



OFFICE OF AGRICULTURAL WATER POLICY

AGRICULTURE AND THE WAKULLA BMAP

Terry Pride, Holly Edmond, Rance Ellis
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Agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- Most effective and practicable means for improving water quality
 - *Determined through research, field-testing, and expert review*
- Adopted by FDACS, verified effective by FDEP
- Must be economically and technically feasible for the producer to implement
 - *When funding is available, FDACS works with producers to provide cost-share for some BMPs*



Current FDACS BMP Programs

Focus is on commercial Ag Operations

- ***Citrus*** – statewide manual adopted January 2013
- ***Vegetable/Row Crop*** – adopted 2005, under revision
- ***Container Nursery*** – adopted 2006, under revision
- ***Sod*** – adopted 2008
- ***Cow/Calf*** – adopted 2009
- ***Conservation Plan Rule*** – adopted 2010
- ***Specialty Fruit/Nut*** – adopted 2011
- ***Equine*** – adopted 2011



Agriculture's Role in BMAPs

- **Agricultural operations within BMAP areas have two options:**
 - **Enroll in and implement FDACS BMPs**
 - **Follow a FDEP- or WMD-prescribed water quality monitoring plan at their own expense**

Failure to do either could result in enforcement action by FDEP or the applicable WMD



Addressing Ag Loadings

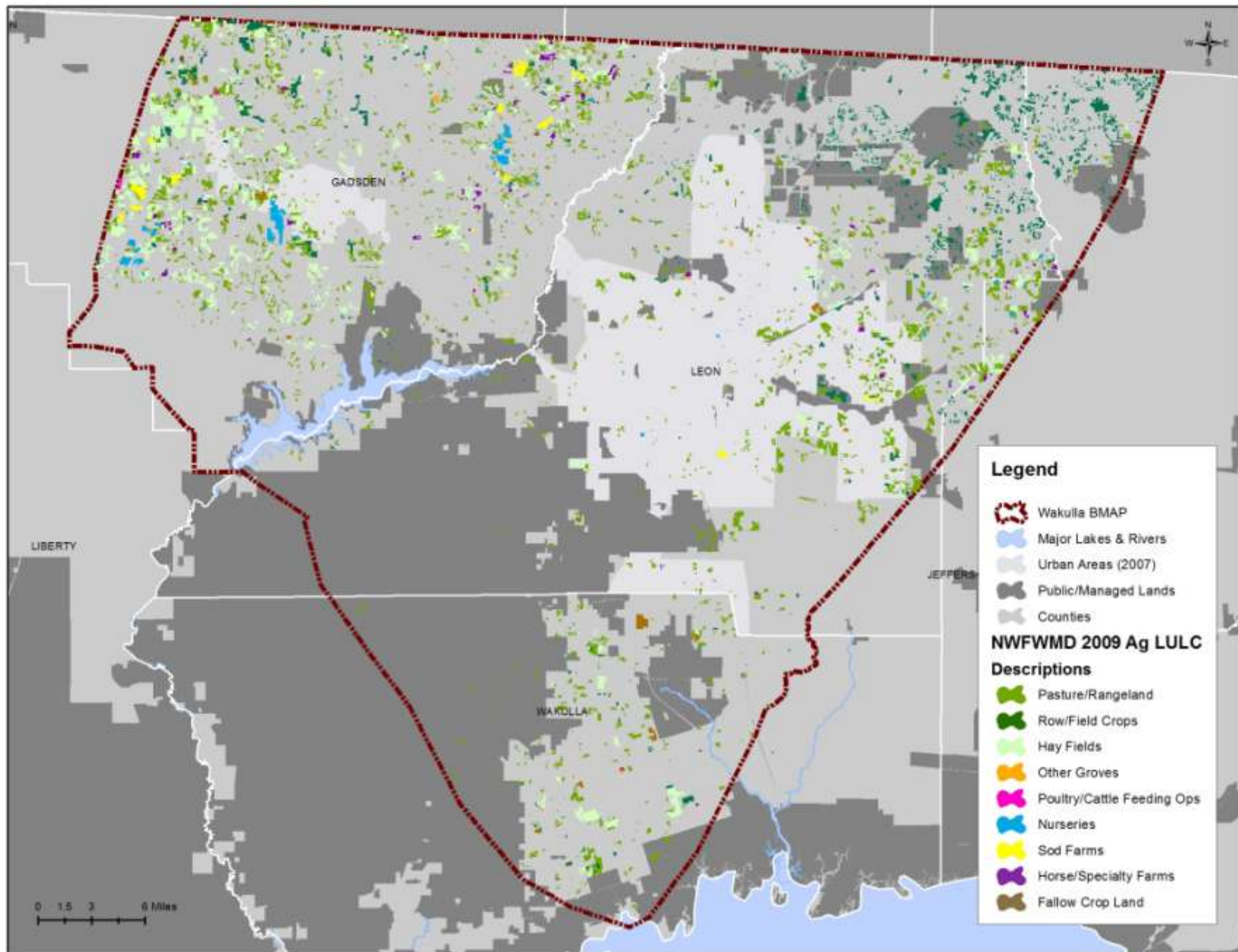
- **FDACS will work with remaining agricultural operations to increase BMP enrollment/implementation**
- **FDACS staff will evaluate where to focus efforts, either geographically or based on commodity**
- **If/when available, DACS will encourage producers to apply for cost-share funding to assist in the implementation of more costly BMPs**



