

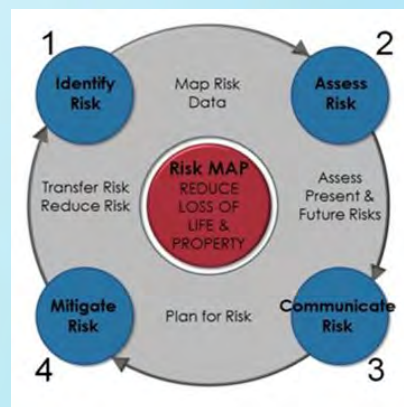
The District's non-structural approaches consist of educating the public, assisting communities with the best available data, making data electronically available, acquiring floodplains, and regulating development in floodplains.

The District is continuing its partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a Cooperating Technical Partner for FEMA's Risk Mapping, Assessment, & Planning (Risk MAP) program.

The vision for Risk MAP is to deliver quality data that increases public awareness and leads to action that reduces risk to life and property. Risk MAP builds on flood hazard data and maps produced during the Flood Map Modernization (Map Mod) program.

The District intends on continuing its partnership with FEMA and our communities to develop accessible and accurate floodplain data. The District's webpage provides current FEMA floodplain elevations through the Flood Information Portal.

In addition to floodplain mapping, the District implements an environmental resource permitting program (ERP) to help ensure that development does not increase flooding. Permit reviews are performed to ensure that there is no net loss of the 100-year floodplain and no increase in flood levels. Also, permit evaluations consider specific storm design conditions and any associated impacts to upstream and downstream properties.



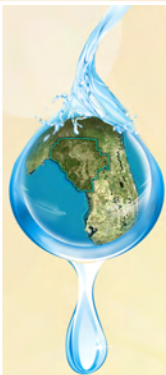
The graphic above demonstrates the vision for the Risk MAP life cycle which begins with Identifying Risk, then Assessing Risk, then Communicating Risk, and finally Mitigating Risk. (FEMA.gov." Risk Mapping, Assessment, & Planning | FEMA.gov. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Jan. 2014)

Groundwater and surface water levels and rainfall data are collected at numerous sites around the District. River levels and rainfall data are provided to the National Weather Service for use in flood forecasting. During flood events, the District is the primary source of flooding information for other agencies and the public. The public also uses the District's real-time river level webpage as a source of information.

Land acquisition within the 100-year riverine floodplain also helps protect against the destructive effects of flooding. One of the District's land acquisition criteria is to protect areas that have flood storage and conveyance systems.

### Program Funding

Funding sources include ad valorem, permit fees, and federal grants.



## 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Water Supply:

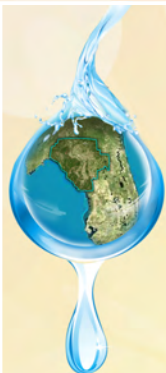
- ★ Continued the Santa Fe River Basin Irrigation Retrofit and Fertigation Program
- ★ Continued the joint Regional Water Supply Plan with St. Johns River Water Management District
- ★ Continued the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the St. Johns River Water Management District.
- ★ Continued water resource coordination with the State of Georgia
- ★ Continued Project Planet and Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program (CHAMP)
- ★ Continued development of the North Florida Southeast Georgia Regional Groundwater Flow Model
- ★ Continued the consumptive use permitting consistency process
- ★ Continued Agricultural Team to assist growers with conservation and efficiency
- ★ Installed 170 agricultural water use monitoring systems
- ★ Funded 289 agricultural irrigation efficiency systems for an estimated offset of 9.3 million gallons per day (mgd) of groundwater use
- ★ Initiated RIVER programs conserving an estimated 0.438 mgd, which 0.337 mgd is in water resource caution areas
- ★ Initiated the Middle Suwannee River and Springs Restoration and Recharge Project

### Water Quality:

- ★ Continued Agricultural cost-share partnership reducing nitrogen use by 1.4 million pounds
- ★ RIVER program funded the removal of 500 septic tanks resulting in reduced nutrient loading (approximately 15 tons of nitrates per year) to natural water resources
- ★ RIVER program funded the reduction of use of 500 wells that lowers arsenic and lead in drinking water for customers
- ★ RIVER program funded a project to prevent sediments from entering Outstanding Florida Waters by providing stream bank stabilization
- ★ RIVER program funded a project to prevent sediment discharge from unpaved road sections from entering Outstanding Florida Waters
- ★ RIVER program funded a project to provide water quality treatment for over 20.5 acres with 8.2 acres of impervious area
- ★ Continued the Suwannee River Partnership
- ★ Continued assistance to farmers for crop management tools for reducing fertilizer use and water consumption
- ★ Continued the Santa Fe River and Suwannee River basins Irrigation Retrofit and Fertigation Program removing 1,380,000 pounds of nitrogen applied by growers
- ★ Completed the Steinhatchee Rise dispersed water storage project
- ★ Initiated the Ichetucknee River and Springs project to convert the City of Lake City's spray field to a wetland treatment system that will reduce nitrogen loadings by up to 85%

### Natural Systems:

- ★ Drafted the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee River and associated springs MFL Technical Report
- ★ Initiated the Lake Butler, Upper and Middle Suwannee River basins and associated springs MFLs



## 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ★ Conducted prescribed burning on 11,908 acres
- ★ Completed reforestation of 274 acres of slash pine and 745 acres of longleaf pine
- ★ Completed selective timber harvests at Buck Bay, Steinhatchee Springs, Steinhatchee Rise
- ★ Completed Disposed of four parcels totaling 143 acres of land no longer needed for conservation purposes
- ★ Completed an assessment of efficiency and level of service for land management operations
- ★ Continued modernization of data collection system
- ★ River, Coastal Rivers, and Withlacoochee River basins
- ★ Completed 757 square miles of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) mapping bringing District-wide coverage to approximately 78%
- ★ Completed Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) updates for the City of Live Oak and Suwannee County, DFIRMs now exist for all counties within the District boundaries
- ★ Initiation of the RIVER program provides flood protection for 55 homes in Bradford County and 5 homes and several public facilities in the City of Perry while providing 130 acre feet of flood storage

### Flood Protection:



- ★ Continued the Risk Map discovery process for the Santa Fe River, Upper Suwannee



## MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES

STRATEGIC PRIORITY	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	MILESTONE	DELIVERABLE
Sustainable Water Supply	Water made available Percentage increase of demand met	Total amount of water available Quantity created	Regional Water Supply Plan / 2015 Number of projects implemented
Water Conservation	Groundwater offsets Percent using Conserve Florida Gross per capita Number of irrigation retrofits	Amount conserved Per capita demand less than 150 gallons	Implemented Projects Per Capita Demand
Minimum Flows and Levels	Cumulative number of MFLs adopted Percent of water bodies meeting adopted MFLs Percent water bodies with MFLs	Middle Suwannee Lower Santa Fe Withlacoochee River Alapaha River Wacissa Lake Alto Lake Butler	MFL priority schedule Number of water bodies meeting MFLs Number of water bodies with MFLs by 2017
Heartland Springs Initiative	Percent springs meeting MFLs Percent healthy springs	Percent springs ecologically healthy and providing recreational opportunities	100%
Water Management Lands	Managed cost per acre Percent of lands evaluated for surplus	Less than \$10 per acre 100% evaluated	2013 Assessment Number of surplus parcels sold
Non-structural Flood Protection	Percent of Communities with Updated Flood Hazard Maps Percent RiskMaps completed	Number of communities with updated flood maps and ordinances	Communities with updated flood risk maps Completed RiskMaps



## MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES

Priorities	Responsibilities
<b>Sustainable Water Supply</b>	Adequate water supply, resource development, natural system protection, regulatory compliance, water quality protection, local assistance and monitoring and analysis
<b>Water Conservation</b>	Implement retrofit water conservation program, regulatory strategies, agriculture conservation, residential conservation and assist communities
<b>Minimum Flows and Levels</b>	Establish and adopt MFLs on priority list and protect water resources from significant harm
<b>Heartland Springs Initiative</b>	Protect and preserve spring flows, restore water quality, recharge protection, springshed delineation and protection, evaluate biological health and monitoring and analysis
<b>Water Management Lands</b>	Protect groundwater and surface water sources, recharge areas, and water quality; provide flood-water storage and conveyance; and protect habitats.
<b>Non-Structural Flood Protection</b>	Monitoring and analysis, regulatory compliance, flood hazard mapping and data accessibility

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

## Water Supply Primary Goal: To ensure a safe and adequate source of water for all users

### WS Objective 1: Increase available water supplies and maximize overall water use efficiency to meet identified existing and future needs.

Annual Measure	Fiscal Year 2012-2013	
District-wide, the estimated amount of water (mgd) made available through projects that the District has constructed or contributed funding to, excluding conservation projects.	MGD	
	0.24	
Uniform residential per capita water use (Public Supply) by District	119.00	
Percentage of domestic wastewater reused		
Quantity (mgd) of domestic reused wastewater	4,135,000	39.05%
*Quantity (mgd) domestic wastewater produced	10,590,000	
*Based on the 2012 DEP Reuse Inventory Report		

### WS Objective 2: To identify the efficiency of permit review and issuance and relative cost of permit processing.

Quarterly Measures	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Annualized Performance	
For closed applications, the median time to process CUP by permit type and total.	Median		Median		Median		Median		Median	
Individually processed permits	42.00		42.50		46.00		43.50		43.50	
All authorizations combined	40.00		43.00		54.00		46.00		45.75	
For CUPs, cost to issue permit for all permit types (BPM and Metric - Report Quarterly Measures)	Number		Cost		Number		Cost		0.00	
Total cost	\$71,920.00	\$971.89	\$53,159.00	\$435.73	\$57,765.00	\$589.44	\$49,507.00	\$785.83	\$232,351.00	\$650.84
Number of permits	74		122		98		63		357	
For CUP, In-House application to staff ratio for all permit types (Metric - Report Quarterly Measures)	Number		Ratio		Number		Ratio		Number	
Total number of open applications	74		18.97		122		19.74		98	
Number of staff for the permit area	3.90		6.18		8.35		2.87		21.30	
*Database was under development during Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.										

### WS Objective 3: To identify the efficiency of developing water resources and water supply.

Annual Measures	Fiscal Year 2012-2013	
Water Supply planning cost per capita.	Number	Cost
Water Supply Planning Cost	736,935.00	\$2.30
FY2012 District Population	320,000.00	
Cost per million gallons a day for Water Resource Development.	Number	Cost
Water Resource Development Cost	0.00	0.00%
Quantity (mgd) produced	0.00	
Cost per million gallons a day for Water Supply Development	Number	Cost
Water Supply Development Cost	0.00	0.00%
Quantity (mgd) produced	0.00	

## Water Quality Primary Goal: To achieve and maintain surface water quality standards

### WQ Objective 1: Identify the efficiency of permit review, issuance and relative cost of permit processing.

Quarterly Measures	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Annualized Performance	
For closed applications, the median time to process ERP by permit type and total.	Median		Median		Median		Median		Median	
Exemptions and noticed general permits	20.00		13.00		9.00		9.00		12.75	
Individually processed permits	29.00		18.00		31.00		44.00		30.50	
All authorizations combined	22.00		17.00		11.00		15.00		16.25	
For ERPs, cost to issue permit for all permit types	Number		Cost/Permit		Number		Cost/Permit		Number	
Total cost	\$74,429.62	\$1,094.55	\$99,101.00	\$1,801.84	\$105,832.00	\$1,392.53	\$83,307.83	\$743.82	\$362,670.45	\$1,166.14
Number of permits	68		55		76		112		311	
For ERP, In-House Application to Staff Ratio for All Permit Types	Number		Ratio		Number		Ratio		Number	
Total number of open applications	68		17.89		55		9.87		76	
Number of staff for the permit area	3.80		5.57		6.85		3.48		19.70	

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**Natural System Primary Goal: To restore the hydrology of natural systems and improve water quality of natural systems.**

**NS Objective 1: Maintain the integrity and functions of water resources and related natural systems**

Annual Measures		Fiscal Year 2012-2013	
Number of MFLs and Reservations, by water body type, established annually (fiscal year) and cumulatively		Annual	Cumulative
Aquifer		0	0
Estuary		0	0
Lake		0	0
River		0	4
Spring		0	5
Wetland		0	0
Number and percentage of water bodies meeting their adopted MFLs		Annual	Percent
Number of water bodies meeting MFLs		9	100.00%
Number of water bodies with adopted MFLs		9	

**NS Objective 2: Restore or improve degraded water resources and related natural systems to a naturally functioning condition.**

Annual Measures		Fiscal Year 2012-2013	
For water bodies not meeting their adopted MFLs, the number and percentage of those water bodies with an adopted recovery or prevention strategy.		Annual	Percent
Number of water bodies with an adopted recovery or prevention strategy		0	N/A
Number of water bodies supposed to have an adopted recovery or prevention strategy		0	

**NS Objective 3: To evaluate district owned lands to ensure that lands owned are necessary for the protection and restoration of water resources**

Quarterly Measures	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Annualized Performance	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Fiscal Year 2012-2013
<b>Number of acres and percentage of District lands evaluated for surplus.</b>										
Number of acres evaluated for surplus	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Total acres of District lands held at the beginning of the fiscal year	158,418.00		158,418.00		158,418.00		158,418.00		160,463.00	
<b>Number of acres and % of surplus lands sold, exchanged, or leased.</b>										Annualized Average
Number of acres of surplus lands sold, exchanged, or leased	29.00	100.00%	84.00	#DIV/0!	30.00	#DIV/0!	0.00	0.00%	143.00	79.44%
Total acres of land approved for sale, trade or lease by the Governing Board during the quarter	29.00		0.00		0.00		151.00		180.00	

**NS Objective 4: To identify the efficiency and relative cost of restoration and land management activities**

Quarterly Measures	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Annualized Cost per Acre	
	Number	Cost/Acre	Number	Cost/Acre	Number	Cost/Acre	Number	Cost/Acre	Number	Fiscal Year 2012-2013
<b>Cost/acre for lands managed by the District (not total).</b>										
Dollars expended in land management where the District serves as the lead manager	\$257,047.35	\$1.67	\$647,307.63	\$4.19	\$651,238.08	\$4.22	\$480,545.83	\$3.11	\$2,036,138.89	\$13.19
Number of acres where the District serves as the lead manager	154,365.00		154,365.00		154,365.00		154,365.00		154,365.00	
<b>Cost/acre prescribed fire.</b>										Annualized Average
Dollars expended for prescribed burning	\$81,944.64	\$32.87	\$153,771.52	\$39.36	\$155,632.09	\$64.39	\$85,380.22	\$373.00	\$476,728.47	\$52.70
Number of acres burned	2,493.00		3,907.00		2,417.00		228.90		9,045.90	
<b>Cost/acre for invasive plant control.</b>										Annualized Average
Dollars expended controlling invasive plants	\$142.29	\$187.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,126.81	\$194.66	\$12,644.10	#DIV/0!	\$16,913.20	\$770.18
Number of acres treated	0.76		0.00		21.20		0.00		21.96	

**Flood Control Primary Goal: Prevent or minimize loss of life and property from flood events**

**FC Objective 1: Minimize damage from flooding**

Annual Measure	Annualized Average	
	Number	Percent
<b>Percentage of Maintenance Activities Completed on Schedule</b>		
Number of maintenance activities completed	0.00	0.00%
Number of maintenance activities planned	0.00	0.00

January 14, 2014

*Water for Nature  
Water for People*



**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

## **Minimum Flows and Levels**

# MINIMUM FLOWS AND LEVELS

Pursuant to Section 373.042, Florida Statutes, the District is required to identify priority water bodies for the establishment of minimum flows and levels (MFLs).

In much of the Suwannee River Water Management District, the springs, rivers, lakes and aquifer are highly interconnected. Due to this connection, groundwater, via springs, provides a significant portion of river flow. In all but a few cases, the setting of a spring MFL is linked to setting the MFL for the receiving body of water—usually a river.

The attached table and figure provide the District's 2014 priority list and schedule for the establishment of minimum flows and levels (MFLs). The District Governing Board approved the MFL priority list and schedule on October 14, 2013.

Establishment of MFLs is a District strategic priority for the protection of our springs, rivers and lakes. For MFLs that are affected by cross-boundary withdrawals, the District is coordinating its work through the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Department, and the State of Georgia on regional concerns. Most recently, a coordination effort has been initiated with the Northwest Florida Water Management District for Minimum Flows and Levels work in potential cross-boundary areas.

