

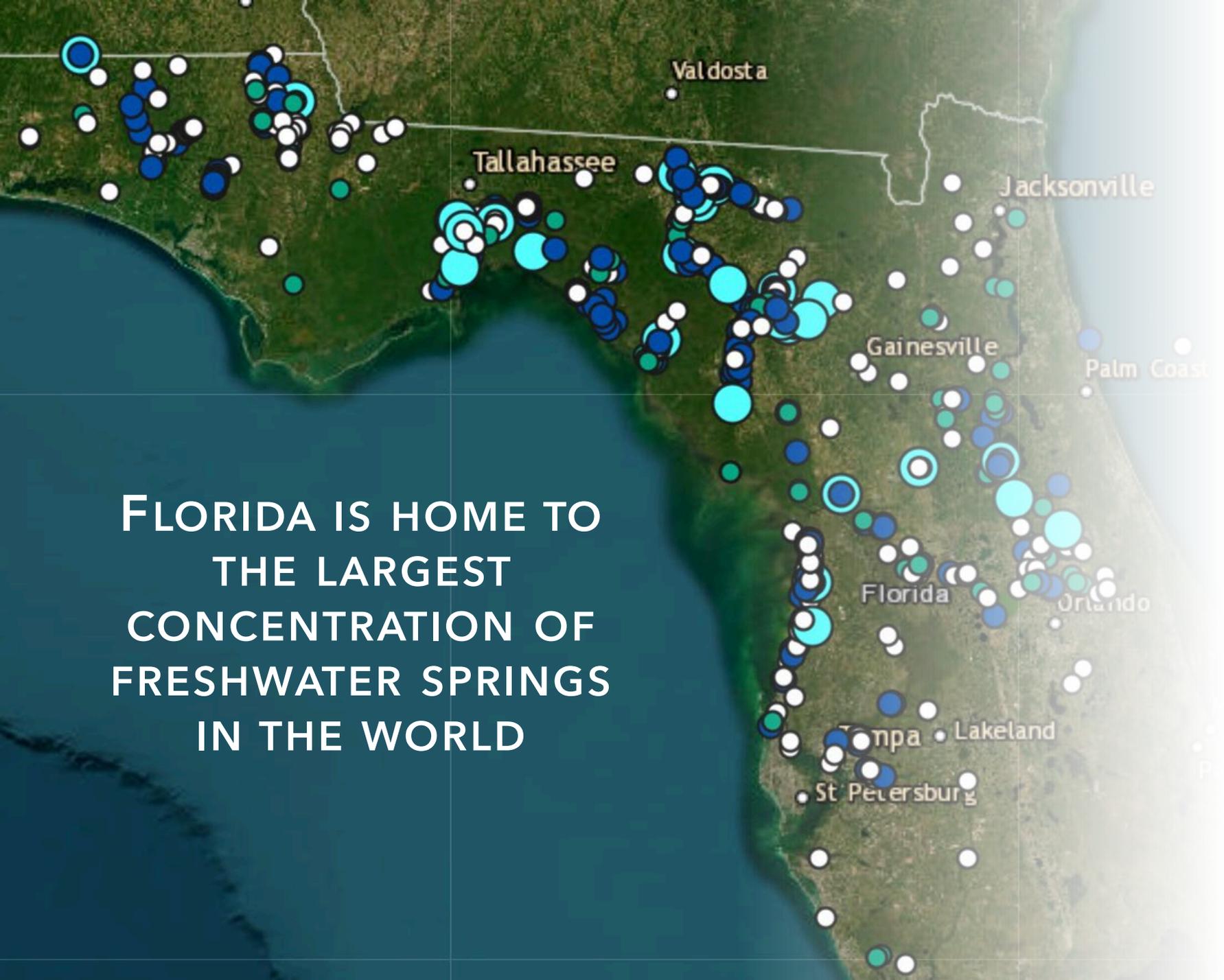
# FLORIDA SPRINGS NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Stakeholder Information Session

Hosted by:



