

# SWIM Plan Update Public Meeting Issues & Projects

October 26, 2017



# Suwannee River Water Management District Overview

- 7,640 square miles
- All or part of 15 counties in north-central Florida
- 13 river basins

## Core Mission Areas:

- Water Quality
- Water Supply
- Natural Systems
- Flood Information and Protection



# Project Objectives

- Update and consolidate six existing SWIM plans into two comprehensive SWIM plans

Existing Plans	Updated and Consolidate Plans
Suwannee River	Suwannee River Basin
Santa Fe River	
Alligator Lake	
Aucilla River	Coastal Rivers Basin
Coastal Rivers (Econfina, Fenholloway, Steinhatchee)	
Waccasassa River	

# Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program

- Created through passage of the Surface Water Improvement and Management Act of 1987 (373.451 – 373.459, F.S.)
- Law developed to address major watershed issues in identified priority water bodies throughout the State
- SWIM Plans provide:
  - Watershed description
  - Assessment of watershed and water resource conditions
  - Evaluation of accomplishments and improvements since previous SWIM Plan
  - Project plan to address identified watershed needs and priorities
  - Estimate of funding needs and funding alternatives

# Project Goals

- Identify, update, and prioritize key projects to protect and restore critical water resources
- Maximize the value of the SWIM Plans by identifying leveraging opportunities with other funding sources
- Prepare detailed funding request for the identified projects and initiatives to be submitted to FWC and NFWF



# Management Issues and Drivers

- Water Quality
  - Nitrates
  - Springs, Streams and Groundwater
  - Impaired waterbodies
  
- Water Quantity
  - Declining flows
  - Importance of regional hydrogeology
  - Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs)
  
- Natural Systems
  - Fish & wildlife habitats
  - Land use conversions
  - Habitat fragmentation
  - Impacts to protected species



