Aquifer Footprint Analysis

Aquifer Impacts

The ***Aquifer Footprint Analysis*** prepared by the Howard T. Odom Florida Springs Institute for The Nature Conservancy estimated groundwater use and nitrogen (N) loading from parcel information in the springs region. In Florida, areas with karst geology provide the highest recharge for the aquifer. This geology also creates Florida's famous springs, and many smaller springs.

Impacts for Groundwater Use and N-loading were estimated differently for

- Parcels 5 acres and larger outside of urban areas
- Parcels less than 5 acres outside urban areas
- Urban areas

Groundwater use and N-loading estimates were combined to form a 'footprint' of the impact of the parcel on the aquifer.

Background

The Floridan aquifer is the major source of drinking water for millions of Florida residents. While it is replenished by rain water, expanding development has reduced the natural land cover that recharges it. These changes, combined with increasing water demand from Florida's growing population, has reduced the quality of groundwater as well as reducing its quantity.

Aquifers Application

The Aquifers application presents the results of the *Aquifer Footprint Analysis*, which spatially represent the impacts in the springs region. The data for the impact estimates can be examined in context with other relevant data layers and base maps.