Howard T. Odum  
**FLORIDA  
SPRINGS  
INSTITUTE**

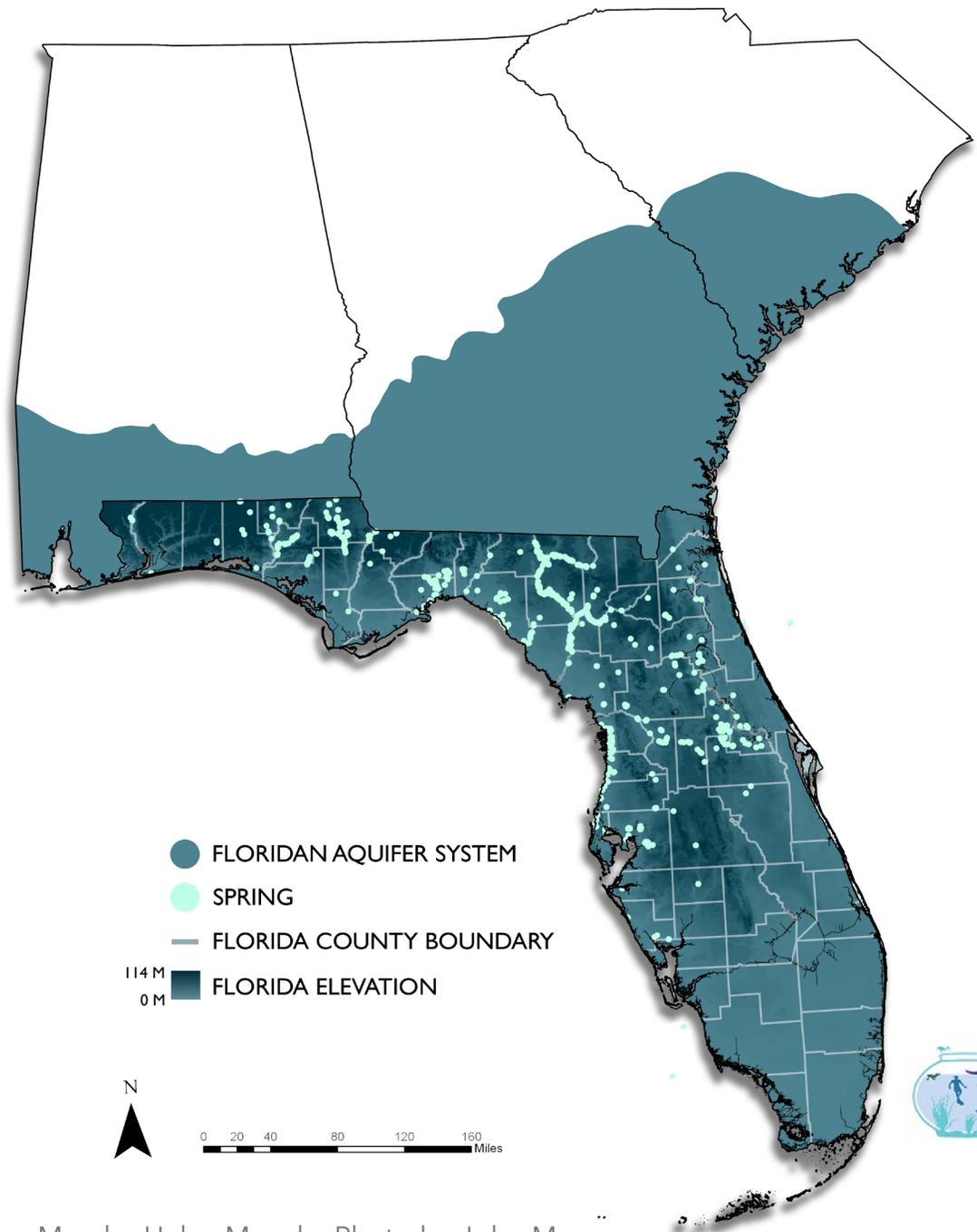


**FLORIDA IS HOME TO  
THE LARGEST  
CONCENTRATION OF  
FRESHWATER SPRINGS  
IN THE WORLD**

- Over 10 BGD of water pour out of 1,000+ springs every day
- Spring flow contributes more than 50% of historic average river flows:
  - Suwannee River - 3,730 MGD
  - St. Johns River - 1,275 MGD
  - Apalachicola River - 618 MGD

# THE FLORIDAN AQUIFER

- Formed over 30 million years ago, the Floridan Aquifer is a complex system of tunnels and caverns
- Groundwater provides the source water for our springs and the drinking water for over 90% of Florida's residents and visitors

