

Suwannee River Water Management District
SWIM Plan Updates
Columbia County

June 2, 2016



SWIM Plan Updates and District Strategic Plan – Common Goals

- Identify and guide priority projects funded cooperatively and in partnership with local, state, federal, and public and private entities
 - Example – Lake City spray field to wetland treatment project for water quality and aquifer recharge benefits

\$3.9M FDEP
 \$0.8M SRWMD
 \$0.1M Columbia Co.
\$0.2M Lake City
 \$5.0M TOTAL



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

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

Excerpts from The Conservation Fund (2015)



Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) Program

Created through passage of the Surface Water Improvement and Management Act in 1987; Chapter 373.451-373.459, Florida Statutes

Purpose: Developed to address major watershed issues throughout the State

SWIM Plans provide:

- Watershed description;
- Assessment of watershed and water resource conditions;
- Evaluation of accomplishments / improvements since previous SWIM Plan;
- Project plan to address identified watershed needs and challenges; and
- Estimate of funding needs and funding alternatives.

Project Objectives

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

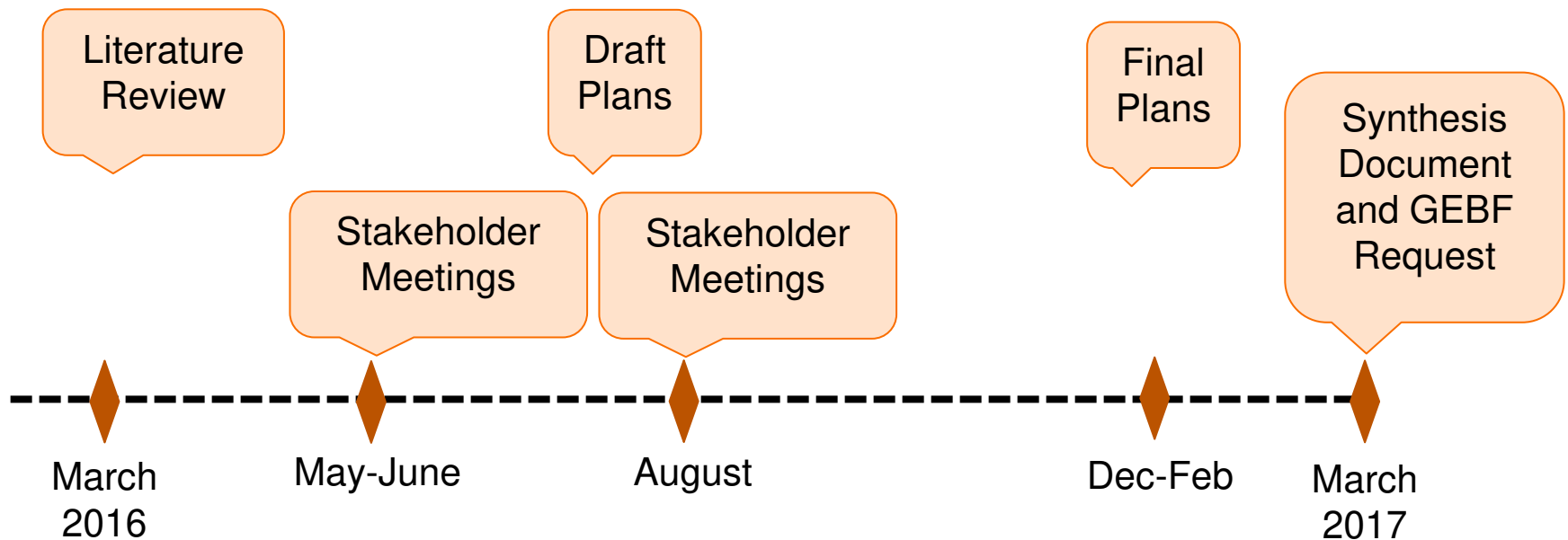
Existing Plans	Updated and Consolidate Plans
Suwannee River	Suwannee River Basin
Santa Fe River	
Alligator Lake	
Aucilla River	Coastal Rivers Basin
Coastal Rivers (Econfina, Fenholloway, Steinhatchee)	
Waccasassa River	

