

Wrap Up

Nutrient Effects on Springs Biota Workshop

Aug 21, 2007

The Springs Conference (FDEP) in October was cancelled.

There will be a springs session in the **Water Institute Symposium** in February (see <http://www.treeo.ufl.edu/conferences/water/>)

It was suggested that we should meet again as a group before the February Water Institute Symposium. The team will work on this. Suggested time slot would be early to mid November. More soon.

It was suggested, and the group concurred, that a meeting with policy makers from various levels of government would be important to develop buy-in as well as to glean ideas and recommendations regarding policy needs for effective springs management.

We need to take an adaptive approach that explicitly recognizes the uncertainty associated with all management actions and incorporates scientific efforts to test, evaluate and improve them. It is imperative that we continue to collect data, analyze it and make sure we have the ability to adapt the management approach and even the regulatory framework as needed. Management and research need to develop a “learning loop” that drives research and improves management as new data appears.

The suggestion was made and accepted to put links to the gray literature we collect for the research community.

Discussion ensued regarding the fact that there has been a lot of data collected with no retrospective analysis. It was suggested that retrospective analysis might be the next step after this current project.

It was suggested that long term data from a variety of springs would be excellent data base. The idea would be to capture, and tease out, nutrient effects, physical impacts, invasives, etc. Further discussion suggested that next steps might begin with assembling all the existing historical data and cluster to see how many springs of what type we have data for.

A second workshop oriented toward policy makers was suggested

If desirable/possible, conduct another "science" workshop

Next Steps:

1. Send questionnaire to attendees to collect more input
2. Convene an afternoon session about formulating policy
3. Collate electronic questionnaires and provide feedback on responses
4. Discuss planning of future science and policy workshops