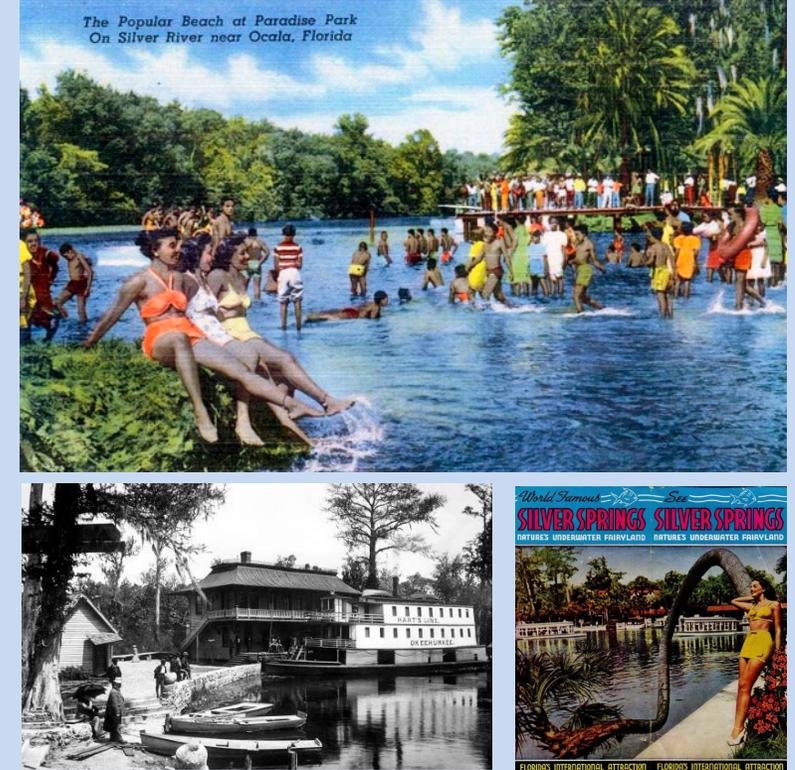
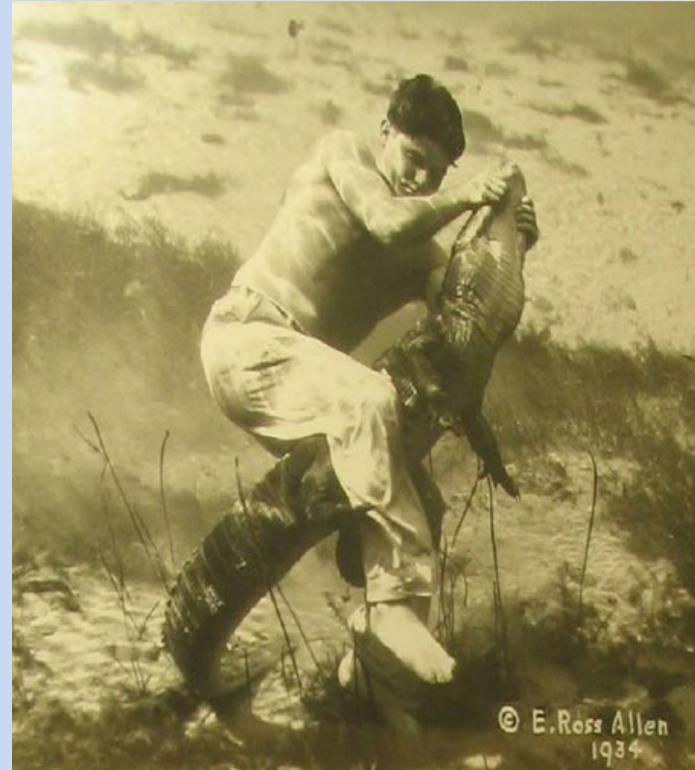
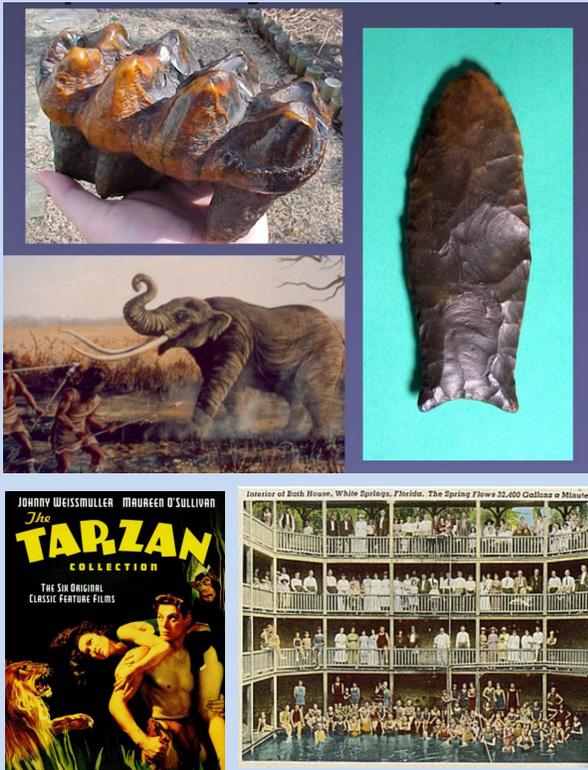


