

seem to be nearly as severe in Georgia, at least in the Suwannee River Basin. Nonetheless, we commend this goal:

Long Term Goal 4: Reduce nutrient loads from agriculture sources.

We have at least one section of our Little River which appears to have chronic agricultural sediment, so we commend this goal:

Long Term Goal 5: Reduce sediment loads from agriculture nonpoint sources.

Urban

Clearcutting of woods and destruction of riparian buffers for developments and roads and impermeable surfaces for roads and parking lots and buildings appear to be significant contributors to the flooding and sewage spill problems seen in recent years in Valdosta, but also in Tifton, Quitman, and elsewhere. Many of the urban goals in the Plan may help with this problem.

Pipelines

A problem that crosses urban and rural boundaries, involving clearcutting, impermeable surfaces, soil mixing, erosion, and hydrologic and habitat modification, including introduction of invasive species, is natural gas and petroleum products pipelines. <http://wwals.net/?p=42961> Their construction produces many of these problems, and their maintenance exacerbates them, with mowers and other equipment carrying invasive species and sometimes causing erosion.

Some of these same issues are caused by other utilities such as electric power lines, but pipelines, unlike power lines, involve digging through the ground and under rivers.

Surface Mining is perhaps the most similar topic that already appears in the Plan. Pipelines are somewhat similar to very long, thin surface mines.

For these reasons I recommend adding a section on Pipelines, with Goals similar to those for Surface Mining.

Water Quality Monitoring

A recent development in Florida is that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), to its monthly water quality monitoring that already including testing for fecal coliform, pH, and dissolved oxygen, has added DNA analysis and markers for human sewage. This is at least for four locations in the Suwannee River Basin, at the state line on the Withlacoochee and Alapahoochee Rivers, and at the confluences of the Withlacoochee and Alapaha Rivers with the Suwannee River. There is some possibility that two other weeks during each month will also be monitored similarly. This information came in a meeting FDEP requested with Waterkeepers Florida in Orlando on April 15, 2019.

This new monitoring should be very useful in determining when fecal coliform and E. coli found in these rivers comes from a human point source such as a wastewater