Weeki Wachee
Basin Management Action Plan

Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Water Quality Restoration Program
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

with participation from the
Weeki Wachee Stakeholders

June 2018

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Acknowledgments

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection adopted the *Weeki Wachee Basin Management Action Plan* by Secretarial Order as part of its statewide watershed management approach to restore and protect Florida's water quality. The plan was developed in coordination with stakeholders, identified below, with participation from affected local, regional, and state governmental interests; elected officials and citizens; and private interests.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Noah Valenstein, Secretary

Table A-1. Weeki Wachee stakeholders

Type of Entity	Name
Responsible Stakeholders	City of Brooksville Hernando County Pasco County Agricultural producers Golf courses
Responsible Agencies	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Department of Health Southwest Florida Water Management District
Other Interested Stakeholders	Citizens City of Weeki Wachee Florida Farm Bureau Florida Onsite Wastewater Association Florida Springs Institute Hernando Beach Government Affairs Committee Hernando County Task Force Hernando Environmental Land Protectors (HELP) Save the Manatee Club

See **Appendix A** for links to important sources referenced in this document. For additional information on the watershed management approach in the Weeki Wachee Basin, contact:

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ac	Acre
AWT	Advanced Wastewater Treatment
ATU	Aerobic Treatment Unit
BAF	Biochemical Attenuation Factor
BMAP	Basin Management Action Plan
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CASTNET	Clean Air Status and Trends Network
cfs	Cubic Feet Per Second
CMAQ	Community Multiscale Air Quality
C.R.	County Road
CRF	Controlled Release Fertilizer
DEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
DMR	Discharge Monthly Report
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
F.A.C.	Florida Administrative Code
F.A.R.	Florida Administrative Register
FARMS	Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FDOH	Florida Department of Health
FF	Farm Fertilizer
FGS	Florida Geological Survey
FLUCCS	Florida Land Use Cover and Forms Classification System
FOWA	Florida Onsite Wastewater Association
F.S.	Florida Statutes
FSAID	Florida Statewide Agricultural Irrigation Demand
FYN	Florida Yards and Neighborhoods
GIS	Geographic Information System
gpd	Gallons Per Day
HA	Habitat Assessment
IA	Implementation Assurance
IV	Implementation Verification
in/yr	Inch Per Year
lb	Pound
lb-N/yr	Pounds of Nitrogen Per Year
LF	Linear Feet
LID	Low Impact Development
LVS	Linear Vegetation Survey
LW	Livestock Waste
MFLs	Minimum Flows and Levels
mgd	Million Gallons Per Day
mg/L	Milligrams Per Liter

MIL	Mobile Irrigation Lab
N	Nitrogen
N/A	Not Applicable
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
NELAC	National Environmental Accreditation Conference
NELAP	National Environmental Accreditation Program
NNC	Numeric Nutrient Criteria
NOI	Notice of Intent
NSF	NSF International (formerly National Sanitation Foundation)
NSILT	Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool
NTN	National Trends Network
OAWP	Office of Agricultural Water Policy
OFS	Outstanding Florida Spring
OFW	Outstanding Florida Water
OSTDS	Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal System
PBTS	Performance-based Treatment System
PFA	Priority Focus Area
PSA	Public Service Announcement or Planned Service Area
QA/QC	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
RIB	Rapid Infiltration Basin
RPS	Rapid Periphyton Survey
SBIO	DEP Statewide Biological Database
SCI	Stream Condition Index
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
STF	Sports Turf Fertilizer
STORET	Florida Storage and Retrieval Database
SWFWMD	Southwest Florida Water Management District
SWIM	Surface Water Improvement and Management
TDEP	Total Atmospheric Deposition Model
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TN	Total Nitrogen
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
UFA	Upper Floridan Aquifer
UF–IFAS	University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UTF	Urban Turfgrass Fertilizer
WAFR	Wastewater Facility Regulation (Database)
WBID	Waterbody Identification (Number)
WIN	Florida Watershed Information Network Database
WMD	Water Management District
WWTF	Wastewater Treatment Facility
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

yr	Year

Executive Summary

Weeki Wachee Basin

The Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act (Chapter 373, Part VIII, Florida Statutes [F.S.]), provides for the protection and restoration of Outstanding Florida Springs (OFS), which comprise 24 first magnitude springs, 6 additional named springs, and their associated spring runs. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has assessed water quality in each OFS, and has determined that 24 of the 30 OFS are impaired for the nitrate form of nitrogen. The Weeki Wachee Spring Group is one of the impaired first magnitude OFS.

The Weeki Wachee Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) area (**Figure ES-1**) consists of 200,474 acres located in southern Hernando County, including a portion of the City of Brooksville, and northern Pasco County. The BMAP area contains the Weeki Wachee Spring Group which is composed of a single, large main spring and numerous smaller springs spread over an area of nearly five square miles. Weeki Wachee Spring is the primary source of the Weeki Wachee River and the largest spring (by discharge) in the group. The BMAP area also contains Magnolia-Aripeka Springs Group; Mud Spring, Salt Spring, Wilderness Spring (collectively referred to as the "Wilderness-Mud-Salt Springs Group"); and Jenkins Creek Spring which are located within the Weeki Wachee riverine system Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) boundaries.

Weeki Wachee Priority Focus Area (PFA)

The PFA (**see Appendix C**) comprises 90,415 acres and includes a region in the western part of the springshed for Weeki Wachee Spring. The PFA represents the area in the basin where the aquifer is most vulnerable to inputs and where there are the most connections between groundwater and the springs.

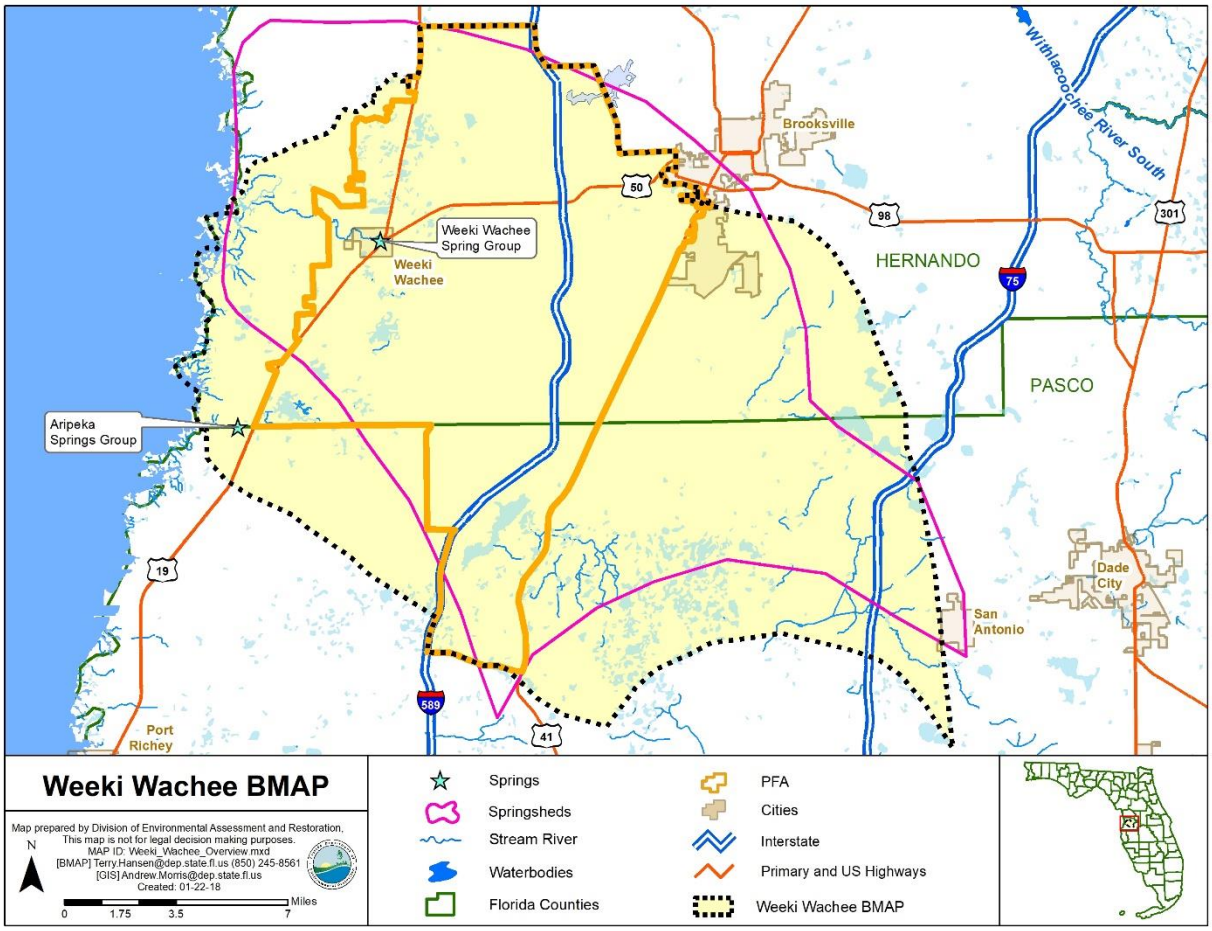

Figure ES-1. Weeki Wachee BMAP and PFA boundaries

Nitrogen Source Identification, Required Reductions, and Options to Achieve Reductions

DEP adopted nutrient total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for Weeki Wachee Spring and Weeki Wachee River in 2014. The TMDLs established monthly average nitrate targets of 0.28 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for Weeki Wachee Spring and 0.20 mg/L for Weeki Wachee River. DEP adopted nitrate targets of 0.23 mg/L for Magnolia-Aripeka Springs Group; Wilderness-Mud-Salt Springs Group; and Jenkins Creek Spring through adoption of TMDLs in 2016.

Onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS) represent 30 % of the nitrogen loading to groundwater, agriculture (including farm fertilizer [FF] and livestock waste [LW]) 27 %, and urban turfgrass fertilizer (UTF) 22 % of the total loading to groundwater based on the DEP analysis conducted using the Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool (NSILT).

The total load reduction required to meet the TMDLs at the vents is 195,200 pounds of nitrogen per year (lb-N/yr). To measure progress towards achieving the necessary load reduction, DEP is establishing the following milestones:

- Initial reduction of 58,560 lb-N/yr (30 %) within 5 years.
- An additional 97,600 lb-N/yr (50 %) within 10 years.
- The remaining 39,040 lb-N/yr (20 %) within 15 years.
- For a total of 195,200 lb-N/yr within 20 years.

The policies and submitted projects included within this BMAP are estimated to achieve a reduction of 396,220 to 552,102 lb-N/yr to groundwater. While reductions to groundwater will benefit the spring, it is uncertain to know with precision how those reductions will impact the necessary reductions at the spring. DEP will continue to monitor the spring to evaluate those reductions as projects are implemented against the required load reductions above. The BMAP is designed to achieve 80 % of the load reductions needed for the spring vent within 10 years of adoption and 100 % within 15 years. Projects and strategies are designed to achieve nitrogen reductions at Weeki Wachee, but are expected to provide benefits to all springs vents within the springshed/contributing area. DEP will evaluate progress towards these milestones and will report to the Governor and Florida Legislature. DEP will adjust management strategies to ensure the target concentrations are achieved. This may include expanding the area to which the OSTDS remediation policies apply; any such change, however, would be incorporated into an updated BMAP through a formal adoption process.

For the list of projects to improve water quality, see **Appendix B**. Included are owner-implemented best management practices (BMPs) for FF, LW, sports turfgrass fertilizer (STF); wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) upgrades; projects to reduce UTF application; and OSTDS conversions to sewer.

Successful BMAP implementation requires commitment, dedicated state funding, and follow-up. Stakeholders have expressed their intention to carry out the plan, monitor its effects, and continue to coordinate within and across jurisdictions to achieve nutrient reduction goals. As the TMDLs must be achieved within 20 years, DEP, water management districts (WMDs), Florida Department of Health (FDOH), and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) will implement management strategies using the annual Legacy Florida appropriation from the legislature of at least $50 million to reduce nitrogen in impaired OFS. DEP, working with the coordinating agencies, will continue to invest existing funds and explore other opportunities and potential funding sources for springs restoration efforts.

Restoration Approaches

Load reduction to the aquifer is needed to achieve the load reductions requirements at the spring vent. To ensure that load reductions are achieved at the spring vent, the following restorations actions are being established. These actions are designed to reduce the amount of nutrients to the aquifer, which will reduce the load at the vent and ultimately achieve the necessary reductions. Monitoring of the vent during implementation will be implemented to monitor progress.

- **New OSTDS** – Upon BMAP adoption, the OSTDS remediation plan prohibits new systems on lots of less than 1 acre within the PFAs, unless the system includes enhanced treatment of nitrogen as defined by the OSTDS remediation plan, or unless the OSTDS permit applicant demonstrates that sewer connections will be available within 5 years. Local governments and utilities are expected to develop master wastewater treatment feasibility analyses within 5 years to identify specific areas to be sewered or to have enhanced nitrogen reducing OSTDS within 20 years of BMAP adoption. The OSTDS remediation plan is incorporated as **Appendix D**.

- **Existing OSTDS** – Upon completion of the master wastewater treatment feasibility analyses, FDOH rulemaking, and funding program for homeowners included in the OSTDS remediation plan, but no later than five years after BMAP adoption, modification or repair permits issued by FDOH for all OSTDS within the PFA on all lot sizes will require enhanced treatment of nitrogen, unless sewer connections will be available based on a BMAP-listed project. All OSTDS subject to the policy must include enhanced treatment of nitrogen no later than 20 years after BMAP adoption.

- **WWTFs** − The effluent standards listed in **Table ES-1** will apply to all new and existing WWTFs in the BMAP area (inside and outside the PFA).

Table ES-1. WWTF effluent standards

gpd = Gallons per day

95% of the Permitted Capacity (gpd)	Nitrogen Concentration Limits for Rapid Infiltration Basins (RIBs) and Absorption Fields (mg/L)	Nitrogen Concentration Limits for All Other Land Disposal Methods, Including Reuse (mg/L)
Greater than 100,000	3	3
20,000 to 100,000	3	6
Less than 20,000	6	6

- **UTF** – UTF sources can receive up to 6 % credit for the DEP-approved suite of public education and source control ordinances. Entities have the option to collect and provide monitoring data to quantify reduction credits for additional measures.

- **STF –** STF sources include golf courses and other sporting facilities. Golf courses can receive up to 10 % credit for implementing the Golf Course BMP Manual. Other sports fields can receive up to 6 % credit for managing their fertilizer applications to minimize transport to groundwater.

- **FF** – All FF sources are required to implement BMPs or perform monitoring to demonstrate compliance with the TMDL. A 15 % reduction to groundwater is estimated for owner-implemented BMPs. Additional credits could be achieved through better documentation of reductions achieved through BMP implementation or implementation

of additional agricultural projects or practices, such as precision irrigation, soil moisture probes, controlled release fertilizer, and cover crops.

- **LW** – All LW sources are required to implement BMPs or perform monitoring. A 10 % reduction to groundwater is estimated for owner-implemented BMPs. Additional credits could be achieved through additional projects and practices if data are available.

Section 1: Background

1.1 Legislation

Chapter 373, Part VIII, Florida Statutes (F.S.), created the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act to provide for the protection and restoration of Outstanding Florida Springs (OFS), which comprise 24 first magnitude springs, 6 additional named springs, and their associated spring runs. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has assessed water quality in each OFS, and has determined that 24 of the 30 OFS are impaired for the nitrate form of nitrogen. The Weeki Wachee Spring Group is one of the impaired first magnitude OFS.

Development of the basin management action plan (BMAP) to meet the new requirements of the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act for the Weeki Wachee Basin was initiated in 2016.

1.2 Water Quality Standards and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

A TMDL represents the maximum amount of a given pollutant that a waterbody can assimilate and still meet water quality criteria. The waters of the Weeki Wachee Spring Group, Magnolia-Aripeka Springs Group, Wilderness-Mud-Salt Springs Group, and Jenkins Creek Spring that are addressed in this BMAP are Class III waterbodies with a designated use of recreation, propagation, and the maintenance of a healthy, well-balanced population of fish and wildlife. These waters are impaired by nitrate nitrogen, which in excess has been demonstrated to adversely affect flora or fauna through the excessive growth of algae. Excessive algal growth results in ecological imbalances in springs and rivers and can produce human health problems, foul beaches, inhibit navigation, and reduce the aesthetic value of the resources.

DEP adopted nutrient TMDLs for the Weeki Wachee Spring Group in 2014 (see **Table 1)**. The TMDLs established a target of an annual average of 0.28 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of nitrate for Weeki Wachee Spring and 0.20 mg/L for Weeki Wachee River. The period of record for water quality data for the TMDLs was January 2004 through December 2012. DEP adopted nutrient TMDLs for the Magnolia-Aripeka Springs Group, Wilderness-Mud-Salt Springs Group, and Jenkins Creek Spring in 2016 (see **Table 1**). The TMDLs established a target of an annual average of 0.23 mg/L of nitrate. The period of record for the water quality data for the TMDLs was January 2004 through December 2014.

Table 1. Restoration targets for Weeki Wachee Spring Group, Magnolia-Aripeka Springs Group, Wilderness-Mud-Salt Springs Group, and Jenkins Creek Spring

Waterbody or Spring Name	Waterbody Identification (WBID) Number	Parameter	TMDL (mg/L)
Weeki Wachee Spring	1382B	Nitrate, annual average	0.28
Weeki Wachee River	1382F	Nitrate, annual average	0.20
Magnolia-Aripeka Springs Group	1391B	Nitrate, annual average	0.23
Wilderness-Mud-Salt Springs Group	1382G	Nitrate, annual average	0.23
Jenkins Creek Spring	1389	Nitrate, annual average	0.23

1.3 BMAP Requirements

Section 403.067(7), F.S., provides DEP with the statutory authority for the BMAP Program. A BMAP is a comprehensive set of strategies to achieve the required pollutant load reductions. In addition to this authority, the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act (Part VIII of Chapter 373, F.S.) describes additional requirements for the 30 Outstanding Florida Springs.

1.4 BMAP Area

The BMAP area (**Figure 1)** comprises 200,474 acres located in southern Hernando County, including a portion of the City of Brooksville, and northern Pasco County. The BMAP area contains the Weeki Wachee Spring Group which is composed of a single, large main spring and numerous smaller springs spread over an area of nearly five square miles. Weeki Wachee Spring is the primary source of the Weeki Wachee River and the largest spring (by discharge) in the group. The BMAP area also contains Magnolia-Aripeka Springs Group; Mud Spring, Salt Spring, Wilderness Spring (collectively referred to as the "Wilderness-Mud-Salt Springs Group"); and Jenkins Creek Spring which are located within the Weeki Wachee riverine system Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) boundaries.

This area includes the surface water basin as well as the groundwater contributing areas for the springs (or springsheds). Springsheds for the OFS were delineated or reviewed by Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) with input from the Florida Geological Survey (FGS). A springshed is the area of land that contributes water to a spring or group of springs, mainly via groundwater flow.

1.5 Priority Focus Area (PFA)

In compliance with the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act, this BMAP delineates a PFA, defined as the area(s) of a basin where the Floridan aquifer is generally most vulnerable to pollutant inputs and where there is a known connectivity between groundwater pathways and an OFS. The PFA provides a guide for focusing restoration strategies where science suggests these

efforts will most benefit the springs. The document describing the delineation process for the PFA is on the DEP website. The link to the PFA document is provided in **Appendix C.**

1.5.1 Description

Nitrogen sources are more likely to influence groundwater quality under certain conditions. For example, where soils are sandy and well drained, less nitrogen is converted to gas and released into the atmosphere or taken up by plants, compared with other soil types. Therefore, local soil types play a role in how much nitrogen travels from the land surface to groundwater in a specific springshed. Also, the underlying geologic material influences the vulnerability of the underlying aquifers and the rate of lateral movement within the Floridan aquifer toward the springs. These conditions, and others, were considered in the delineation of the PFA (**see Appendix C**).

Following BMAP adoption, DEP will ensure that the Geographic Information System (GIS) files associated with the PFA boundary are available to the public on the DEP Map Direct webpage.