# THE FLORIDAN AQUIFER'S UNIQUE GEOLOGY



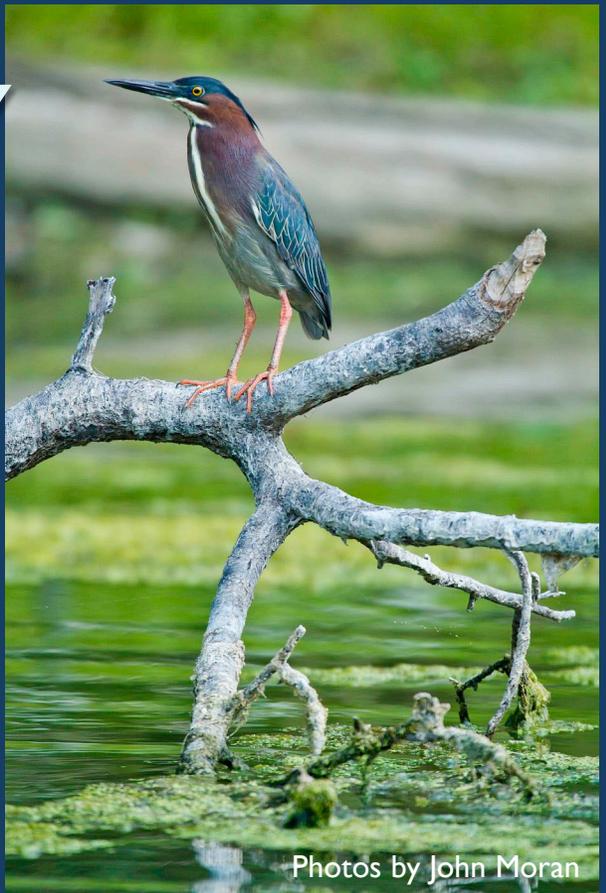
Photo by John Moran

# SPRINGS EMBODY FLORIDA'S CULTURAL ORIGINS





# SPRINGS SUPPORT UNIQUE ECOLOGY





# SEARCH FOR NATIONAL RECOGNITION

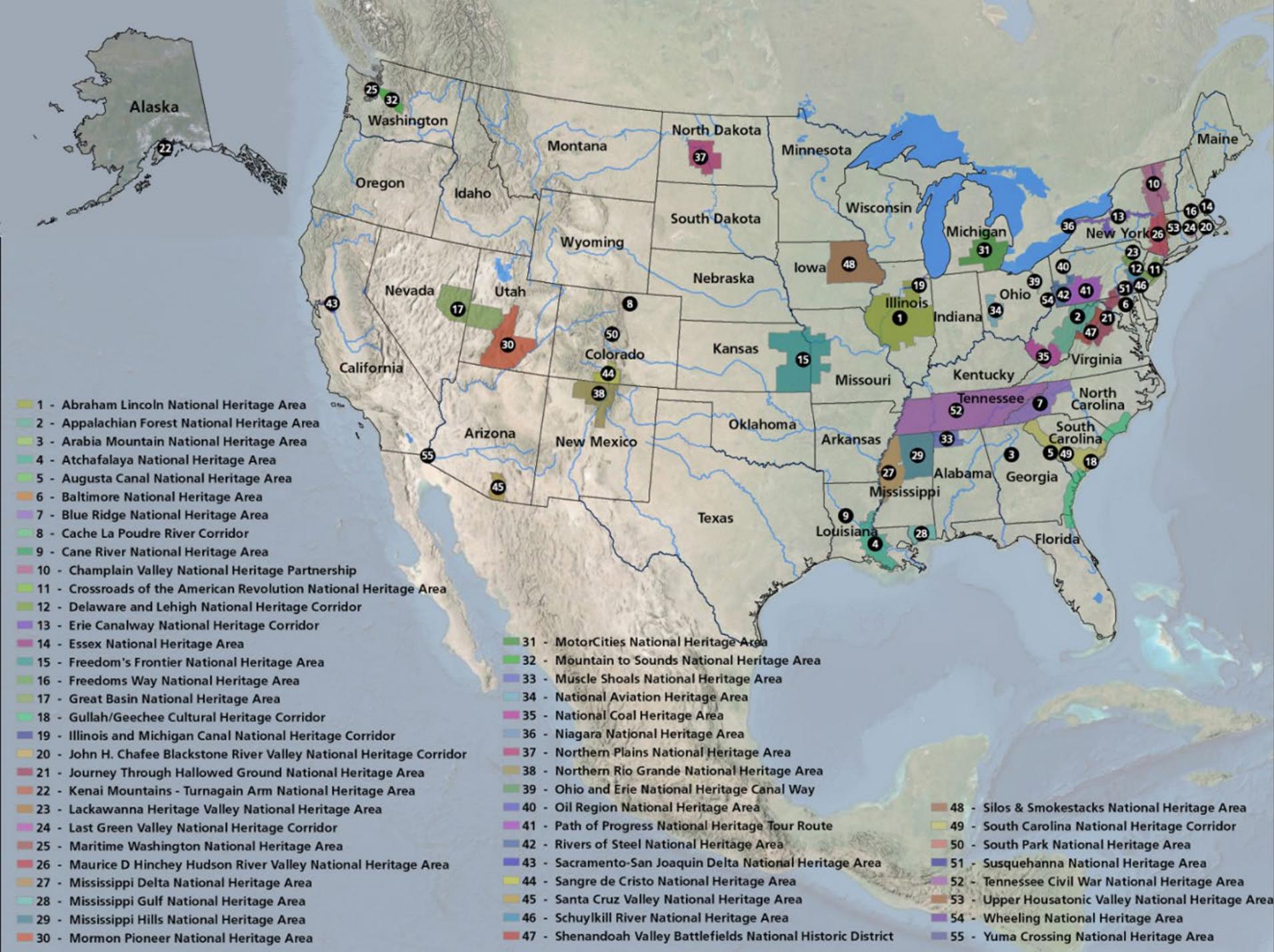
Over the last 4 years, FSI has been looking for a suitable national designation recognizing the importance of Florida's springs



# NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

PLACE-BASED, COMMUNITY DRIVEN CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THERE ARE  
62  
EXISTING  
NATIONAL  
HERITAGE  
AREAS



# NHA EVALUATION AND DESIGNATION

- Application
  - Feasibility Study
  - National Park Service Review
  - US Congress Approval
- Designation
  - Management Plan Development
- Evaluation
  - 10 to 15 years after designation, the NHA is evaluated

# MEETING THE NHA CRITERIA

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## Assessing the Region

Does the region tell a nationally important story?

How do the Florida springs contribute to, or exemplify a distinctive aspect of America's national heritage?

What American stories are being told in the area and why is the Florida Springs Region the best area to tell them?

## Support in the Region

Do opportunities exist for improving the quality of resources through conservation, recreation and education?

Is there an organization that has the capacity to coordinate the management of a National Heritage Area?