Agricultural Acres

- Based on NFWMD land use/land cover from 2009
- Agricultural acres include all 2000-level codes and 3100 (rangeland) code
 - 64,244 acres (~8% of basin in 2009)
 - Majority of agricultural acres are in Gadsden County (~32,000 acres)

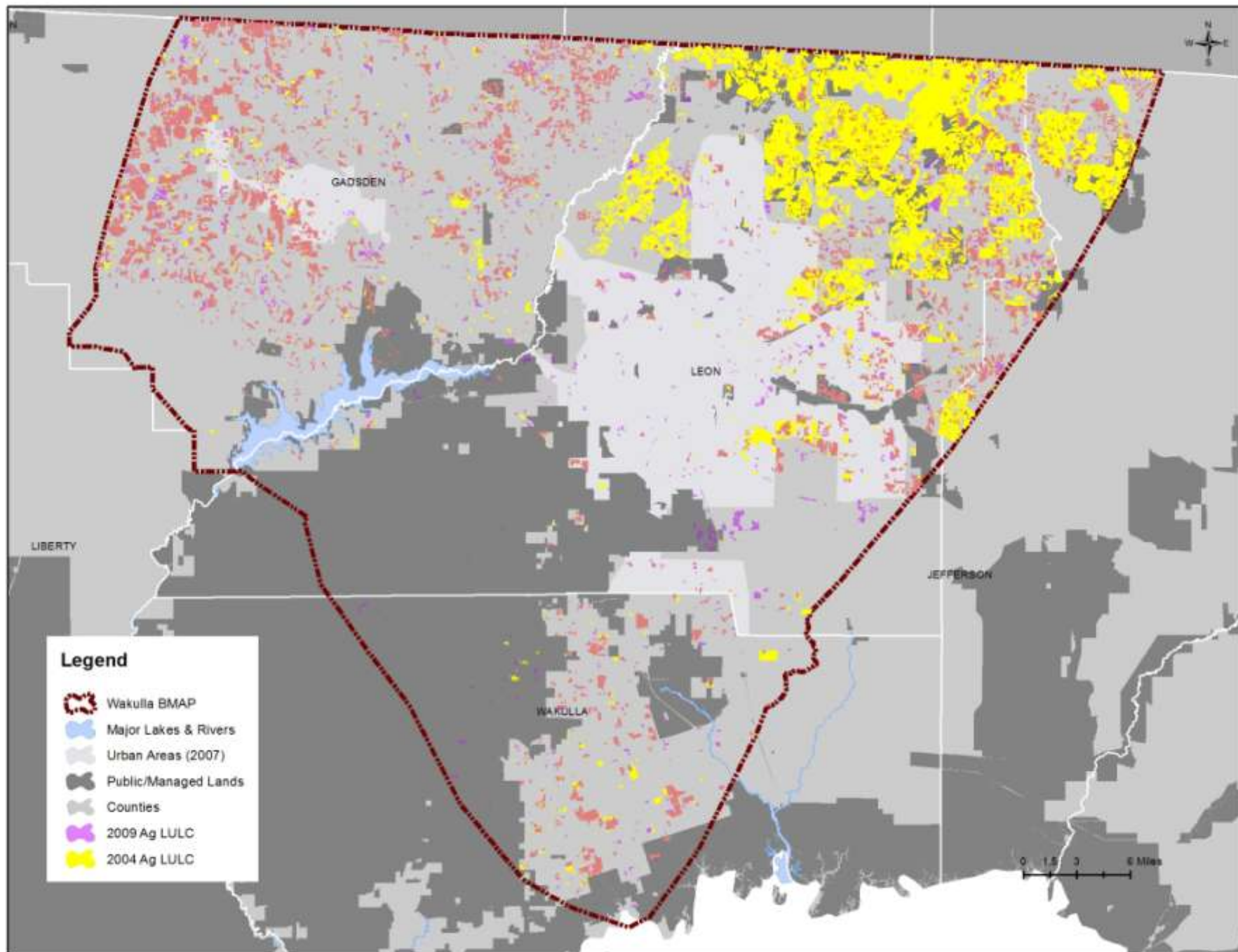




Agricultural Acreage Changes

- Significant land use changes since 2004
 - 2009 agricultural land use shows **decrease** of approximately 58,000 acres (48% of agricultural land) compared to 2004 land use
 - Nearly all acreage loss within Leon County (urban conversion and corrected classification to forested land)

