

Title: Factpages: web-based access to water quality information

Environmental scientists and engineers at the St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) are involved in many restoration and environmental monitoring projects located throughout the SJRWMD. One of the many functions performed by District staff is the acquisition and analysis of water quality monitoring data. Water quality data has been collected by research staff at the SJRWMD for many years. In the past, access by the public to data analysis and presentation has been confined to in-house technical publications, refereed journal publications, and conferences. With the advent of the internet, the SJRWMD has been moving towards internet access to data and reporting. In furtherance of that goal, the environmental assessment program at the SJRWMD has created a series of web-accessible fact pages, which are synopses of data and analysis for individual water quality monitoring stations located throughout the SJRWMD. The fact pages contain a plethora of information about each monitoring site, including photographs and basin characterization. In addition, maps of land use, population density, geology, physiography, rainfall, soils, elevation, and recharge are available. Finally, there is a section on water quality data analysis and a tabulated statistical data summary, as well as a link to raw data. The fact pages represent a leap forward in how the SJRWMD makes the results of its data collection and research available to the public, and further development of the fact pages is planned. Future plans include automated updates to the pages, as well as the inclusion of more information, such as status and trends in individual water quality constituents. It is anticipated that the fact pages will not only indicate specific locations where water quality is impaired, but will also improve public perceptions of water resource problems.