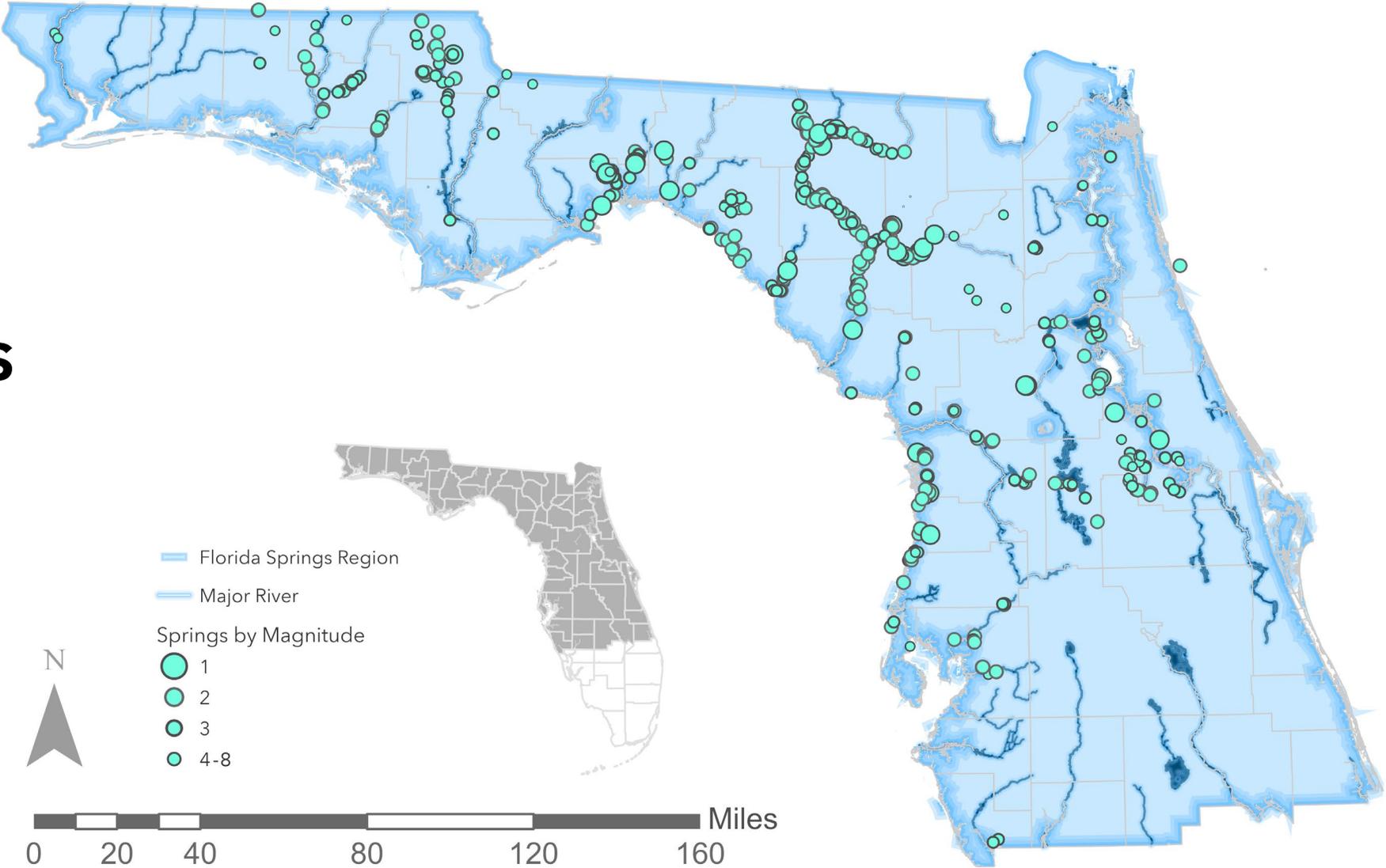
Is there public support for a National Heritage Area designation?

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a lush, green forest. The water is a vibrant turquoise color. Numerous people are enjoying the river, many on colorful inflatable tubes. One prominent tube is shaped like a unicorn. Other people are swimming in the water. The banks are lined with dense trees and vegetation, creating a serene and natural setting.