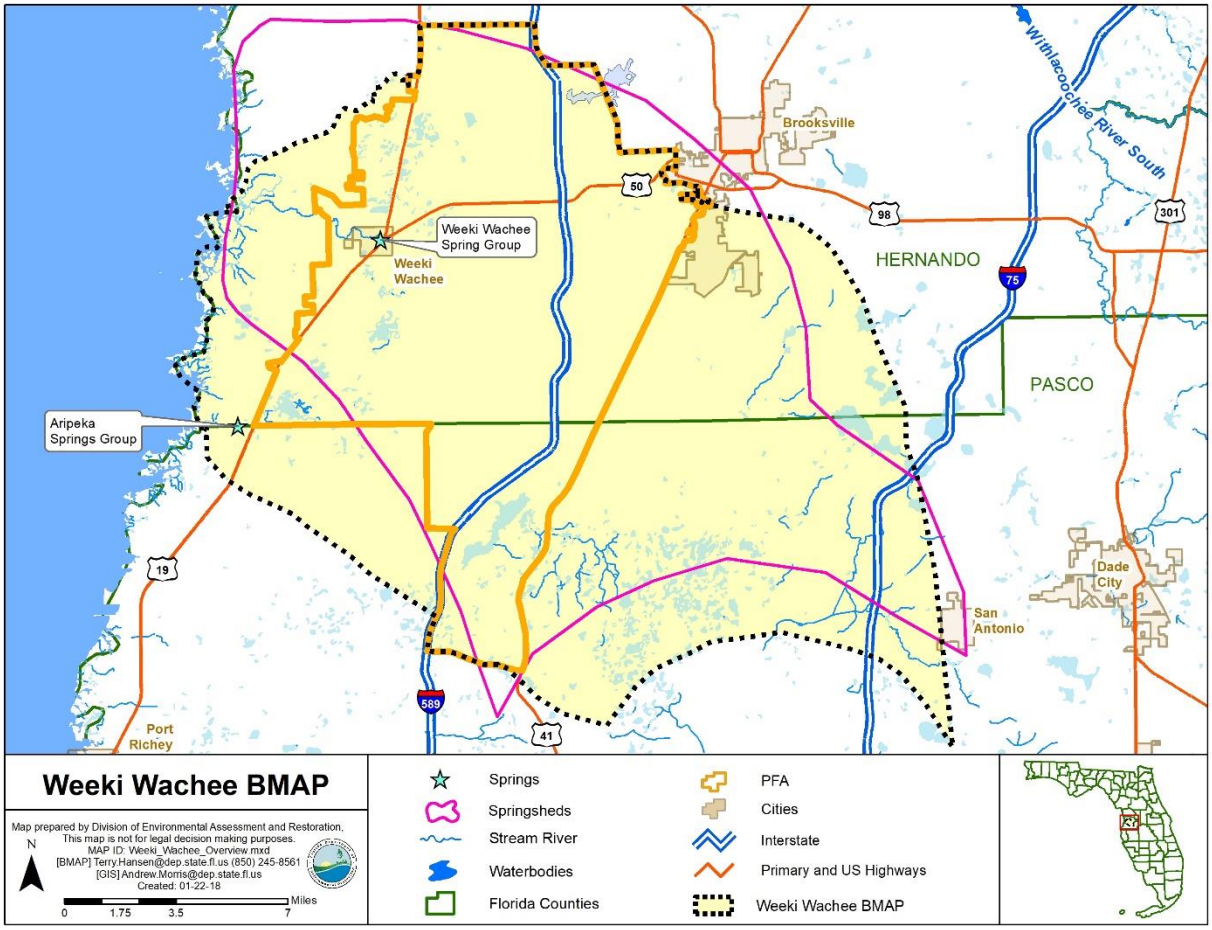

Figure 1. Weeki Wachee BMAP, springshed, and PFA boundaries

1.5.2 Additional Requirements

In accordance with Section 373.811, F.S., the following activities are prohibited in the PFA:

- New domestic wastewater disposal facilities, including rapid infiltration basins (RIBs), with permitted capacities of 100,000 gpd or more, except for those facilities that meet an advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) standard of no more than 3 mg/L total nitrogen (TN) on an annual permitted basis.

- New onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (OSTDS or septic systems; the terms are used interchangeably throughout this document) on lots of less than one acre inside the PFAs unless additional nitrogen treatment is provided, as specified in the OSTDS remediation plan (see **Appendix D** for details).

- New facilities for the disposal of hazardous waste.

- The land application of Class A or Class B domestic wastewater biosolids not in accordance with a DEP-approved nutrient management plan establishing the rate at which all biosolids, soil amendments, and sources of nutrients at the land application site can be applied to the land for crop production, while minimizing the amount of pollutants and nutrients discharged to groundwater or waters of the state.

- New agricultural operations that do not implement best management practices (BMPs), measures necessary to achieve pollution reduction levels established by DEP, or groundwater monitoring plans approved by a water management district (WMD), or DEP.

1.5.2.1 Biosolids and Septage Application Practices

In the PFA, the aquifer contributing to the springs is highly vulnerable to contamination by nitrogen sources and soils have a high to moderate tendency to leach applied nitrogen. DEP previously documented elevated nitrate concentrations in groundwater beneath septage application zones in spring areas. To assure that nitrogen losses to groundwater are minimized from permitted application of biosolids and septage in the PFA, the following requirements apply to newly-permitted application sites and existing application sites upon permit renewal.

All permitted biosolids application sites that are agricultural operations must be enrolled in the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) BMP Program or be within an agricultural operation enrolled in the FDACS BMP Program for the applicable crop type. Implementation of applicable BMPs will be verified by FDACS in accordance with Chapter 5M-1, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). Permitted biosolids application sites that are new agricultural operations must also comply with Subsection 373.811(5), F.S. Biosolids application sites must be certified as viable agricultural operations by an acknowledged agricultural professional such as an agricultural consultant or agricultural extension agent. Effective nutrient management

practices must be ongoing at the application zones in the permit. Plant uptake and harvesting are vital components of the nutrient management plan to remove nitrogen and prevent it from leaching to groundwater. If DEP determines that the site is not a viable agricultural site implementing a nutrient management plan, corrective action will be required.

Groundwater monitoring for nitrate is required for all biosolids and septage land application sites in the PFA to assure compliance with nutrient management objectives in this BMAP. However, groundwater monitoring is not required if the site nutrient management plan limits biosolids application rates to TN with no adjustment for available nitrogen normally allowed by subsections 62-640.500(5) and (6), F.A.C. (e.g. for a recommended fertilizer rate of 160 pounds of nitrogen per acre, only 160 pounds of TN per acre shall be applied). For septage application, groundwater monitoring is not required if the site nutrient management plan limits application rates to 30,000 gallons per acre for sites accepting mixtures of septage and grease (food establishment sludge) or to 40,000 gallons per acre for sites accepting septage without grease. The permit renewal application will include a trend analysis for nitrate in groundwater monitoring wells during the previous permit cycle, and an evaluation of the potential for the facility to cause or contribute to exceedance of the TMDL.

1.6 Other Scientific and Historical Information

In preparing this BMAP, DEP collected and evaluated credible scientific information on the effect of nutrients, particularly forms of nitrogen, on springs and springs systems. Some of the information collected is specific to the Weeki Wachee Basin, while other references provide information on related knowledge for restoring springs, such as nitrogen-reducing technologies, the treatment performance of OSTDS, and runoff following fertilizer applications.

1.7 Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholder involvement is critical to develop, gain support for, and secure commitments in a BMAP. The BMAP process engages stakeholders and promotes coordination and collaboration to address the pollutant load reductions necessary to achieve the TMDLs. DEP invites stakeholders to participate in the BMAP development process and encourages public participation and consensus to the greatest practicable extent. **Table A-1** identifies the stakeholders who participated in the development of this BMAP.

During the development of the Weeki Wachee BMAP, DEP held a series of meetings involving stakeholders and the general public. The purpose of these meetings was to consult with stakeholders to gather information, evaluate the best available science, develop an OSTDS remediation plan (including a public education plan), define management strategies and milestones, and establish monitoring requirements. All of the meetings were open to the public and noticed in the *Florida Administrative Register* (F.A.R.). Additionally, a public meeting on the current draft BMAP was held on January 17, 2018, and was noticed in the F.A.R. and in local newspapers.

Upon BMAP adoption, DEP intends to facilitate annual meetings with stakeholders to review progress towards achieving the TMDLs.

1.8 Description of BMPs Adopted by Rule

Table 2 identifies the adopted BMPs and BMP manuals relevant to this BMAP.

Table 2. BMPs and BMP manuals adopted by rule as of June 2017

Agency	F.A.C. Chapter	Chapter Title
FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy (OAWP)	5M-6	Florida Container Nursery BMP Guide
FDACS OAWP	5M-8	BMPs for Florida Vegetable and Agronomic Crops
FDACS OAWP	5M-9	BMPs for Florida Sod
FDACS OAWP	5M-11	BMPs for Florida Cow/Calf Operations
FDACS OAWP	5M-12	Conservation Plans for Specified Agricultural Operations
FDACS OAWP	5M-13	BMPs for Florida Specialty Fruit and Nut Crop Operations
FDACS OAWP	5M-14	BMPs for Florida Equine Operations
FDACS OAWP	5M-16	BMPs for Florida Citrus
FDACS OAWP	5M-17	BMPs for Florida Dairies
FDACS OAWP	5M-18	Florida Agriculture Wildlife BMPs
FDACS OAWP	5M-19	BMPs for Florida Poultry
FDACS Division of Agricultural Environmental Services	5E-1	Fertilizer
FDACS Division of Aquaculture	5L-3	Aquaculture BMPs
FDACS Florida Forest Service	5I-6	BMPs for Silviculture
FDACS Florida Forest Service	5I-8	Florida Forestry Wildlife BMPs for State Imperiled Species
SWFWMD	40D-26	Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program
DEP	62-330	Environmental Resource Permitting

Section 2: Implementation to Achieve TMDLs

2.1 Allocation of Pollutant Loads

DEP collected and evaluated credible scientific information on the effect of nutrients, particularly forms of nitrogen, on Weeki Wachee Spring.

2.1.1 Nutrients in the Springs and Spring Systems

DEP developed the Nitrogen Source Inventory Loading Tool (NSILT) to provide information on the major sources of nitrogen in the groundwater contributing area and spring contributing area for the OFS. In addition, this tool is used to estimate nitrogen loads to groundwater from these sources in the spring contributing area. The NSILT is a GIS- and spreadsheet-based tool that provides spatial estimates of the relative contribution of nitrogen from major nitrogen sources and accounts for the transport pathways and processes affecting the various forms of nitrogen as they move from the land surface through the soil and geologic strata.

The first major factor to be considered in estimating the loading to groundwater in the NSILT is the attenuation of nitrogen as it moves from its source through the environment, before it reaches the Upper Floridan aquifer (UFA). Biological and chemical processes that occur as part of the nitrogen cycle, as well as hydrogeological processes, control the movement of nitrogen from the land surface to groundwater. Many of these processes attenuate (impede or remove) the amount of nitrogen transported to groundwater. An understanding of how water moves through the subsurface and the processes that transform the different forms of nitrogen is essential for estimating nitrogen loading to groundwater from various sources.

A second major factor to consider in estimating the loading to groundwater is the geological features in the springshed and the related recharge rate to the aquifer. Water movement between the shallow groundwater (surficial aquifer, where present) and the deeper aquifer (UFA) is slowed by a low permeability layer of clay, silt, and fine sand that retards the vertical movement of infiltrating water from the surface. The UFA occurs in limestone that can be prone to dissolving and, over geologic time, the development of numerous karst features (sinkholes, caves, and conduits). These features allow water from the land surface to move directly and relatively rapidly into the aquifer and in some areas for groundwater in the aquifer to move rapidly to the springs.

Potential recharge rates from the surface to the UFA are affected by variations in the geologic materials and the presence of karst features. DEP estimated the recharge rate ranges and grouped them into three rate categories, which were applied to the NSILT:

- Low recharge (Less than 3 inches per year [in/yr]).
- Medium recharge (3 to 10 in/yr).
- High recharge (greater than 10 in/yr).

In the NSILT, DEP applies different attenuation factors to different types of sources, so that various biological, chemical, and hydrogeological effects can be estimated. The attenuation that is applied means that the amount of nitrogen leaving a source (such as a livestock operation or a just-fertilized yard), reduces the amount of nitrogen predicted to reach the aquifer. In the NSILT estimates, the average attenuation rates range from 90 % (for atmospheric deposition) to 25 % (for wastewater disposal in a RIB). This means that, for these examples, only 10 % of nitrogen from atmospheric deposition is expected to reach the aquifer, while 75 % of nitrogen from a RIB is expected to reach groundwater, because the remainder is attenuated by various chemical and biological processes.

Phosphorus is naturally abundant in the geologic material underlying much of Florida and is often present in high concentrations in surface water and groundwater. Monitoring and evaluation of phosphorus and influences on the springs continues as the nitrate TMDLs are implemented.

2.1.2 Estimated Nitrogen Loads

Table 3 lists the estimated nitrogen loads to groundwater by source. Note that urban stormwater loads are included in urban turfgrass fertilizer (UTF) estimates, while agricultural stormwater loads are included in farm fertilizer (FF) and livestock waste (LW) estimates. Nitrogen loading to surface water will be reduced through the activities and strategies for the sources identified in this chapter for groundwater loading.

Table 3. Estimated nitrogen load to groundwater by source in the BMAP area

Nitrogen Source	Total Nitrogen Load to Groundwater in Pounds of Nitrogen Per Year (lb-N/yr)	% Contribution
OSTDS	282,875	30
UTF	209,833	22
Atmospheric Deposition	93,208	10
FF	163,935	17
Sports Turfgrass Fertilizer (STF)	53,841	6
LW	91,347	10
Wastewater Treatment Facility WWTF	45,105	5
Total	**940,144**	**100**

2.1.3 Assumptions and Considerations

The NSILT estimates are based on the following assumptions and considerations:

- **NSILT Nitrogen Inputs** – The methods used to calculate nitrogen inputs for each pollutant source were based on a detailed synthesis of information, including direct water quality measurements, census data, surveys, WWTF permits, published scientific studies and reports, and information obtained in meetings with agricultural producers. For some pollutant source categories, the nitrogen inputs were calculated using assumptions and extrapolations. As a result, these estimated inputs could be subject to further refinement if more detailed information becomes available.

- **OSTDS Load Contribution** – A per capita contribution to an OSTDS of 9.012 lb-N/year was used to calculate loading from OSTDS. The average household contribution was estimated based on 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data on average number of people per household by county (2.41 in Hernando County and 2.45 in Pasco County) and additional information on the time spent away from home by the school-age population and labor force (adjusted effective persons per household of 2.08 for Hernando County and 2.07 for Pasco County).

- **Nitrogen Attenuation Factors** – To estimate the amount of nitrogen loading to the aquifer, DEP applied two nitrogen attenuation factors. Biological and chemical processes that occur as part of the nitrogen cycle, as well as hydrogeological processes that control the movement of nitrogen from the land surface to groundwater. Biochemical attenuation accounts for biochemical processes that convert or transform the different forms of nitrogen, while hydrogeological attenuation accounts for spatial variations that affect the rate of water infiltrating through geological media to recharge the UFA. Given the relatively large range of literature-reported values of biochemical nitrogen attenuation for each source category, DEP used an average biochemical attenuation factor for each source based on land use practices and hydrogeological conditions in the contributing areas.

Other assumptions and considerations for BMAP implementation include the following:

- **Unquantified Project Benefits** – Nitrogen reductions for some of the projects and activities listed in this BMAP cannot currently be quantified. However, because of their positive impact, it is assumed that these actions will help reduce pollutant loads and estimated loading reductions may be determined at a later date and assigned to these activities.

- **Atmospheric Deposition** – Atmospheric sources of nitrogen are local, national, and international. Atmospheric sources are generally of low nitrogen concentration compared with other sources and are further diminished through additional biological and chemical processes before they reach groundwater. Atmospheric deposition sources and trends will be reevaluated periodically.

- **OSTDS Inventory and Loading Calculations** – The total number of OSTDS in the basin is estimated based on local information and Florida Department of Health (FDOH) data. Future BMAPs and the associated OSTDS loading calculations may be adjusted based on improved data on the number, location, and type (conventional and enhanced nitrogen reducing) of existing septic systems, and may include additional OSTDS installed since BMAP adoption.

- **PFA** – The PFA provides a guide for focusing strategies where science suggests efforts will best benefit the springs. The PFA boundary may be adjusted in the future if additional relevant information becomes available.

- **Project Collection Period –** The BMAP project collection period is limited to projects after a certain date, based on the data used to calculate the reductions needed. Reductions from older projects are already accounted for in the baseline loading. Projects completed in the springshed after January 1, 2013, were considered for inclusion in this BMAP.

- **Legacy Sources** – Land uses or management practices not currently active in the basin may still be affecting the nitrate concentration of the springs. The movement of water from the land surface through the soil column to the UFA and through the UFA to the spring system varies both spatially and temporally and is influenced by local soil and aquifer conditions. As a result, there may be a lag between when nitrogen input to the UFA occurs and ultimately when that load arrives at the Weeki Wachee Spring Group. The impact of this delay is not fully known.

- **Implementation Schedule** – BMAP implementation is intended to be a 20-year process. This plan defines nitrogen reduction milestones for 5-year (30 %), 10-year (50 %), and 15-year (20 %) implementation, so that the TMDLs will be met no later than the 20-year goal (see **Section 2.1.6** for further details). Further, the total reductions and the project credits may be adjusted under the adaptive management approach used for the BMAP. This approach requires regular follow-up to ensure that management strategies are carried out and that their incremental effects are assessed. The process acknowledges that there is some uncertainty associated with the outcomes of proposed management strategies and the estimated response in nitrogen concentration at the springs. As more information is gathered and progress towards each 5-year milestone is reviewed, additional management strategies to achieve the TMDLs will be developed or existing strategies refined to better address the sources of nitrogen loading.

- **Changes in Spring Flows** – The role of this BMAP is specifically to promote the implementation of projects that reduce nitrogen load to groundwater while the minimum flows and levels (MFLs) established for specific springs address water

flows and levels. To maximize efforts between the two programs, spring protection projects should provide both water quality and quantity benefits.

2.1.4 Loading by Source

Based on the NSILT results, the pie chart in **Figure 2** depicts the estimated percentage of nitrogen loading to groundwater by source in the springshed. Septic systems represent 30 % of the total nitrogen loading to groundwater, agriculture 27 %, and UTF 22 % of the total loading. Stormwater loading to groundwater is incorporated into the various source categories.

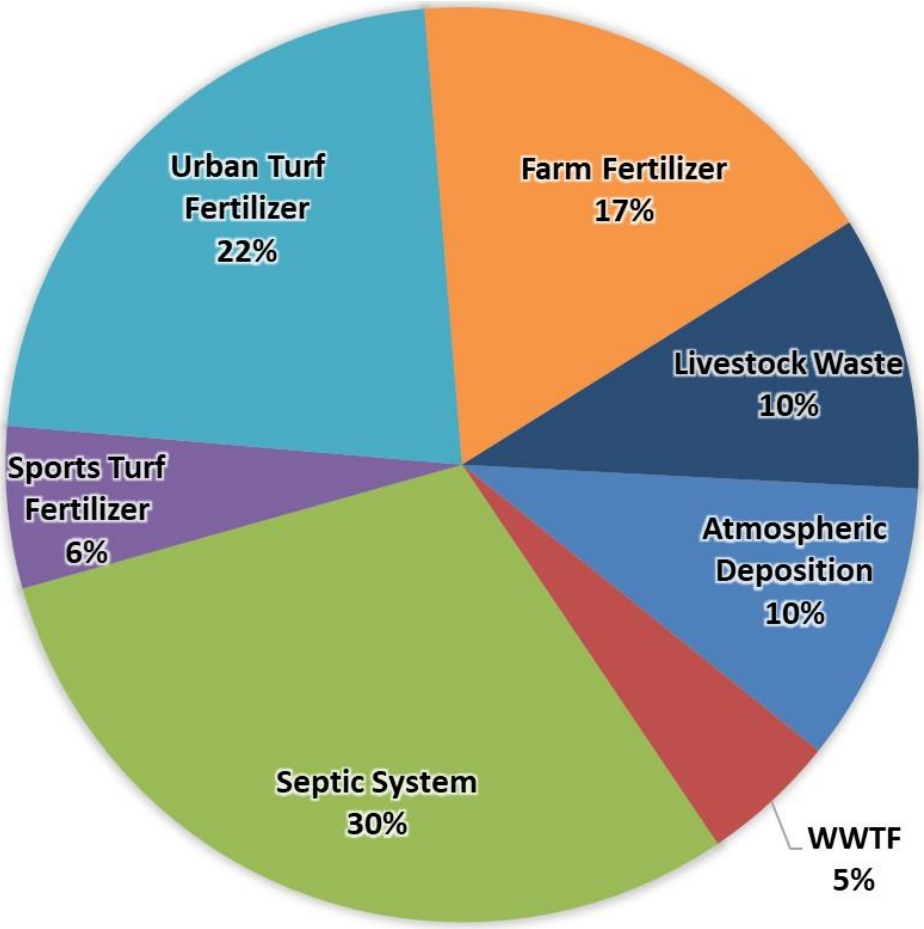

Figure 2. Loading to groundwater by source in the Weeki Wachee Springshed

2.1.5 Loading Allocation

The nitrogen source reductions are based on the measured nitrate concentrations and flows at the vent, along with the TMDL target nitrate concentration. **Table 4** lists the measured nitrate (as nitrogen) loads at the spring vents compared with the TMDL loading based on a target nitrate concentration of 0.28 mg/L. The difference between the spring vent loading and the TMDL loading calculations is the required reduction to meet the TMDLs. The total load that is required

to be reduced in the basin is being allocated to the entire basin and actions defined by the BMAP to reduce loading to the aquifer are needed to implement this allocated load.

Table 4. Total reduction required to meet the TMDLs

Description	Nitrogen Loads (lb-N/yr)	Notes Regarding Data Used
Total Load at Spring Vents	289,000	Upper 95% confidence interval - nitrate data and flow data from 2000 to 2017 (170 cubic feet per second [cfs])
TMDL Load	93,800	TMDL target is 0.28 mg/L and using the same flow data from 2000 to 2017
Required Reduction	**195,200**	

2.1.6 Description of 5-, 10-, and 15-year Milestones/Reduction Schedule

The overall load reduction targets are 30 % of the total within 5 years; 80 % of the total within 10 years; and 100 % of the total within 15 years. DEP will evaluate progress towards these milestones and will report to the Governor and Florida Legislature. DEP will adjust management strategies that reduce loading to the aquifer to ensure the target concentrations are achieved. This may include expanding the area to which the OSTDS remediation policies apply; any such change, however, would be incorporated into an updated BMAP through a formal adoption process.

Table 5 lists the estimated nitrogen reduction schedule by milestone. Progress will be tracked yearly and adjustments made as needed. At the five-year milestone, progress will be assessed and load reductions adjusted as necessary. Entities have flexibility in the types and locations of projects as long as they achieve the overall required load reductions. The monitoring of existing groundwater and springs sampling locations is essential. **Section 2.3** describes detailed source reduction strategies.

