



Figure 4.2 Conceptual Recharge Areas

4.2 Available Recharge Methods

Three methods of recharge into the UFA are available: (1) Natural or constructed wetlands, (2) rapid infiltration basins (RIBs), and (3) recharge wells. All three methods have been used in Florida. The Partnership discussed all three methods and evaluated capacity and conceptual cost based on desktop analysis. Detailed, site-specific investigation of land availability, soils, and location analyses are recommended for future phases of work to match appropriate recharge methods with specific recharge sites. For informational purposes, each method is detailed below.

Wetlands: Placing reclaimed water in wetlands (for effluent disposal/reuse) has occurred for 40 to 45 years. Use of existing natural wetlands is regulated under Chapter 62-611, FAC Wetlands Application; however, constructed wetlands are also used for reuse and disposal, and are addressed by the same rule. The value of wetlands is that they provide some nutrient removal through uptake in vegetation, thereby satisfying some treatment needs through natural processes.