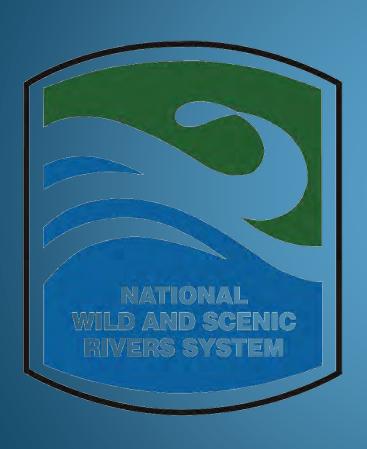
## Wild and Scenic Rivers



The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations.





# Wild and Scenic Rivers

228 rivers comprising 13,467 miles are protected in the National System(2022). This is less than one half of one percent of the nation's rivers

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For comparison, more than 75,000 large dams have modified at least 600,000 miles of rivers across the country, or approximately 17% of rivers in the United States

\_\_\_

WSR designation affords certain statutory protections (no new dams may be constructed, nor federally assisted water resource development projects that have an adverse effect of designated river values)

- "The affluent society has built well in terms of economic progress, but has neglected the protection of the very water we drink as well as the values of fish and wildlife, scenic, and outdoor recreation resources.

  Although often measureless in commercial terms, these values must be preserved by a program that will guarantee America some semblance of her great heritage of beautiful rivers.
- Senator Frank Church from Idaho, Arguing for passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968)



## **WSR Act Overview**

- Seeking to Balance Development with Preservation
- "The Congress declares that the established national policy of dams and other construction at appropriate sections of the rivers of the United States needs to be complemented by a policy that would preserve other selected rivers or sections thereof in their free-flowing condition to protect the water quality of such rivers..."



# WSR Act Overview

• "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations..."



OCT. 2, 1968

# Wild and Scenic Rivers Program

Federallyadministered Model

- Managed by NPS, USFS, BLM, USFWS
- Mostly on federal land

Partnership Model

- Managed through locally-led partnerships
- Mostly nonfederal land

# What is a Partnership River?

- Federal ownership and management not authorized
- Local council with broad representation guides mgmt
- Land use locally controlled
- NPS role limited, specified in plan
- River management plan locally (ideally) developed prior to designation
- Costs shared among all partners
- No NPS rangers, or traditional Superintendent



## **ORVs**

- The Wild And Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542), identifies five outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs): scenic, recreational, wildlife and habitat, historic and cultural, and water quality and quantity.
- In accordance with this Act, these values, the river system's free-flowing characteristics, and its immediate environment "shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations" (section 1(b) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act).
- Usually identified in the enabling legislation or in a Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP)



# Segments of the River

- "Wild" river areas Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- "Scenic" river areas Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

 "Recreational" river areas – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some shoreline development, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.



## Comprehensive River Management Plan

- Describes existing river values and their condition;
- Defines goals and desired future conditions;
- Specifies management actions for protection of river values;
  - Addresses user capacities, water quality issues, land/facility development, and instream flow requirements;
- Reflects a collaborative approach with stakeholders;
- Identifies regulatory authorities of other governmental agencies; and
- Includes a monitoring strategy to maintain desired conditions.





