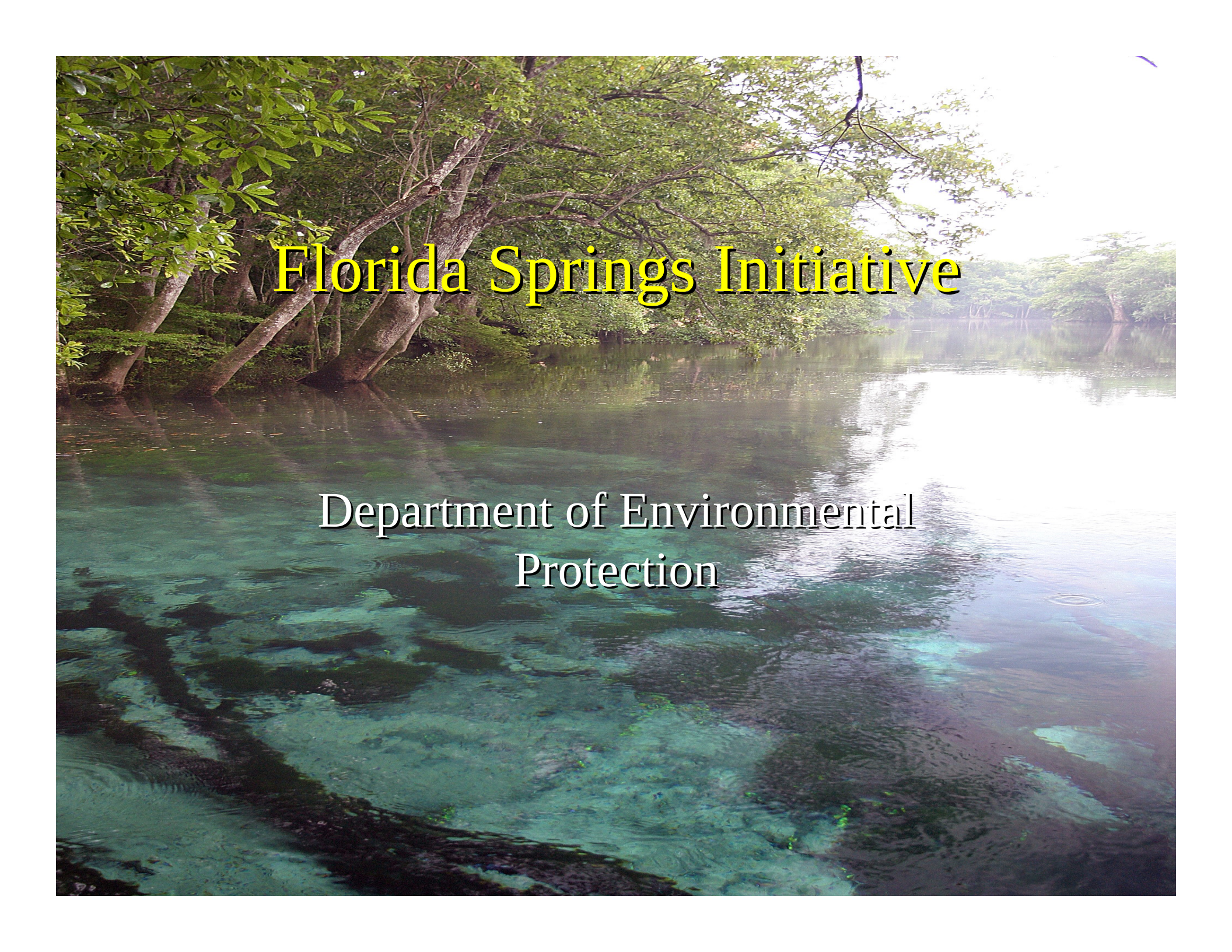




Florida Springs Initiative

Department of Environmental
Protection

Purpose of Initiative

- Enhance understanding of Florida springs.
 - Creation of educational material.
 - Distribution of material within the local community.
- Stop degradation of water quality and loss of spring flow.
- Begin restoration of the springs to their former health.

Program History

- Initiative guided by the November 2000 report submitted by the Springs Task Force.
- Established in 2001 by Governor Jeb Bush.
- Funding for first two years at \$2.5M per year.
- Initiative is currently funded for a third year at \$2.4M.

Use of Funds

- Consideration of funding is based on three categories:
 - Research and Monitoring.
 - Landowner assistance.
 - Education.

Research and Monitoring

- In first two years, 25 research and monitoring projects were completed at a cost of \$4,052,088.
- Projects Included:
 - Quarterly discharge and water quality monitoring at select first and second magnitude springs.
 - Study on impact of nitrates on mosquito fish and apple snails.
 - Recharge basin delineation of first magnitude springs.
 - Working with water management districts to development minimum flow levels for springs per Florida Statute XXVIII, Natural Resources Conservation Reclamation and Use Chapter 373.042.

Landowner Assistance

- In first two years, 25 landowner assistance projects were completed at a cost of \$1,383,450.
- Projects included:
 - Restoration of Alexander, Fanning and Ichetucknee Springs.
 - Septic system upgrades at several springs state parks.
 - Formation of community working groups at Silver Springs, Wakulla Springs and the Santa Fe River region.
 - Funding for Economic Impact Study; more than \$68 million are spent in the local communities at Volusia Blue, Wakulla, Ichetucknee and Homosassa Springs, by visitors to the spring.
 - Funding for sinkhole cleanup program in Wakulla county.

Education

- In first two years, 35 educational projects were completed at a cost of \$910,000.
- Projects included:
 - Funding for film “Water’s Journey”.
 - Creation of Springs Website.
 - Revision of the “Springs of Florida” atlas.
 - Coordination of a Springs Conference with over 300 people in attendance.
 - Printing of springs protection pamphlets and lawn care booklets.

Current Funding and Projects

- Funding of \$2.4M for Fiscal Year 03/04.
- Projects include:
 - Continued septic system upgrades at several parks.
 - Restoration and erosion control at Manatee, and Wakulla springs.
 - Funding of Springs Ambassador program.
 - Continuation of citizen working groups.
 - Continuation of discharge, and water quality monitoring.
 - Cooperative effort with Department of Community affairs to develop model land use code for springsheds.
 - Development of “Best Management Practices” for golf courses in springsheds.
 - Completion of Florida Geological Survey Bulletin 66, “Springs of Florida” atlas.

Future Goals and Funding

- Springs Initiative funded for FY04/05 at \$2.5M
- Ensure continued funding for initiative.
- Create springs awareness campaign within local communities.
- Promote educational programs that focus on springs protection.
- Develop guidelines that assist communities in continued protection of springs.
- Preserve the springs for future generations.



Florida Springs Initiative

Protecting Nature's Gems