



SPRING RESTORATION

SB1228, HB691

BILL SPONSORS

Senator Stan McClain



Representative William Conerly



IMPORTANCE

- Florida's springs are ecologically critical—
 - supplying drinking water
 - sustaining biodiversity
 - tourism
- Many springs suffer from
 - decreased discharge
 - elevated nutrient levels



STAKEHOLDERS

- Wastewater Utilities
- FDEP
- Local Communities
- Environmental Advocates
- Financial Partners

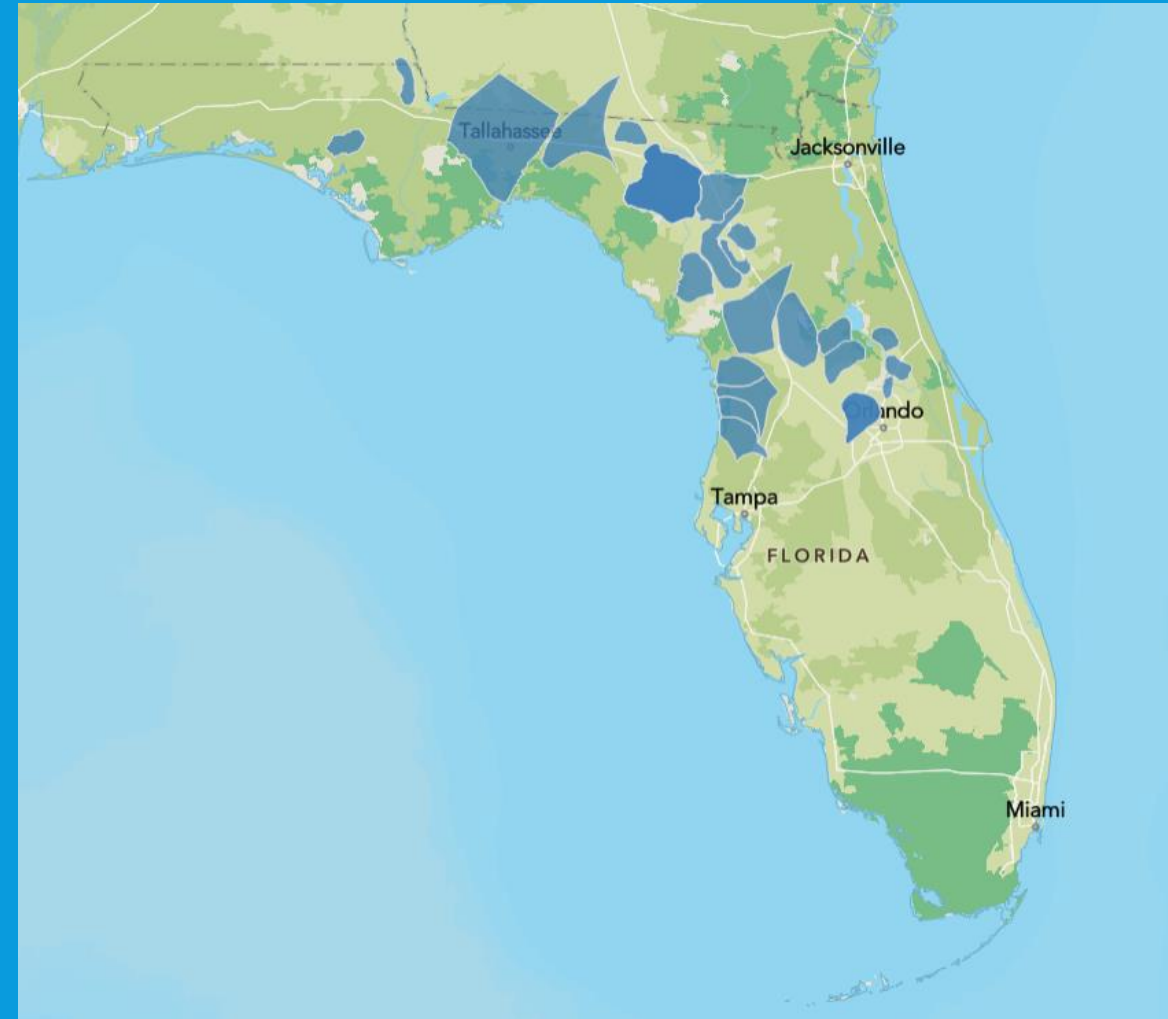
BACKGROUND

- Under existing law, wastewater utilities must phase out non-beneficial discharges to surface waters by 2032.
- The reuse capacity has climbed from 25% in 2000 to approximately 55% in 2023.
- Reclaimed water
 - conserves precious freshwater
 - supports recharge of aquifers, and helps restore spring function
 - reduces nutrient pollution
 - Makes water supply more resilient
- 2021 SB 64 outlawed surface water discharges in Florida and requires utilities to implement a discharge elimination plan by 2032.

