BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

for the Implementation of Total Daily Maximum Loads for Nutrients Adopted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

in the

Santa Fe River Basin

developed by the
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Bureau of Watershed Restoration
Tallahassee, FL 32399

March 2012

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The *Santa Fe River Basin Management Action Plan* (BMAP) was prepared as part of a statewide watershed management approach to restore and protect Florida's water quality. It was developed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection with input from the major Santa Fe River Basin stakeholders, identified below, and included participation by affected local, regional, and state governmental interests; elected officials and citizens; and private interests.

SANTA FE RIVER BMAP PARTICIPANTS

ENTITY	PARTICIPANTS
Alachua County	Alachua County Environmental Protection Division
Columbia County	City Manager of Lake City and County Manager
Gilchrist County	Gilchrist County Manager and County Commission
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Office of Agricultural Water Policy
Suwannee River Partnership	Executive Director and staff
Suwannee River Water Management District	Executive Director and staff
The Ichetucknee Partnership	Director and Board
Union County	County Commission
Bradford County	County Commission
Ichetucknee Springs Working Group	Springs Coordinator and Working Group members
Santa Fe Springs Working Group	Springs Coordinator and Working Group members
Florida Department of Transportation	District 2 staff

For additional information on Total Maximum Daily Loads and the watershed management approach in the Santa Fe River Basin, contact:

Terry Hansen, Basin Coordinator
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Watershed Restoration, Watershed Planning and Coordination Section
2600 Blair Stone Road, Mail Station 3565
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400
Email: Terry.Hansen@dep.state.fl.us
Phone: (850) 245–8561

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYM/ ABBREVIATION	EXPLANATION
BMAP	Basin Management Action Plan
BMP	Best Management Practice
CARES	County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship
cfs	Cubic Feet Per Second
CoCAVA	Columbia County Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	Environmental Resource Permit
FA	Focus Area
F.A.C.	Florida Administrative Code
FAS	Floridan Aquifer System
FAWN	Florida Automated Weather Network
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FDOH	Florida Department of Health
FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation
FFL-FYN	Florida-Friendly Landscaping–Florida Yards and Neighborhoods
FFS	Florida Forest Service
FNAI	Florida Natural Areas Inventory
F.S.	Florida Statutes
FWRA	Florida Watershed Restoration Act
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPS	Global Positioning System
I/E	Information and Education
ISWG	Invasive Species Working Group
IWR	Impaired Surface Waters Rule
LID	Low-Impact Development
LIFE	Learning in Florida's Environment
M	Million (Dollars)
MGD	Million Gallons Per Day
mg/L	Milligrams per Liter
MIL	Mobile Irrigation Lab
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
N	Nitrogen
NO2	Nitrite
NO3	Nitrate
NO3+NO2	Nitrate + Nitrite
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Acronym/ Abbreviation	Explanation
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
OAWP	Office of Agricultural Water Policy
OSTDS	Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems
P	Phosphorus
PREC	Program for Resource Efficient Communities
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
RFA	Restoration Focus Area
SCI	Stream Condition Index
SFRB	Santa Fe River Basin
SMZ	Special Management Zone
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SRP	Suwannee River Partnership
SRWMD	Suwannee River Water Management District
SSO	Sanitary Sewer Overflow
SWIM	Surface Water Improvement and Management
TIP	The Ichetucknee Partnership
TKN	Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TN	Total Nitrogen
TSI	Trophic State Index
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UA	Urban Area
UF–IFAS	University of Florida–Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
VAC	Vegetable/Agronomic Crop
WBID	Waterbody Identification (Number)
WLA	Wasteload Allocation
WMD	Water Management District
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SANTA FE RIVER BASIN

The Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) for the Santa Fe River Basin encompasses over 1 million acres and includes all or portions of Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, and Union Counties. Urban areas include Lake City and Fort White in Columbia County and Alachua, Archer, High Springs, La Crosse, and Newberry in Alachua County. Specifically, the lower portion of the Santa Fe River from River Rise westward to its confluence with the Suwannee River has been determined to be impaired. The BMAP area also includes the Ichetucknee River and associated springs.

TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOAD

The verified period for the Group 1 waterbodies, including the Santa Fe River, was June 1, 2000, through June 30, 2007. Data from this period indicated that the Santa Fe River was impaired for dissolved oxygen (DO) and nutrients. The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) target developed (a monthly average of 0.35 milligrams per liter [mg/L] of nitrate [NO3]) was determined to be sufficiently protective of the aquatic flora or fauna in the Santa Fe River. Achieving reductions in nutrients (NO3) is expected to reduce any pollutant impacts associated with DO.

THE SANTA FE RIVER MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

The Santa Fe River BMAP will be implemented through a phased process, with different levels of implementation included in each phase based on stakeholder location. The phasing addresses changes in implementation over time, while the level of implementation differentiates effort among stakeholders based on location and source type.

In Phase 1, logical, technically feasible best management practices (BMPs) will be implemented in order to see results in a short time. Stakeholders in the basin will implement BMPs that are focused on pollution prevention (e.g., decreasing nutrient inputs). All BMAP stakeholders will implement BMPs applicable to their jurisdiction and within their authority.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE BMAP

This BMAP addresses the key elements required by the Florida Watershed Restoration Act (FWRA), Chapter 403.067, Florida Statutes (F.S.), including the following:

- *Document how the public and other stakeholders were encouraged to participate or participated in developing the BMAP (**Section 1.3.1**);*
- *Equitably allocate pollutant reductions in the basin (**Section 1.3.3**);*
- *Identify the mechanisms by which potential future increases in pollutant loading will be addressed (**Sections 1.5** and **3.2.2**);*
- *Document management actions/projects to achieve the TMDLs (**Section 3.2**);*
- *Document the implementation schedule, funding, responsibilities, and milestones (**Section 4.1**); and*

- *Identify strategies for monitoring, evaluation, and reporting to evaluate and track reasonable progress over time (**Sections 4.2 and 4.3**).*

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OF BMAP IMPLEMENTATION

Through the implementation of projects, activities, and additional source assessments described in this BMAP, stakeholders expect the following outcomes:

- *Reduction in nutrients in the Santa Fe River and associated springs;*
- *Decrease in algal mass in the springs basins;*
- *Implementation of applicable agricultural BMPs; and*
- *Development and implementation of applicable nonagricultural BMPs.*

BMAP COST

The majority of the projects identified in the BMAP have no direct capital costs associated with them. Stormwater and wastewater projects located in the Lake City area have an estimated cost of $22.5 million (M) financed through municipal bonds. Developing and implementing the Alachua County stormwater master plan has cost $1.85M to date. Cost-share for the implementation of agricultural BMPs in the basin to date has totaled about $825,000 collectively from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), and in excess of $1 million through various cost-share programs with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

BMAP FOLLOW-UP

The Phase I monitoring plan will use data currently being collected by FDEP and other entities in the river and associated springs and entered into the STORET database (or its replacement). The research component of the monitoring plan will focus on collecting data for use in refining the implementation of BMPs in the basin and determining future courses of action. In subsequent phases, the monitoring plan will be used to help assess BMP effectiveness and identify areas to be considered for increased load reductions.

COMMITMENT TO BMAP IMPLEMENTATION

The agricultural stakeholders (through FDACS and the Suwannee River Partnership [SRP]) in the basin are committed to implementing BMPs and tracking their progress. The nonagricultural stakeholders are implementing the mandated county ordinances, springshed protection ordinances, or comprehensive development plans, and the SRWMD has implemented a district wide irrigation ordinance. Counties in the basin are developing and implementing appropriate ordinances to reduce nutrients entering ground water and impacting the river.

CHAPTER 1: CONTEXT, PURPOSE, AND SCOPE OF THE PLAN

1.1 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS AND TOTAL MAXIMUM DAILY LOADS

Florida's water quality standards are designed to ensure that surface waters can be used for their designated purposes, such as drinking water, recreation, and agriculture. Currently, most surface waters in Florida, including those in the Santa Fe River Basin, are categorized as Class III waters, meaning that they must be suitable for recreation and must support the propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife. **Table 1** shows all designated use categories for Florida surface waters.

Under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, every two years each state must identify its "impaired" waters, including estuaries, lakes, rivers, and streams, that do not meet their designated uses and are not expected to improve within the subsequent two years. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is responsible for developing this "303(d) list" of impaired waters.

TABLE 1. DESIGNATED USE ATTAINMENT CATEGORIES FOR FLORIDA SURFACE WATERS

* Class I and II waters include the uses of the classifications listed below them.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Class I*	Potable water supplies
Class II*	Shellfish propagation or harvesting
Class III	**Recreation, propagation and maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife**
Class IV	Agricultural water supplies
Class V	Navigation, utility, and industrial use (*no current Class V designations*)

Florida's 303(d) list identifies hundreds of waterbody segments that fall short of meeting water quality standards. The three most common water quality concerns are fecal coliform, nutrients, and oxygen-demanding substances. The listed waterbody segments are candidates for more detailed assessments of water quality to determine whether they are impaired according to state statutory and rule criteria. FDEP develops and adopts Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the waterbody segments it identifies as impaired. A TMDL is the maximum amount of a specific pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate while maintaining its designated uses.

The water quality evaluation and decision-making processes for listing impaired waters and establishing TMDLs are authorized by Section 403.067, Florida Statutes (F.S.), known as the Florida Watershed Restoration Act (FWRA), and contained in Florida's Identification of Impaired Surface Waters Rule (IWR), Rule 62-303, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The impaired waters in the Santa Fe River Basin addressed in this Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) are all Class III waters. TMDLs have been established for these waters, identifying the amount of nutrients and other pollutants they can receive and still maintain Class III designated uses.

TMDLs are developed and implemented as part of a watershed management cycle that rotates through the state's 52 river basins every 5 years (see **Appendix A**) to evaluate waters, determine impairments, and develop and implement management strategies to restore impaired waters to their designated uses. **Table 2** summarizes the five phases of the watershed management cycle.

TABLE 2. PHASES OF THE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT CYCLE

PHASE	ACTIVITY
Phase 1	Preliminary evaluation of water quality
Phase 2	Strategic monitoring and assessment to verify water quality impairments
Phase 3	Development and adoption of TMDLs for waters verified as impaired
Phase 4	Development of management strategies to achieve the TMDL(s)
Phase 5	Implementation of TMDL(s), including monitoring and assessment

1.2 TMDL IMPLEMENTATION

Rule-adopted TMDLs may be implemented through BMAPs, which contain strategies to reduce and prevent pollutant discharges through various cost-effective means. During Phase 4 of the TMDL process, FDEP and the affected stakeholders in the various basins jointly develop BMAPs or other implementation approaches. A basin may have more than one BMAP, based on practical considerations. The FWRA contains provisions that guide the development of BMAPs and other TMDL implementation approaches. **Appendix B** summarizes the statutory provisions related to BMAP development and implementation.

Stakeholder involvement is critical to the success of the TMDL Program and varies with each phase of implementation to achieve different purposes. The BMAP development process is structured to achieve cooperation and consensus among a broad range of interested parties. Under statute, FDEP invites stakeholders to participate in the BMAP development process and encourages public participation to the greatest practicable extent. FDEP must hold at least one noticed public meeting in the basin to discuss and receive comments during the planning process. Stakeholder involvement is essential to develop, gain support for, and secure commitments to implement the BMAP.

1.3 THE SANTA FE RIVER BMAP

1.3.1 STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholder technical meetings were held throughout 2009 and 2010 to explain the BMAP process and, specifically, the technical approach being used in the Santa Fe River Basin.

Except as specifically noted in subsequent sections, this BMAP document reflects the input of the stakeholders, along with public input from workshops and meetings held to discuss key aspects of TMDL and BMAP development. **Appendix C** provides further details.

1.3.2 PLAN PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this BMAP is to implement load reductions to achieve the nutrient and dissolved oxygen (DO) TMDLs for the Santa Fe River Basin. It outlines specific projects that will achieve load reductions and provides a schedule for implementation. The document details a monitoring approach to determine where future actions will need to occur, to measure progress toward meeting load reductions, and to report on how the TMDL is being achieved. The TMDL for the Santa Fe River is included with the TMDL for the Middle and Lower Suwannee River. This separate BMAP for the Santa Fe River, including the Ichetucknee River, accounts for the regional physiographic differences between the Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers.

The Santa Fe River is a tributary to the Suwannee River. The Suwannee River system drains about 1,400 square miles of north Florida, discharging an annual average flow of more than 1,600 cubic feet per second (cfs). The Santa Fe River flows west from its headwaters in the Santa Fe Lakes area, in the easternmost portion of the basin, joining the Suwannee River near Branford. Its two major tributaries, New River and Olustee Creek, have their headwaters in southern Baker County. A third tributary, the Ichetucknee River, is a clear, spring-fed stream and a very popular recreational site.

The Upper Santa Fe Basin, in the Northern Highlands, is dominated by surface water runoff. At the Cody Scarp, the river goes underground and re-emerges supplemented by ground water flow. As the Santa Fe flows across the Gulf Coastal Lowlands, it gains significant flow from numerous springs, including the Ichetucknee River. Because ground water dominates its flow, the Lower Santa Fe is for the most part a spring-fed river.

The eastern two-thirds of the Santa Fe Basin has surface drainage features, including lakes, streams, and wetlands. The western third lacks surface drainage, except for the Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Cow Creek. The upper basin is characterized by nearly level pine flatwoods with gently rolling hills. Tributary streams are fairly well incised into the landscape, which occasionally opens into broad, forested floodplains. In the middle portion of the basin, moderate to gently rolling hills with areas of prominent karstic features, such as sink depressions and captured streams, create surface relief. The lower basin is primarily a broad, slightly undulating karst plain, with interspersed wetlands (FDEP 2001).

For assessment purposes, FDEP has divided the Santa Fe River Basin into water assessment polygons with a unique waterbody identification (WBID) number for each watershed or stream reach. **Figure 1** shows the WBIDs in the Santa Fe River Basin. The BMAP planning area shown in **Figure 2** encompasses over 1 million acres.

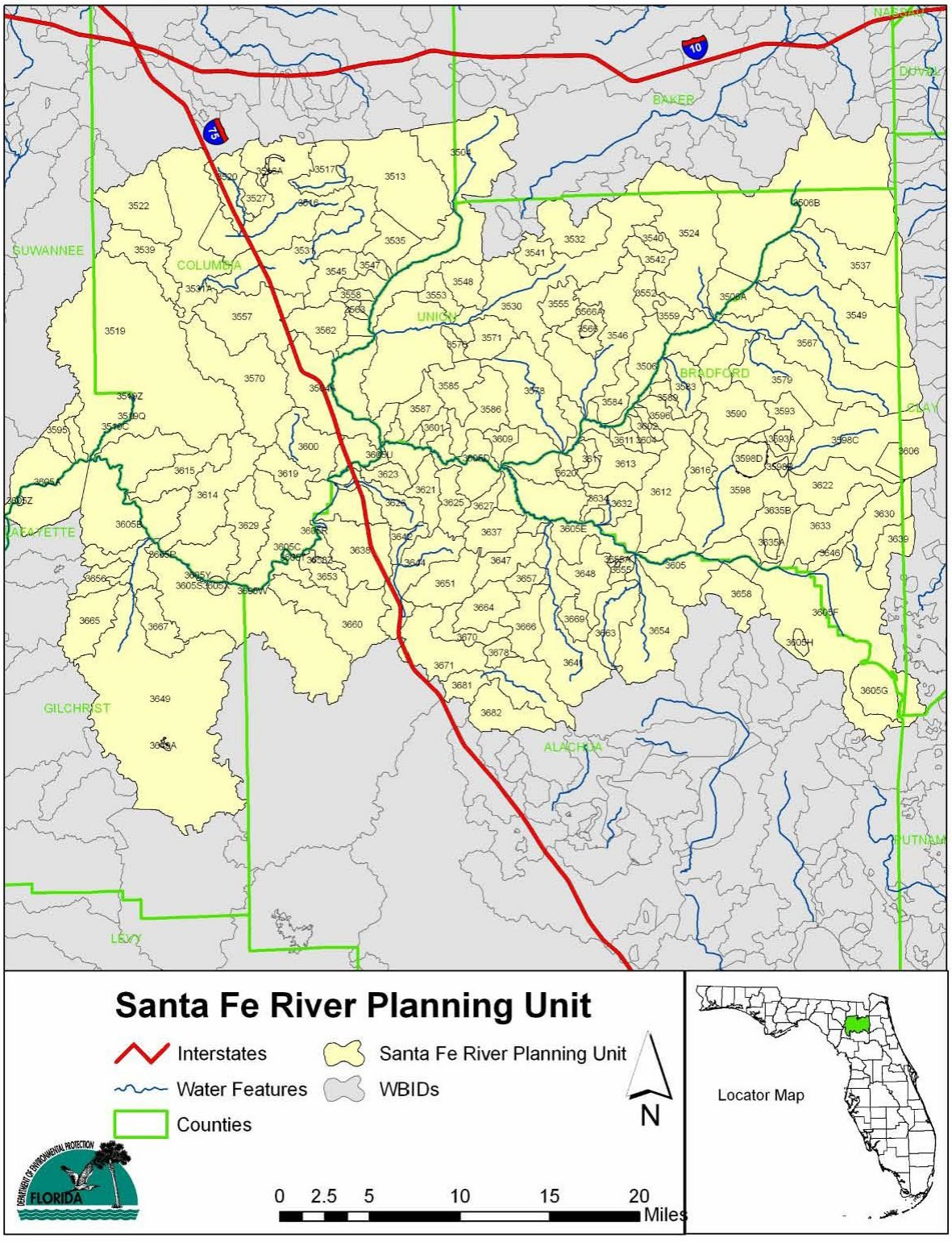


FIGURE 1: SANTA FE RIVER PLANNING UNIT

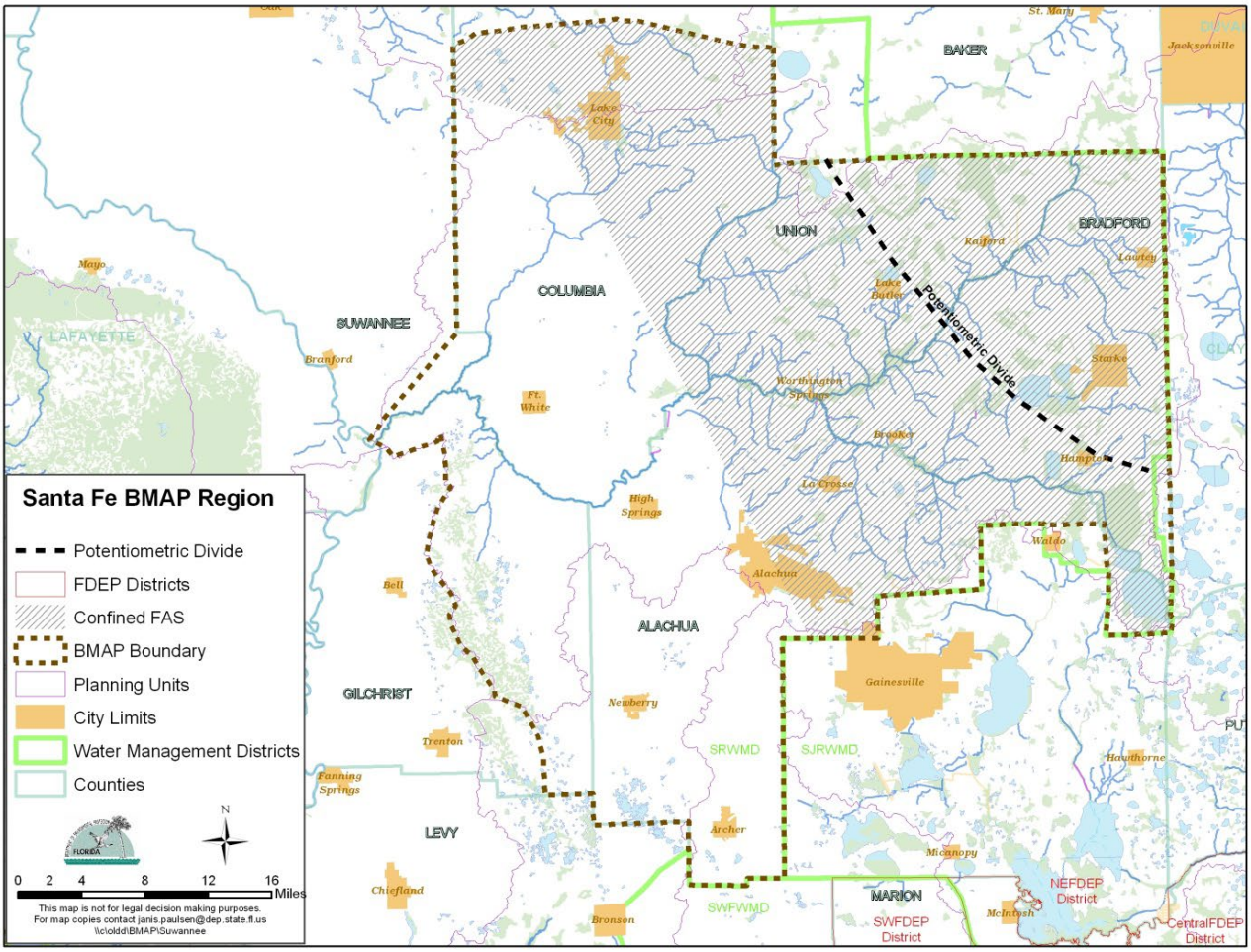


FIGURE 2. SANTA FE RIVER BMAP AREA

1.3.3 POLLUTANT REDUCTION AND DISCHARGE ALLOCATIONS

1.3.3.1 Categories for Rule Allocations

The rules adopting TMDLs must establish reasonable and equitable allocations that will alone, or in conjunction with other management and restoration activities, attain the TMDL. Allocations may be to individual sources, source categories, or basins that discharge to the impaired waterbody. The allocations identify either how much pollutant discharge in mass per day each source designation may continue to contribute (discharge allocation), or the mass per day, or the percentage of its loading the source designation must reduce (reduction allocation). Currently, the TMDL allocation categories are as follows:

- ***Wasteload Allocation (WLA)*** *– The allocation to point sources permitted under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program includes the following:*
    - **Wastewater Allocation** is the allocation to industrial and domestic wastewater facilities.

