

## SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Robbie McKinney, Hydrologic Program Manager, Office of Water Resources

THRU: Hugh Thomas, Executive Director

DATE: October 31, 2025

RE: October 2025 Hydrologic Conditions Report

#### **RAINFALL**

- Districtwide average rainfall for the month was 1.53", which was about 46 percent lower than the 1932-2024 average of 2.85" (Table 1, Figure 1). The 12-month period ending October 31 reflected a Districtwide rainfall deficit of 11.82", which was a slight increase to the 11.63" deficit seen at the end of September. District counties ranged from <1" to almost 3" of rainfall on average, with parts of Levy County receiving more than 5" of rainfall (Figure 2).
- Overall, a 12-month rainfall deficit was present in all river basins, with the Santa Fe, Suwannee, and Waccasassa basins increasing deficits by the end of October (Figure 3). An area of 12-month surplus greater than 6" was represented in the Waccasassa Basin, while sections with deficits greater than 14" were observed in each basin. The Waccasassa Basin also transitioned from a 3-month rainfall surplus to a deficit, while each of the other basins maintained rainfall deficits through the end of October (Figure 4). Over the past 3 months, four of the basins had areas with neutral (-2" to 2") rainfall conditions, while portions with greater than 10" of rainfall deficit were scattered within the Aucilla, Coastal, and Suwannee basins.

#### **SURFACE WATER**

- **Rivers:** Many of the river gages in Figure 5 finished the month in the normal (25<sup>th</sup> – 75<sup>th</sup> percentile) or below normal (10<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> percentile) flow ranges. However, gages on the Withlacoochee (Pinetta), Steinhatchee (Cross City), and the Alapaha (Statenville) spent time in October with extremely low (<10<sup>th</sup> percentile) flows. River gages at Ft. White and Graham in the Santa Fe Basin showed slight improvements after beginning the month with much below normal (<10<sup>th</sup> percentile) flows and finishing in the below normal category (Figure 6). Elsewhere in Florida, the Fenholloway, Suwannee (Ellaville), and the Alapaha (Jennings) gages began and ended the month in the normal flow range.
- **Lakes:** Water levels decreased at nearly all the monitored lakes in the District this month (Figure 7). The median decrease in stage across all measured lakes was about 0.3', with all 14 of the monitored lakes ending October below their respective long-term average. Waters Lake represented the largest water level decrease this month with a drop of around 1' since last month.
- **Springs:** Flow measurements were made at 3 springs in October by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), District staff, and contractors. Madison Blue Springs saw flows in the normal range this month (Figure 8). Fanning Springs, on the other hand, saw flows in the normal and below normal categories throughout the month of October (Figure 9).

## **GROUNDWATER**

Upper Floridan Aquifer (UFA) levels across the District ranged from extremely low (<10<sup>th</sup> percentile) to normal levels this month (Figure 10). Overall, groundwater levels decreased by a median of about 0.6' since the end of September and ended October with a Districtwide average around the 32<sup>nd</sup> percentile.

The Live Oak index well remained higher than the respective historical monthly average level, while the other 11 wells were at or below long-term averages at the end of the month (Figure 11). Long-term District UFA well levels ended October in either the very low, low, or normal categories (Figure 12a). The monitored long-term wells with records that extend back to at least 1964 showed decreasing water levels this month relative to last month (Figure 12b).

## **CLIMATE AND DROUGHT OUTLOOK**

La Niña conditions are present and favored to persist from December 2025 to February 2026, with a 55% chance of ENSO-neutral transition between January and March 2026.

The NOAA three-month seasonal outlook suggests above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation within the District from November 2025 to January 2026.

The U.S. Drought Monitor report released on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, shows Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions in the southern Levy County, Moderate Drought (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) indices across most central District counties, and Extreme Drought (D3) in all of Hamilton and parts of Suwannee, Columbia, Madison, and Jefferson counties.

## **CONSERVATION**

Water conservation continues to be necessary to sustain healthy groundwater levels and flows in District springs and rivers. All users are urged to eliminate unnecessary uses. Landscape irrigation during Eastern Standard Time (November 2, 2025, to March 8, 2026) is limited to once per week based on a District water conservation rule that applies to residential landscaping, public or commercial recreation areas, and businesses that are not regulated by a District-issued water use permit. Information about the District's year-round conservation measures is available at <http://www.srwmd.org/index.aspx?NID=337>

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The Hydrologic Conditions Report is a monthly combined effort between the Offices of Water Resources and Hydrologic Data Services data collection and review programs. Acknowledgment is made to the following staff for their contributions to the timely production of this report:

- Data Collection: Christian Holton, Matthew Jordan, Dylan Mock, Morgan Pearson, Kevin Posada, and Vince Robinson
- QA/QC and Reporting: Susie Hetrick, Robbie McKinney, Brandi Sistrunk, and Mitch Valerio
- Administrative Support/Document Preparation/IT: Paul Buchanan, Bo Cameron, Tyler Jordan, Ashley Kirby, and Andrew Neel

*This report is compiled in compliance with Chapter 40B-21.211, Florida Administrative Code, using rainfall (gage-adjusted radar-derived estimates), groundwater (122 wells), surface water (35 stations), and general information such as drought indices and forecasts. Data are provisional and updated as revised data become available. Data are available at <http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com/507/Water-Data-Portal> or upon request.*

**Table 1:** Nexrad Monthly Rainfall Totals by County (inches)

County	October 2025	October Average*	Month % of Normal	Total Last 12 Months	Annual % of Normal*
Alachua	2.06	2.85	72%	39.25	75%
Baker	0.74	2.96	25%	39.84	75%
Bradford	2.07	3.00	69%	37.23	72%
Columbia	1.47	2.67	55%	42.39	80%
Dixie	1.88	2.92	64%	43.47	75%
Gilchrist	1.19	2.81	42%	41.64	76%
Hamilton	1.23	2.63	47%	40.98	79%
Jefferson	1.11	2.74	40%	39.06	70%
Lafayette	1.23	2.76	45%	46.17	83%
Levy	2.73	2.81	97%	48.47	86%
Madison	1.09	2.67	41%	40.46	76%
Suwannee	1.09	2.66	41%	41.22	77%
Taylor	1.42	2.81	50%	45.24	80%
Union	1.27	2.86	44%	40.39	77%

\*Based on PRISM LT81 monthly rainfall averages by county (1927-2023)

October 2025 District Average	1.53
October Long-Term Average (1932-2024)	2.85
Historical 12-month Average (1932-2024)	54.76
Past 12-Month Total	42.94
12-Month Rainfall <b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-11.82</b>