Table 5. Nitrogen reduction schedule (lb-N/yr)

5-Year Milestone (30 % of Total)	10-Year Milestone (50 % of Total)	15-Year Milestone (20 % of Total)	Total Nitrogen Reduction (100 %)
58,560	97,600	39,040	195,200

2.2 Prioritization of Management Strategies

The management strategies listed in **Appendix B, Appendix E,** and **Appendix F** are ranked with a priority of high, medium, or low. In 2016, the Florida Legislature amended the Watershed Restoration Act (Section 403.067, F.S.), creating additional requirements for all new or revised BMAPs. BMAPs must now include planning-level details for each listed project, along with their priority ranking.

Project status was selected as the most appropriate indicator of a project's priority ranking. Projects with a "completed" status were assigned a *low priority*. Projects classified as

"underway" were assigned a *medium priority* because some resources have been allocated to these projects, but some work still needs to be completed. *High priority* was assigned to projects listed as "planned" as well as certain "completed" projects that are ongoing each year (any project with one of these project types: "street sweeping," "catch basin inserts/inlet filter cleanout," "public education efforts," "fertilizer cessation," "fertilizer reduction," or "aquatic vegetation harvesting"), and select projects that are elevated because substantial, subsequent project(s) are reliant on their completion.

2.3 Load Reduction Strategy

A precise total load reduction to groundwater needed to meet the TMDL is unknown and dependent on a number of complex factors. Ultimately there must be a reduction at the spring vent of at least 195,200 lb-N/yr. Based on the totals of all the credits from BMAP actions and policies, the range of total reductions to groundwater is between 396,220 - 552,102 lb-N/yr (see **Table 6**). However, due to the proximity of these reductions to the spring and the uncertainties of fate and transport in the karst geology, additional actions may be necessary to ensure that the loading at the vent is achieved within the timeline of the BMAP.

To achieve reductions outside the scope of the policies listed, additional project options are available to local entities but have not been planned. Other efforts could be pursued to further reduce the nitrogen load to groundwater in the basin.

Table 6. Summary of potential credits for the Weeki Wachee BMAP to meet the TMDLs

Note: No reductions are estimated for atmospheric deposition sources

Nitrogen Source	Credits to Load to Groundwater (lb-N/yr)	Description
OSTDS	195,668 - 285,977	Credits are based on lots of all sizes inside the PFA being remediated by either enhancing onsite system or connecting to sewer. An estimated 27,538 lb-N/yr have been provided as OSTDS remediation projects which may be on these lots or in the larger BMAP area. Any projects outside the PFA would add additional reductions to the estimates listed.
UTF	12,590	DEP approved credits (6%) for public education activities as well as credits identified for stakeholder stormwater projects.
STF	5,342	6% BMP credit for sports fields and 10% BMP credit for golf courses on STF load to groundwater, assuming 100% BMP implementation on golf courses and sports fields.
FF	24,590	15% BMP credit on FF load to groundwater, assuming 100% owner-implemented and verified BMPs on all fertilized lands.
LW	9,135	10% BMP credit on LW load to groundwater, assuming 100% owner-implemented and verified BMPs at all livestock facilities.
WWTF	33,058	Achieved by BMAP WWTF policy if BMAP-wide (achieving 3 or 6 mg/L).
WWTF - Decommission	46,171	Hernando County Spring Hill WRF Decommissioning Project (Project HC-20).
WWTF – Biological Application	53,272	Pasco County Crews Lake Restoration Project (Project PC-02).
Total Credits from BMAP Policies and Submitted Projects	**379,826 - 470,134**	
Advanced Agricultural Practices and Procedures	16,394 – 81,968	Includes 10%-50% reduction from 100% of fertilized acres with a change in practice
Total Credits	**396,220 – 552,102**	**Load reduction to meet TMDL at the spring vent is 195,200 lb-N/yr.**

2.4 OSTDS Management Strategies

Overall there are currently around 35,000 OSTDS in the PFA, based on FDOH estimates. This BMAP lists 5 specific projects (**Appendix B**) that reduce nitrogen loading from existing OSTDS on variably sized parcels by a total of 27,538 lb-N/yr. **Figure 3** shows the locations of all OSTDS in the BMAP area.

In addition to the 5 listed projects, DEP assessed the overall OSTDS loading compared with other nitrogen sources in the PFA, as well as the relative loading in the wider BMAP area. Based on these assessments, DEP has determined that for the Weeki Wachee BMAP area, OSTDS contribute more than 20 % of nonpoint source nitrogen pollution to the OFS. Per the Weeki Wachee NSILT, septic systems contribute 30 % pollutant loading in the springshed area and approximately 44 % of the nitrogen loading in the PFA. Cumulatively, nitrogen loading from

OSTDS within this springshed result in the significant degradation of groundwater that impacts the Weeki Wachee BMAP area. Therefore, the comprehensive remediation of OSTDS, consistent with the requirements of this BMAP, is necessary to prevent associated groundwater and surface water contamination so that the TMDLs can ultimately be achieved and so that increases in nitrogen loads from future growth are limited. The OSTDS remediation plan is incorporated as **Appendix D**.

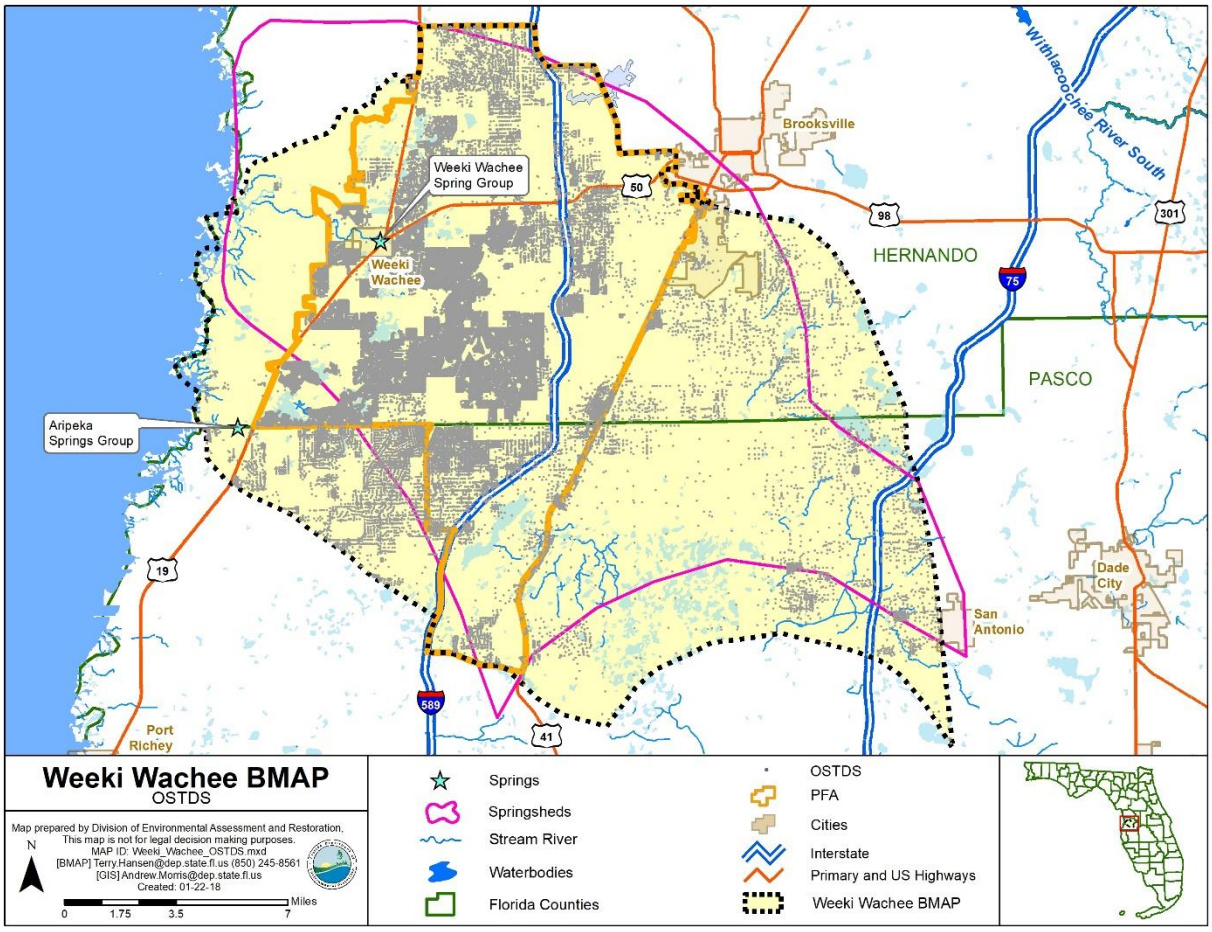

Figure 3. OSTDS locations in the Weeki Wachee BMAP area and PFA

In addition to the actions outlined in the OSTDS remediation plan (incorporated into this BMAP as **Appendix D)**, remedial efforts on existing conventional OSTDS could achieve nitrogen reductions. **Table 7** summarizes the nitrogen inputs, attenuation and recharge factors, and loads to groundwater for a conventional OSTDS. The conventional OSTDS nitrogen input is based on a per capita contribution of 9.012 lb-N/yr. This value is multiplied by the effective population, which is the estimated number of people per household with consideration to age distribution to account for school or working age population who likely have access to sewer connected facilities during away from home hours (2.08 effective persons per household on average in counties within the BMAP). Percent reductions for enhanced or replaced systems are applied to

the conventional OSTDS nitrogen groundwater loads to evaluate possible improvements to groundwater. Enhanced OSTDS can achieve an estimated 65 % improvement in the load to groundwater compared to a conventional system. OSTDS replaced by sewer reduce the conventional nitrogen inputs by an estimated 95 %, assuming a sewer connection to a WWTF meeting AWT levels.

The results show an estimated nitrogen reduction (i.e., credit) of 5.5 in high recharge areas, 3.0 in medium recharge areas, and 0.6 in low recharge areas for each enhanced OSTDS and an estimated nitrogen reduction of 8.0 in high recharge areas, 4.5 in medium recharge areas, and 0.9 in low recharge areas for each replaced OSTDS. Estimated costs for retrofitting (onsite treatment improvements) or removing (sewering) OSTDS range from $10,000 to $20,000 per system, which would be anticipated to be offset somewhat by cost-share from state funds. These costs can be refined as projects are completed and detailed cost data are available.

Table 7. Estimated individual OSTDS improvements to groundwater

Recharge Category	Conventional OSTDS Load to Groundwater (lb-N/yr/OSTDS)	Credit Per System (lb-N/yr/OSTDS) Enhanced OSTDS	Credit Per System (lb-N/yr/OSTDS) Replaced OSTDS
Nitrogen Input	19	–	–
Attenuation (0.5)	9.4	–	–
Low Recharge (0.1)	0.9	0.6	0.9
Medium Recharge (0.5)	4.7	3.0	4.5
High Recharge (0.9)	8.4	5.5	8.0

2.5 UTF Management Strategies

UTF consists of fertilizers applied to the turfgrass typically found in residential and urban areas (including residential lawns and public green spaces). It is applied by either the homeowner or a lawn service company on residential properties, while on nonresidential properties they may be applied by contractors or maintenance staff.

2.5.1 Fertilizer Ordinance Adoption

As required by the Florida Legislature, as described in Subsection 373.807(2), F.S., local governments with jurisdictional boundaries that include an OFS or any part of a springshed or delineated PFA of an OFS, are required to develop, enact, and implement a fertilizer ordinance by July 1, 2017. The statutes require any ordinance to be based, at a minimum, on the DEP model ordinance for Florida-friendly fertilizer use on urban landscapes.

2.5.2 Prioritized Management Strategies and Milestones

Based on the fertilizer ordinances and public education activities in place at the time of BMAP adoption, the associated credits for UTF reductions to groundwater are 4,090 lb-N/yr (see **Table 8**). Additional environmental benefits could be credited if the counties and municipalities implement other public education efforts and source control ordinances, as described below.

Local stormwater projects that treat urban runoff, including nitrogen from urban fertilizer are also in place (see **Appendix B**) for a total estimated reduction to groundwater of 1,140 lb-N/yr.

Table 8. Current project credits to reduce UTF loading to groundwater

Project Category	Project Credits (lb-N/yr) Based on Management Actions in Appendix B
Fertilizer Ordinances and Public Education Activities	4,090
Stormwater Improvements	1,140
Total Project Credits	**5,230**

Since there is uncertainty about the data used in the NSILT to calculate the UTF loading to groundwater, DEP will work toward collecting better data by documenting reductions with the stakeholders. Also, DEP will work with stakeholders to develop additional measures to reduce fertilizer application.

The anticipated reduction from UTF sources is currently limited to 6 % of the estimated load to groundwater. This reduction can be achieved through a 6 % total credit if each local government has an applicable fertilizer ordinance, landscape ordinance, irrigation ordinance, and pet waste ordinance; carries out public education activities; and implements the Florida Yards and Neighborhood (FYN) Program (see **Table 9**).

If all the local governments implement the full suite of public education measures, a 12,590 lb-N/yr reduction can be achieved. Currently, local government public education credits total 4,090 lb-N/yr. Thus, an additional 8,500 lb-N/yr reduction could be achieved through public education and source control efforts.

Table 9. Maximum UTF load reductions based on existing public education credit policies

Urban Turfgrass Source Control Measures	Credit Based on Estimated Load to Groundwater (%)	Possible Nitrogen Credits (lb-N/yr)
Fertilizer Ordinance	0.5	1,049
Pet Waste Ordinance	0.5	1,049
Landscape Ordinance	0.5	1,049
Irrigation Ordinance	0.5	1,049
FYN Program	3.0	6,295
Public Education Program	1.0	2,098
Total Possible Credits	**6.00**	**12,590**

2.6 STF Management Strategies

Sports turfgrass areas fall into two main categories that are evaluated separately: golf courses and sporting facilities (such as baseball, football, soccer, and other fields). There are 14 golf courses covering 1,723 acres in the BMAP area that are the main source of the load to groundwater in this source category. The majority of the golf course acreage is located in high recharge areas (1,703 acres). Sporting facilities account for 88 acres in the BMAP area and are all located in high recharge areas.

2.6.1 Prioritized Management Strategies and Milestones

DEP will work with sports field managers and golf course superintendents to ensure relevant BMP implementation and to estimate reductions associated with these efforts. To improve the golf course loading estimate over a literature-based approach, DEP will also confer with golf course superintendents to identify the actual rate of fertilizer application to update the estimate of the golf course load to groundwater. Golf courses are expected to implement the BMPs described in the DEP BMP manual, *Best Management Practices for the Enhancement of Environmental Quality on Florida Golf Courses* for an estimated 10 % reduction in loads to groundwater.

Managers of sports fields can assist by reducing fertilizer use, using products that reduce leaching, and more efficiently irrigating sports turf. The estimated credit for better management of non-golf sports turfgrass is 6 % of the starting load to groundwater. Based on these approaches, the initial estimates of reductions from STF sources is 5,342 lb-N/yr, as listed in **Table 10**.

Table 10. Maximum load reductions from STF improvements based on existing credit policies

STF Source Control Measures	Credit Based on Estimated Load to Groundwater (%)	Possible Nitrogen Credits (lb-N/yr)
Golf Course BMP Implementation	10	5,280
Sports Fields BMPs	6	62
Total Possible Credits		**5,342**

2.7 Agricultural Sources Management Strategies and Additional Reduction Options

Based on the data including Florida Statewide Agricultural Irrigation Demand (FSAID) IV geodatabase land use, FDACS identified agricultural acreage within the BMAP. An estimated 45,701 acres land in the springshed area are considered agricultural, of which 4,738 acres are identified as crop fertilizer lands, 9,391 acres are livestock lands, and 31,572 acres are identified as both crop fertilizer lands and livestock lands.

2.7.1 FF Loading

Nitrogen in agricultural fertilizer is applied at varying rates, depending on the crop and individual farm practices. The NSILT estimated total nitrogen load to groundwater from FF is 163,935 lb-N/year, or 17 % of the total nitrogen load to groundwater in the BMAP area**.**

2.7.2 LW

Agricultural practices specific to this livestock management were obtained through meetings with University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF-IFAS) extension staff, FDACS field representatives, agricultural producers, and stakeholders. The NSILT estimated total nitrogen load to groundwater from LW is 91,347 lb-N/year, or 10 % of the total nitrogen load to groundwater in the BMAP area.

2.7.3 Prioritized Management Strategies and Milestones

Subsection 403.067, F.S., requires agricultural nonpoint sources in a BMAP either to implement the applicable FDACS-adopted BMPs, which provides a presumption of compliance with water quality standards, or conduct water quality monitoring prescribed by DEP or SWFWMD that demonstrates compliance with water quality standards. Further, based on the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act, Subsection 373.811(5), F.S., prohibits any new agricultural operations within the priority focus areas that do not implement applicable FDACS BMPs, measures necessary to achieve pollution reduction levels established by DEP, or groundwater monitoring plans approved by a WMD or DEP. Failure to implement BMPs or conduct water quality monitoring that demonstrates compliance with pollutant reductions may result in enforcement action by DEP (s. 403.067(7)(b), F.S.)FDACS will work with applicable producers within the BMAP area to implement BMPs. As of December 31, 2017, Notices of Intent (NOIs) to implement BMPs covered 15,349 acres in the Weeki Wachee BMAP area. No producers are conducting water quality monitoring in lieu of implementing BMPs at this time. **Appendix B** lists project information. **Appendix G** provides detailed information on BMPs and agricultural practices in the BMAP area.

With crop-specific BMP enrollment or monitoring for FF areas, an estimated 24,590 lb-N/yr reduction to groundwater can be achieved by owner-implemented crop-specific BMPs, based on an average reduction of 15 % in the nitrogen load to groundwater. While DEP has listed larger percentage reductions in nitrogen from agricultural BMPs in estimating benefits to surface waters, the best data available indicate a 15 % reduction in the load to groundwater, where owner-implemented BMPs are in place. This number could increase as more data are collected on the impact of BMPs to groundwater.

For livestock operations, owner-implemented BMPs are expected to achieve a reduction of 9,135 lb-N/yr, using an estimated 10 % reduction in the load to groundwater from owner-implemented BMPs at livestock operations.

Summarizing the reductions discussed above, the total reduction from BMP implementation of all agricultural sources is 33,725 lb-N/yr.

2.7.4 Additional Agricultural Reduction Options

Further reductions may be achieved through implementing additional agricultural projects or practices, including land acquisition and conservation easements. SWFWMD is implementing projects to encourage low input agriculture and water quality improvement technologies. Examples of these projects include providing incentives for producers to transition to less intensive cropping systems, changing land use to fallow or native landscape, or changing the type of cropping system. Other reductions associated with the implementation and modification of BMPs may be realized through ongoing studies and data collection. Basin-specific studies are underway to evaluate and demonstrate the effectiveness of BMPs on a site-specific basis.

Table 11 identifies possible projects and practices and the estimated acreages. FDACS used FSAID IV to identify crop types and acreages where projects and practices could potentially be implemented.

Table 11. Estimated acreages for additional agricultural projects or practices

Action	Acreage
Controlled Release Fertilizer	1,382
Cover Crops	1,021
Precision Fertilization	2,617
Precision Irrigation	1,882
Soil Moisture Probes	3,006

The projects and practices listed in **Table 11** are a component of the reductions to groundwater that could be achieved through changes in practices (**Table 12**). For example, a 75 % reduction of fertilizer loss to groundwater on 25 % of the fertilized lands would result in an estimated reduction of 30,738 lb-N/yr. Note that these estimates are averaged over the entire basin, and the recharge characteristics of a specific site and the fertilization practices for specific crops may change the estimated reduction for specific acres with a conservation easement or change in fertilization.

Table 12. Calculations for additional load reductions to groundwater

% of Fertilized Acres with a Change in Practice	Amount of Fertilized Acres with a Change in Practice	100% Reduction in Load to Ground-water (lb-N/yr reduced)	75% Reduction in Load to Ground-water (lb-N/yr reduced)	50% Reduction in Load to Ground-water (lb-N/yr reduced)	25% Reduction in Load to Ground-water (lb-N/yr reduced)	10% Reduction in Load to Ground-water (lb-N/yr reduced)
100	36,111	163,935	122,951	81,968	40,984	16,394
75	27,083	122,951	92,213	61,476	30,738	12,295
50	18,056	81,968	61,476	40,984	20,492	8,197
25	9,028	40,984	30,738	20,492	10,246	4,098
10	3,611	16,394	12,295	8,197	4,098	1,639

Beyond enrolling producers in the FDACS BMP Program and verifying implementation, FDACS will work with DEP to improve the data used to estimate agricultural land uses in the springshed. FDACS will also work with producers to identify a suite of agricultural projects and research agricultural technologies that could be implemented on properties where they are deemed technically feasible and if funding is made available. The acreages provided by FDACS are preliminary estimates of the maximum acreages and need to be evaluated and refined over time. As presented here, these projects are based on planning-level information. Actual implementation would require funding as well as more detailed designs based on specific information, such as actual applicable acreages and willing landowners.

2.8 WWTF Management Strategies

In the Weeki Wachee BMAP area, treated effluent containing nitrogen is discharged to sprayfields, RIBs, and percolation ponds, and is reused for irrigation water. The estimated nitrogen load from WWTFs is 45,105 lb-N/year. The discharge location (such as proximity to the spring, highly permeable soils, etc.) and level of wastewater treatment are important factors to consider when calculating loadings to groundwater. Additionally, addressing the nitrogen loading from OSTDS could increase the volume of effluent treated and disposed of by WWTFs.

2.8.1 Summary of Facilities

There are several WWTFs located in the Weeki Wachee BMAP area, including 7 domestic WWTFs permitted to discharge more than 100,000 gallons of treated effluent per day (or 0.1 million gallons per day [mgd]). **Figure 4** shows the locations of domestic WWTFs in the Weeki Wachee Basin with discharges greater than 0.1 mgd and those with discharges less than 0.1 mgd.