Project Goals



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

Project Schedule



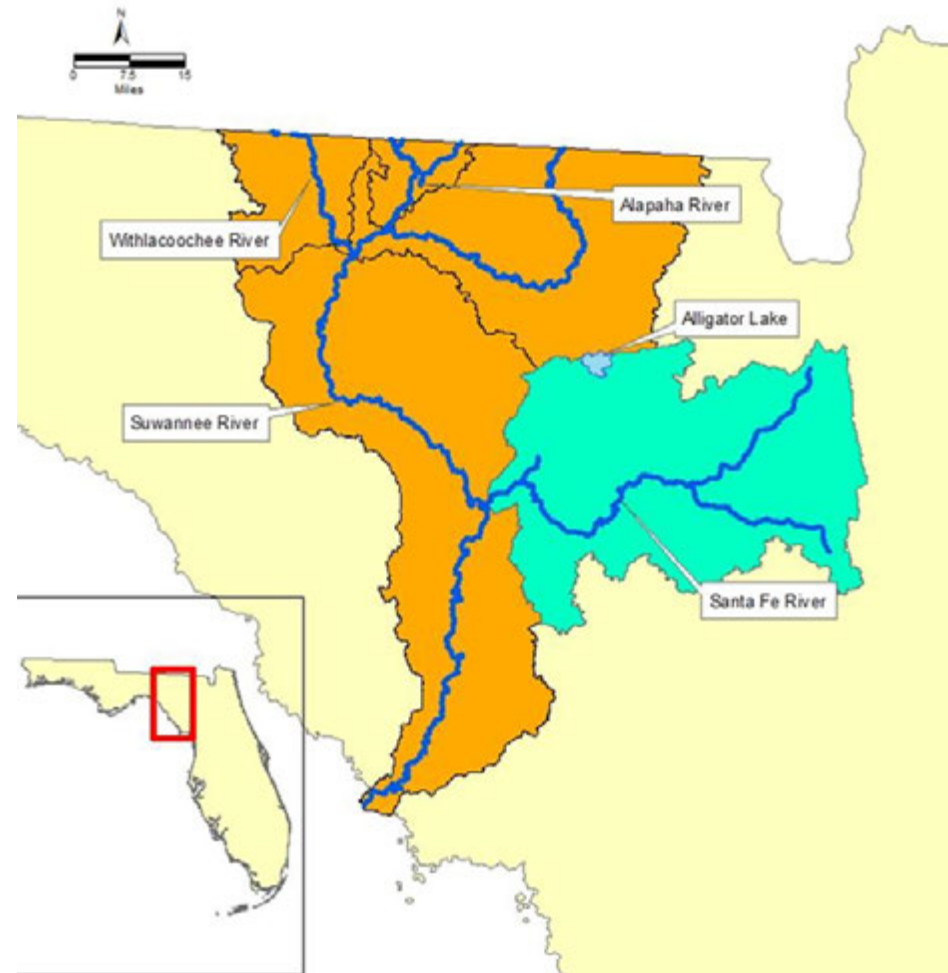
Status Update on Existing Coastal River SWIM Plans

- Aucilla River – 1991
- Coastal Rivers – 1995
 - Econfina River
 - Fenholloway River
 - Steinhatchee River
- Waccasassa River - 1991



Status Update on Existing Suwannee River SWIM Plans

- Alligator Lake – 1988
- Santa Fe River – 1995
- Suwannee River – 1991



Alligator Lake SWIM Plan Goals

- Improve water quality
- Manage nuisance Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)
- Protect fish and wildlife habitat
- Increase outdoor recreational opportunities

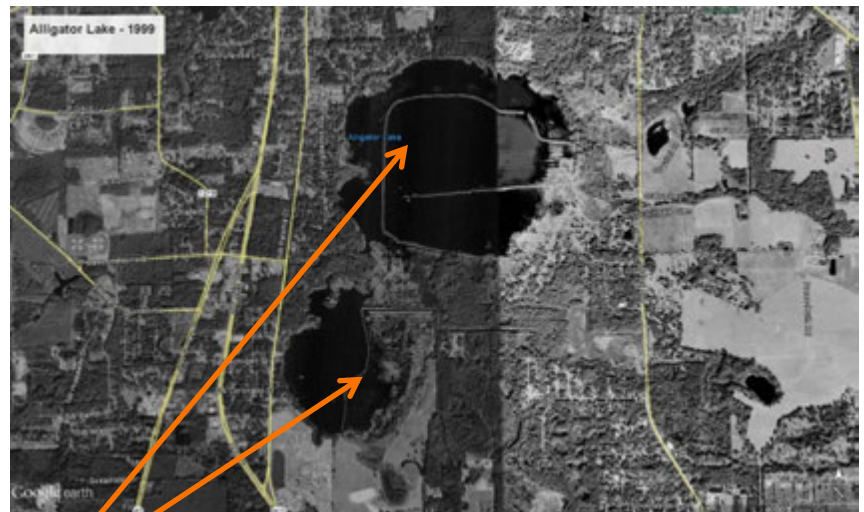


Alligator Lake Restoration Project

1994



1999



Dike breeches, water level control structures, and hydrologic restoration of shallow marsh habitats

Alligator Lake - Improved Water Quality

- Wetland restoration and removal of wastewater discharges have improved lake water quality
- Actions should be considered in the TMDL/BMP