- **NPDES Stormwater Allocation** is the allocation to NPDES stormwater permittees that operate municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). These permittees are treated as point sources under the TMDL Program.

- ***Load Allocation*** *– The allocation to nonpoint sources, including agricultural runoff and stormwater from areas that are not covered by an MS4.*

1.3.3.2 Initial and Detailed Allocations

Under the FWRA, the TMDL allocation adopted by rule may be an "initial" allocation among point and nonpoint sources. In such cases, the "detailed" allocation to specific point sources and specific categories of nonpoint sources is established in the BMAP. Both initial and detailed allocations must be determined based on a number of factors listed in the FWRA, including cost-benefit, technical and environmental feasibility, implementation schedule, and others (see **Appendix B**).

However, this type of quantitative detailed allocation is not appropriate in the Santa Fe River BMAP due to the following three primary factors:

1. *With a spring-fed river, the consideration of activities in the multiple springsheds is necessary;*
2. *The quantification of denitrification in soil and ground water is not possible at the scale necessary for entity-specific allocations; and*
3. *The Santa Fe River springshed is a hydrogeologically complex system encompassing porous media and conduit flow regimes that comprise multiple springs.*

1.3.4 TECHNOLOGY-BASED APPROACH

One objective of the BMAP process is to identify load reduction responsibilities by stakeholder, source type, or groups of stakeholders. In several other BMAPs (Lower St. Johns Mainstem, Lake Jesup), this has taken the form of quantitative detailed allocations by entity (e.g., City X must reduce its load by 500 pounds of nitrogen per year in the next 15 years). The challenge is to develop an implementation approach that provides certainty for stakeholders and protects the health of the river and associated springs, while accounting for scientific unknowns. The approach for all stakeholders in the Santa Fe Basin will be BMP-based. BMPs are individual or combined management and/or structural practices determined through research, field testing, and expert review to be the most effective and practicable means for improving water quality, taking into account economic and technological considerations.

The geology of the BMAP planning area for the Santa Fe River consists of a karstic limestone subsurface overlain in a limited area with lower permeability (sandy clay) surficial sediments (surface watershed) and overlain in a larger area by higher permeability (sand) surficial sediments (springshed). This results in a situation where some entities are located in both the area with the surface watershed *and* a specific springshed, while others are just in a springshed that exhibits no characteristics of a surface watershed.

Because of this complexity, the Santa Fe River TMDL implementation process will be phased, with different levels of implementation included in each phase based on stakeholder location. ***The phasing addresses changes in implementation over time, while the level of implementation differentiates effort among stakeholders based on location and source type.***

In Phase 1, logical, technically, and economically feasible BMPs will be implemented to decrease nutrient inputs. All BMAP stakeholders will implement BMPs applicable to their jurisdiction and within their authority. These BMPs, to be identified by FDEP, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), and stakeholders, will do the following:

1. *Focus on pollution prevention;*
2. *Address all identified sources;*
3. *Be cost-effective;*
4. *Be implemented as soon as practicable; and*
5. *Achieve nutrient reductions or provide information on which to base future activities for achieving nutrient reductions.*

Table 3 summarizes the BMPs being implemented in the initial phase of the Santa Fe River BMAP. Phase 1 BMP implementation initially will be focused in geographically defined restoration areas and/or on specific commodities.

TABLE 3. BMPS BEING IMPLEMENTED IN THE SANTA FE RIVER BASIN

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	ACTION
Agricultural producers	Submit Notice of Intent (NOI) and implement BMPs
County governments	Develop and implement ordinances
Municipalities	Adopt county ordinances
FDACS in conjunction with FDEP	Identify commodity groups on which to concentrate resources for BMP implementation
FDEP, FDACS, and other affected stakeholders	Identify geographic restoration focus areas (RFAs) in which to concentrate resources for BMP implementation

The initiation of Phase 2 is contingent on the resolution of key scientific unknowns and evidence that management actions undertaken in Phase 1 do not meet the nutrient targets specified in the TMDL. As appropriate, more advanced BMPs, including the treatment of nutrient loads, may be required for permitted facilities and may be implemented by those stakeholders with the ability to manage surface water/stormwater prior to release. These BMPs potentially achieve greater nutrient reductions but may require more extensive resources and/or funding. An example of Phase 2 agricultural BMP implementation is the evaluation of adopted BMP manuals and identification of new practices or modification of existing practices in order to provide additional nutrient reductions. An example of Phase 2 urban BMP implementation is implementing wastewater reuse practices. As needed, this process of improvement will be continued.

As part of the BMAP development process, FDEP reviews proposed management actions for "sufficiency of effort" in addressing TMDL load reductions. Stakeholders who implement the management actions identified as their responsibility in the BMAP will have met their TMDL obligation.

Even with a BMP-based implementation approach, nutrient reductions will need to be quantified to communicate the extent to which nutrient inputs are being reduced. Nitrate load reductions to be achieved by BMAP projects will be estimated to the greatest extent possible. Monitoring of

the Santa Fe River, and associated springs and localized ground water sampling will be done to determine the degree of restoration being achieved

1.3.4.1 Maximizing Efforts

The identification of RFAs for BMP implementation will allow stakeholders to prioritize their efforts in implementing nitrate reduction strategies more completely and quickly in these areas. Consequently, water quality improvements in the RFAs resulting from BMP implementation and other management actions can be assessed before changes might be observed in the impaired WBIDs. If implemented BMPs in these areas do not result in water quality improvement, the implementation of new or modified BMPs on a localized scale may be appropriate, as economically feasible, before BMPs have been implemented for the entire basin. Modifications to other management actions also may be warranted. Considerations for establishing geographic RFAs may include the following:

- *Water quality (nitrate values from monitoring wells and springs, from the Suwannee River Water Management District [SRWMD] and FDEP);*
- *Delineated springsheds (FDEP);*
- *Springhead locations (FDEP);*
- *Aquifer recharge layer (Florida Natural Areas Inventory [FNAI]);*
- *Current level of BMP enrollment/implementation;*
- *Areas within specified distance(s) from sensitive natural features such as rivers and springheads;*
- *SRWMD aquifer recharge layer;*
- *Concentration of agricultural land use within an area; and*
- *Commodities being grown within an area.*

Within the first year of BMAP implementation, FDEP will work with affected stakeholders to identify at least one RFA. Goals and time frames for BMP implementation and other management actions within each RFA will be developed when the management actions are identified. Ideally, the time frame for BMP implementation in the RFAs is two to three years after work commences, depending on the size of the RFA and the existing level of BMP implementation. This time frame allows for a progress check at each annual update. If this approach is demonstrated to be successful and resources allow, additional RFAs can be identified.

Chapter 4 describes the basic steps in establishing baseline data and conducting monitoring activities within RFAs.

1.3.5 Santa Fe River Basin TMDLs

FDEP adopted the nutrient and DO TMDLs for the Santa Fe River Basin in September 2008. This BMAP covers the 150 WBIDs in the Santa Fe Planning Unit and includes the upper and lower Santa Fe River and the Ichetucknee River. The TMDL document contains a complete listing of the WBID numbers and names addressed in the BMAP. **Table 4** lists the TMDL and pollutant load allocations adopted by rule for the Lower Santa Fe Planning Unit.

Because no target loads were explicitly calculated in the development of the TMDL, due to the lack of flow data at the outlet of each stream segment, the TMDLs are represented as the percent reduction required to achieve the nitrate target. The percent reduction assigned to all the nonpoint source areas (Load Allocation) is the same as that defined for the TMDL percent reduction. To achieve the annual average nitrate target of 0.35 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in the Santa Fe River Basin, the nitrate loads from nonpoint sources need to be reduced by 35%. The target long-term average is 0.35 mg/L, and the percent reduction represents an estimate of the maximum reduction required to meet the target. It may be possible to meet the target before achieving the percent reduction.

TABLE 4. LOWER SANTA FE PLANNING UNIT TMDLS

PLANNING UNIT (WBID)	PARAMETER	TMDL (MG/L)	WLA NPDES WASTEWATER	WLA NPDES STORMWATER	LOAD ALLOCATION
Lower Santa Fe (WBIDs 3605A, 3605B, 3605C)	Nitrate, monthly average	0.35	Not applicable	35%	35%

1.4 ASSUMPTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING TMDL IMPLEMENTATION

The water quality impacts of BMAP implementation are based on several fundamental assumptions about the pollutants targeted by the TMDLs, modeling approaches, waterbody response, and natural processes. In addition, there are a number of important considerations to keep in mind about the nature of the BMAP and its long-term implementation.

1.4.1 ASSUMPTIONS

The following assumptions and facts were important in the BMAP development process:

- *The use of appropriate BMPs will reduce nutrient loads from nonpoint sources throughout the BMAP area.*
- *The identification of RFAs for agricultural BMP implementation will allow for the more efficient use of resources, maximizing results in a shorter time.*
- *Due to the basin's large surface area, atmospheric deposition is a significant, uncontrollable source of nutrients and is not included in any reduction strategies.*
- *BMAP implementation will occur in phases, including the evaluation of progress and identification of areas requiring additional actions.*
- *The majority of the projects and BMP actions will be focused in the Lower Santa Fe River area.*
- *By law, agricultural producers who implement FDACS-adopted BMPs applicable to their operations (identified through the submittal of a NOI) have a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards.*
- *The basin contains no NPDES or MS4 point sources that are directly discharging to surface waters and impacting the Santa Fe River.*

1.4.2 CONSIDERATIONS

This BMAP requires that all sources in the basin achieve their reductions as soon as practicable. However, the full implementation of the BMAP will be a long-term, phased process. While some of the projects and activities contained in the BMAP are recently completed or currently ongoing, there are many projects, with significant estimated load reductions, that will take many years to achieve their projected load reductions. Specifically, nutrient reductions resulting from the implementation of agricultural BMPs are estimated to require at least 10 years to be measurable in the Santa Fe River.

Since BMAP implementation is a long-term process, the TMDLs established for this basin will not be achieved for several decades. Given that it may take even longer for the river to respond to the reduced loading and fully meet applicable water quality standards, regular follow-up and continued coordination and communication by stakeholders will be essential to ensuring that management strategies are being carried out and that their incremental effects are assessed. Any additional management actions required to achieve the TMDL will be developed as part of BMAP follow-up.

During the BMAP process, the following items were identified that should be continued or undertaken in future watershed management cycles:

1. *Continually updating the FDACS NOI database;*
2. *Continually updating the land use geographic information system (GIS) layer for agricultural and nonagricultural uses;*
3. *Determining RFAs for BMP implementation;*
4. *Identifying existing BMPs that may provide the greatest nutrient reductions and verifying that these BMPs are being implemented where applicable;*
5. *Collecting information on fertilizer use and irrigation; and*
6. *Monitoring ground water for oxygen and nitrogen isotopes.*

1.5 FUTURE GROWTH IN THE WATERSHED

The FWRA (Paragraph 403.067[7][a][2], F.S.) requires that BMAPs "identify the mechanisms by which potential future increases in pollutant loading will be addressed." Although population growth and land use changes have not altered significantly in the basin, the proposed BMPs will need to be periodically revised and updated to reflect changes in the agricultural and nonagricultural landscape.

Aerial surveys were conducted for the SRWMD and FDEP in 2004 and 2007. Future growth in the basin was estimated by comparing previous changes in land use on these aerial surveys—specifically, the conversion of agricultural land to urban uses. Between 1998 and 2004 the percentage of urban and built-up land use increased from 2.3% of the basin to 12%, while agricultural land use increased from 20% to 21%. Based on this information, no significant differences in these percentages are anticipated during Phase 1 of the BMAP.

The SRWMD completed a water supply assessment in 2010 for the entire district and estimates that flow in the upper portion of the Santa Fe River will decline below its allowable minimum flow during the period from 2010 to 2015, and the lower portion of the Santa Fe River will decline below its allowable minimum flow by 2025 (SRWMD 2010). Ground water availability will be a significant constraint on future growth in the basin.

Springshed or karst-sensitive area protection ordinances are one way in which county governments may direct future growth. In the Santa Fe River Basin, Alachua County has in place a springshed protection ordinance and corresponding comprehensive plan requirements; Gilchrist County is in the process (2010) of developing one; Bradford County does not have a specific ordinance but elements of its comprehensive plan restrict activities and development in areas of high aquifer recharge; and Columbia County is in the process of developing an ordinance.

CHAPTER 2: SANTA FE RIVER BASIN SETTING

2.1 JURISDICTIONS, POPULATION, AND LAND USES

The population in the Santa Fe River Basin is estimated at 85,523 people in 33,348 households for an average household size of 2.56 people. The largest concentrations of people occur in Lake City, Columbia County, and the portion of Alachua County in the basin. Land use is mainly silviculture and agricultural and has not significantly changed since 1998. **Table 5** and **Table 6** provide an approximate breakdown of major land use categories and agricultural land uses, respectively, in the Santa Fe River Basin in 2009. **Figure 3** shows the information presented in **Table 5** for the acreage within the BMAP area in 2008.

TABLE 5. LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS IN THE SANTA FE RIVER BASIN IN 2008

LAND USE	ACRES	%
Urban and Built-Up	120,298	11%
Agriculture	231,827	22%
Rangeland	29,096	3%
Upland Forest	508,485	47%
Water	14,735	1%
Wetland	159,915	15%
Barren Land	5,715	1%
Transportation, Communication, and Utilities	13,100	1%
Total	**1,083,171**	**100.0%**

TABLE 6. AGRICULTURAL LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS IN THE SANTA FE RIVER BASIN IN 2008

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE (BY LAND USE CODE)	ACRES	%
2120 Unimproved Pasture	20,245.6	9%
2130 Woodland Pasture	16,595.4	7%
2110 Improved Pasture	107,334.8	46%
2153 Hay	43,661.1	19%
2140 Row Crop	4,065.4	2%
2150 Field Crops	29,106.9	13%
2210 Citrus Groves	99.8	<1%
2310 Cattle Feeding Operation	86.8	<1%
2400 Nurseries and Vineyards	150.5	<1%
2230 Other Groves	1,903.0	1%
2410 Tree Nurseries	936.7	<1%
2430 Ornamentals	629.2	<1%
2420 Sod Farm	335.2	<1%
2500 Specialty Farm	211.2	<1%
2510 Horse Farm	1,693.7	1%
2520 Dairies	77.9	<1%
2610 Fallow Cropland	4,103.6	2%
2540 Aquaculture	166.1	<1%
2330 Poultry Feeding Operation	424.2	<1%
Total	**231,827**	**100.0%**

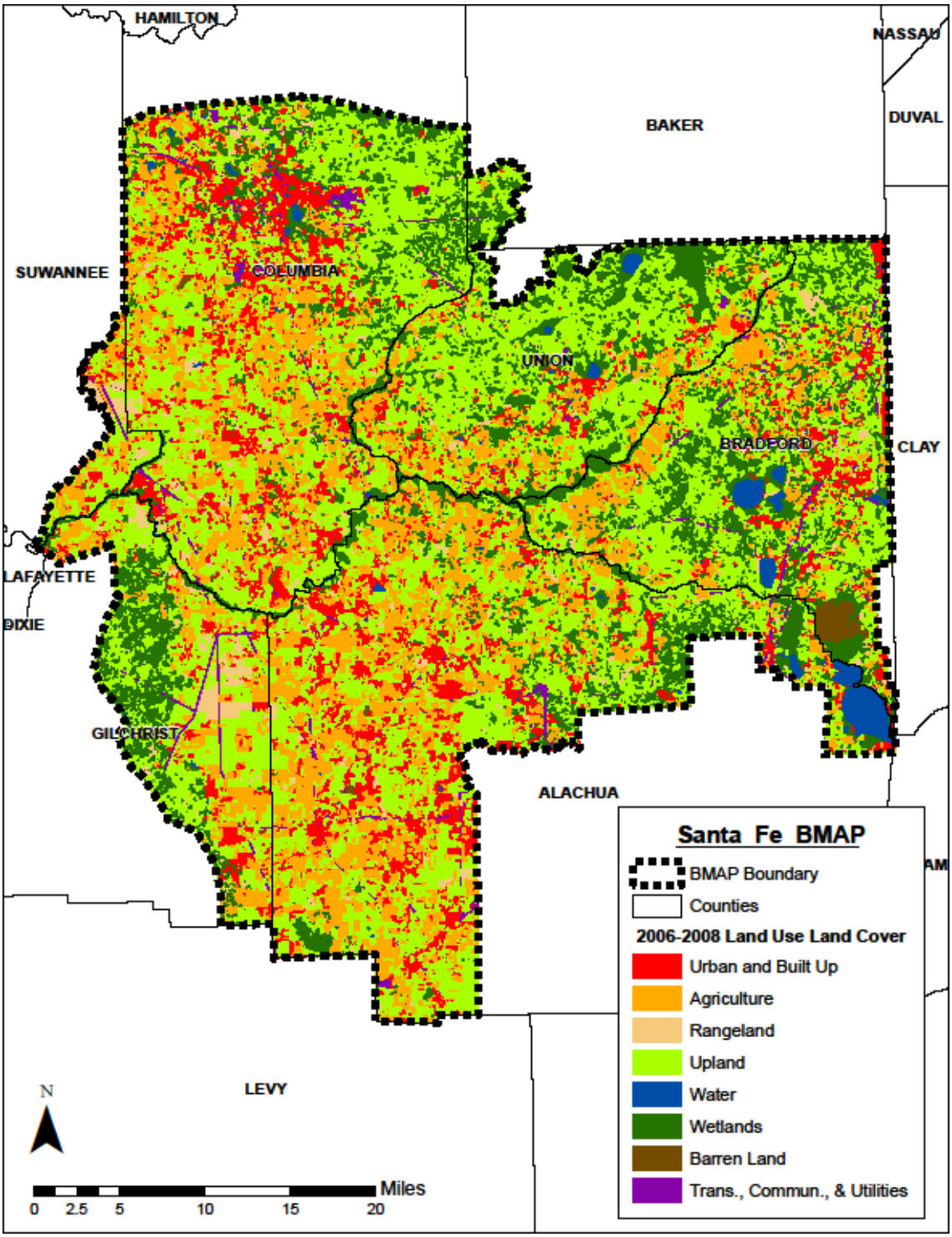


FIGURE 3. MAJOR LAND USE CATEGORIES IN THE SANTA FE RIVER BASIN IN 2008

2.2 HYDROGEOLOGY

The following description is copied from the information provided on the larger but similar Suwannee River Basin by SRWMD (2010), with figure references omitted:

> *The two major physiographic provinces in the District include the Northern Highlands and Gulf Coastal Lowlands (White, 1970; Ceryak et al., 1983). Characteristics of the Northern Highlands include gently rolling topography, generally from 100-200 feet above mean sea level. Soils typically range from sand to clayey sand. Clayey sediments in the subsurface serve as a base for the surficial aquifer system and retard infiltration of rainwater into the underlying Upper Floridan aquifer. The result is the presence of abundant surface water features (streams, lakes and ponds) throughout the Northern Highlands.*
>
> *The Gulf Coastal Lowlands are characterized by elevations ranging from sea level to about 100 feet above mean sea level. The Gulf Coastal Lowlands feature low relief, karstic topography, and shallow sandy soils with muck in many wetland areas. Karst landforms are widespread in the lowlands, with abundant sinkholes, sinking streams and springs, and a high degree of interconnection between surface water and groundwater systems. Carbonate rock (limestone or dolostone) is at or near land surface throughout the Gulf Coastal Lowlands. Whereas the surface water features in the Northern Highlands reflect the surficial aquifer system, those in the Gulf Coastal Lowlands may represent the potentiometric surface of the Upper Floridan aquifer.*
>
> *A significant geologic region separating the two major physiographic provinces is the Cody Scarp. The Cody Scarp is the most persistent topographic break in Florida (Puri and Vernon, 1964), with as much as 80 feet of relief in some areas. The region is characterized by active sinkhole formation, lakes, springs, sinking streams, and river rises (Ceryak et al., 1983). During average and lower flows, the Santa Fe and Alapaha Rivers are completely captured by sinkholes as they cross the Cody Scarp and re-emerge downgradient as river rises. Due to its size, the Suwannee River is the only stream that is not significantly captured by a sink feature as it crosses the Cody Scarp. Upgradient of the Cody Scarp, surficial drainage has developed, with numerous small creeks branching off the upper Suwannee River and its tributaries. Below the Cody Scarp, drainage is predominantly internal and streams that are tributary to the Suwannee River are rare.*

Figure 4 (taken from SRWMD 2010) shows the upper Floridan aquifer confinement conditions for the entire SRWMD, including the Santa Fe River.