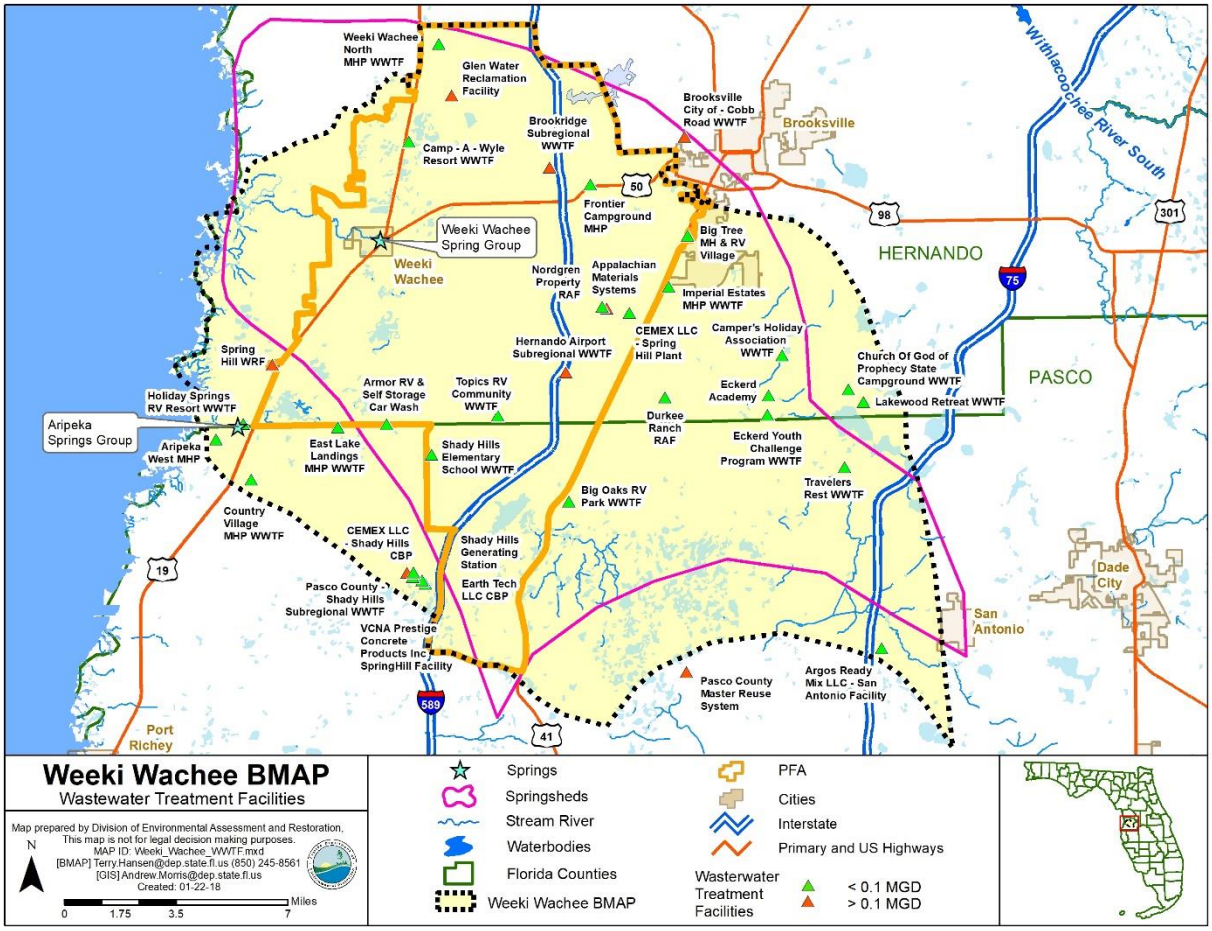

Figure 4. Locations of domestic WWTFs in the Weeki Wachee BMAP area

2.8.2 Wastewater Management Standards and Reuse Management

The Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act prohibits new domestic wastewater disposal facilities in the PFA, including RIBs, with permitted capacities of 100,000 gpd or more, except for facilities that provide AWT that reduces total nitrogen in the effluent to 3 mg/L or lower, on an annual permitted basis.

DEP requires the nitrogen effluent limits listed below in any new or existing wastewater permit, unless the utility/entity can demonstrate reasonable assurance that the reuse or land application of effluent would not cause or contribute to an exceedance of the nitrate concentrations established by the Weeki Wachee Spring Group, Magnolia-Aripeka Springs Group, Wilderness-Mud-Salt Springs Group, and Jenkins Creek Spring TMDLs. To demonstrate reasonable assurance, the utility/entity shall provide relevant water quality data, physical circumstances, or other site-specific credible information needed to show their facility would not cause a nitrate concentration that would be greater than 0.28 mg/L at the Weeki Wachee spring vents and 0.23 mg/L at the Magnolia-Aripeka spring vents. This demonstration may include factors such as dilution, site-specific geological conditions, research/studies, including dye tracer tests, and

groundwater transport modeling. Should DEP concur with the reasonable assurance demonstration request, the TN effluent requirements established here may be modified for the applicant or waived.

The nitrogen effluent limits set forth in **Table 13** will be applied as an annual average to all new and existing WWTFs with a DEP-permitted discharge or disposal area within the BMAP. New effluent standards will take effect at the time of permit renewal or no later than five years after BMAP adoption, whichever is sooner.

Table 13. Wastewater effluent standards for the BMAP area

95 % of the Permitted Capacity (gpd)	TN Concentration Limits for RIBs and Absorption Fields (mg/L)	TN Concentration Limits for All Other Land Disposal Methods, Including Reuse (mg/L)
Greater than 100,000	3	3
20,000 to 100,000	3	6
Less than 20,000	6	6

Additionally, new or existing wastewater permits in the BMAP area must require at least quarterly sampling of the effluent discharge for TN and must report these sampling results in the discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) submitted to DEP.

DEP encourages the reuse of treated wastewater for irrigation as a water conservation measure. The expansion of reuse water for irrigation can reduce reliance on the Floridan aquifer for water supply. The nitrogen load to groundwater from reuse water is expected to be reduced through these WWTF policies, as improvements in reuse water quality will both reduce loads from this source and limit future increases in loading from reuse because of higher treatment levels.

2.8.3 Prioritized Management Strategies and Milestones

Based on the current volumes of discharge and effluent concentrations, the estimated reductions to be achieved through the implementation of these revised wastewater standards are 33,058 lb-N/yr. **Appendix B** contains detailed information on projects that have been completed, are underway, or are planned to reduce nitrogen loading from WWTFs.

Two WWTF projects identified in **Appendix B,** Hernando County's Decommissioning of the Spring Hill Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) (Project HC-20) and Pasco County's Crews Lake Natural Systems Restoration Project (Project PC-02), are estimated to achieve reductions of 46,171 lb-N/yr and 53,272 lb-N/yr, respectively.

2.9 Atmospheric Deposition Management Strategies

2.9.1 Summary of Loading

Atmospheric deposition is largely a diffuse, albeit continual, source of nitrogen. Nitrogen species and other chemical constituents are measured in wet and dry deposition at discrete locations around the U.S. In 2014, Schwede and Lear developed a hybrid model for estimating the total

atmospheric deposition of nitrogen and sulfur for the entire U.S., referred to as the total atmospheric deposition model or "TDEP." Deposition data from several monitoring networks—including the Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET), the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) Ammonia Monitoring Network, the Southeastern Aerosol Research and Characterization Network, and modeled data from the Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) Modeling System—are combined in a multistep process with National Trends Network (NTN) wet deposition values to model total deposition. The TDEP model run used for the NSILT included data from 2011 to 2013.

2.9.2 Description of Approach

Atmospheric sources of nitrogen are local, national, and international. Atmospheric sources are generally of low nitrogen concentration compared with other sources and are further diminished through additional biological and chemical processes before they reach groundwater. Atmospheric deposition sources and trends will be re-evaluated periodically.

2.10 Future Growth Management Strategies

New development primarily falls into to two general source categories: new urban development and new agriculture. Nutrient impacts from new development are addressed through a variety of mechanisms outlined in this BMAP as well as other provisions of Florida law. For instance, wastewater from all new and existing urban development is treated through either domestic WWTFs or OSTDS. New WWTFs must meet the stringent nitrogen limitations set forth in this BMAP. Existing WWTFs also must be upgraded to meet these same BMAP requirements. Florida law requires new development to connect to WWTFs where sewer lines are available. Where sewer is not available within the PFA, this BMAP still prohibits the installation of new OSTDS on lots of less than one-acre unless the system includes enhanced treatment of nitrogen, as described in **Appendix D**. Likewise, all new agricultural operations must implement FDACS-adopted BMPs and potentially other additional measures (**Section 2.7**), or must conduct water quality monitoring that demonstrates compliance with water quality standards.

Other laws such as local land development regulations, comprehensive plans, ordinances, incentives, environmental resource permit requirements, and consumptive use permit requirements, all provide additional mechanisms for protecting water resources and reducing the impact of new development and other land use changes as they occur (see **Appendix G**). Through this array of laws and the requirements in this BMAP, new development must undertake nitrogen-reduction measures before the development is complete.

2.11 Protection of Surface Water and Groundwater Resources through Land Conservation

Maintaining land at lower intensity uses through land purchases or easements for conservation and recreational use is one strategy that can help reduce water quality impacts in the Weeki Wachee Basin. **Table 14** identifies land conservation purchases in the BMAP area since 2012, which is the last year of the period of record used for developing the Weeki Wachee TMDLs.

Table 14. Stakeholder conservation land purchases

TBD = To be determined

Lead Entity	Name of Conservation Purchase	Description	Purchase Status	Cost	Acreage Acquired	Year Acquired
Pasco County	Jumping Gully/Crews Lake Phase I	Protect identified ecological corridor between Starkey Wilderness Park and Cross Bar Ranch.	Completed	$6,600,000	1,600	2015
Pasco County	Aripeka Heights	Coastal Ecological Planning Unit	Completed	$2,400,000	210	2012
Pasco County	Jumping Gully/Crews Lake Phase II	Protect identified ecological corridor between Starkey Wilderness Park and Cross Bar Ranch.	Planned	$1,100,000	100	2017
Pasco County	Connerton to Cross Bar	Protect identified ecological corridor between Connerton and Cross Bar.	Planned	TBD	800	TBD
Pasco County	Coastal Ecological Planning Unit	Conservation program to acquire land identified along the coast.	Planned	TBD	TBD	TBD
Hernando County	Norfleet Property	Provide a greenway corridor connection from Hernando County to Pasco County that conserves habitat and listed species, buffers a spring run and coastal spring, minimizes flood hazards, and maintains natural stormwater treatment for Hammock Creek.	Planned	$250,000	60	TBD
SWFWMD	Boat Spring	Protect the water resources of the Hammock Creek system, link existing SWFWMD ownerships, and enhance the natural systems of the Weeki Wachee Preserve	Completed	$1,370,000	81	2015

2.12 Commitment to Implementation

Successful BMAP implementation requires commitment, dedicated state funding, and follow-up. Stakeholders have expressed their intention to carry out the plan, monitor its effects, and continue to coordinate within and across jurisdictions to achieve nutrient reduction goals. As the TMDLs must be achieved within 20 years, DEP, WMDs, FDOH, and FDACS will implement management strategies using the annual Legacy Florida appropriation from the legislature of at least $50 million to reduce nitrogen in impaired OFS. DEP, working with the coordinating agencies, will continue to invest existing funds and explore other opportunities and potential funding sources for springs restoration efforts.

Section 3: Monitoring and Reporting

3.1 Methods for Evaluating Progress

DEP will work with stakeholders to track project implementation and organize the monitoring data collected each year. The project and monitoring information will be presented in an annual update. Stakeholders have agreed to meet annually after the adoption of the BMAP to follow up on plan implementation, share new information, and continue to coordinate on TMDL restoration related issues. The following activities may occur at annual meetings:

Implementation data and reporting:

- Collect project implementation information from stakeholders, including FDACS agricultural BMP enrollment and FDOH-issued permits, and compare with the BMAP schedule.
- Discuss the data collection process, including any concerns and possible improvements to the process.
- Review the monitoring plan implementation, as detailed in **Section 3.3**.

Sharing new information:

- Report on results from water quality monitoring and trend information.
- Provide updates on new management strategies in the basin that will help reduce nutrient loading.
- Identify and review new scientific developments on addressing nutrient loads and incorporate any new information into annual progress reports.

Coordinating on TMDL restoration-related issues:

- Provide updates from DEP on the basin assessment cycle and activities related to any impairments, TMDLs, and BMAP.
- Obtain reports from other basins where tools or other information may be applicable to the Weeki Wachee Spring Group, Magnolia-Aripeka Springs Group, Wilderness-Mud-Salt Springs Group, and Jenkins Creek Spring TMDLs.

3.2 Adaptive Management Measures

Adaptive management involves making adjustments in the BMAP when circumstances change or monitoring indicates the need for additional or more effective restoration strategies. Adaptive management measures may include the following:

- Implementing procedures to determine whether additional cooperative strategies are needed.

- Using criteria/processes for determining whether and when plan components need revision because of changes in costs, project effectiveness, social effects, watershed conditions, or other factors.

- Revising descriptions of stakeholders' roles during BMAP implementation and after BMAP completion.

- Updating information on corrective actions (and any supporting documentation) being implemented as data are gathered to refine project implementation schedules and performance expectations.

Key components of adaptive management to share information and expertise are tracking plan implementation, monitoring water quality and pollutant loads, and holding periodic meetings.

3.3 Water Quality and Biological Monitoring

3.3.1 Objectives

Focused objectives are critical for a monitoring strategy to provide the information needed to evaluate implementation success. Since the BMAP implementation involves an iterative process, the monitoring efforts are related to primary and secondary objectives. The primary objectives focus on achieving water quality targets, while the secondary objectives focus on water quality parameters that can be used to provide information for future refinements of the BMAP. The monitoring strategy may be updated as necessary.

Primary objectives:

- Measure the water quality and biological response in the impaired springs, river, and/or groundwater at the beginning of the BMAP period and during implementation.

- Document nutrient trends in the Weeki Wachee Basin and associated springs and groundwater.

- Focus BMP efforts by using water quality results combined with appropriate project information and land use in conjunction with statistical and spatial analysis tools.

Secondary objectives:

- Identify areas where groundwater data and modeling might help in understanding the hydrodynamics of the system.

- Confirm and refine nutrient removal efficiencies of agricultural and/or urban BMPs.

- Identify and implement more effective nutrient reduction strategies.
- Use nitrogen isotope and tracer sampling for evaluating nitrogen contributions from organic and inorganic sources.

3.3.2 Water Quality Parameters, Frequency, and Network

To achieve the objectives listed above, the monitoring strategy focuses on two types of indicators to track improvements in water quality: core and supplemental (**Tables 15** and **16**, respectively). The core indicators are directly related to the parameters causing impairment in the river or associated springs. Supplemental indicators are monitored primarily to support the interpretation of core water quality parameters. The monitoring network is established for a variety of purposes.

For this BMAP, nitrate is considered to be the key core parameter measured, to track progress in decreasing nitrogen concentrations in groundwater and the water flowing from the spring vent. The other parameters are considered supplementary parameters for the BMAP, as they build information about groundwater and the spring but are not direct measurements of impairment.

At a minimum, the core parameters will be tracked to determine the progress made towards meeting the TMDLs and/or achieving the numeric nutrient criteria (NNC). Resource responses to BMAP implementation may also be tracked. A significant amount of time may be needed to observe changes in water chemistry.

Table 15. Core water quality indicators and field parameters

Core Parameters
Chloride
Sulfate
Potassium
Ammonia as Nitrogen
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen
Nitrate/Nitrite as Nitrogen

Table 16. Supplemental water quality indicators and field parameters

Supplemental Parameters
Specific Conductance
Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
pH
Temperature
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)
Nitrate and Oxygen Isotopes

Initially, data from the ongoing sampling effort being conducted by SWFWMD will be used to meet the primary objectives. Surface water and groundwater monitoring network locations were selected to track changes in water quality and allow the annual evaluation of progress toward achieving the TMDL. **Figure 5** shows the location of the river and spring stations currently being sampled that will be used for the BMAP monitoring in the Weeki Wachee Basin.

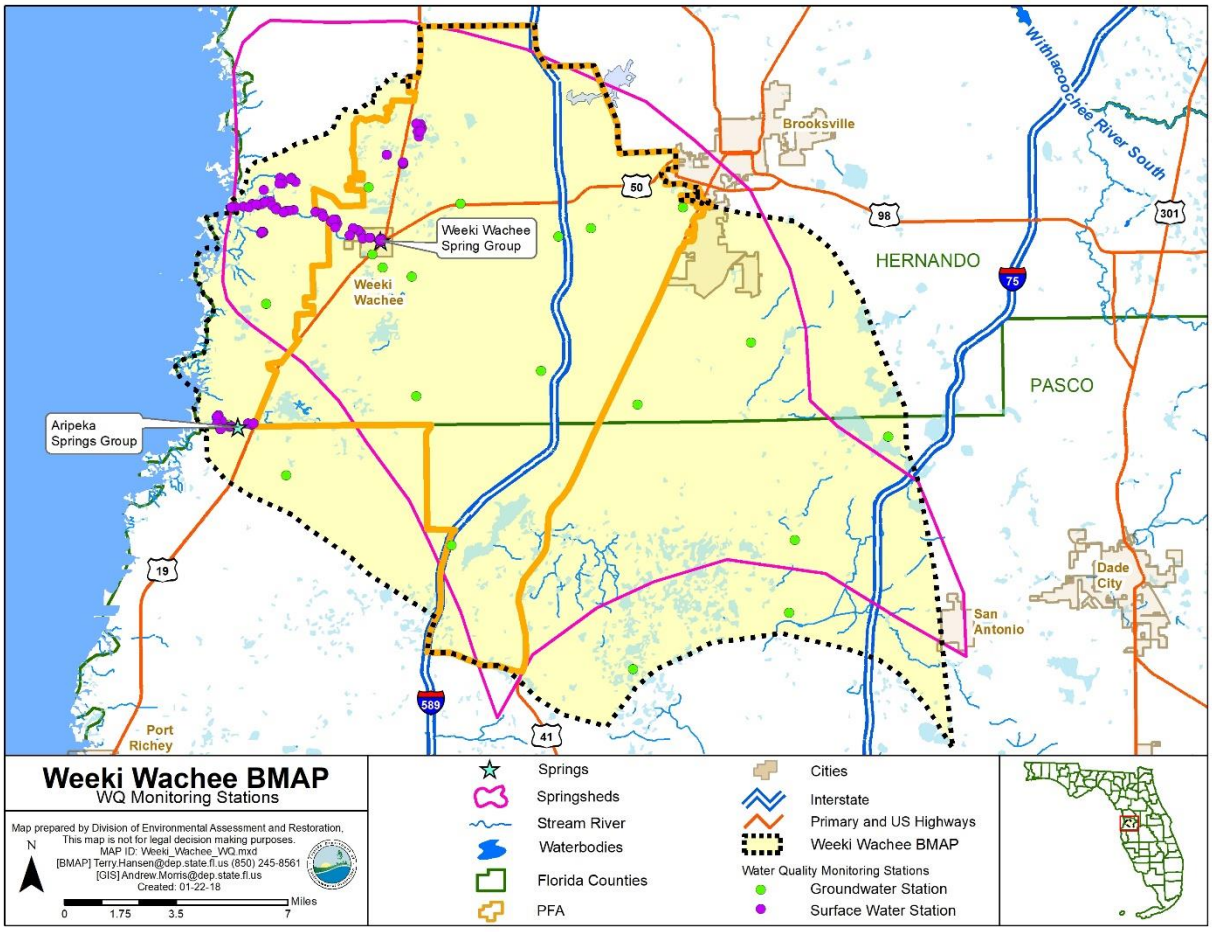

Figure 5. Groundwater and surface water stations sampled in the Weeki Wachee Basin

3.3.3 Biological Monitoring

Biological resource responses represent improvements in the overall ecological health of the Weeki Wachee Basin (see **Table 17**).

Table 17. Biological response measures for spring runs

Resource Responses
Increase in Stream Condition Index (SCI) score
Increase in Linear Vegetation Survey (LVS) score
Increase in Rapid Periphyton Survey (RPS) score
Increase in key fish populations

An RPS will be conducted to assess the abundance and variety of algae in the river. An LVS will be conducted to assess the types and density of vegetation present in the river and to identify the native versus non-native species. An SCI will be conducted to measure the number of different organisms present in the river. In addition, habitat assessments (HAs) will be conducted to assess the river conditions and habitat present to support the SCI evaluation. Water quality samples will also be collected with the biological monitoring.

3.3.4 Data Management and Assessment

As of June 30, 2017, water quality data in Florida are entered by the entity collecting the data into the Florida Watershed Information Network (WIN) Database, which has replaced the Florida Storage and Retrieval System (STORET). DEP pulls water quality data directly from WIN and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) databases for impaired waters evaluations and TMDL development. Data providers are required to upload their data regularly, so the information can be used as part of the water quality assessment process and for annual reporting. Data providers should upload their data to WIN, upon completion of the appropriate quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) checks. All data collected in the last quarter of the calendar year should be uploaded no later than April 1 of the following year.

Biological data collected by DEP are stored in the DEP Statewide Biological (SBIO) database. Biological data should be collected and regularly provided to DEP following the applicable standard operating procedures. All biological data collected in the last quarter of the calendar year should be uploaded or provided no later than April 1 of the following year.

The water quality will be analyzed during BMAP implementation to determine trends in water quality and the health of the biological community. A wide variety of statistical methods are available for the water quality trend analyses. The selection of an appropriate data analysis method depends on the frequency, spatial distribution, and period of record available from existing data. Specific statistical analyses were not identified during BMAP development.