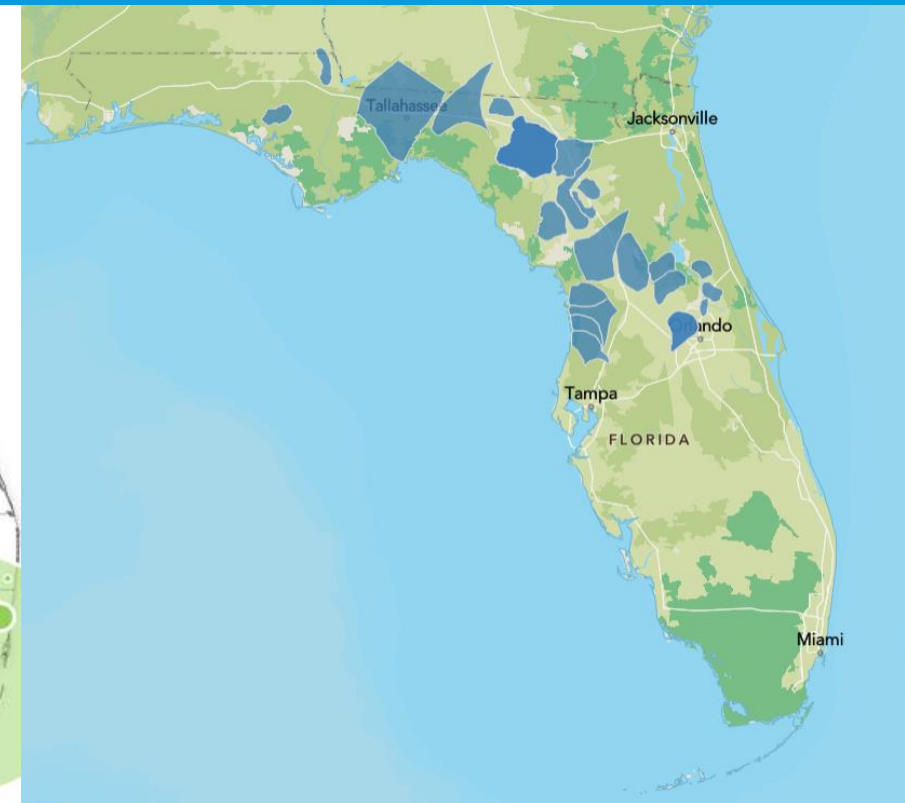
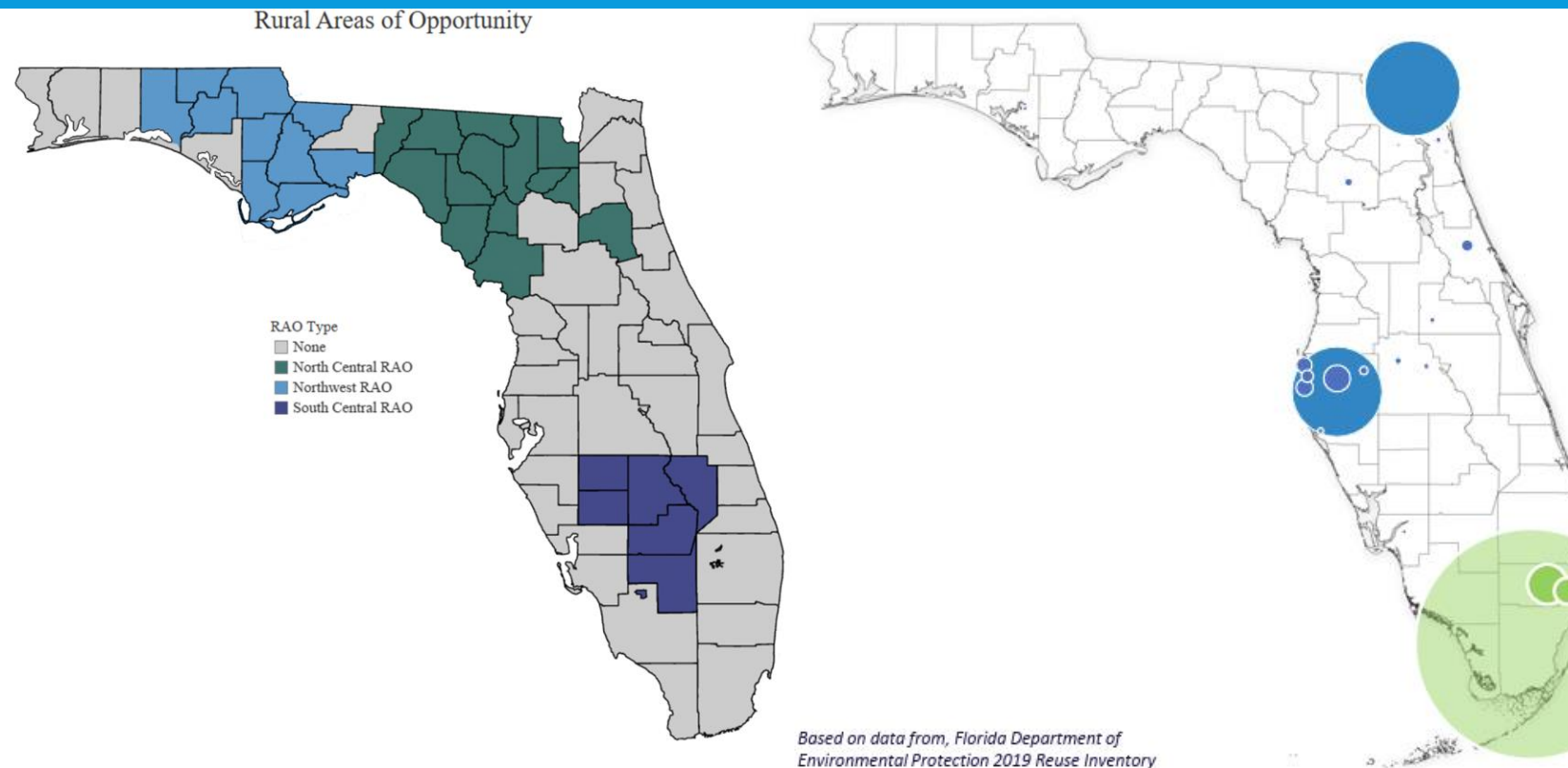


KEY UPDATES

- Amend **discharge elimination plan** for adding a reclaimed water project identified in the **Outstanding Florida Spring** recovery or prevention strategy
- DEP must respond within 60 days
- Requirements for approval:
 - Project benefits a **rural area of opportunity**
 - Provides at least **35 million** gallons per day of reclaimed water
 - Involves **multiple** wastewater treatment facilities
 - Meets minimum flows and levels by January 1, 2039



TARGET AREA?



Rural Areas of Opportunity

Wastewater Facilities

Outstanding Florida Springs



THANK YOU