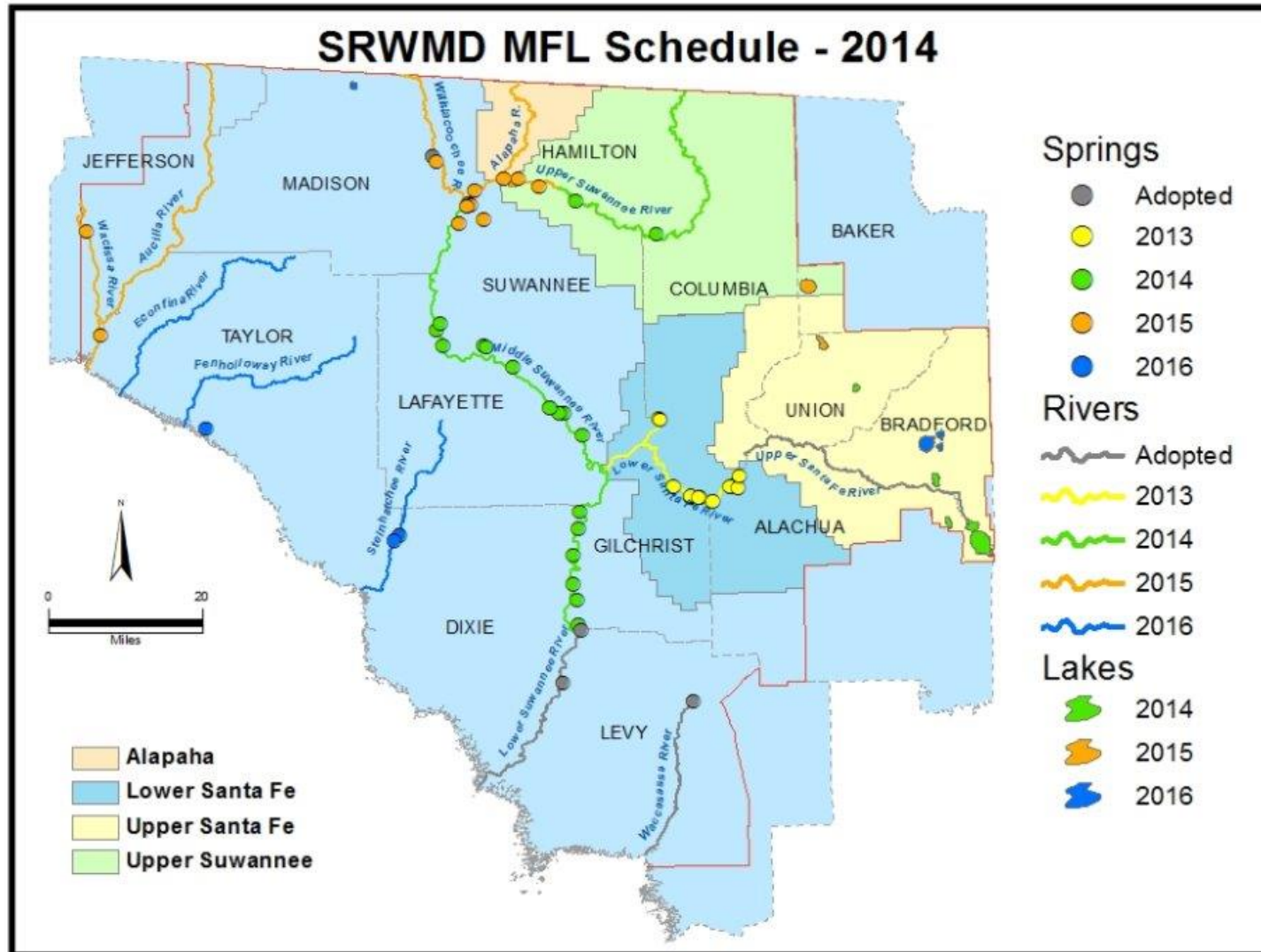
**SRWMD  
2014-2016 MFL PRIORITY LIST**

Spring Magnitude	Basin	Water Body Name	Schedule	Water Body Type	Voluntary Peer Review	Potential Cross-boundary MFLs	Re-evaluation
n/a	Santa Fe	Lake Altho	2014	Lake	Yes		
n/a	Santa Fe	Lake Butler	2014	Lake	Yes		
n/a	Santa Fe	Ocean Pond	2015	Lake	Yes		
n/a	Santa Fe	Lake Crosby	2016	Lake	Yes		
n/a	Santa Fe	Lake Hampton	2014	Lake	Yes		
n/a	Santa Fe	Lake Palestine	2015	Lake	Yes		
n/a	Santa Fe	Lake Sampson	2016	Lake	Yes		
n/a	Santa Fe	Lake Santa Fe	2014	Lake	Yes		
n/a	Santa Fe	Lake Rowell	2016	Lake	Yes		
n/a	Withlacoochee	Cherry Lake	2016	Lake	Yes		
n/a	Aucilla	Aucilla River	2015	River	Yes	Yes	
n/a	Aucilla	Wacissa River	2015	River	Yes	Yes	
n/a	Coastal	Steinhatchee River	2016	River	Yes		
n/a	Coastal	Econfina River	2016	River	Yes		
n/a	Waccasassa	Waccasassa River	<b>Adopted</b>	River	Yes		
n/a	Coastal	Fenholloway River	2016	River	Yes		
n/a	Santa Fe	Lower Santa Fe River	2013	River	Yes	Yes	
n/a	Santa Fe	Upper Santa Fe River	<b>Adopted</b>	River	Yes	Yes	
n/a	Santa Fe	Ichetucknee River	2013	River	Yes	Yes	
n/a	Suwannee	Lower Suwannee River	<b>Adopted</b>	River	Yes		
n/a	Suwannee	Middle Suwannee River	2014	River	Yes		
n/a	Suwannee	Upper Suwannee River	2014	River	Yes	Yes	
n/a	Suwannee	Withlacoochee River	2015	River	Yes	Yes	
n/a	Suwannee	Alapaha River	2015	River	Yes	Yes	
1	Aucilla	Nutall Rise	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	
1	Aucilla	Wacissa group	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	
2	Coastal	Big	2016	Spring	Yes		
1	Coastal	Steinhatchee Rise	2016	Spring	Yes		
2	Coastal	TAY76992 - Unnamed	2016	Spring	Yes		
1	Santa Fe	Blue Hole	2013	Spring	Yes		
1	Santa Fe	GIL1012973 (Siphon Creek Rise)	2013	Spring	Yes		
1	Santa Fe	Ichetucknee group	2013	Spring	Yes		
1	Santa Fe	July	2013	Spring	Yes		
1	Santa Fe	Devil's Ear (Ginnie group)	2013	Spring	Yes		
2	Santa Fe	Rum Island	2013	Spring	Yes		
2	Santa Fe	COL101974 - Unnamed	2013	Spring	Yes		
2	Santa Fe	Poe	2013	Spring	Yes		
1	Santa Fe	Columbia	2013	Spring	Yes		
1	Santa Fe	ALA112971 (Treehouse)	2013	Spring	Yes		
1	Santa Fe	Hornsby	2013	Spring	Yes		
1	Santa Fe	Santa Fe Rise	2013	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	White	2014	Spring	Yes	Yes	
3	Suwannee	Bell	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Otter	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Hart	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Rock Sink	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Guaranto	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Pothole	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Branford	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Little River	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Ruth/Little Sulfur	2014	Spring	Yes		
1	Suwannee	Troy	2014	Spring	Yes		
3	Suwannee	Royal	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Peacock	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Bonnet	2014	Spring	Yes		

**SRWMD  
2014-2016 MFL PRIORITY LIST**

Spring Magnitude	Basin	Water Body Name	Schedule	Water Body Type	Voluntary Peer Review	Potential Cross-boundary MFLs	Re-evaluation
1	Suwannee	Lafayette Blue	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Allen Mill Pond	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Charles	2014	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Anderson	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	
1	Suwannee	Falmouth	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	
1	Suwannee	Lime Run Sink	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	
1	Suwannee	Fanning	<b>Adopted</b>	Spring	Yes		
1	Suwannee	Manatee	<b>Adopted</b>	Spring	Yes		
2	Suwannee	Lime	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	
2	Suwannee	SUW923973 (Stevenson)	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	
1	Suwannee	Alapaha Rise	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	
1	Suwannee	Holton Creek Rise	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	
2	Suwannee	SUW1017972 - Unnamed	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	
2	Suwannee	Suwannee	2014	Spring	Yes	Yes	
3	Waccasassa	Levy (Bronson) Blue	<b>Adopted</b>	Spring	Yes		
2	Withlacoochee	Suwanacoochee	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	
1	Withlacoochee	Madison Blue	<b>Adopted</b>	Spring	Yes	Yes	2014
2	Withlacoochee	Pot	2015	Spring	Yes	Yes	





## **Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan**

# FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

As required by Section 373.536(6)(a)3, Florida Statutes

## I. INTRODUCTION

The Suwannee River Water Management District's (District's) Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) is submitted in compliance with the reporting requirements of Section 373.536(6)(a)3, Florida Statutes (F.S.). The format for this report has been developed jointly by the Executive Office of the Governor, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the water management districts (WMDs). The CIP includes projected revenues and expenditures for capital improvements from Fiscal Years 2013-2014 through 2017-2018. As directed by Section 373.536(6)(a)3, F.S., the CIP has been prepared in a manner comparable to the fixed capital outlay format set forth in Section 216.043, F.S. Those two programs and their activities and sub-activities are:

### **2.0 Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works**

- 2.1 Land Acquisition
- 2.2 Water Source Development
  - 2.2.1 Water Resource Development Projects
  - 2.2.2 Water Supply Development Assistance
  - 2.2.3 Other Water Source Development Activities
- 2.3 Surface Water Projects
- 2.4 Other Cooperative Projects
- 2.5 Facilities Construction and Major Renovations

### **3.0 Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works**

- 3.1 Land Management
- 3.2 Works
- 3.3 Facilities
- 3.4 Invasive Plant Control
- 3.5 Other Operation and Maintenance Activities

The activities and sub-activities under program 2.0 Acquisition, Restoration and Public Works that may include capital improvement projects are:

- 2.1 Land Acquisition,
- 2.2.1 Water Resource Development Projects,
- 2.2.2 Water Supply Development Assistance,
- 2.2.3 Other Water Source Development Activities,
- 2.3 Surface Water Projects, and
- 2.5 Facilities Construction and Major Renovations.

The activities under program 3.0 Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works that may include capital improvement projects are:

- 3.1 Land Management, and
- 3.2 Works.

The purpose of the CIP is to project future needs and anticipated future funding requirements to meet those needs. The District uses a pay-as-you-go approach and does not incur bonded debt. The CIP contains only those projects that will be owned and capitalized as fixed assets by the District.

The CIP includes expenditures for basic construction costs (permits, inspections, site development, etc.) and other related capital project costs (land, survey, existing facility acquisition, professional services, etc.). The CIP does not include expenditures for changes in program costs (including salaries and benefits), changes in maintenance costs, or changes in utility costs.

Standard definitions for these programs and activities used by the water management districts are:

## **2.0 Acquisition, Restoration, and Public Works**

This program includes the development and construction of all capital projects (except those contained in Program 3.0), including water resource development projects/water supply development assistance, water control projects, and support and administrative facilities construction; cooperative projects; land acquisition (including Save Our Rivers/Preservation 2000/Florida Forever); and the restoration of lands and water bodies.

### **2.1 Land Acquisition**

This activity includes District acquisition of lands for flood protection; water storage; water management, conservation and protection of water resources; aquifer recharge; and preservation of wetlands, streams and lakes. Funds from the Florida Forever program are used for land acquisitions.

### **2.2 Water Source Development**

Water resource development projects and regional or local water supply development assistance projects designed to increase the availability of water supplies for consumptive use; also, other water resource development activities not necessarily contained in regional water supply plans but which provide water supply benefits.

#### **2.2.1 Water Resource Development Projects**

Regional projects designed to create, from traditional or alternative sources, an identifiable, quantifiable supply of water for existing and/or future reasonable-beneficial uses. These projects do not include the construction of facilities for water supply development, as defined in subsection 373.019(21), F.S. Such projects may include the construction, operation, and maintenance of major public works facilities that provide for the augmentation of available surface and ground water supply or that create alternative sources of supply. Water resource development projects are to be identified in water management district regional water supply plans or district water management plans, as applicable, and the water resource development work program.

### **2.2.2 Water Supply Development Assistance**

This activity includes financial assistance for regional or local water-supply development projects. Such projects may include the construction of facilities included in the term “water supply development” as defined in subsection 373.019(21), F.S.

### **2.3 Surface Water Projects**

Projects that restore or protect surface water quality, related resources, or provide flood protection through the acquisition and improvement of land, construction of public works, and other activities.

### **3.0 Operation and Maintenance of Lands and Works**

This program includes all operation and maintenance of facilities, flood control and water supply structures, lands, and other works authorized by Chapter 373, F.S.

### **3.1 Land Management**

Maintenance, custodial, public-use improvements, and restoration efforts for lands acquired through Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000, Florida Forever or other land acquisition programs.

### **3.3 Facilities**

This activity includes the operation and maintenance of district support and administrative facilities.

## **II. FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN**

The Suwannee River Water Management District’s capital improvements involve the District headquarters facility and lands acquired for water management purposes. District Governing Board policy has historically been to use nonstructural water management means. This policy recognizes both the environmental benefits of a nonstructural approach and the fiscal reality of the District’s limited funding ability.

This report describes anticipated revenues and expenditures for capital improvements needed to implement District programs to fulfill the requirements of Chapter 373, F.S. Related documents provide additional detail and information as follows:

- The District’s Florida Forever Work Plan describes the District’s Land Acquisition and Management efforts.
- The annual Preliminary Budget and Tentative Budget Report provide the proposed revenues and expenditures for each fiscal year.
- The Annual Budget, adopted by the Governing Board in September of each year, provides the strategies and budgets of each District program.
- The District Water Management Plan included in Section 1 provides the long-range water resource management issues and strategies for water quality, water supply, flood protection, and natural systems management.

**SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**  
**FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN**  
**FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018**

<b>2.0 ACQUISITION, RESTORATION AND PUBLIC WORKS</b>
--

**2.1 LAND ACQUISITION**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>FY13-14</b>	<b>FY14-15</b>	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>
Department of Defense/National Guard	360,000	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	360,000	-	-	-	-

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY13-14</b>	<b>FY14-15</b>	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>
Land Acquisition	360,000	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	360,000	-	-	-	-

**2.2.1 WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>FY13-14</b>	<b>FY14-15</b>	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>
State Appropriations	625,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Fund Balance		537,989	1,102,011	450,000	-
FDEP Grant	1,150,000	398,000			
<b>Total</b>	1,775,000	1,085,989	1,252,011	600,000	150,000

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY13-14</b>	<b>FY14-15</b>	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>
Aquifer Recharge	174,000	-	-	-	-
Dispersed Water Storage	174,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Water Resource Development Projects	-	537,989	1,102,011	450,000	-
Middle Suwannee River Restoration and Recharge	1,427,000	398,000			
<b>Total</b>	1,775,000	1,085,989	1,252,011	600,000	150,000

**2.3 SURFACE WATER PROJECTS**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>FY13-14</b>	<b>FY14-15</b>	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>
State Appropriations	140,000	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	140,000	-	-	-	-

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY13-14</b>	<b>FY14-15</b>	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>
Otter Springs Restoration	140,000	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	140,000	-	-	-	-

<b>3.0 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LANDS AND WORKS</b>
---

**3.1 LAND MANAGEMENT**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>FY13-14</b>	<b>FY14-15</b>	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>
State Appropriations	772,757	772,757	772,757	772,757	772,757
Fund Balance	96,543	96,543	96,543	96,543	96,543
<b>Total</b>	869,300	869,300	869,300	869,300	869,300

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY13-14</b>	<b>FY14-15</b>	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>
Prescribed Burning	364,000	364,000	364,000	364,000	364,000
Reforestation	98,500	98,500	98,500	98,500	98,500
Road and Boundary Maintenance	156,100	156,100	156,100	156,100	156,100
Natural Community Management	250,700	250,700	250,700	250,700	250,700
<b>Total</b>	869,300	869,300	869,300	869,300	869,300

**3.3 FACILITIES**

<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>FY13-14</b>	<b>FY14-15</b>	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>
Fund Balance	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
State Appropriation		50,000	150,000		
<b>Total</b>	100,000	150,000	250,000	100,000	100,000

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY13-14</b>	<b>FY14-15</b>	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>
Field Maintenance and Supplies	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
District-wide Backup Generator for Business Continuity	-	50,000			
Headquarters Flood Mitigation/Aquifer Recharge Project	-		150,000		
<b>Total</b>	100,000	150,000	250,000	100,000	100,000



### III. PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

PROGRAM: 2.0 ACQUISITION, RESTORATION, AND PUBLIC WORKS

ACTIVITY: 2.1 Land Acquisition

Project Title: Water Management Lands Acquisition

Type: Fee title purchase of lands within the Land Acquisition and Management Plan and/or the SRWMD Florida Forever Work Plan.

Physical Location: Activities are conducted at District headquarters near Live Oak. Acquisitions are located within the District boundaries as identified in the Florida Forever Work Plan 2014.

Square Footage/Physical Description: N/A

Expected Completion Date: Ongoing.

Historical Background/Need for Project: Land acquisition is a key mechanism for the District to achieve its statutory responsibilities. The District's land acquisition program implements provisions of Chapter 373.139, F.S.