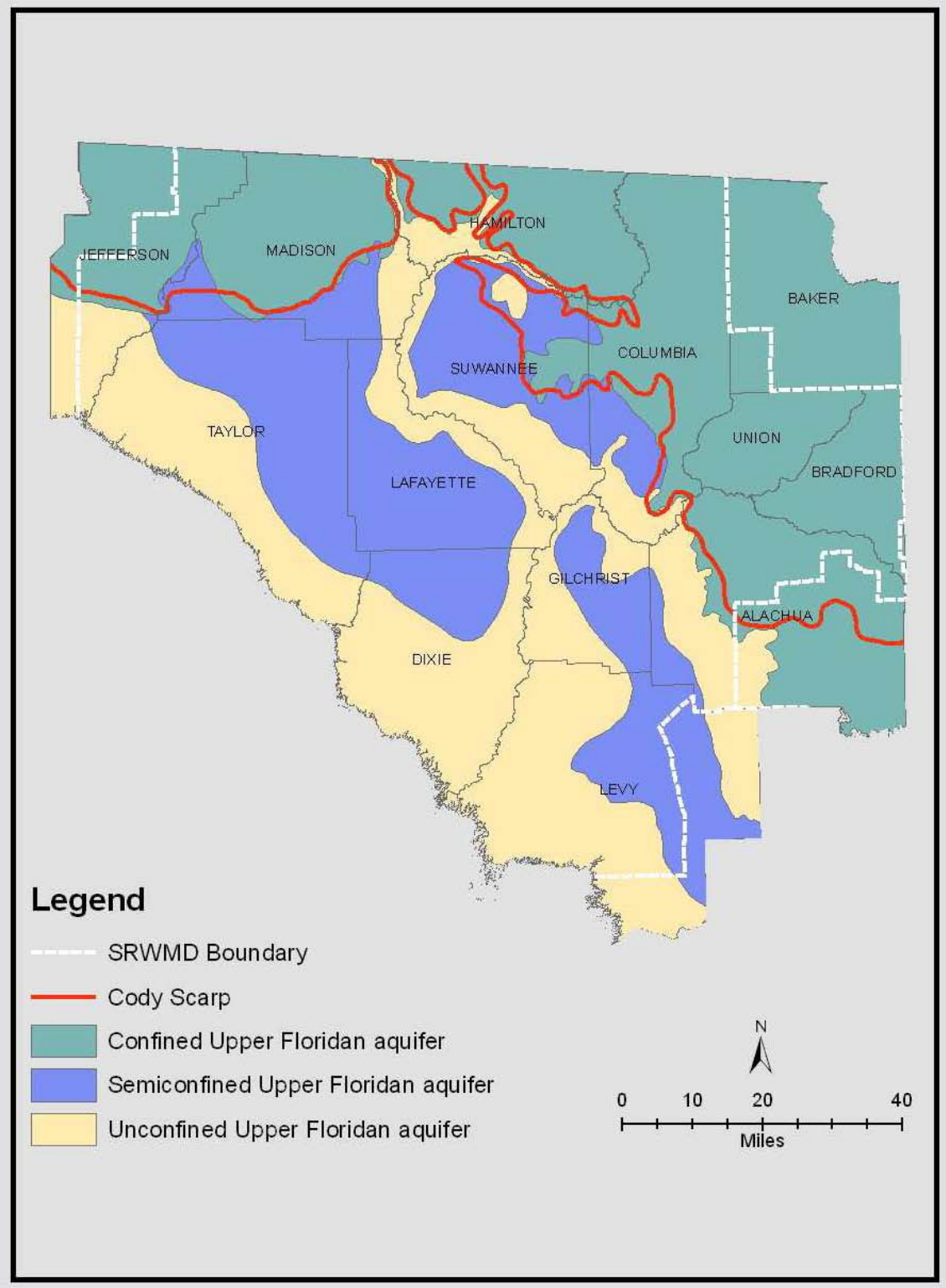


FIGURE 4. CONFINEMENT CONDITIONS OF THE UPPER FLORIDAN AQUIFER IN THE SRWMD (SRWMD 2010)

2.3 WATER QUALITY TRENDS

Water quality trends in the Santa Fe River have shown an increase in nitrate levels since 1954. For the Santa Fe River Basin, the largest increase has occurred in the area between U.S. Highway 441 and State Road 47. **Figure 5** (taken from the TMDL report [Hallas and Magley 2008]) shows historical nitrate data for the Santa Fe River from 1959 to 2004.

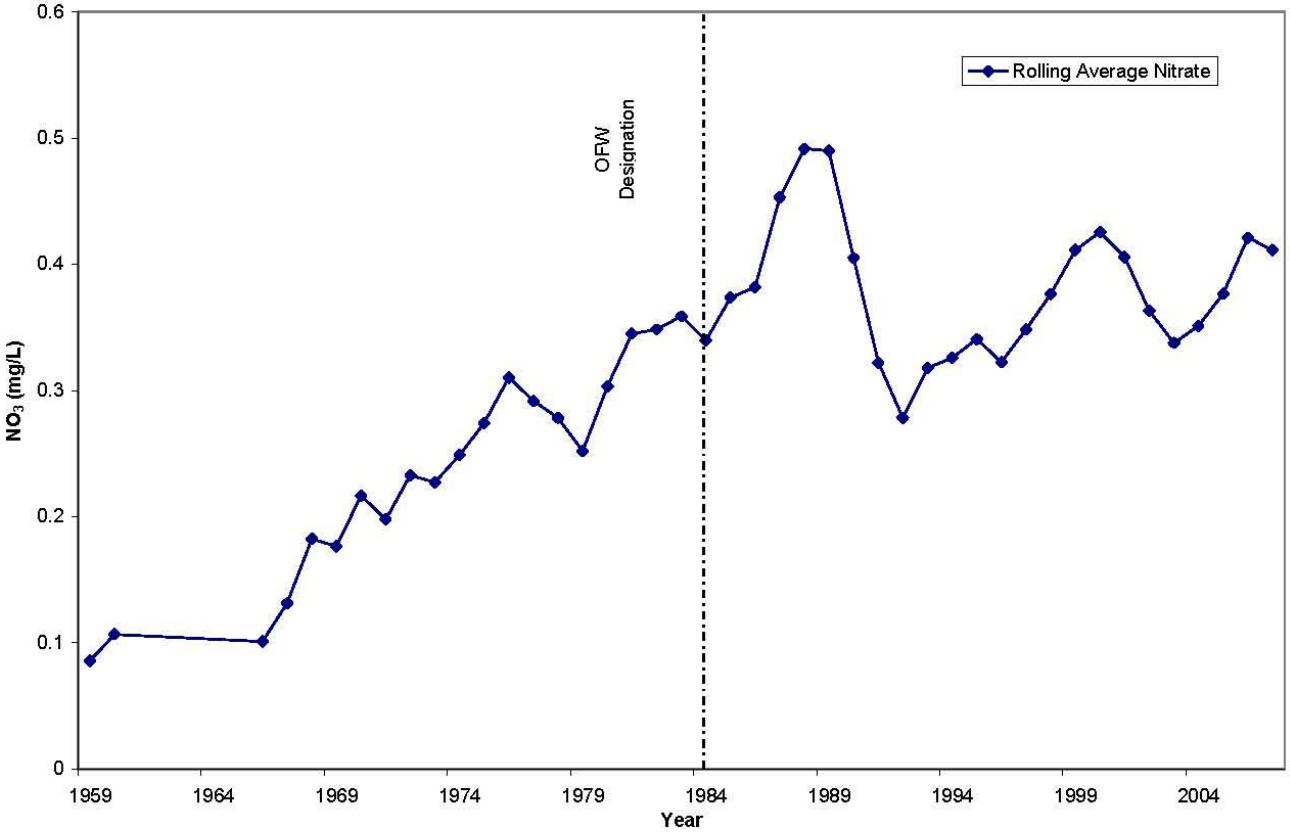


FIGURE 5. HISTORICAL NITRATE DATA FOR THE SANTA FE RIVER, 1959–2004

Katz *et al.* (1999) completed a study to determine the age of the water flowing from the springs along the Santa Fe and Suwannee Rivers and the likely sources of the water entering the river.

Table 7 (taken from the TMDL report [Hallas and Magley 2008]) shows the monthly average nitrate + nitrite (NO3+NO2) concentrations in the lower Santa Fe River Basin from 1999 to 2006 increasing over time.

TABLE 7. NO3 + NO2 CONCENTRATIONS (MG/L) IN THE MAIN STEM WBIDS IN THE LOWER SANTA FE RIVER, 1999–2006

- = Empty cell/no data

YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
1999	-	0.570	0.642	0.450	0.370	0.563	0.594	0.483	0.398	0.495	0.553	0.598
2000	-	0.498	0.548	0.472	0.473	0.485	0.480	0.397	0.476	0.397	0.542	0.545
2001	0.170	0.472	0.516	0.465	0.335	0.356	0.396	0.338	0.451	0.418	0.473	0.479
2002	0.479	0.440	0.387	0.295	0.409	0.369	0.402	0.431	0.471	0.443	0.395	0.387
2003	0.158	0.377	0.111	0.183	0.477	0.557	0.279	0.276	0.283	0.525	0.570	0.579
2004	0.589	0.550	0.364	0.536	0.437	0.494	0.416	0.454	0.351	0.024	0.456	0.532
2005	0.498	0.633	0.473	0.109	0.378	0.665	0.261	0.392	0.606	0.726	0.655	0.683
2006	0.246	0.402	0.471	0.699	0.639	0.549	0.497	0.529	0.540	0.586	0.563	0.478
Monthly average	**0.437**	**0.493**	**0.439**	**0.401**	**0.440**	**0.505**	**0.416**	**0.412**	**0.447**	**0.452**	**0.526**	**0.535**
Monthly % reduction	**20%**	**29%**	**20%**	**13%**	**20%**	**31%**	**16%**	**15%**	**22%**	**23%**	**33%**	**35%**
Maximum of monthly averages	**0.535**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Maximum % reduction	**35%**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

2.4 POLLUTANT SOURCES

Potential nutrient sources in the Santa Fe River Basin comprise a variety of point and nonpoint sources. The TMDL report (Hallas and Magley 2008) estimated the following quantities of potential nonpoint sources:

- *11,684 on-site sewage treatment systems;*
- *354,268 people with an annual total nitrogen (TN) contribution of 1,746 tons (2007 Census results);*
- *47,500 in estimated beef cattle with an annual TN contribution of 2,209 tons;*
- *4,200 in estimated milk cows and calves with an annual TN contribution of 483 tons;*
- *6,465,663 in estimated poultry with an annual TN contribution of 463 tons;*
- *21% of the basin in agricultural land use (nonsilviculture) in 2004; and*
- *45% of the basin in silviculture land use in 2004.*

These potential nonpoint sources reflect the data available when the TMDL was prepared and should be revised during the annual report process to reflect the current state of the nonpoint sources in the basin.

The four Phase II MS4 permittees in the basin are all located in the Alachua County/Gainesville area and have little to no direct impact on the Santa Fe River. Other point sources in the basin, such as wastewater and other NPDES-permitted facilities, have no direct discharge into the river, and their impact on the ground water that feeds the springs has not been determined.

Figure 6 (from the TMDL report [Hallas and Magley 2008]) shows the calculated sources of nitrogen to the Santa Fe River using the equations in Hornsby (1998) and data from 2007. Additionally, Katz *et al.* (1999) concluded that nitrate concentrations in spring waters of the Suwannee River Basin have closely followed the estimated contributions of nitrogen from fertilizers to ground water and that the high-nitrate water is recharging the ground water system over a period of less than 10 years.

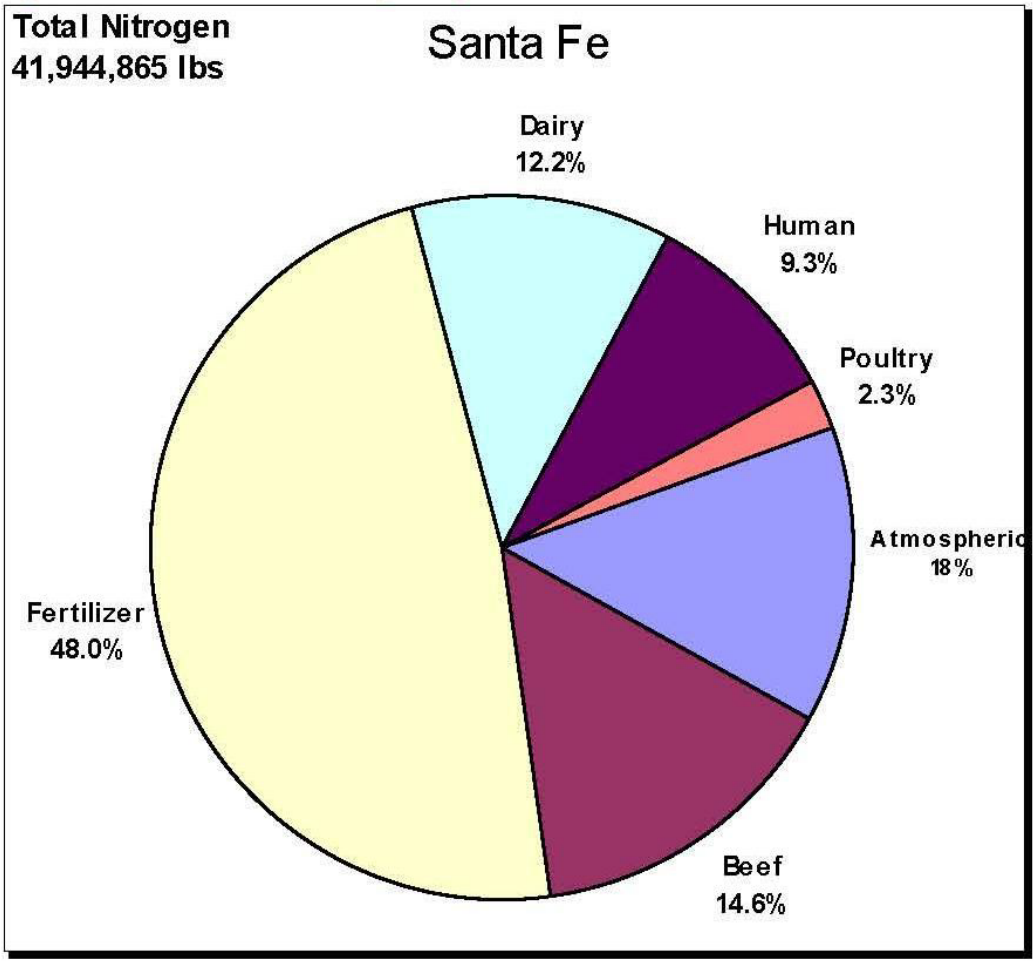


FIGURE 6. CALCULATED SOURCES OF NITROGEN TO THE SANTA FE RIVER, BASED ON 1999 LAND USE

2.5 ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

With the implementation of the projects outlined in this BMAP, reductions in nutrient loads are expected to improve conditions in the river such that it meets applicable water quality standards. The first phase of the BMAP is anticipated to generate the following actions:

- *The development of geographic RFAs by a stakeholder working group representing all affected interests;*
- *The identification of commercial agricultural lands not enrolled in FDACS' BMP programs and the implementation of FDACS-adopted agricultural BMPs (including silviculture BMPs), with an emphasis on identified RFAs;*
- *The development and implementation of urban BMPs and county springshed protection ordinances, with an emphasis on identified RFAs; and*
- *The determination of nitrate isotope species in ground water from monitoring wells located in the springsheds but distant from the spring.*

As the BMAP progresses to later phases of implementation, the anticipated outcomes include the following:

- *Reduced nitrate levels in monitoring wells and springs;*
- *Improved information on the effectiveness of existing BMPs;*
- *As needed, modified or new BMPs developed and implemented for agricultural lands;*
- *Ordinances for septic tank maintenance developed and implemented; and*
- *Identification of additional nutrient reduction strategies for nonagricultural areas.*

CHAPTER 3: MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

3.1 MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMITS

Several of the basin entities qualify as MS4 permittees and, as such, are regulated by the Florida NPDES MS4 Program. The MS4 permittees in the basin are all Phase II MS4s, the requirements for which are outlined in Chapters 62-4, 62-620, 62-621, and 62-624, F.A.C. **Table 8** lists the MS4s in the Santa Fe River Basin.

TABLE 8. LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE SANTA FE RIVER BASIN DESIGNATED AS MS4S

PERMITTEE	PERMIT NUMBER	MS4 TYPE
University of Florida	FLR04E067	Phase II
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 2 (Gainesville Urban Area [UA])	FLR04E018	Phase II
Alachua County	FLR04E005	Phase II
City of Gainesville	FLR04E006	Phase II

The Stormwater Management Program that Phase II MS4 operators must develop provides guidelines for effective BMP implementation in nonagricultural areas. The program includes BMPs, with measurable goals, and effectively implements the following six minimum control measures:

- ***Public Education and Outreach*** *– Perform educational outreach regarding the harmful impacts of polluted stormwater runoff.*
- ***Public Participation/Involvement*** *– Comply with state and local public notice requirements and encourage other avenues for citizen involvement.*
- ***Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination*** *– Implement a plan to detect and eliminate any nonstormwater discharges to the MS4 and create a system map showing outfall locations. Subsection 62-624.200(2), F.A.C., defines an illicit discharge as "…any discharge to an MS4 that is not composed entirely of stormwater…," except discharges under an NPDES permit, or those listed in the rule that do not cause a violation of water quality standards. Illicit discharges can include septic/sanitary sewer discharges, car wash wastewater, laundry wastewater, the improper disposal of auto and household toxics, and spills from roadway accidents.*
- ***Construction Site Runoff Control*** *– Implement and enforce an erosion and sediment control program for construction activities.*
- ***Postconstruction Runoff Control*** *– Implement and enforce a program to address discharges of postconstruction stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment areas. (**Note**: This minimum control is generally met through state stormwater permitting requirements under Part IV, Chapter 373, F.S., as a qualifying alternative program.)*

- ***Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping*** *– Implement a program to reduce pollutant runoff from municipal operations and property and train staff in pollution prevention.*

The Phase II generic permit (Paragraph 62-621.300[7][a], F.A.C.) also has a self-implementing clause that requires a permittee to implement its stormwater pollutant load responsibilities within an adopted BMAP. The clause states: "*If a TMDL is approved for any water body into which the Phase II MS4 discharges, and the TMDL includes requirements for control of stormwater discharges, the operator must review its stormwater management program for consistency with the TMDL allocation. If the Phase II MS4 is not meeting its TMDL allocation, the operator must modify its stormwater management program to comply with the provisions of the TMDL Implementation Plan applicable to the operator in accordance with the schedule in the Implementation Plan."*

None of the listed stormwater facilities in the basin discharges directly to a surface waterbody with a TMDL.

3.2 MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The stakeholders in the basin are required to carry out the management actions in the Santa Fe River BMAP to achieve the nutrient reductions necessary to meet the TMDL. In the basin, these actions primarily consist of the implementation of BMPs for agricultural stakeholders and the development and implementation of various ordinances for nonagricultural stakeholders. **Section 3.2.3** details the agricultural BMPs and management actions proposed for the BMAP. The implementation of the Santa Fe River BMAP is a phased process, with the first five-year phase designed to have the majority of management actions implemented or well under way, and progress toward waterbody restoration documented.

3.2.1 TYPE AND ELIGIBILITY OF MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Management actions are eligible if they came on line in January 2007 or later. Stakeholders were asked to review the project types (shown in **Table 9**) and determine what projects they had undertaken that consisted of these project types.

Basinwide projects proposed or under way in the Santa Fe River BMAP area include educational programs, agricultural BMP implementation, land use development guidelines, and ordinances for nonagricultural fertilizer use. Localized projects occur primarily in the Lake City and Alachua County/Gainesville areas and consist of stormwater and wastewater improvements, hydrologic modeling, and stormwater master plan implementation and updates. The projects are summarized in **Table 10** and detailed in **Appendix D**.

TABLE 9. PROJECT TYPES

- = Empty cell/no data

PROJECT TYPE	INFORMATION NEEDED FOR REVIEW	NOTES
Structural stormwater – new development	Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) Number	Private systems will be considered for credit. Credit for any structural project will only be provided for reductions above and beyond anticipated SRMWD ERP requirements.*
Structural stormwater – retrofit	Design parameters.	-
Nonstructural – street sweeping	Frequency of sweeping and road miles swept per event	Should be only those roads within the planning area.
Nonstructural – public education	Descriptive table to be attached	-
On-site treatment/ wastewater management	Sewering projects – number of households/businesses sewered. Lift station/transmission line repairs – estimate of overflow frequency, leakage rate, or other factor that prioritized the repair/retrofit. Descriptive table to be attached.	Need to clearly identify the entity implementing the project entity and the jurisdiction in which the project occurred.
Agricultural BMPs	Acreage enrolled by commodity	Applicable to FDACS only.
Local ordinances and land development regulations	Ordinance number, name, and brief description	Any local land use regulations or ordinances that contribute to nutrient reductions should be provided.
Research and studies	Scope of services or description of study purpose and expected outcome	Research and studies designed to address key unknowns about the Santa Fe system may be eligible for qualitative credit.
Other nutrient reduction projects	Determined case by case	Projects not captured in the categories above but that achieve nutrient load reductions should be submitted and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

TABLE 10. PROJECT SUMMARY

- = Empty cell/no data

PROJECT TYPE	IMPLEMENTATION AREA	RFAS	ESTIMATED COSTS
Educational activities	Alachua County	Springshed research, public awareness	$275,000
Educational activities	Alachua County	Pet waste campaign public service announcements on stormwater	Ongoing
Stormwater master plan implementation and updates	Alachua County	Hydrologic modeling and stormwater management improvements	$1,200,000 master plan, $650,000 modeling
Florida-Friendly Yards and Neighborhoods fertilizer application ordinance	Alachua County	Unincorporated areas of Alachua County	-
Florida-Friendly Yards and Neighborhoods fertilizer application ordinance	Basinwide	Columbia, Levy, Gilchrist, Bradford, Union Counties within 2 years of BMAP adoption	In development
Educational activities	Ichetucknee Springshed (Columbia County)	The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP) and Invasive Species Working Group (ISWG) educational programs on benefits of and risks to springs	-
FDOT right-of-way fertilizer elimination	Basinwide	State roadways	-
Wastewater reuse facility	Lake City	-	$4,500,000
New wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and sewering	Lake City	-	$15,00,000
Existing WWTP upgrades	Lake City	-	$3,000,000
Aquifer vulnerability studies	Columbia County, Alachua County, Levy County	County specific	Completed
Agricultural BMP implementation	Basinwide	Practices with existing BMP manuals	Varied
Springshed protection/ development ordinance	Levy County, Alachua County	Vulnerable area identification	In place
Springshed protection/ development ordinance	Columbia County, Gilchrist County	Vulnerable area identification	In development
County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES)	Entire basin	Agricultural producers	-
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) cost-share	Entire basin	Agricultural producers	Varies by commodity

3.2.2 Actions to Address Future Growth and BMP Implementation

Future nonagricultural growth in the Santa Fe River Basin is being addressed through the development and implementation of springshed ordinances linked to comprehensive plans in Levy and Alachua Counties. Gilchrist County is in the process of developing a springshed protection ordinance with a target date of 2012. Columbia County is reviewing the process to make a determination on the extent of the proposed protection area and the level of protection to be offered. Columbia, Levy, and Alachua Counties have all completed aquifer vulnerability studies to help county planners determine the areas of greatest vulnerability.

