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Water Resource Fact Sheet Series

Available Fact Sheets

- *Florida's Water Resource Management System*
- *Minimum Flows and Levels*
- *Water Use Trends in Florida*
- *Water Conservation*
- *Alternative Water Supplies*
- *Regional Water Supply Planning*
- *Water Reservations*
- *Drought and Water Management*
- *Climate Change/Water Management Connections*
- *Local Sources First*
- *Per Capita Water Use*
- *Desalination*
- *Reclaimed Water*

For More Information

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Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road, MS 46
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(850) 245-8677
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/waterpolicy/index.htm>

Regional Water Supply Planning

Why Are Regional Water Supply Plans Needed?

The water management districts are required to evaluate their water resources to ensure that the reasonable-beneficial needs for water can be met for the next twenty years while making sure that the natural resources of the region are protected. If the district determines that there is not enough water to meet the needs in a sustainable manner, then a regional water supply plan must be developed.

What Are Regional Water Supply Plans?

Regional water supply planning is a major element of Florida's strategy to sustainably manage the state's water resources. The plans, developed by the water management districts, identify sufficient sources of water to meet the water supply needs for the next twenty years. The plans are required, by statute (s. 373.709, F.S.), to include at least the following information:

- A water supply and a water resource development component that includes:
 - An estimate of all existing and future needs
 - A list of water supply and water resource development projects
 - An estimate of the water made available by each project
 - The timeframe for implementation
 - An analysis of funding needs and sources
 - The identification of an implementing entity
- List of water bodies for which minimum flows and levels will be established
- List of water bodies for which minimum flows and levels have been established
- List of water bodies for which reservations of water pursuant to s. 373.223(4), F. S. have been established
- Recovery and prevention strategies for water bodies that are not meeting established minimum flows and levels or are not expected to meet them during the next 20 years.

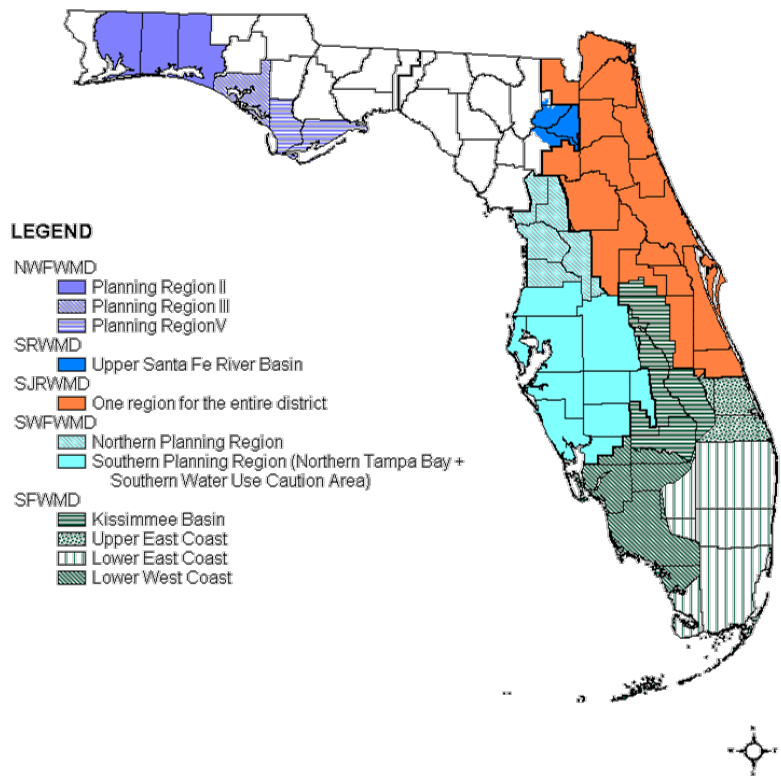
How Are Regional Water Supply Plans Developed?

Regional water supply plans include a technical analysis of the current and future demands and an evaluation of the sources available to meet those demands. The planning process must be conducted in coordination with local governments, regional water supply authorities, utilities, self-suppliers, and other affected or interested parties. Several public meetings are required to ensure public input at appropriate stages of plan development.

How Many Regional Water Supply Plans Have Been Adopted?

Regional water supply plans have been adopted by the Northwest Florida, St. Johns River, South Florida, and Southwest Florida Water Management Districts. The Suwannee River Water Management District is working to develop a regional water supply plan for the Upper Santa Fe Basin. The first plans were adopted in the year 2000. The plans are updated at least every five years, although additions or changes to the plans can be made more frequently. The current plans and schedules for updated plans can be found at the following websites:

2010 Areas with Regional Water Supply Plans



1. NFWWMD

http://www.nfwcmd.state.fl.us/rmd/water_supply_planning/regional_water_supply_planning.html

2. SRWMD - <http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/index.aspx?nid=323>

3. SJRWMD - <http://www.sjrwmd.com/watersupply/planning.html>

4. SWFWMD - <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/documents/plans/RWSP/>

5. SFWMD

<http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xweb%20%20release%20%20water%20supply/water%20supply%20planning>

How Are Regional Water Supply Plans Used?

Regional water supply plans are useful to the water management districts, water providers, and the general public. The plans identify water resource development projects that the districts will implement, and serve to help set district budget priorities. They also identify water supply development projects that can be implemented by water providers. The plans help guide water providers to the most sustainable sources of water in their region, and toward projects that are viewed favorably for funding assistance from the districts and the state. For the general public, the plans provide useful information about the water challenges facing their region, and the solutions proposed by their water management district to ensure that current and future water demands are reliably and sustainably met.