The implementation of this program, along with the cumulative efforts under the Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000, and Florida Forever programs, have resulted in the protection of over 285,000 acres of water resource lands and 324 miles of river frontage along the Suwannee and other rivers of the District. Approximately 158,000 acres of river floodplains, freshwater springs, headwater wetlands, pristine bottomland hardwood and buffering upland forests are protected in full-fee ownership. Conservation easements and less-than fee purchases have protected nearly 126,000 acres of water resource lands. These lands are managed primarily for nonstructural flood protection including floodwater conveyance, storage, and attenuating floodwaters. Ancillary benefits include water quality and habitat protection, and passive public recreation areas.

The District has recently partnered with the Department of Defense, National Guard, and DEP to acquire lands that help achieve the District's core mission while securing needed military buffers. The acquisitions are eligible for funding through the Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau to secure military base buffers.

Plan Linkages: Florida Forever Work Plan 2014, Five-Year Strategic Plan 2014, FY 2014 Budget, FY 2015 Preliminary Budget.

Area(s) of Responsibility: Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection, and Natural Systems.

Alternative(s): Planned acquisitions could be deferred to future year(s), but acquisition opportunities may be lost.

Basic Construction Costs (includes permits, inspections, communications requirements, utilities outside building, site development, other): For FY 2014, \$360,000 is projected to be made available to the District through DEP. Funds are administered by DEP from the Department of Defense and National Guard Bureau Compatible Use Buffer Program. The District intends to

participate in future opportunities land acquisition partnerships with the Department of Defense as they become available.

Other Project Costs (includes land, survey, existing facility acquisition, professional services, other): Pre-acquisition costs are estimated for FY2014 to be \$75,000 and include legal services, surveying, appraisals, environmental audits, title insurance, and baseline surveys. The District currently has committed reserves of \$1,564,402 from surplus land sales that are available for potential land acquisition(s) that have unique, high-water resource environmental values.

Anticipated Additional Operating Costs/Initial (includes salaries, benefits, equipment, furniture, and expenses): For FY2014, \$84,936 is budgeted for salaries and benefits.

Anticipated Additional Operating Costs/Continuing: None.

PROGRAM: 2.0 ACQUISITION, RESTORATION, AND PUBLIC WORKS

ACTIVITY: 2.2.1 Water Resource Development Projects

Project Title: Springs Protection and Restoration

Type: Aquifer recharge, dispersed water storage, and springs protection and restoration.

Physical Location: Activities are conducted within the District boundaries.

Square Footage/Physical Description: N/A

Expected Completion Date: Ongoing.

Historical Background/Need for Project: Implements District water resource project assistance provisions of Chapter 373, F.S.

These projects facilitate the implementation of the District's Heartland Springs Initiative to ensure springs have adequate flow, maintain good water quality, and sustain healthy biological communities.

The District has \$2,090,000 in assigned reserves for water resource development projects and relies on State appropriations to help fund these project initiatives. For FY 2014, the District received \$7,913,150 in State appropriations. The District budgeted \$1,775,000 in FY 2014 to fund these projects under this sub-activity.

Plan Linkages: Five-Year Strategic Plan 2014, FY 2014 Budget, FY 2015 Preliminary Budget.

Area(s) of Responsibility: Water Supply, Flood Protection, Water Quality, and Natural Systems.

Alternative(s): Projects could be eliminated or deferred, but would have significant water resource consequences.

Basic Construction Costs (includes permits, inspections, communications requirements, utilities outside building, site development, other): For FY 2014, the District has budgeted \$1,775,000 for water resource development projects. Future-year water resource development project amounts are: FY 2015 - \$1,085,989; FY 2016 - \$1,252,011; FY 2017 - \$600,000; and FY 2018 - \$150,000.

Other Project Costs (includes land, survey, existing facility acquisition, professional services, other): Well drilling and survey costs are estimated around \$100,000. Costs will be based on data collection necessary to determine project design and associated contractual services. Funding will be from the total project budgeted amount.

Anticipated Additional Operating Costs/Initial (includes salaries, benefits, equipment, furniture, expenses): Projected salaries and benefit costs for FY 2014 are \$173,106 and are funded from the total project budgeted amount.

Anticipated Additional Operating Costs/Continuing: Continuing operating cost is anticipated to be funded from the District's ad valorem revenue.

PROGRAM: 2.0 ACQUISITION, RESTORATION, AND PUBLIC WORKS

ACTIVITY: 2.3 Surfacewater Projects

Project Title: Otter Springs Restoration

Type: Restoration of Otter Springs to improve flow and water quality.

Physical Location: Activities are conducted on District-owned property.

Square Footage/Physical Description: District-owned lands - 636 acres. Otter Springs is classified as a second magnitude spring.

Expected Completion Date: 2014.

Historical Background/Need for Project: Implements District water resource project assistance provisions of Chapter 373, F.S.

Otter Springs is a second magnitude spring and is the cornerstone recreational feature of the Otter Springs Park and Campground. The park is owned by the District and managed by Gilchrist County through a cooperating management agreement. Years of public use has taken its toll on the spring. Sediment from erosion has almost closed the main spring vent and is significantly reducing flow. Because of the decreased flow, the brown algae are able to attach to the substrate and choke out the other native species. The District plans to restore the spring by dredging the spring vent and stabilizing the shoreline in 2014.

For FY 2014, the District received \$7,913,150 in State appropriations. The District budgeted \$140,000 in FY 2014 to fund this project. This project is expected to be completed in 2014.

Plan Linkages: Florida Forever Work Plan 2014, Five-Year Strategic Plan 2014, FY 2014 Budget, FY 2015 Preliminary Budget.

Area(s) of Responsibility: Water Quality, Natural Systems

Alternative(s): Project could be eliminated or deferred, but would have adverse public recreational opportunities.

Basic Construction Costs (includes permits, inspections, communications requirements, utilities outside building, site development, other): For FY 2014, the District has budgeted \$140,000 for the Otter Springs Restoration Project.

Other Project Costs (includes land, survey, existing facility acquisition, professional services, other): These costs are presently being determined and will be based upon project bids and will be funded from the total project budget amount.

Anticipated Additional Operating Costs/Initial (includes salaries, benefits, equipment, furniture, and expenses): These costs are to be determined and will be funded from the total project budget amount.

Anticipated Additional Operating Costs/Continuing: None.

PROGRAM: 3.0 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LANDS AND WORKS

ACTIVITY: 3.1 Land Management

Project Title: Land Management

Type: Construction, reconstruction, or development of capital improvements and/or facilities necessary for managing water resource lands.

Physical Location: Various locations on District-owned lands.

Square Footage/Physical Description: N/A

Expected Completion Date: Ongoing.

Historical Background/Need for Project: Lands acquired for water resource management purposes often require capital improvements associated with hydrologic or other restoration to eliminate or reduce adverse water resource impacts, allow for public use, and for ongoing District land-management activities.

Plan Linkages: Florida Forever Work Plan 2014, Five-Year Strategic Plan 2014, FY 2014 District Budget, FY 2015 Preliminary Budget.

Area(s) of Responsibility: Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection, Natural Systems

Alternative(s): Land management capital improvements could be deferred to future year(s) or foregone, but would result in increased future costs and/or adverse water resource impacts resulting from decreased land management capabilities.

Basic Construction Costs (includes permits, inspections, communications requirements, utilities, outside building, site development, other): For FY 2014, the District has budgeted \$869,300 for land-management activities associated with prescribed burning, reforestation, road and boundary maintenance, and natural community management activities. The District anticipates maintaining basic construction costs at the same level for future years.

Other Project Costs (includes land, survey, existing facility acquisition, professional services, other): For FY 2014, survey expenditures are estimated at \$3,000.

Anticipated Additional Operating Costs/Initial (includes salaries, benefits, equipment, furniture, expenses): For FY 2014, salaries and benefits are projected to be \$294,462.

Anticipated Additional Operating Costs/Continuing: Operating costs are incorporated into the District's Land Management program.

PROGRAM: 3.0 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LANDS AND WORKS

ACTIVITY: 3.3 Facilities

Project Title: Facility Management

Type: Operation and maintenance of administrative facilities.

Physical Location: District headquarters

Square Footage/Physical Description: 29,600 square feet.

Expected Completion Date: Ongoing.

Historical Background/Need for Project: The District facilities consist of a 23,000 square-foot headquarter building, a laboratory/storage building, a garage/storage facility, and a parking lot on 12 acres.

Plan Linkages: FY 2014 District Budget, FY 2015 Preliminary Budget.

Area(s) of Responsibility: Water Supply, Water Quality, Flood Protection, Natural Systems

Alternative(s): Facility management improvements could be deferred to future year(s) or foregone, but would result in increased future costs and potentially have adverse effects on District operations.

Basic Construction Costs (includes permits, inspections, communications requirements, utilities, outside building, site development, other): For FY 2014, the District has budgeted \$100,000 for field maintenance and supplies. The District anticipates maintaining field maintenance and supplies cost at the same level for future years.

Other Project Costs (includes land, survey, existing facility acquisition, professional services, other): None.

Anticipated Additional Operating Costs/Initial (includes salaries, benefits, equipment, furniture, expenses): None.

Anticipated Additional Operating Costs/Continuing: Operating costs are incorporated into the District's Land Management program.

# **Alternative Water Supply Report**

**2013**

## **Introduction:**

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) continues to assess alternative water supply needs and opportunities throughout the District and its communities.

The District provides funding for alternative water supply and water conservation projects. In 2013, the District budgeted \$1.5 million for its Regional Initiative Valuing Environmental Resources (RIVER) program and \$1.5 million for agricultural cost-share projects.

## **Alternative Water Supply Development:**

The District is committed to developing alternative water supply programs with both public and private partners. Project development focus will balance the needs of our communities and natural systems. Alternative water supply funding is directed to partnerships that foster collaborative efforts in addressing resource issues.

Cost-share funding is made available to communities and other water users that have identified needs and have provided appropriate assurances the project will be implemented where fiscally practicable. In 2013, the District's RIVER program executed cost-share contracts for development or expansion of reclaimed water systems.

Description and funding information for water supply projects completed during 2013 are as follows:

### ***City of Live Oak Reclaimed Water Program Expansion:***

The City of Live Oak RIVER reclaimed water project is to connect a golf course to the City's reclaimed water system. This project is projected to offset groundwater withdrawals of 100,000 gallons per day.

### ***City of Archer Reclaimed Water Program:***

The City of Archer RIVER reclaimed project will eliminate 500 septic tanks and remove 15 tons of nitrates. It is anticipated to offset groundwater usage of approximately 135,000 gallons per day.

### ***City of Alachua Water Conservation Project***

The City of Alachua water conservation project will reduce leakage in a water resource caution area, conserving 19.6 million gallons per year of unaccounted water.

### ***City of Waldo Water Conservation Project***

The City of Waldo water conservation project will replace 543 meters. The new meters will be able to keep an accurate account of water usage and potential leakage, reducing 4.9 million gallons per year in lost water.



**City of High Springs Water Conservation Project**

The City of High Springs water conservation project will reduce leakage in a water resource caution area, conserving 5.9 million gallons per year of unaccounted water.

**City of Newberry Water Conservation Project**

The City of Newberry water conservation project will reduce leakage in a water resource caution area, conserving 14.6 million gallons per year of unaccounted water.

**City of Jasper Water Conservation Project**

The City of Jasper water conservation project is to replace 26 leaking fire hydrants in a water resource caution area. This project is expected to conserve approximately 13.7 million gallons per year.

**ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>District Match</b>	<b>Local Match</b>
City of Live Oak Reclaimed Water Program	\$24,464	\$19,571	\$4,893
City of Archer Reclaimed Water Program	\$14,400,000	\$350,000	\$14,050,000
City of Alachua Water Conservation Project	\$62,440	\$31,220	\$31,220
City of Waldo Water Conservation Project	\$153,672	\$76,836	\$76,835
City of High Springs Water Conservation Project	\$57,256	\$28,628	\$28,628
City of Newberry Water Conservation Project	\$57,100	\$28,550	\$28,550
City of Jasper Water Conservation Project	\$107,220	\$97,200	\$10,000

**Future Conservation Projects:**

The District has allocated \$20,000 as grants to be offered to high schools within its 15-county boundary for water conservation, water quality improvement, or efficient irrigation management projects.

**Five-Year Water Resource Development**  
**Work Program**

## **Five-Year Water Resource Development Work Program**

Pursuant to Section 373.536(6)(a)4, Florida Statutes, the Water Management Districts are required to submit the following:

*“A 5-year water resource development work program to be furnished within 30 days after the adoption of the final budget. The program must describe the district’s implementation strategy for the water resource development component of each approved regional water supply plan developed or revised under s. 373.709.”*

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) currently does not have an approved regional water supply plan.

In 2010, the District completed a District-wide water supply assessment to evaluate the availability of water supplies over the next 20 years. Members of the District’s Governing Board accepted the 2010 Water Supply Assessment report at the District’s December 2010 Governing Board meeting.

Regional water supply plans are being developed for areas where the assessment determined supplies will not be sufficient within the 20-year planning period (2010 to 2030). The District concluded in the 2010 Water Supply Assessment that Upper Floridan aquifer groundwater levels in the northeastern portion of the district are in decline. Declines in the Upper Floridan aquifer are predicted to impact river and spring flows in certain areas during the 2010 to 2030 planning period. In response to the water resources impacts identified and predicted in the assessment, the District designated four water supply planning regions. These planning regions, listed below, were subsequently designated water resource caution areas by the District’s Governing Board on October 11, 2011.

- Upper Santa Fe River Basin,
- Lower Santa Fe River Basin,
- Upper Suwannee River, and
- Alapaha River Basin.

Water supply plans identify programs and projects to meet future water needs, such as water conservation strategies and alternative water supply projects. All five of Florida’s water management districts are statutorily required to complete

water supply plans for areas where water supplies are not sufficient to meet future demands without causing unacceptable impacts to the water resources and related natural systems.

Currently, the District is developing a joint regional water supply plan with the St. Johns River Water Management District for the north Florida region, including the four water-resource caution areas identified above. A draft regional water supply plan report covering the 2015-2035 planning period is scheduled for completion in late 2015. Once completed, the District-wide water supply assessment and subsequent water supply plans will be re-evaluated every five years or sooner if needed.

**Florida Forever**

**Water Management District Work Plan**



# *Florida Forever Work Plan 2014 Annual Update*

*Suwannee River Water Management District  
January 14, 2014*

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## INTRODUCTION

### ***FLORIDA FOREVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNUAL UPDATE***

This report is the annual update of the original 2001 Florida Forever Work Plan as required by Section 373.199 (7), Florida Statutes (F.S.). The purpose of the annual update is to present projects eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act Section 259.105, Florida Statutes (F.S.) and to report on progress and changes since the original 2001 submittal.

This update marks 12 years of land protection for water-related missions at the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD or District) using Florida Forever funding. This has culminated in the fee purchase of 43,781 acres and 24,938 acres of conservation easements. Florida Forever funding has also been used for completion of three water resource development projects and five restoration projects.

This update is organized into two sections; (1) Land Acquisition, and (2) Restoration and Water Resource Development. Summaries of lands purchased, surplus land and land management activities are included as well as expenditure information for Florida Forever and Water Management Lands Trust funds on District lands.

Since inception of Florida Forever, the District has expended \$67.8 million for land acquisition and \$0.52 million for restoration and \$0.42 million for water resource development.

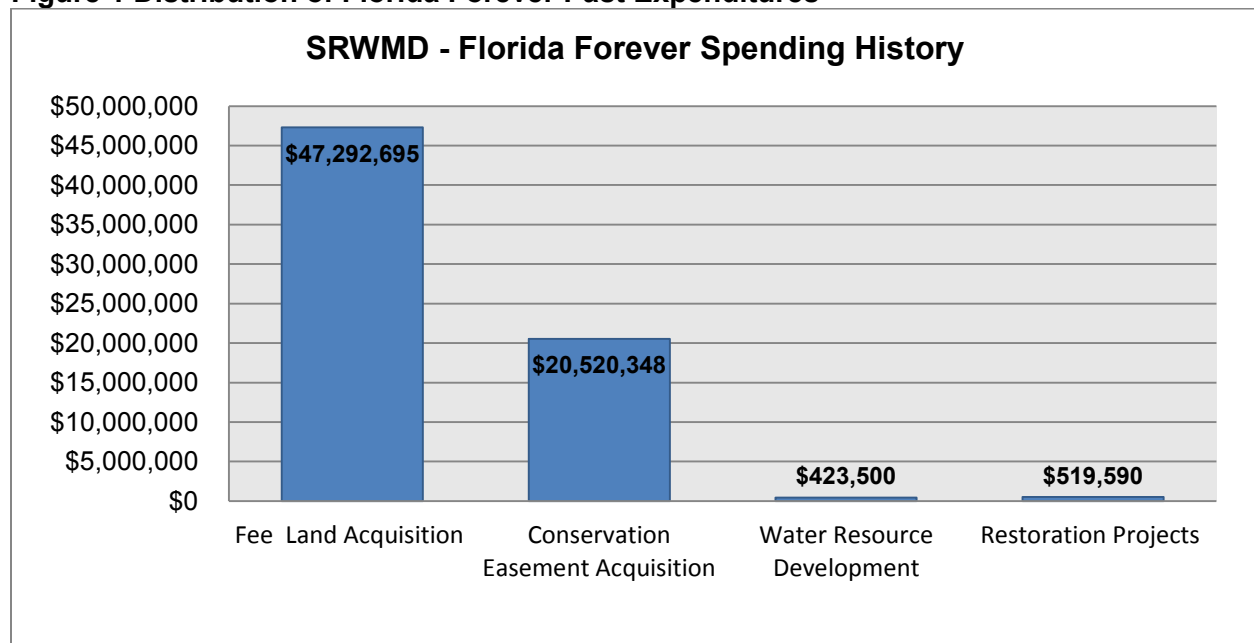
In order to further the goals of the Florida Forever Act, Section 373.199, F.S., the District initially developed a work plan to address the most pressing water resource needs in this region. This update presents projects eligible for funding under the Florida Forever Act and reports on progress and changes made since the initial plan. Section 373.036 (7), F.S, requires this annual update be presented as a separate chapter in the Consolidated Annual Report. Over 98.6% of Florida Forever funding has been spent to date on acquisition of conservation lands, and 1.4% has been expended for water resource development and restoration. Figure 1 depicts the distribution of all Florida Forever expenditures to date.