# WATER CONNECTS FLORIDA

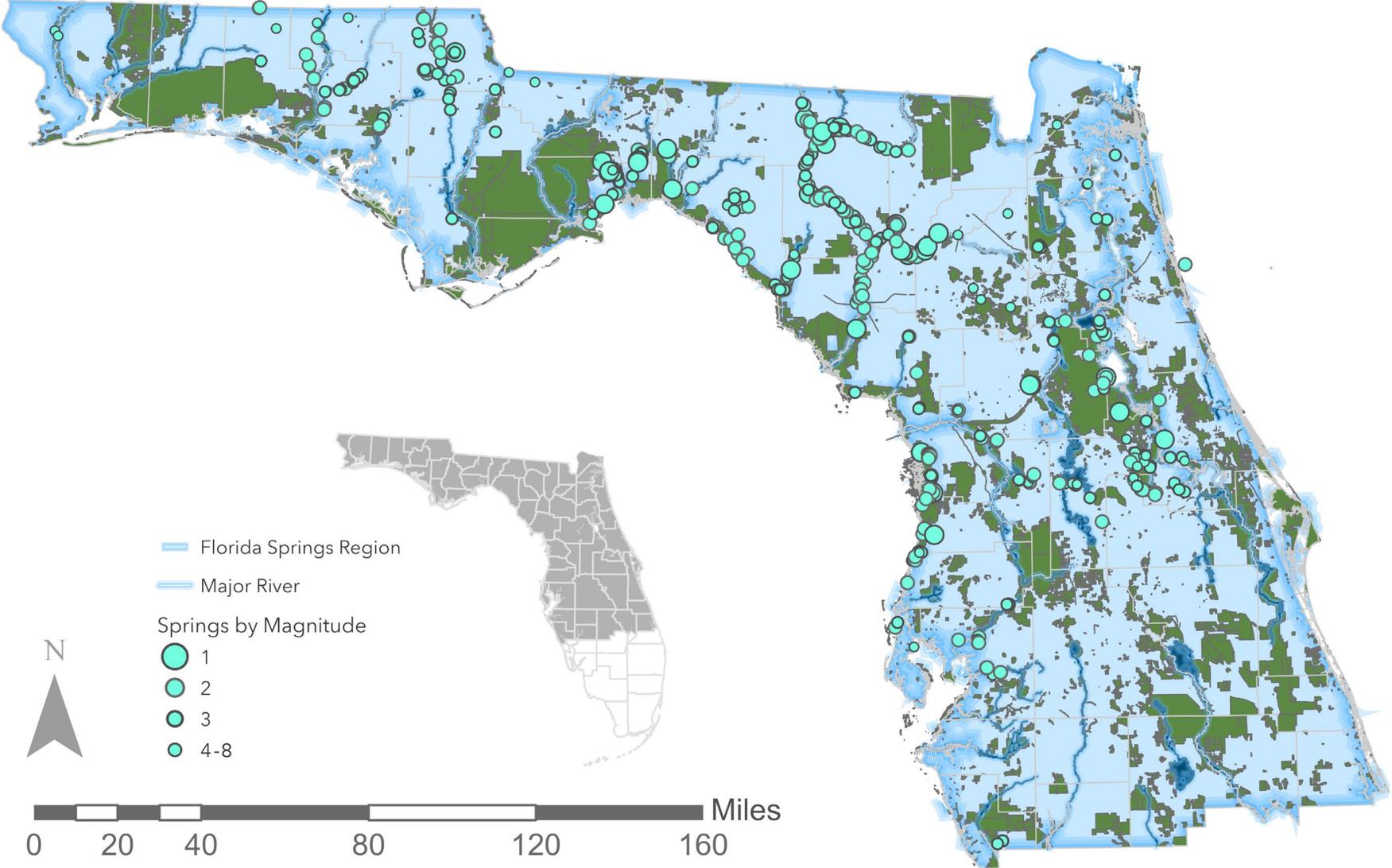
SPRINGS ARE ONE OF OUR NATION'S MOST UNIQUE AND  
PRECIOUS ECOSYSTEMS

# Proposed Florida Springs National Heritage Area



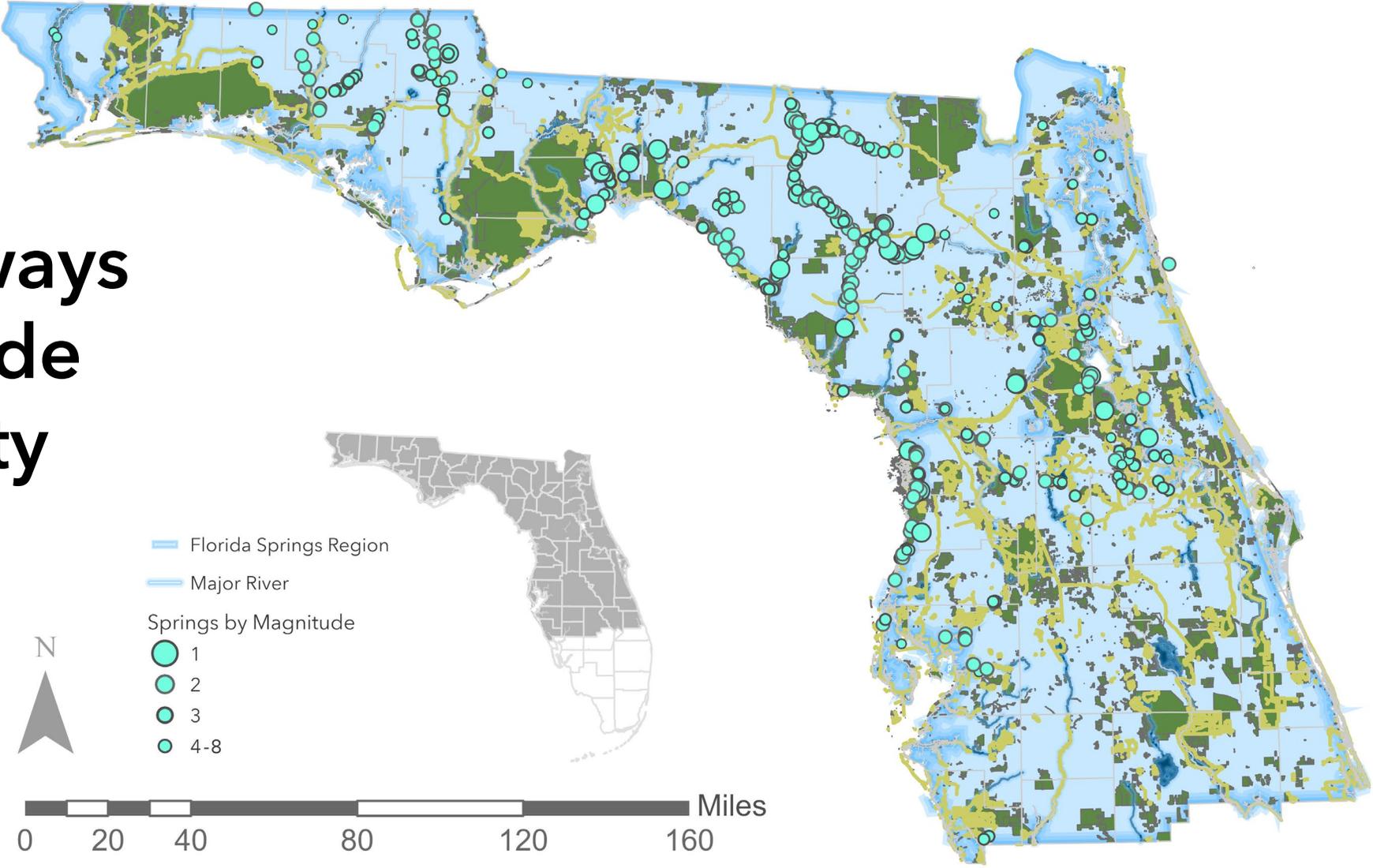
Data: FDEP, FGS, FSI. Map by: H.Moody, FSI.

