



Figure 1. Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and Priority Springs

Groundwater withdrawals within the North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership (Partnership) area contribute the majority of the pumping-related impacts to the LSFIR (Figure 2) (SJRWMD and SRWMD 2023). MFLs for the LSFIR were adopted and ratified in 2015 (Rule 62-42.300, F.A.C.). At that time, the LSFIR MFLs were determined to be in recovery, leading to the concurrent adoption of a Recovery Strategy (SRWMD 2014). This Strategy replaces the prior Recovery Strategy except for Section 6 of that document regarding Supplemental Regulatory Measures. Section 6 of the prior Recovery Strategy will be addressed separately in the regulatory component of the overall strategy which will be adopted by DEP.

The MFLs were re-evaluated for the LSFIR at three compliance points (two that had been initially adopted in 2014 and one new), based on the best available information and current and projected water use conditions. The three MFL compliance points, using U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gaging stations, are the Lower Santa Fe River near Fort White (USGS 02322500), the Lower Santa Fe River at Hwy 441 near High Springs (USGS 02321975), and the Ichetucknee River at Hwy 27 near Hildreth (USGS 02322700). The 17 priority springs were evaluated at their corresponding river gages (Table 1 and Figure 1) (SRWMD 2021a, SRWMD 2021b, SRWMD 2022).