

5.3.1.3 Treatment Requirements

Source water quality will vary for many of the sources, and the regulations that govern recharge using these source waters are still in development. For these reasons, treatment process requirements and associated cost estimates were developed as a range for each of the ten short-listed alternatives, based on conservative and optimistic outlooks on treatment needs and anticipated regulations.

Three governing concerns defined the levels of treatment necessary for selected source waters:

- Water that is injected via recharge wells directly into the USDW will need to meet drinking water standards.
- Because all recharge areas are in the Suwannee River BMAP or Suwannee River BMAP area, total nitrogen will need to be reduced to at least 3.0 mg/L before leaving the recharge site. BMAP requirements should be reviewed in detail. Meeting the target treatment concentration of 3.0 mg/l may not be sufficient. Some BMAPs do not allow addition of any nitrogen in the BMAP area, and it could become necessary to remove an amount of nitrogen equal to the amount added by the recharge activities. This will be determined through further study beyond this phase.
- An additional consideration is treatment of PFAS. At minimum, source waters will be treated for PFAS if levels are above the recently promulgated U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. Future levels of PFAS in source waters are unknown. As more PFAS-bearing products are removed from the marketplace, the presence of PFAS in reclaimed water may also decrease. PFAS removal is considered a variable in the range of required treatment and associated costs.

Table 5.2 summarizes the ranges of assumptions for high-cost and low-cost treatment requirements based on uncertainties in source water quality and future regulatory standards. The methods and cost assumptions are outlined further in **Table 5.3**.