All the counties in the BMAP area are interested in maintaining the rural character of the area and are developing density guidelines in their comprehensive plans for the unincorporated areas of their respective counties.

Continuing the reductions in nutrients added to the Santa Fe River Basin is an important part of addressing future growth while achieving the TMDL. Projects will continue to need to be developed and implemented to achieve this goal. Future projects should be evaluated and detailed in the annual report update process. Examples of projects include the following:

- *Green industry practices.*
- *The conversion of existing septic systems to a centralized wastewater collection and treatment system, such as in the city of Archer. This will help to reduce impacts on the springshed from distributed, unmanaged individual on-site disposal systems. The new city of Archer collection system will replace between 500 and 550 septic systems currently serving residences and businesses and will replace 2 small privately operated package WWTPs. Sewage flows will be conveyed to a 0.25 million-gallon-per-day (MGD) biological nutrient reduction facility. On average, each septic unit conversion will eliminate approximately 200 to 250 gallons per day of discharge with up to 35 mg/L of TN.*
- *The development of a countywide electronic septic tank permit database with the goal of tracking septic tank maintenance and failures.*

The impacts of future agricultural growth in the Santa Fe River Basin will be addressed by implementing applicable BMPs and documenting the nutrient reductions achieved, as well as developing and implementing additional projects. The following sections describe some of the ongoing activities that address future growth. Additionally, examples of the types of projects needing to be developed and implemented include the following:

- *The identification of "small farms" and other farms not currently covered by an FDACS BMP program.*
- *The development of a BMP educational plan for these small farm producers.*
- *The implementation and verification of applicable BMPs on the identified small farm acreage.*
- *The identification of BMPs that are key to achieving nutrient reductions within a particular area within the basin (e.g., an RFA). Some of these BMPs may require cost-share in order to be implemented.*
- *The evaluation of success in achieving nutrient reductions in RFAs.*

- *The exploration of agricultural practices such as sod-based rotation farming and rotational grazing for dairies.*
- *Forestry projects to demonstrate how well current BMPs work, and to make recommendations for BMP revisions where necessary. For example, using a combination of hillslope and watershed-scale paired treatments, to evaluate the loading impacts to ground water and ultimately to streams of various fertilization rates, up to and including the published maximum permissible rates (1,000 pounds of nitrogen [N]; 250 pounds of phosphorus [P] per 25-year rotation). Additionally, evaluate nutrient attenuation rates as water passes through the special management zone (SMZ) that buffers aquatic systems from the direct impacts of forest management.*

3.2.3 Addressing Agricultural Nonpoint Pollution

3.2.3.1 Agricultural Industry Strategies To Reduce Nutrient Loadings

Overview of Agriculture in the Santa Fe Basin

The Santa Fe River Basin is situated within the boundaries of the SRWMD. The primary agricultural land uses in the basin are silviculture, pastures for beef production, and row crops and field crops. Other agricultural land uses include dairies, ornamental nurseries, sod production, and equine operations. Most of the agricultural acreage is located in the western portion of the basin. **Figure 7** shows the approximate location of agricultural lands in the Santa Fe River BMAP area in 2008. **Table 11** contains a breakdown of the types of agricultural land uses in the basin.

Limitations of Land Use Data

Land use data are helpful as a starting point for estimating agricultural acreage and developing BMP implementation strategies; however, their inherent limitations must be noted. To begin with, the time of year when land use data are collected (through aerial photography) affects the accuracy of aerial photo interpretation. This can result in the inappropriate analysis of the data and can hamper decision making.

Another limitation is that the specific agricultural activity being conducted is not always apparent. For example, in the Santa Fe Basin, a large amount of acreage is classified in land use data as improved pasture. Some acreage under this classification may be used for cattle grazing, some may consist of forage grass that is periodically harvested and sold for hay, and/or some may comprise a fallow vegetable field awaiting planting. Operations that may fall into this land use category fertilize at different rates (e.g., hay operations and some other commodities typically fertilize at or below rates recommended by the University of Florida–Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences [UF–IFAS]); therefore, it is meaningful for the purposes of evaluating potential nutrient impacts to know specific land uses.

It is also important to understand that even if all targeted agricultural operations are enrolled, not all of the acreage listed as agriculture in **Table 11** will be included in enrollment figures. The NOIs document the estimated total number of acres on which applicable BMPs will be implemented, not the entire parcel acreage. This is because land use data can contain nonproduction acres (such as buildings, parking lots, and fallow acres) that are not counted on the NOIs submitted to FDACS. There also may be significant amounts of acreage that do not need to be enrolled, such as lands designated as improved pasture that are not actively

involved in commercial agriculture (operations conducted as a business). These areas are often low-density residential uses on large parcels of grassed land, or land that was but is no longer in commercial agricultural production. This information frequently is impossible to discern in the photo interpretation process used to generate land use data.

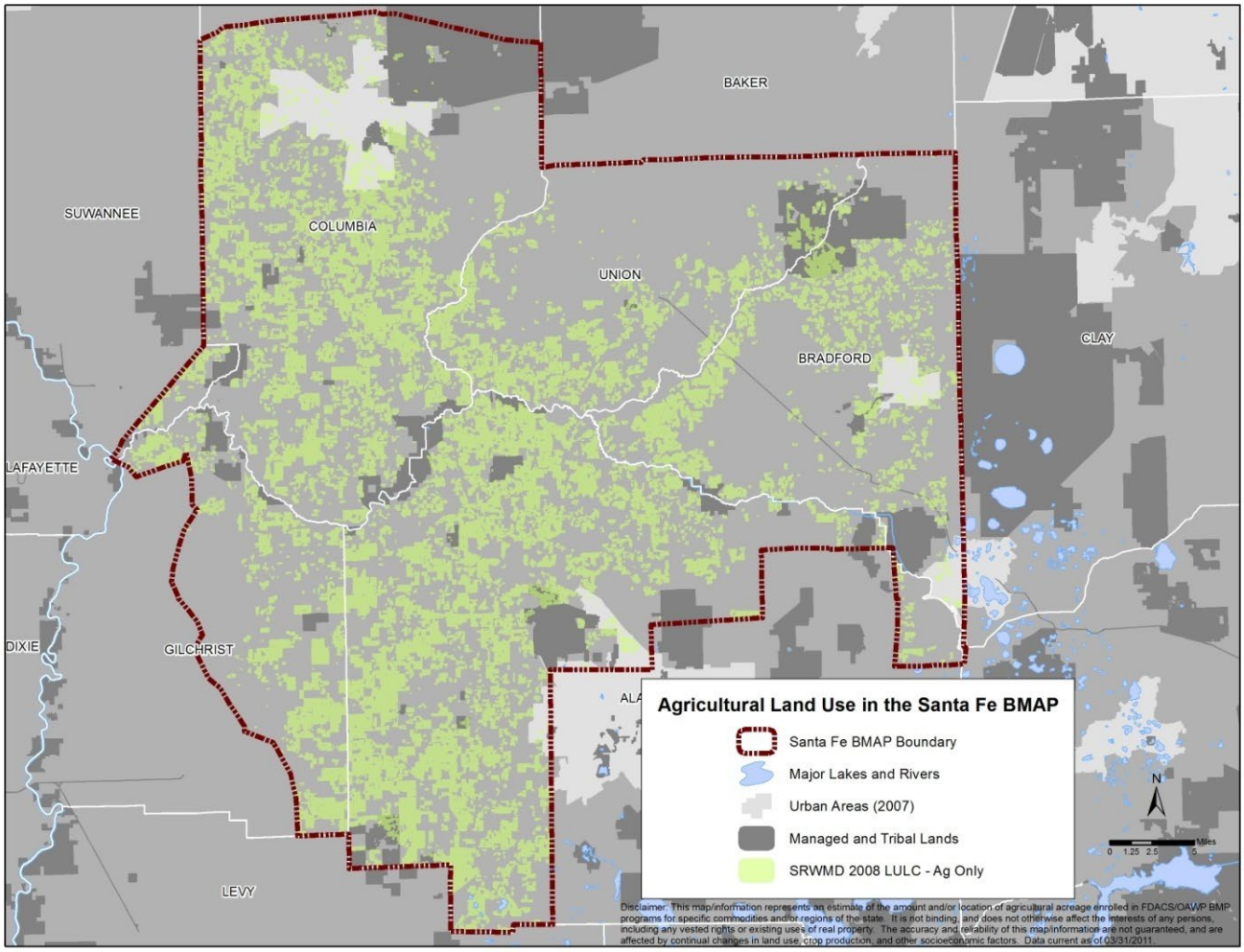


FIGURE 7. AGRICULTURAL ACREAGE IN THE SANTA FE RIVER BMAP AREA AS OF 2008

TABLE 11. AGRICULTURAL ACREAGE AND BMP ENROLLMENTS FOR THE SANTA FE RIVER BMAP AREA AS OF MARCH 31, 2011

LU/LC Code	Code Description	Sum_acres	Related FDACS BMP Programs	Comments	Acreage Enrolled	# of NOIs
2120	Unimproved Pasture	20,245.6	Cow/Calf	Manual adopted	1,217.2	5
2130	Woodland Pasture	16,595.4				
2110	Improved Pasture	107,334.8	Future	Hay production areas to be covered in revisions to Vegetable and Agronomic Crop manual	N/A	N/A
2153	Hay	43,661.1				
2140	Row Crop	4,065.4	Vegetable/ Agronomic Crops	Manual Adopted	41,759.2	92
2150	Field Crops	29,106.9				
2160	Mixed Crops	0.0				
2210	Citrus Groves	99.8	Ridge Citrus	Nutrient BMP Adopted	0.0	0
			Flatwoods Citrus	Manual Adopted	0.0	0
2240	Abandoned Tree Crops (citrus)	0.0	N/A	Out of production/abandoned - no enrollment needed	N/A	N/A
2310	Cattle Feeding Operation	86.8	Conservation Plan Rule	Conservation Plan Rule	N/A	N/A
2330	Poultry Feeding Operation	424.2			N/A	N/A
2400	Nurseries and Vineyards	150.5	Container Nursery[1]	Manual Adopted	344.0	8
			Future	Specialty Fruit & Nut under development	N/A	N/A
2200	Tree Crops	0.0	Future	Comprehensive Nursery under development	N/A	N/A
			Future	Specialty Fruit & Nut under development	N/A	N/A
2230	Other Groves	1,903.0				
2410	Tree Nurseries	936.7	Future	Comprehensive Nursery under development	N/A	N/A
			Future	Specialty Fruit & Nut under development	N/A	N/A
2430	Ornamentals	629.2	Container Nursery[1]	Manual adopted	N/A	N/A
2431	Shade Ferns	0.0	Future	To be included in comprehensive nursery manual under development	N/A	N/A
2432	Hammock Ferns	0.0				
2450	Floriculture	0.0				
2420	Sod Farm	335.2	Sod	Manual adopted	0.0	0
2500	Specialty Farm	211.2	Future	Equine manual under development	N/A	N/A
			Conservation Plan Rule	Conservation Plan Rule	0.0	0
2510	Horse Farm	1,693.7	Future	Equine manual under development	N/A	N/A
2520	Dairies	77.9	Conservation Plan Rule	Conservation Plan Rule	0.0	0
2610	Fallow Cropland	4,103.6	N/A	Acreage not in production as of land use survey	N/A	N/A
2540	*Aquaculture*	*166.1*	*(FDACS Aquaculture Division)*	*Aquaculture Certification Program*	*N/A*	*N/A*
	Totals	231,827.1			43,320.4	105

		% of Watershed Acreage
Santa Fe River Basin Acreage (BMAP Planning Area):	1,077,356.7	100.0%
Approximate Ag Acreage Santa Fe River BMAP Area[2]:	231,827.1	21.5%
		% of Ag Acreage
Ag Acres addressed by adopted OAWP Manuals/Programs[2]:	179,362.9	77.4%
Ag Acres Enrolled in adopted OAWP Manuals/Programs:	43,320.4	18.7%

[1] Acreage included in this LCCODE that is in non-containerized nursery production will be covered in a comprehensive nursery manual, which is under development.

[2] Not all of this acreage is appropriate for FDACS BMP enrollment. See explanation in the body of this chapter.

Disclaimer: This map/information represents anestimate of the amount and/or location of agricultural acreage enrolled in FDACS/OAWP BMP programs for specific commodities and/or regions of the state. It is not binding, and does not otherwise affect the interest of any persons, including any vested rights or existing uses of real property. The accuracy and reliability of this map/information are not guaranteed, and are affected by continual changes in land use, crop production, and other socioeconomic factors. Due to parcel number format changes some enrolled acreage may not be displayed.

3.2.4 Addressing Agricultural Nutrient Impacts

Nutrient reductions from commercial agricultural land uses will be achieved through the implementation of agricultural BMPs adopted by FDACS. BMPs relevant to the Santa Fe Basin are those developed by FDACS' Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP) (for "traditional" agricultural commodities) and Division of Forestry, now called the Florida Forest Service, (for silviculture operations). Noncommercial "agricultural-type" activities (e.g., residential vegetable gardens, hobby horse farms) may be addressed through FDEP-adopted BMPs, local government ordinances, UF–IFAS Extension programs, or other means.

Two key categories of practices included in the BMPs developed by the OAWP are nutrient management and irrigation management. It is important to address these together in an effort to minimize nutrient losses to the environment while maintaining crop yields. They are defined as follows:

- *Nutrient management optimizes the amount, timing, and placement of fertilizer, and considers the type of fertilizer. Nutrient management BMPs include tools and techniques such as soil and tissue testing, fertigation (fertilizing through irrigation), split fertilizer applications, foliar applications, controlled-release fertilizer, nutrient budgeting, and variable-rate fertilizer application equipment.*
- *Irrigation management focuses on scheduling irrigation events and improving the overall efficiency and maintenance of irrigation systems. These BMPs typically include scheduling based on soil moisture monitoring; the consideration of rainfall, temperature, and other climatic conditions; the precise placement of water; and conversion to more efficient low-volume systems.*

As previously discussed, irrigation management is important to water quality. Water is the carrier for nearly all pollutants. Overirrigating may exceed the soil's water-holding capacity and lead to runoff or leaching. The goal of proper irrigation management is to keep both the irrigation water and the fertilizer in the crop root zone. In several areas of the state, FDACS-funded Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs) identify and demonstrate irrigation efficiency techniques to growers. Currently, there is no MIL in the SRWMD region; however, FDACS and the SRWMD are discussing ways to reinstate services.

Before FDACS adopts BMPs, FDEP reviews the practices to ensure that they will be effective in reducing nutrient impacts. The OAWP has BMP programs for citrus, container nursery, sod, cow/calf, specialty fruit/nut, and vegetable/row crop operations. BMPs will soon be adopted for equine operations.

3.2.4.1 Agricultural Producers' Responsibilities under the FWRA

The FWRA (Paragraph 403.067[7][b], F.S.) requires that producers in agricultural areas included in a BMAP demonstrate compliance with a TMDL either by implementing FDACS-adopted BMPs, or by conducting water quality monitoring prescribed by FDEP or the applicable water management district. If producers do not do one or the other, they may be subject to enforcement by FDEP or the water management district. Under the FWRA, enrollment in and implementation of FDACS-adopted BMPs provides a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards. In addition, producers may be eligible for cost-share funding from FDACS, the water management districts, or others.

There are approximately 200 commercial agricultural operations in the Santa Fe River Basin. As of December 31, 2010, producers in the counties in the basin had submitted 105 NOIs covering about 43,320 acres to implement FDACS-adopted BMPs. This does not equate to 105 producers because a single producer who owns more than one operation or who is growing more than one commodity on the operation may need to submit multiple NOIs.

Table 11 shows the estimated agricultural acreage in the watershed by land use, the current NOIs submitted, and the associated acres enrolled in related BMP programs. Although some producers implement water quality monitoring to satisfy permit conditions, none have indicated they will opt to conduct water quality monitoring in place of implementing BMPs for the purposes of the TMDL. **Figure 8** shows the location of agricultural lands in the Santa Fe River BMAP area, along with the parcels that have filed NOIs and enrolled in FDACS' BMP Program as of March 31, 2011.

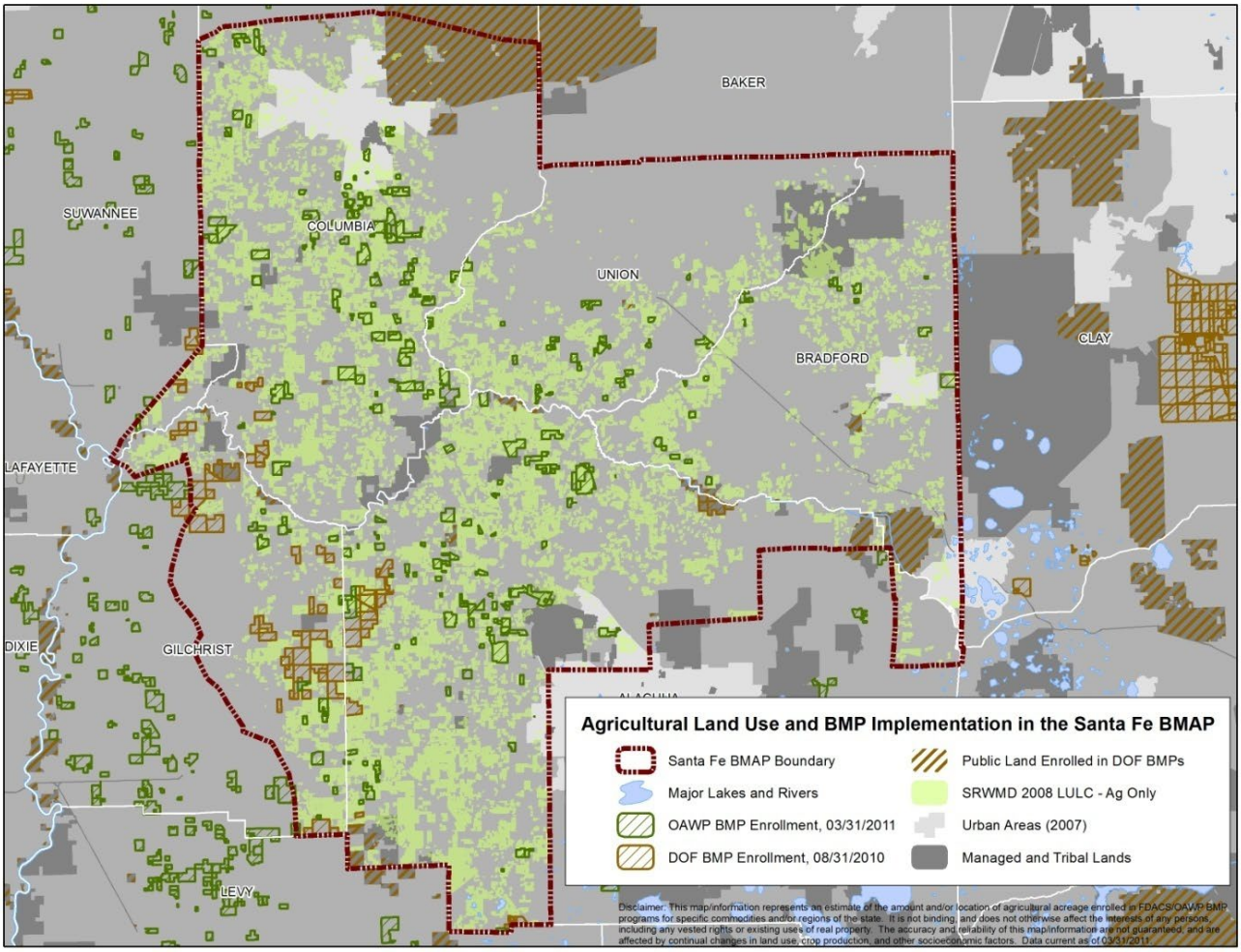


FIGURE 8. AGRICULTURAL ACREAGE AND BMP ENROLLMENT IN THE SANTA FE RIVER BASIN AS OF MARCH 31, 2011

3.2.4.2 Role of the OAWP and the Suwannee River Partnership in Agricultural BMP Implementation

In addition to developing agricultural BMPs, the OAWP helps fund field staff and contractors to assist with enrollment and BMP implementation, primarily through the support of the Suwannee River Partnership (SRP), described below. As funds are available, the OAWP helps provide cost-share funding for BMP implementation. The SRWMD has been an invaluable partner in providing cost share for and technical input into BMP implementation. The SRWMD has been able to maintain BMP funding in years when state-level funding has been lacking. The OAWP also maintains a database to record the submitted NOIs to implement BMPs, the BMPs to be implemented, and the amount of agricultural acreage covered by the NOIs.

The SRP is a group of federal, state, and local agencies; state associations; private businesses; and other organizations that have come together to improve water quality and conserve water in the Suwannee and surrounding watersheds within the SRWMD. The mission of the SRP is "*to provide researched-based solutions that protect and conserve the water resources within the SRWMD by emphasizing the implementation of voluntary or incentive-based programs*." The SRP initially was established to reduce nutrient loading in the middle Suwannee River Basin. Over the last decade or so it has expanded to cover the entire SRWMD.