### **NPS Partnership Rivers**

1992 Great Egg Harbor, NJ

1993 Maurice, NJ

1993/2004 Westfield, MA\*

1994 West Branch Farmington, CT

1999 Lamprey, NH

1996/2000 Sudbury/Assabet/Concord, MA

2000/2014 White Clay Creek, DE/PA

2000 Lower Delaware, PA/NJ

Wekiva, FL

2006 Musconetcong, NJ

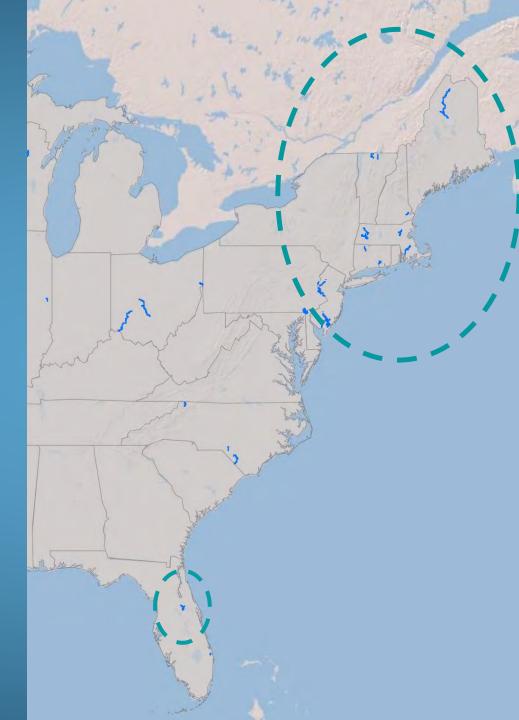
2008 Eightmile, CT 2009 Taunton, MA

2014 Missisquoi and Trout, VT

2019 Wood-Pawcatuck, RI

Nashua, MA

York, ME



# What are some key features of the PWSR model?

- No federal ownership or exclusive management of lands
- Designation and implementation of the management plan is accomplished through a broadly participatory "council" or "committee"
- Land use continues to be governed by local communities and states
- Plan is locally developed with NPS assistance and is locally approved prior to federal designation (as a part of the feasibility study).
- The costs and responsibilities associated with managing and protecting river resources are shared among all of the partners—local, state, federal, tribal and nongovernmental.

# Benefits of PWSR designation

## **Economic/Promotion**

- National recognition and prestige
- Economic boost (if promoted)

## **Funding/Support**

- Agency technical and financial assistance
- Other WSR agency funding
- Leverage additional grants, e.g., fish passage, land protection, youth education, etc.

### Stewardship/River Protection

- WSR agency review of federally-assisted water resources projects to protect locallyidentified river values
- Locally-appointed river council guides future management across jurisdictions
- River Council brings local governments and key partners together with a common vision for the river

# What assistance comes from a PWSR Designation

## **PWSR Funding**

Section 11(b)(1)

P.L. 99-590 (October 30, 1986)

- Authorizes technical and limited financial assistance
- Provides assistance to states municipalities, nonprofits and individuals
- Applies to Wild and Scenic Rivers, and to other rivers

## **Technical Assistance**



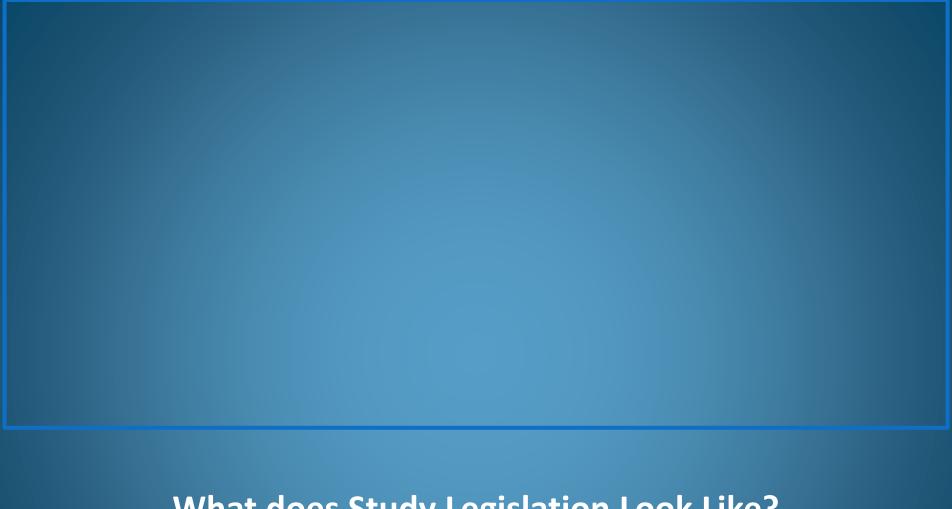
# Designation

### **Traditional Process**

- Wild and Scenic River Study (eligibility, ORVs, classification, suitability)
- Designation
- Interim Management
- Confirm/Update River Values
- Boundaries
- Comprehensive River
   Management Plan

## **Instant Designation**

- Designation/Classification
- Interim Management
- Define River Values
- Boundaries
- Comprehensive River
   Management Plan (3 years)



## What does Study Legislation Look Like?

Ex: Little Manatee River Kissimmee River

# How long does a study take?

- Typically authorized for 3 years in legislation
  - Can take longer...soft deadline
- Funding provided through generic park planning account in NPS budget – NPS WASO
- Funding stream may only last 3 years...can dictate timing
- CA for study support can be up to 5 years