The District's emphasis for Florida Forever during the upcoming five years will be on water resource development and restoration projects. To meet the water supply challenges for this region, the District intends to use up to \$2,023,000 of prior years' unspent appropriated balance during Fiscal Year 2014 through Fiscal Year 2019 planning period towards aquifer recharge, dispersed water storage, and restoration projects. Table 1 illustrates actual and projected Florida Forever expenditures.

**Table 1 Actual and Projected Florida Forever Expenditure**

Fiscal Year	Fee Acquisition Expenditures	Fee Acres Acquired	Conservation Easement Expenditures	Conservation Easement Acres Acquired	Water Resource Development	Restoration
2000-2001	-	-	-	-	-	-
2001-2002	\$ 4,117,869	30,477	\$ 5,643,127	12,960	-	-
2002-2003	\$ 1,158,661	564	\$ 3,382,632	5,026	-	-
2003-2004	\$ 3,565,225	1,761	\$ 1,517,048	2,023	-	-
2004-2005	\$ 3,792,645	2,661	-	-	-	-
2005-2006	\$ 648,440	123	-	-	-	-
2006-2007	\$13,082,288	4246	-	-	-	-
2007-2008	\$ 4,041,930	493	\$ 6,379,514	3,294	-	\$ 210,510
2008-2009	\$ 10,965,200	2,171	-	-	-	-
2009-2010	\$ 494,000	84	\$ 1,789,725	786	\$ 23,500	\$ 309,080
2010-2011	\$ 5,426,437	1,201	\$ 1,557,593	682	\$ 400,000	-
2011-2012	-	-	\$ 250,710	167	-	-
2012-2013	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 47,292,695</b>	<b>43,781</b>	<b>\$ 20,520,348</b>	<b>24,938</b>	<b>\$ 423,500</b>	<b>\$ 519,590</b>
<b>Projected</b>						
2014-2019	-	-	-	-	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 523,000

**Figure 1 Distribution of Florida Forever Past Expenditures**



## LAND ACQUISITION

### GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES SUMMARY

Acquisitions under the Florida Forever program must satisfy Florida Forever Goals & Measures found in F.S. 259.105 (4). There were no Florida Forever acquisitions during FY 2013.

### LAND ACQUISITION STRATEGIES

#### Project Design and Evaluation Criteria

The Save Our Rivers, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever programs have protected over 300,000 acres and 384 miles of river corridor lands protect the region's river systems and public water supply. Potential acquisition project areas shown in this plan were developed with Geographic Information System (GIS) modeling to complement the region's base of protected natural resources. Available geographic databases were correlated as to their relative importance to these water resource protection benefits. Resulting lands with area within two or more themes are classified as highest acquisition candidates. The model essentially predicts parcels with high water resource, groundwater protection and surface water protection features.

Four major water resource objectives in the water resources protection model are consistent with the Districts Strategic Plan:

Water Resource Objectives	Criteria
Preserve floodplain to maintain storage capacity, attenuate floodwaters, and mitigate flood risk	FEMA 100-year Flood Zone
Prevent groundwater contamination by maintaining low intensity land uses	Areas of High Recharge
Preserve natural buffers along water bodies where adjacent uses have a high potential to degrade surface water quality	Wetlands and 200' buffers on streams
Preserve spring areas to improve inputs to surface and groundwater	1 mi., 0.5 mi., and 0.25 mi. buffers on Magnitude 1, 2, and 3 Springs respectively

Criteria enhancements to modify the water resources protection model will be made as better data is acquired.

District-wide water resources were evaluated to complete a project design for ten river basin planning areas. Discrete acquisition projects were developed by filtering high-scoring candidate lands identified by the model with data on property ownership, management considerations and connection to public lands. To date the selection by resource criteria has resulted in 51,000 acres of potential fee or less than fee purchases in ten watersheds.

#### Program Implementation

Due to limited availability, the District will use funds from the sale of surplus lands for land acquisition during the upcoming year on an as needed opportunity basis. For any given acquisition, the District will emphasize the use of voluntary sale by willing sellers and encourage

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

Under the amended statute 259.101 (9) alternatives to fee simple acquisition include but are not limited to: purchase of development rights; conservation easements; flowage easements; purchase of timber rights, mineral rights or hunting rights; purchase of agricultural or silvicultural interests; land-protection agreements; fee simple acquisitions with reservations and other techniques. All project areas identified in this update are suited for less than fee purchase, and District staff will pursue this option with willing landowners.

The District does not propose any changes to the potential acquisition projects area map for FY 2014. The Florida Forever Work Plan 2014 Projects map is illustrated in Appendix C.

Table 2 illustrates potential project areas by basin planning area. This is compiled with all acquisition activity to date under the Save Our Rivers (SOR), Preservation 2000 (P2000) and Florida Forever programs to portray the SRWMD's protected resource base.

**Table 2 Protected Lands and Potential Acquisition Project Areas**

Planning Area	Fee Acres Acquired	Fee River Mileage Acquired	Less than Fee Acres Acquired	Less than Fee River Mileage Acquired	Total Miles of Frontage	Total River Mileage Acquired	Potential Acquisition Project Areas
Alapaha	2,989	15	1,503	4	46	19	2,889
Aucilla	14,985	47	10,914	14	118	61	6,506
Coastal Creeks	1,282	0	32,134	0	0	0	0
Econfina	8,490	40	0	0	70	40	2,153
Fenholloway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Suwannee <sup>(1)</sup>	19,451	31	24,935	0	114	31	4,088
Middle Suwannee	17,514	31		1	200	32	7,918
Santa Fe	13,254	27	4,990	6	162	32	10,714
Steinhatchee <sup>(2)</sup>	59,331	38	46,852	0	56	38	152
Upper Suwannee <sup>(4)</sup>	34,582	73	19,128	12	112	85	4,510
Waccasassa	5,340	9	22,404	0	58	9	3,904
Wacissa	1,082	2	0	0	24	2	0
Withlacoochee	7,264	20	0	0	48	20	8,562
Floodplain Lots <sup>(3)</sup>	889	14	0	0	0	14	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>186,453</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>162,860</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>51,395</b>

(1) 11,716 acres were conveyed to the USFWS and are part of the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge.

(2) Mallory Swamp Fee Interest, principal watershed benefits to the Steinhatchee River Basin.

(3) River frontage is estimated.

(4) 11,743 acres in Sandlin Bay were conveyed to the USDA Forest Service.

### **LAND ACQUISITION PRIORITY PROJECTS**

The projects listed below which may use Florida Forever Funds or involve exchanges involving Florida Forever lands have been approved for detailed assessment by the Governing Board. These transactions will be closed as expeditiously as possible using funds previously appropriated.

**Table 3 Projects Approved for Detailed Assessment**

<b>Seller</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>
George & Sharon Nyman	Suwannee River Oaks	Gilchrist	305	4/10/2012
Bridges/Azure Properties	McAlpin Landing	Hamilton	200	4/10/2012
Milton C. Hitson	Holton Creek In-holding	Hamilton	10	5/16/2013
El Trigal Farms, Floyd Family	El Trigal Farms Conservation Easement	Jefferson	371	7/9/2013

### **SURPLUS LANDS**

Surplus lands are defined as those that were acquired as part of an acquisition project, but are no longer needed for the District's conservation purposes. In May 2011 the District Governing Board adopted Program Directive 2011-03 to provide updated guidelines and procedures for consistency in identification and disposition of surplus lands. District-owned lands were analyzed to determine areas that did not have significant water resource values and would not negatively impact land management strategies if sold. The following parcels have been designated as surplus by the District Governing Board. (Table 4)

**Table 4 Surplus Lands**

<b>Tract Name</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Acquired Date</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Surplus Date</b>
Bay Creek North	24	Columbia	2/1988	WMLTF	7/14/2009
Bay Creek South	46	Columbia	9/1990	WMLTF	7/14/2009
Blue Sink	79	Suwannee	12/1988	WMLTF	7/14/2009
Ellaville	670	Madison	12/1998	WMLTF	10/12/2012
Levings	69	Columbia	2/1988	WMLTF	7/14/2009
Owens Spring	77	Lafayette	3/1999	WMLTF	7/14/2009
Adams South	60	Lafayette	5/1990	WMLTF	5/13/2010
Jennings Bluff	70	Hamilton	2/1989	WMLTF	5/13/2010
Falmouth North (8 tracts)	6	Suwannee	4/1998	WMLTF	6/8/2010
Hunter Creek	120	Hamilton	9/2002	P2000	6/8/2010
Steinhatchee Rise	42	Dixie	2/1996	P2000	6/8/2010
Timber River	1	Madison	3/1998	WMLTF	6/8/2010
Wolf Creek	30	Jefferson	5/2009	FFTF	5/19/2011
Woods Ferry	29	Suwannee	12/1988	WMLTF	5/19/2011
Withlacoochee Quail Farm	65	Madison	9/2006	FFTF	5/19/2011
Cuba Bay	22	Madison	2/1996	P2000	6/14/2011
Chitty Bend East	20	Hamilton	12/1988	WMLTF	7/12/2011
Chitty Bend West	121	Madison	12/1988	WMLTF	7/12/2011
Perry Sprayfield	248	Taylor	9/2001	WMLTF	7/12/2011
Cabbage Grove	30	Taylor	2/1996	P2000	3/13/2012

WMLTF = Water Management Lands Trust Fund; FFTF = Florida Forever; P2000 = Preservation 2000 Funds

Any recommendation for the disposition of land is presented for Governing Board consideration in accordance with Sections 373.056 and 373.089, F.S. The following surplus lands have been sold or conveyed to units of local government since the surplus lands committee and program was initiated in 2009.

**Table 5 Disposition of Surplus Lands**

<b>Surplus Parcels</b>	<b>Acres</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Disposition Date</b>	<b>Transaction</b>	<b>Proceeds</b>
Chiefland Wellfield	9	Levy	10/11/2011	Conveyed to Local Government	\$0.00
Cross City Wellfield	67	Dixie	10/11/2011	Conveyed to Local Government	\$0.00
Cross City Sprayfield	443	Dixie	1/12/2011	Conveyed to Local Government	\$0.00
Westwood West Surplus.	316	Madison	4/8/2011	Sold	\$636,777.00
Poe Springs	37	Alachua	10/11/2011	Conveyed to Local Government	\$0.00
Suwannee Sprayfield	285	Dixie	10/11/2011	Conveyed to Local Government	\$0.00
Otter Springs Access Easement	4	Gilchrist	10/17/2011	Conveyed to Local Government	\$0.00
Bay Creek South	46	Columbia	3/16/2012	Sold	\$91,940.00
USDA F.S. Sandlin Bay	712	Columbia	3/22/2012	Sold	\$498,092.00
Withlacoochee Quail Farm	65	Madison	3/29/2012	Sold	\$142,524.80
Brantley Exchange	3	Suwannee	6/15/2012	Exchange	\$0.00
Taylor Coastal Wellfield	44	Taylor	6/15/2012	Conveyed to Local Government	\$0.00
Black Tract Surplus	50	Madison	6/19/2012	Sold	\$88,907.00
Wolf Creek Surplus	32	Jefferson	7/6/2012	Sold	\$63,340.00
Adams South Surplus	61	Lafayette	8/3/2012	Sold	\$85,540.00
Owens Spring Surplus	76	Lafayette	8/3/2012	Sold	\$136,368.00
Woods Ferry	29	Suwannee	12/12/2012	Sold	\$69,840.00
Bay Creek North	24	Columbia	3/6/2013	Sold	\$55,258.00
Cabbage Grove	29	Taylor	11/6/2013	Sold	\$56,614.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,332</b>				<b>\$1,925,201.05</b>

**RESTORATION AND WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

The environmental restoration activities and water resource development projects described in this section will achieve the goals of Section 259.105 (4), F.S. by:

- a) Increasing the protection of Florida's biodiversity at the species and natural community level by restoring natural conditions for fish and wildlife habitats;



- b) Protecting and maintaining the quality and natural functions of land, water and wetland systems by restoring natural hydrology and biological conditions favorable to improving water quality and ecological benefits; and
- c) Ensuring that sufficient quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of natural systems and citizens by improving water storage in natural systems and making water available through water resource development projects. In particular, the quantities of water developed through the projects in this section are an important component of restoring and maintaining minimum flows and levels on priority water bodies pursuant to 373.042 and 373.0421, F.S.

The District intends to use \$2,023,000 that remains available from previous years' Florida Forever appropriations to fund various restoration projects during FY 2014-2019.

## ***WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT***

### **Upper Floridan Aquifer Recharge Concepts**

The District has developed Upper Floridan Aquifer Recharge Concepts in conjunction with St. Johns Water Management District. The concepts include the viability of taking a portion of high flows from the Upper Suwannee River and recharging the upper Floridan Aquifer. Part of these conceptual aquifer recharge projects include discussion with a mining company concerning the modification of reclaimed mine areas into recharge areas. Funding is required to take these concepts to design and construction.

One of the conceptual recharge projects associated with the mining company is the Eagle Lake Groundwater Offset Project. It is proposed to replace groundwater pumpage of 10 million gallons of water daily (mgd) with surface water from Eagle Lake in Hamilton County. The project is expandable up to 20 mgd. Preliminary engineering costs range from \$2,500,000 to \$3,000,000.

### **North Florida Aquifer Replenishment Initiative**

The District is participating with St. Johns Water Management District in the North Florida Aquifer Replenishment Initiative. This initiative will benefit the groundwater resources within both districts.

Conceptual projects include the Reduced Basal Area Forestry Practices - Aquifer Recharge Pilot project and other conceptual reclaimed water recharge projects. Other conceptual aquifer recharge projects could include constructing recharge wetlands utilizing reclaimed water in Alachua County. Potential costs could range up to \$3,800,000.

### **Ichetucknee River Basin – Lake Harris Aquifer Recharge Project, Columbia County**

This project involves construction of an additional aquifer recharge well to reduce flooding and to provide aquifer recharge. The potential cost for this project is \$200,000.

### **Lower Santa Fe River – City of High Springs, Alachua County**

The City of High Springs is located in the Santa Fe River Basin in northwestern Alachua County. The City's secondary treated wastewater effluent is discharged to a sprayfield.

The District and City plan to develop a reclaimed water project to offset 240,000 gallons per day of groundwater withdrawals. Groundwater recharge will also occur with the project. Project

components consist constructing a storage facility and installing transmission lines. Estimated project cost is \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000. Funding is not being proposed for fiscal year 2014.

### **Lower Santa Fe River – City of Alachua Reclaimed Water Aquifer Recharge project, Alachua County**

This project proposes to recharge approximately 0.5 mgd to the upper Floridan aquifer. The projected cost is \$800,000,

### **Waccasassa River Basin – City of Newberry, Alachua County**

The City of Newberry is located in the Waccasassa River Basin. The District and City have been collaborating to develop and implement a reuse program to offset groundwater withdrawals. The project will consist of storage and transmission lines. Estimated project cost is \$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000. No funding is proposed for fiscal year 2014 for this project.

### **Various Basins – Dispersed Water Storage**

Several decades ago, industrial land owners excavated ditches to drain land for pine tree production. While draining the land may have increased pine production, it had several detrimental impacts to the environment including:

- Adverse impacts to the fishery resources due to an increase in freshwater discharge to the estuary,
- Increased risk of downstream flooding due to an increase in peak stormwater discharge, and
- Loss of natural wetland systems and reduced aquifer discharge due to lowering the water table and shortening the wetland hydro-period.

The District proposes to enhance water resources and restore natural systems by installing ditch blocks and low water crossings on District lands. These structures will allow water to overflow ditch banks and disperse over wetland areas. The budget for fiscal year 2013/2014 is \$174,000. In order to expand this concept, the District plans to partner with private land owners to gain additional water resource benefits.

### **Middle Suwannee River Basin – Middle Suwannee Springs Restoration Project, Lafayette County**

This project, although funded through a different source, is a key project to enhance water resources and restore natural systems.

