

PROTECTING FLORIDA'S SPRINGS



PAULETTE BOND - 2002

FLORIDA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Water flowing from a spring begins with rainfall in the spring's recharge area. A small spring's recharge area may be a hundred acres but a large spring's recharge area may be over two hundred square miles.

Rainwater travels through soil and other materials into the limestone and moves slowly through the limestone eventually finding fractures and caves to follow to the spring.

Certain human activities in the recharge area cause pollution that is carried through the soil by rainwater. The pollutants including bacteria, fertilizer, pesticides, gasoline and other chemicals from stormwater will eventually reach the spring.

Wells in the recharge area, which pump water for irrigation and drinking water, are reducing the flow of many springs.

Careful land use planning and sensitive land stewardship can avoid or reduce pollution in spring recharge areas.

For further information contact the Florida Geological Survey, 903 W. Tennessee St., Tallahassee, Florida, 32304; Ph. (850) 488-9380; <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/geology>