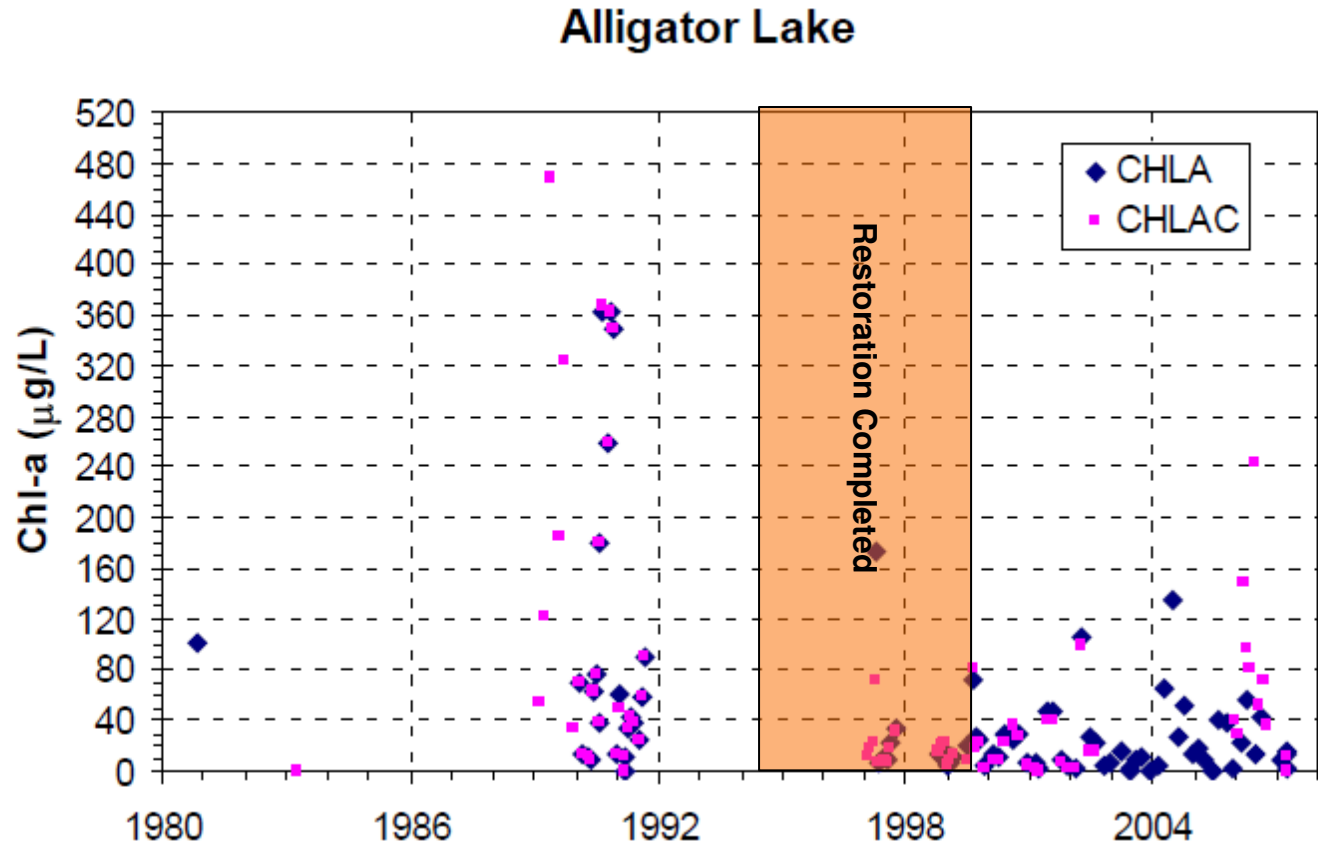


Figure from FDEP (2008)

Santa Fe River SWIM Plan Goals

- Implement monitoring program
 - Water quality
 - Natural resources
 - Hydrology
 - Land use
- Identify and manage for largest pollution impacts
- Work with local governments to develop Comprehensive Plans that protect the resource
- Public education and involvement



Santa Fe River Activities

- Bacteria TMDL established for the Santa Fe River
- Modifications to WWTP effluent disposal practices in Lake City
 - Total nitrogen loads to Ichetucknee River reduced by 85%
- Additional 10,176 acres of farmland with FDACS-approved agricultural BMPs (FDEP 2014; BMAP Progress Report)
 - 37% of the agricultural lands within the focus area
 - Groundwater withdrawals reduced by 963 million gallons per year
 - Fertilizer application reduced by 964,000 pounds per year
- Spring restoration

Next Steps



- Stakeholder input and participation
 - Initial stakeholder meetings in May/June 2016
- Stakeholder review and comment on Draft SWIM Plans
 - August/September 2016

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