# Nitrate Trends in Streams & River Flows

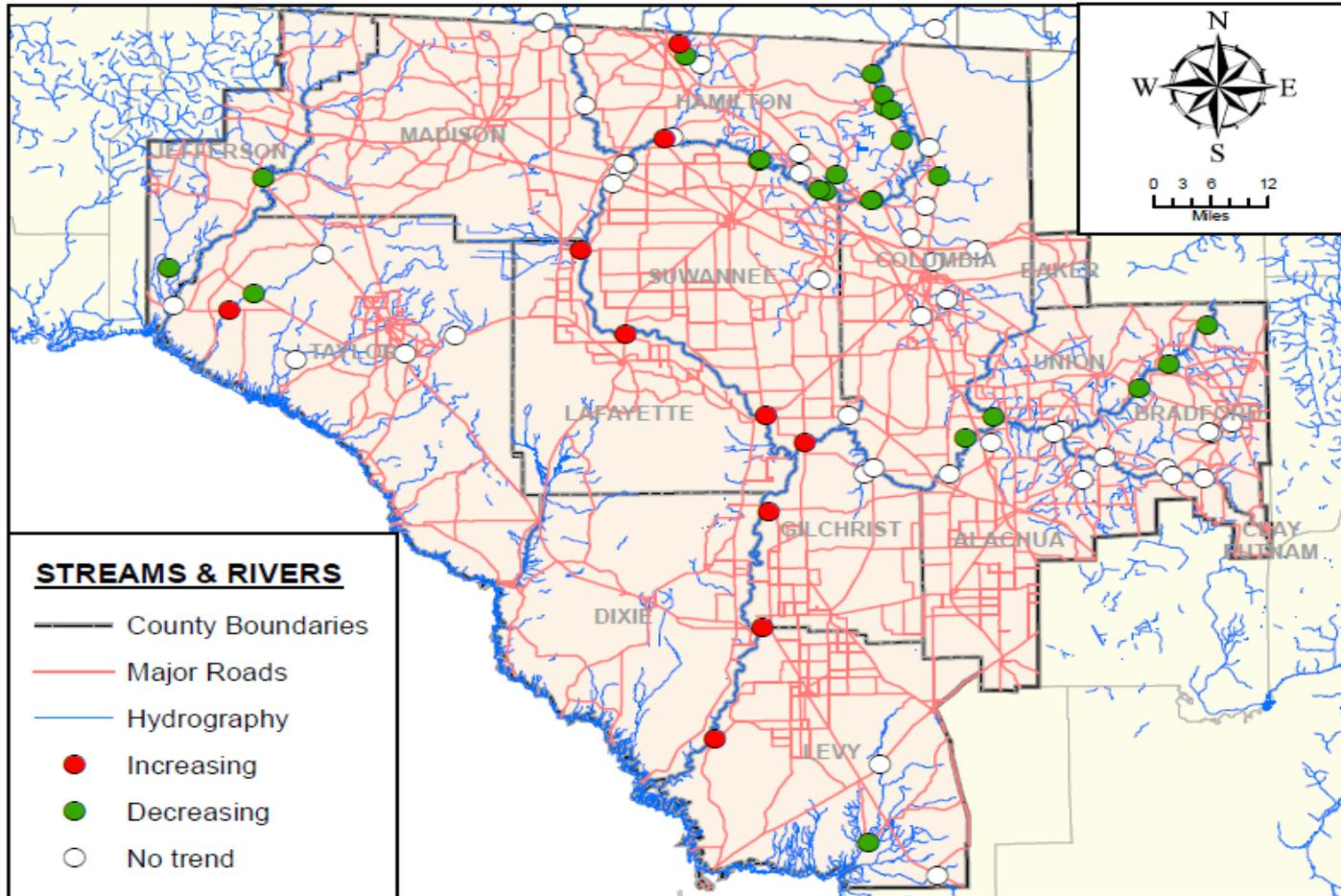


Figure from SRWMD

# Nitrate Trends in Spring Flows

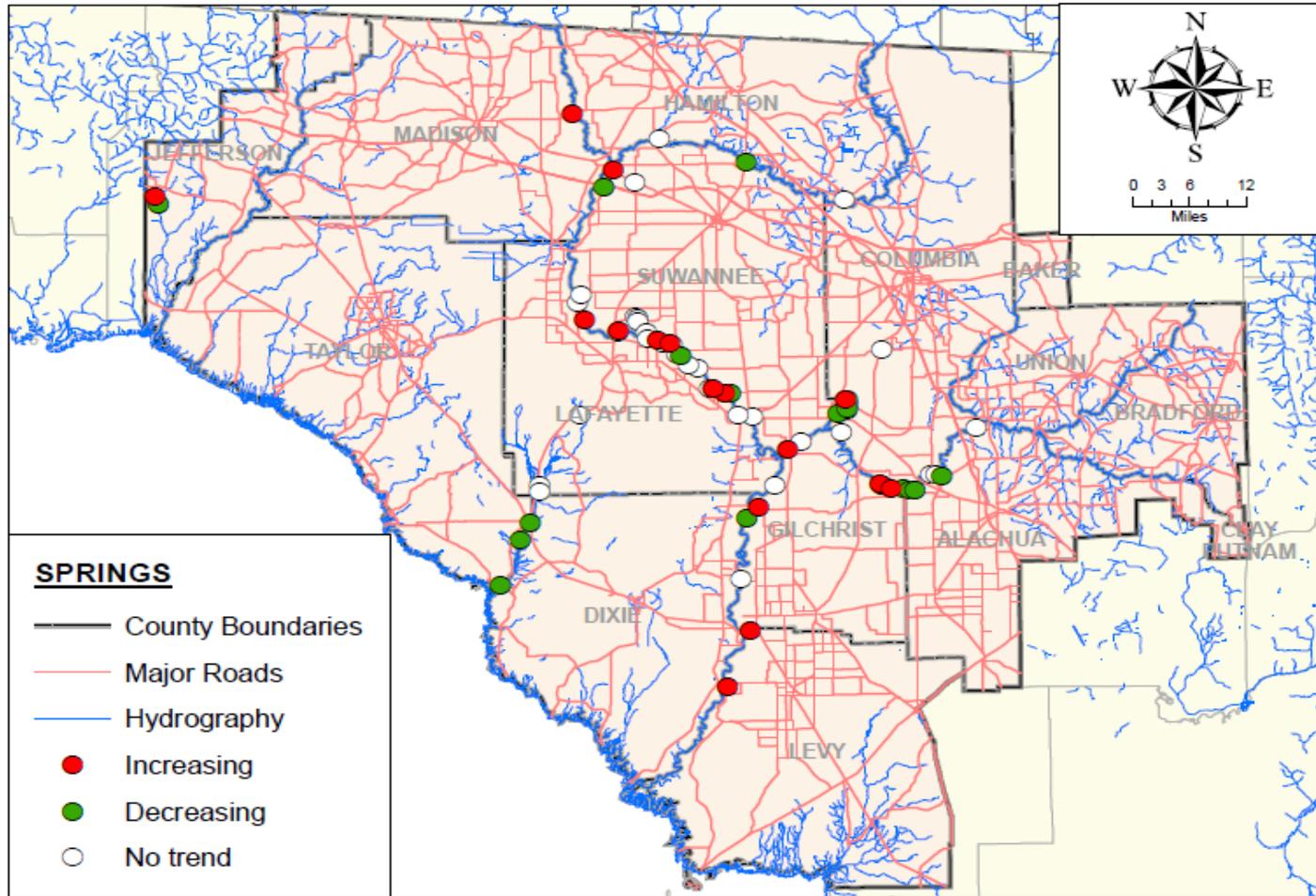


Figure from SRWMD

# What's Good for the Environment is Also Good for the Economy

- Sustain the natural resources that support the unique character, community, and economic health of the Big Bend
  - Timber
  - Agriculture
  - Fishing
  - Ecotourism
- Create opportunities and catalyze partnerships that make the region stronger