The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) owns 31,000 acres of Mallory Swamp in an area of southeast Lafayette County that extends to the northern border of Dixie County. Surface and groundwater in Mallory Swamp flow toward the Suwannee River and its springs to the east, and the coastal streams and springs to the west. A primary objective of the proposed project is to increase groundwater discharge (as diffuse leakage and spring flows) to the Suwannee River, and augment groundwater supplies in Lafayette and Dixie Counties. Therefore, the project focuses on the eastern half of Mallory Swamp.

To achieve increased spring and diffuse groundwater flow, the District will enhance groundwater recharge to the Upper Floridan aquifer in and near Mallory Swamp by reestablishing natural drainage patterns using natural recharge features (such as sand-bottom lakes) and aquifer

recharge wells within a limited number of strategic locations. In order to maximize the recharge of surplus surface water originating in the Mallory Swamp, the District intends to manage the surface water hydrology by modifying existing structures at key locations in a manner that is consistent with protecting the natural systems in the swamp. The total project cost is \$1,900,000 (DEP contribution \$1,548,000; SRWMD contribution \$277,000; Dixie County contribution \$75,000) for fiscal year 2014.

### **Santa Fe River Basin-Aquifer Recharge/Flood Mitigation, Bradford County**

The District is participating with the St. Johns River Water Management District, the City of Starke and Bradford County to address aquifer recharge and flood mitigation projects. This project will benefit the water resources in the Upper and Lower Santa Fe River Basins. The SRWMD is currently evaluating several parcels in eastern Bradford county for potential flood mitigation projects, including evaluating the potential beneficial reuse of flood flows for aquifer recharge or augmentation of streamflows in MFL water bodies. The budget for this project is estimated to range from \$1,000,000 to \$8,000,000 depending on evaluation of the potential options.

The purpose of the project is to capture and store high flows in the Upper Santa Fe River Basin and subsequently using the water to recharge the aquifer and/or the surface water system to support the proposed Lower Santa Fe River Minimum Flow and Levels.

### ***RESTORATION***

#### **Ichetucknee Springshed Water Quality Improvement Project**

This project, although funded through a different source, is a key project for restoration of water quality.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Suwannee River Water Management District, City of Lake City, and Columbia County are partnering to convert the City's wastewater sprayfield into treatment wetlands that will reduce nitrogen loading and improve water quality in the Ichetucknee springs and river. Total project cost \$4,600,000 (Funding Sources: DEP contribution \$3,900,00; SRWMD contribution \$400,000; Lake City contribution \$200,000; Columbia County contribution \$100,000) The City's sprayfield is located on the Ichetucknee Trace, and water recharging to the aquifer in this area has been shown to reach the springs in a matter of days. This project has positive water quality benefits to the impaired springs and river, and also provides additional wildlife habitat and public benefit within Columbia County. Project will reduce Lake City's wastewater nutrient loadings to the Ichetucknee River by an estimate 85%.

#### **Upper Santa Fe River Basin – City of Starke, Bradford County**

##### **Edwards Bottomlands Restoration Project**

The City of Starke depends upon Alligator Creek for drainage of most of its incorporated area. Alligator Creek drains into Lake Rowell and, ultimately, into the Santa Fe River via the Sampson River.

Alligator Creek was dredged several times prior to environmental regulation and again in 2005 to improve the drainage within the City of Starke. However, this dredging has destabilized the stream in many locations and caused continued erosion and water quality problems. Stream restoration is needed to protect this system from continued erosion and degradation but the funding of such a restoration has been cost prohibitive.

In order to prevent some of the sediment load from going to Lake Rowell down Alligator Creek, the District, in cooperation with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, plans to capture some of the sediment load via a sedimentation basin and re-establish the historic floodplain along a portion of the creek within the 47-acre parcel known as the Edwards Bottomlands. The restoration project will improve water quality by capturing and treating sediment-laden storm water and will improve habitat for fish and wildlife.

The District proposes a budget of \$363,000 to implement a restoration project on Alligator Creek. Upon completion of a detailed FEMA study in the first quarter of fiscal year 2014, the District proposes to begin construction in fiscal year 2014. As soon as possible. Due to other ongoing projects in the area and multiple stake holders, a redesign of this project may need to occur before construction can begin.

**Middle Suwannee River Basin – Otter Springs, Gilchrist County**

This project, although funded through a different source, is an important project for restoration of natural systems. Otter Springs is a second magnitude spring and is the cornerstone recreational feature of the Otter Springs Park and Campground. The park is owned by the District and managed by Gilchrist County through a cooperating management agreement. Years of public use has taken its toll on the spring. Sediment from erosion has almost closed the main spring vent and is significantly reducing flow. Because of the decreased flow, the brown algae are able to attach to the substrate and choke out the other native species. The District plans to restore the spring by dredging the spring vent and stabilizing the shoreline. The budget is \$140,000 for fiscal year 2014. Additional funding may be required.

**Table 6 Potential Restoration and Water Resource Development Projects**

<b>PROJECT TYPE</b>	<b>PROJECT NAME</b>	<b>COST RANGE ESTIMATE</b>
Water Resource Development	Aquifer Recharge Replenishment Initiative	\$500,000 to \$5,000,000
Water Resource Development	Aquifer Recharge Concepts	\$2,650,000 to \$3,200,000
Restoration	Edwards Bottomlands	\$363,000
Water Resource Development	High Springs	\$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000
Water Resource Development	Newberry	\$3,000,000 to \$4,000,000
Water Resource Development	Dispersed Water Storage	\$174,000
Water Resource Development	Santa Fe River Basin Aquifer Recharge/Flood Mitigation Project	\$1,000,000 to \$8,000,000
Water Resource Development	Conceptual Reclaimed Water Recharge including construction of recharge wetlands	\$3,800,000
Water Resource Development	Lake Harris Recharge	\$200,000
Water Resource Development	Reduced Basal Area Forestry Practices: Aquifer Recharge Pilot	TBD
Water Resource Development	City of Alachua Reclaimed Water Aquifer Recharge	\$800,000

Appendix A Florida Forever Acquisition Summary

<i>Seller</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Conservation Area</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Interest</i>	<i>Acreage</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Closing Date</i>
Williams, Fred M. Jr.	Walker/Aucilla Tract	Middle Aucilla	Jefferson	Fee	112	\$220,318	11/8/2001
Ward, Cleatus	Lake Butler Wellfield	New River	Union	Fee	148	\$310,023	12/28/2001
Levy Wade Inc.	Peacock Slough Levy Wade	Peacock Springs	Suwannee	Fee	569	\$625,768	12/31/2001
Van Hook, C.A.	Falmouth Addition	Falmouth	Suwannee	Fee	18	\$40,000	1/8/2002
Chesson, Maywood	Waldron's Landing	Deep Creek	Columbia	Fee	124	\$329,016	1/9/2002
Red Hills Land Company	Foster CE	Middle Aucilla	Jefferson	Conservation Easement	163	\$140,000	3/25/2002
Plum Creek Timberlands	Manatee Springs Addn. Suwannee Swamp	Fowlers Bluff	Levy	Conservation Easement	12,797	\$5,503,127	3/28/2002
Sam Shine Foundation, Inc.	Mallory Swamp	Upper Steinhatchee	Lafayette	Fee	29,463	\$2,592,744	4/30/2002
Florida Depart. of Trans.	Santa Fe River FDOT Mitigation	Ichetucknee	Gilchrist	Fee	42	\$0	5/15/2002
Mura, Michael	Suw. River Campsites Lots 260, 261, 302, 303	State Park	Hamilton	Fee	1	\$0	6/30/2002
Crevassee Alton & Charlotte	Atsena Otie Key Inholding	Lower Waccasassa	Levy	Fee	1	\$48,000	7/30/2002
Plum Creek Timberlands	Manatee Springs Addn. Oak Hammock	Fowlers Bluff	Levy	Conservation Easement	4,588	\$3,005,225	8/31/2002
Evans, Barbara & Donald	Fanning Springs Greenway	Wannee	Gilchrist	Fee	46	\$115,700	11/27/2002
Gause, Thomas & Patricia	Fanning Springs Greenway	Wannee	Gilchrist	Fee	64	\$160,325	11/27/2002
Skinner Development Co.	Bell Springs Addn.	Wannee	Gilchrist	Fee	25	\$0	12/19/2002
Moore, Madeline	Moore CE	Middle Aucilla	Jefferson	Conservation Easement	115	\$54,000	12/23/2002
The Conservation Fund	Fletchers Landing	Fowlers Bluff	Levy	Fee	178	\$436,000	4/12/2003

	Project	Conservation Area	County	Interest	Acreage	Price	Closing Date
Drummond, Graham Luther	Manatee Springs Addn.	Fowlers Bluff	Levy	Conservation Easement	323	\$323,406	5/29/2003
Sigvartsen Trust, Marty Royo, Trustee	Lot 12 Suwannee Bluff Ranchettes	Wannee	Gilchrist	Fee	10	\$34,500	6/20/2003
Maxwell Foods, Inc.	Horseshoe Beach Wellhead Protection Area	Coastal Creeks	Dixie	Fee	100	\$200,000	6/30/2003
Union Land & Timber Corp.	Allen Mill Pond Addition	Allen Mill Pond	Lafayette	Fee	140	\$164,136	6/30/2003
Davis M.C.	Withlacoochee East Addn.	Withlacoochee East	Hamilton	Fee	57	\$0	10/1/2003
Curtis John M. Sr.	Withlacoochee East Addn.	Withlacoochee East	Hamilton	Fee	89	\$208,868	10/1/2003
Rayonier Forest Resources L.P.	Lake Rowell/Alligator Creek	Graham	Bradford	Fee	593	\$1,060,000	5/5/2004
Beckerleg, William	Charles Spring River Estates Unit 1, Lot 40		Suwannee	Fee	2	\$13,000	5/7/2004
Faris, William & Sophia	Faris Ranch	Little River	Suwannee	Fee	1,020	\$2,283,357	6/30/2004
Usher, E.T. ind. and as trustee of Usher Family trust	Manatee Springs Addn.	Fowlers Bluff	Levy	Conservation Easement	2,023	\$1,517,047	8/17/2004
Land, Jack & Todd	Land Tract	Yellow Jacket	Dixie	Fee	536	\$964,674	10/15/2004
Dugger, Edward & Green, Donald	Mud Swamp	Monteocha	Alachua	Fee	326	\$485,190	12/13/2004
Dugger, Edward & Green, Donald	Mud Swamp	Graham	Bradford	Fee	510	\$757,873	12/13/2004
Luther Drummond Investments, Ltd.	Chiefland Wellfield	Fowlers Bluff	Levy	Fee	155	\$621,640	2/21/2005
Young, Paul & Frances	Lot 10 Suwannee Bluff Ranchettes	Wannee	Gilchrist	Fee	10	\$34,000	2/25/2005
Bem, Jan & Yana	Yana Springs	Allen Mill Pond	Lafayette	Fee	14	\$154,000	3/15/2005
DeVaney, Robert & Deborah	Mallory Swamp Devaney Addition	Lower Steinhatchee	Lafayette	Fee	1,038	\$448,381.44	4/8/2005

Seller	Project	Conservation Area	County	Interest	Acreage	Price	Closing Date
Tanner, Hillard	City of Jasper Wellhead Protection	Upper Alapaha	Hamilton	Fee	30	\$72,240	4/28/2005
McEwen, Donald	Wacissa Head Spring	Wacissa	Jefferson	Fee	22	\$225,000	4/28/2005
Torode, John A. Revocable Living Trust	Lake Rowell Addition	Graham	Bradford	Fee	20	\$29,646	6/17/2005
Lamb, et al.	Allen Mill Pond Addition	Allen Mill Pond	Lafayette	Fee	29	\$60,040	3/1/2006
Pepper Land Company Inc.	Suwannee River Wilderness Camp @ Dowling Park	Allen Mill Pond	Lafayette	Fee	9	\$84,000	3/30/2006
Nunez, Luis M	Anderson Springs Addition	Anderson Springs	Suwannee	Fee	10	\$80,000	5/19/2006
Hutchings, William & Patricia	Branford Bend Addition	Little River	Suwannee	Fee	28	\$300,000	5/30/2006
Roland, Charles & Joann	Greenville Wellfield Properties	Upper Aucilla	Madison	Fee	13	\$34,398	6/10/2006
Roland, Shane & Lisa	Greenville Wellfield Properties	Upper Aucilla	Madison	Fee	33	\$78,000	6/10/2006
Hatch, Leon	Devil's Elbow Addition	Stuart's Landing	Lafayette	Fee	1	\$12,000	6/30/2006
R. O. Ranch Inc. and Schulte, Frank E. & Olive	R. O. Ranch	Upper Steinhatchee	Lafayette	Fee	2,485	\$6,500,000	7/27/2006
Herndon, Walter & Helen	Withlacoochee Quail Farms	Withlacoochee West	Madison	Fee	408	\$1,835,130	9/29/2006
Johnson, Jack & Dorothy	Withlacoochee Quail Farms	Withlacoochee West	Madison	Fee	353	\$1,589,310	10/13/2006
Riggs, Joseph & Jennie	Purvis Landing Addition	Log Landing	Dixie	Fee	77	\$267,123	10/31/2006
Hauber, Marty & Peggy	Suwannee Forest Lot 7	Stuart's Landing	Suwannee	Fee	10	\$98,000	2/28/2007
Land Timber & Cattle L.L.C.	Mallory Swamp Addition	Grady	Lafayette	Fee	820	\$1,312,224	3/20/2007
Advent Christian Village, Inc.	Suwannee River Wilderness Camp @ Dowling Park	Allen Mill Pond	Lafayette	Fee	39	\$385,500	4/5/2007
White, Diane Bishop	Bell Springs Riverfront	Deep Creek	Columbia	Fee	8	\$310,000	5/18/2007
Morrell, Monroe	Bell Springs	Deep Creek	Columbia	Fee	46	\$785,000	5/18/2007

Seller	Project	Conservation Area	County	Interest	Acreage	Price	Closing Date
Feagin, Robert & Marjorie	Middle Aucilla Addition	Middle Aucilla	Taylor	Fee	80	\$339,000	7/20/2007
Hale, Martha C. and McDaniel, Virginia Gail	Russell Carter CE	Benton	Columbia	Conservation Easement	1,232	\$3,566,987	9/28/2007
Jones, Mike & Kim	Jasper Stormwater	Holton Creek	Hamilton	Fee	1	\$16,700	10/5/2007
Sganga, Brian	Little Shoals Addition	Deep Creek	Columbia	Fee	1	\$60,000	11/15/2007
McEnany, Michael & Leanne	McEnany CE	Lower Waccasassa	Levy	Conservation Easement	1,104	\$1,490,224	11/16/2007
Tisdale, Robert	Manatee Springs Addition	Fowlers Bluff	Levy	Conservation Easement	83	\$141,925	11/16/2007
Smith, B. Larry & Christine M.	Suwannee Gardens Addition	Yellow Jacket	Dixie	Fee	49	\$462,460	11/21/2007
Levings, Albert	Town of Fort White Wellfield	Santa Fe Springs	Columbia	Fee	102	\$1,536,546	12/15/2007
Ragans, Hoyt & Betty Jo	Ragans CE	Middle Aucilla	Madison	Conservation Easement	586	\$748,614	12/28/2007
Ragans, Hoyt & Betty Jo	Ragans CE	Middle Aucilla	Jefferson	Conservation Easement	169	\$216,826	12/28/2007
Moses Investments, L.L.C.	Troy Springs Addition	Troy Springs	Lafayette	Fee	106	\$1,014,054	1/30/2008
Lake Alto LLC	Lake Alto Addition	Sante Fe Swamp	Alachua	Fee	120	\$210,209.38	2/7/2008
Sheppard, Derwood & Susan	Manatee Springs Addition	Fowlers Bluff	Levy	Conservation Easement	120	\$214,938	2/8/2008
Mozak, Deborah & Danny and Vasko, Victor & Betty	Swift Creek Addition	Swift Creek	Hamilton	Fee	5	\$250,000	3/14/2008
Gullett, David & Michele	Lake Alto Swamp Addition	Sante Fe Swamp	Alachua	Fee	29	\$152,961	5/15/2008
Adams, John Anthony	Adams on Alapaha	Lower Alapaha	Hamilton	Fee	267	\$1,068,800	7/11/2008
Big Otter L.P., Faith, Hope, Charity Place, Inc.	Otter Springs	Wannee	Gilchrist	Fee	636	\$6,800,000	9/30/2008
Suwannee Land & Timber Inc.	Willow Bend Subdivision Lot 21	Withlacoochee West	Madison	Fee	1	\$17,000	11/17/2008



