

Alachua County Joint Water and Climate
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Florida's Excessive Groundwater Use and Solutions

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FSI Human Use Monitoring at Gilchrist Blue
Spring State Park (John Moran photo)

Springs Problem

Groundwater resources are stressed:

- Groundwater consumption is very high
- Groundwater levels have fallen
- Spring flows are lower



Commercial



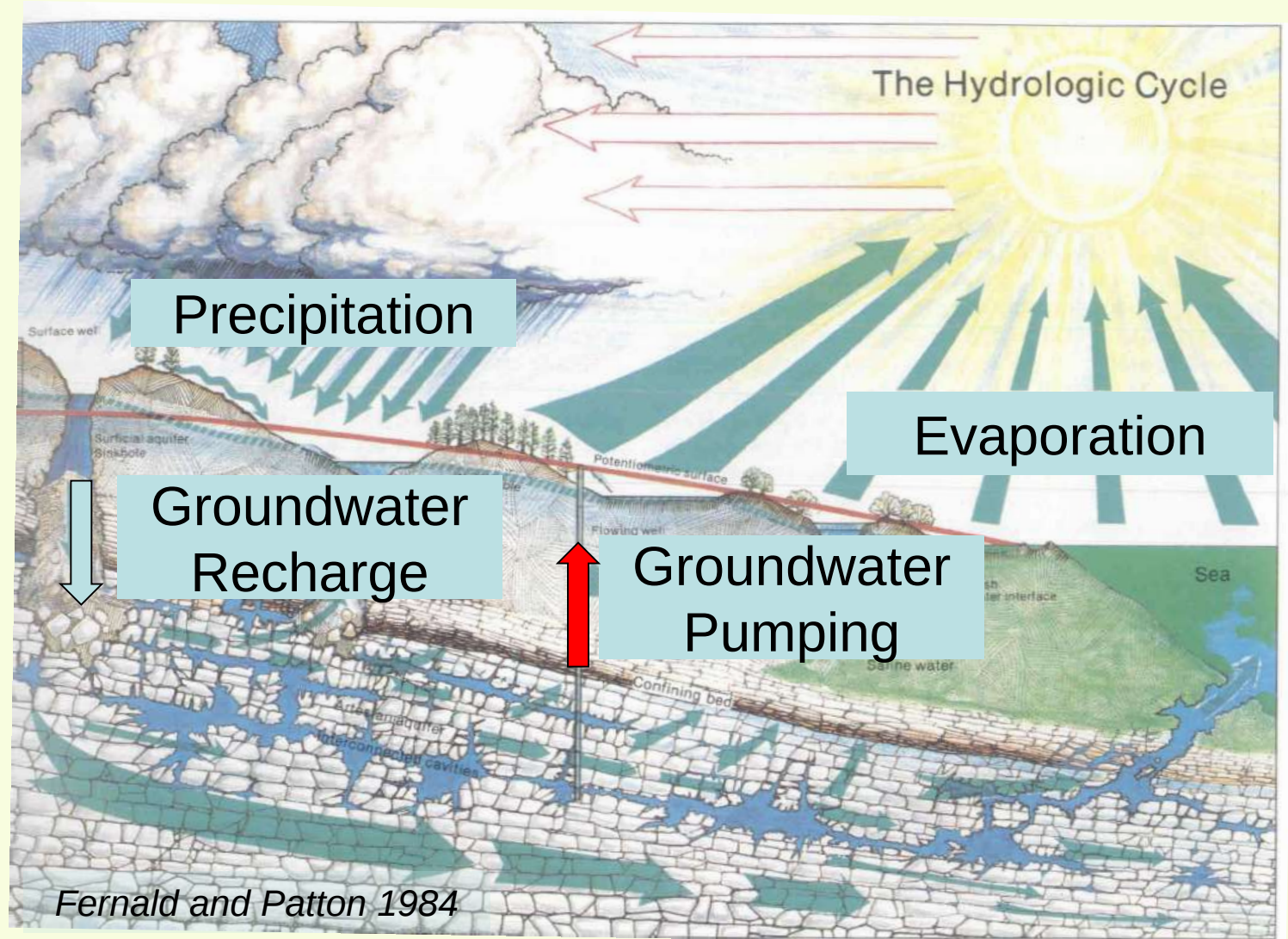
Agriculture



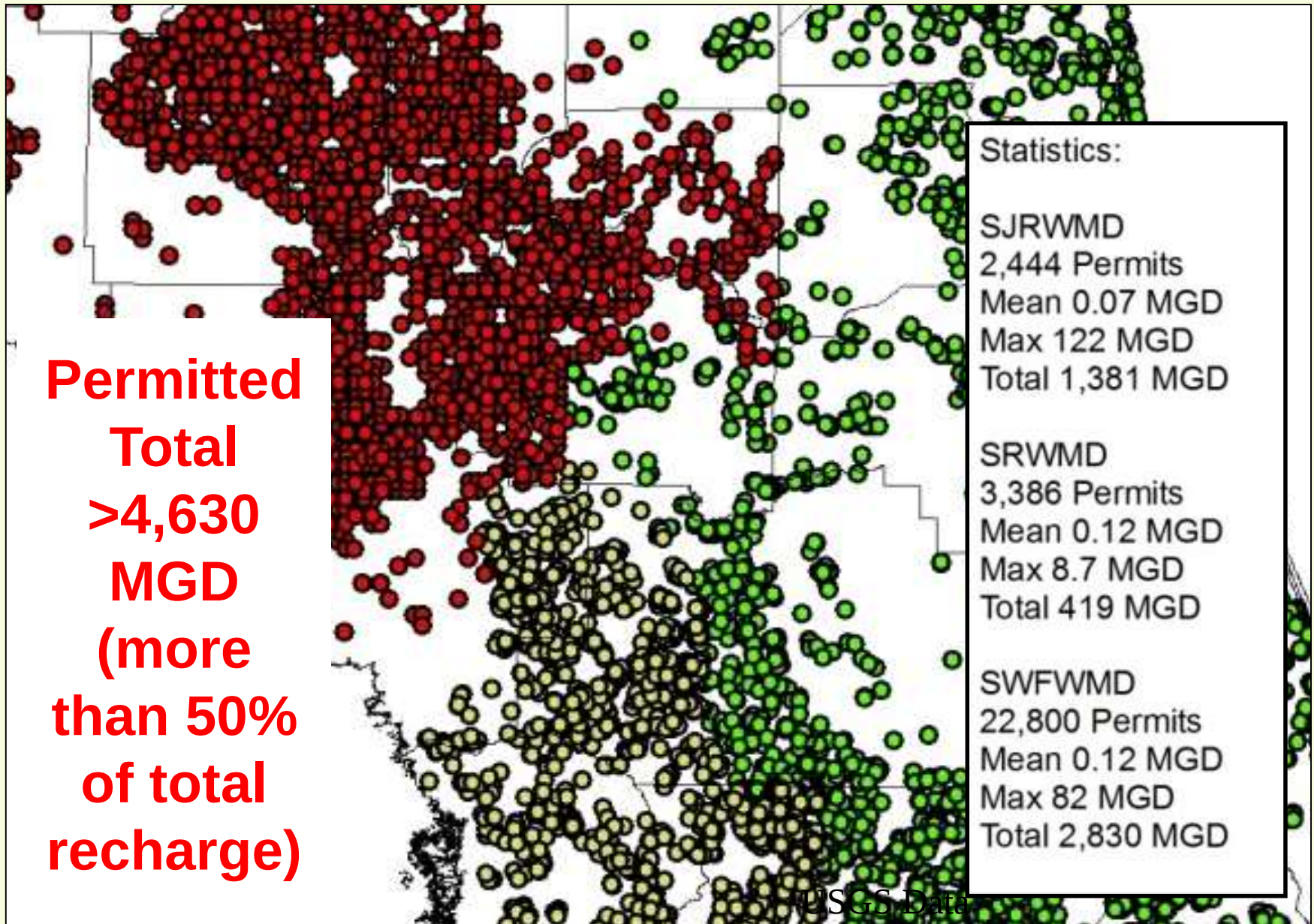
Residential

Florida's Hydrologic Cycle

Existing Pumping >30% of Recharge



North Florida Groundwater Permits (2010)



Santa Fe River and Springs Recent Average Flow Conditions at Suwannee Confluence (2000 to 2019):

- Historic Spring Discharge – 1,630 cfs
- Recent Spring Discharge – 1,319 cfs
- Groundwater flows have declined by almost 200 MGD or 20%



Existing Local and Regional Groundwater Uses Will Need to be Reduced by 150 MGD to Restore Protective Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Spring Flows



An Affordable Solution is Available:

- Place a cap and fee on all groundwater withdrawals; and
- Utilize the revenue from these “Aquifer Protection Fees” to protect vulnerable lands in the springshed.



Ichetucknee River
Jenny Adler photo