The Suwannee River/Santa Fe River TMDL document (Hallas and Magley 2008) states: *"A unique advantage in these basins is the existence of the Suwannee River Partnership, a proven organization that has proactively addressed water quality issues over the past 10 years with advances in pollution reduction, scientific understanding, and community awareness. The Department maintains that this Partnership is on the right path and should continue moving in that direction after the establishment of this TMDL. The Partnership will play a significant role (in) the Basin Management Action Plan process."*

FDACS, SRWMD, and FDEP collectively fund three SRP staff serving the entire water management district. FDACS and SRWMD also fund three technicians districtwide. One technician works primarily in the Santa Fe Basin and is headquartered in the Gilchrist Soil and Water Conservation District. Priority activities for the SRP include the following:

- *One-on-one assistance to farmers to enroll in and implement FDACS BMPs.*
- *Educational workshops, field days, informational materials, and other means of promoting the understanding and implementation of BMPs.*
- *BMP implementation assurance through site visits and mailed surveys to gauge grower participation and evaluate program strengths and weaknesses.*
- *Cost-share funds to agricultural producers to help purchase crop tools they can use to manage fertilizer and irrigation. Crop tools include soil moisture probes, automated weather station systems, Global Positioning System (GPS) guidance units, and fertilizer application equipment. SRP staff work with farmers to evaluate how well these tools are being used, identify areas that need improvement, and identify new technology that may be used.*
- *Progressive Farms is an ongoing demonstration project involving about 20 farms districtwide. UF–IFAS staff work with these producers to install new techniques and technologies and evaluate their success, and to share their experiences with other farmers in the region, thus expanding the use of BMPs and BMP tools.*

The SRP has succeeded in obtaining a high level of participation by the agricultural industry. Approximately 70% of crop farms, 90% of dairies, and 99% of poultry farms districtwide are implementing practices that help protect and save water. Not all of these operations have NOIs because FDACS has not had a rule-adopted program for dairies or poultry. However, FDACS adopted a Conservation Plan rule in 2010 that will allow these and other specified operations to enroll formally in FDACS' BMP Program if they have or develop conservation plans that meet the rule criteria.

3.2.4.3 BMP Enrollment and Follow-Up Activities

Enrollment in OAWP BMP Programs

Agricultural producers can enroll in BMP programs by submitting a NOI to implement BMPs. The BMP rules, manuals, and NOIs are available on the OAWP website (available: http://www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com), or from SRP field staff. SRP staff and a Soil and Water Conservation District technician are available to provide enrollment assistance to producers in the Santa Fe River Basin. The assisted enrollment process involves an on-site assessment of potential ways to improve nutrient and irrigation management, sedimentation and erosion control, and other water resource–related management actions.

BMP Implementation Assurance

Approximately every five years, on a rotating basis by program, the OAWP mails written surveys to producers with active FDACS NOIs, to evaluate BMP implementation and update information on ownership, land use, acreage, etc. Producers in the Santa Fe Basin are included in these surveys.

In addition, SRP staff and technicians visit agricultural operations that receive cost-share funds, to ensure that they are keeping fertilization and irrigation records, which is a cost-share requirement. On a more routine basis, SRP staff, with the help of FDACS' Dairy and Animal Industry Divisions, have been visiting dairy and poultry operations every one to two years to ensure that BMPs are being maintained. The inspectors fill out evaluation forms and assign a rating of *Satisfactory*, *Conditional*, or *Unsatisfactory*. For a *Conditional* or *Unsatisfactory* rating, one or more follow-up visits are scheduled, allowing a reasonable period for identified issues to be addressed. The following BMPs are commonly reviewed during dairy and poultry site inspections:

Structural

- *Dairy*
    - Barns or structures that collect manure
    - Pipes or structures that transport manure
    - Manure storage facilities
    - Irrigation systems and other mechanisms for applying manure to crops
- *Poultry*
    - Litter storage barns
    - Dead bird composters
    - Litter application equipment

Management (Dairy and Poultry)

- *Proper operation and management of structures*
- *Manure/nutrient application rates*
- *Soil and manure testing*
- *Record keeping*

SRP staff have expanded their site visits to vegetable/agronomic crop farms, and are developing a site visit form specific to those operations. With the anticipated increase in enrollees and the resulting workload, staff will visit operations in the basin that are under an FDACS NOI on approximately a five-year cycle to ensure that BMPs are being implemented. SRP staff will also provide technical assistance as needed and follow up on identified areas/operations of particular concern. Additional information about the results of implementation assurance activities is available at: http://www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com/ImplementationAssurance.html.

3.2.4.4 Silviculture BMPs

Silviculture BMPs were developed in the mid-1970s. Without BMPs forestry activities can deliver sediment and nutrients to adjacent water resources at levels that may adversely affect aquatic ecosystems chemically, physically, and biologically. However, Florida silviculture BMPs have been shown to be effective in protecting water quality and aquatic habitat by minimizing or eliminating the delivery of forestry-related sediments, nutrients, and other contaminants, and by maintaining or improving both in-stream and riparian habitats. BMP effectiveness research conducted in Florida reported no evidence of sediment delivery or other impacts to the aquatic ecosystem following intensive silviculture operations on a variety of sites and under varying site conditions (Vowell 2001; Vowell and Frydenborg 2004).

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) (formerly the Division of Forestry) continues to promote Forestry Rule 5I-6, F.A.C., with private and public landowners in the state. Compliance with the rule involves submitting a NOI to the FFS committing to follow BMPs during all forestry operations. To date, over 5.4 million acres of private and public land have been enrolled in the program. FFS monitors landowners' compliance with BMPs through the following activities:

- *Silviculture BMP compliance has been monitored statewide since 1981. FFS conducts BMP evaluations on state forests in Florida where forest management activity involves the implementation of BMPs. These evaluations continue to be an important aspect of the FFS mission in protecting and managing Florida's forest resources through a stewardship ethic. Thirty state forests were evaluated during Fiscal Year (FY) 2009–10, with an overall BMP compliance rate of 97% for all identified silviculture activities.*
- *FFS also conducts BMP follow-up in the form of Voluntary Courtesy Checks targeting specific areas (such as TMDL watersheds); these checks are made available to loggers, landowners, and contractors in an effort to enhance FFS's outreach for BMP training. For 2010, 22 Courtesy Checks were performed, with an overall compliance rate of 98%.*

3.2.4.5 Beyond BMPs

The FWRA requires that, where water quality problems are demonstrated despite the appropriate implementation, operation, and maintenance of adopted agricultural BMPs, FDACS must re-evaluate the practices in consultation with FDEP and modify them if necessary. Continuing water quality problems will be detected through the BMAP monitoring component and other FDEP and water management district monitoring activities.

If agricultural acreage corrections and BMP implementation do not fully account for reductions in estimated agricultural loadings, it may be necessary to implement cost-assisted field- and/or regional-level treatment options that remove nutrients from farm discharges. As needed, FDACS will work with local, regional, state, and federal partners to explore opportunities and funding sources to develop and implement effective treatment projects.

3.2.5 Ongoing and Future Actions in the Santa Fe Basin

3.2.5.1 Ongoing Activities

SRP staff are working closely with farmers in the Santa Fe Basin and other areas within the SRWMD to enroll in and implement BMPs. These activities, which will be ongoing, are as follows:

- *Enroll commercial agricultural acres in the appropriate FDACS BMP programs.*
- *Provide technical assistance to producers in understanding and implementing BMPs.*
- *Deliver BMP cost-share funds, as available. The amount of cost-share that has been provided for BMPs and BMP crop tools within the Santa Fe Basin by the SRWMD and FDACS is approximately $825,000. Contributions by NRCS have far exceeded that amount. FDACS and the SRWMD continue to work together with NRCS to provide funding, as available. FDACS and SRP staff are looking to other sources, such as federal grants, to supplement reduced revenues.*
- *As funding is available, continue the Progressive Farms Program to conduct on-farm demonstrations of key BMPs and communicate the benefit of BMP implementation to other area farmers.*
- *Work with UF–IFAS and others to conduct workshops and field days to discuss and demonstrate BMPs.*
- *Continue to recognize farms that implement BMPs through the CARES Program.*
- *Continue BMP follow-up site visits (implementation assurance) to poultry and dairy farms.*

3.2.5.2 Future Activities

Relatively recent and planned future activities include the following:

- *SRP staff will work with dairy and poultry producers in the basin to review their existing conservation plans for consistency with the newly adopted*

conservation plan rule, assist with any needed revisions to the plan, and assist producers with submitting NOIs;

- *As funding is available, FDACS will work with SRWMD, FDEP, UF–IFAS, and others to conduct research and demonstration projects and, as feasible, phase in any new BMPs, technologies, or BMP enhancements that may emerge;*
- *Through Progressive Farms and/or other voluntary efforts, SRP staff will work with growers to learn about new production schemes that may have added environmental benefits and are economically viable;*
- *FDACS will assist FDEP in determining whether/where to conduct BMP effectiveness studies (trends and/or full-scale verification); and*
- *As needed, explore the feasibility of agency-funded projects for achieving nutrient reductions beyond BMPs.*

In addition, FDACS and SRP staff will assist FDEP in evaluating the need for outreach/education for property owners conducting noncommercial agriculture-related activities and, as resources allow, assist FDEP, UF–IFAS Extension, NRCS, and local governments in providing outreach/education.

3.2.5.3 *Timeline of Activities*

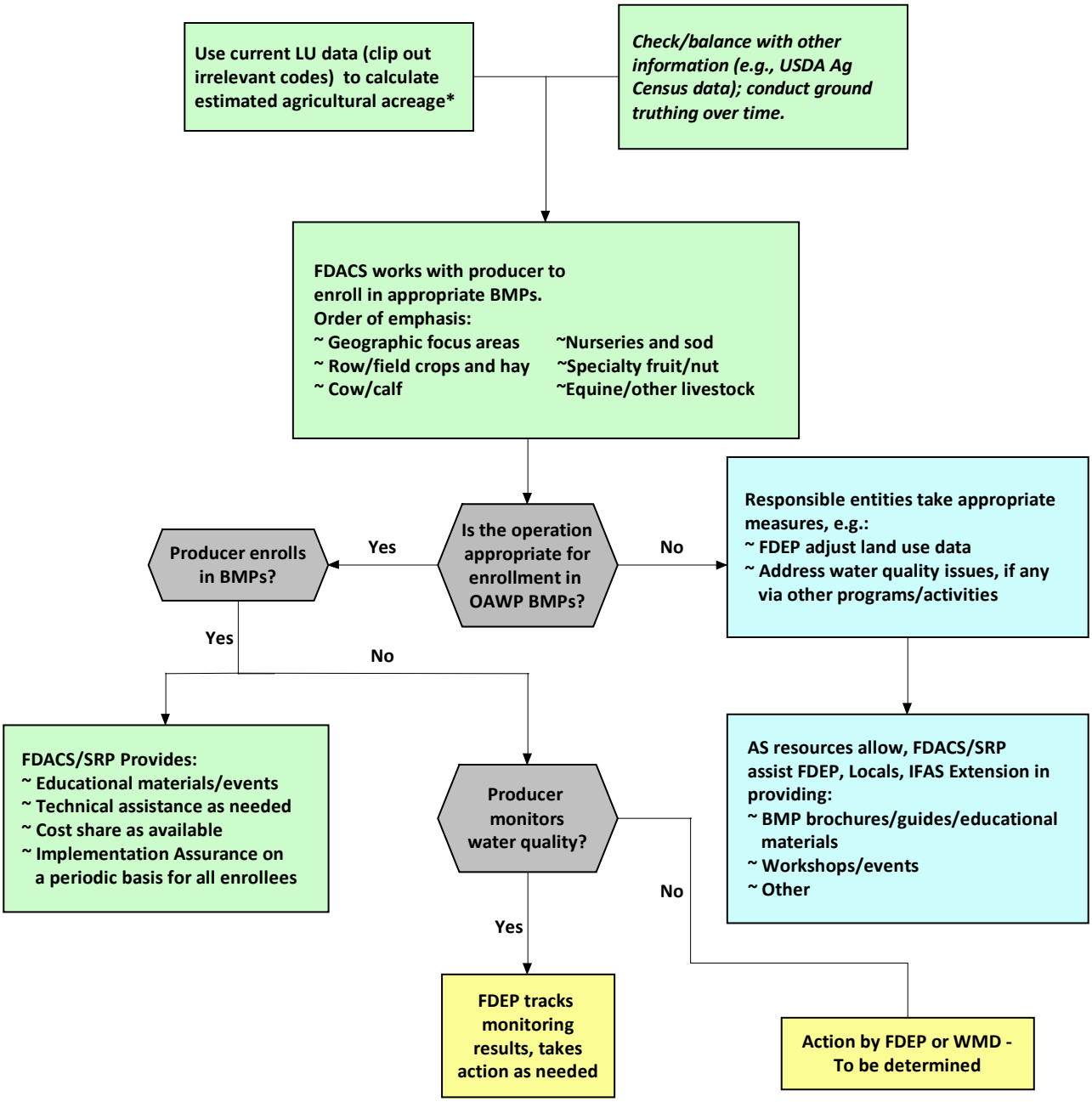
Figure 9 shows a flow chart of activities and approaches that FDACS will use to work with producers to implement BMPs. **Figure 10** shows an approximate timeline for these activities.

3.2.5.4 *Maximizing Efforts*

The Santa Fe BMAP area contains over 1,000,000 acres, of which approximately 180,000 acres are nonforestry agricultural land. As previously discussed, not all these acres are appropriate for BMP enrollment. To date approximately 43,320 acres (18.7%) have been enrolled in FDACS BMP programs. In evaluating available information and determining what agricultural operations are appropriate for enrollment, FDACS and SRP staff will work closely with growers, grower organizations, and agencies with relevant information.

The identification of RFAs for BMP implementation, as discussed in **Section 1.3.4.1**, will allow FDACS/SRP staff to prioritize their efforts in enrolling producers in FDACS BMP programs and helping them implement BMPs. Concurrently, FDACS staff will concentrate enrollment efforts on vegetable/row crop (because of the more intensive nature of that land use) and cow/calf operations (because of the number of operations). **Figure 9** shows a flow chart of the process for identifying and enrolling agricultural operations, whether in geographic or commodity-based RFAs. **Appendix D** contains information on the initial vegetable/row crop commodity-based RFA for the Santa Fe Basin. Similar information on geographic or commodity-based RFAs should be detailed and included in the annual reports/updates as new RFAs are identified.

FIGURE 9. AGRICULTURAL ACREAGE IDENTIFICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCESS IN THE SANTA FE RIVER BASIN



* ***Estimated Agricultural Acreage*** - A preliminary estimate of commercial agricultural acreage that might be appropriate for enrollment in FDACS/OAWP BMPs, based on current land use data for the Santa Fe Basin. This would be a base figure for calculating percentage of acres enrolled, to be adjusted for acres determined to be not in production.

**Establishment of Focus Areas will be based on considerations listed in the body of this chapter.

FIGURE 10. BMP IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE SANTA FE RIVER BASIN

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Year 15
Stage I	**Participate with FDEP and stakeholder group to establish geographic focus areas (FAs), based on considerations listed in Table 10; set BMP enrollment goals for agriculture in FAs, based on an estimate of actual acres in commercial agricultural production.**														
	1-2 FAs	*Establish additional FAs, as warranted*													
	As FAs are established, conduct BMP enrollments to meet the goals set during establishment.														
	Conduct enrollments for all commodities under BMP programs, with initial emphasis on vegetable/agronomic crop (VAC) operations.														
	70% enrollment of VAC operations					*80% enrollment of VAC operations*						*Continue efforts, as needed*			
	Provide technical assistance with BMP implementation; as funding is available, provide cost-share for BMP implementation.														
	Contingent on funding, continue Progressive Farms and/or other demonstration projects (education, technical assistance).														
	Conduct educational events on water quality, BMPs, springs/springsheds for growers.														
Stage II	**Conduct BMP Implementation Assurance (written surveys and site visits) on approximately a five-year cycle; as needed, provide follow-up assistance.**														
	Assist FDEP in determining whether/where to conduct BMP effectiveness studies (trends and/or full-scale verification).														
	Bring new technologies/BMPs online, as feasible; review monitoring data on BMPs with FDEP/UF–IFAS/others, and revise BMPs as needed and feasible.														
Stage III	**Enrollment in BMPs of commercial agriculture basinwide, based on an estimate of actual acres in commercial agricultural production.**														
	50% enrollment of agricultural acreage					*70% enrollment of agricultural acreage*						*80% enrollment of agricultural acreage*			
	Through Progressive Farms and/or other voluntary efforts, work with growers to learn about new production schemes that may have added environmental benefit and are economically viable.														
	As needed, explore the feasibility of agency-funded projects for achieving nutrient reductions beyond BMPs.														
	Assist FDEP in evaluating the need for outreach/education for property owners conducting noncommercial agriculture-related activities; as resources allow, assist FDEP, UF–IFAS Extension, NRCS, local government in providing outreach/education (e.g., coordinate with UF–IFAS Small Farms Initiative) .														

3.3 SECTION 319 FUNDING ELEMENTS

Although a watershed plan may include many different components, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified a minimum of nine elements that are critical for achieving improvements in water quality. EPA requires that these nine elements be addressed for watershed plans funded using incremental Section 319 funds and strongly recommends that they be included in all other watershed plans that are intended to remediate water quality impairments. This BMAP includes the recommended elements, as shown in **Table 12**, that benefit the entities applying for Section 319 funding for the projects in the BMAP. Additional information on these elements can be found in the *Draft Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans To Restore and Protect Our Waters (*available: http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed_handbook/. **Appendix E** summarizes the recommended elements.

TABLE 12. EPA ELEMENTS OF A WATERSHED PLAN

EPA ELEMENT	DESCRIPTION	SECTION(S) IN BMAP WHERE ADDRESSED
1	Identification of causes of impairment and pollutant sources or groups of similar sources that need to be controlled to achieve needed load reductions and any other goals identified in the watershed plan.	**2.3** **2.4**
2	An estimate of the load reductions expected from management measures.	**2.5**
3	A description of the nonpoint source management measures that will need to be implemented to achieve load reductions, and a description of the critical areas where those measures will be needed to implement the plan.	**3.2**
4	Estimate of the amounts of technical and financial assistance needed, associated costs, and/or the sources and authorities that will be relied upon to implement the plan.	**Executive Summary, Table 10** **5.1**
5	An information and education component used to enhance the public's understanding of the project and encourage their early and continued participation in selecting, designing, and implementing the nonpoint source management measures that will be implemented.	**Table 10, 3.2.3, 5.1**
6	A reasonably expeditious schedule for implementing the nonpoint source management measures identified in the plan.	**3.2.3**
7	A description of interim measurable milestones for determining whether nonpoint source management measures or other control actions are being implemented.	**3.2** **4.1**
8	A set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made toward attaining water quality standards.	**4.2** **4.3**
9	A monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation efforts over time, measured against the criteria established under *Item 8* above.	**4.2**

CHAPTER 4: ASSESSING PROGRESS AND MAKING CHANGES

Successful BMAP implementation requires commitment and follow-up. In the Commitment to Plan Implementation (see **Chapter 5**), stakeholders have expressed their intention to carry out the plan, monitor its effects, and continue to coordinate within and across jurisdictions to achieve water quality targets. The FWRA requires that an assessment be conducted every five years to determine whether reasonable progress has been made in implementing the BMAP and achieving pollutant load reductions. This chapter describes the water quality monitoring component sufficient to make this evaluation.

4.1 TRACKING IMPLEMENTATION

FDEP will work with stakeholders to collect and organize monitoring data and track project implementation. This information will be presented in an annual report. Stakeholders have agreed to meet at least every 12 months after the adoption of the BMAP to follow up on plan implementation, share new information, and continue to coordinate on TMDL-related issues. The following types of activities may occur at annual meetings:

- *Implementation Data and Reporting*
    - Collect project implementation information from stakeholders, review BMP/NOI documentation, and compare all the information with the BMAP schedule. **Table 13** provides a sample annual reporting form on BMAP project implementation (to be completed by the entities).
    - Discuss the data collection process, including any concerns and possible improvements to the process.
    - Review the monitoring plan implementation, as detailed in **Section 4.2**.
    - Prioritize areas for focused BMP implementation efforts.
    - Evaluate ongoing focused BMP implementation efforts and adapt the process as needed.

- *Sharing New Information*
    - Report on results from water quality monitoring and trend information.
    - Provide updates on new projects and programs in the basin that will help reduce nutrient loading.
    - Identify and review new scientific developments for addressing nutrient loads and incorporate any new information into annual progress reports.

- *Coordinating TMDL-Related Issues*
    - Provide updates from FDEP on the basin cycle and activities related to any impairments, TMDLs, and BMAP.
    - Obtain reports from other basins where tools or other information may be applicable to the Santa Fe River TMDL.

Covering all of these topics is not required for the annual meetings, but the list above provides examples of the types of information that should be considered for the agenda to assist with BMAP implementation and improve coordination among the agencies and stakeholders.

TABLE 13. PROPOSED BMAP ANNUAL REPORTING FORM

2012 Santa Fe River BMAP

___YEAR__ ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

REPORTING ENTITY: _____ **DATE**: _____

Note: Relevant MS4 activities, whether contained in the BMAP or not, may be included in this report.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS – BMAP MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

BMAP PROJECT #[1]	AFFECTED AREA (WBID)	BRIEF DESCRIPTION[2]	PROJECTED START/ END[3]	PROJECT/ ACTIVITY STATUS[4]	PROJECT MONITORING RESULTS[5]	COMMENTS[6]

NEW MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

BMAP PROJECT #[1]	AFFECTED AREA (WBID)	BRIEF DESCRIPTION[2]	PROJECTED START/ END[3]	PROJECT/ ACTIVITY STATUS[4]	PROJECT MONITORING RESULTS[5]	COMMENTS[6]

Directions for BMAP Annual Reporting Format:

[1] **BMAP Projects**: This includes projects and other management strategies. Use the project number assigned in the BMAP Activities Tables (e.g., A-1). Please include all management strategies for which you have lead responsibility in the BMAP, regardless of their status. **New Management Strategies**: Include new projects/activities that are not included in the BMAP in the New Management Strategies table. Create a project number for new management strategies by using the prefix, then -N# (e.g., A-N1). **If a management action listed in either table is part of the BMP priority area, please shade the project number box in grey**.

[2] Include a brief description of the management action being reported.

[3] If applicable, include the start and end dates for the management action. If not applicable, put "N/A" or, if it is a continuous activity, put "Continuous" and indicate how often the activity takes place.