Seller	Project	Conservation Area	County	Interest	Acreage	Price	Closing Date
Suwannee Land & Timber Inc.	Willow Bend Subdivision	Withlacoochee West	Madison	Fee	1	\$0	11/17/2008
Carter, Gerald & Diane	Suwannee Woods Subdiv. Lot 48	Camp Branch	Hamilton	Fee	1	\$0	12/26/2008
Fairweather, Celia and Parchment, Evelyn	Lake Alto Addition	Sante Fe Swamp	Alachua	Fee	41	\$30,000	2/16/2009
Madison/Taylor Timberlands LLC	Aucilla Corridor Addition	Upper Aucilla	Madison	Fee	172	\$429,916	5/12/2009
Madison/Taylor Timberlands LLC	Aucilla Corridor Addition	Upper Aucilla	Jefferson	Fee	1,056	\$2,619,484	5/12/2009
Wooten, Albert W. Jr. & Jessie	Lower Alapaha Addition	Lower Alapaha	Hamilton	Fee	63	\$380,000	7/1/2009
Champion, Roger & Donna	Mount Gilead CE	Middle Aucilla	Madison	Conservation Easement	181	\$361,940	8/19/2009
Feagle, Ronald A. & Dorothy	Bonnet Lake CE	Olustee Creek	Columbia	Conservation Easement	434	\$1,083,925	1/27/2010
Dixie County Board of County Commissioners	Guaranto Addition	Log Landing	Dixie	Fee	1	\$14,000	4/22/2010
Dixie County Board of County Commissioners	Log Landing Inholding	Log Landing	Dixie	Fee	20	\$100,000	4/22/2010
Jackson, Kevin & Patrice	Jackson CE	Troy Springs	Lafayette	Conservation Easement	172	\$343,860	6/23/2010
Osceola Land & Timber, Corp.	Santa Fe River Ranch Addition	Pareners Branch	Alachua	Fee	463	\$1,873,048	8/5/2010
N.G. Wade Investment Company	Gilchrist Regional Wellfield	Wannee	Gilchrist	Fee	106	\$395,000	8/12/2010
Suwannee River Development LLC	Ace Ranch	Peacock Springs	Lafayette	Conservation Easement	682	\$1,557,593	9/16/2010
Andrews, Dennis & Roberta	Cedar Key Addition	Lower Waccasassa	Levy	Fee	242	\$1,208,650	6/16/2011

Seller	Project	Conservation Area	County	Interest	Acreage	Price	Closing Date
Andrews, Dennis, Kelby, Miles	Andrews Cedar Key	Lower Waccasassa	Levy	Fee	390	\$1,949,738	9/1/2011
Layman Law Firm, P.I.	Walker Springs CE	Middle Aucilla	Jefferson	Conservation Easement	68,552	\$67,562,333	12/30/2011
Total					68,719	\$67,813,043	

## APPENDIX B SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

### FY 2012 Report of Land Management Activities

#### I. RESOURCE PROTECTION

**Goal – to protect, enhance and/or restore natural, archaeological, and historical resources on lands owned by the District.**

##### I.1 Water Resource Management

District lands provide unique opportunities because of their proximity to major rivers and their feeder streams. At the tract level, there are opportunities to impact altered water flows and water retention capacities to allow more natural buffering characteristics of the floodplain, such as flood attenuation, to be enhanced and provide protection to the receiving water body. At the site level, many facilities such as river access points and roads need additional review and construction standards to withstand flood impacts. The goal of facilities design is to make them transparent to high and low flow conditions within the floodplain.

Land management natural community projects are implemented using silviculture BMPs as a minimum standard for implementation. Silvicultural practices and road maintenance operations are planned to protect or enhance water resources. Road improvements and culvert or ditchblock maintenance activities occurred on four tracts in FY 2012. These consisted of installation of turnouts or broad based dips; regrading roads to shed water into swales and then to natural areas. Four ditch blocks were repaired to maintain their design elevation.

##### **I.1.1 Water projects completed in FY 2012 include:**

###### I.1.1a Mount Gilead Tract and Cabbage Grove Tract – “Flat Rock Site” erosion control improvements.

These two existing public river access points had bank erosion directly into the Aucilla River. Stabilization techniques, including placement of stone aggregate, enhanced vehicle access controls, planting grasses and trees, were used at these sites. Funding was provided by DOT wetland mitigation funds for the US 98 Bridge over the Aucilla River.

###### I.1.1b Cabbage Grove Tract Wetlands Enhancements.

Three wetlands were determined to need additional enhancements. Some site regrading was completed for hydrologic enhancement and to improve opportunities for natural plant succession from adjoining wetlands. Oak, cypress and willow were planted. This was also a DOT mitigation funded project.

###### I.1.1c Water resource enhancements: Planning and Design

Lukens Tract Water Access. A plastic erosion control mat was permitted for placement in an existing scar on a tidal creek. The area is under a management agreement with USFWS to be managed as part of Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge. (This area was completed in FY 2013 and is available for use by the public.)

Steinhatchee Rise Dispersed Water Storage Project. This project will place rock barriers in an existing canal that flows into the Steinhatchee River. The intent is twofold: first to slow down

the water in the canal and allow it to percolate into the surficial aquifer; second to rehydrate adjacent wetlands to create conditions more similar to their natural hydroperiod. (This project was completed in FY 2013.)

Bell Springs Restoration Project. This project will replace berms and associated ponds that were constructed in the spring run of Bell Springs. The project will create conditions to re-establish a natural spring run in the area that was altered. This is a cooperative project with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, which is providing funding for construction. (This project is scheduled for completion in late FY 2013 or early 2014.)

## **I.2 Land Resource Management**

The District has established desired future conditions (DFC) that detail plant community structure, representative plant species, average hydrological regime, and the frequency that fire is required to maintain plant community structure. District land managers are able to determine if management activities are needed “restore or maintain the natural condition” as directed by statute. District lands that meet the DFC structural standards are maintained by natural processes (fire and natural flooding events) or “passive” management. Communities that are deficient, however, may receive “active” management to move the community towards the community standards.

### **I.2.1 Reforestation**

#### **I.2.1.a Site Preparation**

Site preparation activities were completed to facilitate tree planting in FY 2013. 1,015 acres are planned for tree planting in FY 1013. 409 acres are being augmented with additional seedlings due to survival problems from 2012. A large portion of this planting failure was attributed to Tropical Storm Debbie which flooded some planted areas.

Table 2. Site preparation operations during FY 2012.

<b>Management Objective</b>	<b>Management</b>	<b>Tract</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Reforestation - Site Preparation	Chop	Lake City Wellfield	61
Reforestation - Site Preparation	Chop/Burn	Mallory Swamp	81
Reforestation - Site Preparation	Chop/Burn	Bay Creek	20
Reforestation - Site Preparation	Chop/Burn	Shady Grove	93
Reforestation - Site Preparation	Chop/Burn	Mount Gilead	48
Reforestation - Site Preparation	Mowing	Branford Bend	60
Reforestation - Site Preparation	Herbicide	Holton Creek	18
<b>Total</b>			<b>381</b>

#### **I.2.1.b Tree Planting**

Reforestation of cutover lands was conducted on 1,677 acres during FY 2012 (Table 3). Both slash and longleaf pine were planted using a Whitfield type planter pulled behind a V-blade mounted on a bulldozer. All the pine seedlings were planted in 12 foot rows. Planting was monitored to ensure that seedlings were planted to District standards and that the seedlings per acre were within 10% of the prescribed rate. Prescribed rates are 605 trees per acre for slash pine and 726 trees per acre for longleaf pine.

Table 3. Reforestation of pine seedlings during FY 2012; all reforestation occurred during December 2011 – January 2012.

Tract	Dominant Natural Communities	Pine Seedlin	Seedlings /acre	Acres	
Jones Mill Creek	Mesic, scrubby & wet flatwoods	Bare Root Slash	717	385	
Mallory Swamp	Mesic & wet flatwoods		773	71	
Steinhatchee Springs			725	194	
Natural Well Branch	Mesic flatwoods		835	13	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>663</b>	
Tract	Dominant Natural Communities	Pine Seedlin	Seedlings	Tract	
Alapahoochee	Mesic flatwoods	Bare Root Longleaf	No data	23	
Goose Pasture			738	72	
Steinhatchee Falls			681	119	
Steinhatchee Springs			Mesic & wet flatwoods	681	568
White Springs WF				723	44
Cuba Bay	Mesic flatwoods	Container & Bare Root Longleaf	757	60	
Jones Mill Creek	Mesic flatwoods & sandh		676	128	
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1014</b>	

#### I.2.1.c Timber Harvest

The District harvests timber resources to promote forest health and achieve DFCs. (Table 4) The District has begun a formal process of tracking management decisions in the form of operational prescriptions. Current prescriptions include objectives, goals (target basal area), and resource concerns (soils impacts, rare species, cultural artifacts, etc.) for each timber sale. Timber sale objectives include the following:

- Reduce overstocked conditions
- Remove undesirable species

Table 4. Summary of acres of timber sales and revenue as percent of reported sources.

<b># Acres Timber Sold for DFC</b>	1,074
<b>Total Value as a Percent of Published Regional Market Rate</b>	114%

#### I.2.2 Natural Community Management using Herbicides

Herbicides are applied to create conditions consistent with the natural community standards.

##### I.2.2.a Site Preparation

**Aerial Broadcast** – An aerial application of Chopper Gen 2 and Element 4 was applied on 37 acres of District lands managed by the Florida Forest Service as part of Twin Rivers State Forest during October 2011.

**Hand Crew Application** – In preparing the Holton Creek Tract for reforestation, applicators targeted multiple volunteer hardwood and sand pine on 35 acres. The Withlacoochee Quail Farms Tract

was treated by the hand crew, as well: a total of 138 acres were treated to meet site preparation objectives.

**I.2.2.b Pine Seedling Release**

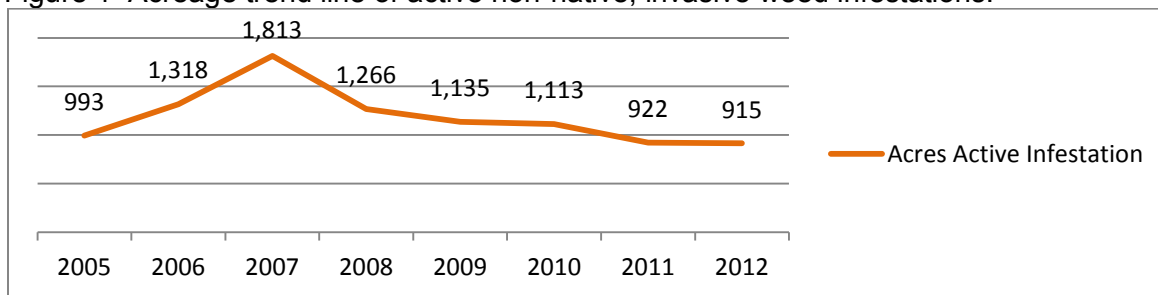
Banded Application – Herbicides were band sprayed over the top of recently planted seedlings to control competing herbaceous vegetation. The majority of longleaf pine seedlings that were planted during December 2011 – January 2012 were sprayed during May 2012. A total of 970 acres of longleaf pine seedlings were sprayed across 6 tracts.

**I.2.2.c Non-native, Invasive Weed Control**

A total of 161 weed infestations were monitored during the fiscal year. Of those active infestations, 63% (101) were treated with chemical herbicides or pulled by hand; no living weed material was observed at 54 of the monitored infestations.

Efforts to control non-native, invasive weeds are showing a reduction of the total acreage of infestations (Figure 1). A total of 30 infestations were reclassified as “Inactive.” Active infestations are reclassified Inactive when no weed material is observed at or within close proximity of the infestation for 3 consecutive years.

Figure 1 Acreage trend line of active non-native, invasive weed infestations.



**I.2.3 Natural Community Management using Prescribed Fire**

Florida’s natural communities were historically influenced by fire ignited by lightning. The District prescribed fire activity targets the following six natural communities: sandhills, upland pine scrubby, mesic, and wet flatwoods; and shrub bogs. Combined, the targeted communities make up approximately 76% of the total acres that were historically influenced by fire (Table 5). Burning these communities is a key part of the restoration goals of these natural communities.

The remaining 24% of fire influenced communities on District land consists of wetland natural communities such as basin, depression, and tidal marshes and dome and basin swamps. These communities are not actively targeted for prescribed burning. Instead, fire is allowed to carry into these areas from adjacent communities that are prescribed burned. Fire is allowed to carry into these areas only when the risk is minimal for issues such as smoke management, mortality to wetland trees and prolonged organic soil consumption. Containment firelines are installed in such a way as to avoid impacts to wetlands and water resources.

Table 5. Acres of fire maintained natural communities by classification.

<b>SRWMD Fire Maintained Communities</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>
Targeted Communities	76,508
Non-Targeted Communities	23,989

The District uses information from the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) to establish the Natural Fire Return Interval (NFRI) for each natural community. The District's goal is to increase the number of acres that are within their NFRI (Table 6).

Table 6. Percent natural communities in Natural Fire Return Interval and Acreages of fires on District lands in FY 2012.

% Targeted Natural Communities within Natural Fire Return Interval	46%
Acres Prescribed Burned	7,670
Acres Burned That Met Objective	6,976
Wildfire Acres	457

### **I.3 Resource Monitoring**

#### **I.3.1 Groundcover Resource**

No groundcover data plots were collected in FY 2012.

#### **I.3.2 Timber Resource Monitoring**

The DFC specifies tree species stocking and species goals. Data were collected on 152 timber plots in FY 2012. The data from these plots quantify the acres that achieve the community goals and also provide for data for areas that may be improved using timber sales. Staff is developing an ongoing inventory plan to keep this data current.

#### **I.3.3 Protected Species Monitoring**

The District has procedures for identifying, monitoring, and avoiding detrimental impacts to imperiled species on its lands. Rare species are documented and monitored on District lands by surveys and opportunistic observations. Specific basins are surveyed by District staff on a 3 year rotation. Species locations and survey results are maintained within a geodatabase. Staff is reviewing this data to determine if there are opportunities for increased efficiency in monitoring.

Staff re-surveyed 76 populations of rare plant and animal species in the Alapaha, Upper Suwannee, and Withlacoochee basins during the 2012 fiscal year. Thirty-seven tracts were visited during monitoring, and 16 protected species were confirmed.

#### **I.3.4 Cultural and Historical Resource Monitoring**

District lands have been reviewed for historical resources and 169 known sites were found in the Florida Master Site Files, and twenty six sites have been classified as significant cultural sites. In addition to these sites, the most likely areas, based on the known sites, are classified "High Probability Zones" (HPZ) and the District follows the "Protocol for Managing Cultural and Historical Resources on Suwannee River Water Management District Lands 2011" to avoid damaging these resources. Staff notifies the Florida Bureau of Archeological Research (BAR) when new cultural resources are discovered on District lands.

The District inspects the significant cultural resource sites, while working on other projects in the vicinity, in order to document if they are being impacted. (Table 7) Staff report evidence of looting

to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) law enforcement personnel and assist as requested.

Table 7. Status of significant Cultural Resources sites.

# significant cultural sites monitored	9
# / % significant cultural sites damaged	2/8%

I.4 Land Resource Projects completed in FY 2012 include:

I.4.1 Withlacoochee Quail Farm Tract

The District entered into cost-share agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in July 2011 to restore the native upland pine community at the Withlacoochee Quail Farm Tract. Of the 620 acres of upland pine forest on this tract, only 57% contains groundcover resources and fine fuels sufficient to manage the community with prescribed fire. The site was previously an old field, thus explaining the lack of native groundcover.

This project is expected to benefit the natural community by reestablishing native groundcovers, which are vital components to biodiversity and natural community management, and reintroducing fire to the community. As part of that agreement, the District will oversee groundcover restoration, paid for by the USFWS on approximately 145 acres. The District will conduct its normal reforestation activities with longleaf pine. Comprehensive restoration is possible on this site due to the coordination of the two agencies.

During the 2012 fiscal year, herbicide application to control hardwood re-sprouting occurred on 145 acres. All herbicide work was conducted by backpack applicators. In-kind services completed during FY 2012 include monitoring and control of invasive weed species (Japanese Climbing Fern) and establishing and collecting vegetation coverage data.

The next planned restoration actions for FY 2013 include sowing 12 lbs of native, upland groundcover seed per acre. This activity is funded by the USFWS. Planned in-kind services include continued monitoring and control of invasive weeds, gopher tortoise surveys, and continued vegetation monitoring. The project will be completed in 2015.

**II. PUBLIC USE**

**Goal – to provide opportunities for high quality, compatible resource-based recreation and education programs to meet the public’s needs.**

District lands provide an extensive set of resource-based recreational opportunities. Of the approximately 158,000 acres owned by the District, over 99% are open to the public for recreation. The District’s Public Use Guide lists allowable recreational uses approved by the Governing Board by tract, including uses that require a Special Use Authorization (SUA).

Planning for public uses takes into account the sensitivity of the site, the proximity of similar recreational opportunities, the time and financial requirements to provide the use, and public demand for the particular use.



## **II.1 Facility Management**

The DISTRICT facility standards detail recreational facility, road and trail, sign and kiosk, and fence construction and maintenance procedures. These standards ensure that facilities are well maintained to ensure a safe, aesthetically pleasing, outdoor environment for the public. (Table 8) District staff inspects public use facilities and schedule any maintenance required to ensure the longevity and continued safe use.

District public use facilities remained constant in FY 2012 with two exceptions. A review of roads was conducted and 35 miles of public roads were downgraded or abandoned to reduce maintenance cost while still providing suitable access for existing users. Thirteen miles of trail were added. All of these new trails are maintained by DEP, Florida Trail Association or Suwannee Bicycle Association.

