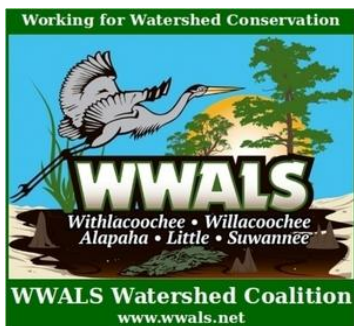


July 17, 2019



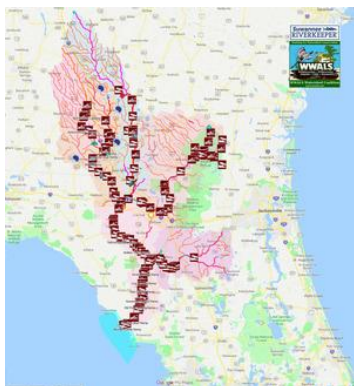
Julia Widmann
jwidmann@waterkeeper.org
Gulf and South Atlantic Organizer
Waterkeeper Alliance

Re: Please add Santa Fe River HUC 03110206 to Suwannee Riverkeeper territory

Dear Julia,



When WWALS Watershed Coalition applied in 2016 for the license for Suwannee Riverkeeper, we deliberately excluded the Santa Fe River sub-basin from the territory we requested. We did this because there is an organization in that sub-basin whom we thought might want to become a Waterkeeper. After extensive discussions with three successive presidents of that organization, and several of their board, it is clear they do not intend to do that.



Meanwhile, Suwannee Riverkeeper has already been acting as the Waterkeeper for the Santa Fe River for years, for example in opposing a proposed phosphate mine there, <http://wwals.net/issues/phosphate-mining/>, and now in opposing a titanium mine near the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia that wants to send ore for processing into the Santa Fe Basin in Florida. <http://wwals.net/?p=49677>

For these reasons, the Board of Directors of WWALS Watershed Coalition voted unanimously at its Quarterly Board Meeting on July 14, 2019, to ask Waterkeeper Alliance to add the Santa Fe River watershed, HUC 03110206, to the formal territory of Suwannee Riverkeeper.

PO Box 88, Hahira, GA 31632
850-290-2350
wwalswatershed@gmail.com
www.wwals.net

I will be happy to answer any questions you or anyone else with Waterkeeper Alliance may have about this request.

For the rivers and the aquifer,
John S. Quarterman,
Suwannee RIVERKEEPER®
229-242-0102
contact@suwanneeriverkeeper.org