**Conservation  
lands  
provide ample  
recreation  
opportunities**



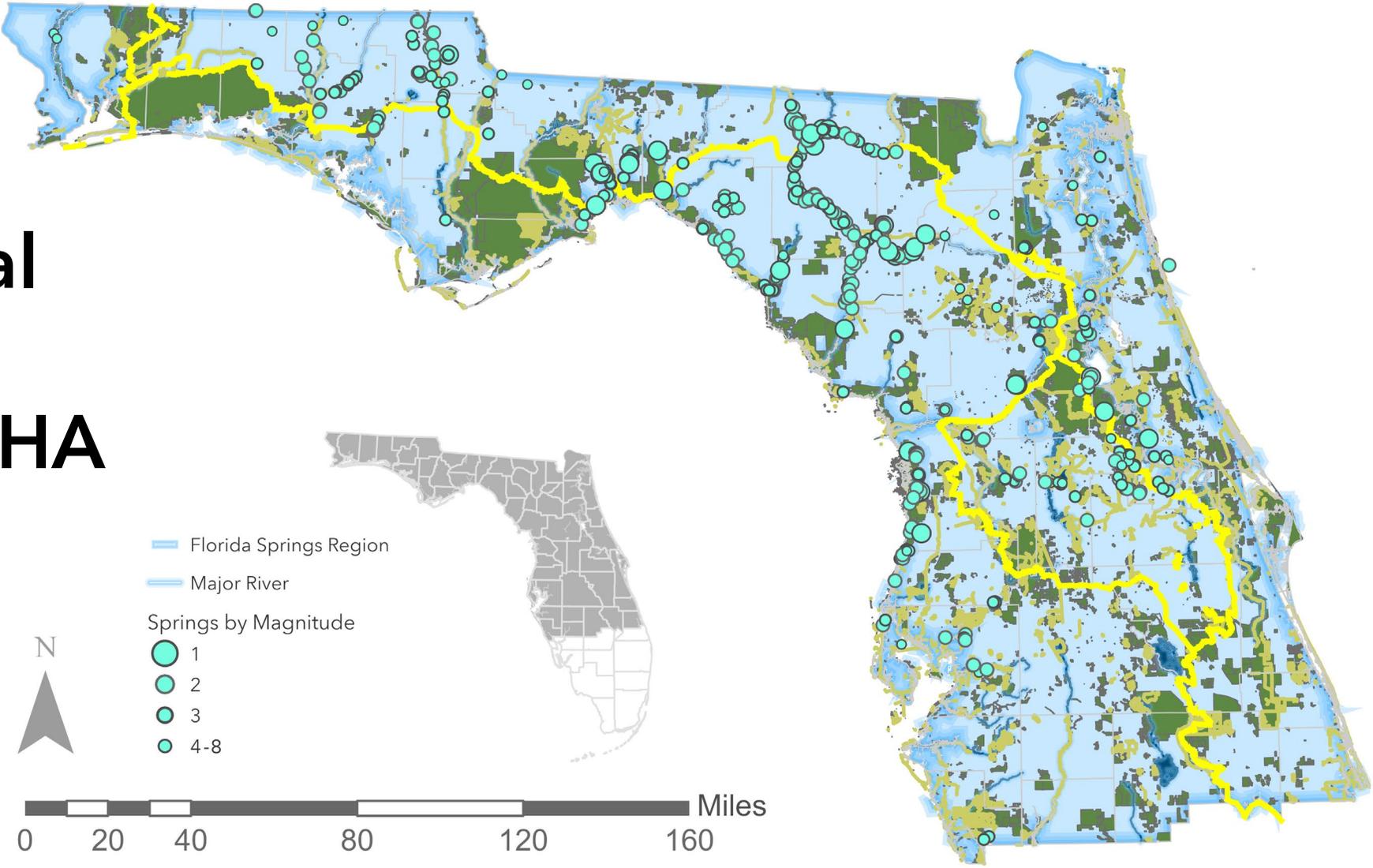
Data: FDEP, FGS, FSI. Map by: H.Moody, FSI.

# Florida Greenways and Trails provide and connectivity



Data: FDEP, FGS, FSI. Map by: H.Moody, FSI.

# Florida National Scenic Trail connects the NHA landscape



Data: FDEP, FGS, FSI. Map by: H.Moody, FSI.

# WILD FLORIDA

Florida offers endless opportunities for heritage tourism through its miles of hiking trails, paddling adventures, and underwater exploration.





# UNIQUELY FLORIDIAN

Currently, the direct economic value of Florida's springs is estimated to be over \$1 billion per year (FSI, 2018)

The overall annual economic impact of NHAs is \$12.9 billion which exceeds federal funding by as much as 5:1 (Umbach, 2012)



# COMMUNITY-DRIVEN, COMMUNITY SUPPORTED



- Why were you contacted?
- How do I get more involved?
- What are the next steps?