Table 8. Public use facilities.

# Trailheads	26
# Docks & Boat Ramps	10
# Hand & Canoe Launch sites*	27
# Picnic Areas	16
# Interpretive Sites	9
# Restrooms	18
# Miles Trails	203
# Miles Driving Trails	310

### **II.1.1 Facility Construction Project in FY 2012**

A plastic mat launch for kayaks and canoes was designed and permitted for the Lukens Tract near Cedar Key. The area was previously used to launch small boats but lacked any erosion control. This parcel is now managed by the USFWS as part of the Cedar Keys Refuge at no cost to the District.

## **II.2 Special Use Authorizations**

In order to protect sensitive resources, it is necessary to restrict some uses of District lands. Members of the public may apply for a Special Use Authorization (SUA) to engage in those recreational opportunities requiring special authorization as listed in the public use guide. Examples include ATV use and night-time access. An SUA may also be issued for opportunities not listed in the Public Use Guide; examples include research and data collection, placement of bee hives, and nuisance hog removal.

An SUA serves as an agreement between the District and a user; it details terms, conditions, liability protection and time frame of the proposed use. The District issues SUAs and reserves the right to refuse anyone an SUA if the proposed use threatens water resources, public safety or other natural resources on District lands. A total of 374 SUAs were issued in FY 2011 (Table 9).

Table 9. The number and types of Special Use Authorizations issued by the District

<b>Recreation</b>	<b>Temporary Ingress and Egress</b>	<b>Mallory Swamp AT Trail</b>	<b>Commercial*</b>	<b>Goose Pasture Camping</b>	<b>Total</b>
301	53	33	10	83	374

\*Commercial SUAs issued during the fiscal year include research and data collection, hog removal and an apiary lease on 5 sites.

### **II.3 Hunting and Fishing**

The District's goal for public hunting is to provide high-quality hunting opportunities. Public hunting on District lands is offered through management agreements with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Fishing is allowed on District tracts subject to FWC fishing regulations (Table 10).

Table 10. SRWMD Hunting acres and Fishing access.

# acres open to public hunting	105,016
# fishing access locations	130

### **II.4 Emergency Closings**

On June 28, 2012, 21 tracts were partially closed due to flooding from Tropical Storm Debbie. All tracts were reopened by July 20, 2012.

## **III. COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Goal – to coordinate with public and private stakeholders in the management of District lands.**

The District must seek and include participation from outside agencies, organizations and private citizens when developing management plans for the lands under its stewardship. However, District lands and facilities and other communication opportunities likely provide greater visibility of land management activities to the general public. Public inquiries are addressed by visiting the District or contacting District staff by phone, mail, email, or the website. All boundary and informational signs include District phone numbers and email addresses for this purpose.

### **III.1 District Land Management Plan**

The draft of the 2011 DLMP was in development for over a year to allow time for comments from local citizens, Governing Board, staff, other land managers, and regional interest groups. Many of the comments were received during annual Land Management Review Team meetings, field trips with interested individuals, and through an interactive internet application.

The DLMP articulates the Governing Board goals and objectives that guide the management of all fee lands held by the District. The Board approved the DLMP in May 2011.

No revisions were made to the DLMP in 2012.

### **III.2 Land Management Review Team**

The Land Management Review Team (LMRT) scores District land management and their report is provided to the Board. Statutorily, the LMRT must evaluate

- 1) the extent to which District lands are being managed for the purposes for which they were acquired and
- 2) the degree to which actual management practices, including public access, are in compliance with the adopted management plan.

On April 17, 2012, staff conducted presentations and a tour for the LMRT; the tour included the areas in the Upper Suwannee Basin above White Springs. The review team was comprised of 15 individuals from public land management agencies, private industry and private landowners. District staff led the group on a tour of the Big Shoals Tract and Bay Creek Tract. The LMRT found the District to be in compliance or exceeding compliance with the DLMP and in managing lands for the purpose for which they were required (Table 11).

Table 11. Questionnaire responses from the District's LMRT meeting held on April 17, 2012.

<b>Question 1</b> # of Responses	<b>Are District lands being managed in a manner consistent with the purpose for which they were acquired, including public access?</b>
<b>0</b>	The SRWMD is not in compliance.
<b>8</b>	SRWMD compliance is adequate and acceptable.
<b>7</b>	SRWMD exceeds compliance regularly.
<b>Question 2</b>	
<b>Question 2</b> # of Responses	<b>Does SRWMD land management implement the Resource Protection and Public Use goals identified in the District Land Management Plan?</b>
<b>0</b>	The SRWMD is not in compliance.
<b>10</b>	SRWMD compliance is adequate and acceptable.
<b>5</b>	SRWMD exceeds compliance regularly.

### **Staff Participation in Regional Resource Groups**

The following are groups that District land managers participate in:

- North Florida Prescribed Fire Council
- San Pedro Bay Landowners Association
- 1<sup>st</sup> Coast Invasive Species Working Group
- North Central Florida Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area
- FWC, Invasive Plant Management Section's Weed Control Project
- Suwannee River Wilderness Trail
- Florida Trail Association
- Suwannee Bicycle Association
- Florida Greenways and Trails Council
- Conserved Forest Ecosystem: Outreach and Research Cooperative
- FWC Wildlife Management Areas – Annual meeting to review hunting opportunities

## **IV. FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**Goal – to protect resources and manage District lands in an efficient manner within the District's annual budget.**

District staff minimizes the costs associated with land management by contracting with the private sector, partnering with other land management agencies and organizations, and submitting proposals for additional land management grant funding.

#### **IV.1 Revenues and Expenditures.**

The District has opportunities to generate revenues while implementing its management activities. Timber sales generate the most revenue. In FY 2012, the District sold an estimated 53,000 tons of timber in 8 sales on 1,074 acres. These sales were thinnings of pine plantations. Total revenues are estimated to be \$799,200. The timber sale at Steinhatchee Springs #9 is not completed yet so a final revenue total is not available.

A cattle grazing authorization and apiary authorization generated an additional \$2,250 in FY 2012.

Expenditures in the land management program are divided into categories for budgeting as follows:

- Prescribed Fire – includes FFS and private contractor costs for prescribed burning and fire line establishment and maintenance.
- Administration and Planning - includes expenses for planning, GIS, training, real estate activities, management plans and reviews, interagency coordination and Payment in Lieu of Taxes.
- Facility Management – includes costs for maintaining roads, boundaries and gates.
- Natural Resource Management – includes water resource projects, reforestation, timber sales, exotic plant control, and protected species management.
- Public Use – includes expenses for maintaining site-based and dispersed recreation activities, developing new sites, signs, maps, brochures, and sanitation.

Table 12. Expenditures for FY 2012

<b>Category</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
Prescribed Fire	\$297,457
Administration and Planning	\$610,968
Facility Mgt.	\$346,573
Natural Resource Mgt.	\$609,201
Public Use	\$408,984
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,273,183</b>

\*Payments in Lieu of Taxes totaling \$362,231 were paid to eligible counties.

#### **IV.2 Cooperative Agreements**

The District enters into cooperative management agreements and/or leases with government agencies to reduce the cost of management to the District. (Table 13)

Table 13 Agencies managing District lands in FY 2012.

<b>Managing Agency</b>	<b>Tracts</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Alachua County	1	120
Columbia County	2	139
Department of Environmental Protection	9	1,980
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissio	2	869
Hamilton County	3	16
Jefferson County	1	22
University of Florida	2	738
US Fish and Wildlife Service	4	1,655
<b>Total Acres No Cost Agreements</b>		<b>5,539</b>
<b>Managing Agency</b>	<b>Tracts</b>	<b>Acres</b>
Florida Forest Service	13	12,963
Gilchrist County	1	634
<b>Total Acres Shared Revenue Agreemen</b>		<b>13,597</b>
<b>Total All</b>		<b>19,136</b>

The Twin Rivers State Forest is managed by the Florida Forest Service (FFS). In FY 2012, there were state expenses of \$162, 860 and contract expenses of \$27,036 for a total of \$189,896. Total revenue from timber sales from the forest was \$236,659. This resulted in surplus revenue of \$46,763 to the District.

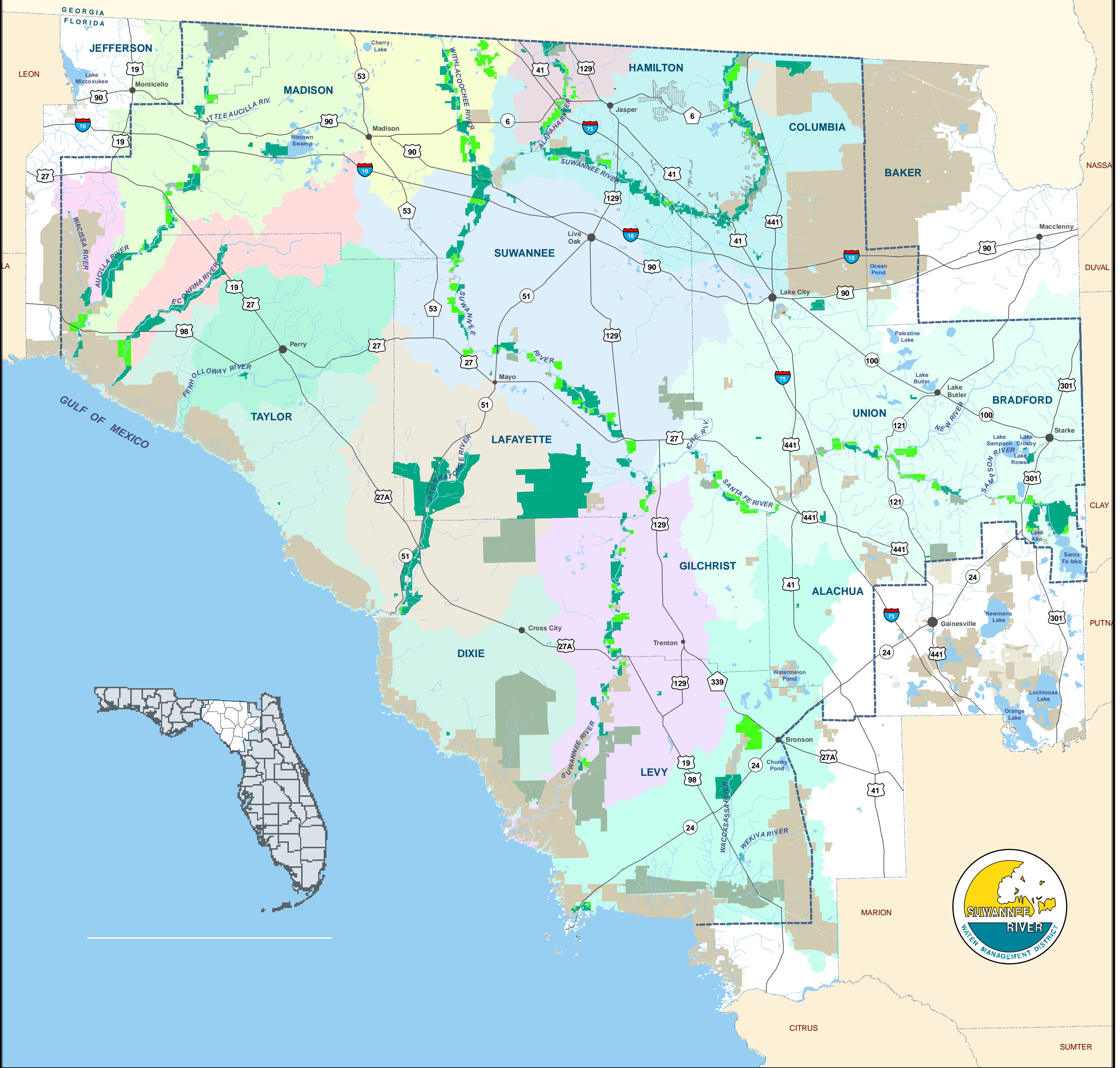
Public use and recreational services at the Otter Springs Park and Campground is managed by Gilchrist County under a lease signed in 2008. Operational costs and public use revenues are shared by the County and the District equally. The cost to the District was \$15,642 in FY 2012.

The non-profit R.O. Ranch, Inc. is responsible for all recreational uses on the District's R.O Ranch Tract and all the facilities that support those activities; this includes an equestrian oriented park and campground. The Management Agreement was updated in FY 2012 and the endowment funds were transferred to RO Ranch Inc. Trustees to allow RO Ranch to function more as a separate financial and management entity.

The District also has a Cooperative Agreement with the Florida Forest Service for lands not under lease. This agreement is used primarily to allow the FFS to manage and conduct fireline installation and prescribe fires on District lands. This agreement should save money since the FFS prescribed fire rate is less than the private contractors. During FY 2012, no acres were burned under this agreement.

The District also has agreements with the US Forest Service for the Florida National Scenic Trail, the Florida Trail Association and the Suwannee Bicycle Association to manage trails on District lands. These trails are maintained at no cost to the District and available for use by the general public.

# 2014 Florida Forever Acquisition Plan



## PROPERTY OWNERSHIPS

-  SRWMD Fee Ownership
-  SRWMD Conservation Easement
-  SRWMD Mineral Rights
-  Potential Acquisition Area
-  Public Conservation Lands
-  Public Conservation Lands With Conservation Easement





## PLANNING AREAS

-  Upper Suwannee River Basin
-  Middle Suwannee River Basin
-  Lower Suwannee River Basin
-  Alapaha River Basin
-  Withlacoochee River Basin
-  Santa Fe River Basin
-  Aucilla River Basin

## PLANNING AREAS

-  Wacissa River Basin
-  Waccasassa River Basin
-  Steinhatchee River Basin
-  Econfina River Basin
-  Coastal Creeks Basin
-  Fenholloway River Basin

## PHYSICAL/POLITICAL FEATURES

-  Hydrography
-  County Boundary
-  General Roads
-  District Boundary

NOTE: This map was prepared by the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), Department of Land Acquisition (LA), for informational purposes only and does not conform to National Map Accuracy Standards. SRWMD does not guarantee the accuracy, or suitability for any use of this data, and no warranty is expressed or implied. In no event will the SRWMD, its staff or the contributing agencies be held liable for any direct or indirect, special, consequential or damages including loss of profit, arising from the use of this data, even if the District has been advised of the possibility of such damage. Users of this data should therefore do so at their own risk. More information regarding the data portrayed on this map can be found in the 2014 Florida Forever Work Plan.

12/27/2014



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## **Mitigation Donation Report**



## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In accordance with 373.4137, Florida Statutes, the Suwannee River Water Management District (District) must develop and implement regional, long-range mitigation planning for wetland impacts associated with Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) projects.

In 2013, FDOT has not provided the District with any new projects.

A total of 12 wetland-mitigation projects have been initiated since 1996; 12 of which have been completed. The District has received a sum total of \$3,080,856 from FDOT for wetland mitigation activities.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Section 373.4137, Florida Statutes, states that environmental mitigation for the impact of transportation projects proposed by FDOT can be more effectively achieved by regional, long-range mitigation planning rather than on a project-by-project basis. The statute sets forth specific language designed to provide funding to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the water management districts (WMDs) to develop mitigation to offset wetland impacts from FDOT road projects. FDOT must submit to the WMDs an environmental impact inventory containing a list of projects with proposed wetland impacts. The list is published at least three years prior to planned construction. Based on the yearly inventory, WMD staff develops a mitigation plan capable of securing all local, regional, state, and federal permits for the proposed impacts.

The statute requires each WMD, in consultation with FDEP, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, and other appropriate federal, state, and local governments, to develop a mitigation plan for presentation to the Governing Boards of the WMD's for approval before March 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Once the mitigation plan is approved, the WMDs issue permits for the work, apply for Army Corps of Engineers permits, and implement mitigation projects as outlined in the mitigation plan.

FDOT wetland impacts in the District have or will occur in the river basins of the Santa Fe, Withlacoochee, Waccasassa, Steinhatchee, Fenholloway, Econfina, and Suwannee Rivers (Figure 1). This mitigation plan is designed to provide in-kind mitigation for impacted wetlands within the same basin the impacts occur. The plan consists of one or more mitigation alternatives for each FDOT project (Figure 2). In some cases, alternatives include more than one mitigation project that, when taken together, yield an alternative that will offset FDOT impacts and secure the appropriate permits.

Mitigation planning projects undertaken since February of 2004 have used the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method, in accordance with Chapter 62-345, Florida Administrative Code, to calculate the gain for each mitigation proposal. For these projects, the Relative Functional Gain of the proposed mitigation is used in place of wetland mitigation ratios.

## **NEW MITIGATION PROJECTS**

There are no new projects at this time.

## **ONGOING PROJECTS**

- 1) FDOT Project: CR 241 Bridge Replacement over Olustee Creek  
Mitigation Project: In Planning

Replacement of CR 241 bridge over Olustee Creek in Columbia County. This project was originally determined to impact approximately 2.0 acres of wetlands. As of December 2013, FDOT has not determined the actual wetland impact on this project, but it appears that the impacts may be less than 0.5 acres, which may qualify the project for a Noticed General Permit. If the project does not qualify for a Noticed General Permit, mitigation will take place on District lands within the Santa Fe Basin.