**Figure 1:** Comparison of District-wide Monthly Rainfall

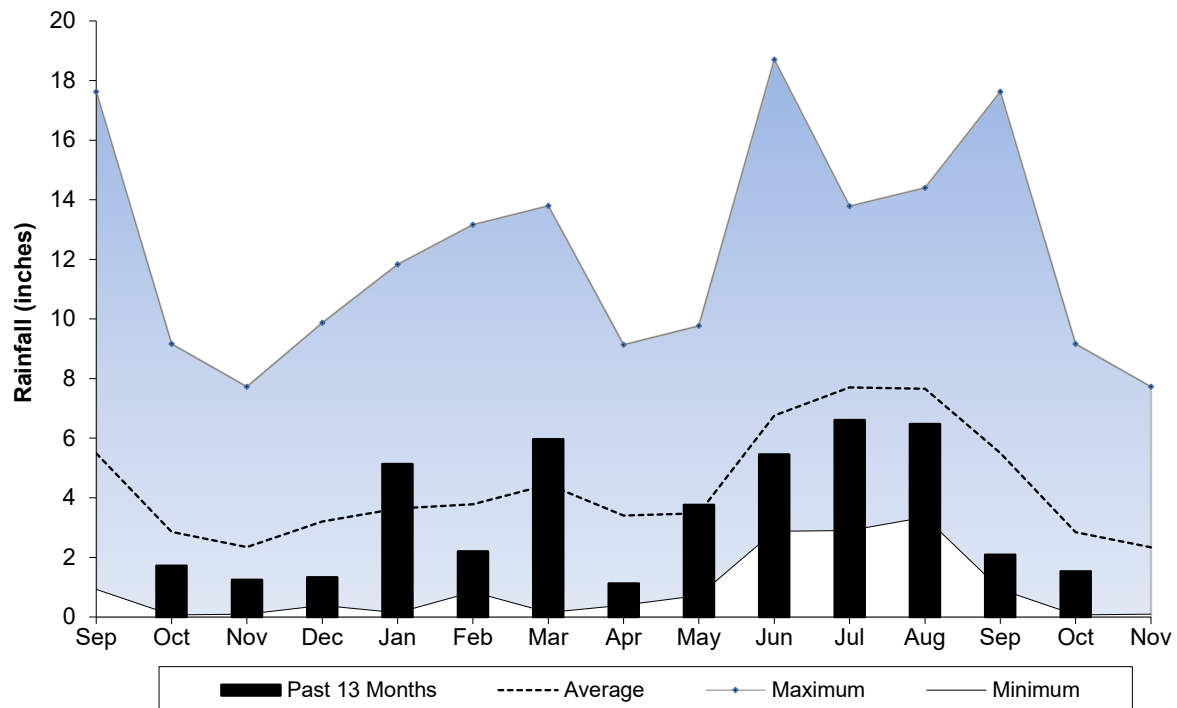
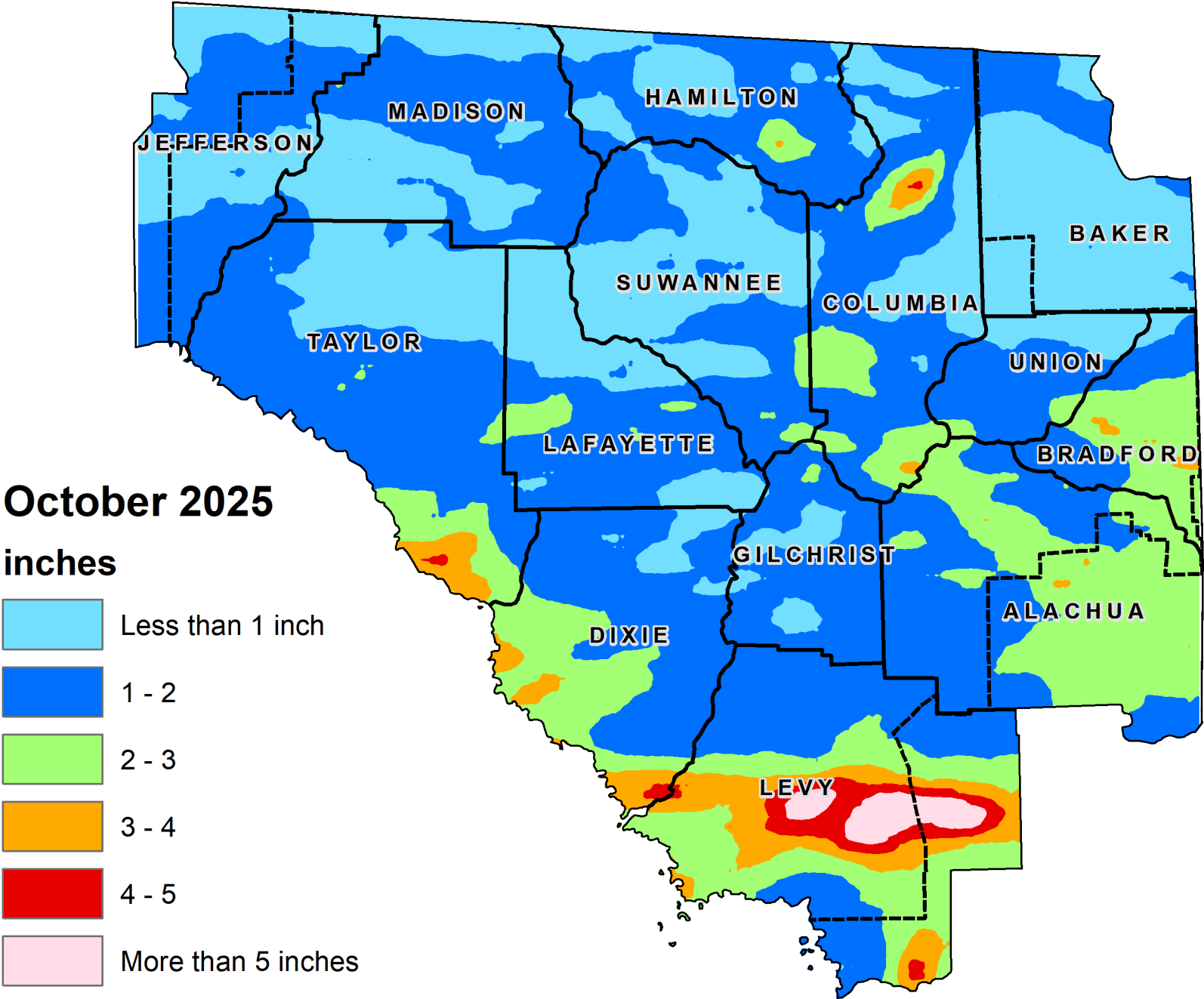
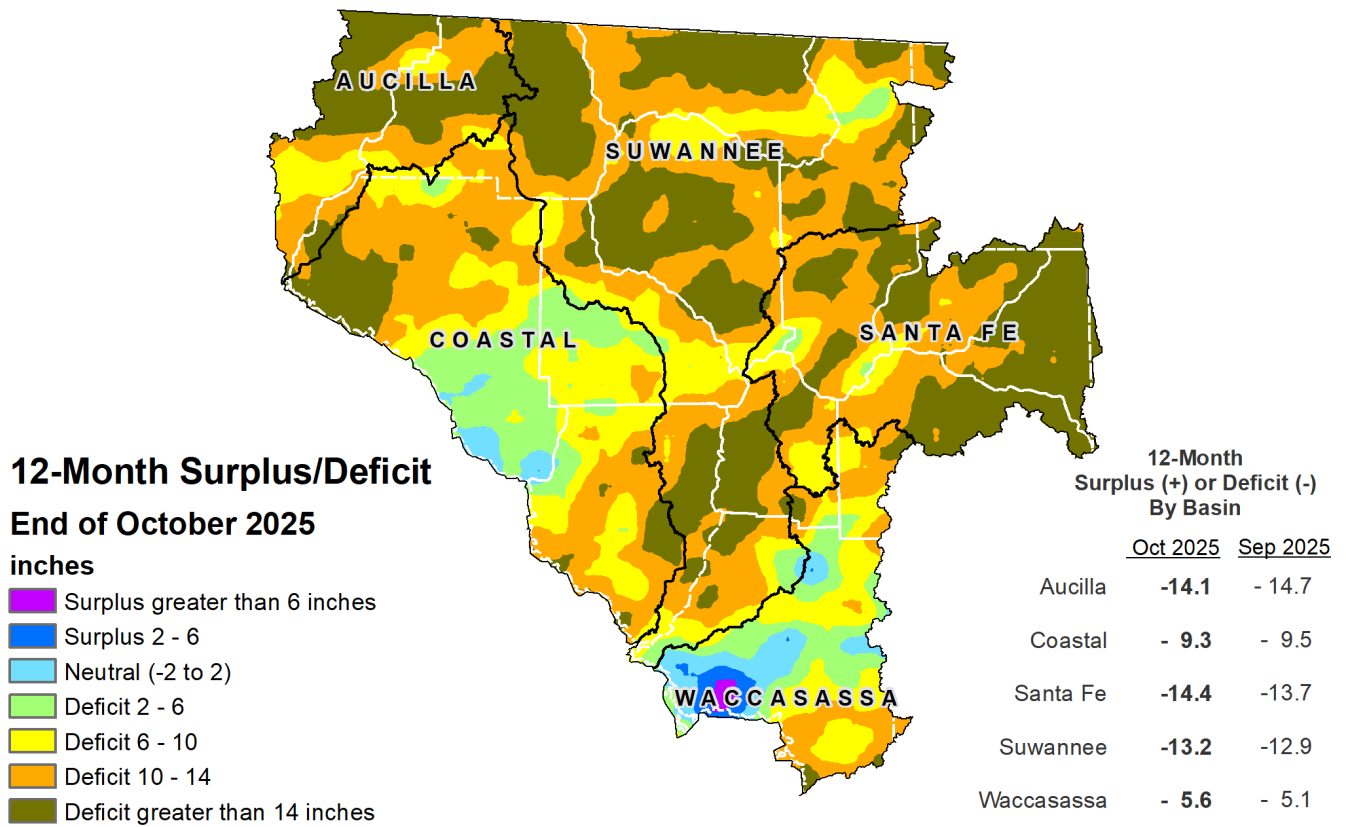


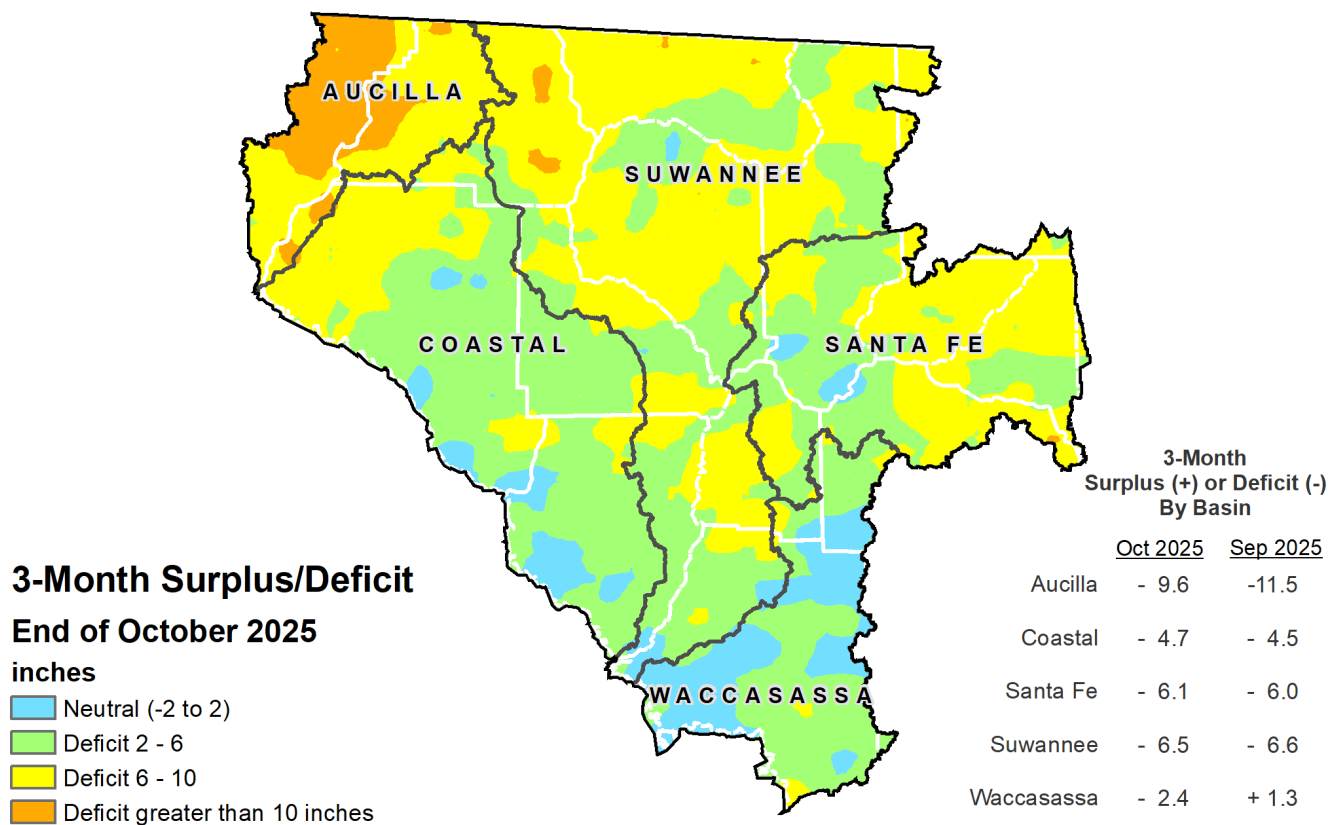
Figure 2: October 2025 SRWMD Gage-adjusted Radar Rainfall