[4] Clearly summarize the status of the management action, in a way that makes sense for the item listed. For instance, for educational activities, list pertinent publications, events, etc., including name and/or topic for each. Include specific or general time frames (e.g., two public workshops on pet waste disposal in July 2011). Also, describe any significant changes to the management action that have taken place.

[5] As applicable: If monitoring is required as part of a management action (e.g., in a cost-share situation), or is conducted voluntarily (e.g., as part of an effort to collect information on BMAP effectiveness), include the monitoring results to date, as practicable.

[6] Include comments on any implementation obstacles, including weather, funding, and technical difficulties. Provide any other comments you consider important.

4.2 WATER QUALITY MONITORING

4.2.1 WATER QUALITY MONITORING OBJECTIVES

Focused objectives are critical for a monitoring strategy to provide the information needed to evaluate implementation success. Since the BMAP is a phased process, each phase will have primary and secondary objectives. The primary objectives will focus on water quality improvements in the springs and Santa Fe River. The secondary objectives (research objectives) will focus on water quality parameters that can be used to provide information for potential future refinements of the BMAP. The monitoring strategy for additional phases will be developed after the first year of data is collected and analyzed.

The primary and secondary objectives of the Phase 1 monitoring strategy for the Santa Fe River Basin are as follows:

Primary Objectives

- *Determine the levels of existing water quality parameters;*
- *Document decreasing nutrient trends in the Santa Fe River and associated springs; and*
- *Focus BMP implementation efforts by using the results of sampling data combined with appropriate GIS information, including land use data.*

Secondary Objectives

- *Identify areas where ground water data might help in understanding the hydrodynamics of the system;*
- *Develop a BMP implementation plan for future phases;*
- *Determine more effective nutrient reduction strategies; and*
- *Determine the effectiveness of nitrogen isotope sampling for identifying organic or inorganic sources.*

4.2.2 WATER QUALITY INDICATORS AND RESOURCE RESPONSES

To achieve the objectives above, the monitoring strategy focuses on two types of indicators to track water quality trends: core and supplemental (**Table 14a** and **Table 14b,** respectively). The core indicators are directly related to the parameters causing impairment in the river. Supplemental indicators are monitored primarily to support the interpretation of core water quality parameters.

At a minimum, the core parameters will be tracked to determine the progress that has been made towards meeting the TMDL. In addition, resource responses to BMAP implementation may also be tracked (**Table 15**). Changes in water chemistry are not expected to occur within a relatively short period, depending on the actual rate of project implementation and rainfall conditions. A significant amount of time may be needed for the changes in water chemistry to be observed in the resource responses. However, resource responses represent improvements in the overall ecological health of the Santa Fe River.

TABLE 14A. CORE WATER QUALITY INDICATORS AND FIELD PARAMETERS

CORE PARAMETERS	ANTICIPATED TREND
Chloride	Indicator of human wastewater
Sulfate	Decrease in concentration
Potassium	Decrease in concentration
Ammonia as N	Decrease in concentration
Nitrate/nitrite as N	Decrease in concentration
Boron	Indicator of human wastewater
Oxygen isotpoes	Change in organic/inorganic ratios
Nitrogen isotopes	Change in organic/inorganic ratios

TABLE 14B. SUPPLEMENTAL WATER QUALITY INDICATORS AND FIELD PARAMETERS

SUPPLEMENTAL PARAMETERS	ANTICIPATED TREND
Specific conductance	Monitored to support interpretation of core indicators
DO	Monitored to support interpretation of core indicators
pH	Monitored to support interpretation of core indicators
Temperature	Monitored to support interpretation of core indicators
Total suspended solids (TSS)	Monitored to support interpretation of core indicators

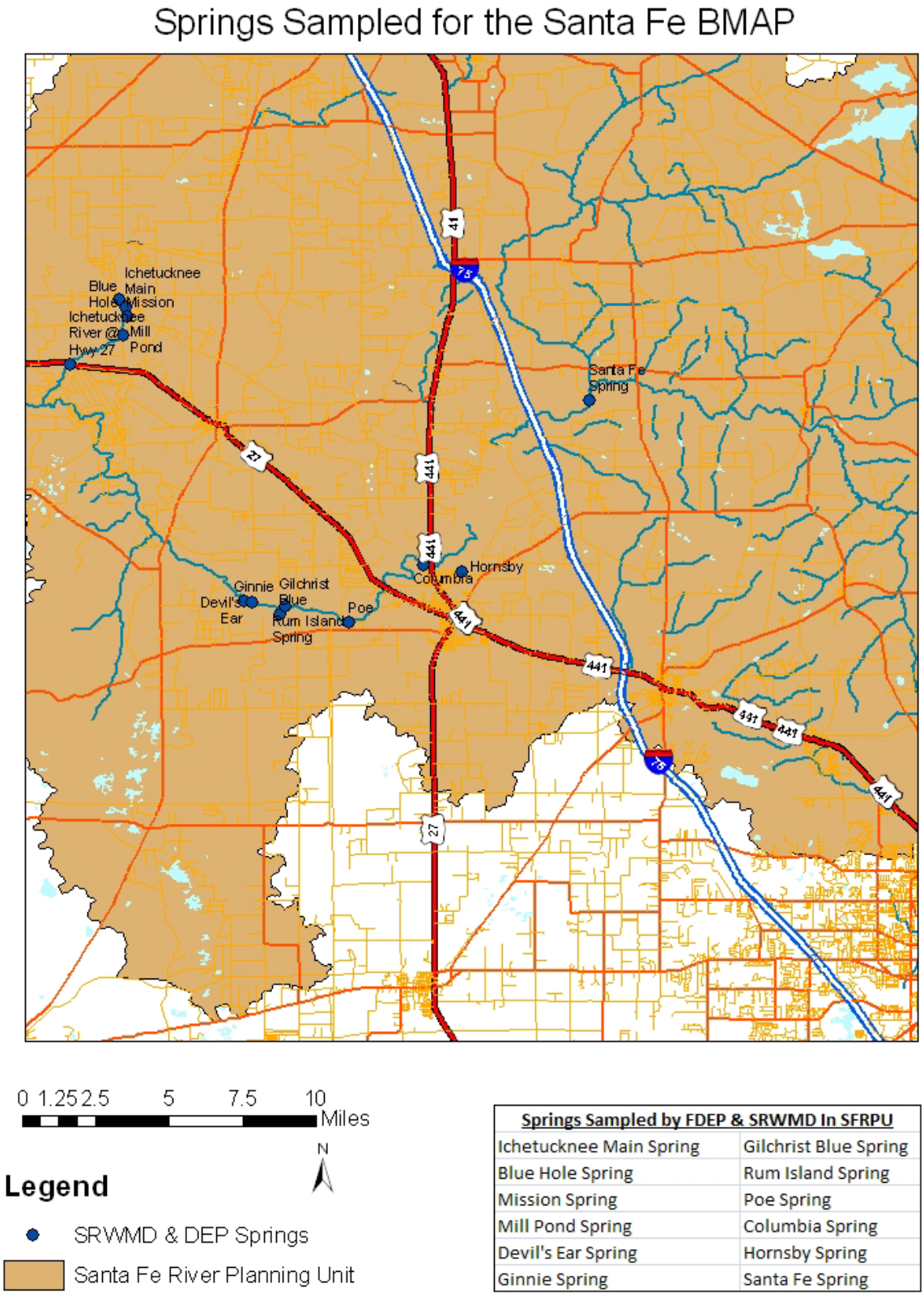
TABLE 15. ANTICIPATED RESOURCE RESPONSES FROM BMAP IMPLEMENTATION

RESOURCE RESPONSES SANTA FE
Reduction in Trophic State Index (TSI) score
Increase in Stream Condition Index (SCI) score
Increase in Shannon-Wiener diversity index score
Increase in key fish populations

4.2.3 MONITORING NETWORK

In the first phase of BMAP implementation, data from the ongoing sampling effort in the Santa Fe River and associated springs that is being conducted by FDEP and SRWMD will be used to meet the primary objectives. These data will be entered into the STORET (or replacement) database. **Figure 11** shows the springs stations currently being sampled.

The secondary (research) objectives will be met by the combination of an FDEP and Alachua County/SRWMD sampling effort. Monitoring wells to be sampled will be determined after the initial effort in the priority BMP area provides information on the state of the system and where additional monitoring will be most effective. **Figure 12** shows the possible locations for monitoring wells in the basin, based on nitrate concentrations in ground water.



Springs Sampled by FDEP & SRWMD In SFRPU	
Ichetucknee Main Spring	Gilchrist Blue Spring
Blue Hole Spring	Rum Island Spring
Mission Spring	Poe Spring
Mill Pond Spring	Columbia Spring
Devil's Ear Spring	Hornsby Spring
Ginnie Spring	Santa Fe Spring

FIGURE 11. STATIONS CURRENTLY SAMPLED IN THE SANTA FE RIVER AND ASSOCIATED SPRINGS

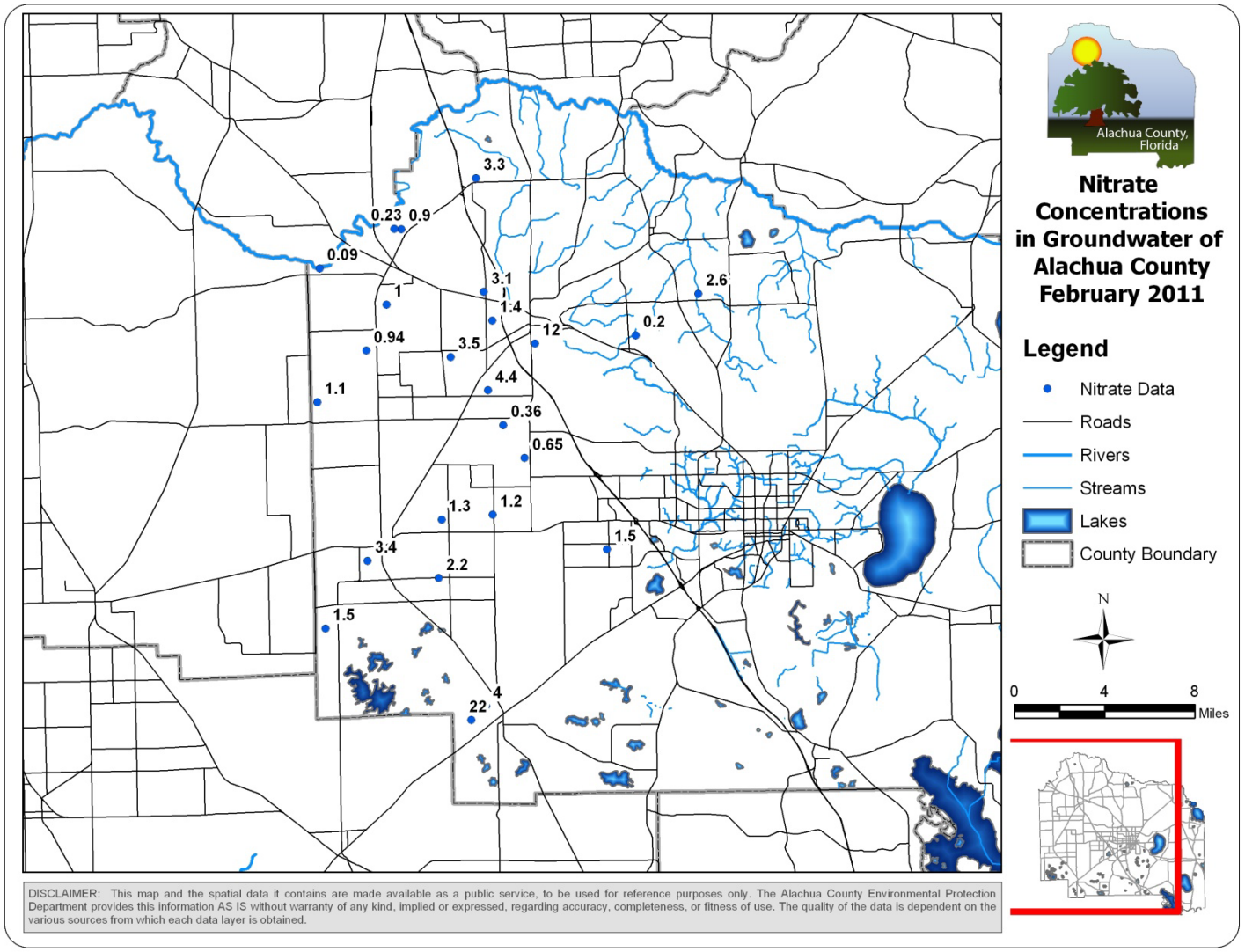


FIGURE 12. POSSIBLE LOCATIONS FOR MONITORING WELLS IN THE SANTA FE RIVER BASIN

4.2.4 Assessing Progress in Geographic RFAs

The general steps for working within a geographic RFA with all sources to assess progress are as follows:

- ***Step 1*** *– Identify all potential sources and estimated inputs of nitrate within the RFA in order to create a baseline against which to measure change.*
- ***Step 2*** *– Identify strategic locations for ground water sampling and conduct ground water monitoring. This will provide information on nitrogen concentrations and sources within the RFA and a water quality baseline against which changes due to management actions could be measured. An important consideration will be how to segregate agricultural impacts from other sources.*
- ***Step 3*** *– Implement management actions. For agriculture, this will include obtaining a specified degree of landowner participation in the BMP program (e.g., X % or X number of acres enrolled) and determining that the most current set of applicable BMPs is being implemented. For urban stakeholders, this will involve determining compliance with applicable ordinances and ensuring that listed projects are completed and operational.*
- ***Step 4*** *– Periodically monitor the wells identified in Step 2 to collect information on changes in nitrogen concentrations and evaluate how well management actions are working.*
- ***Step 5*** *– If needed, explore opportunities to further reduce nitrogen losses without economic impacts to stakeholders. This may include measures that are economically feasible without cost-share, measures that require cost-share, and/or publicly funded water quality improvement projects.*

4.2.5 Quality Assurance/Quality Control

Through cooperation on TMDL-related data collection, FDEP and stakeholders have consistently used similar standard operating procedures (SOPs) for field sampling and lab analyses. This consistency will continue into the future to ensure that data can be used not only for tracking BMAP progress but also for future TMDL evaluations and other purposes. Water quality data will be collected in a manner consistent with FDEP's SOPs for quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC). The most current version of these procedures is available at http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/sas/sop/sops.htm. All stakeholders contributing data in support of the BMAP agree to follow these SOPs.

4.2.6 Data Management and Assessment

Data collected as part of this monitoring plan will need to be tracked, compiled, and analyzed for it to be useful in support of the BMAP. The Florida STORET database will serve as the primary resource for storing ambient data and providing access for all stakeholders, in accordance with Section 62-40.540, F.S. The data being collected to meet the primary objectives are currently being uploaded to STORET, after the appropriate QA/QC checks have been completed. All applicable data collected by the entities responsible for monitoring will be uploaded to STORET regularly, but at least quarterly. FDEP will be responsible for data storage and retrieval from STORET.

STORET uploads are only appropriate for data that represent ambient conditions. Other data will be maintained by the entity that collected the samples. Stakeholders agree to provide these data to other BMAP partners upon request and when appropriate for inclusion in BMAP data analyses and adaptive management evaluations.

Ground water data collected for the secondary objectives will not be uploaded to STORET.

4.3 ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT MEASURES

Adaptive management involves setting up a mechanism for adjusting the BMAP when circumstances change or feedback indicates the need for a more effective strategy. Adaptive management measures include the following:

- *Procedures to determine whether additional cooperative strategies are needed;*
- *Criteria/processes for determining whether and when plan components need revision due to changes in costs, environmental impacts, social effects, watershed conditions, or other factors;*
- *Descriptions of the stakeholders' role after BMAP completion; and*
- *The development of additional priority areas for BMP implementation and the continued evaluation of existing ones.*

Key components of adaptive management to share information and expertise are tracking plan implementation, monitoring water quality and pollutant loads, and holding periodic meetings.

BMAP execution will be a long-term process. Some projects will extend beyond the first five years of the BMAP cycle. FDEP and the stakeholders will track implementation efforts and monitor water quality to measure effectiveness and ensure BMAP compliance. The stakeholders and FDEP will meet at least every 12 months to discuss implementation issues, consider new information, and, if the watershed is not projected to meet the TMDL, determine additional corrective actions. Project implementation as well as program and activity status will be collected annually from the participating entities. The stakeholders will review these reports to assess progress towards meeting the BMAP's goals.

CHAPTER 5: COMMITMENT TO PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Section 403.067(7), F.S., lays out the mechanisms for BMAP implementation *(*see **Appendix B***)*. While the BMAP is linked by statute to permitting and other enforcement processes that target individual entities, successful implementation mandates that local stakeholders willingly and consistently work together to attain adopted TMDLs. This collaboration fosters the sharing of ideas, information, and resources. The stakeholders have demonstrated their willingness to confer with and support each other in their efforts, as shown in the following examples:

- *The effectiveness of the FDACs and SRP BMP program is shown by agricultural producers' willingness to sign up for the program and implement the appropriate BMPs. (**Section 5.1** below summarizes specific examples of successful BMP implementation.)*
- *The efforts Lake City has made to upgrade its WWTP to meet advance treatment standards and implement wastewater reuse practices for both agricultural and urban users.*
- *The efforts of Alachua County to implement a countywide fertilizer ordinance.*
- *The development of springshed protection ordinances by county governments based on aquifer vulnerability studies.*

5.1 EXAMPLES OF COMMITMENT TO BMAP IMPLEMENTATION

Multiple projects with the goal of reducing nutrient impacts to the basin are currently under way. The projects listed in this section are examples of these efforts from the SRP and a region-based component of the SRP, the Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP).

5.1.1 SILVICULTURE BMPS

FFS's Hydrology Section conducted a total of 60 BMP training workshops during 2010. These workshops were presented to a variety of entities, including the Florida Master Logger Program, the Southeastern Wood Producers Association, forestry consulting companies, internal training for Florida Forestry Service / Division of Forestry firefighters, and workshops open to the general public. Collectively, these workshops trained over 1,000 individuals.

5.1.2 SRP

SRP projects include both agricultural BMP implementation and education and outreach to agricultural and nonagricultural stakeholders in the basin. Work with producers on implementing BMPs in the SRP area, including the Santa Fe Basin, has been extensive and has yielded good results. The activities conducted with farmers, and some of the benefits of those activities, include the following:

- *During the past 10 years, SRP, UF–IFAS Extension agents, and others have organized more than 50 farmer field days/workshops related to irrigation and fertilizer management, other BMPs, TMDLs, water supply, crop updates, and more.*

- *At the UF–IFAS Research and Education Center in Live Oak, SRP has worked to demonstrate new technology that helps protect and conserve water. During the past 10 years, UF–IFAS and SRP staff have established crop fertilization and irrigation demonstrations. Currently, demonstrations include sod-based rotation, high-residue conservation tillage, and advanced irrigation management. Using a USDA Conservation Innovation Grant, SRP is helping develop an advanced irrigation scheduling program that will be incorporated in UF's Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) to help crop farmers manage their irrigation more effectively using evapotranspiration rates, ambient air temperature, and rainfall data.*

- *On-farm demonstrations have played a key role in helping to encourage BMP implementation throughout the Suwannee and Santa Fe River Basins. SRP established the Progressive Farms demonstration program in 2004, with the help of farmers/leaders in the crop industry, to demonstrate vegetable/agronomic crop BMPs. Since 2004, 20 farmers throughout the SRWMD area have demonstrated to their farming neighbors that BMPs work for them and for the environment. This program has allowed UF–IFAS and SRP staff to demonstrate new technology to manage fertilizer and irrigation more effectively. Along with the Crop Tools cost-share program, Progressive Farms has been instrumental in the widespread adoption (186 farms representing 112,000 acres) of crop management tools such as GPS, soil moisture probes, and precision fertilizer application equipment. UF–IFAS determined that the Progressive Farms operations using these tools reduced their nitrogen application by an average of 50 pounds per acre and demonstrated the efficient use of irrigation water.*

- *In 2010, UF–IFAS Extension staff taught 10 cooperating watermelon farms how to conduct sap tests with their own meters. An informal survey showed that these growers reduced early season irrigation by 50% and nitrogen applications by an average of 25 pounds per acre. One watermelon grower reduced nitrogen use by 50 pounds per acre on 200 acres. Collectively, these 10 farms saved $48,000 in fertilizer and an additional $12,000 in fuel for irrigation pumping.*

- *Nitrogen fertilizer sales (for agricultural and nonagricultural uses) in counties within the SRWMD dropped from 28,606 tons (57.21 million pounds) in 1997–98 to 19,948 tons (40 million pounds) in 2009–10. While this cannot conclusively be attributed to nutrient management BMPs, it can be assumed that BMP implementation, fertilizer costs, and the heightened awareness of producers about the environmental impacts of nutrients on water quality all played a part.*

5.1.3 CARES PROGRAM

SRP, along with the Florida Farm Bureau, started the CARES Program in 2001 to recognize agricultural producers who are successfully implementing BMPs to help protect and conserve water. The program's step-by-step approach to environmental stewardship helps farmers to implement sound, positive environmental practices and establish and follow environmental management plans while maintaining profitability. The CARES Program's six-step process is as follows:

- ***Step 1*** *– Local county farm bureaus promote the program.*
- ***Step 2*** *– Farmers implement FDACS BMPs or an NRCS conservation plan. Participating agencies help the farmer select and implement practices that include nutrient and irrigation management.*
- ***Step 3*** *– Each farmer implements BMPs and conservation practices, as applicable.*
- ***Step 4*** *– Individual farmers sign up for the CARES Program. Farmers who are documented as implementing applicable BMPs are nominated by participating agencies and associations.*
- ***Step 5*** *– Each selected farmer is recognized as a participant in the CARES Program. SRP provides each recognized farm with a CARES sign to display, letting neighbors and others know the farm is implementing BMPs.*
- ***Step 6*** *– To maintain CARES status, farmers must continue to operate and maintain their practices over time.*

The program concludes each year with an annual dinner and recognition program, attended by 600 to 700 farmers, elected officials, partners, community supporters, businesses, youth organizations, and others. SRP has recognized more than 350 CARES farmers districtwide during the last 10 years. To date, 33 farmers in the Santa Fe Basin have been recognized in the CARES Program.