## **COMPLETED MITIGATION PROJECTS**

### **AUCILLA RIVER BASIN**

- 1) FDOT Project: US 98 Aucilla Bridge Replacement  
Mitigation Project: San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank

Replacement of the US 98 bridge across the Aucilla River impacted 5.7 acres of wetlands. Mitigation included the purchase of mitigation credits from San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank, and water quality improvements for District-owned Cabbage Grove and Mt. Gilead tracts. Mitigation credits (0.87 units) were purchased in November 2010, by the District, using a total of \$43,500 in funding received from FDOT.

### **UPPER SUWANNEE RIVER BASIN**

- 1) FDOT Project: CR 143 Road Widening  
Mitigation Project: Woods Ferry Hydrologic Enhancements

Widening of CR 143 in Hamilton County from CR 146 to I-75 impacted approximately 1.23 acres of wetlands. District contracted with consultants to identify, evaluate, and construct mitigation activities within District-owned Woods Ferry Tract in Suwannee County. Mitigation involved hydrologic enhancement of seven wetland sites by improving drainage features to restore natural water flow. Mitigation activities were completed in November 2006. District received \$110,970 from FDOT. Evaluation of mitigation success was conducted by Jones, Edmunds and Assoc. in 2010 and shown to have met mitigation requirements.

## WACCASSASSA RIVER BASIN

- 1) FDOT Project: SR 24 Widening from U.S. 19 to Rosewood  
Mitigation Project: Devil's Hammock Hydrological Enhancement and Preservation

Widening of SR 24 in Levy County impacted 9.95 acres of wetlands. The District contracted with consultants to identify, evaluate, and construct mitigation activities within District-owned Devils Hammock in Levy County. Mitigation provided hydrologic enhancement of multiple wetland sites by improving drainage features to restore natural water flow. Mitigation activities were completed in January 2007. District received \$180,913 from FDOT. Evaluation of mitigation success was conducted by Jones, Edmunds and Assoc. in 2010 and shown to have met mitigation requirements.

- 2) FDOT Project: US 27/SR 500 Widening  
Mitigation:
  1. Cedar Key Water Quality Restoration Project
  2. Cow Creek Road Restoration
  3. Wetland Preservation

Widening of US 27/SR 500 from Chiefland to Bronson impacted 23.0 acres of wetlands. Mitigation involved improvements to the Cedar Key storm water system to prevent discharge of sediments, nutrients, bacteria, and heavy metals into the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, natural water flow into wetlands was restored within the Goethe State Park, and approximately 1,000 acres of wetlands in Levy County were preserved by conservation easements to the District. Mitigation activities were completed in May 2007. District received \$1,713,490 from FDOT. Mitigation success will be evaluated in 2014.

## SANTA FE BASIN

- 1) FDOT Project: US 441 Santa Fe River Bridge Replacement  
FDOT Project: SR 121 Santa Fe River Bridge Replacement  
Mitigation Project: Alligator Lake Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program

Replacement of the bridges impacted 2.3 acres of wetlands. Mitigation restored natural water flow between wetlands adjacent to Alligator Lake and Price Creek (both in Columbia County). Mitigation activities were completed in March 2001. District received \$60,000 from FDOT. Mitigation success will be evaluated in 2014.

- 2) FDOT Project: CR 231 Road Widening  
Mitigation Project: Floodplain Restoration at San Felasco Hammock State Preserve

Widening of CR 231 in Union County between SR 100 and the Baker County line impacted 1.96 acres of wetlands. Mitigation restored natural water flow, and removal of

exotic plant species within wetlands in San Felasco Hammock State Preserve (Alachua County). Construction activities were completed in August 2004, and exotic plant removal was completed in June 2011. District received a total of \$166,476 from FDOT for wetland mitigation and a final report from FDEP in January 2011. Mitigation activities were evaluated in 2013 and deemed to be a success.

- 3) FDOT Project: CR 229 New River Bridge Replacement  
Mitigation: Lake Rowell Tract Restoration/Enhancement

Replacement of CR 229 bridge over the New River between Union and Bradford counties impacted 2.44 acres of wetlands. Mitigation restored natural water connections between Alligator Creek and Lake Rowell (both in Bradford County). District received \$180,214 from FDOT. Mitigation activities were completed in 2006. Mitigation success was evaluated in 2012. Mitigation activities conducted at the CR 229 bridge and the Lake Rowell project area were evaluated in 2013 and deemed to be a success.

### **STEINHATCHEE RIVER BASIN**

- 1) FDOT Project: SR 51 Road Widening Taylor County  
Mitigation Project: Steinhatchee River Basin Hydrological Improvements

Widening of SR 51 impacted 3.5 acres of wetlands in 2002. Mitigation restored natural water connections for wetlands in District-owned Steinhatchee Springs Tract. District received \$279,174 from FDOT. Mitigation success will be evaluated in 2014.

- 2) FDOT Project: SR 51 Road Widening Taylor and Dixie Counties  
Mitigation Project: San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank

Widening of SR 51 in Dixie and Taylor counties from the town of Steinhatchee to the Dixie/Lafayette County line impacted 1.27 acres of wetlands. Mitigation was by purchase of mitigation credits from San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank. District received \$10,200 from FDOT for mitigation. District purchased 0.6 mitigation credits from San Pedro Mitigation Bank in 2006.

### **WITHLACOOCHEE RIVER BASIN**

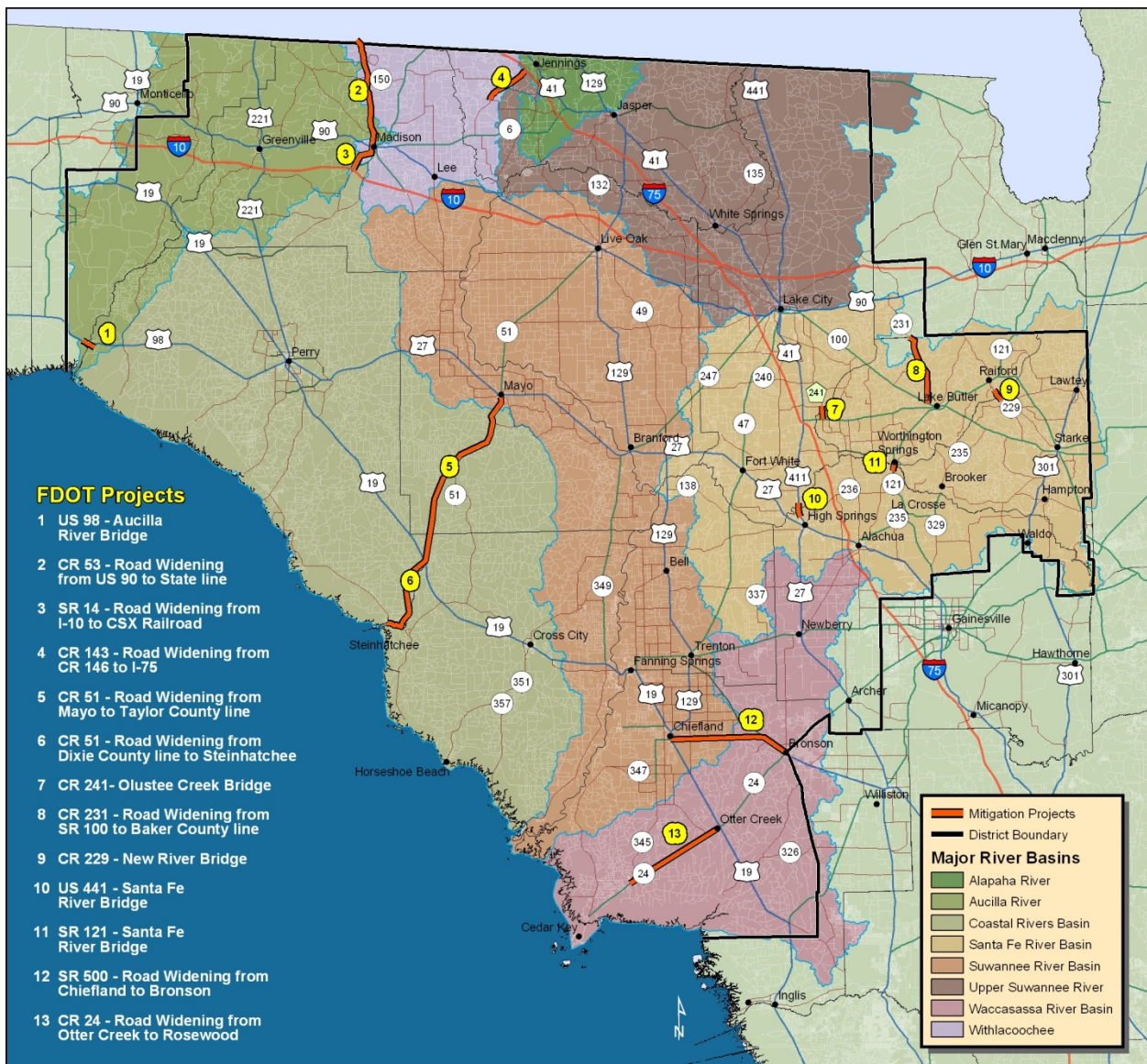
- 1) FDOT Project: CR 53 Road Widening  
Mitigation: West Farm Storm Water Pond Project

Widening of SR 53 impacted 1.6 acres of wetlands. Mitigation created wetland and lake habitat at the West Farm Storm Water Facility in Madison County. Mitigation activities were completed in March 2001. District received \$260,325 from FDOT. Mitigation success will be evaluated in 2014.

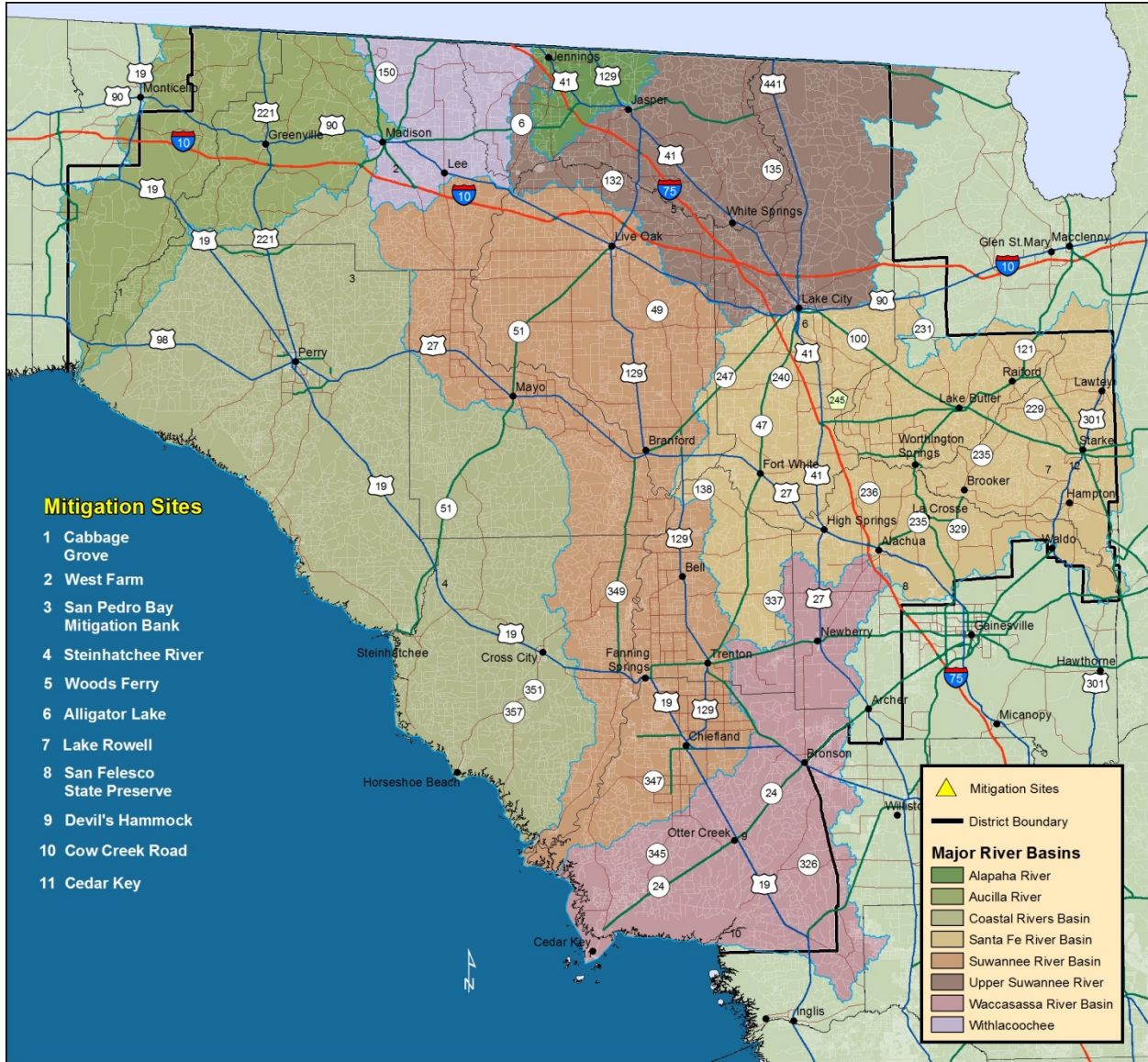
- 2) FDOT Project: SR 14 Widening  
Mitigation Project: Cabbage Grove Wetland Enhancement

Widening of SR 14 between I-10 and Madison city limits impacted 0.89 acres of wetlands. Mitigation restored natural water flow in wetlands within District-owned Cabbage Grove Tract in Taylor County. District received \$75,594 from FDOT. Project was completed in 2006. District conducted operation and maintenance improvements at this site in December 2011. Mitigation success will be evaluated in 2014.

**Figure 1. General location of FDOT construction projects within SRWMD requiring wetland mitigation.**



**Figure 2. General location of wetland mitigation sites within SRWMD for FDOT construction projects.**



**TABLE 1. FDOT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WITH WETLAND IMPACTS AND ASSOCIATED MITIGATION PROJECTS.**

<i>River Basin</i>	<i>FDOT Project Location</i>	<i>FDOT Work Number</i>	<i>ERP Number</i>	<i>Impact Acres</i>	<i>Wetland Type</i>	<i>Mitigation Project</i>	<i>Revenue from FDOT</i>	<i>Total Funds Expended</i>
<b>Aucilla</b>	US 98 Aucilla River Bridge	2108732	10-0057	5.70	Forested	San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank	\$43,500	\$43,500
<b>Santa Fe</b>	1. US 441/Santa Fe River Bridge and SR 121 Santa Fe River Bridge	2110486	00-0067	1.00	Forested	Alligator Lake Surface Water Improvement and Management Program (SWIM)	\$60,000	\$60,000
	2. CR.231 Road Widening from SR 100 to the Baker County Line	2110344	99-0069	1.30	Forested		\$166,476	\$72,180
	3. CR. 229 New River Bridge	2128801	02-0497	1.96	Forested	Cellon Creek Floodplain Restoration at San Felasco Hammock State Preserve	\$180,214	\$180,214
	4. CR 241 Over Olustee Creek Bridge Replacement	2128761	03-0089	2.44	Forested	Lake Rowell Tract Restoration/Enhancement	TBD	TBD
<b>Steinhatchee</b>	1. SR 51 Widening from Mayo to Taylor County Line	2100751 2100851	06-0600	3.50	Herbaceous	Restoration of areas impacted by silviculture activities on District property (Steinhatchee Falls)	\$279,174	\$279,174
	2. SR 51 Widening Steinhatchee to Dixie/Taylor County Line	2108502 2084662	05-0597	1.27	Herbaceous	San Pedro Bay Mitigation Bank credits	\$10,200	\$10,200
<b>Upper Suwannee</b>	CR 143 Widening from CR 146 to I-75	2122181	05-0081	1.23	Herbaceous and Forested	Woods Ferry Hydrologic Enhancements	\$110,970	\$53,848
<b>Waccasassa</b>	1. US 27 Widening from Chiefland to Bronson	2117089	96-0039	23.00	Forested	A. Upgrade of storm water management system to improve water quality in Cedar Key	\$1,713,490	\$1,713,490
						B. Cow Creek restoration in Goethe State Forest		
C. Wetland preservation in Levy County								
	2. SR 24 Widening from Otter Creek to Rosewood	210384	04-0477	9.95	Forested	Devil's Hammock/47 Runs Enhancement/Restoration	\$180,913	\$190,694
<b>Withlacoochee</b>	1. CR 53 Road Widening from US 90 to State Line	2117565	98-0041	1.60	Forested and Herbaceous	West Farm Storm water Project	\$260,325	\$260,325
	2. SR 14 Road Widening from I-10 to CSX Railroad	2105281	02-0528	0.90	Forested and Herbaceous	Cabbage Grove Wetland Enhancement	\$75,594	\$46,459
TBD = To be determined							<b>\$3,080,856</b>	<b>\$2,910,084</b>