**Figure 3: 12 - Month Rainfall Surplus/Deficit by River Basin through October 31, 2025**

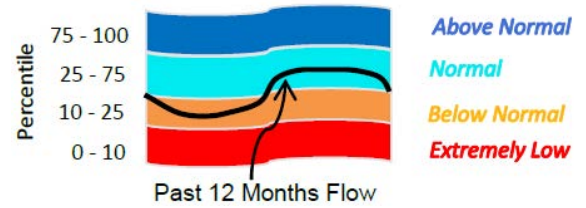
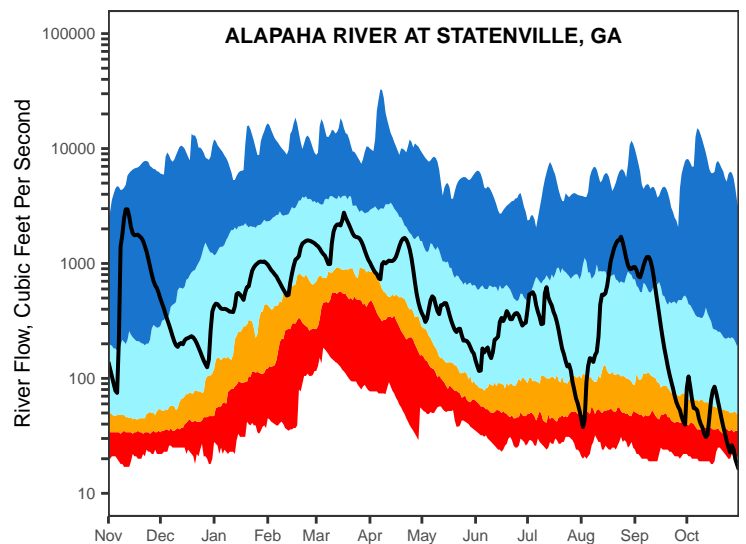
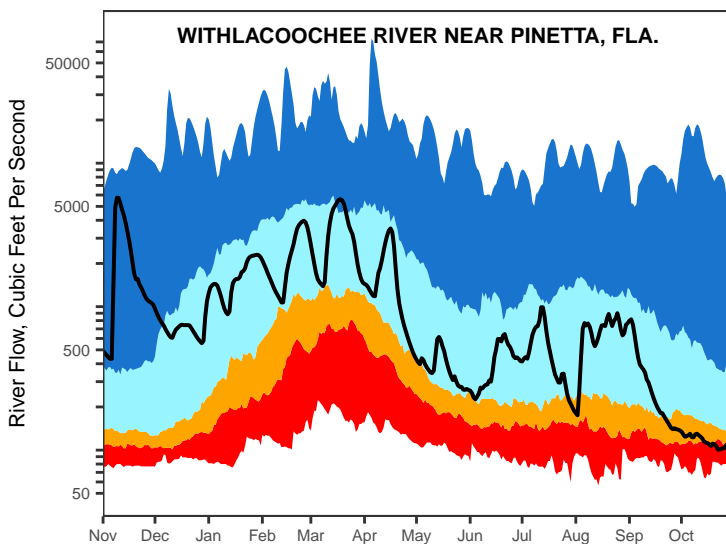
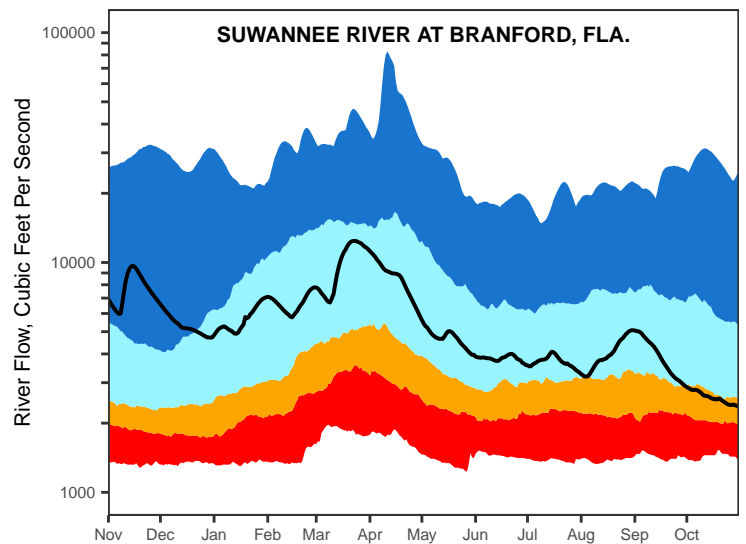
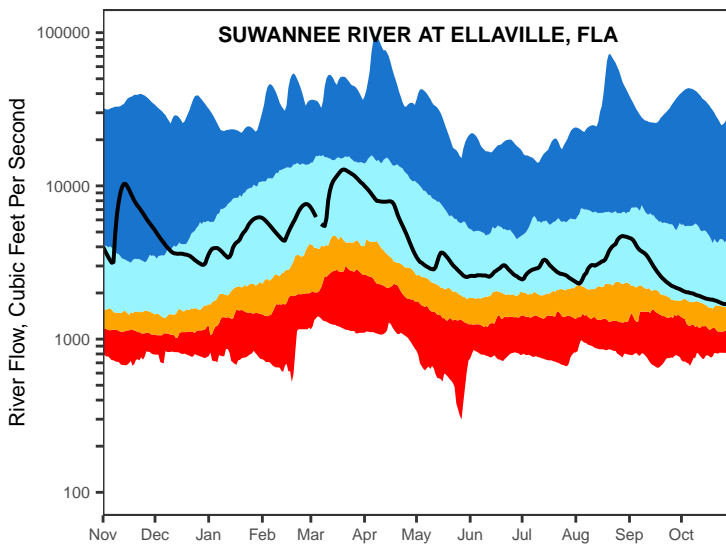
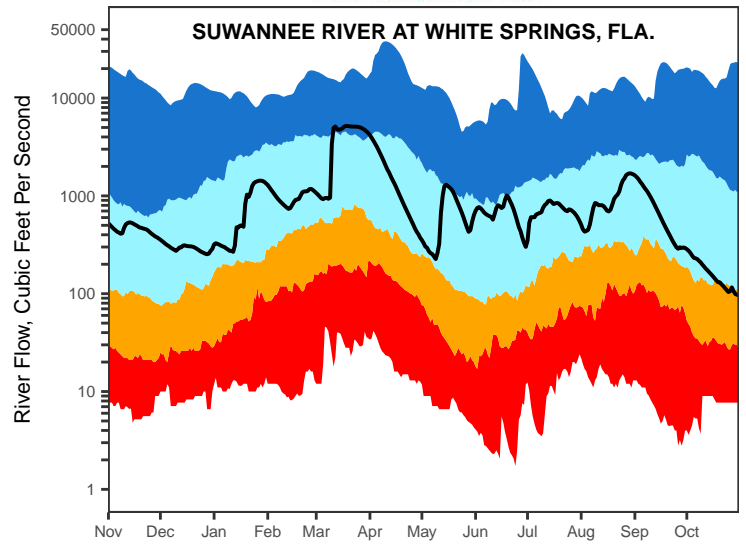
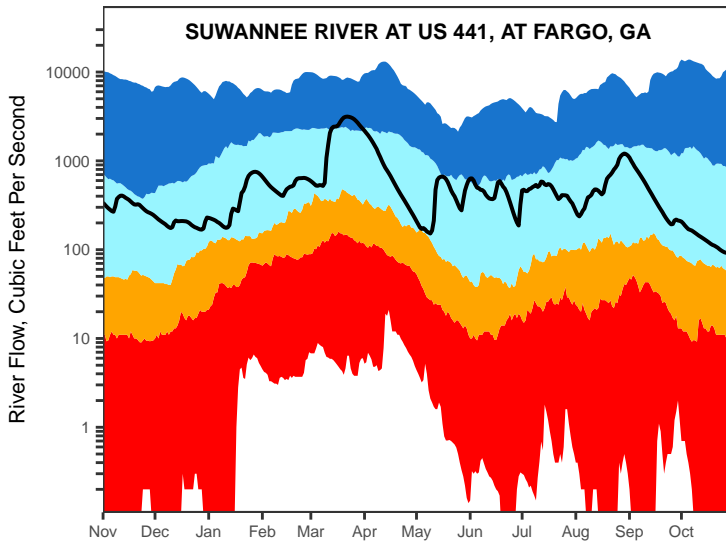