# How does the Study committee operate?

- Monthly meetings
- Transparency and open process
- Website
- Direct mailings
- Open meetings
- Generally choose to follow state open meeting laws

# Who staffs the study committee?

## **OPTION 1: LOCAL SUPPORT HIRED** THROUGH COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

## **OPTION 2: NPS CAN** STAFF

#### Fostion Description

Minninguni and Trout Rivers Wild and Servic River Study

The Microscopi and Troot Rivers Wild and Spenic River Study Advisory Committee (Committee) is seeking a part-time (16-20 hrs/leik) Local Study Coordinator to assist and coordinate with the conduct of the three year Wild and Scenic River Study of the upper Missisquis River and its Inibatary, the Trout River. The study area includes the communities of Richford, Westfield, Montgomery, Enosburg, Enosburg Falls, East Berkshire, Lowell, Tripy, North Tripy and Jay.

The respitor will be on by and with the offices of the Mississemi River Radio Association in Facts Berkshire, VT (with potential flexibility for other acceptable arrangements). The position will report to the Committee though its officers if heir. Yea Chair) with support from the full Committee, the National Park Service, and the Missisquoi River Basin Association.

- Coordination of regular (monthly expected) meetings of the Committee
- Coordination of anticipated sub-committee meetings and activities
- Development and maintenance of regular communication vehicles for the Committee, and its subcommittees, and between these groups and the 10 affected towns (and other key constituencies). Email, hard copy mail, newsletters, press refeaters, public notices and similar
- . Assisting the Committee with research into the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of
- · Assist the Committee with the development and execution of small contracts as necessary to bring additional expertise to the Committee's work (for example, web site development, GS mapping, specialized research or similar projects that the Committee may choose to undertakel.
- · Assist the Committee with the hosting of events and public meetings
- Assist the Committee with the development and sinting of Draft and Final Study products, including a management/vision document for the river study area.

The successful candidate will have substantial experience and comfort working in a community set and coordinating activities, project focus, and priorities with a diverse group of local community brands and board members, conservation advocates, volumeers, agency staff, and other interested parties. The ability to work productively and comfortably in such a setting is a gree-requisite for successful

The successful applicant should have demonstrated familiarity and experience in co resource conservation, growth management, river or watershed communities, or similar fields database (Excel) usage and similar will be important. The position requires local and regional travel, the ability to attend evening and organismal evenlend meetings, and interface effectively with local cummissions. The randidate must be able to work efficiently and independently.

#### SPECIFIC INVOVEDGE OR EXPERIENCE in the following areas is a plus.

- . Frofessional knowledge and recognized expertise regarding the conservation of river and
- watershed resource · Familiarity with the study area.
- . Demonstrated familiarity and experience with co
- Entriessional knowledge of land use planning concepts, techniques, principles, and practices to apply to natural, cultural, and recreational resource issues and to growth management.
- · Professional knowledge of ecological principles to apply to planning for the communities and protection of meet and watersheds.
- Professional knowledge of land protection techniques such as zoning, communities assuments. and other tools used to conserve dien resources
- Frofessional knowledge of river protection techniques and processes applied at the local community level through working with citizen groups and local government.
- An ability to write and pursue grant applications.

· Build driver's lineage is secured. Travel within the Study area will remine use of personal

SALARY: Commensurate with experience (520-525 per hole). The position does not provide health or

#### APPLY: Please send of mountes by 12/9/05 to:

Chair, Wild and Scenic River Advisory Committee nio Minusquoi River Baum Association 2839 VT Route 105 East Berkshim, VT (IS447 (or ornal) to: meba@pshift.com)

# How does the study committee get formed?

Option 1: Formal legislated committee

Study committee membership and function specified in legislation

FACA Committee Ex: Wekiva legislation Option 2:
"Informal"
formed by NPS

Informal committee

Membership set by discussion and consensus at local level

Main role is NOT to advise Federal Government = non FACA Option 3:
"Informal" local
study sponsor can
form

Informal committee

Membership set by discussion and consensus at a local level

Main role is NOT to advise Federal Government = non FACA





## **Study Process**

- Eligibility (ORV's)
- Suitability (management)
- Boundaries
- Management Plan
- Support

# Frequently asked questions

- > Will designation result in increased tourism or recreational use of the rivers?
  - Not significantly. Tourism and recreational use on other rivers in the Wild and Scenic System have not seen dramatic increases in either tourism or recreational use attributed to Wild and Scenic designation. The degree to which such traffic increases largely depends on the extent to which the riverfront communities choose to promote Wild and Scenic designation.
- > Will any increased traffic negatively affect the rivers, adjacent property, or landowners?
  - ➤ Unlikely and manageable. It is possible that increased recreational use of the rivers, regardless of designation, could contribute to erosion at river access points.
- > How does the Study affect my land?
  - It does not. If you perceive any impacts at all, please contact the Committee right away.