Excerpts from The Conservation Fund (2015)

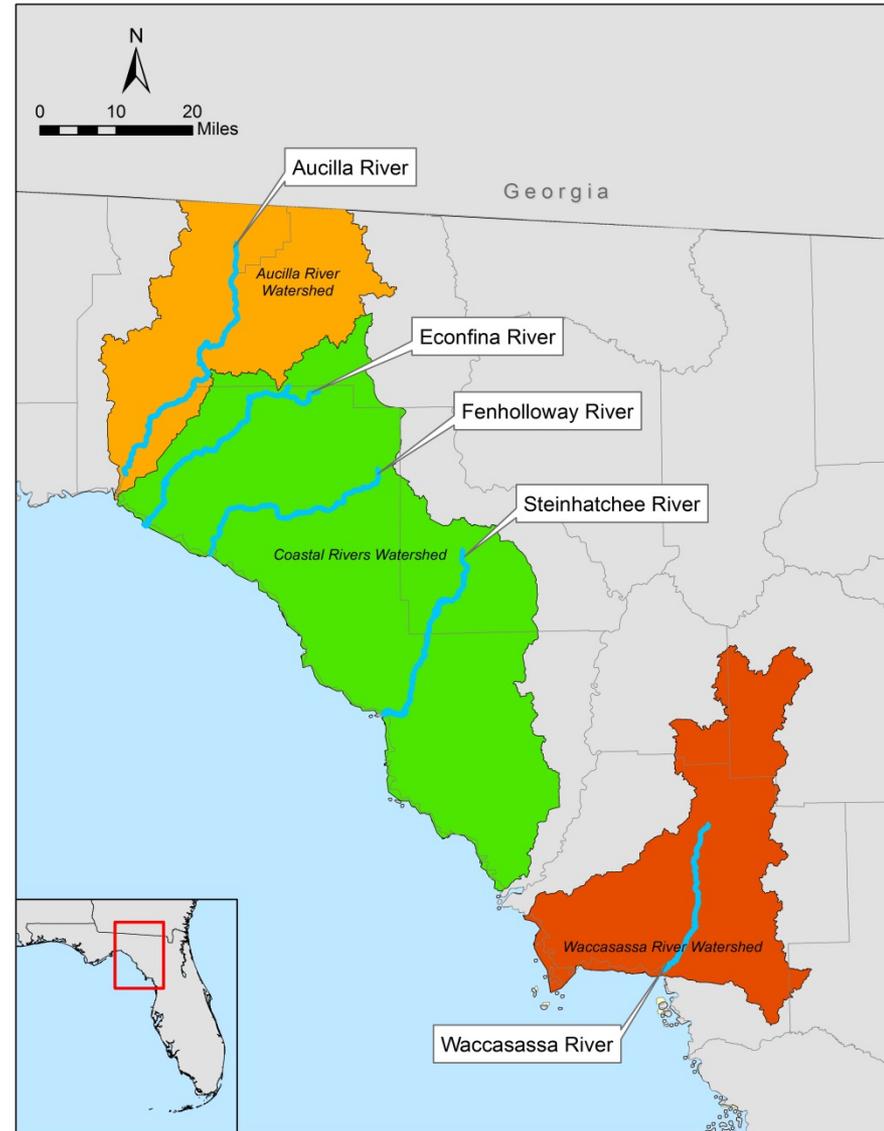


# What's Good for the Environment is Also Good for the Economy



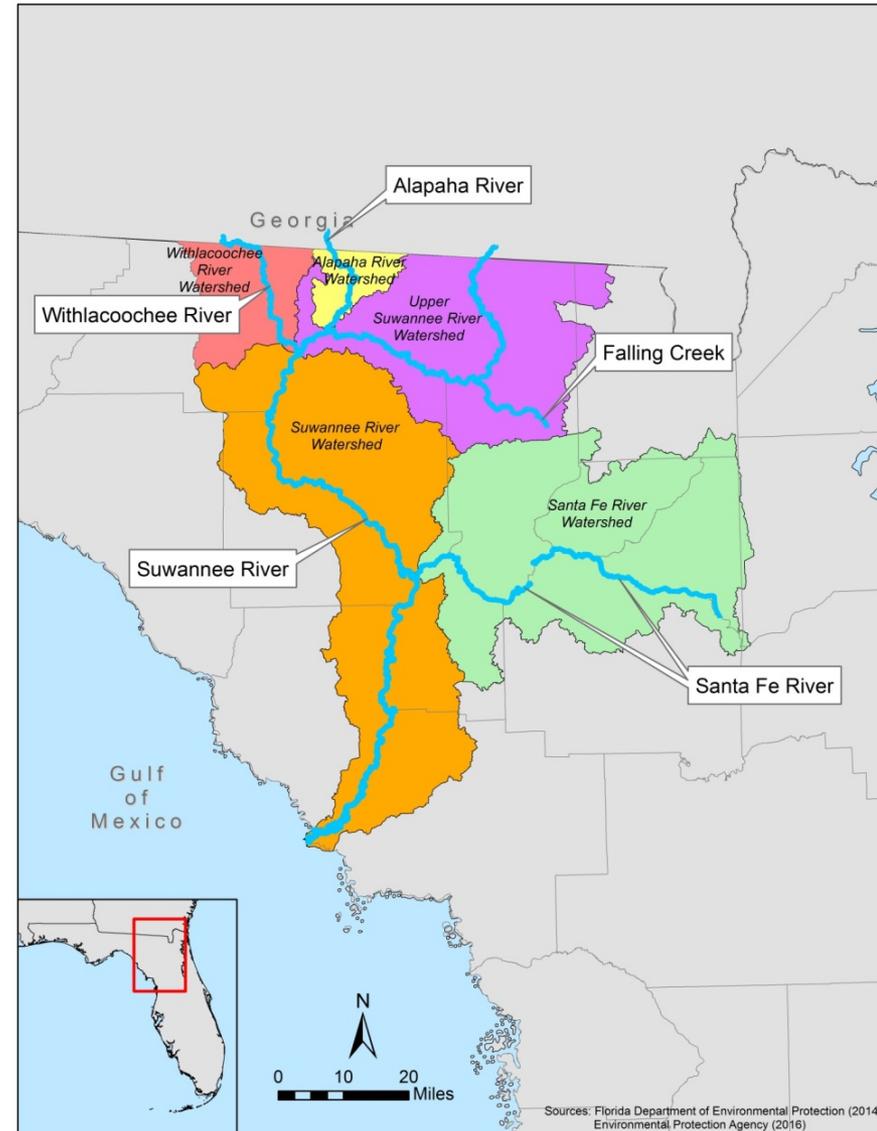
# Coastal Rivers Basin

- Aucilla River
- Econfina River
- Fenholloway River
- Steinhatchee River
- Waccasassa River



# Suwannee River Basin

- Withlacoochee River
- Alapaha River
- Falling Creek
- Santa Fe River
- Suwannee River
- Alligator Lake



# Water Quality Goals and Projects

- **Goals:**
  - Reduce nitrogen loads to surface and groundwater
  - Reduce bacteria loads to surface water
  
- **Potential Projects:**
  - Agricultural BMPs
  - Septic to sewer conversions
  - Wastewater treatment upgrades
  - Urban stormwater treatment

# Water Quantity Goals and Projects

- Goals:
  - Increase aquifer recharge
  - Decrease excessive runoff and evapotranspiration
  
- Potential Projects:
  - Agricultural BMPs
  - Hydrologic restoration of over-drained lands
  - Water reuse
  - Water conservation
  - Other

# Natural Systems Goals and Projects

- Goals:
  - Reduce existing habitat fragmentation
  - Maintain and expand existing wildlife corridors
  - Protect listed species and biodiversity
  - Restore and maintain native oyster reefs
  - Protect coastal seagrass resources
  
- Potential Projects:
  - Conservation of natural lands
    - Public acquisition or conservation easements
  - Habitat restoration
  - Springs restoration
  - Oyster restoration

# Coastal Basin Projects

- Hydrologic restoration
  - Land acquisition program
- Wastewater treatment upgrades
- Septic to sewer
  - Fanning Springs

# Suwannee Basin Projects

- Hydrologic restoration
  - Mallory Swamp
  
- Enhanced aquifer recharge
  - Ichetucknee Sprayfield
  - Upper Suwannee Regional Aquifer Recharge
  
- Nutrient and Water Reduction
  - Precision Agriculture
  - Cost Share Program
  - Water Quality Monitoring Program



To submit comments, email [Planning@SRWMD.org](mailto:Planning@SRWMD.org)

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PLANS**