**Figure 4: 3 - Month Rainfall Surplus/Deficit by River Basin through October 31, 2025**



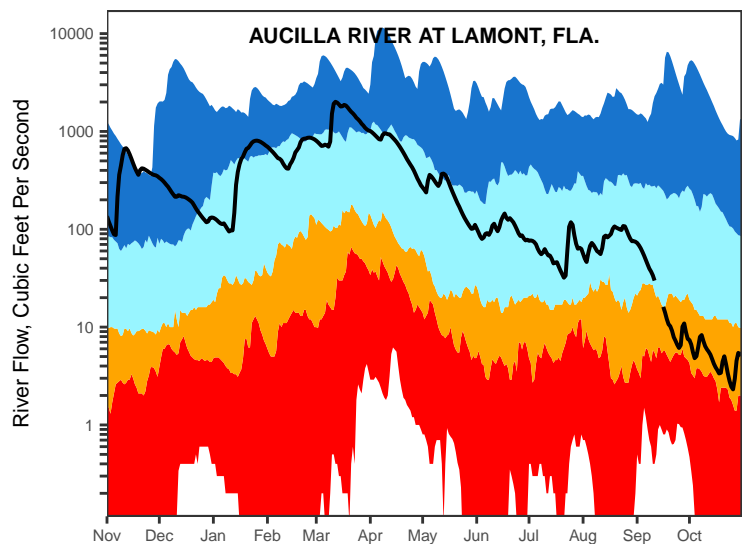
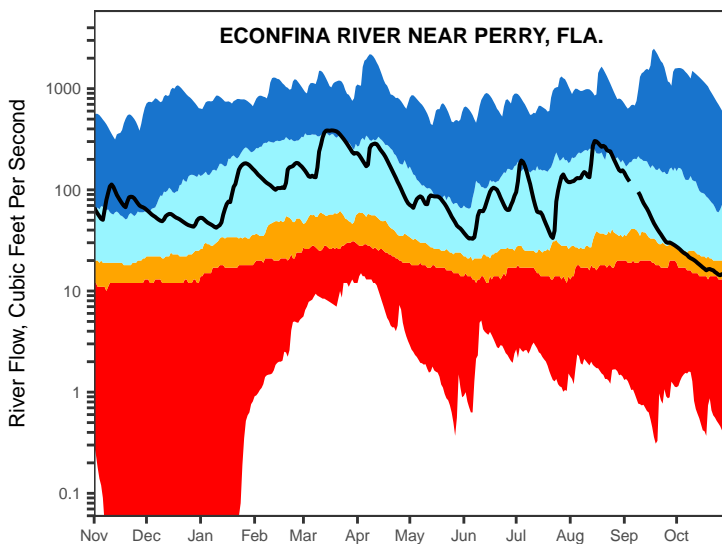
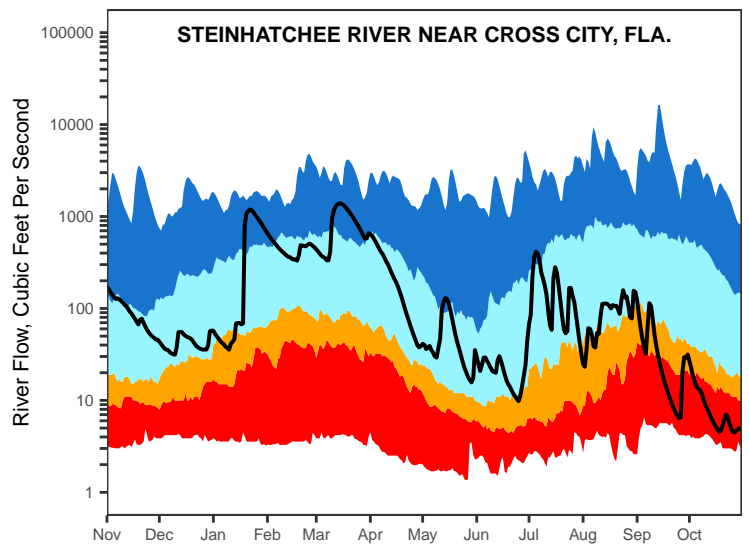
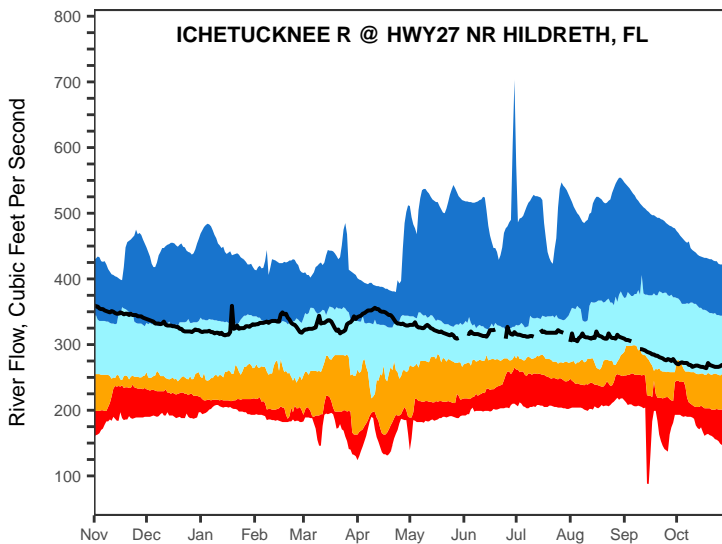
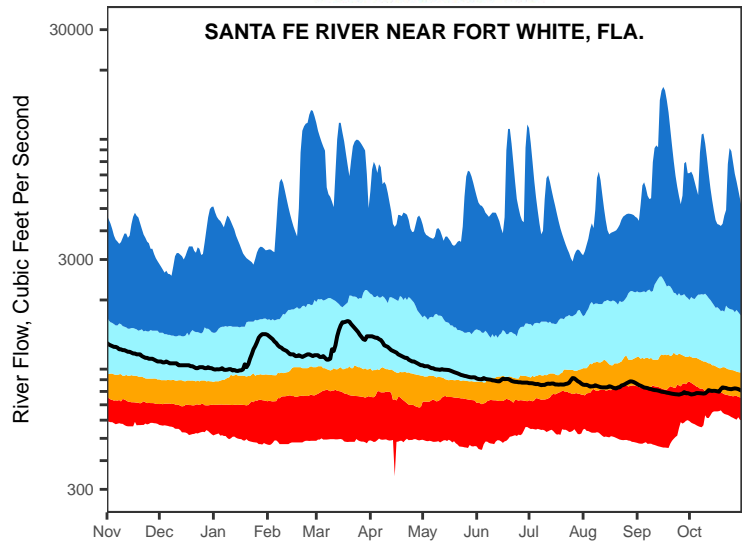
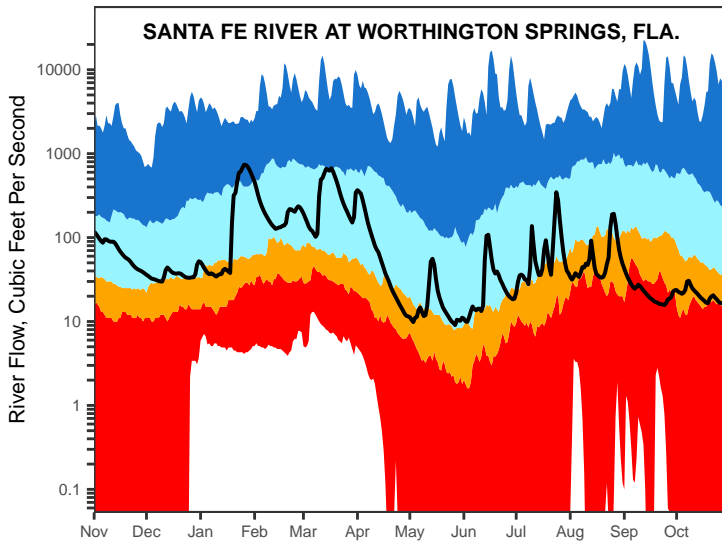
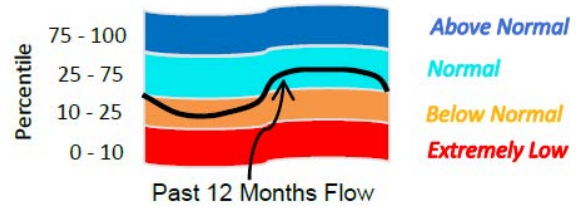
## Figure 5: Daily River Flow Statistics

November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025



## Figure 5, cont.: Daily River Flow Statistics

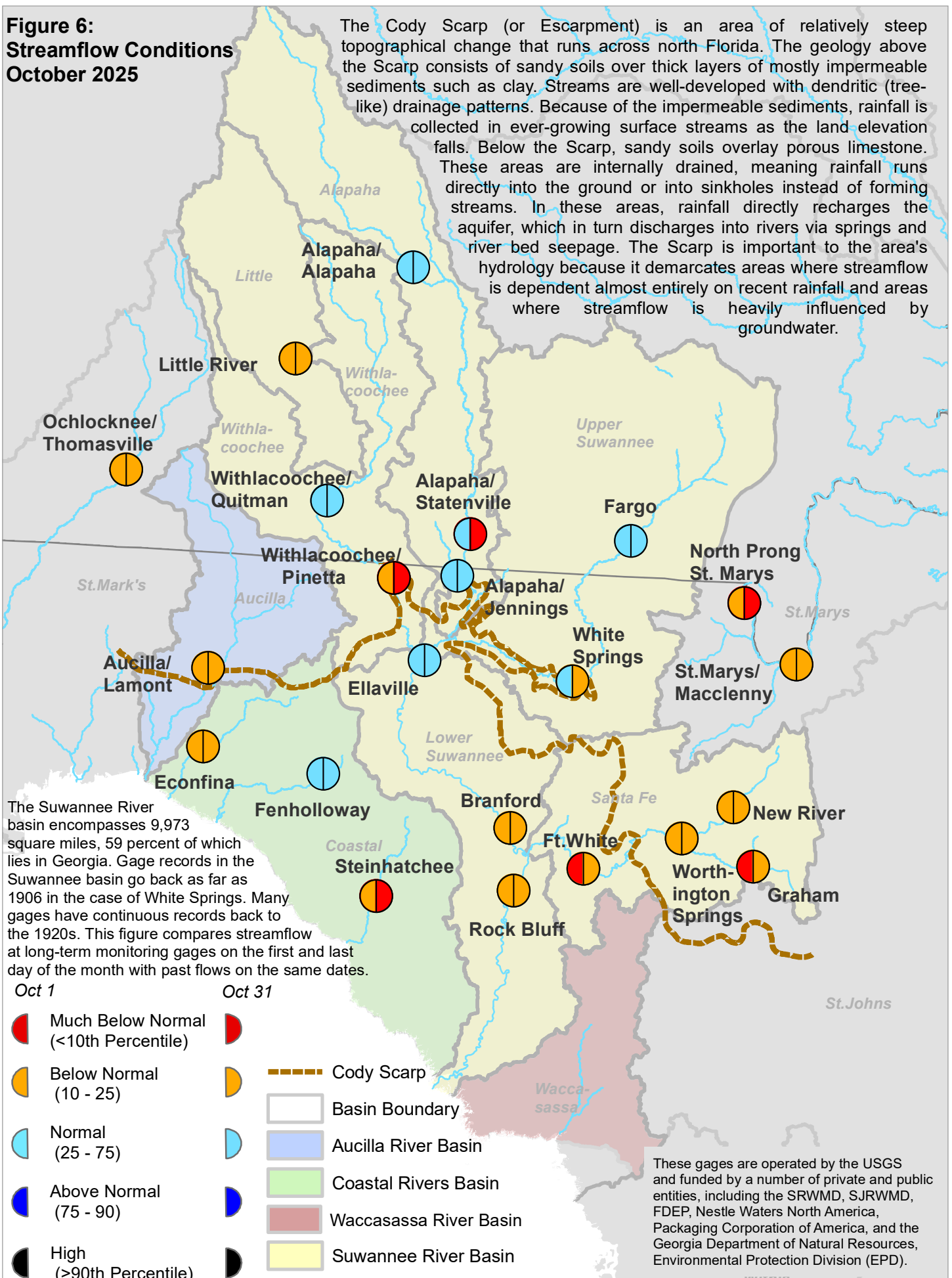
November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025





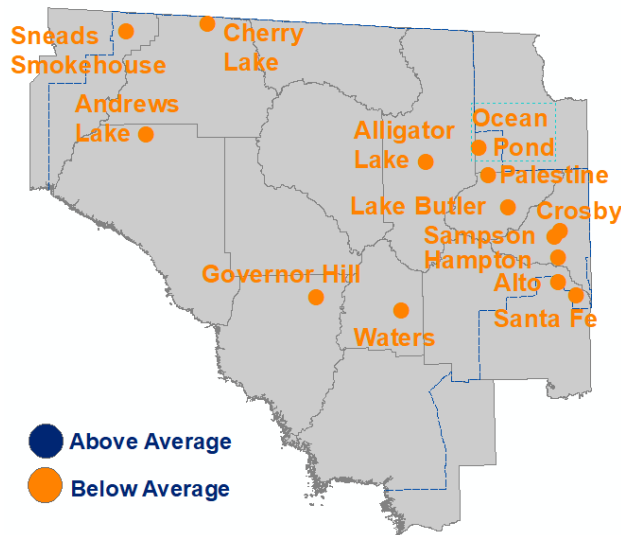
**Figure 6:  
Streamflow Conditions  
October 2025**

The Cody Scarp (or Escarpment) is an area of relatively steep topographical change that runs across north Florida. The geology above the Scarp consists of sandy soils over thick layers of mostly impermeable sediments such as clay. Streams are well-developed with dendritic (tree-like) drainage patterns. Because of the impermeable sediments, rainfall is collected in ever-growing surface streams as the land elevation falls. Below the Scarp, sandy soils overlay porous limestone. These areas are internally drained, meaning rainfall runs directly into the ground or into sinkholes instead of forming streams. In these areas, rainfall directly recharges the aquifer, which in turn discharges into rivers via springs and river bed seepage. The Scarp is important to the area's hydrology because it demarcates areas where streamflow is dependent almost entirely on recent rainfall and areas where streamflow is heavily influenced by groundwater.





