

Scenarios: Developing a Community Vision of the Future of Florida Springs

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Purpose Of Practicum

Use a future scenario exercise to help a springs working group to develop a vision and plans to better protect two springs now and in the future.

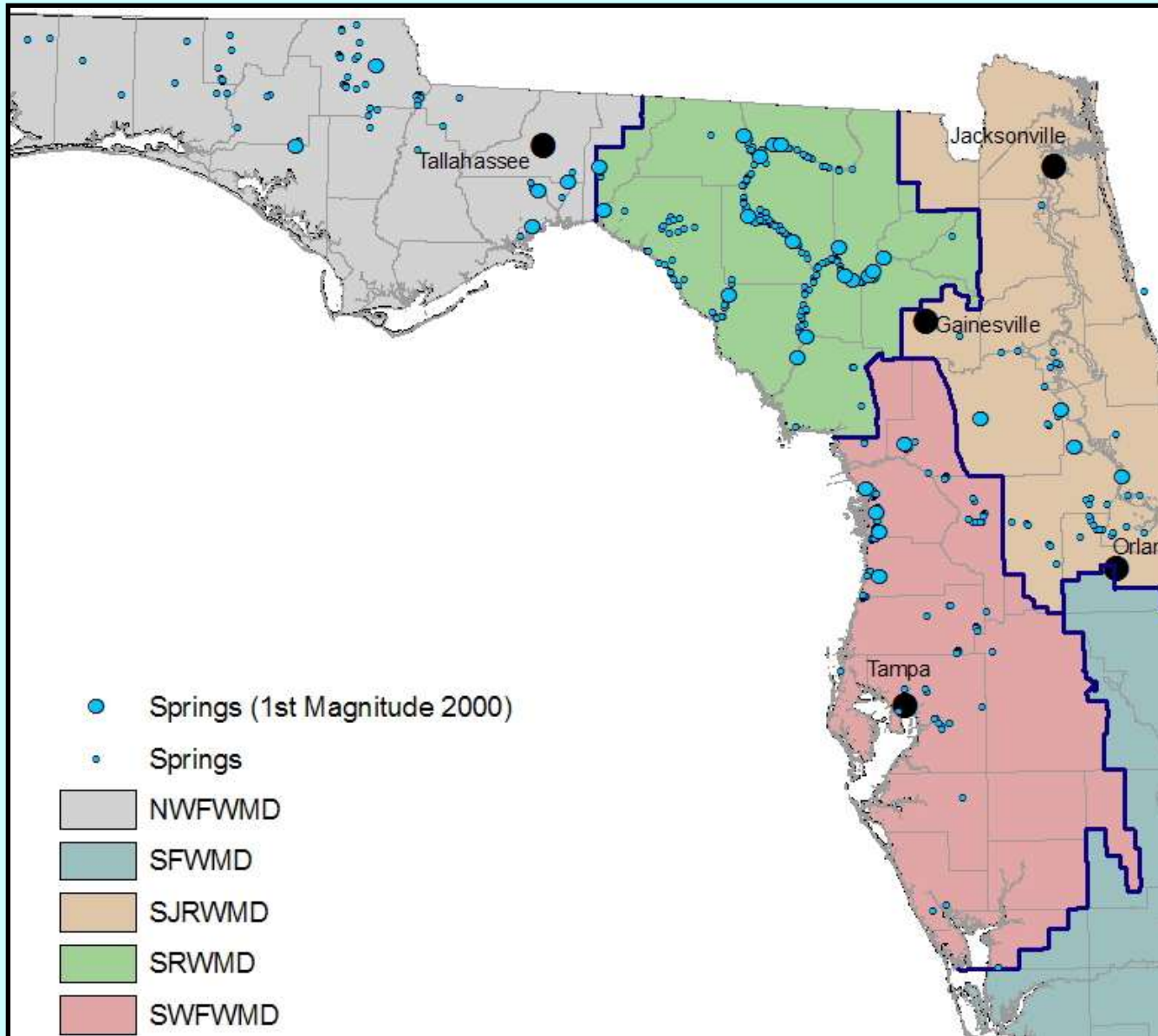


Fanning & Manatee Springs Working Group



Fanning Spring

Over 700 Florida Springs



Florida Springs, Valued and Valuable



Ichetucknee Spring

Windows to Our Drinking Water



Unique Springs Fauna



Winter Refuge for Manatees





Dried Up Springs

Kissengen Spring Then and Now



Flow Reduction in Fanning Spring

- **32% reduction in average flow**
 - **107 cubic ft /second since 1930**
 - **73 cubic ft/ second since 1999**
- **no longer a first-magnitude spring (less than 100 cubic ft/second)**



Polluted Springs

Manatee Spring Then and Now



The Springshed Is Where It Happens



Springshed of Fanning & Manatee Springs

Few Protected Springs



Fern Hammock Springs

Accomplishments of Springs Working Groups



Future Scenarios for Imagination

- **Make the most of the appeal of stories**
- **Tap human curiosity about the future**
- **Stimulate imagination to think in new ways**

Future Scenarios for Understanding

- Useful when complexity and uncertainty are high**
- Promote interaction among groups**
- Increase understanding**

Future Scenarios for Creative Planning

- **Form a vision of the future**
- **Perceive consequences of actions now and in future**
- **Plan creatively for the future**

Practicum Process

- Obtain support and train assistants for scenario exercises
- Develop best / worst scenarios for springs
- Invite key stakeholder groups
- Convene and facilitate scenario exercises in 2009
- Record and use findings

Ideal Stakeholders

- Represent groups that make decisions or take action
- Can apply new understanding to decisions and actions
- Represent their group fairly
- Have adequate skills to effectively participate

Real Stakeholders

- **Agriculture / Silviculture**
- **Land developers / large tract owners**
- **Local businesses including ecotourism**
- **Local governments in the springshed**
- **Water resource management agencies (federal, state, local)**

More Real Stakeholders

- Civic & community organizations
- Recreational & commercial users of springs and downstream water bodies
- Planners (state, regional, local, non-profit)
- Environmental organizations
- Public land managers in the springshed, including the springs

Venue

- **At the springs**
- **During the day**
- **Outdoors next to the springs and in the springs**
- **In spring-side meeting rooms**
- **Yummy food, ample breaks**

Best Scenario Fountain of Youth



Worst Scenario Stagnant Cesspool



Start the Exercise

- Present best and worst scenarios for 2040
- For each scenario, small groups describe context: economic, environmental, social, political
- Same groups imagine events, decisions, forces that could result in that scenario
- Reach consensus on most likely events, decisions, forces

Complete the Exercise

- List most likely events, decisions, forces starting in 2040, going back in time to present.
- Tell the story, from future backward, to whole group
- Record lists and stories

The Next Step

- **With stories in mind, the group will create a plan to better protect Fanning & Manatee Springs now and in the future.**
- **What to do with the plan?**

Value / Impact

- **Better understanding of cause and effect**
- **Improved awareness of what is at risk**
- **Creative solutions to potential problems**
- **Better collaboration among stakeholders**

Discussion



Fanning Spring