# Frequently asked questions

### ➤ What will happen to my property rights if the river is designated?

Nothing. Respect for private property rights and current land uses are fundamental components of long-term support for river protection.

### **≻**How will my town benefit if this designation occurs?

Such a designation would likely bring federal technical and financial resources to help enhance and protect the river. Some studies have shown that there is an economic benefit to communities that value their rivers and promote them as a recreational tourist destination (one such study is available on FRWA's website, <a href="https://www.frwa.org">www.frwa.org</a>).

### Could the Study or designation result in federal restrictions on my property?

- ➤ No. The study is only that, a study. There is no authority for federal land use control associated with a Wild and Scenic designation. Town governments would continue their primary role in establishing and enforcing land use.
  - Link to Activities on Private Lands Within the WSR Corridor: https://www.rivers.gov/documents/q-a.pdf

# Frequently asked questions

- **►Will hunting and fishing be impacted if designation occurs?** 
  - ➤ No. Current regulations will continue to govern hunting and fishing, and will not be affected by designation.
- ➤ Would a National Wild and Scenic River designation "federalize" the River resulting in federal control of a corridor along the rivers?
  - ➤ No. The federal government will not take control of these rivers.

    There is no federal mandate requiring specific land use controls related to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers that will affect how a landowner can use their property

Section 7

# What is NPS role?

Cooperative
Agreement
development and
oversight

Overall Admin responses

Staff support to MC

Technical assistance to MC and partners

# Section 7 Determination

 Thus, Section 7(a) prohibits any part of the federal government from assisting a "water resources project" that would have a "direct and adverse effect" on the values for which a river was established. The values referred to above are typically interpreted as the WSR's "outstandingly remarkable values" (ORVs) and free flow.



Form a study committee

Develop workplan and budget

Research eligibility and ORVs

- Basis of NPS findings
- •Basis of management plan

Involve community in determination of what is special about their river

Identify the issues and threats

Gather community input and establish goals and objectives

Evaluate existing protection measures like state and local regulations and determine gaps

Develop draft and final management plans (major study committee product)

Local government votes on whether to request designation or not

If both eligible and suitable, a bill can be introduced into Congress for a Wild and Scenic River designation

<sup>\*</sup> During the study period, prohibitions against federal permits and projects that might harm the river are temporarily effective, giving the town a three year "test run"

### What is the role of NPS in a study?

- Support the Study Committee
- Educator on WSR and PWSR approach
  - Assist in evaluation of eligibility/suitability/classification
- Implement needed Cooperative Agreements and Contracts
- Educator in development of Management Plan
- Promote transparency of process
- Principal author of Study report to Congress