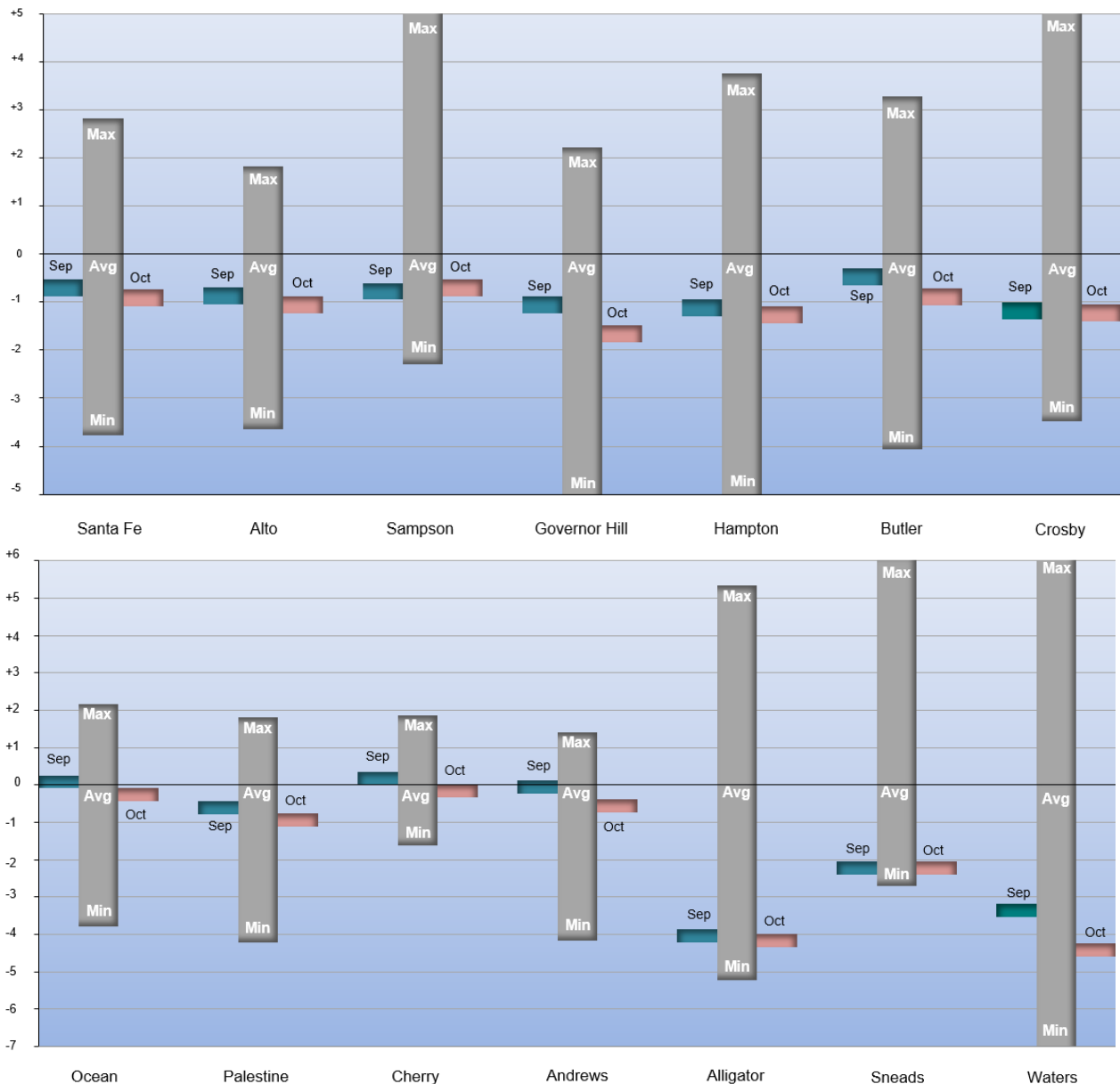
**Figure 7: October 2025 Lake Levels**



SRWMD lakes react differently to climatic changes depending on their location in the landscape. Some lakes, in particular in the eastern part of the District, are embedded in a surficial or intermediate aquifer over relatively impermeable clay deposits. These lakes rise and fall according to local rainfall and surface runoff. They retain water during severe droughts since most losses occur from evaporation. Other lakes, such as Governor Hill and Waters Lake, have porous or “leaky” bottoms that interact with the Floridan aquifer. These lakes depend on groundwater levels to stay high. If aquifer levels are low, these lakes go dry even if rainfall is normal.

The District currently monitors 14 lakes on a long-term basis; much of the data was originally provided by volunteer observers. Monitoring records began in the 1970s, except for Lakes Butler, Sampson, and Santa Fe, which started in 1957.