5.1.4 TIP

TIP was created in 2008 by the Lake City–Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, Columbia County Board of Commissioners, city of Lake City, Lake City Rotary Club, SRWMD, and SRP. TIP is a coalition of people, agencies, and organizations with a common mission "to promote the environmental and economic well-being of the Ichetucknee springshed through locally led, voluntary, incentive-based programs." TIP has focused on BMPs, monitoring and research, and education and outreach and has made strides in each of these areas, including the following accomplishments:

Agricultural BMPs

- *Fourteen farming operations in the Ichetucknee Basin are participating in a cost-share program to implement karst-specific BMPs designed to reduce nutrient loading from animal waste and fertilizers, and to reduce water consumption through the use of more efficient irrigation systems. The program is coordinated by SRP, with funding provided by TIP.*
- *Created a map of SRP BMP participants in the springshed.*
- *Conducted a crop management workshop.*
- *Held a BMP recognition program (CARES).*

Nonagricultural BMPs

- *TIP and UF–FAS hosted a low-impact development (LID) workshop in the spring of 2009 for builders, developers, realtors, local governments and others in Columbia and Suwannee Counties. UF's Program for Resource Efficient Communities (PREC) conducted the workshop. PREC developed and presented a karst-specific module that promotes the best design, construction, and management practices that measurably reduce energy and water consumption and environmental degradation in new master-planned residential communities within a springshed.*
- *TIP developed cooperative Florida-Friendly Landscaping–Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FFL-FYN) programs, publications, and displays for distribution.*

Monitoring and Research

- *TIP contracted with Advanced GeoSpatial, Inc. to develop the Columbia County Aquifer Vulnerability Assessment (CoCAVA). This interpretive mapping tool that identifies the most sensitive and vulnerable areas within the Ichetucknee springshed. Columbia County and Lake City are using the map as a planning tool for water resource protection.*
- *Monitoring of Blue Hole Spring and other sites.*
- *Water supply assessment.*

Education and Outreach to Schools

- *TIP provided about $30,000 to bring the FDEP-administered Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) Program to Richardson Middle School's (Lake City) advanced placement classes, Grades 6-8. This is the program's third year.*
- *TIP provided an estimated $5,000 in funding for Fort White middle and high schools' LIFE and PARKnership Programs. Projects included the purchase of monitoring kits, dibbles for tree planting, and rain barrels for water conservation projects, as well as funding for a video project.*
- *The Springs and Farms Activity Book, produced by TIP, SRWMD, and Santa Fe Soil and Water Conservation District, is distributed to kindergarten students throughout Columbia County's public schools; 2011–12 will be the third year of distribution. The book introduces students to the importance of farms, forests, rivers, and springs in their community, while introducing the concepts of water conservation and protection of the Ichetucknee from pollution. The popular book was adapted to feature Fanning and Manatee Springs and reprinted by the Tri-County (Levy/Dixie/Gilchrist) Soil and Water Conservation Districts.*
- *The Springs and Farms Activity Book also serves as the basis for "Buddy-Up Day" in Fort White schools. Middle- and high-school students in the PARKnership Program meet with kindergarten students and guide them through the lessons in the book.*

- *TIP presented $50 and $25 cash awards to four students with the best projects focused on water issues and solutions in the 2011 Columbia County Science and Engineering Fair. Awards were presented at the 5th through 8th grade levels.*
- *Over 250 students (K–12) participated in the first annual "Drop Savers" water conservation poster contest, cosponsored by Lake City Regional Utilities, Fort White Water Utility, and TIP. Six winners were selected, and all poster entries were on display at the Lake City Mall throughout April and May 2011. The posters from Fort White students then went on display at the Fort White Library.*

Public Awareness

- *Educational displays –*
  - TIP created tabletop educational displays on various topics, including springs protection, water conservation, Florida-Friendly Landscaping, and TIP for use at events, including the Columbia County Fair, Super 8, Alligator Lake Festival, and Fort White and Lake City (west branch) libraries.
- *Proclamations –*
  - TIP sent formal requests to the city of Lake City, the town of Fort White, and the Columbia County Commission asking that they issue proclamations designating April 2011 as "Water Conservation Month," which they did.
- *Radio –*
  - TIP purchased air time for a series of 60-second "Gardening in a Minute" programs to air each spring (2009–11) on Columbia County radio stations 96.5 WJTK, Mix 94.3, and Power Country 102.1. The programs, produced by UF–IFAS, educate listeners on topics such as stormwater runoff, waste and fertilizer management, and water conservation.
  - TIP developed a 60-second public service announcement (PSA) for Columbia County's annual Toxic Roundup day in April, and paid for the spots to run on 96.5 WJTK, Mix 94.3, and Power Country 102.1 radio stations three times per day for seven days prior to the event. The event provides an opportunity for the public to properly dispose of hazardous household waste. In the two years the PSA was aired, public participation increased over previous years.
  - TIP representatives were featured guests for a 30-minute interview on WJTK's morning show.
- *Video –*
  - TIP reproduced and distributed hundreds of copies of the four-minute DVD, *The Springs Heartland*. The DVD was presented to every member of the Florida Legislature in 2010. It was broadcast in a continuous loop on the public announcement monitors at Lake City's City Hall and the Columbia County Courthouse. It is also being aired on TV12, the government television channel for Alachua County and the city of Gainesville. Additionally, the DVD was shown to a group of national travel writers participating in a springs and river tour hosted by the Columbia County Tourism Development Council.

- *Audio –*
  - Development of an Ichetucknee Basin tour map and companion audio podcast
- *Social media –*
  - Facebook – www.facebook.com/ichetuckneepartnership
  - Website – under construction (a major redesign of the old site)
- *Publications –*
  - *Fertilizer Facts* card/door hanger
  - *Conserve Water, Protect Springs with Florida-Friendly Landscaping* (a brochure containing FFL tips)
- *Presentations to clubs, civic organizations*
- *Grant funding and matching funds –*
  - TIP received grant funding and matching funds from partners for two projects that it will complete this year: an educational kiosk at Alligator Lake public park; and a mascot costume representing Bellamy Beaver for appearances at schools, special events, parades, ribbon cuttings, etc.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: TMDL Basin Rotation Schedule

TMDLs are developed, allocated, and implemented through a watershed management approach (managing water resources within their natural boundaries) that addresses the state's 52 major hydrologic basins in 5 groups, on a rotating schedule. **Table A-1** shows the hydrologic basins within each of the 5 groups, with the FDEP District Office of jurisdiction.

TABLE A-1. MAJOR HYDROLOGIC BASINS BY GROUP AND FDEP DISTRICT OFFICE

FDEP DISTRICT	GROUP 1 BASINS	GROUP 2 BASINS	GROUP 3 BASINS	GROUP 4 BASINS	GROUP 5 BASINS
Northwest	Ochlockonee–St. Marks	Apalachicola–Chipola	Choctawhatchee–St. Andrews Bay	Pensacola Bay	Perdido Bay
Northeast	Suwannee–Santa Fe	Lower St. Johns	Not applicable	Nassau–St. Marys	Upper East Coast
Central	Ocklawaha	Middle St. Johns	Upper St. Johns	Kissimmee	Indian River Lagoon
Southwest	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay Tributaries	Sarasota Bay–Peace–Myakka	Withlacoochee	Springs Coast
South	Everglades West Coast	Charlotte Harbor	Caloosahatchee	Fisheating Creek	Florida Keys
Southeast	Lake Okeechobee	St. Lucie–Loxahatchee	Lake Worth Lagoon–Palm Beach Coast	Southeast Coast–Biscayne Bay	Everglades

Each group undergoes a cycle of five phases on a rotating schedule, as follows:

Phase 1: Preliminary evaluation of water quality
Phase 2: Strategic monitoring and assessment to verify water quality impairments
Phase 3: Development and adoption of TMDLs for waters verified as impaired
Phase 4: Development of BMAP to achieve the TMDL
Phase 5: Implementation of the BMAP and monitoring of results

The Santa Fe River Basin is a Group 1 basin. As such, the Cycle 1 list of verified impaired waters was developed in 2002 and the Cycle 2 list was developed in 2009. Subsequent TMDL and BMAP development is occurring on a schedule driven by the 1998 303(d) list (see http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/ for more information) and FDEP staff resource availability. FDEP will re-evaluate impaired waters every five years to determine whether improvements are being achieved and to refine loading estimates and TMDL allocations using new data. If any changes in a TMDL are required, the applicable TMDL rule may be revised. Changes to a TMDL would prompt revisions to the applicable BMAP, which will be revisited at least every five years and modified as necessary, regardless of whether the TMDL is modified.

Appendix B: Summary of Statutory Provisions Guiding BMAP Development and Implementation

SECTIONS 403.067(6) AND (7), FLORIDA STATUTES - *Summary of Excerpts*

ALLOCATIONS

- The TMDL shall include reasonable and equitable allocations of the TMDL between or among point and nonpoint sources that will alone, or in conjunction with other management and restoration activities, provide for the attainment of pollutant reductions established pursuant to paragraph (a) to achieve applicable water quality standards.
- The allocations may establish the maximum amount of the pollutant that may be discharged or released in combination with other discharges or releases.
- Allocations may also be made to individual basins and sources or as a whole to all basins and sources or categories of sources of inflow to the water body or water body segments.
- An initial allocation of allowable pollutant loads may be developed as part of the TMDL; in such cases detailed allocations to specific point sources and categories of nonpoint sources shall be established in the basin management action plan.
- The initial and detailed allocations shall be designed to attain pollutant reductions established pursuant to paragraph (a) and shall be based on consideration of:
    1. Existing treatment levels and management practices;
    2. Best management practices established and implemented pursuant to paragraph (7)(c);
    3. Enforceable treatment levels established pursuant to state or local law or permit;
    4. Differing impacts pollutant sources may have on water quality;
    5. The availability of treatment technologies, management practices, or other pollutant reduction measures;
    6. Environmental, economic, and technological feasibility of achieving the allocation;
    7. The cost benefit associated with achieving the allocation;
    8. Reasonable timeframes for implementation;
    9. Potential applicability of any moderating provisions such as variances, exemptions, and mixing zones; and
    10. The extent to which non-attainment of water quality standards is caused by pollution sources outside of Florida, discharges that have ceased, or alterations to water bodies prior to the date of this act.

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION

- **DEP is the lead agency** in coordinating TMDL implementation, through existing water quality protection programs.
- **Application of a TMDL by a water management** district does not require WMD adoption of the TMDL.
- **TMDL implementation may include**, but is not limited to:
    - Permitting and other existing regulatory programs
    - Non-regulatory and incentive-based programs
    - Other water quality management and restoration activities, such as Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plans or **basin management action plans**
    - Pollutant trading or other equitable economically based agreements
    - Public works
    - Land acquisition

BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

- DEP may develop a basin management action plan that addresses some or all of the watersheds and basins tributary to a TMDL waterbody.
- A basin management action plan **shall**:
    - Integrate appropriate management strategies available to the state through existing water quality protection programs.

- Equitably allocate pollutant reductions to individual basins, all basins, each identified point source, or category of nonpoint sources, as appropriate.
- Identify the mechanisms by which potential future increases in pollutant loading will be addressed.
- Specify that for nonpoint sources for which BMPs have been adopted, the initial requirement shall be BMPs developed pursuant to paragraph (c).
- Establish an implementation schedule.
- Establish a basis for evaluating plan effectiveness.
- Identify feasible funding strategies.
- Identify milestones for implementation and water quality improvement, and an associated water quality monitoring component to evaluate reasonable progress over time.
- Be adopted in whole or in part by DEP Secretarial Order, subject to chapter 120.

- A basin management action plan **may**:
  - Give load reduction credits to dischargers that have implemented load reduction strategies (including BMPs) prior to the development of the BMAP. (*Note: this assumes the related reductions were not factored into the applicable TMDL*.)
  - Include regional treatment systems or other public works as management strategies.
  - Provide for phased implementation to promote timely, cost-effective actions.
- An assessment of progress in achieving milestones shall be conducted every 5 years and the basin management action plan revised, as appropriate, in cooperation with basin stakeholders, and adopted by secretarial order.
- DEP shall assure that key stakeholders are invited to participate in the basin management action plan development process, holding at least one noticed public meeting in the basin to receive comments, and otherwise encouraging public participation to the greatest practicable extent.
- A basin management action plan shall not supplant or alter any water quality assessment, TMDL calculation, or initial allocation.

BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

- NPDES Permits
  - Management strategies related to a discharger subject to NPDES permitting shall be included in subsequent applicable NPDES permits or permit modifications when the permit expires (is renewed), the discharge is modified (revised), or the permit is reopened pursuant to an adopted BMAP.
  - Absent a detailed allocation, TMDLs shall be implemented through NPDES permit conditions that include a compliance schedule. The permit shall allow for issuance of an order adopting the BMAP within five years. (***Note**: Intended to apply to individual wastewater permits – not MS4s*)
  - Once the BMAP is adopted, the permit shall be reopened, as necessary, and permit conditions consistent with the BMAP shall be established.
  - Upon request by a NPDES permittee, DEP may establish individual allocations prior to the adoption of a BMAP, as part of a permit issuance, renewal, or modification (revision).
  - To the maximum extent practicable, MS4s shall implement a TMDL or BMAP through the use of BMPs or other management measures.
  - A BMAP does not take the place of NPDES permits or permit requirements.
  - Management strategies to be implemented by a DEP permittee shall be completed according to the BMAP schedule, which may extend beyond the 5-year term of an NPDES permit.
  - Management strategies are not subject to challenge under chapter 120 when they are incorporated in identical form into a NPDES permit or permit modification (revision).
- Management strategies assigned to nonagricultural, non-NPDES permittees (state, regional, or local) shall be implemented as part of the applicable permitting programs.
- Nonpoint source dischargers (e.g., agriculture) included in a BMAP shall demonstrate compliance with the applicable TMDLs by either implementing appropriate BMPs established under paragraph 7(c), or conducting water quality monitoring prescribed by **DEP or a WMD**. (***Note**: this is not applicable to MS4s, as they are considered point sources under the federal Clean Water Act and TMDL Program*.)
  - Failure to implement BMPs or prescribed water quality monitoring may be subject to **DEP or WMD** enforcement action.
- Responsible parties who are implementing applicable BMAP strategies shall not be required to implement additional pollutant load reduction strategies, and shall be deemed in compliance with this section. However, this does not limit DEP's authority to amend a BMAP.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- DEP, in cooperation with WMDs and other interested parties, may develop interim measures, BMPs, or other measures for non-agricultural nonpoint sources to achieve their load reduction allocations.
  - These measures may be adopted by **DEP or WMD** rule. If adopted, they shall be implemented by those responsible for non-agricultural nonpoint source pollution.
- DACS may develop and adopt by rule interim measure, BMPs, or other measures necessary for agricultural pollutant sources to achieve their load reduction allocations.
  - These measures may be implemented by those responsible for agricultural pollutant sources. **DEP, the WMDs, and DACS** shall assist with implementation.
  - In developing and adopting these measures, DACS shall consult with DEP, DOH, the WMDs, representatives of affected farming groups, and environmental group representatives.
  - The rules shall provide for a notice of intent to implement the practices and a system to ensure implementation, including recordkeeping.
- Verification of Effectiveness and Presumption of Compliance -
  - DEP shall, at representative sites, verify the effectiveness of BMPs and other measures adopted by rule in achieving load reduction allocations.
  - DEP shall use best professional judgment in making the initial verification of effectiveness, and shall notify **DACS and the appropriate WMD** of the initial verification prior to the adoption of a rule proposed pursuant to this paragraph.
  - Implementation of rule-adopted BMPs or other measures initially verified by DEP to be effective, or verified to be effective by monitoring at representative sites, provides a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards for those pollutants addressed by the practices.
- Reevaluation –
  - Where water quality problems are demonstrated despite implementation, operation, and maintenance of rule-adopted BMPs and other measures, **DEP, a WMD, or DACS**, in consultation with DEP, shall reevaluate the measures. If the practices require modification, the revised rule shall specify a reasonable time period for implementation.

Appendix C: Stakeholder Involvement in BMAP Development

SANTA FE RIVER STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

All technical meetings were open to the public and noticed in the *Florida Administrative Weekly* (FAW). Technical meetings were open to anyone interested in participating in the technical discussions. In addition, public meetings were held on the Verified Lists, the adoption of the TMDLs, and the BMAP document.

PUBLIC MEETING(S)

Public meetings on the proposed Verified List and the Santa Fe River TMDL were held before each was adopted. In addition, a public workshop on the BMAP was held on [date].

Appendix D: Initial Agricultural Commodity-Based RFA

The first commodity-based RFA for FDACS will be vegetable and row crop operations, due to the intensity of this land use with regard to nutrient applications. **Figure D-1** shows row, field, and hay crop acreage within the Santa Fe Basin, with an overlay (striped areas) of the operations that already are enrolled in appropriate BMPs for this industry. **Figure 9** in Chapter 3 of this BMAP illustrates the process that FDACS will use to identify and enroll commercial agricultural operations that do not yet formally participate in the BMP program.

To date, approximately 41,759 acres (54%) of an estimated 76,832 vegetable and row crop acres in the basin are enrolled in BMPs. FDACS' goal is to raise this enrollment percentage to at least 70% within the first five years following BMAP adoption. This is in addition to concentrating efforts in identified geographic RFAs and working to enroll other commodities throughout the basin.

The SRP, with funding from the SRWMD, FDACS, and NRCS, provides cost-share to vegetable growers in the SRWMD to better manage their nutrient and irrigation water applications and to purchase "crop tools," such as soil moisture probes, automated weather station systems, GPS guidance units, and fertilizer application equipment. SRP staff work with farmers to evaluate how well these tools are being used, identify areas that need improvement, and identify new technology that may be used. SRP staff also will be holding crop management workshops to encourage producer participation and provide updates on new crop management techniques and technology.

In spring 2011, FDACS conducted a written, mailed-out survey for enrolled vegetable/row crop producers statewide, including growers in the Santa Fe Basin. FDACS staff will continue BMP implementation follow-up activities with vegetable and row crop operations in the basin, through site visits and written surveys as described in **Chapter 3**, to evaluate overall participation in BMP implementation, and provide assistance to growers as needed. Once the vegetable and row crop BMP manual is revised, FDACS will determine that producers with NOIs are aware of improved practices and are implementing them.

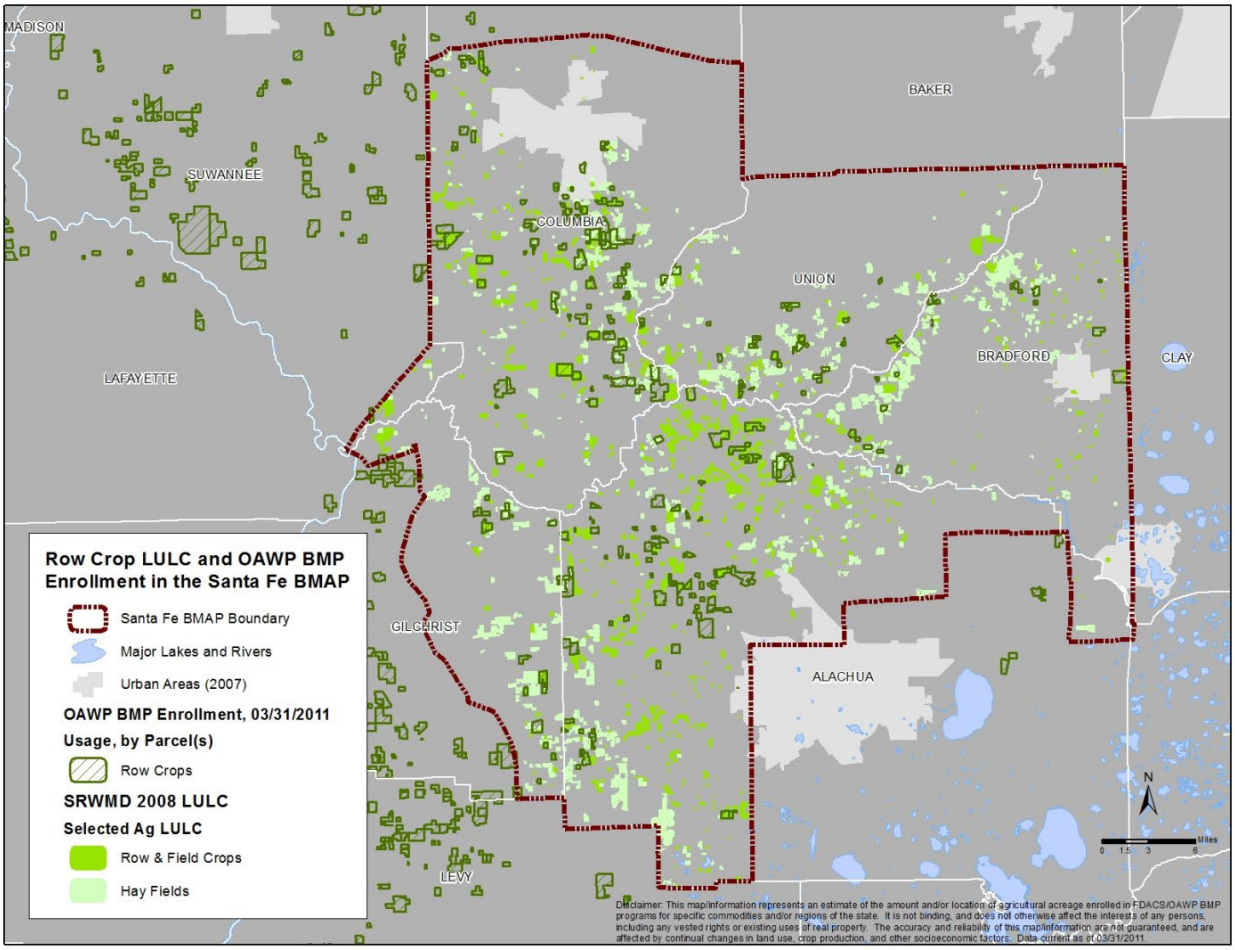


FIGURE D-1. VEGETABLE AND ROW CROP LAND USE AND BMP ENROLLMENT IN THE SANTA FE BASIN

Appendix E: Summary of EPA-Recommended Elements of a Comprehensive Watershed Plan

The following is an excerpt on the nine elements of a watershed plan from the EPA's *Draft Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters.* Additional information regarding these elements can be found in the full version of the handbook, available at: http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed_handbook/.

