



**62-41.400-402, FAC Outstanding  
Florida Springs  
Rule Development Workshop**

**March 21, 2022**

**Stefani Weeks**



# Workshop Agenda

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Background**
- 3. Draft Rule Overview**
- 4. Public Comment**

**Link to OFS Rulemaking:**

<https://floridadep.gov/water-policy/water-policy/content/outstanding-florida-springs-ofs>



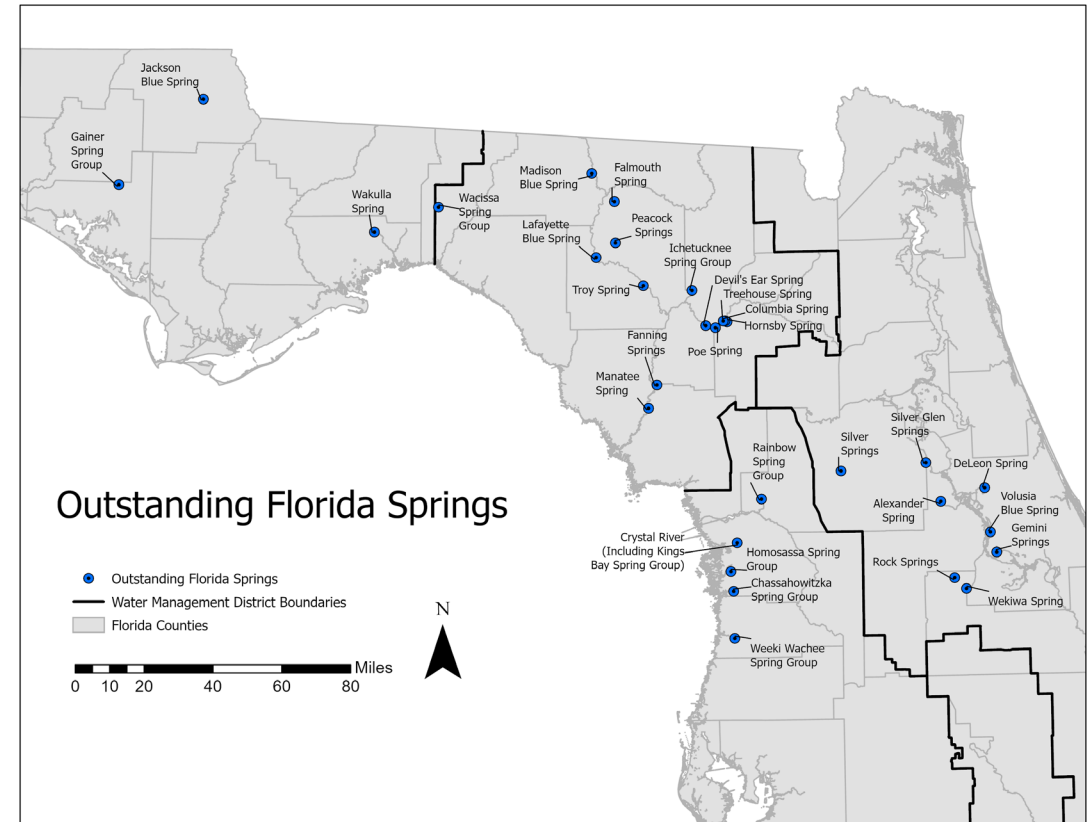
# Background

- **For Outstanding Florida Springs, section 373.219(3), F.S., requires the Department to adopt:**
  - **uniform rules for issuing permits which prevent groundwater withdrawals that are harmful to the water resources**
  - **a uniform definition of the term “harmful to the water resources” to provide water management districts with minimum standards necessary to be consistent with the overall water policy of the state**
- **WMDs can adopt a definition that is more protective of the water resources consistent with local or regional conditions and objectives.**



# Scope of Rule

- **Regulates consumptive uses that have the potential to impact an Outstanding Florida Spring as defined in 373.802(4), F.S.**





# Uniform Conditions for Issuance of Permits

- **For withdrawals that influence an OFS, permittees must provide reasonable assurance that the condition of issuance are met.**
- **Similar to CUPCon and CFWI Conditions for issuance**



# Uniform Definition of Harmful to the Water Resources

- **Harmful to the Water Resources for Outstanding Florida Springs (OFS) means adversely impacting an OFS in one or more of the ways prohibited in paragraph 62-41.401(2)(g), F.A.C**
  - (g) Will not cause harm to the water resources of the area in any of the following ways:**
    - 1. Will not cause harmful water quality impacts to the water source resulting from the withdrawal or diversion;**
    - 2. Will not cause harmful water quality impacts from dewatering discharge to receiving waters;**
    - 3. Will not cause harmful saline water intrusion or harmful upconing;**
    - 4. Will not cause harmful hydrologic alterations to natural systems, including wetlands or other surface waters; and**
    - 5. Will not otherwise cause harmful hydrologic alterations to the water resources of the area;**



# Harmful to the Water Resources

- **Creates criteria for the evaluation of impacts from withdrawals or diversions, on an individual or cumulative basis, on an OFS**
  - Cannot move contamination plume or alter the rate or direction of movement towards an OFS or its spring run
  - Cannot cause harmful water quality impacts from dewatering discharges to the OFS or its spring run
  - Cannot increase TDS or chloride concentrations that would detrimentally affect the OFS or its spring run
  - Cannot cause adverse impacts to aquatic wetland dependent flora or fauna in the spring
  - Cannot cause hydrologic alterations that decrease flow rates to downgradient watercourses



# Public Comment

Participants will be given 3 minutes to make their comments.

Written comments may be submitted to the email address below.

[www.floridadep.gov/water-policy](http://www.floridadep.gov/water-policy)

[OWP\\_rulemaking@floridadep.gov](mailto:OWP_rulemaking@floridadep.gov)

Please submit public comments by April 8

Or contact [Stefani.Weeks@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Stefani.Weeks@FloridaDEP.gov)