Feet Above or Below Historic Average



**Figure 8:** Flow Over the Past 12 Months, Madison Blue Springs (cubic feet per second)

Note: This graph is based on provisional data that are subject to revision

Period 12 Month 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2025

2024-25

Percentile statistics are calculated using data from 03/01/1932 to 09/30/2023

Madison\_Blue\_Spg

■ Max-Q75

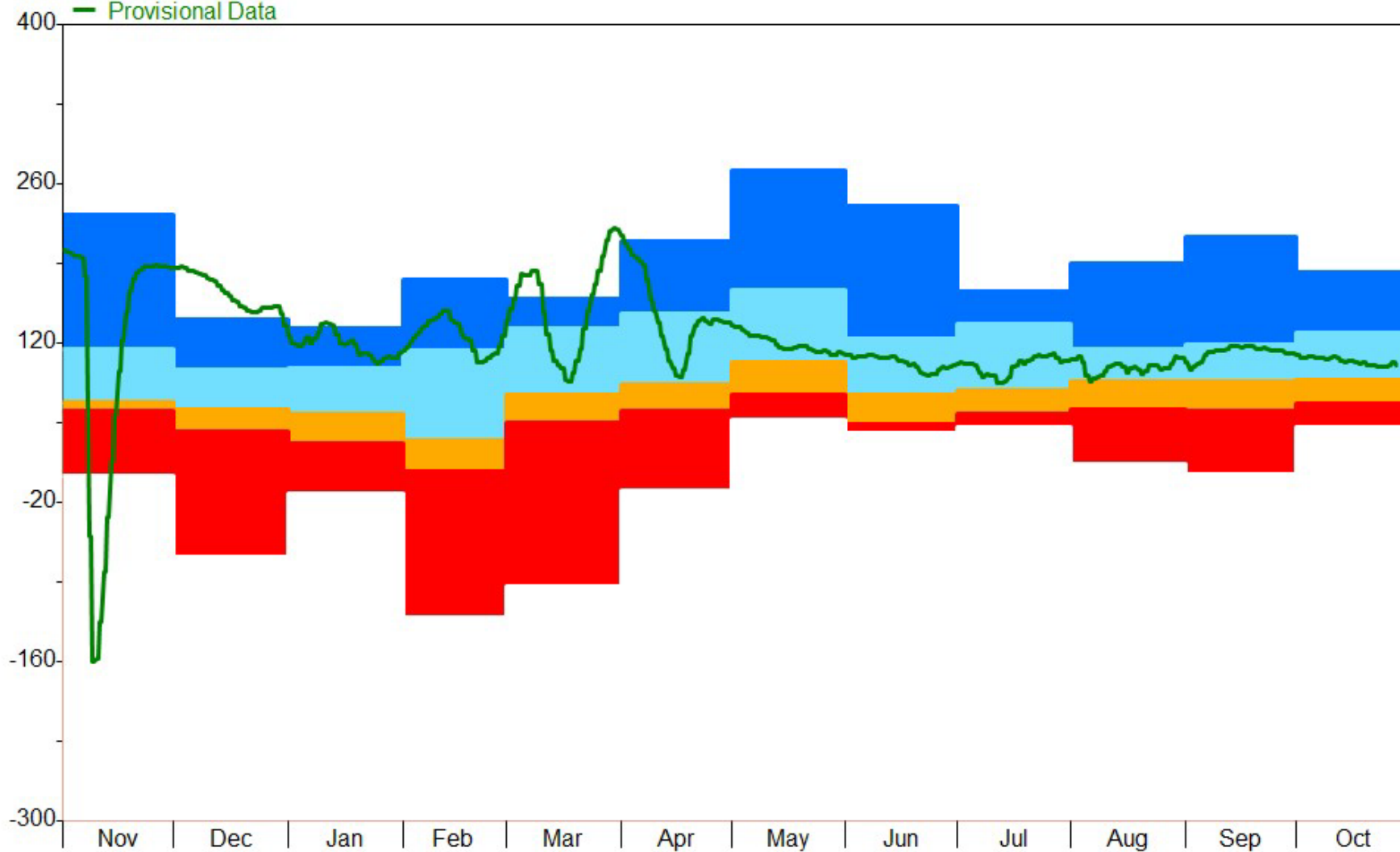
■ Q75-Q25

■ Q25-Q10

■ Q10-Min

— Archived Data

— Provisional Data



**Figure 9:** Flow Over the Past 12 Months, Fanning Springs (cubic feet per second)

Note: This graph is based on provisional data that are subject to revision

Period 12 Month 11/01/2024 to 11/01/2025

2024-25

Percentile statistics are calculated using data from 10/01/1930 to 09/30/2023

Fanning\_spg

■ Max-Q75

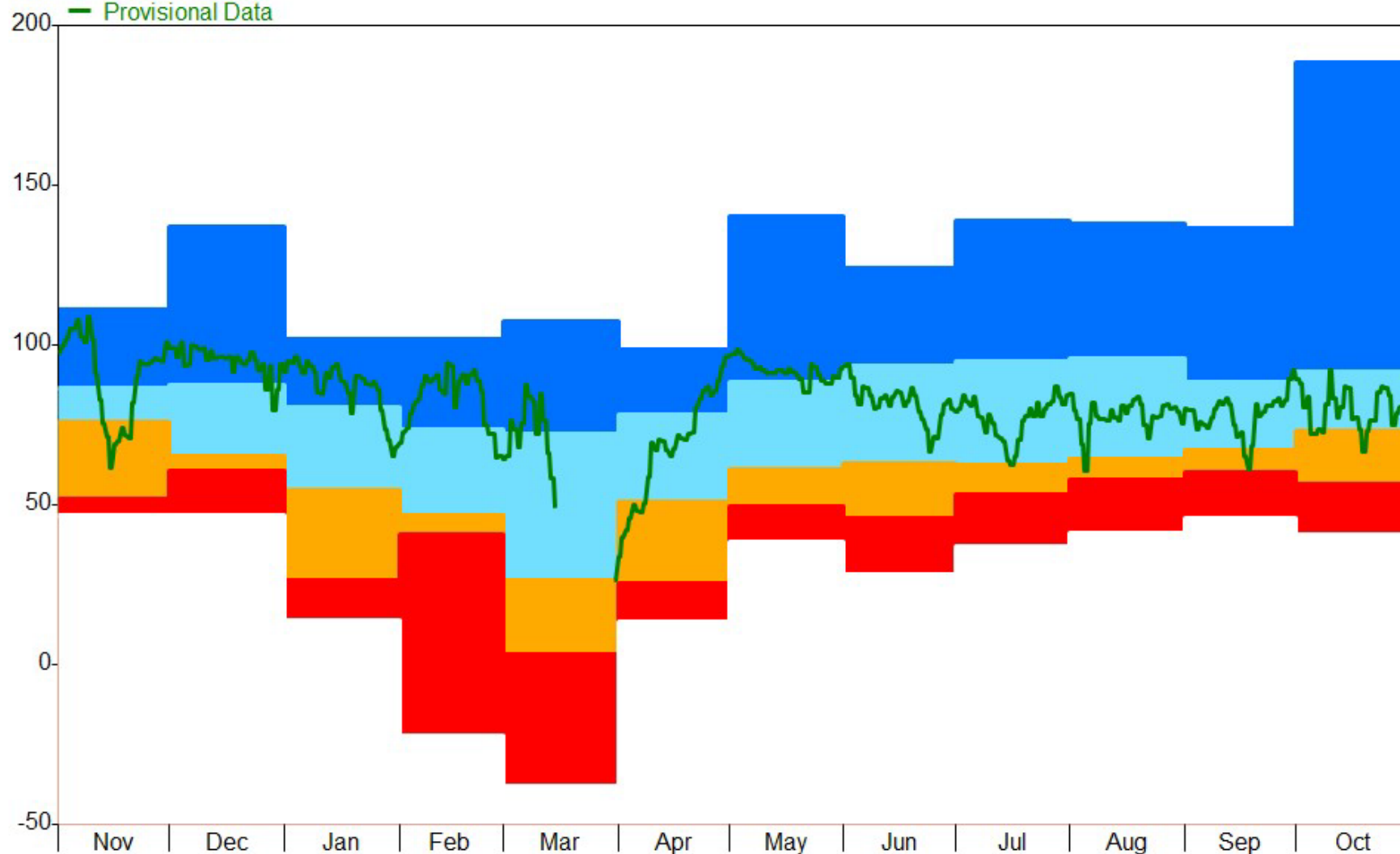
■ Q75-Q25

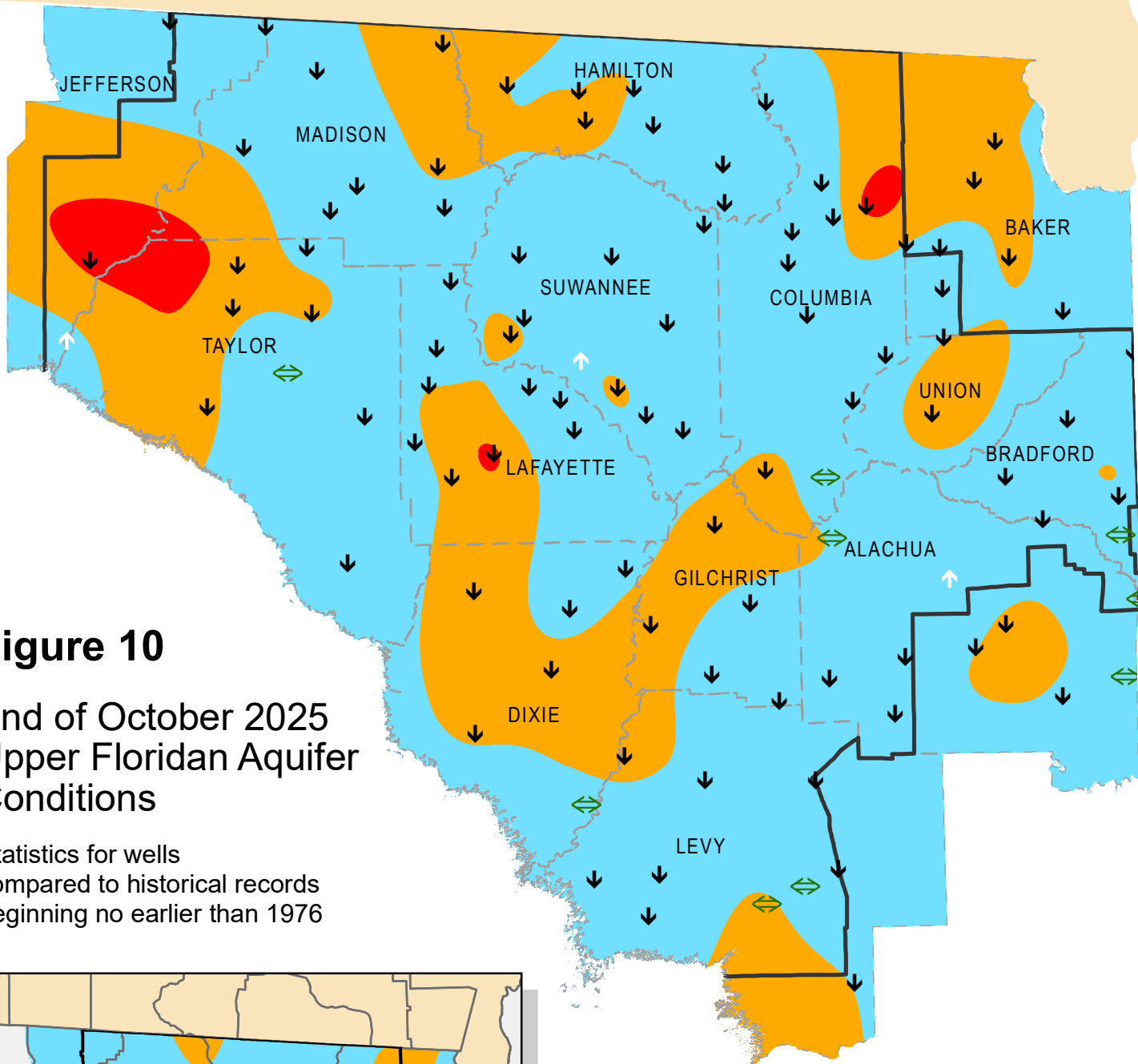
■ Q25-Q10

■ Q10-Min

— Archived Data

— Provisional Data

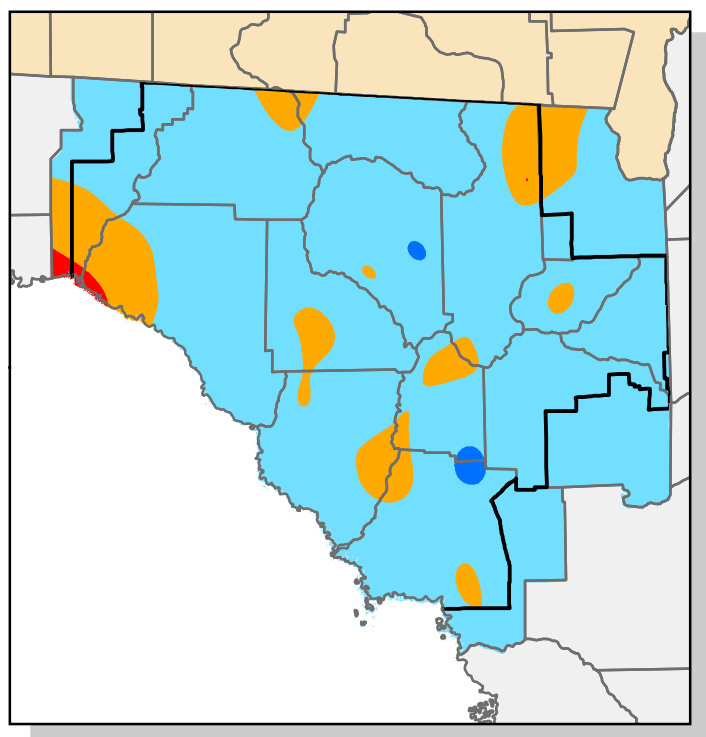




**Figure 10**

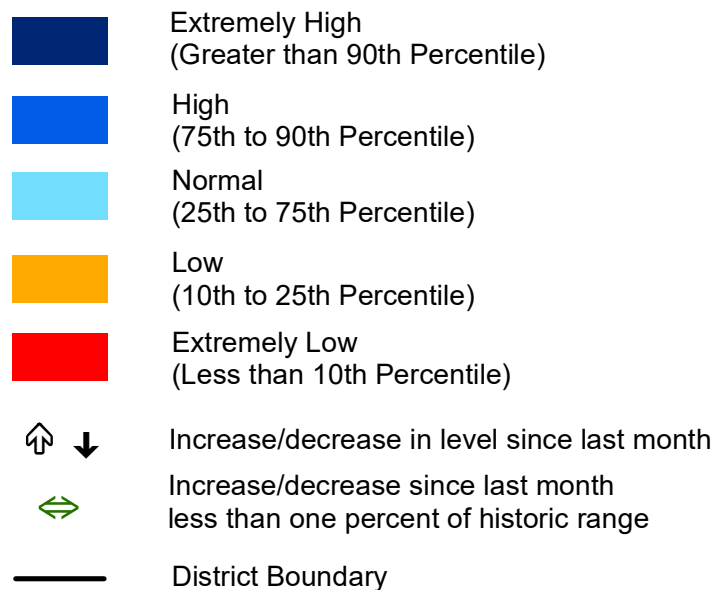
## End of October 2025 Upper Floridan Aquifer Conditions