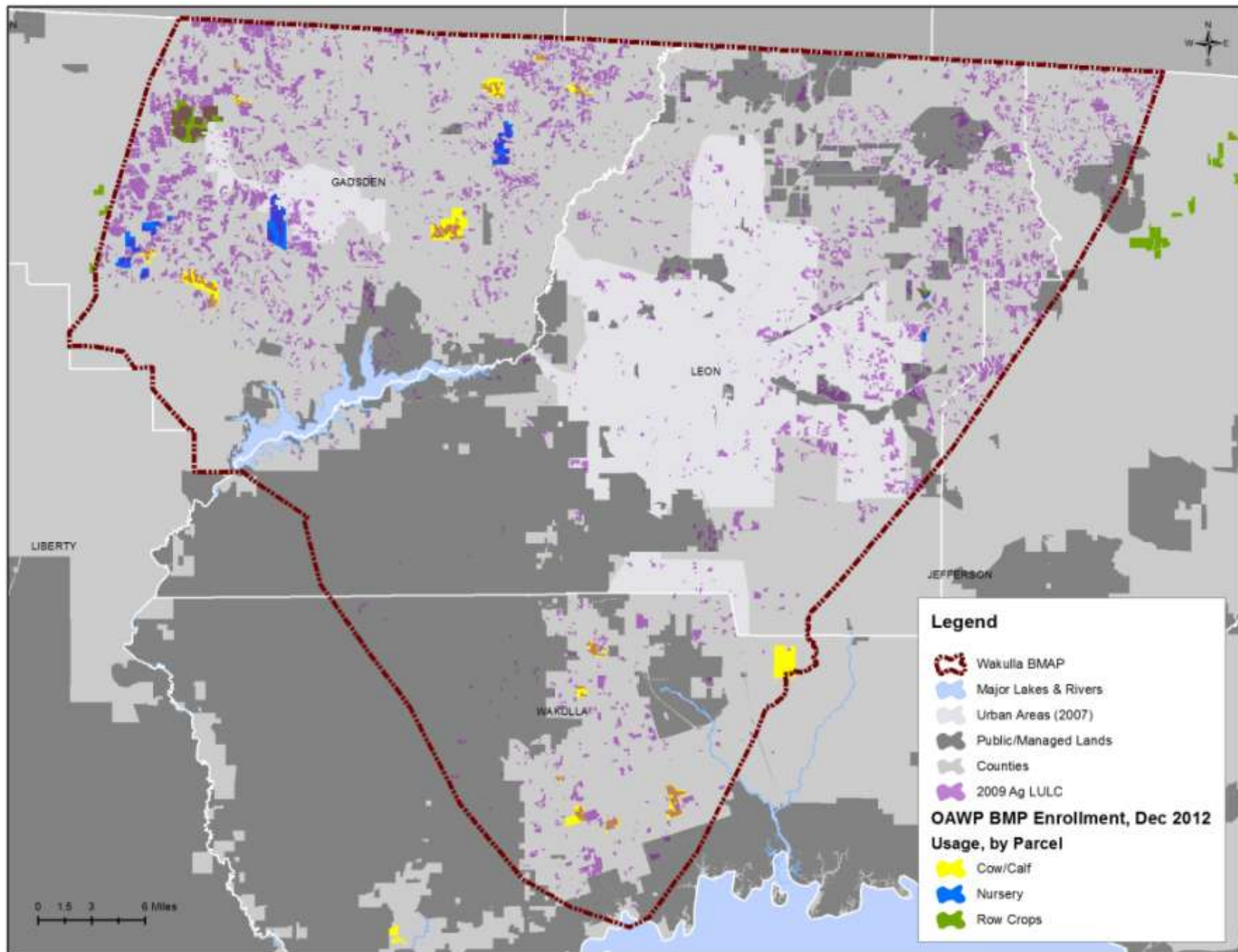




Current BMP Enrollment

- 7,208 acres enrolled basin-wide
 - 2,752 acres of container nurseries
 - 1,467 acres of row crops
 - 2,988 acres of cow/calf





Load Reduction Estimates – Best Management Practices

- On average, agricultural BMPs achieve an estimated 30% nutrient load reduction
 - Based on a 2008 SWET report on nutrient loading rates/reductions associated with BMP implementation



Typical Agricultural BMPs

- **Structural BMPs** - installation of structures or changes to the land, often require cost share to be economically feasible (e.g., water control structures, fencing, and tailwater recovery)
- **Management BMPs** - irrigation/nutrient management, comprise the majority of the practices and often are not readily observable



Typical Agricultural BMPs

- **Nutrient Management**

- Practices designed to provide necessary crop nutrients while protecting against adverse environmental effects
 - Soil testing, plant tissue testing to determine appropriate rates; fertilizer application timing and placement

- **Irrigation Management**

- Control the volume and frequency of irrigation water applied to crops, to meet water needs of crops while conserving water resources



BMP Assessment/Enrollment

- **FDACS staff assist farmers with enrollment through onsite review/assessment and selection of applicable practices**
- **Notice of Intent (NOI) is submitted along with checklist of BMPs to implement**
- **Producers who implement the applicable BMPs have a presumption of compliance with state water quality standards**



Questions?

For more information on BMP programs:

www.floridaagwaterpolicy.com





Thank You!

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www.FloridaAgWaterPolicy.com

Rance Ellis

850-394-9124

Terry Pride, Holly Edmond

850-617-1700

AgBMPHelp@FreshFromFlorida.com