3.3.5 QA/QC

Stakeholders participating in the monitoring plan must collect water quality data in a manner consistent with Chapter 62-160, F.A.C., and the DEP standard operating procedures (SOPs) for QA/QC required by rule. The most current version of these procedures is available on the DEP website. For BMAP-related data analyses, entities should use National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP)–certified laboratories or other labs that meet the certification and other requirements outlined in the SOPs.

Appendices

Appendix A. Important Links

The links below were correct at the time of document preparation. Over time, the locations may change and the links may no longer be accurate. None of these linked materials are adopted into this BMAP.

- DEP Website: http://www.floridadep.gov
- DEP Map Direct Webpage: https://ca.dep.state.fl.us/mapdirect/
- Searchable online version of PFA maps: https://www.floridadep.gov/pfamap
- Florida Statutes: http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes:
    - Florida Watershed Recovery Act (Section 403.067, F.S.)
    - Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act (Part VIII of Chapter 373, F.S.)
- DEP Model Ordinances: http://fyn.ifas.ufl.edu/fert_ordinances.html
- DEP Standard Operating Procedures for Water Quality Samples: https://floridadep.gov/dear/quality-assurance/content/dep-sops
- NELAC NELAP: https://fldeploc.dep.state.fl.us/aams/index.asp
- FDACS BMPs: https://www.freshfromflorida.com/Business-Services/Best-Management-Practices-BMPs/Agricultural-Best-Management-Practices
- FDACS BMP and Field Staff Contacts: http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy
- Florida Administrative Code (Florida Rules): https://www.flrules.org/
- SWFWMD 2017 Weeki Wachee River Surface Water Improvement and Management SWIM Plan: http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/files/database/calendar/Weeki_Wachee_GB_FINAL_SWIM_Plan_v2.pdf
- SWFWMD Springs: http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/springs/
- SWFWMD Social Research: http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/projects/social_research/
- UF-IFAS Research: http://research.ifas.ufl.edu/

Appendix B. Projects to Reduce Nitrogen Sources

Prioritization of Management Strategies

The management strategies in **Table B-1** are ranked with a priority of high, medium, or low. In 2016, the Florida Legislature amended the Watershed Restoration Act (Section 403.067, F.S.), creating additional requirements for all new or revised BMAPs. BMAPs must now include planning-level details for each listed project, along with their priority ranking.

Project status was selected as the most appropriate indicator of a project's priority ranking based primarily on need for funding. Projects with a "completed" status were assigned a low priority. Projects classified as "underway" were assigned a medium priority because some resources have been allocated to these projects, but additional assistance may be needed for the project to be completed. High priority was assigned to projects listed with the project status "planned" as well as certain "completed" projects that are ongoing each year (any project with one of these project types: "street sweeping," "catch basin inserts/inlet filter cleanout," "public education efforts," "fertilizer cessation," "fertilizer reduction," or "aquatic vegetation harvesting"), and select projects that are elevated because substantial, subsequent project(s) are reliant on their completion.

Description of the Management Strategies

Responsible entities submitted these management strategies to the department with the understanding that the strategies would be included in the BMAP, thus requiring each entity to implement the proposed strategies in a timely way and achieve the assigned load reduction estimates. However, this list of strategies is meant to be flexible enough to allow for changes that may occur over time. Any change in listed management strategies, or the deadline to complete these actions, must first be approved by the department. Substituted strategies must result in equivalent or greater nutrient reductions than expected from the original strategies.

While the 20-year planning period for this BMAP is 2018 to 2038, projects completed since January 1, 2013, count toward the overall nitrogen reduction goals.

Estimated nitrogen reductions are subject to refinement based on DEP verification and/or on adjustment to calculations based on loading to groundwater rather than surface water. Agriculture load reductions (FDACS-01 and FDACS-02) assume 100 % enrollment and verification. Projects with a designation of TBD (to be determined) denotes information is not currently available, but will be provided by the stakeholder when it is available. Projects with a designation of N/A (not applicable) indicates the information for that category is not relevant to that project. Projects with a designation of "Not Provided" denotes that information was requested by DEP but was not provided by the lead entity.

Table B-1. Stakeholder projects to reduce nitrogen sources

*Denotes project that is applicable in another Springs Coast BMAP. The dollar amount is the total project amount (not split among the BMAPs).

Lead Entity	Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	Project Type	Project Status	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Nitrogen Source Addressed by Project	Estimated Nitrogen Load Reduction (lb-N/yr)	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
City of Brooksville	COB-01	Public Education Activities	Adopt fertilizer ordinance in 2017; website, public service announcements, brochures, etc.	Public Education	Underway	2017	2018	UTF	22	TBD	County	TBD
City of Brooksville	COB-02	Septic to Sewer Conversion	Connect approximately 75 septic systems to central sewer system.	Wastewater Service Area Expansion	Planned	2019	2021	OSTDS	TBD	$1,400,000	City/DEP	TBD
City of Brooksville	COB-03	Septic to Sewer Conversion	Connect approximately 300 septic systems to central sewer system.	Wastewater Service Area Expansion	Planned	2027	2030	OSTDS	TBD	$6,000,000	City/DEP/ Other	TBD
City of Brooksville	COB-04	Reuse Water to Hernando Oaks Golf Course	Connect Brooksville reclaim transmission line to Hernando Oaks Golf Course for irrigation purposes.	Reuse Project	Planned	2018	2019	STF	TBD	$490,000	DEP	DEP: $490,000
Hernando County	HC-01	Package Plant Connection Project	Connect several private wastewater package plants to the county's central wastewater collection system.	Wastewater System Upgrade	Underway	2016	2019	WWTF	Not Provided	$3,689,270	County/ DEP	DEP: $3,432,970 County: $256,300
Hernando County	HC-02	Oakley Island Sewer Infrastructure	Design, permit, and construct a municipal sewer system to eliminate 15 septic systems and connect the county park to the sewer system.	Wastewater Service Area Expansion	Underway	2016	2019	OSTDS	338	$578,760	County/ DEP	DEP: $491,160 County: $87,600
Hernando County	HC-03	Septic to Sewer Conversion Study	Quantified and studied the feasibility of converting approximately 30,000 septic systems within 19 districts to central sewer in the Spring Hill area.	Study	Completed	2016	2017	OSTDS	N/A	$240,000	Fish & Wildlife Foundation/County	Foundation$ 138,000 County: $102,000
Hernando County	HC-04	District A - Phase I Septic to Sewer Conversion	Convert 450 septic systems to central sewer.	Wastewater Service Area Expansion	Planned	2019	2021	OSTDS	5,500	$10,000,000	County/ DEP	TBD
Hernando County	HC-05	District A - Phase II Septic to Sewer Conversion	Convert 450 septic systems to central sewer.	Wastewater Service Area Expansion	Planned	2021	2023	OSTDS	5,500	$10,000,000	County/ DEP	TBD
Hernando County	HC-06	District B - Phase I Septic to Sewer Conversion	Convert 650 septic systems to central sewer.	Wastewater Service Area Expansion	Planned	2023	2026	OSTDS	8,100	$14,000,000	County/ DEP	TBD
Hernando County	HC-07	District B - Phase II Septic to Sewer Conversion	Convert 660 septic systems to central sewer.	Wastewater Service Area Expansion	Planned	2025	2027	OSTDS	8,100	$14,000,000	County/ DEP	TBD

Lead Entity	Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	Project Type	Project Status	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Nitrogen Source Addressed by Project	Estimated Nitrogen Load Reduction (lb-N/yr)	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
Hernando County	HC-08	Pine Island Park Septic to Sewer Conversion	Convert 90 septic systems to central sewer.	Wastewater Service Area Expansion	Planned	2018	2020	OSTDS	TBD	$2,135,960	County/ DEP	TBD
Hernando County	HC-09	Mary's Fish Camp Septic to Sewer Conversion	Convert 25 recreation vehicle lot septic systems to central sewer.	Wastewater Service Area Expansion	Planned	2020	2021	OSTDS	TBD	$717,800	County/ DEP	TBD
Hernando County	HC-10	U.S. 19 Reclaimed Water Transmission - Phase I	This is the first phase of a reclaimed water main loop around western Hernando County. The project will initially provide 1.7 MGD of reclaimed water to the Timber Pines Subdivision and Golf Course, with future utilization up to 4.5 MGD.	Wastewater System Upgrade	Underway	2016	2018	WWTF	Reduction included in HC-20	$12,000,000	DEP/ SWFWMD/ County	DEP: $6,000,000 County: $3,000,000 SWFWMD $3,000,000
Hernando County	HC-11*	Reclaimed Water Master Plan Revision	Revision to current reclaimed water plan to identify future growth and needed interconnections. The increased use of reclaimed water will reduce fertilizer application.	Study	Underway	2016	2018	UTF	N/A	$150,000	County/ SWFWMD	SWFWMD $75,000 County: $75,000
Hernando County	HC-12	Public Education Activities	Adopted fertilizer ordinance; pet waste ordinance; website, brochures, public service announcements, etc.	Public Education	Completed	2013	2013	UTF	3,772	Not Provided	County	County: $20,000
Hernando County	HC-13	Drainage Retention Area Retrofits	Conceptual planning for the retrofitting of 10 drainage retention areas within two miles of the Weeki Wachee Spring using bioabsorption activated media. Construction should occur in 2020 depending on funding.	Wet Detention Pond	Planned	2017	2021	UTF	200	$750,000	County/ DEP/ SWFWMD	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-14	BMAP Manager	Proposed position to be filled by a high-level staff person to lead all aspects of BMAP implementation for Hernando County. This position will be responsible for intergovernmental coordination with agencies to fulfill BMAP requirements.	Other	Planned	2017	2031	Other	N/A	$150,000	TBD	TBD

Lead Entity	Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	Project Type	Project Status	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Nitrogen Source Addressed by Project	Estimated Nitrogen Load Reduction (lb-N/yr)	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
Hernando County	HC-15	South Brooksville BMP 5 Dauson Stormwater Project	Construction of a stormwater pond providing water quality treatment and flood storage for runoff from untreated existing urban area.	Wet Detention Pond	Completed	2012	2014	UTF	179	$498,625	County/ SWFWMD	SWFWMD$ 175,000 County: $323,625
Hernando County	HC-16	South Brooksville BMP 6 Josephine Street Stormwater Project	Construction of a stormwater pond providing water quality treatment and flood storage for runoff from untreated existing urban area.	Wet Detention Pond	Underway	2015	2018	UTF	36	$612,000	County/ SWFWMD	SWFWMD$ 175,000 County: $437,000
Hernando County	HC-17	South Brooksville BMP 7 Russell Street Stormwater Project	Construction of a stormwater pond providing water quality treatment and flood storage for runoff from untreated existing urban area.	Wet Detention Pond	Underway	2015	2017	UTF	80	$1,115,612	County/ SWFWMD	SWFWMD $475,000 County: $640,612
Hernando County	HC-18	Peck Sink Preserve Stormwater Management Facility	Construction of stormwater treatment train providing water quality pretreatment of surface discharges to Peck Sink.	BMP Treatment Train	Completed	2010	2014	UTF	Not Provided	$3,200,000	County/ SWFWMD/ DEP/ USDA	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-19	Decommissioning of the Berkeley Manor WTF	Diverting wastewater flow to Airport Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) that achieves better nitrogen removal and demolishing the Berkeley Manor WTF.	Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade	Underway	2012	2017	WWTF	Not Provided	$1,100,000	County	County: $1,100,000
Hernando County	HC-20	Decommissioning of the Spring Hill Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)	Diverting wastewater flow to other county treatment facilities that achieve better nitrogen removal and demolishing the Spring Hill WRF.	Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade	Planned	2019	2020	WWTF	46,171	$11,277,000	County	County: 11,277,000
Hernando County	HC-21	Airport WWTP Upgrade	Add filtration and expand capacity; allow public access reuse.	Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade	Planned	2020	2022	WWTF	TBD	$35,000,000	County/ DEP	TBD
Hernando County	HC-22	Rogers Park Low Impact Development (LID) Improvements	Design, permit, and construct stormwater improvements at Rogers Park to reduce sediment, nutrient, and other contaminant loads to the Weeki Wachee River.	Low Impact Development	Underway	2014	2018	UTF	12	$525,000	SWFWMD/Hernando Co	SWFWMD$ 225,000 Hernando Co.: $300,000
Hernando County	HC-23	Street Sweeping	Street sweeping of 46 miles of urban roadways	Street Sweeping	Underway	Not Provided	Not Provided	UTF	320	$8,000	County	County: $8,000/yr

Lead Entity	Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	Project Type	Project Status	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Nitrogen Source Addressed by Project	Estimated Nitrogen Load Reduction (lb-N/yr)	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
Hernando County	HC-24	Septic Drain Field Enhancement Rulemaking	Coordinate with the Florida Department of Health (FDOH) on rulemaking and permitting process for septic system enhancements.	Other	Planned	2017	2020	OSTDS	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD
Hernando County	HC-25	Weeki Wachee Prairie Watershed Management Plan	Completion of watershed management plan that included a stormwater level of service analysis, surface water resource assessment, and BMP alternative analysis.	Studies	Underway	2015	2017	Other	N/A	$227,500	County/ SWFWMD	SWFWMD$ 165,000 County: $62,500
Hernando County	HC-26	Peck Sink Watershed Master Plan	Comprehensive watershed master plan to remedy water quality issues associated with stormwater runoff entering the Floridan aquifer via the Peck Sink complex in Hernando County.	Studies	Completed	2002	2017	Other	N/A	$297,410	SWFWMD/Hernando Co	SWFWMD$ 242,410 Hernando Co.: $55,000
Hernando County	HC-27	Powell Sink Watershed Master Plan	Comprehensive engineering analysis, water quality assessment, watershed model development, and conceptual BMP designs.	Studies	Completed	2014	2016	Other	N/A	$150,000	SWFWMD/Hernando Co	SWFWMD $75,000 Hernando Co.: $75,000
Hernando County	HC-28	Spring Hill Lakes Resource Assessment and BMP Plan	Comprehensive engineering analysis, water quality assessment, watershed model development, and conceptual BMP designs.	Studies	Underway	2015	2017	Other	N/A	$200,000	SWFWMD/Hernando Co	SWFWMD $100,000 Hernando Co.: $100,000
Hernando County	HC-29	Squirrel Prairie Resource Assessment and BMP Plan	Comprehensive engineering analysis, water quality assessment, watershed model development, and conceptual BMP designs.	Studies	Underway	2015	2017	Other	N/A	$200,000	SWFWMD/Hernando Co	SWFWMD$ 100,000 Hernando Co.: $100,000
Hernando County	HC-30	Oman/Indian Creek Resource Assessment and BMP Plan	Comprehensive engineering analysis, water quality assessment, watershed model development, and conceptual BMP designs.	Studies	Completed	2013	2015	Other	N/A	$100,000	SWFWMD/Hernando Co	SWFWMD$ 50,000 Hernando Co.: $50,000
Hernando County	HC-31	Willow Sink Watershed Master Plan	Comprehensive engineering analysis, water quality assessment, watershed model development, and conceptual BMP designs.	Studies	Completed	2013	2015	Other	N/A	$150,000	SWFWMD/Hernando Co	SWFWMD$ 75,000 Hernando Co.: $75,000

Lead Entity	Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	Project Type	Project Status	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Nitrogen Source Addressed by Project	Estimated Nitrogen Load Reduction (lb-N/yr)	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
Hernando County	HC-32	Wiscon Watershed Master Plan	Comprehensive engineering analysis, water quality assessment, watershed model development, and conceptual BMP designs.	Studies	Completed	2014	2016	Other	N/A	$150,000	SWFWMD/Hernando Co	SWFWMD$ 75,000 Hernando Co.: $75,000
Hernando County	HC-33	High Point Stormwater Improvement	Construction of a stormwater pond providing water quality treatment and flood storage for runoff from untreated existing residential area.	Wet Detention Pond	Completed	2013	2014	UTF	20	$175,000	County	County: $175,000
Hernando County	HC-34	Coastal Way Shopping District Parking Lot Water Quality Retrofit	Retrofit a water quality system with enhanced nitrogen removal technology that serves an existing commercial district discharging into Weeki Wachee springshed.	Wet Detention Pond	Planned	TBD	2021	UTF	73	$350,000	TBD	TBD
Hernando County	HC-35	Brentlawn Street Enhanced Treatment Stormwater Improvements	Construction of treatment train with enhanced nitrogen removal technology to provide water quality pretreatment of groundwater discharges to Weeki Wachee springshed.	BMP Treatment Train	Planned	TBD	2022	UTF	19	$160,000	TBD	TBD
Hernando County	HC-36	Harper Street Enhanced Treatment Stormwater Improve-ments	Construction of treatment train with enhanced nitrogen removal technology to provide water quality pretreatment of groundwater discharges to Weeki Wachee springshed.	BMP Treatment Train	Planned	TBD	2022	UTF	89	$80,000	TBD	TBD
Pasco County	PC-01	Central Pasco County Beneficial Water Reuse Project	Design, permit, and construct a wetland infiltration system that uses excess reclaimed water quality polishing and groundwater recharge. Up to 5 MGD of surplus reclaimed water will be delivered to the site with up to 1.6 MGD expected to infiltrate into the Upper Floridan aquifer.	Reuse Project	Underway	2015	2021	Other	Not Provided	$13,224,955	SWFWMD/County	Not Provided

Lead Entity	Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	Project Type	Project Status	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Nitrogen Source Addressed by Project	Estimated Nitrogen Load Reduction (lb-N/yr)	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
Pasco County	PC-02	Crews Lake Natural Systems Restoration Project	Construction of infrastructure providing reclaimed water and restoring approximately 200 acres of wetlands in and adjacent to Crews Lake. Nutrient flows that are currently delivered to the RIB complex will be diverted to the Crews Lake site where biological process will remove nitrogen to background levels.	Other	Underway	2017	2021	WWTF	53,272	$8,497,770	DEP/ SWFWMD/ County	DEP: $4,248,885 SWFWMD $2,124,442 County: $2,124,443
Pasco County	PC-03	Street Sweeping	This project includes street sweeping in 500,000 square feet in collector roads, located within the springsheds. Six sweeping events a year.	Street Sweeping	Planned	2019	2021	UTF	100	$10,000	Pasco County	County: $10,000
Pasco County	PC-04	Public Education Activities	Adopted fertilizer ordinance; website, brochures, public service announcements, etc.	Public Education	Completed	2013	2014	UTF	296	Not Provided	Pasco County	Not Provided
Pasco County	PC-05	Pet Waste Ordinance	Pasco County staff intend to present the Board of County Commissioners a pet waste ordinance for adoption.	Public Education	Planned	2019	2021	UTF	TBD	TBD	Pasco County	TBD
Pasco County	PC-06	Heritage Pines Reclaimed Water Service	Provide reclaimed water to 1,300 homes for residential irrigation.	Reuse Project	Completed	2013	2016	UTF	Not Provided	$1,266,600	DEP/ SWFWMD/ County	DEP: $300,000 SWFWMD $333,300 County: $633,300
FDACS	FDACS-01	Agricultural BMPs - Farm Fertilizer	Implementation of existing BMPs on applicable acreage. Up to 15 % reduction in load to groundwater.	BMPs	Underway	Underway	TBD	FF	24,590	TBD	TBD	TBD
FDACS	FDACS-02	Agricultural BMPs - Livestock Waste	Implementation of existing BMPs on applicable acreage. Up to 10 % reduction in load to groundwater.	BMPs	Underway	Underway	TBD	LW	9,135	TBD	TBD	TBD
SWFWMD	SWF-01	Weeki Wachee SWIM Plan	Implementation and periodic review and update of the Weeki Wachee SWIM Plan.	Study	Completed	2015	2017	Other	N/A	$200,000	SWFWMD	SWFWMD $200,000
SWFWMD	SWF-02	Weeki Wachee River Canoe Launch and Parking Area	Stabilization of soils at the ramp entrance and improvements to the parking area near the launch to reduce stormwater pollutants entering the Weeki Wachee River.	Shoreline Stabilization	Completed	2012	2017	UTF	12	$350,000	SWFWMD	SWFWMD $350,000

Lead Entity	Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	Project Type	Project Status	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Nitrogen Source Addressed by Project	Estimated Nitrogen Load Reduction (lb-N/yr)	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
SWFWMD	SWF-03*	Facilitating Agricultural Resource Management Systems (FARMS) Program	The FARMS Program is an agricultural BMP cost-share program to promote improved water quality in spring systems through approved precision nutrient application technologies.	BMPs	Underway	Prior to 2012	2021	FF	Not Provided	$6,000,000	SWFWMD	SWFWMD $6,000,000
SWFWMD	SWF-04*	Evaluation of Nitrogen Leaching from Reclaimed Water	This project will determine typical nitrogen leaching rates from reclaimed water application to lawns, spray fields, and rapid infiltration basins. This information can be used to refine estimates of nitrogen loading to the aquifer and springs, and identify the best reclaimed water disposal methods to minimize nitrogen loading to groundwater.	Studies	Underway	2014	2018	UTF	N/A	$294,000	SWFWMD	SWFWMD $294,000
SWFWMD	SWF-05*	Springs Coast Wastewater Disposal Treatment Wetlands	This project will assess areas to determine sites appropriate for construction of wetlands to treat WWTF effluent.	Studies	Underway	2014	2017	WWTF	N/A	$400,000	SWFWMD	SWFWMD $400,000
UF-IFAS	IFAS-01*	Development of Landscape Fertilizer BMPs	The objective of this project is to verify the accuracy of the Florida Yards and Neighborhoods (FYN) and Florida Green Industries BMPs fertilizer recommendations.	Studies	Underway	2012	2018	UTF	N/A	$274,429	SWFWMD	SWFWMD $274,429
UF-IFAS	IFAS-02*	Composting at Animal Stock Facilities	Evaluate the nutrient removal efficiency from composting animal waste. The project will compare nutrient leaching efficiency for manure stockpiling and composting facilities	Studies	Underway	2016	2018	LW	N/A	$175,000	SWFWMD	SWFWMD $175,000
Golf Courses	GC-01	Golf Course Reduction Credits	6% BMP credit on golf course load to groundwater, assuming 100% BMP implementation by golf course owners.	BMPs	Planned	TBD	TBD	STF	5,280	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sports Fields	SF-01	Sports Field Reduction Credits	10% BMP credit on sports field load to groundwater, assuming 100% BMP implementation by sports field owners.	BMPs	Planned	TBD	TBD	STF	62	TBD	TBD	TBD

Lead Entity	Project Number	Project Name	Project Description	Project Type	Project Status	Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Nitrogen Source Addressed by Project	Estimated Nitrogen Load Reduction (lb-N/yr)	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
Wastewater Utilities	WU-01	Wastewater Treatment Facility Reduction Credits	Achieved by WWTF policy if implemented BMAP-wide, achieving 3 or 6 mg/L.	Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade	Planned	TBD	TBD	WWTF	33,058	TBD	TBD	TBD
Various	OSTDS-01	Enhancement of Existing OSTDS - Voluntary	Repair, upgrade, replacement, drainfield modification, addition of effective nitrogen reducing features, initial connection to a central sewerage system, or other action to reduce nutrient loading, voluntarily taken by the owner of an OSTDS within the BMAP.	OSTDS Enhancement	Underway	2018	N/A	OSTDS	TBD	TBD	DEP	TBD
Various	OSTDS-02	Enhancement of Existing OSTDS - Required	Repair, upgrade, replacement, drainfield modification, addition of effective nitrogen reducing features, initial connection to a central sewerage system, or other action taken to comply with the OSTDS Remediation Plan for the group of systems identified for remediation (see Appendix D).	OSTDS Enhancement	Planned	TBD	TBD	OSTDS	TBD	TBD	DEP	TBD

Appendix C. Weeki Wachee PFA Report

A PFA (Weeki Wachee Spring, October 2016) is defined as the area(s) of a basin where the Floridan aquifer is generally most vulnerable to pollutant inputs and where there is a known connectivity between groundwater pathways and an OFS. As required by the Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act, DEP delineated a PFA for the Weeki Wachee Spring Group. This PFA is adopted and incorporated by reference into this BMAP. Information on this and other springshed PFAs is available in report format at the following link: http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/dear/PFAs.