Statistics for wells  
compared to historical records  
beginning no earlier than 1976



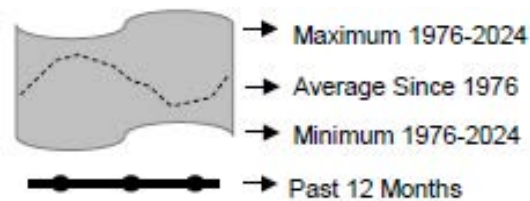
Inset: September Groundwater Percentiles

*Additional wells courtesy of SJRWMD, SWFWMD and USGS*

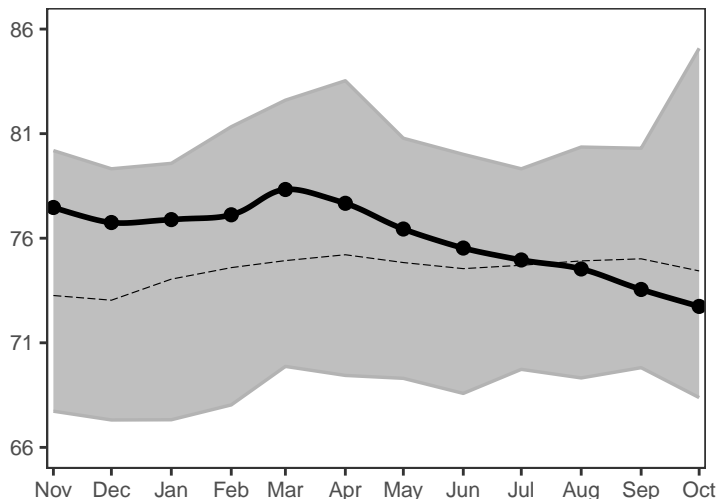


# Figure 11: Monthly Groundwater Statistics

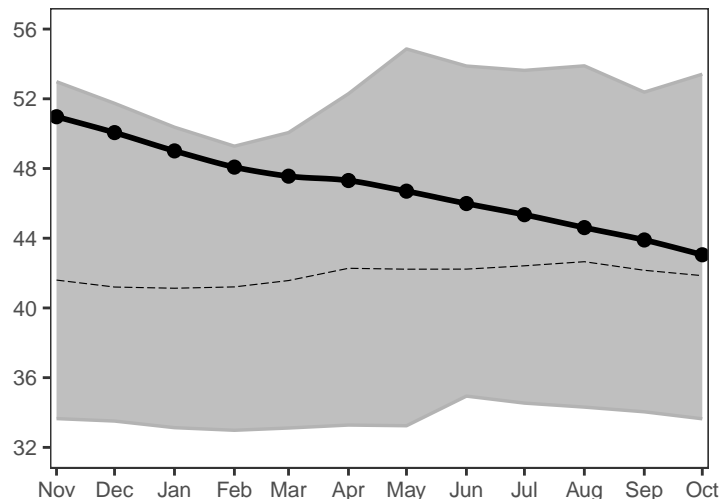
Levels November 2024 through October 2025  
Period of Record Beginning 1976



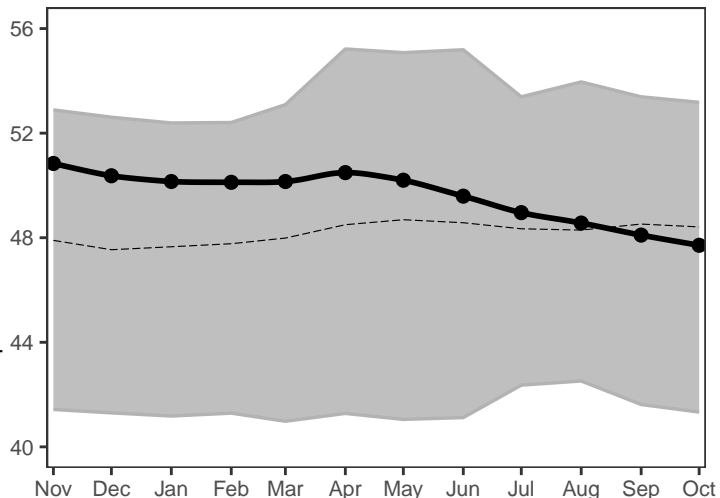
**Madison County N010719001**  
near Greenville



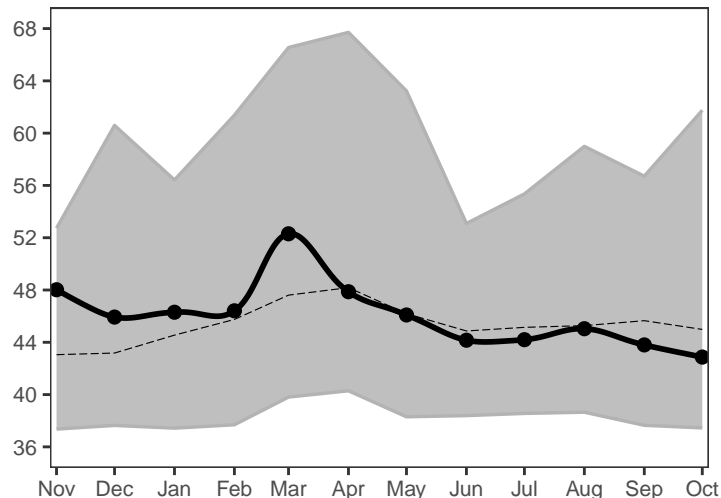
**Suwannee County S021335001**  
near Live Oak



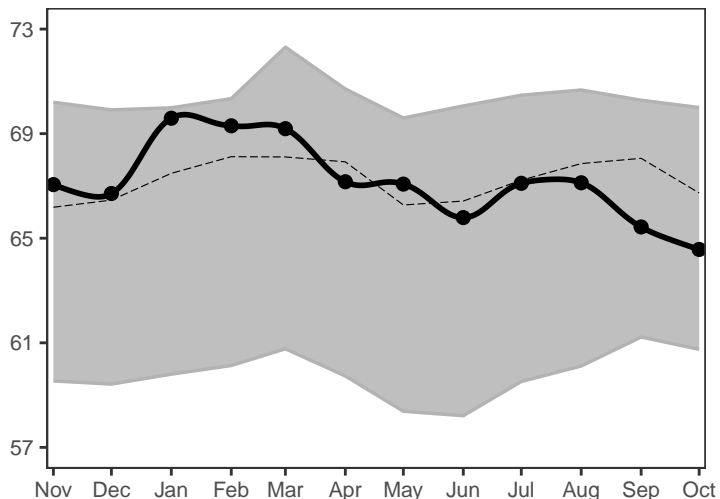
**Columbia County S041705001**  
Lake City



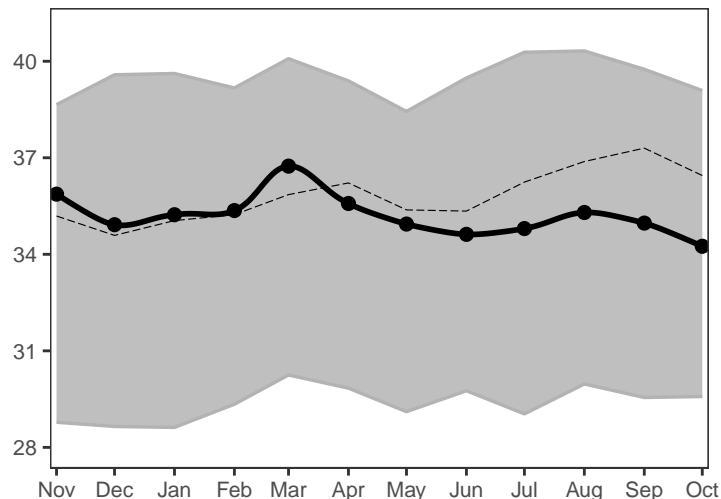
**Hamilton County N011422007**  
near Jasper



**Lafayette County S061114001**  
near Mayo

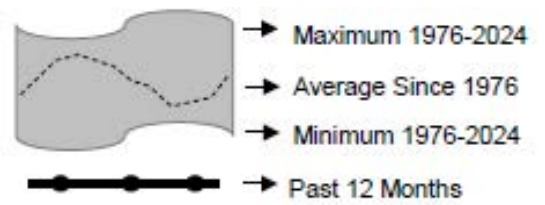


**Taylor County S040736005**  
Perry

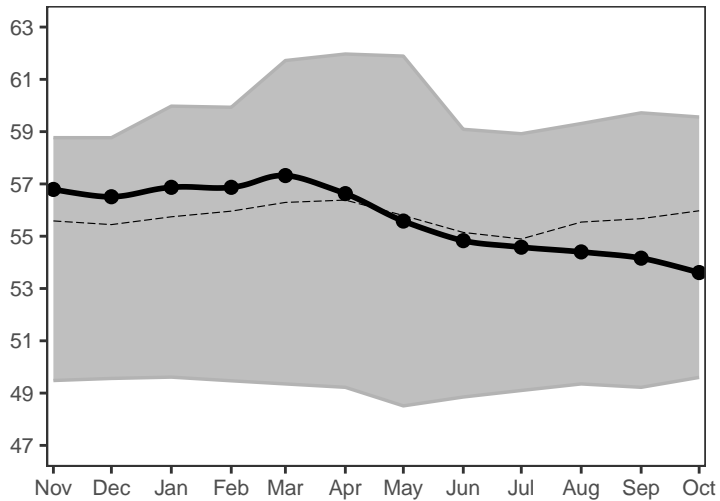


# Figure 11, cont.: Monthly Groundwater Statistics

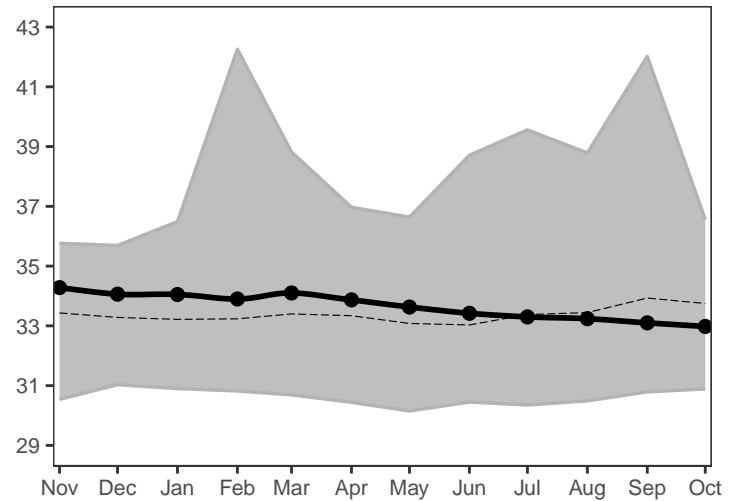
Levels November 2024 through October 2025  
Period of Record Beginning 1976