NINE MINIMUM ELEMENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN A WATERSHED PLAN FOR IMPAIRED WATERS FUNDED USING INCREMENTAL SECTION 319 FUNDS

Although many different components may be included in a watershed plan, EPA has identified a minimum of nine elements that are critical for achieving improvements in water quality. EPA requires that these nine elements be addressed for watershed plans funded using incremental Section 319 funds and strongly recommends that they be included in all other watershed plans that are intended to remediate water quality impairments.

The nine elements are provided below, listed in the order in which they appear in the guidelines. Although they are listed as *a* through *i*, they do not necessarily take place sequentially. For example, element *d* asks for a description of the technical and financial assistance that will be needed to implement the watershed plan, but this can be done only after you have addressed elements *e* and *i*.

Explanations are provided with each element to show you what to include in your watershed plan.

NINE ELEMENTS

a. Identification of causes of impairment and pollutant sources or groups of similar sources that need to be controlled to achieve needed load reductions, and any other goals identified in the watershed plan. *Sources that need to be controlled should be identified at the significant subcategory level along with estimates of the extent to which they are present in the watershed (e.g., X number of dairy cattle feedlots needing upgrading, including a rough estimate of the number of cattle per facility; Y acres of row crops needing improved nutrient management or sediment control; or Z linear miles of eroded streambank needing remediation)*.

What does this mean?
Your watershed plan should include a map of the watershed that locates the major sources and causes of impairment. Based on these impairments, you will set goals that will include (at a minimum) meeting the appropriate water quality standards for pollutants that threaten or impair the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the watershed covered in the plan.

b. An estimate of the load reductions expected from management measures.

What does this mean?
You will first quantify the pollutant loads for the watershed. Based on these pollutant loads, you'll determine the reductions needed to meet the water quality standards.

You will then identify various management measures (see element *c* below) that will help to reduce the pollutant loads and estimate the load reductions expected as a result of these management measures to be implemented, recognizing the difficulty in precisely predicting the performance of management measures over time.

Estimates should be provided at the same level as that required in the scale and scope component in paragraph *a* (e.g., the total load reduction expected for dairy cattle feedlots, row crops, or eroded streambanks). For waters for which EPA has approved or established TMDLs, the plan should identify and incorporate the TMDLs.

Applicable loads for downstream waters should be included so that water delivered to a downstream or adjacent segment does not exceed the water quality standards for the pollutant of concern at the water segment boundary. The estimate should account for reductions in pollutant loads from point and nonpoint sources identified in the TMDL as necessary to attain the applicable water quality standards.

c. A description of the management measures that will need to be implemented to achieve load reductions in paragraph 2, and a description of the critical areas in which those measures will be needed to implement this plan.

What does this mean?
The plan should describe the management measures that need to be implemented to achieve the load reductions estimated under element *b*, as well as to achieve any additional pollution prevention goals called out in the watershed plan. It should also identify the critical areas in which those measures will be needed to implement the plan. This can be done by using a map or a description.

d. Estimate of the amounts of technical and financial assistance needed, associated costs, and/or the sources and authorities that will be relied upon to implement this plan.

What does this mean?
You should estimate the financial and technical assistance needed to implement the entire plan. This includes implementation and long-term operation and maintenance of management measures, information and education (I/E) activities, monitoring, and evaluation activities. You should also document which relevant authorities might play a role in implementing the plan. Plan sponsors should consider the use of federal, state, local, and private funds or resources that might be available to assist in implementing the plan. Shortfalls between needs and available resources should be identified and addressed in the plan.

e. An information and education (I/E) component used to enhance public understanding of the project and encourage their early and continued participation in selecting, designing, and implementing the nonpoint source management measures that will be implemented.

What does this mean?
The plan should include an I/E component that identifies the education and outreach activities or actions that will be used to implement the plan. These I/E activities may support the adoption and long-term operation and maintenance of management practices and support stakeholder involvement efforts.

f. Schedule for implementing the management measures identified in this plan that is reasonably expeditious.

What does this mean?
You need to include a schedule for implementing the management measures outlined in your watershed plan. The schedule should reflect the milestones you develop in *g*.

g. A description of interim measurable milestones for determining whether management measures or other control actions are being implemented.

What does this mean?
You'll develop interim, measurable milestones to measure progress in implementing the management measures for your watershed plan. These milestones will measure the implementation of the management measures, such as whether they are being implemented on schedule, whereas element *h* (see below) will measure the effectiveness of the management measures, for example, by documenting improvements in water quality.

h. A set of criteria that can be used to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress is being made toward attaining water quality standards.

What does this mean?
Using the milestones you developed above, you'll develop a set of criteria (or indicators) with interim target values to be used to determine whether progress is being made toward reducing pollutant loads. These interim targets can be direct measurements (e.g., fecal coliform concentrations) or indirect indicators of load reduction (e.g., number of beach closings). You must also indicate how you'll determine whether the watershed plan needs to be revised if interim targets are not met and what process will be used to revise the existing management approach. Where a nonpoint source TMDL has been established, interim targets are also needed to determine whether the TMDL needs to be revised.

i. A monitoring component to evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation efforts over time, measured against the criteria established under item h immediately above.

What does this mean?
The watershed plan must include a monitoring component to determine whether progress is being made toward attainment or maintenance of the applicable water quality standards. The monitoring program must be fully integrated with the established schedule and interim milestone criteria identified above. The monitoring component should be designed to determine whether loading reductions are being achieved over time and substantial progress in meeting water

quality standards is being made. Watershed-scale monitoring can be used to measure the effects of multiple programs, projects, and trends over time. In stream monitoring does not have to be conducted for individual BMPs unless that type of monitoring is particularly relevant to the project.

Appendix F: Glossary of Terms

303(d) List: The list of Florida's waterbodies that do not meet or are not expected to meet applicable water quality standards with technology-based controls alone.

305(b) Report: Section 305(b) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to report biennially to the EPA on the quality of the waters in the state.

Allocation Technical Advisory Committee (ATAC): The 1999 FWRA required FDEP to form a Technical Advisory Committee to address issues relating to the allocation of load reductions among point source and nonpoint source contributors. The ATAC was therefore formed in order to develop recommendations for a report to the legislature on the process for allocating TMDLs.

Background: The condition of waters in the absence of human-induced alterations.

Baffle Box: An underground stormwater management device that uses barriers (or baffles) to slow the flow of untreated stormwater, allowing particulates to settle out in the box before the stormwater is released into the environment.

Baseline Period: A period of time used as a basis for later comparison.

Baseline Loading: The quantity of pollutants in a waterbody, used as a basis for later comparison.

Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP): The document that describes how a specific TMDL will be implemented; the plan describes the specific load and wasteload allocations as well as the stakeholder efforts that will be undertaken to achieve an adopted TMDL.

Basin Status Report: For the Suwannee Basin, this document was published in 2001 by FDEP. The report documents the water quality issues, list of water segments under consideration for a TMDL, and data needs in the basin.

Best Available Technology (BAT) Economically Achievable: As defined by 40 CFR, §125.3, outlines technology-based treatment requirements in permits.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Methods that have been determined to be the most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollution from nonpoint sources.

Coliforms: Bacteria that live in the intestines (including the colon) of humans and other animals, used as a measure of the presence of feces in water or soil.

Clean Water Act (CWA): The Clean Water Act is a 1977 amendment to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, which set the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants to waters of the United States.

Continuous Deflective Separation (CDS) Unit: A patented stormwater management device that uses the available energy of the storm flow to create a vortex to cause a separation of solids from fluids. Pollutants are captured inside the separation chamber, while the water passes out through the separation screen.

Designated Use: Uses specified in water quality standards for each waterbody or segment (such as drinking water, swimmable, fishable).

Detention Pond: A stormwater system that delays the downstream progress of stormwater runoff in a controlled manner, typically by using temporary storage areas and a metered outlet device.

Domestic Wastewater: Wastewater derived principally from dwellings, business buildings, institutions and the like; sanitary wastewater; sewage.

Dry Season: The dry part of the year when rainfall is low; in Florida, the dry season is defined as November through May.

Effluent: Wastewater that flows into a receiving stream by way of a domestic or industrial discharge point.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): This federal agency was created in December 1970 to address the nation's urgent environmental problems and to protect the public health. Most of FDEP's regulatory programs have counterparts at the EPA or are delegated from the EPA.

Event Mean Concentration (EMC): The flow-weighted mean concentration of an urban runoff pollutant measured during a storm event.

Exfiltration: Loss of water from a drainage system as the result of percolation or absorption into the surrounding soil.

External Loading: Pollutants originating from outside a waterbody that contribute to the pollutant load of the waterbody.

Flocculent: A liquid that contains loosely aggregated, suspended particles.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP): FDEP is Florida's principal environmental and natural resources agency. The Florida Department of Natural Resources and the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation were merged to create FDEP effective July 1, 1993.

Ground Water or Groundwater: Water below the land surface in the zone of saturation where water is at or above atmospheric pressure.

Impairment: The condition of a waterbody that does not achieve water quality standards (designated use) due to pollutants or an unknown cause.

Load Allocations (LA): The portions of a receiving water's loading capacity that are allocated to one of its existing or future nonpoint sources of pollution.

Load Capacity: The greatest amount of loading that a waterbody can receive without violating water quality standards.

Loading: The total quantity of pollutants in stormwater runoff that contributes to the water quality impairment.

Margin of Safety (MOS): An explicit or implicit assumption used in the calculation of a TMDL, which takes into account any lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between effluent limitations and water quality. An explicit MOS is typically a percentage of the assimilative capacity or some other specific amount of pollutant loading (e.g., the loading from an out-of-state source). Most FDEP-adopted TMDLs include an implicit MOS based on the fact that the predictive model runs incorporate a variety of conservative assumptions (they examine worst-case ambient flow conditions and worst-case temperature, and assume that all permitted point sources discharge at their maximum permittable amount).

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES): The permitting process by which technology-based and water quality–based controls are implemented.

Nonpoint Source (NPS): Diffuse runoff without a single point of origin that flows over the surface of the ground by stormwater and is then introduced to surface or ground water. NPS includes atmospheric deposition and runoff or leaching from agricultural lands, urban areas, unvegetated lands, on-site sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS), and construction sites.

Nonpoint Source Pollution: Nonpoint source pollution is created by the flushing of pollutants from the landscape by rainfall and the resulting stormwater runoff, or by the leaching of pollutants through the soils into the ground water.

Organic Matter: Carbonaceous waste contained in plant or animal matter and originating from domestic or industrial sources.

Outfall: The place where a sewer, drain, or stream discharges.

Particulate: A minute separate particle, as of a granular substance or powder.

Pollutant Load Reduction Goals (PLRGs): PLRGs are defined as the estimated numeric reductions in pollutant loadings needed to preserve or restore the designated uses of receiving waterbodies and maintain water quality consistent with applicable state water quality standards. PLRGs are developed by the water management districts.

Point Source: An identifiable and confined discharge point for one or more water pollutants, such as a pipe, channel, vessel, or ditch.

Pollutant: Generally any substance, such as a chemical or waste product, introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource.

Pollution: An undesirable change in the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of air, water, soil, or food that can adversely affect the health, survival, or activities of humans or other living organisms.

Removal Efficiency: A description of how much of a given substance (metals, sediment, etc.) has been extracted from another substance.

Retention Pond: A stormwater management structure whose primary purpose is to permanently store a given volume of stormwater runoff, releasing it by infiltration and /or evaporation.

Reuse: The deliberate application of reclaimed water for a beneficial purpose. Criteria used to classify projects as "reuse" or "effluent disposal" are contained in Subsection 62-610.810, F.A.C.

Runoff Curve: A calculated number representing the percentage of rainfall that becomes runoff for a given area.

Quality Assurance (QA): An integrated system of management activities that involves planning, implementation, documentation, assessment, reporting, and quality improvement to ensure that a process, product, or service meets defined standards of quality.

Quality Control (QC): The overall system of technical activities that measures the attributes and performance of a process, product, or service against defined standards to verify that they meet the established data quality objectives.

Septic Tank: A watertight receptacle constructed to promote the separation of solid and liquid components of wastewater, to provide the limited digestion of organic matter, to store solids, and to allow clarified liquid to discharge for further treatment and disposal in a soil absorption system.

STORET: The EPA's STOrage and RETrieval database, used nationally for water quality data storage.

Stormwater: Water that results from a rainfall event.

Stormwater Runoff: The portion of rainfall that hits the ground and is not evaporated, percolated, or transpired into vegetation, but rather flows over the ground surface seeking a receiving waterbody.

Submersed: Growing or remaining under water.

Surface Water: Water on the surface of the earth, whether contained in bounds created naturally or artificially or diffused. Water from natural springs is classified as surface water when it exits the spring onto the earth's surface.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): The sum of the individual wasteload allocations for point sources and the load allocations for nonpoint sources and natural background. Prior to determining individual wasteload allocations and load allocations, the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody or waterbody segment can assimilate from all sources while still maintaining its designated use must first be calculated. TMDLs are based on the relationship between pollutants and instream water quality conditions.

Wasteload Allocations (WLAs): Pollutant loads allotted to existing and future point sources, such as discharges from industry and sewage facilities.

Wastewater: The combination of liquid and pollutants from residences, commercial buildings, industrial plants, and institutions, together with any ground water, surface runoff, or leachate that may be present.

Waterbody Identification (WBID) Numbers: Numbers assigned to hydrologically based drainage areas in a river basin.

Water Column: The water within a waterbody between the surface and sediments.

Water Quality Assessment Report: The Suwannee Assessment Report, published in 2003, presents the results of additional data gathered during Phase 2 of the watershed management cycle. The report contains a Verified List of impaired waters, adopted by Secretarial Order and approved by the EPA, for which TMDLs must be developed and implemented, unless the impairment is documented to be a naturally occurring condition that cannot be abated by a TMDL or unless a management plan already in place is expected to correct the problem. The Verified List also constitutes the Group 1 basin-specific 303(d) list of impaired waters, so called because it is required under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Water Quality Index: Determines the quality of Florida's streams, blackwaters, and springs. Categories include water clarity, DO, oxygen-demanding substances, nutrients, bacteria, and macroinvertebrate diversity.

Water Quality Standards (WQSs): (1) Standards that comprise the designated most beneficial uses (classification of water), the numeric and narrative criteria applied to the specific water use or classification, the Florida Anti-degradation Policy, and the moderating provisions contained in Rules 62-302 and 62-4, F.A.C. (2) State-adopted and EPA-approved ambient standards for waterbodies. The standards prescribe the use of the waterbody (such as drinking, fishing and swimming, and shellfish harvesting) and establish the water quality criteria that must be met to protect designated uses.

Watershed: The topographic area that contributes or may contribute runoff to specific surface waters or an area of recharge.

Watershed Management Approach: The process of addressing water quality concerns within their natural boundaries, rather than political or regulatory boundaries. The process draws together all the participants and stakeholders in each basin to decide what problems affect the water quality in the basin, which are most important, and how they will be addressed.

Wet Season: The rainy part of the year; in Florida, the wet season is defined as June through October.

Appendix G: Bibliography of Key References and Websites

KEY REFERENCES:

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). 2011a. *Office of Agricultural Water Policy website.* Available: http://www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com.

———. 2011b. *BMP implementation assurance website.* Available: http://www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com/ImplementationAssurance.html.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). 2001. *Basin status report: Suwannee (including Aucilla, Coastal, Santa Fe, and Waccasassa Basins in Florida).* Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Watershed Management. Available: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/basin411/suwannee/status.htm.

———. 2003. *Water quality assessment report: Suwannee (including Aucilla, Coastal, Santa Fe, and Waccasassa Basins in Florida).* Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Watershed Management. Available: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/basin411/suwannee/assessment.htm.

———. 2011a. *2008 Standard Operating Procedures website.* Available: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/sas/sop/sops.htm.

———. 2011b. *TMDL Program website.* Available: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/.

Hallas, J.F., and W. Magley. 2008. *Nutrient and dissolved oxygen TMDL for the Suwannee River, Santa Fe River, Manatee Springs (3422R), Fanning Springs (3422S), Branford Spring (3422J), Ruth Spring (3422L), Troy Spring (3422T), Royal Spring (3422U), and Falmouth Spring (3422Z).* Tallahassee, FL: Bureau of Watershed Management. Available: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/docs/tmdls/final/gp1/suwanneebasinnutrienttmdl.pdf.

Hornsby, H.D. and R. Ceryak. 1998. Springs of the Suwannee River Basin in Florida. WR99-02. Suwannee River Water Management District, Live Oak, FL.

Hornsby, H.D. 2007. *Influences on the distribution and occurrence of nitrate-nitrogen and total phosphorus in the water resources of the Suwannee River Water Management District.* University of Florida Ph.D. dissertation. Gainesville, FL.

Katz, B.G., H.D. Hornsby, J.F. Bohlke, and M.F. Mokray. 1999. *Sources and chronology of nitrate contamination in spring waters, Suwannee River Basin, Florida.* U.S. Geological Survey Water Resources Investigations Report 99-4252.

Katz, B.G., A.A. Sepulveda, and R.J. Verdi. 2009. Estimating nitrogen loading to ground water and assessing vulnerability to nitrate contamination in a large karstic springs basin, Florida. *Journal of the American Water Resources Association 45: 607–627.*

Normandeau Associates, Inc. June 15, 2011. *Ichetucknee Springs and River restoration plan.* Prepared for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Ground Water and Springs Protection Section. Gainesville, FL. Available: http://www.floridasprings.org/downloads/florida_141_gimaa5ih.pdf

Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD). 2010. *Water supply assessment.* Available: http://www.srwmd.org/documents/Water%20Resources/Water%20Supply%20Planning/SRWMD_WSAR_120610.PDF.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2007. Available: http://www.census.gov/.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). March 2008. *Draft handbook for developing watershed plans to restore and protect our waters.* EPA 841-B-08-002. Available: http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed_handbook/.

Vowell, J.L. 2001. Using stream bioassessment to monitor best management practice effectiveness. *Forest Ecology and Management.* 143 (2001) 237-244.

Vowell, J.L., and R.B. Frydenborg. 2004. A biological assessment of best management practice effectiveness during intensive silviculture and forest chemical application. *Water Air Soil Pollution Focus.* 4:297-307.

STORMWATER AND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION WEBSITES:

- = Empty cell/no data

ENTITY/PROGRAM	URL
Local and Regional Sites	-
Alachua County	http://www.alachuacounty.us/Pages/AlachuaCounty.aspx
Alachua County Environmental Protection Department	http://www.alachuacounty.us/depts/epd/Pages/EPD.aspx
Bradford County	http://www.bradford-co-fla.org/
City of Lake City	http://www.lcfla.com/
Columbia County	http://www.columbiacountyfla.com/
Gilchrist County	http://gilchrist.fl.us/
Ichetucknee Springs Working Group	http://www.floridasprings.org/protecting/featured/ichetuckneesprings/
Santa Fe Springs Working Group	http://www.santaferiversprings.com/
Suwannee River Partnership (SRP)	http://www.suwannee.org/
Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD)	http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/
The Ichetucknee Partnership (TIP)	http://www.ichetucknee4ever.org/ www.facebook.com/ichetuckneepartnership
Union County	http://www.myunioncounty.com/
State Sites	-
General Portal for Florida	http://www.myflorida.com
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS)	http://www.freshfromflorida.com/
Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP)	http://www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com/
Best management practices (BMPs) implementation assurance	http://www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com/ImplementationAssurance.html
Florida Forest Service (FFS)	http://www.fl-dof.com/
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)	http://www.dep.state.fl.us/
Watershed Management	http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/index.htm
Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Program	http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/tmdl/index.htm
BMPs, public information, and environmental education resources	http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/pubs.htm
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Program	http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/stormwater/npdes/index.htm
Nonpoint source funding assistance (Florida Section 319 grant work plans and project summaries)	http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/319h.htm
Surface Water Quality Standards	http://www.dep.state.fl.us/legal/Rules/shared/62-302/62-302.pdf
Basin Status Report: Suwannee (includes the Santa Fe River)	http://tlhdwf2.dep.state.fl.us/basin411/suwannee/status/suwannee.pdf
Water Quality Assessment Report: Suwannee (includes the Santa Fe River)	http://tlhdwf2.dep.state.fl.us/basin411/suwannee/assessment/Suwannee-GP1AR-WEBX.pdf
Learning in Florida's Environment (LIFE) Program	http://www.dep.state.fl.us/secretary/ed/lifeprogram.htm
Florida Department of Health (FDOH)	http://www.doh.state.fl.us
Standards for onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS)	http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/ostds/pdfiles/forms/64e620070924.pdf
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 2	http://www.dot.state.fl.us/publicinformationoffice/moreDOT/districts/dist2.shtm

ENTITY/PROGRAM	URL
Florida Farm Bureau–County Alliance for Responsible Environmental Stewardship (CARES) Program	http://www.thisfarmcares.org/
Florida Springs Initiative	http://www.floridasprings.org/protecting/initiative/
Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI)	http://www.fnai.org/
University of Florida–Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF–IFAS)	http://www.ifas.ufl.edu/
Florida-Friendly Landscaping (FFL) Program	http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/
Florida Yards	http://www.floridayards.org/
National Sites	-
Center for Watershed Protection	http://www.cwp.org/
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water	http://www.epa.gov/water
EPA Region 4 (southeast United States)	http://www.epa.gov/region4
EPA Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Fact Sheet	http://www.epa.gov/npdes/sso/control/