

Withlacoochee River Watershed Initiative

The initiative was designed to better understand the dynamics of the river and watershed, identify how alterations have affected the system, and evaluate alternatives to better manage the water resources.

Southwest Florida
Water Management District

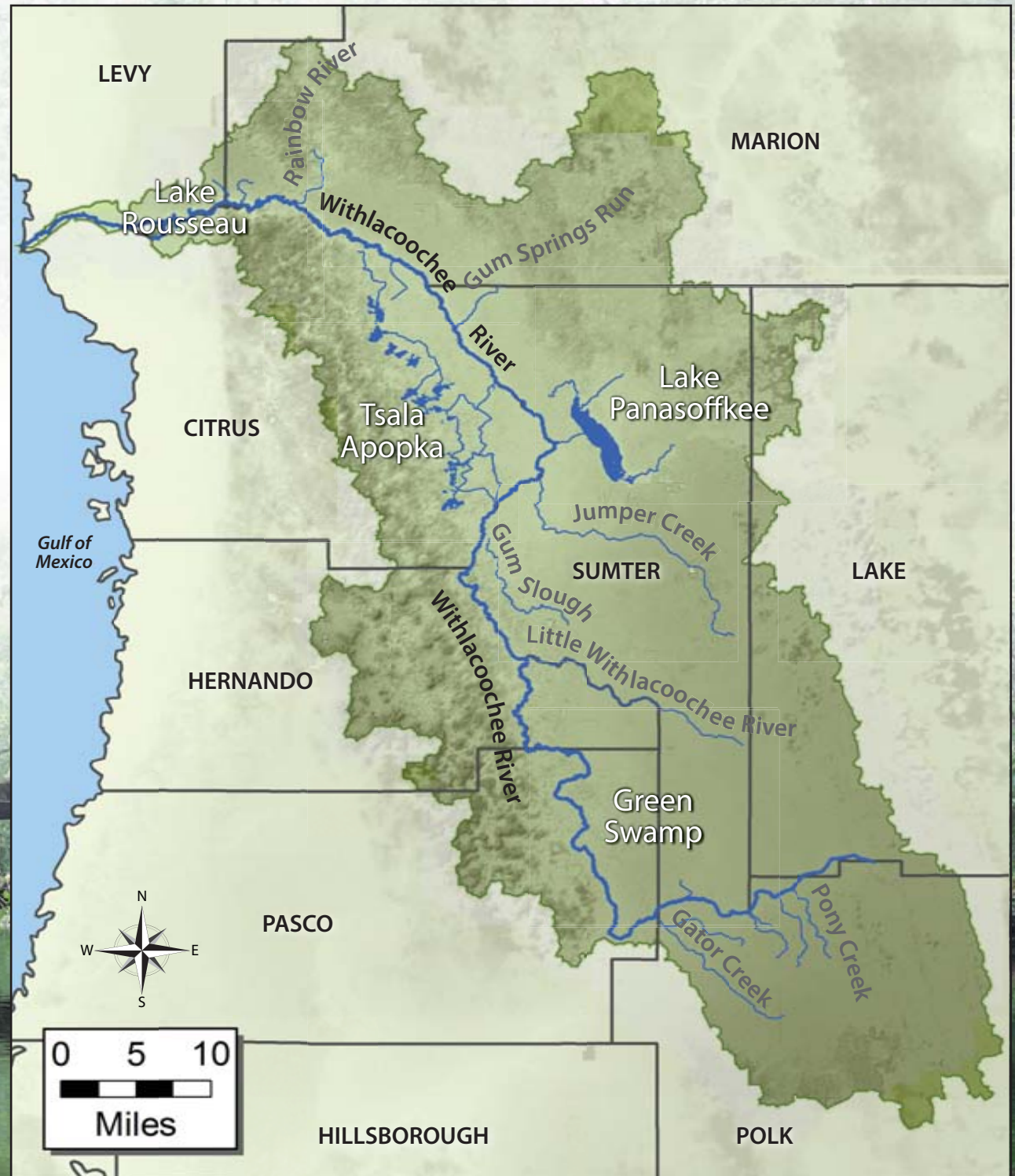


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Withlacoochee River Watershed

The District is studying the Withlacoochee River and its surrounding watershed from the Green Swamp to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Withlacoochee River watershed includes the area of land that water flows across as it moves to the Withlacoochee River. This watershed contains a variety of natural environments and man-made alterations which affect the behavior of the river. The river system has experienced extreme high and low conditions in recent decades because of fluctuations in rainfall.



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Understanding and Managing the Withlacoochee River

- To better understand how the river system functions, staff performed hydrologic and hydraulics studies, field investigations and engineering analyses on the entire river and surrounding watershed.
- A comprehensive computer model has been developed that simulates current conditions of the river and watershed.
- Nineteen scenarios have been identified through years of meetings and workshops with external stakeholders, special interest groups and residents. The scenarios are being tested by the model to determine how historical or future changes affect water levels and flow throughout the river and watershed.
- The model results will help staff evaluate alternatives to better manage the water resources.
- Once the model scenarios are complete, staff plans to provide the model results for review and comment through public workshops during winter/spring 2015.



Withlacoochee River in the Green Swamp near Dade City

Visit
WaterMatters.org/Withlacoochee
for a list of model scenarios and
additional information.



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