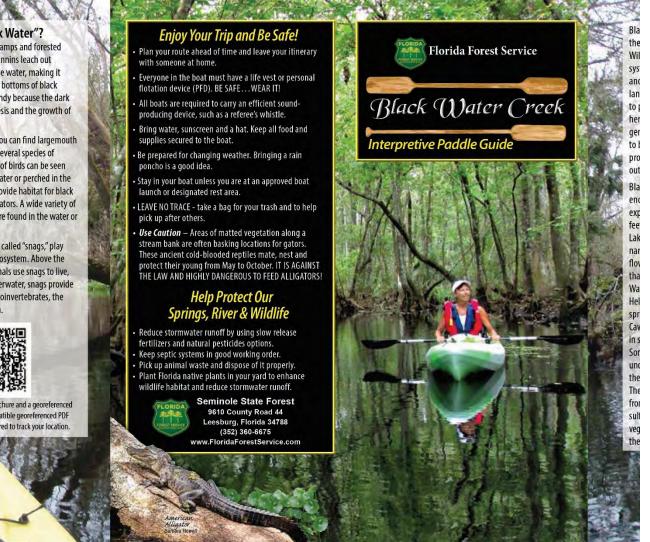


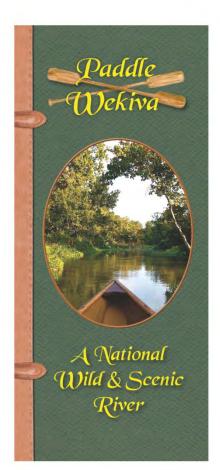












## Paddle Wekiva

Black Water Creek Paddling Guide

## **Turtle Movement**







Wekiwa Springs and Rock Springs - July 24-26, 2018

- 48 Turtles received radio transmitters
- · 4 Large Turtles also received GPS transmitters
- · 2 Large Turtles also received satellite transmitters

Population: The North American
Freshwater Turtle Research Group,
conducts population samples in the U.S. of
which eight sites are in Florida. The group
samples three times per year in Florida —
in the spring, summer and fall — and
gathers information about population
density and measurements of individual
turtles. From their data the group can tell a
lot about ecosystem health and water
quality.





# River Ambassador

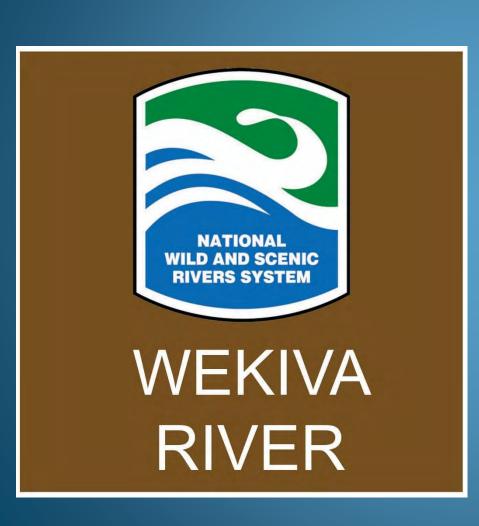


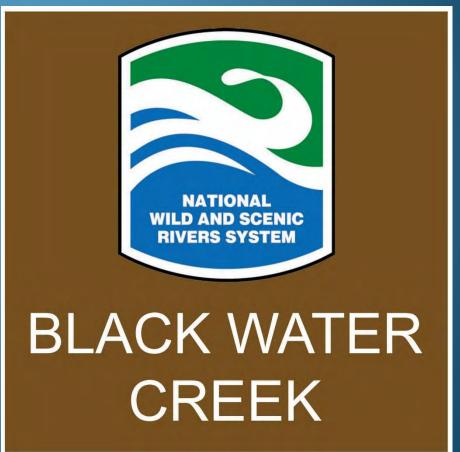






# Wekiva Partnership Programs







Every river system designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 is a living landscape that must be uniquely managed to protect the public's enjoyment of its heritage resources for present and future generations. The Act purposefully strives to balance river uses with permanent protection for the country's most outstanding free-flowing rivers.

The nationally designated Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System, 41.6 miles in length, is a valuable regional resource providing numerous opportunities for nature appreciation, recreation, wildlife viewing and connecting with the great outdoors.

Many segments of the river system are in near-pristine condition, offering the chance to experience an unspoiled part of natural Florida

With a growing population and the expanding urbanization of central Florida, the amount and quality of open lands and natural scenery in the region are decreasing.

of the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River System become even

Help Protect Our Springs, Rivers and Wildlife

· Reduce nutrient loading by using slow release fertilizers and keeping septic systems in good working order.

· Pick up and properly dispose of pet waste.

· Plant Florida native and drought tolerant plants in your yard to reduce water use and enhance wildlife habitat.

Retrieve your entangled fishing line: it is harmful to wildlife.

· Do not feed wildlife, especially alligators and the Florida black bear. Habituating wildlife to humans is dangerous and typically results in an animal being removed from its natural habitat.

Camp Joy

### Welcome to Camp Joy at Kelfy Park

Gocated adjacent to Rock Springs Run, the vistas within this park offer a glimpse of what Central Florida looked like when Native Americans fished and hunted these lands.

#### A Look Back in Time

Native Americans used Camp Joy and the neighboring parcels as campsites thousands of years ago. Inhabitants of the site were involved in late stage tool manufacturing and maintenance (sharpening stone knives and spear points) and may have

provided access to wetland and upland species of plants and animals, and a nearby permanent source of potable water. More than 50 recorded archaeological sites are within the boundaries of the Wekiva River Basin State Parks, the area around Rock Springs, Wekiwa Springs, and the Wekiva River.

