

Agriculture and Basin Management Action Plans

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Background

- What is a Basin Management Action Plan(BMAP)?
- BMAPs are adopted as a mechanism to address Total Maximum Daily Loads(TMDLs)in impaired water bodies in a basin
- Agricultural producers are required to enroll in the appropriate Best Management Practices(BMP) manual or monitor themselves for water quality discharge
- Enrollment is free, monitoring is costly for the producer

Issues

- As BMAPs are adopted, each stakeholder group has a load to address to reduce pollution and get an impaired water body to the TMDL or lower
- For agriculture, enrollment and implementation of BMPs gives a Presumption of Compliance with state water quality standards
- Producers face fines if they don't enroll
- Many producers are unaware

BMPs

Overhead Irrigation



Water Conservation



BMPs

- Tail Water Recovery



BMPs

Fertilizer Banding



Issues

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection(FDEP) is charged with adopting TMDLs and BMAPS
- They go with data that is outdated in some cases
- Loads are based on land use data and modeling
- Land use data can be 20 years old
- Alot of ag lands no longer in production or in less intensive operations
- Loads for ag can be incorrect

Issues

- Assumptions are made regarding agriculture and land use
- Conflict arises when producers see figures associated with ag in their basin
- Meetings between producers and agencies after the fact to address concerns
- Communication gaps between agencies and producers

Process

- As BMAPs are proposed or revised, get staff from FDEP, WMDs, FDACS, IFAS, Ag associations and producers together
- Met with staff from FDEP, SJRWMD, IFAS and ag associations to discuss the process. ALL IN!!
- Basin specific...make sure predominant ag commodity group is at the table
- Discuss issues and goals

Example

- May 2015, producers met with FDEP, other agencies and ag associations to discuss proposed ag loads in Blue Spring basin in Volusia county.
- Land use was incorrect.
- Having producer input was valuable
- As a result, ag loads were reduced by 50% in the BMAP
- Why not do this beforehand?

Benefits

- Establish better relationships with agencies
- Get better data for models
- Happier growers!!
- Producers eligible for cost share and recognition in CARES
- Begin in St. Johns River Water Management District
- Eventual statewide implementation

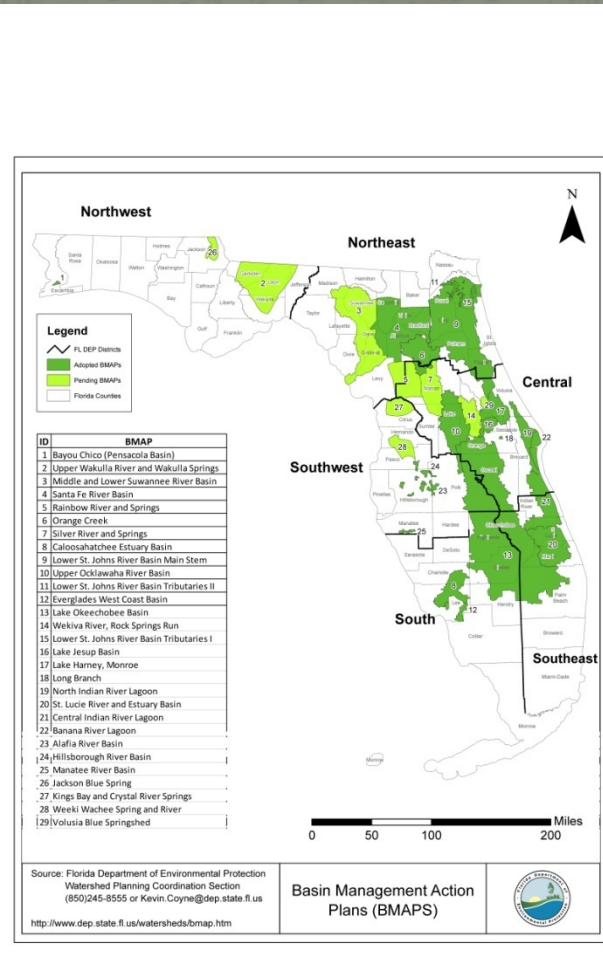
Greg CARES



Benefits

- Find out what is actually in production and what types of operations
- Give FDEP and other agencies a better understanding of agriculture
- Get better data for models for more accurate load estimates
- Better natural resource protection

BMAPs



NRLI Skills

- Meeting facilitation
- Listening
- Separating people from the issue
- Identifying issues and solutions
- Finding common interests
- Conflict management
- Negotiation

Questions?