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A STAKEHOLDER?

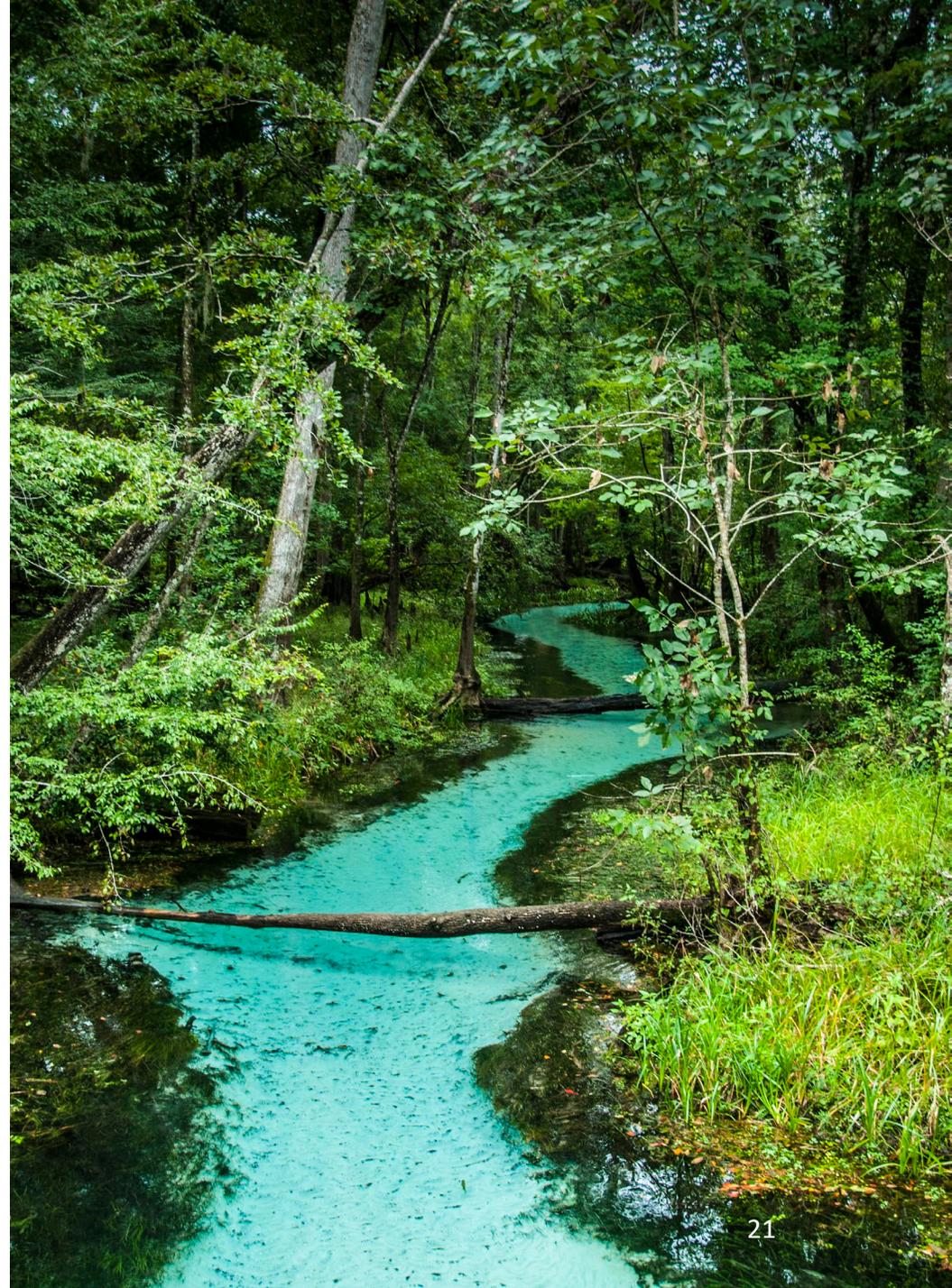
- Public involvement in the feasibility study is essential
- What could your role look like moving forward?
- Community input needs to be demonstrated through letters of support



# SUPPORTING THE LIFEBLOOD OF FLORIDA

- NHAs *PROMOTE* local resources and traditions
- NHAs *SUPPORT* existing tourism and conservation efforts
- NHAs are *COMMUNITY DRIVEN* by stakeholder collaboration

Photo by John Moran



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# FACILITATING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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## The Howard T. Odum Florida Springs Institute

Founded in 2010

501(c)(3) non-profit organization

*The mission of the Florida Springs Institute is to advance the stewardship, conservation, and restoration of Florida's freshwater springs and aquifers through sound science and education.*



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**THE FLORIDA  
SPRINGS  
NATIONAL  
HERITAGE AREA  
WILL CREATE  
COMMUNITY  
PRIDE AND HELP  
PRESERVE A  
UNIQUE  
CULTURAL  
RESOURCE**



Photo by David Schrichte

# FLORIDA SPRINGS WELCOME CENTER

High Springs, FL

STAY IN TOUCH!



Haley Moody  
Director

[HMOODY@FLORIDASPRINGSINSTITUTE.ORG](mailto:HMOODY@FLORIDASPRINGSINSTITUTE.ORG)