Appendix D. OSTDS Remediation Plan

The Florida Aquifer and Springs Protection Act specifies that if during the development of a BMAP for an OFS, DEP identifies OSTDS as contributors of at least 20 % of nonpoint source nitrogen pollution in a PFA or if DEP determines remediation is necessary to achieve the TMDLs, the BMAP shall include an OSTDS remediation plan. Based on the Weeki Wachee NSILT and GIS coverages, OSTDS contribute approximately 44 % pollutant loading in the PFA. Irrespective of the percent contribution from OSTDS, DEP has determined that an OSTDS remediation plan is necessary to achieve the TMDLs and to limit the increase in nitrogen loads from future growth.

D.1 Plan Elements

D.1.1 Installation of New OSTDS

Per statute, new OSTDS on lots of less than one acre are prohibited within PFAs, if the addition of the specific systems conflicts with an OSTDS remediation plan incorporated into an OFS BMAP (see Section 373.811(2), F.S.). This OSTDS remediation plan prohibits new conventional systems on lots of less than one acre within the PFA, unless the OSTDS includes enhanced treatment of nitrogen or unless the OSTDS permit applicant demonstrates that sewer connections will be available within 5 years. Local governments and utilities are expected to develop master wastewater treatment feasibility analyses to identify specific areas to be sewered within 20 years of BMAP adoption. To aid in implementation, the DEP Map Direct webpage includes a detailed downloadable springs PFA boundary shapefile. DEP also maintains on its website an interactive map of the PFA and BMAP boundaries; the map can be easily searched for specific street address locations. FDOH permits the installation of new OSTDS pursuant to Chapter 64E-6, F.A.C., which includes not only systems installed on a property where one has not previously been installed, but also systems installed to replace illegal systems, systems installed in addition to existing systems, and other new systems. FDOH permitting requirements with respect to the definition of "new" or "less than one acre" will be followed for this remediation plan. To meet the enhanced treatment of nitrogen requirement the system must include at least one of the following nitrogen reducing enhancements:

- Features allowed pursuant to FDOH rule, such as in-ground nitrogen-reducing biofilters (media layer systems).

- Features consistent with and identified in the FDOH Florida Onsite System Nitrogen Removal Strategy Studies report, such as in-tank nitrogen-reducing biofilters.

- Other FDOH-approved treatment systems capable of meeting or exceeding the NSF International (formerly National Sanitation Foundation [NSF]) Standard 245 nitrogen removal rate before disposing the wastewater in the drain field, such as aerobic treatment units (ATU) and performance-based treatment systems (PBTS). For FDOH-approved treatment systems that meet NSF 245, but do not meet or exceed the minimum treatment

level expected from the in-ground nitrogen-reducing biofilters, the drain fields, at minimum, shall be installed with a 24-inch separation between the bottom of the drain field and the seasonal high-water table.

D.1.2 Modification or Repair of Existing OSTDS

Per statute, the OSTDS remediation plan must provide loading reductions consistent with achieving the TMDL within 20 years of plan adoption (see Section 373.807(1)(b)8., F.S.). This plan therefore establishes the following remediation policy for existing systems, based on (a) the potential for reducing nitrogen loads by converting existing OSTDS to enhanced nitrogen removing systems or by connecting homes to central sewer, (b) the total amount of nitrogen load that must be reduced to achieve the TMDL, and (c) the relative contribution of nitrogen load from existing OSTDS.

- Where does the remediation policy for existing systems apply? It applies to all existing OSTDS within the PFA on lots of all sizes.

- When is the remediation policy for existing systems effective? The remediation policy for existing systems does not go into effect upon BMAP adoption. The requirements begin following completion of the master wastewater treatment feasibility analyses, FDOH rulemaking, and funding program to help offset the costs to homeowners, but no later than five years after BMAP adoption.

- What will be required by the remediation policy for existing systems when it becomes effective? Upon the need for repair or replacement, an existing OSTDS must include at least one of the following nitrogen reducing enhancements, unless the OSTDS permit applicant demonstrates that sewer connections will be available within 5 years.

    - Enhanced treatment of nitrogen means inclusion of features allowed pursuant to FDOH rules, such as in-ground nitrogen-reducing biofilters (media layer systems); features consistent with and identified in the FDOH Florida Onsite System Nitrogen Removal Strategy Studies report, such as in-tank nitrogen-reducing biofilters; or other FDOH-approved treatment systems capable of meeting or exceeding the NSF Standard 245 nitrogen removal rate before disposing the wastewater in the drain field, such as ATUs and PBTSs. For FDOH-approved treatment systems that meet NSF 245, but do not meet or exceed the minimum treatment level expected from the in-ground nitrogen-reducing biofilters, the drain fields, at minimum, shall be installed with a 24-inch separation between the bottom of the drain field and the seasonal high-water table.

    - FDOH permitting requirements with respect to defining "modification," "repair," and lot size (i.e., acreage) will be followed for this remediation plan

- In addition, a utility is required to provide written notice to OSTDS owners of the availability of sewer lines for connection, no later than 1 year prior to the date the utility's sewerage system will become available, which triggers an obligation for OSTDS owners to comply with the requirements of Section 381.00655, F.S.

D.1.3 Achieving Necessary Load Reductions

All conventional OSTDS in areas subject to the remediation policy for existing systems are required to adopt enhanced treatment of nitrogen or connect to central sewer no later than 20 years after BMAP adoption.

D.1.4 Other Plan Elements

Statutes also require that OSTDS remediation plans contain the following elements.

- An evaluation of credible scientific information on the effect of nutrients, particularly forms of nitrogen, on springs and spring systems. (See **Section D.2**.)

- Options for repair, upgrade, replacement, drain field modification, the addition of effective nitrogen-reducing features, connection to a central sewer system, or other action. (See **Section D.3**.)

- A public education plan to provide area residents with reliable, understandable information about OSTDS and springs. (See **Section D.4**.)

- Cost-effective and financially feasible projects necessary to reduce the nutrient impacts from OSTDS. (See **Section 2** and **Appendix B**.)

- A priority ranking for each project for funding contingent on appropriations in the General Appropriations Act. (See **Section 2** and **Appendix B**.)

The Florida Springs and Aquifer Protection Act defines an OSTDS as a system that contains a standard subsurface, filled, or mound drain field system; an aerobic treatment unit; a graywater system tank; a laundry wastewater system tank; a septic tank; a grease interceptor; a pump tank; a solids or effluent pump; a waterless, incinerating, or organic waste–composting toilet; or a sanitary pit privy that is installed or proposed to be installed beyond the building sewer on land of the owner or on other land on which the owner has the legal right to install such a system. The term includes any item placed within, or intended to be used as a part of or in conjunction with, the system. The term does not include package sewage treatment facilities and other treatment works regulated under Chapter 403, F.S.

D.2 Collection and Evaluation of Credible Scientific Information

As discussed in **Section 2,** DEP developed the Weeki Wachee NSILT, a planning tool that provides estimates of nitrogen loading sources to groundwater based on best available scientific

data at the time the tool is used for a particular geographic area. The NSILT results were peer-reviewed by SWFWMD, FDOH, and FDACS. Additional technical support information concerning the NSILT can be found in **Appendix E**.

DEP also consulted the Weeki Wachee River SWIM Plan adopted by SWFWMD in March 2017 for science-related OSTDS actions and projects. At a public meeting on August 23, 2016, DEP presented and obtained concurrence from stakeholders for actions and projects that include the following (lead entities are listed in parentheses):

Monitoring and research:

- Improve understanding of the ecological responses to nutrient enrichment and reductions (DEP/SWFWMD/universities).
- Maintain and expand water quality monitoring programs (SWFWMD/DEP).
- Report annual status and trends (SWFWMD).
- Evaluate new and emerging technologies (SWFWMD).
- Research and develop advanced septic systems (FDOH/DEP/UF-IFAS).

Completed project:

- Florida Onsite Sewage Nitrogen Reduction Strategies Study (FDOH).

Ongoing projects:

- Quarterly springs water quality monitoring (SWFWMD).
- Stream water quality monitoring (SWFWMD).
- UFA nutrient modeling (SWFWMD).
- Springs Initiative modeling (SWFWMD).
- Project COAST (collect and analyze monthly surface water quality data at 50 fixed stations along the coasts of Hernando, Citrus, and Levy Counties) (SWFWMD/University of Florida).
- USGS Groundwater Data Collection (USGS/SWFWMD).
- USGS Surface Water Data Collection (USGS/SWFWMD).

Proposed projects:

- Nutrient hot-spot loading identification (DEP/SWFWMD).
- Groundwater quality monitoring for BMAP assessment (DEP/SWFWMD).

DEP developed calculation methods to estimate nitrogen reductions associated with septic system enhancement and replacement projects, WWTF projects, golf course BMPs, other sports turfgrass BMPs, and urban turfgrass BMPs.

D.3 Remediation Options

The NSILT estimates that OSTDS contribute approximately 44 % of the pollutant loading to groundwater in the PFA. **Table D-1** lists the number of existing OSTDS in the PFA and the estimated nitrogen reductions associated with enhancement or connection to sewer. **Figure D-1** shows the areas where OSTDS are located.

Table D-1. Estimated reduction credits for additional OSTDS enhancement or sewer *

***Estimated reductions are for either enhancement or sewer per parcel classification. Reductions cannot be combined for the same parcel classification, but can be combined between the different classifications. For example, the sewer credit associated with parcels less than one acre in size can be combined with the sewer credit associated with parcels one acre or greater in size.

Recharge Area	OSTDS Parcels Less Than One Acre in PFAs	Credit for Enhancement (lb-N/yr)	Credit for Sewer (lb-N/yr)	OSTDS Parcels One Acre and Greater in PFAs	Credit for Enhancement (lb-N/yr))	Credit for Sewer (lb-N/yr)
High	29,840	158,152	229,768	5,847	30,989	45,022
Medium	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**29,840**	**158,152**	**229,768**	**5,847**	**30,989**	**45,022**

As required by statute, this OSTDS remediation plan identifies remediation options for existing OSTDS, including repair, upgrade, replacement, drain field modification, the addition of effective nitrogen-reducing features, connection to a central sewer system, or other action. More simply, remediation options can be classified as enhancement or replacement. Enhancement options consist of systems identified in either existing FDOH rules or existing and ongoing FDOH studies, or systems not otherwise prohibited by FDOH. Examples of enhancements include in-ground nitrogen-reducing biofilters (media layer systems); in-tank nitrogen-reducing biofilters; and ATU or PBTS capable of meeting or exceeding the NSF Standard 245 nitrogen removal rate before disposing wastewater in the drain field.

Nitrogen impacts from new development could also be reduced through prohibiting new conventional OSTDS on all lot sizes, throughout the BMAP area.

DEP, FDOH, and local governments will develop programs to help fund the additional costs required to upgrade existing OSTDS by adding nutrient reducing features. The funding program

will be designed to prioritize OSTDS where it is most economical and efficient to add nutrient reducing features (i.e., systems needing a permit for a repair or modification, within the PFA, and on lots of less than one acre).

To facilitate incorporation of nitrogen reducing features at the time of a permit to repair or modify an existing OSTDS, FDOH will pursue regulatory solutions to accomplish the following objectives:

- Update OSTDS rule language regarding permits, variances, and waivers to include consideration of DEP-adopted OSTDS remediation plans.

- Update OSTDS rules to allow installation of passive remediation systems, including but not limited to systems featuring liners, nitrogen reducing material, or both underneath the drain field.

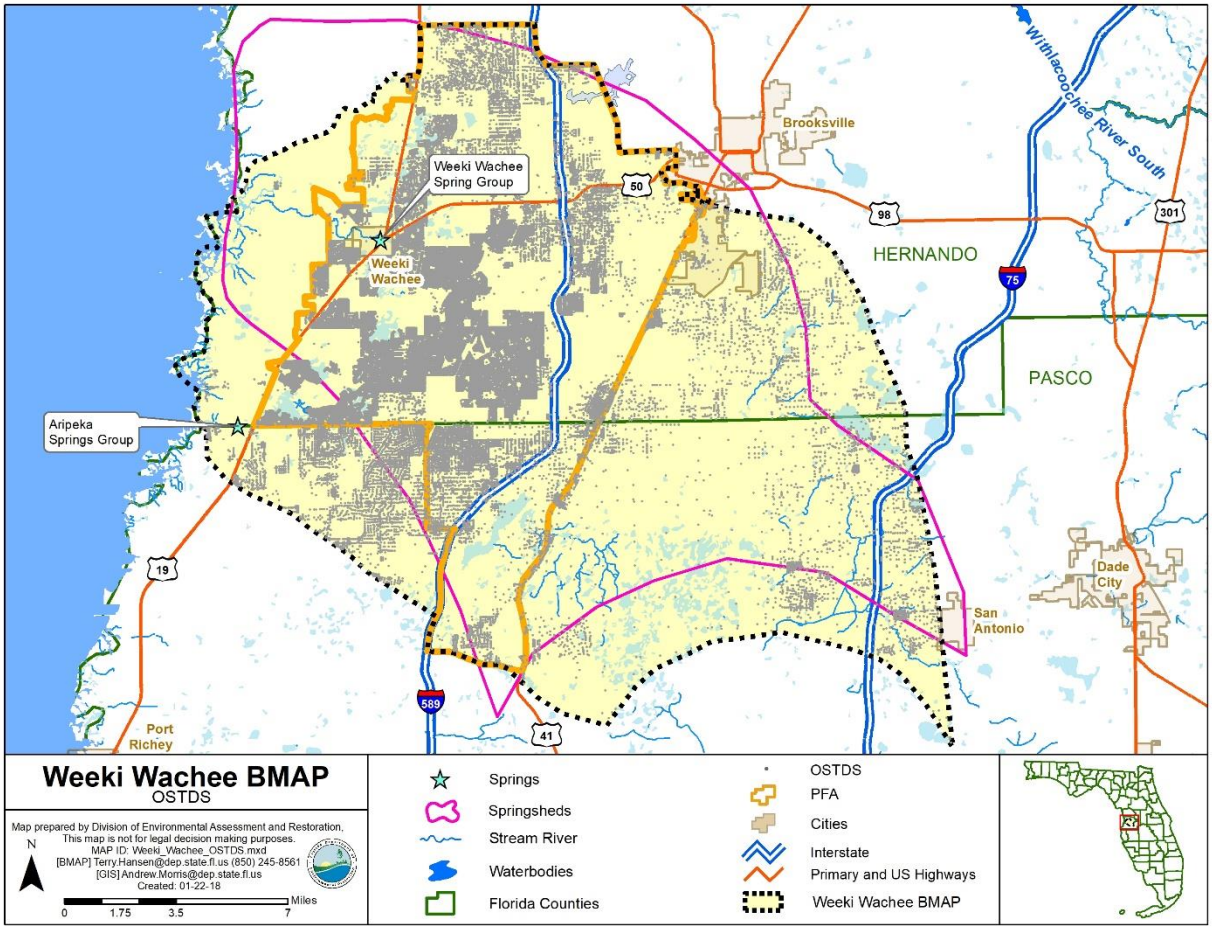

Figure D-1. Locations of OSTDS in the PFA in the Weeki Wachee BMAP area

D.4 Public Education Plan

DEP and FDOH will develop and disseminate educational material focused on homeowners and guidance for builders and septic system contractors. The materials will identify the need for advanced, nitrogen reducing OSTDS along with the requirements for installing nitrogen reducing technologies under this OSTDS remediation plan. DEP will coordinate with industry groups such as Florida Home Builders Association and Florida Onsite Wastewater Association (FOWA).

DEP hosted a brainstorming session on July 19, 2016 to gather local input on the primary facets of a public education plan, including key audiences, the identification of major themes for communication/education, and the identification of misconceptions about septic systems.

Based on this discussion and one-on-one coordination with local governments and other stakeholders with interest in public education, prioritized target audiences, messaging, and materials/resources (see **Table D-2**) were presented at a public meeting.

- Step 1 – Understand the data and issues associated with OSTDS.
- Step 2 – Identify existing and short-term activities to address the issues.
- Step 3 – Undertake a pilot project outreach and social marketing campaign
- Step 4 – Identify future actions for basinwide implementation.

Table D-2. Prioritized target audiences, messaging, and materials/resources

Audience	Messaging	Materials/Resources
Schools	Convey cost of doing nothing	Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
Residents	Preserving our waterways	SWFWMD springs education webpage
Builders/realtors/developers/ community	Conventional septic systems provide minimal nitrogen treatment; septic system enhancement is needed	Social media

The management strategies listed in **Table D-3** are ranked with a priority of high, medium, or low. In 2016, the Florida Legislature amended the Watershed Restoration Act (Section 403.067, F.S.), creating additional requirements for all new or revised BMAPs. BMAPs must now include planning-level details for each listed project, along with their priority ranking.

Project status was selected as the most appropriate indicator of a project's priority ranking based primarily on need for funding. Projects with a "completed" status were assigned a low priority. Projects classified as "underway" were assigned a medium priority because some resources have been allocated to these projects, but additional assistance may be needed for the project to be completed. High priority was assigned to projects listed with the project status "planned" as well as certain "completed" projects that are ongoing each year (any project with one of these project

types: "street sweeping," "catch basin inserts/inlet filter cleanout," "public education efforts," "fertilizer cessation," "fertilizer reduction," or "aquatic vegetation harvesting"), and select projects that are elevated because substantial, subsequent project(s) are reliant on their completion.

Table D-3. Stakeholder educational activities to implement the OSTDS remediation plan

*Denotes activity that is applicable in all Springs Coast BMAPs. The dollar amount is the total project amount (not split among the BMAPs).

Lead Entity	Activity Number	Activity Name	Description of Activity	Activity Status	Partners	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
City of Brooksville	COB-E-1	Public Service Announcements (PSAs)	Include FDOH PSAs in septic system utility bills twice per year.	Planned	N/A	2018	2018	$5,000	City	$5,000
City of Brooksville	COB-E-2	Think About Personal Pollution (TAPP) Program	Transfer or deploy City of Tallahassee TAPP Program in Brooksville.	Planned	N/A	2018	2020	$5,000	City	$5,000
City of Brooksville	COB-E-3	City Website	Post springs-related and OSTDS-related information on city website.	Planned	N/A	2018	2018	$5,000	City	$5,000
Hernando County	HC-E-1	OSTDS Enhancement Education Campaign	Develop education campaign in conjunction with identified partners on OSTDS enhancement options.	Planned	Not Provided	2018	2021	$50,000	Not Provided	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-E-8	Drain Field Enhancement Demonstration Project	Implement drain field enhancement demonstration project on public property.	Planned	N/A	2022	2025	$250,000	Not Provided	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-E-10	Training on Septic Drain Field Enhancements	Conduct training for local government permitting staff on the availability and permitting process for septic system drain field enhancements.	Planned	N/A	2022	2022	$1,000	County	$1,000
UF-IFAS	IFAS-E-1*	OFS OSTDS Campaign, Phase 1	Implement social marketing campaign that links septic systems to springs.	Planned	N/A	2018	2020	$30,000	TBD	TBD
UF-IFAS	IFAS-E-2*	OFS OSTDS Campaign, Phase 2	Create on-line clearinghouse of fact sheets, videos, public service announcements, etc.	Planned	N/A	2018	2018	$7,000	TBD	TBD
UF-IFAS	IFAS-E-3*	OFS OSTDS Campaign, Phase 3	Presentations to realtors and distribution of information kits for home buyers.	Planned	N/A	2018	2018	$10,000	TBD	TBD
UF-IFAS	IFAS-E-4*	OFS OSTDS Campaign, Phase 4	Six to eight septic system workshops for elected officials.	Planned	N/A	2018	2019	$5,000	TBD	TBD
UF-IFAS	IFAS-E-5*	OFS OSTDS Campaign, Phase 5	Homeowner workshops with field demonstrations.	Planned	N/A	2018	2020	$25,000	TBD	TBD

Appendix E. Technical Support Information

E.1 NSILT Data

An NSILT was completed on the Weeki Wachee Spring and River Contributing Area for the Weeki Wachee BMAP. This technical support information identifies the data sources relied upon during NSILT development and documents all the major assumptions used by DEP when applying the NSILT approach to the Weeki Wachee BMAP.

