

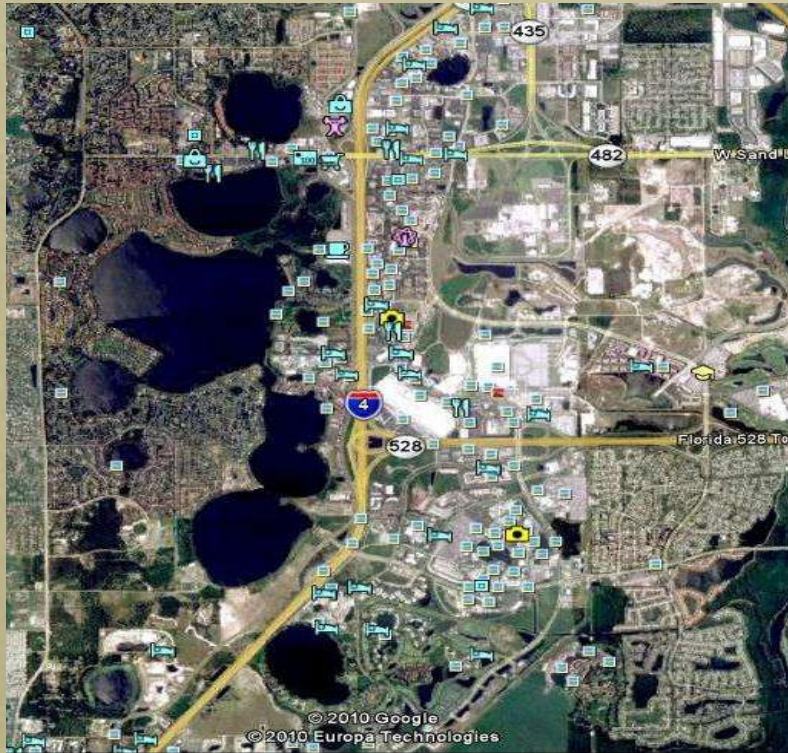
Aquatic Restoration Prioritization and Evaluation Tool (ARPET)



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
Bryant Building, 620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

NEED FOR ARPET

1. Limited resources
2. Defendable approach to funding!



MISSION

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Restoration Section (AHCR):

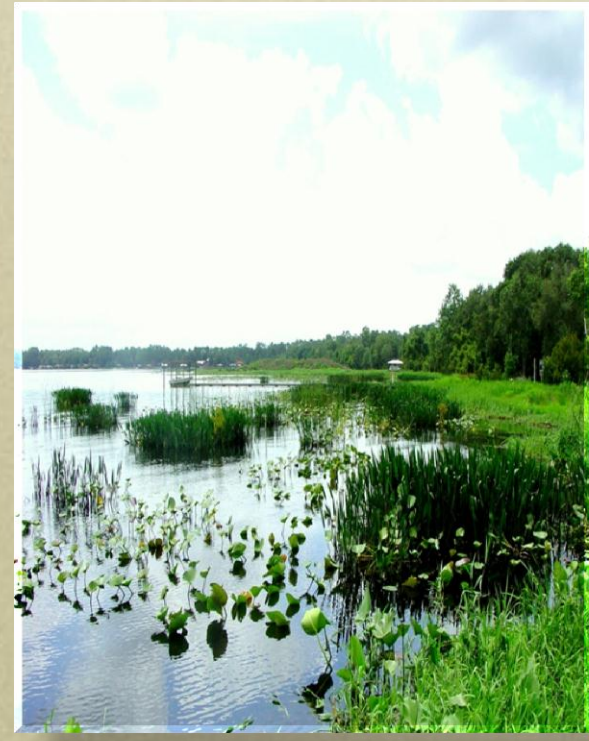
To preserve, enhance, and manage aquatic habitats for the long-term well being of fish & wildlife and for the benefit of the people of Florida.

- **AHCR principles**
 - Multi-disciplinary approach
 - Best available scientific data



PURPOSE

Develop an analytical process for identifying high priority water bodies for FWC aquatic habitat restoration and enhancement projects.



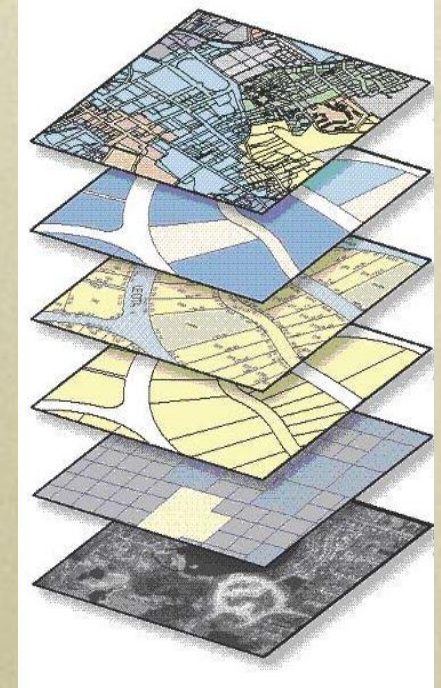
OBJECTIVES

1. Provide staff with the **best available data** for informed decision-making when identifying the most appropriate lakes for restoration.
2. Develop a **science-based ranking system** that ensures accountability in our decision-making process.