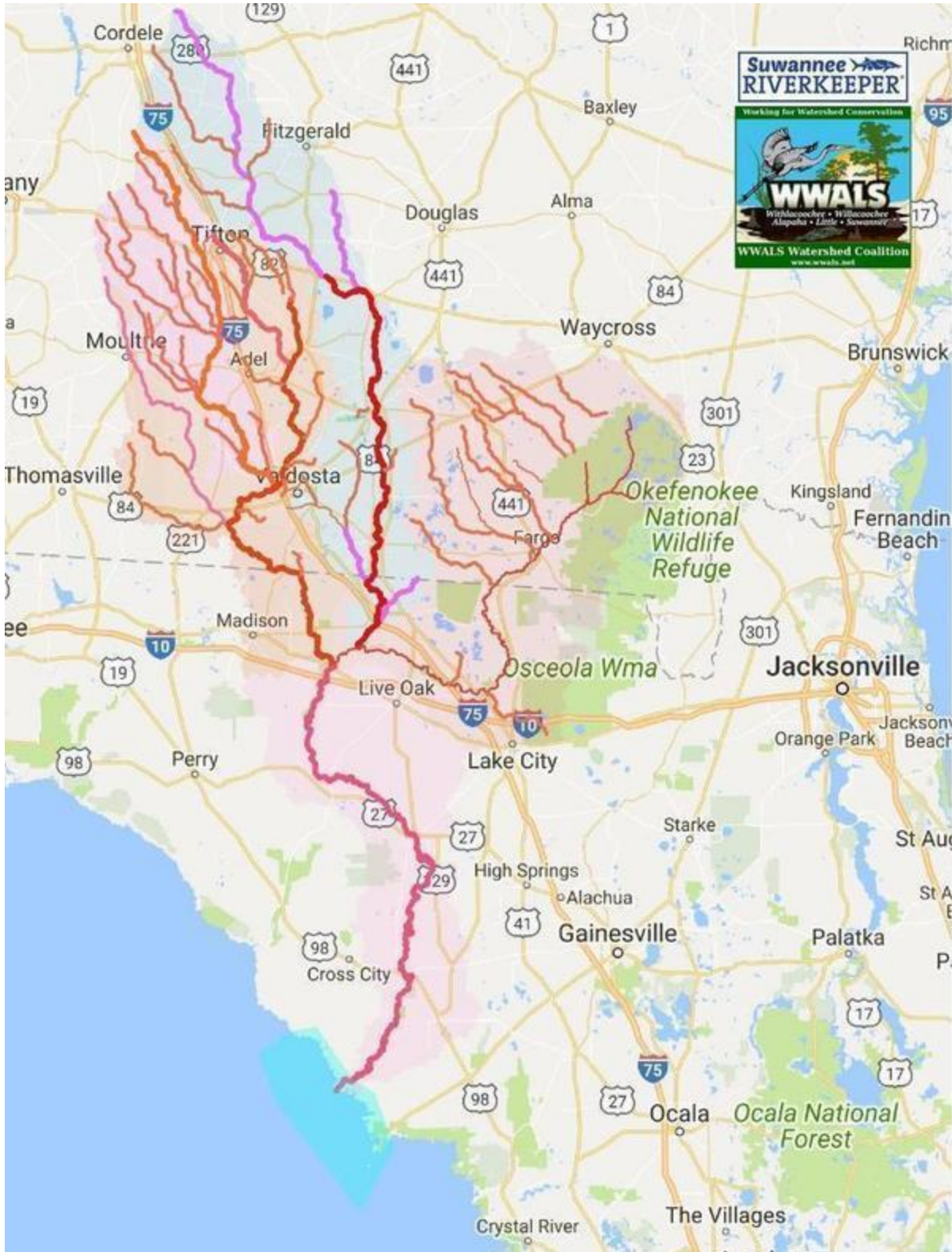
WWALS Watershed Coalition advocates for conservation and stewardship of the Withlacoochee, Willacoochee, Alapaha, Little, and Suwannee River watersheds in south Georgia and north Florida through education, awareness, environmental monitoring, and citizen activities.

Appendices: Current territory, requested total territory, and adjoining territories



Current Suwannee Riverkeeper Territory:

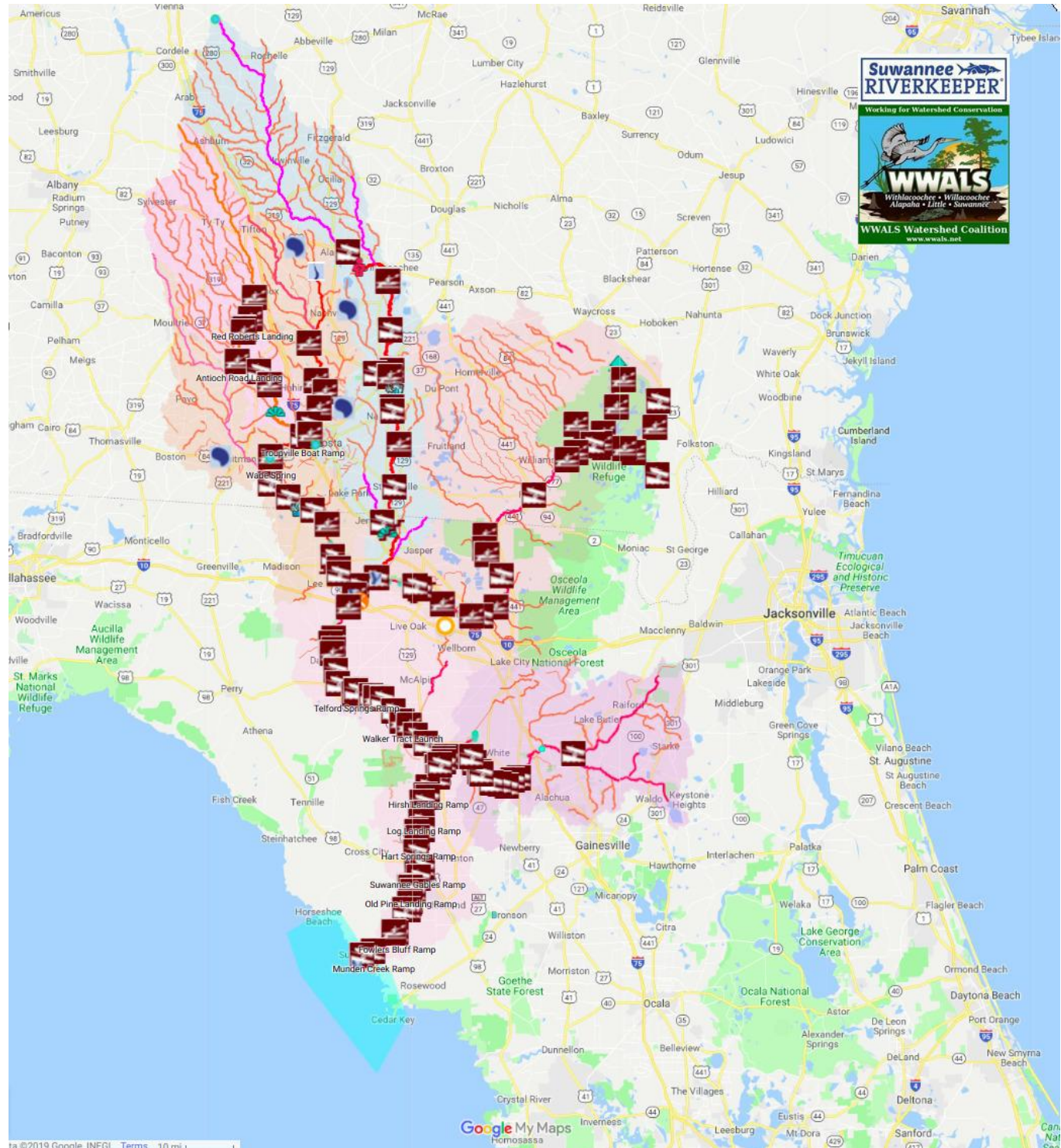
- HUC 03110203: Withlacoochee River
- HUC 03110204: Little River
- HUC 03110202: Alapaha River, including Willacoochee River
- HUC 03110201: Upper Suwannee River
- HUC 03110205: Lower Suwannee River
- Suwannee River Estuary



Requested total Suwannee Riverkeeper Territory:

- HUC 03110203: Withlacoochee River
- HUC 03110204: Little River
- HUC 03110202: Alapaha River, including Willacoochee River
- HUC 03110201: Upper Suwannee River
- HUC 03110205: Lower Suwannee River
- Suwannee River Estuary
- Add HUC 03110206 Santa Fe River (the purple-shaded area to the southeast)

This map also includes all the public boat ramps and landings in the Suwannee River Basin.



Adjoining Waterkeeper Territories:

I have spoken to each of Flint, Altamaha, Satilla, St. Mary's, and St. John's Riverkeepers, all of whom tell me they are in favor of this addition of the Santa Fe River sub-basin to Suwannee Riverkeeper territory.

There is no Waterkeeper for the Ochlockonee River to the west of us. Since it goes through Tallahassee, the capital and seventh largest city of Florida, in addition to Thomasville in Georgia, that river would be a great candidate for a new Waterkeeper organization.

Within HUC 0311, and thus within Florida's Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD), there are no Waterkeepers for the Aucilla, Wacissa, Econfinia, Fenholloway, or Steinhatchee River to the northwest, nor for the Wacassassa to the southeast. Because they are in SRWMD, and because their Florida counties have joined the Task Force to deal with Valdosta sewage, we deal with those counties frequently.

There is also no Waterkeeper for the Withlacoochee (south) River outside SRWMD to the south, although we have some quite active members from that last watershed.