The general NSILT approach involves estimating the nitrogen load to the surface for various source categories based on land use. The NSILT subjects the surface loading to recharge and attenuation to derive the estimated load to groundwater at the top of the aquifer. The estimated load to groundwater determines the scope of reduction strategies needed in the BMAP for each source category. For additional information about the general NSILT approach, see any of the NSILT reports posted online at http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/NSILT.

E.1.1 Source Category General Data Inputs

Hydrogeology and Aquifer Recharge
Information on recharge to the UFA is from a groundwater flow model that was developed in 2002 by the USGS based on well data from 1993-94. The raster-based model was smoothed and classified into three recharge categories, discharge, medium recharge, and high recharge.

Land Use
Land use information is from SWFWMD based on the 2011 Florida Land Use Cover and Forms Classification System (FLUCCS) and 2014 Hernando County and Pasco County property appraiser data.

E.1.2 Estimating Nitrogen Inputs to the Land Surface (NSILT Section 2.0)

Atmospheric Deposition
Atmospheric deposition information is derived from the TDEP hybrid model that inputs wet and dry monitoring network data for the U.S. and calculates an estimated TN deposition load (Schwede and Lear 2014). The data set is comprised of data from 2011 to 2013.

WWTFs
The average annual input of nitrogen to the land surface was estimated for each effluent land application site in the BMAP area using TN concentration and discharge volume data available in the DEP Wastewater Facility Regulation (WAFR) database. Smaller WWTFs are not always required to monitor and report TN effluent concentrations, and therefore may not have data available in the WAFR database. For these, DEP estimated TN concentrations based on nitrate-N (NO3-N) data (assuming the NO3-N concentration was 38.5 % of the TN, based on a 2009 cooperative study with the Water Reuse Foundation of 40 domestic WWTFs across the state).

The range of years for which data were available varied with the individual WWTFs; however, the majority of the data were from 2013 to 2014.

OSTDS

The number of OSTDS was initially estimated from the 2009 FDOH model which was correlated with current property appraiser land use information (Hall and Clancy 2009). The results were corrected for parcels identified with more than one OSTDS and the proximity of sewer lines. After the NSILT was produced, FDOH released an updated OSTDS inventory for Hernando and Pasco Counties; the data sets were compared and minimal differences identified.

The population served by the OSTDS was estimated using the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data for Hernando and Pasco Counties. Data were used to estimate the effective population and OSTDS usage. The 2010 persons per household (adjusted for time spent away from home) for Hernando and Pasco Counties were 2.08 and 2.07, respectively. Several literature sources have reported a per capita contribution of 9.012 lb-N/yr, and this value was multiplied by the number of people using septic tanks within the different regions of the BMAP area (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] 2002; Toor et al. 2011; Viers et al. 2012).

UTF

The UTF application rate is estimated based on the results of a 2008 SWFWMD study (Martin 2008). The results provide input data on percent of the population that fertilize, the applicator (i.e., landscape professional versus homeowner), and application rates.

The type of property where fertilizer is applied is estimated for nonresidential and residential parcels. The acreage receiving fertilizer is estimated the same for both parcel types by using county property appraiser data and zoning data. Impervious and pervious land areas are determined for each parcel.

Fertilizer application on commercial and public green spaces was assumed to be performed by lawn service professionals or trained staff using application rates and frequencies similar to those recommended in the *Green Industries BMP Manual (DEP 2010).* Nonresidential parcels are assumed to be fertilized by a commercial service provider at a rate of 21.78 lb-N/acre (ac). Residential parcels are evaluated by estimating the percentage of the property fertilized and the probability of fertilization. For residential parcels, these factors are determined by utilizing property values (higher valued properties fertilize more often and in greater amounts) and parcel type (single-family residences fertilize more frequently than other residence types).

STF

Sports turfgrass areas include golf courses and sporting facilities. DEP sent golf course mangers surveys to provide basic information on fertilizer application. Responses were received from 46 % of the managers and an input of 43 lb-N/ac/yr was used by DEP. The remaining 54 % was estimated using the statewide application rate of 141.1 lb-N/ac/yr (assuming 72 % of the course area is fertilized) (Sartain 2002; DEP 2007).

Sporting facilities were assessed based on property appraiser data and contacting the responsible entity to determine application rates. The fertilizer application rate for nonresidential parcels was used (21.78 lb-N/ac).

LW

Livestock operation practices are obtained through meetings with producers. For cow-calf operations, a stocking rate of 1 cow per 6 to 8 acres is used and the estimated quantity of pasture acreage is based on property appraiser data. For other livestock animals, populations are estimated from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) census of agriculture and SWFWMD land use coverage adjusted by percent of land use type in the BMAP area. The nitrogen waste factor for each animal type is based on published literature values (listed in NSILT) and subdivided into locations and recharge area.

FF

Agricultural fertilizer is applied at varying rates depending on crop type and farm practices. Estimated application rates are based on UF-IFAS recommendations, and types of crops likely grown are estimated from the county property appraiser database.

Estimated Nitrogen Inputs to Land Surface

The estimated input from each source category above is summed and a relative percent calculated.

E.1.3 Attenuation and Groundwater Loading

The two types of attenuation that are evaluated are biochemical attenuation factors (BAFs) and hydrogeological attenuation (i.e., recharge).

BAFs and Uncertainty Factors

The BAFs used to account for the processes affecting the movement of nitrogen from each source category in the subsurface are based on literature review of studies in Florida and similar areas. The BAFs in **Table E-1** are the result of this evaluation. The BAF is used to estimate what percent of the surface input could infiltrate to groundwater. For example, if 70 % of urban fertilizer is biologically attenuated, then the remaining 30 % could infiltrate to the groundwater.

The environmental attenuation of nitrogen from specific sources within the categories can vary substantially, both spatially and with depth in the subsurface, and will affect the amount of nitrogen leaching to groundwater and the relative contribution of nitrogen from each source category. The range in nitrogen attenuation can result from variability in soil properties, crop types, agricultural practices, nitrogen storage, volatilization of ammonia to the atmosphere, uptake by vegetation, denitrification, and other removal processes.

The potential range in nitrogen attenuation for each source is shown in **Table E-1.**

Table E-1. Range of environmental attenuation of nitrogen from a detailed literature review

N Source Category	Low-Level Attenuation (%)	Attenuation Used for This Analysis (%)	High-Level Attenuation (%)
Atmospheric Deposition	85	90	95
WWTFs-RIBs	10	25	40
WWTFs-Sprayfields	50	60	75
WWTF-Reuse	50	75	85
Septic Systems	40	50	75
Livestock Operations	80	90	95
Farm Fertilizer	50	70	85
Urban Fertilizer	50	70	85

Hydrogeological Attenuation (i.e., Recharge)

The recharge rate for the area where the surface input is calculated is based on the composite recharge map previously described. To account for variations in recharge rates to the UFA, non-attenuated nitrogen inputs in high rate recharge areas are multiplied by a weighting factor of 0.9, while nitrogen inputs are multiplied by a weighting factor of 0.5 for medium rate recharge areas and 0.1 for low. Groundwater discharge areas were not included in the calculations of nitrogen loads to the groundwater contributing area, as these areas do not contribute nitrogen to the aquifer.

Estimated Nitrogen Loads to Groundwater

The surface inputs by source category are adjusted by applying the BAFs for the appropriate source category and location-based recharge factors to estimate the load to groundwater by source category.

It is important to note that this load is estimated for the top of the aquifer. As the load interacts with the aquifer, additional factors likely modify it prior to discharge at the spring vents.

E.2 References

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Appendix F. Educational Activities to Implement the UTF Management Strategies

Prioritization of Management Strategies

The management strategies in **Table F-1** are ranked with a priority of high, medium, or low. In 2016, the Florida Legislature amended the Watershed Restoration Act (Section 403.067, F.S.), creating additional requirements for all new or revised BMAPs. BMAPs must now include planning-level details for each listed project, along with their priority ranking.

Project status was selected as the most appropriate indicator of a project's priority ranking based primarily on need for funding. Projects with a "completed" status were assigned a low priority. Projects classified as "underway" were assigned a medium priority because some resources have been allocated to these projects, but additional assistance may be needed for the project to be completed. High priority was assigned to projects listed with the project status "planned" as well as certain "completed" projects that are ongoing each year (any project with one of these project types: "street sweeping," "catch basin inserts/inlet filter cleanout," "public education efforts," "fertilizer cessation," "fertilizer reduction," or "aquatic vegetation harvesting"), and select projects that are elevated because substantial, subsequent project(s) are reliant on their completion.

Table F-1. Stakeholder educational activities to implement UTF management strategies

*Denotes activity that is applicable in all Springs Coast BMAPs. The dollar amount is the total project amount (not split among the BMAPs).

Lead Entity	Activity Number	Activity Name	Description of Activity	Activity Status	Partners	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
City of Brooksville	COB-E-4	PSAs	Include PSAs on fertilizer use on utility bills twice per year.	Planned	N/A	2018	2018	$5,000	City	$5,000
City of Brooksville	COB-E-5	City Website	Post springs-related and fertilizer-related information on city website.	Planned	N/A	2018	2017	$5,000	City	$5,000
Hernando County	HC-E-2	Fertilizer Survey	Mass mailing to single family residences with request to take on-line survey regarding fertilizer ordinance and activities.	Completed	N/A	2016	2017	$16,844	Fish & Wildlife Foundation/County	Foundation: $14,511 County: $2,333
Hernando County	HC-E-3	Water's Journey: Kass Circle to Weeki Wachee Springs	Educate residents and business owners of the Kass Circle community on how stormwater runoff affects Weeki Wachee Springs.	Underway	N/A	2018	2018	$2,250	Not Provided	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-E-4	Stormwater Nutrient Reduction Education	Stormwater education per National Pollutant Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements.	Underway	N/A	Prior to 2012	2031	$15,000/yr	FDOT/County	$15,000/yr
Hernando County	HC-E-5	Hernando County Groundwater Guardians	Annual public workshop on water quality and water resources.	Planned	N/A	2018	2021	$2,000/yr	County	$2,000/yr
Hernando County	HC-E-6	Fertilizer Ordinance Education	Public education campaign on existing fertilizer ordinance.	Underway	UF-IFAS	2012	2021	$30,000	Not Provided	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-E-7	Public Outreach on Fertilizer Use	Outreach by county extension staff on the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program.	Planned	UF-IFAS	2018	2021	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-E-9	Update "Water's Journey" Public Education Campaign	Potential multi-partner and multi-jurisdiction effort to update the existing "Water's Journey" campaign.	Planned	Not Provided	2022	2026	$100,000	Not Provided	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-E-11	Training on Green Industries Best Management Practices	Train professionals and master gardener volunteers on exemptions from the fertilizer ordinance.	Underway	UF-IFAS	2013	2021	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-E-12	Expert Lawn Care and Landscaping Course	Conduct classes to homeowners on a variety of topics including irrigation and fertilization.	Underway	UF-IFAS	2016	2021	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided

Lead Entity	Activity Number	Activity Name	Description of Activity	Activity Status	Partners	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
Hernando County	HC-E-13	Social Media Awareness Campaign	Education for residents on urban turfgrass fertilizer through a variety of social media platforms.	Planned	UF-IFAS	2018	2018	$5,000	Not Provided	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-E-14	Hernando County Water Watch	Citizen-science water quality program that would be part of a statewide coastal water watch program to complement LAKEWATCH.	Planned	Florida Sea Grant Program/UF-IFAS	2018	2031	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-E-15	Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) in Hernando County	The mission of the FMNP is to promote awareness, understanding, and respect of Florida's natural world among Florida's citizens and visitors.	Underway	Florida Sea Grant Program/UF-IFAS	2017	2031	$5,000	Not Provided	Not Provided
Hernando County	HC-E-16	Florida-Friendly Landscaping Annual Workshop	Conduct annual workshop for residents.	Underway	UF-IFAS	2017	2030	$3,000	County/DEP/SWFWMD	$3,000
Hernando County	HC-E-17	Community Event Education Booth	Sponsor education booth at various community events that focus on fertilizer BMPs.	Underway	UF-IFAS	2017	2031	$3,000	County/DEP/SWFWMD	$3,000
Hernando County	HC-E-18	Springs Workshop	Biannual workshop for local government leaders on springs protection and BMPs	Underway	UF-IFAS	Prior to 2012	2031	$5,000	County/DEP/SWFWMD	$5,000
Hernando County	HC-E-19	Direct Mail Fertilizer Education Brochures	Insert in Hernando County Utility Department customer bill three times per year.	Underway	N/A	Prior to 2012	2031	$9,500	County/WRWSA	$9,500
Hernando County	HC-E-20	Presentations to Homeowner Associations (HOAs)	On-site presentations to HOAs on BMPs.	Underway	UF-IFAS	Prior to 2012	2031	$2,000	County/WRWSA	$2,000
Pasco County	PC-E-1	Public Outreach	Brochures and pamphlets	Planned	N/A	2018	2021	$2,000	County stormwater utility fund	$2,000
Pasco County	PC-E-2	Public Outreach	PSAs on radio and TV	Planned	N/A	2018	2021	$2,000	County stormwater utility fund	$2,000
Pasco County	PC-E-3	Public Outreach	Utility bill inserts	Planned	N/A	2018	2021	$5,000	County stormwater utility fund	$5,000
Pasco County	PC-E-4	Landscape Professionals	Educate landscape industry professionals (i.e., Pasco Co. employees, Pasco Co. School Board employees) on athletic field and park turfgrass fertilization.	Completed	UF-IFAS	2012	Not Provided	Not Provided	University of Florida	Not Provided

Lead Entity	Activity Number	Activity Name	Description of Activity	Activity Status	Partners	Estimated Start Date	Estimated Completion Date	Cost Estimate	Funding Source	Funding Amount
Pasco County	PC-E-5	Florida-Friendly Training for Code Compliance Officers	Train Pasco Co. code compliance officers in Florida-Friendly landscape principles, including proper fertilization.	Planned	UF-IFAS	2018	2021	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided
SWFWMD	SWF-E-2*	Fertilizer Campaign	Fertilizer campaign is in place with existing communication products produced by the District's Public Affairs Bureau.	Underway	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided	$10,000	SWFWMD	$10,000 (annual)
UF-IFAS	IFAS-E-6*	Social Marketing Campaign	Implement social marketing campaign to increase awareness of local fertilizer ordinances and to encourage good fertilizer practices.	Planned	Not Provided	2018	2020	$30,000	Not Provided	Not Provided

Appendix G. FDACS Information on BMPs

G.1 Implementation of Agricultural BMPs

Agricultural nonpoint sources in a BMAP area are required by state law (Subsection 403.067[7], F.S.) either to implement FDACS-adopted BMPs, which provides a presumption of compliance with water quality standards, or to conduct water quality monitoring prescribed by DEP or SWFWMD. Failure either to implement BMPs or conduct monitoring may result in enforcement action by DEP.

Growers who implement BMPs may be eligible for cost-share funding from FDACS, SWFWMD, or others to partially defray the costs of implementation. Through OAWP, the Florida Forest Service, and the Division of Aquaculture, FDACS develops, adopts, and assists producers in implementing agricultural BMPs to improve water quality and water conservation.

FDACS identified potential land for enrollment in the FDACS BMP Program within the Weeki Wachee BMAP area using the FSAID IV geodatabase.

Table G-1 summarizes the agricultural land use data in the Weeki Wachee BMAP area. Based on the FSAID IV geodatabase, the total agricultural lands within the BMAP area is 45,701 acres. **Table G-2** summarizes the agricultural land by crop type that was estimated to be fertilized and the corresponding acreages. The primary fertilized agricultural land use in the BMAP area is Cropland and Pastureland which comprises 87 % of the fertilized land use. **Table G-3** summarizes the agricultural lands with livestock. It is important to note that some of the agricultural lands include more than one agricultural practice.

Figure G-1 shows the approximate location of the agricultural lands based on the FSAID IV geodatabase within the BMAP area.

Table G-1. Agricultural land use in the BMAP area

Agricultural Nitrogen Loading Category	Acres
Crop Fertilizer Lands only	4,738
Livestock Lands only	9,391
Crop Fertilizer and Livestock Lands	31,572
Total	**45,701**

Table G-2. Fertilized crop lands in the BMAP area

Crop Type	Application Rate (lbs/acre)	Acres
Blueberries	100	352
Citrus	600	1,030
Container Nursery	90	190
Cropland and Pastureland	30	31,572
Field Nursery	90	30
Grains	100	174
Grass/Pasture	60	8
Hay	480	429
Other Groves	150	2
Pasture	160	123
Peanuts	0	60
Peppers Fall	240	44
PeppersSpring_PeppersFall	240	83
Small Veg	150	85
Small Veg Spring	150	7
SmallVegFall_SmallVegSpring	150	74
Tomatoes Spring	480	661
TomatoesFall_TomatoesSpring	240	7
Tree Crops	150	1,318
Tree Plantations	0	60
Total	-	**36,311**

Table G-3. Livestock lands in the BMAP area

Livestock Category	Acres
Cropland and Pastureland	31,572
Feeding Operations	773
Other Open Lands (Rural)	5,632
Specialty Farms	2,986
Total	**40,963**

Agricultural land use data are critical for determining agricultural nonpoint source loads and developing strategies to reduce those loads in a BMAP area, but there are inherent limitations in the available data. The time of year when land use data are collected (through aerial photography) affects the accuracy of photo interpretation. Flights are often scheduled during the winter months due to weather conditions and reduced leaf canopies, and while these are

favorable conditions for capturing aerial imagery, they make photo interpretation for determining agricultural land use more difficult (e.g., more agricultural lands are fallow in the winter months) and can result in inappropriate analysis of the photo imagery. There is also a significant variation in the frequency with which various sources of data are collected and compiled, and older data are less likely to capture the frequent changes that often typify agricultural land use. In addition, agricultural activity being conducted on the land is not always apparent. For example, acreage classified as improved pasture may be used for a cow-calf operation, consist of forage grass that is periodically harvested for hay, or simply be a fallow vegetable field awaiting planting. Finally, the classification method itself may be an issue. For example, property appraiser data assigns an agricultural land use designation to an entire parcel, although agricultural production may only be conducted on a portion of the parcel. Because of error in the collection and characterization of land use data and changes in land use over time, agricultural land use acreage estimates are subject to adjustment.

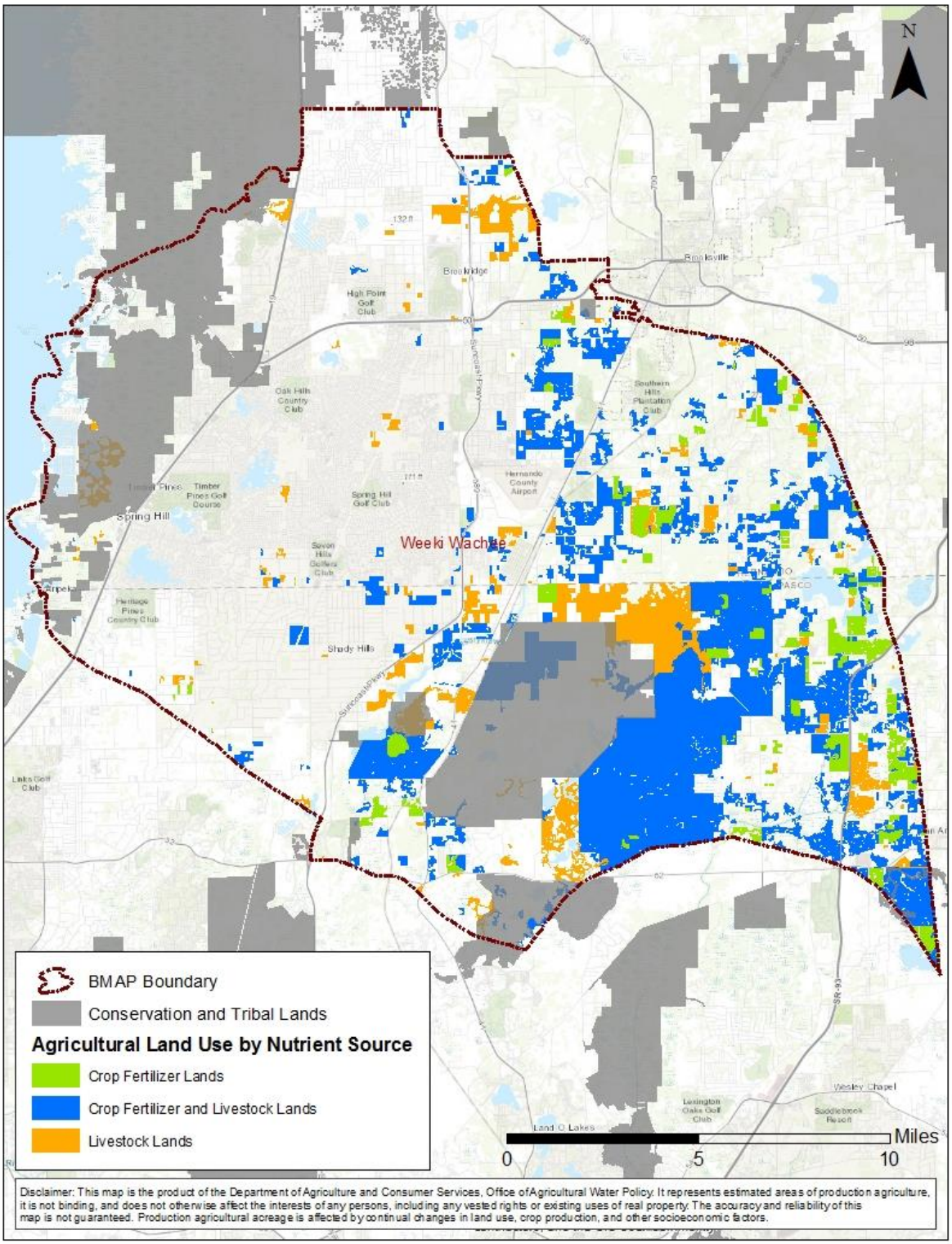

Figure G-1. Agricultural lands in the BMAP area

G.2 Agricultural BMPs

Through the Office of Agricultural Water Policy, the Florida Forest Service, and the Division of Aquaculture, FDACS develops, adopts, and assists producers in implementing agricultural BMPs to improve water quality and water conservation. Adopted BMPs are initially verified by the FDEP as reducing nutrient loss (e.g., total nitrogen and total phosphorus) to the environment. OAWP BMPs are published in commodity-specific manuals that cover key aspects of water quality and water conservation. The BMP categories include:

- Nutrient Management practices that help determine appropriate source, rate, timing, placement of nutrients (including both organic and inorganic sources) to minimize impacts to water resources.