GIS METHODOLOGY

- **Literature Review**
- **Data Layer Search**
- **Collaborative Efforts**
 - Subject matter experts
- **Criteria for Inclusion**
 - Related to AHCR mission
 - Available and applicable data



ARPET FRAMEWORK

- **Public Lakes**
 - Minimum size 50 acres
 - Access
- **Categories**
 - Mission driven
- **Parameters**
 - Attributes of each category



SCORING/RANKING

- **Various Scoring Methods**
 - Binary Values
 - Buffers
 - Weighted Ranges
- **Priority Levels**
 - Jenks Analysis

**LAKE
SCORE**

=

**Socio -
Economics**

+

**Fish &
Wildlife**

+

**Management
Emphasis**



SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

PARAMETERS

- Boat Ramps
- Existing Recreational Trails
- Great Florida Birding Trails
- Fish Management Areas
- FWC Permitted Bass Tournaments
- Alligator Egg Collection Lakes
- Population (50 mile radius)



FISH & WILDLIFE POPULATIONS

PARAMETERS

- Lake Size
- Wetland Connectivity
- DFFM Priority Lakes
- USFWS Avian Focus Areas
- Snail Kite Priority Nesting Areas
- Alligator Management Units
- Threatened & Endangered Occurrence



MANAGEMENT EMPHASIS

PARAMETERS

- Outstanding Florida Waters
- Conservation Lands
- Trophic State Index
- Water Quality Restoration
- Managed Water Control Structures
- AHCR Funded Projects
- Invasive Plant Management Funded Projects



RESULTS

OVERALL PRIORITY RANKING

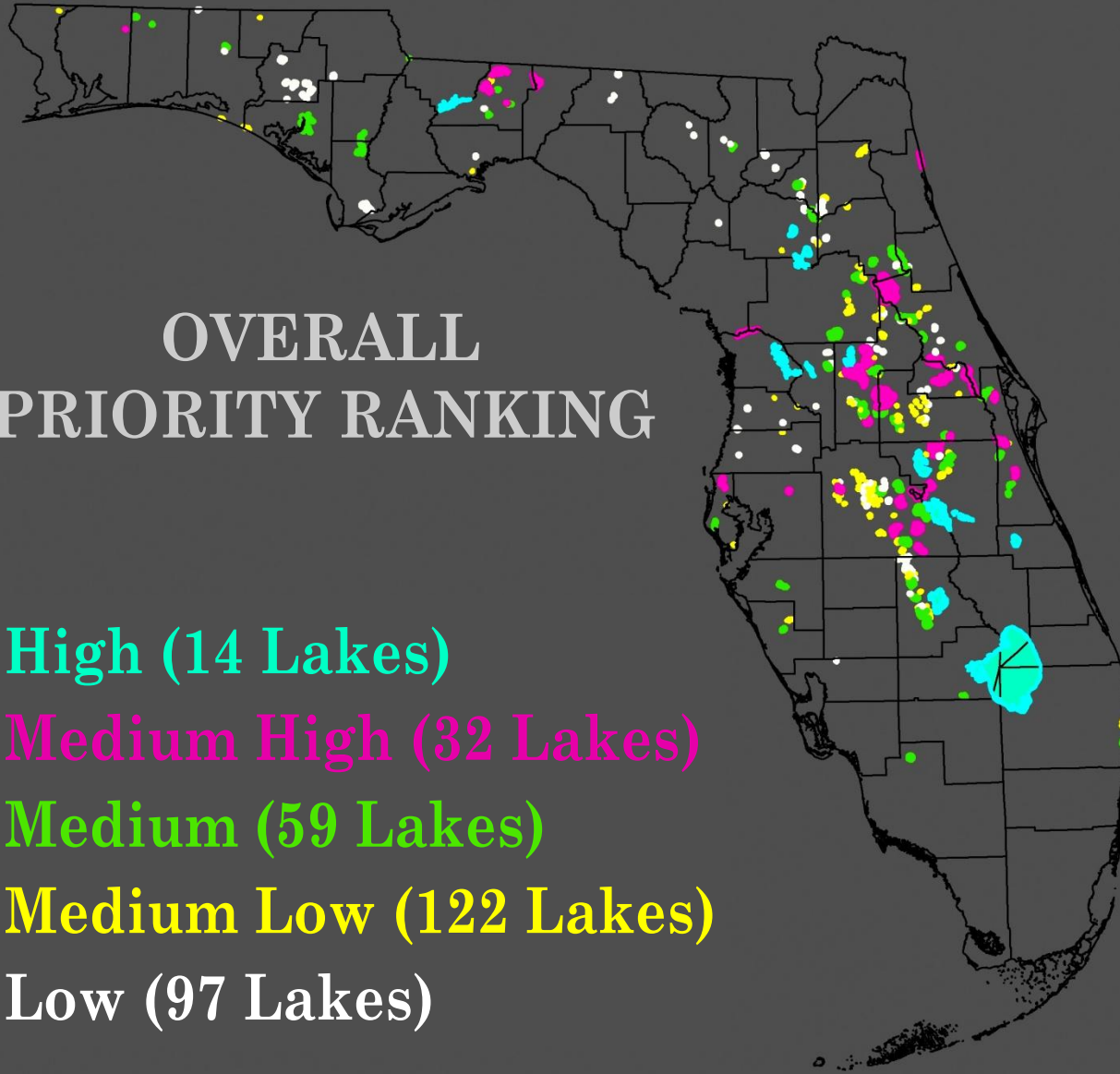
High (14 Lakes)

Medium High (32 Lakes)

Medium (59 Lakes)

Medium Low (122 Lakes)

Low (97 Lakes)



BENEFITS

1. Planning tool
2. Establishes credibility
3. Allows optimal choices for developing lake restoration projects
4. Increases communication and collaboration between agency staff and public stakeholders



SUMMARY



CONTACT INFORMATION

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