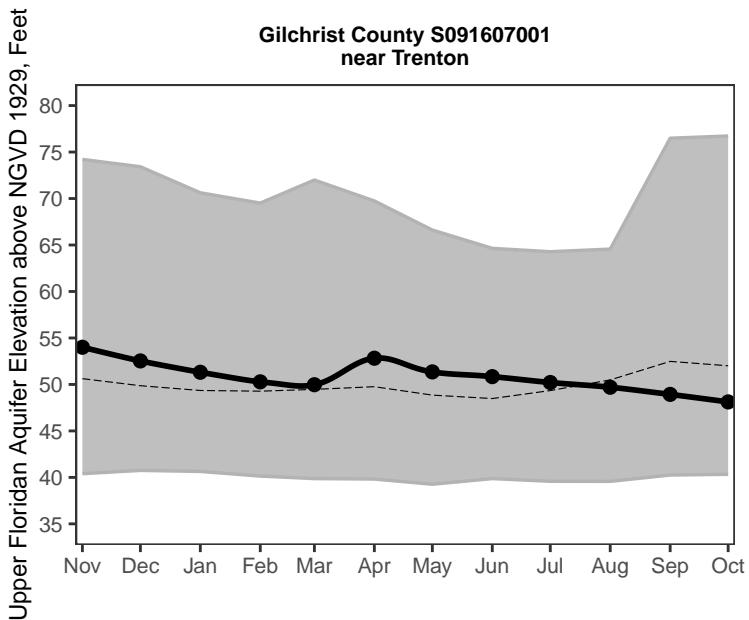
Union County S051933001  
near Lake Butler



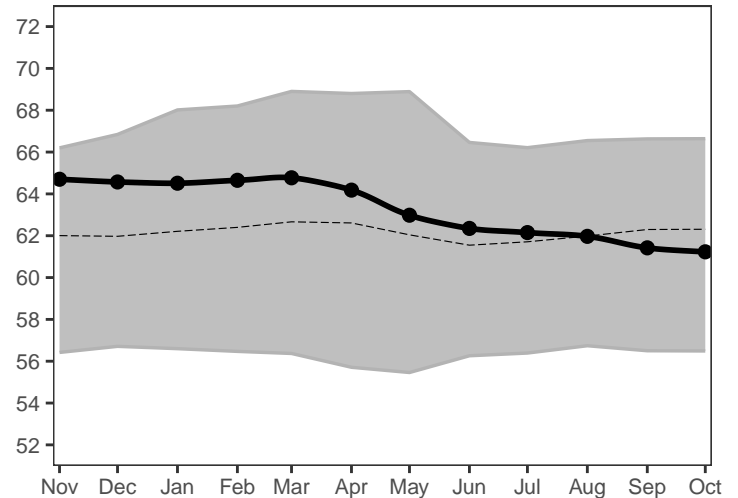
Alachua County S081703001  
at High Springs



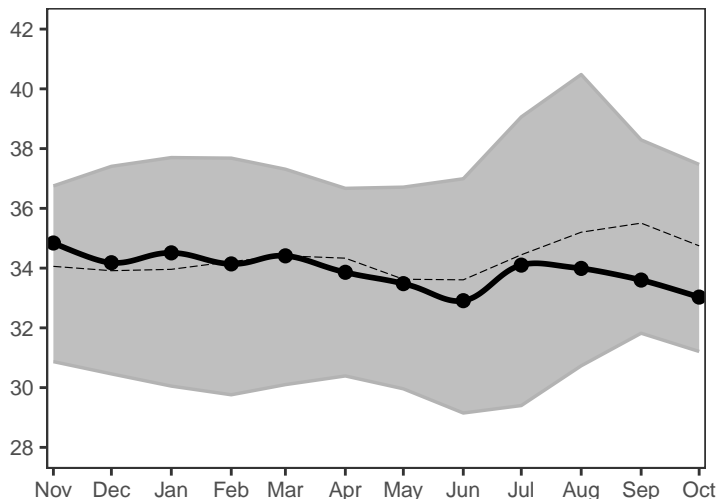
Gilchrist County S091607001  
near Trenton



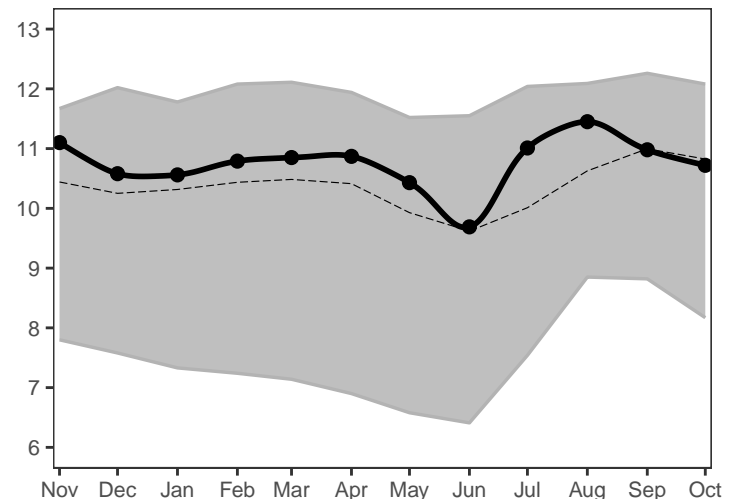
Bradford County S072132001  
near Graham



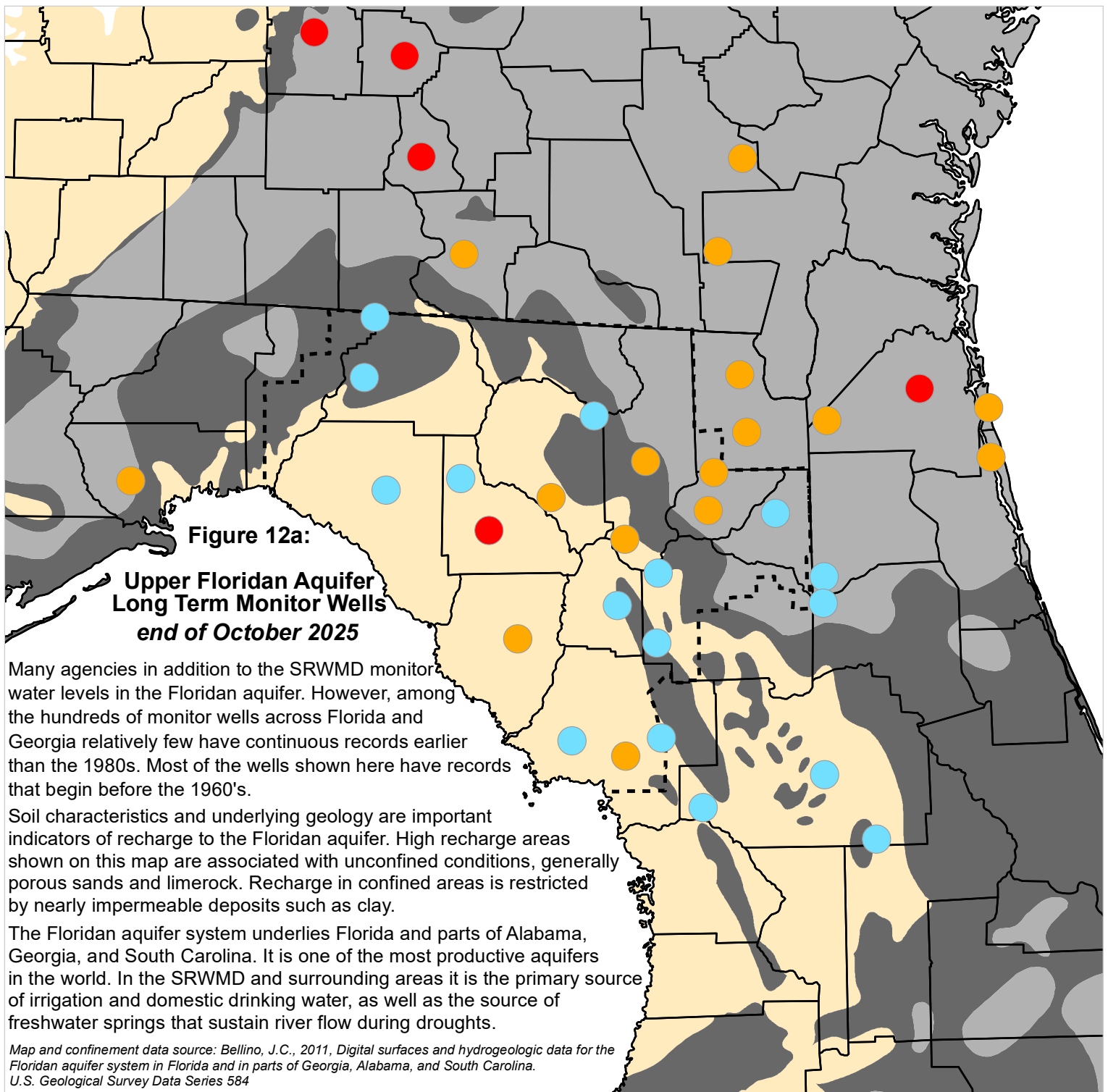
Dixie County S101210001  
at Cross City







Levy County S141429001  
near Cedar Key







#### Occurrence of Confined and Unconfined Conditions in the Upper Floridan Aquifer

-  Confined: Upper confining unit is generally greater than 100 feet thick and unbreached. Recharge is low.
-  Semi-confined: Upper confining unit is generally less than 100 feet thick, breached, or both. Recharge is moderate.
-  Unconfined: Upper confining unit is absent or very thin. Recharge is high.
-  SRWMD Boundary

#### Percentile of Most Recent Water Level Relative to Entire Record







-  Very High (Greater than 90th Percentile)
-  High (75th to 90th Percentile)
-  Normal (25th to 75th Percentile)
-  Low (10th to 25th Percentile)
-  Very Low (Less than 10th Percentile)
-  Data Not Available

Figure 12b: Regional Long Term Upper Floridan Aquifer Levels

Data through October 2025