#### **Experience Camp Joy**

Camp Joy offers the summer camp experience year round. Enjoy dormitory style or tent camping accommodations with

> your favorite group. Camp Joy offers a meeting half, dining half with kitchen, picnic pavilions, swimming pool, basketball court. and horseshoe pits. The park offers visitors the opportunity to relax in a natural setting and enjoy a picnic while spending time with

returned on a seasonal

basis. The location

their group. Canoeists and kayakers can paddle along Rock Springs Run and the Wekiya River while enjoying the wildlife and scenic views.

#### Impacts to the River

Rock Springs Run is a nationally designated Wild and Scenic River, an Outstanding Florida Water, a State Canoe Trail, and the lower reach is an Aquatic Preserve. Federal and state designations are applied to rivers considered worthy of

You Can Help • Leave No Trace

Pack it In, Back it Out

Dispuse of waste properly

Protect unteral habitats

Respect wildlife

Tread lightly if you must leave your boat observe wildlife from a distance

Do Not Food wildlife - Especially Alligat

Swith with caution

protection due to their ecological and aesthetic attributes and recreational value Designations alone do not protect our

aquatic resources and special places. Overuse of groundwater has resulted in decreased spring flow. Increased nutrient loading from stormwater runoff, farm, lawn, and golf course

someone may have fed that gator fertilizer, spray fields, be considerate of other victors septic tank drain fields Let natural rounds presmit and reclaimed water has resulted in the proliferation of algae and exotic plants, A Basin Management Action Plan for Rock Springs Run that includes strategies to improve the nutrient enrichment condition and other impacts is underway.

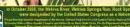
"We need the tonic of wildness and nature"





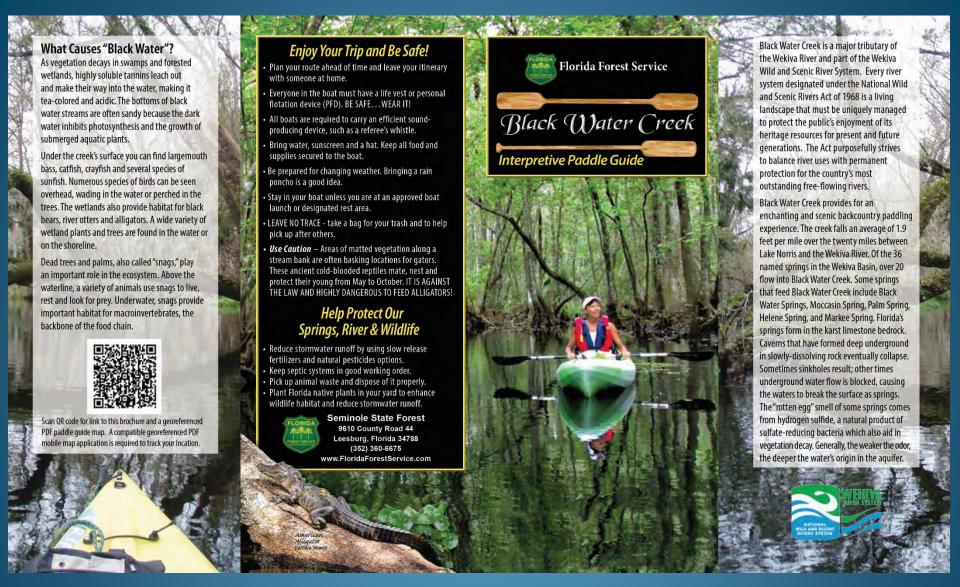
The acquisition of Camp Joy in June 2012 provides increased protection for the significant natural resources of the Wekiva River ecosystem and enhanced outdoo recreation opportunities. Camp Joy was acquired via a fee simple title to Orange County and was awarded a grant from the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) Florida Forever Program.











## PADDLE GUIDES













Altamonte













Springs





LAKE COUNTY

FLORIDA







## Resource

- WSR Descriptions/info
- WSR Act & Amendments
- Final CRMPs
- Section 7 determinations
- Searchable Q & A
- Technical papers
- Study Reports
- Training Modules and more...

Rivers.gov rms.memberclicks.net/PW SRToolkit