- Irrigation and Water Table Management practices that address methods for irrigating to reduce water and nutrient losses to the environment and to maximize the efficient use and distribution of water.

- Water Resource Protection practices such as buffers, setbacks, and swales to reduce or prevent the transport of nutrients and sediments from production areas to water resources.

The Notice of Intent to Implement (NOI) and BMP checklist are incorporated into each manual.

Information on the BMP manuals and field staff contact information can be obtained here: http://www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Agricultural-Water-Policy. Printed BMP manuals can be obtained by contacting OAWP field staff.

OAWP outreach to solicit enrollment extends to all types of agricultural operations, but is more intensive in BMAP areas because of the relationship of BMPs to the presumption of compliance with water quality standards in a BMAP area. FDACS field staff works with producers to enroll in the FDACS BMP program by signing a Notice of Intent to Implement BMPs, and enrollment is based on the expectation that producers recognize and address the water quality and conservation issues associated with their operations. Upon completion of all information in the BMP checklist, an NOI must be signed by the landowner or the landowner's authorized agent (who may be the producer if the producer is not the landowner).

G.3 BMP Enrollment

Figure G-2 shows the acres enrolled in the FDACS BMP Program in the Weeki Wachee BMAP area as of December 31, 2017. **Table G-4** lists the acres enrolled in the FDACS BMP Program by manual and the number of NOIs associated with those acres. Given that the enrolled acres where BMPs are implemented can contain nonproduction acres (such as buildings, parking lots, and fallow acres), only the enrollment for the land classified as agriculture based on the FSAID IV geodatabase is included in the tables.

As of December 31, 2017, NOIs cover 15,349 agricultural acres in the BMAP area. No producers are conducting water quality monitoring in lieu of implementing BMPs at this time.

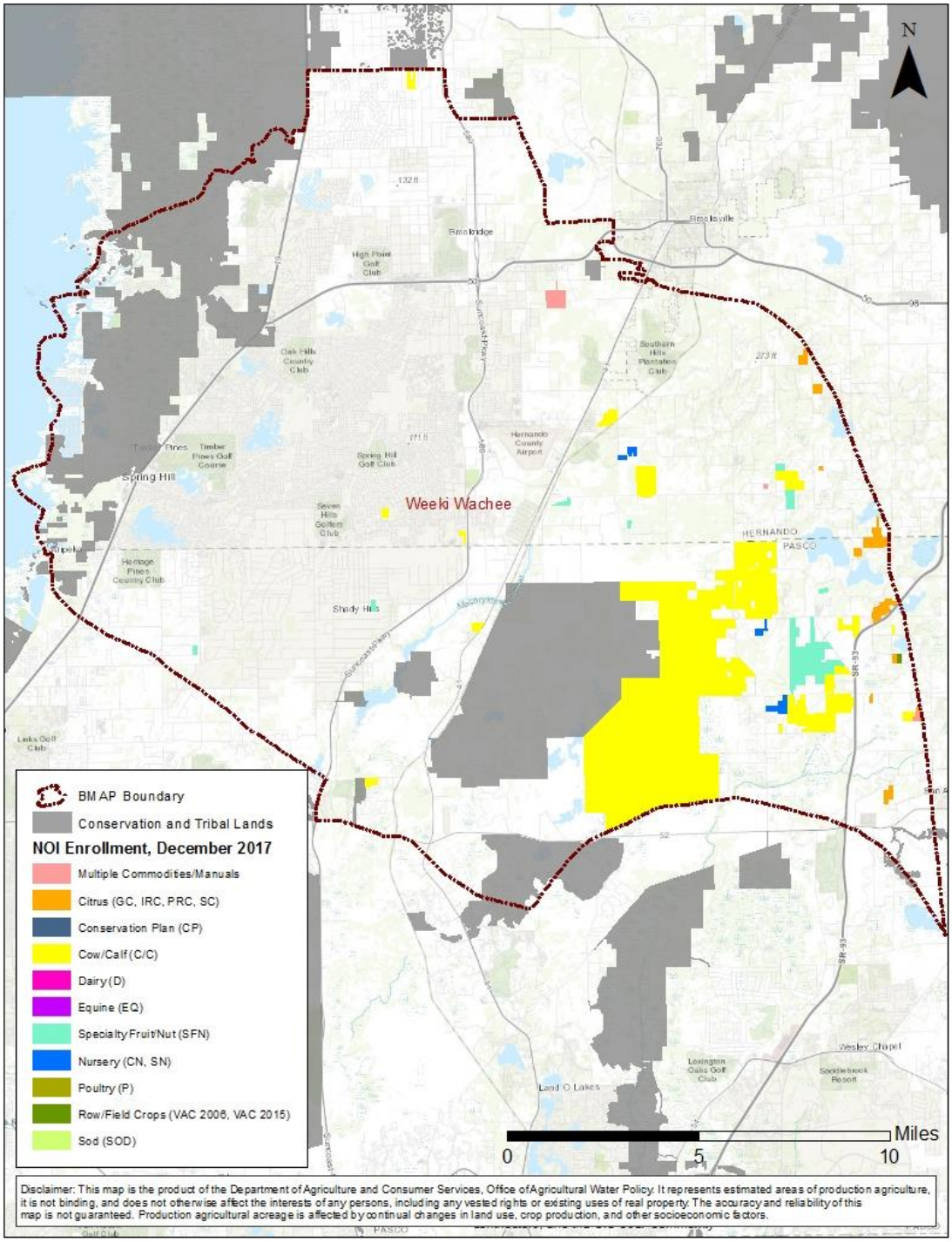

Figure G-2. BMP enrollment in the BMAP area as of December 31, 2017

Table G-4. Agricultural acreage and BMP enrollment in the BMAP area as of December 31, 2017

N/A = Not applicable.

Related FDACS BMP Programs	NOI Acreage Enrolled	Agricultural Land Use Acres within NOIs
Cow/Calf Operations	543	502
Nurseries	13,307	12,414
Specialty Fruit and Nut	205	172
Citrus	210	133
Vegetable and Agronomic Crops	1,065	833
Total	**15,349**	**14,073**

G.4 FDACS OAWP Role in BMP Implementation and Follow-Up

OAWP works with producers to submit NOIs to implement the BMPs applicable to their operations, provides technical assistance to growers, and distributes cost-share funding, as available, to eligible producers for selected practices. OAWP follows up with growers through site visits to evaluate the level of BMP implementation and record keeping, identify areas for improvement, if any, and discuss cost-share opportunities.

When DEP adopts a BMAP that includes agriculture, it is the agricultural producer's responsibility to implement BMPs adopted by FDACS to help achieve load reductions. If land use acreage corrections and BMP implementation do not fully account for the current agricultural load reduction allocation, it may be necessary to develop and implement additional projects and practices that reduce nutrients from agricultural nonpoint sources. In that case, FDACS will work with DEP and SWFWMD to identify appropriate options for achieving further agricultural load reductions.

Section 403.067, F.S. requires that, where water quality problems are demonstrated despite the proper implementation of adopted agricultural BMPs, FDACS must re-evaluate the practices, in consultation with DEP, and modify them if necessary. Continuing water quality problems will be detected through the BMAP monitoring component and other DEP and SWFWMD activities. If a reevaluation of the BMPs is needed, FDACS will also include SWFWMD and other partners in the process.

G.5 OAWP Implementation Verification Program

OAWP established an Implementation Assurance (IA) Program in 2005 in the Suwannee River Basin as part of the multi-agency/local stakeholder Suwannee River Partnership. In early 2014, OAWP began to streamline the IA Program to ensure consistency statewide and across commodities and BMP manuals. The IA Program was based on interactions with producers during site visits by OAWP staff and technicians as workload allowed. For the visits, field staff

and technicians used a standard form (not BMP specific) developed in 2014, that focused on nutrient management, irrigation management, and water resource protection BMPs common to all of the BMPs that were adopted by rule. Once completed, these paper forms were submitted to OAWP staff and compiled into a spreadsheet, and the data were reported annually.

On November 1, 2017, the OAWP's Implementation Verification rule (Chapter 5M-1, F.A.C.) became effective. The Implementation Verification (IV) program provides the basis for assessing the status of BMP implementation and for identifying enrolled producers who require assistance with BMP implementation. The components of the IV program are 1) site visits; 2) implementation status reporting on common practices that apply across all BMP manuals; 3) technical assistance; and 4) external reporting. Implementation verification is confirmed by field staff through site visits and by producers through annual common practices status reports.

Site visits to agricultural operations by OAWP field staff and contract technicians are the most effective means to determine the status of BMP implementation. These visits also provide an opportunity to identify needs for assistance with implementation and explore potential improvements. Resource limitations prevent site visits from occurring on all enrolled operations every year, and for that reason, site visits are prioritized. The program objective is for field staff to conduct site visits for 5-10% of active NOIs each year, with approximately 10% of the site visit locations selected randomly.

Per the implementation verification rule, each year, producers participating in the BMP program will be requested to participate in reporting on the status of implementation of common practices only for their operations. Lack of response from enrollees with parcels in a BMAP area raises the priority of the operation for a site visit from field staff. Where a need is identified, the OAWP may facilitate technical assistance for the producer from UF/IFAS or other resources, including third-party vendors. In some cases, cost share support may be available. Data from producers and site visits will be used to complete the annual reports on the status of BMP implementation as required by s. 403.0675(2), F.S., beginning July 1, 2018.

G.6 Beyond BMPs

Beyond enrolling producers in the FDACS BMP Program and verifying implementation, FDACS will work with DEP to improve the data used to estimate agricultural land uses in the springshed. FDACS will also work with producers to identify a suite of agricultural projects and research agricultural technologies that could be implemented on properties where they are deemed technically feasible and if funding is made available. Acreages provided by FDACS are preliminary estimates that are the maximum acreages and need to be evaluated and refined over time.

As presented here, these projects are based on planning-level information. Actual implementation would require funding as well as more detailed design based on specific information, such as actual applicable acreages and willing landowners. **Table G-5** summarizes these efforts. It is important to note that the research projects listed in the table are being

conducted in the Suwannee River Basin. At some future point, the findings of these studies may be applicable to the Weeki Wachee BMAP.

Table G-5. Beyond BMP implementation

Category	Name	Description
Practices	Precision Irrigation	Deployment of equipment, procedures, and training to improve location, volume, and timing of irrigation to match crop needs more precisely.
Practices	Soil Moisture Probes	Deployment, training, technical support, and use of soil moisture probes to manage irrigation systems.
Practices	Cover Crops	Planting of cover crops between production cycles to increase soil organic content, improve nutrient retention, and reduce erosion.
Research	Bioreactors	Bioreactors/denitrification walls and onsite capture and reuse of high-N water.
Research	Rotational Production	Conversion of conventional production operations to planned rotational production incorporating grass and cover crops. May include cattle.
Research	Soil Moisture Sensor Deployment and Calibration	Installation, training, monitoring, and research on use of electronic soil moisture sensors, including correlations to nutrient movement through the root zone.
Research	Controlled Release Fertilizer	Application of new and developing fertilizer products that become available to crops via dissolution over longer periods in the growing season.
Research	Reuse of High Nutrient Value Water Sources	Study of potential sources of high nutrient value water, potential beneficial reuse sites, legal and regulatory obstacles, and costs.

Appendix H. Future Growth Strategies of Local Jurisdictions

Table H-1. Future growth strategies of local jurisdictions

Local Jurisdiction	Strategy Name	Description	Strategy Type	Status
Pasco County	Ecological Corridors Ordinance	Ordinance 16-13 was adopted on June 21, 2016, which amended the land development code to designate seven ecological corridors to maintain a contiguous network of wildlife habitat between existing public lands.	Ordinance	Completed
Pasco County	Conservation Element Policy 1.6.1	Pasco County shall continue to require mandatory setbacks around the Anclote, Hillsborough, Pithlachascotee, and Withlacoochee Rivers; Outstanding Florida Waters; Classified Shellfish Harvesting Areas; and post development wetlands; i.e., wetland mitigation and natural wetlands.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Pasco County	Conservation Element Policy 1.6.16	Pasco County shall require, during the site plan review process, where feasible, consideration of the maintenance of groundwater infiltration through the use of site Best Management Practices.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Pasco County	Public Facilities Element Policy SEW 3.1.4	Pasco County shall require connection to a central sanitary sewer system for all proposed projects within Pasco County, when available, as set forth in the guidelines of the Availability Determination Matrix, Table 10-1A.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Pasco County	Public Facilities Element Policy SEW 3.1.11	Pasco County shall require connection of all central sewer facilities to regional systems.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Pasco County	Public Facilities Element Policy SEW 3.2.1	Pasco County shall replace smaller package plants with regional sewage treatment plants (or enlarge existing plants) by 2025.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Pasco County	Public Facilities Element Policy SEW 3.3.1	Pasco County shall require use of reclaimed water for landscape irrigation and nonpotable use where available and permitted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and required by the County Code of Ordinances, with a priority for use of reclaimed water to new residential users or other users determined to provide an adequate offset of potable-water usage.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Pasco County	Public Facilities Element Policy SEW 3.3.4	Pasco County shall develop a reclaimed water system for irrigation of parks; golf courses; cemeteries; large agricultural, commercial, or governmental complexes; and other potential reclaimed water customers.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed

Local Jurisdiction	Strategy Name	Description	Strategy Type	Status
Pasco County	Public Facilities Element Policy SEW 3.5.4	Pasco County will evaluate extending wastewater treatment facilities to areas within close proximity of existing County utilities. Special attention shall be paid to areas that are determined to have a high concentration of septic systems. Connection to the County system will be based upon the County Health Department's evaluation of septic system problems for those areas that are related to siting, inspection, and maintenance considerations and based upon available funding provided by the individual applicant.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Pasco County	Public Facilities Element Objective DGR 6.1	Provide protections for high aquifer-recharge areas.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Pasco County	Public Facilities Element Objective DGR 6.2	Develop and adopt, by 2007, a comprehensive stormwater management ordinance, including Best Management Practices.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
City of Brooksville	Stormwater Management Ordinance	The City will establish and implement BMPs for all activities, operations, and/or facilities within the city which may cause or contribute to pollution or contamination of storm water, the storm drainage system, or waters of the U.S.	Ordinance	Completed
City of Brooksville	Conservation Element Policy 2-2	The City shall consider entering into agreement with Hernando County to establish BMPs for the protection of surface and groundwater quality of water basins within Peck Sink, Blue Sink, and Byster Lake.	Comprehensive Plan	Planned
City of Brooksville	Conservation Element Policy 3-1	Require all development in the city connect to city sewer service, where and when available.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
City of Brooksville	Future Land Use Element Policy 2-4	High density and intensity growth shall not be permitted in conservation areas, or those areas best suited for continued low density and intensity development.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
City of Brooksville	Future Land Use Element Policy 2-9	Require central sewer and sewer systems for new urban developments, which are designed to be compatible with future public utility systems.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Riverine Buffer Ordinance	Regulates land use within 75 feet of rivers, streams, and wetlands. Addresses septic systems, wastewater treatment systems, petroleum products, solid waste, and agricultural waste	Ordinance	Completed
Hernando County	Low Impact Drainage	New strategies for low impact drainage standards and initiatives.	Comprehensive Plan	Planned

Local Jurisdiction	Strategy Name	Description	Strategy Type	Status
Hernando County	Ecological Linkages	New strategies for prioritizing ecological linkage conservation as one means of recharge and groundwater conservation.	Comprehensive Plan	Planned
Hernando County	Aquifer Recharge	Update strategies to protect high recharge areas and karst areas.	Comprehensive Plan	Planned
Hernando County	Aquifer Protection	Update strategies to protect groundwater through appropriate design of stormwater, sewage treatment, golf course facilities, and landscaping.	Comprehensive Plan	Planned
Hernando County	Aquifer Protection	New strategies for coordination on minimum flows and levels for springs and surface waters.	Comprehensive Plan	Planned
Hernando County	Surface Water Protection	Update strategies to continue the County's riverine ordinance.	Comprehensive Plan	Planned
Hernando County	Erosion Control	Update strategies for erosion control and minimization of sedimentation.	Comprehensive Plan	Planned
Hernando County	Habitat Mitigation	New strategies that require mitigation of loss of large natural communities.	Comprehensive Plan	Planned
Hernando County	Future Land Use Element Policy 1.01T(6)	Water and sewer planning conducted by the County will utilize a public participation process.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Sanitary Sewer Element Policy 4.01A(6)	Wastewater service plans developed and updated hereunder, along with the adopted Capital Improvement Plan, shall be utilized to guide the location and timing of land development requiring wastewater service.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Sanitary Sewer Element Policy 4.01A(7)	Wastewater facility and service planning conducted by the County will utilize a public participation process.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Sanitary Sewer Element Policy 4.01B(2)	As part of the Wastewater Service Plan, establish standards to determine when commercial and industrial septic tanks will be required to connect to central services.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Sanitary Sewer Element Policy 4.03A(4)	Advanced secondary and tertiary treatment should be considered for future permanent sewage treatment plants, particularly those which are located near water bodies or in soils which do not have a defined impermeable clay lens or significantly thick sand layers between the surface and the Floridan aquifer.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Sanitary Sewer Element Policy 4.03B(3)	Where possible, provide flexibility in public or private facility design to allow for development of reuse systems.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Drainage & Natural Groundwater Aquifer Recharge Element Policy 4.10A(1)	Develop an aquifer protection program including public education, coordination with appropriate agencies, provision of adequate collection, and disposal facilities in order to limit the amount of contaminants reaching the surficial or Floridan aquifers.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed

Local Jurisdiction	Strategy Name	Description	Strategy Type	Status
Hernando County	Potable Water Element Policy 4.15B(1)	Implement a strategy to encourage replacement of potable water use with reclaimed water for irrigation purposes of at least 4.3 MGD by the year 2019.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Coastal Management Element Objective 5.01E	To protect the water quality and the riverine and native bottom communities of the entire seven-mile length of the Weeki Wachee River and its estuary.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Coastal Management Element Objective 5.01F	Participate in, or otherwise encourage the purchase of additional lands along the Weeki Wachee River and the associated riverine habitats, the coastal lands through SWFWMD's Save our Rivers Program.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Conservation Element Policy 6.01D(6)	For those areas located within the Weeki Wachee and Withlacoochee River Protection Areas as mapped in the Future Land Use Element, Land Development Regulations shall be developed which include but are not limited to the following concepts: a. Preservation of on-site natural vegetation adjacent to the Weeki Wachee or Withlacoochee Rivers b. Minimum building setbacks from the banks of the Weeki Wachee or Withlacoochee Rivers c. On-site drainage design to prevent the flow of untreated stormwater runoff from entering the Weeki Wachee or Withlacoochee Rivers.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Conservation Element Policy 6.01E(3)	Continue to coordinate with Pasco County on the protection and use of Aripeka Bay.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Conservation Element Policy 6.01E(4)	Continue to coordinate with the City of Weeki Wachee for the purpose of reviewing and revising agreement on the management, protection and use of the Weeki Wachee River and estuary.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Conservation Element Policy 6.02A(9)	The County shall require all new golf courses be designed and maintained using the principles developed by the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) for *Best Management Practices for Florida Golf Courses.*	Comprehensive Plan	Completed

Local Jurisdiction	Strategy Name	Description	Strategy Type	Status
Hernando County	Conservation Element Policy 6.02A(10)	The County shall establish guidelines for managing existing and future turf and landscapes at all County owned facilities utilizing the educational guidelines of the University of Florida Extension's Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program and Best Management Practices. It is the intent of this policy that the County reduce nutrient/pollutant infiltration into ground and surface waters and to encourage best management practices through public education	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Conservation Element Policy 6.02C(2)	Evaluate any development proposal for its effect on the quantity and quality of surface waters which flow into the Gulf of Mexico, including stormwater runoff, erosion and sedimentation, and septic tank discharge.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Conservation Element Policy 6.08A(1)	Minimum lot sizes for septic fields may be further restricted from the minimum ½ acre in prime aquifer recharge areas, sinkhole areas, areas adjacent to lakes or rivers or areas where soils have severe limitations.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed
Hernando County	Conservation Element Policy 6.08A(11)	Development of property shall adhere to green industries Best Management Practices (BMPs), including Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (FDEP & FDEO, 2002. Protecting Florida Springs - Land Use Planning Strategies & Best Management Practices). Florida Yards & Neighborhoods (FYN) education shall be provided for individual lot owners.	Comprehensive Plan	Completed