

# **Resource Management**

## **Florida Spring Glossary and Classification System**

*Rick Copeland*  
*Phone: 850-488-9380*  
*E-mail: rick.copeland@dep.state.fl.us*

### **Abstract**

In the spring of 2002, a number of Florida's hydrogeologists met in Ocala and discussed the significance and importance of protecting Florida's springs from contamination related to man's landuse activities. Many of the participants argued that in order to efficiently protect Florida's springs, a firm understanding of them is critical. It was decided that a glossary of spring terms should be developed. The Florida Geological Survey assumed the lead role in its development. The Survey organized a Spring Nomenclature Committee made up of representatives of governmental agencies, the state university system, hydrogeologists from around the state, and private citizens. The glossary consists of the most commonly used spring terms, along with their synonyms. Whenever possible, existing terminology was taken from professional dictionaries and glossaries. It is anticipated that the glossary will enable both the scientific community and the public to use a set of standardized terms. During the development stage of the glossary, it became apparent that a spring classification system should also be developed. This newly developed classification system is a model that enables one to envision the relationship of one spring to the others within the state. As it turns out, all of Florida's springs can be grouped into only a handful of different classes. This was fortunate in that it greatly reduces the complexity in the way we think of our springs.

---

### **About the Author**

Rick Copeland He received a B.S. and a M.S. in Geology from the University of Florida and a Ph.D. in Geology from Florida State University. He worked as a hydrogeologist with the Suwannee River Water Management District for several years where he conducted a variety of ground-water quality and quantity studies. Since 1984, he worked for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. During that time he administered a statewide surface-water and ground-water quality monitoring program,

and evaluated ground-water quality data. Currently he works in the Department's Hydrogeology Program at the Florida Geological Survey. He can be contacted at rick.copeland@dep.state.fl.us or 850-488-9380. Rick compiled the glossary and classification system, based on efforts of the Florida Springs Nomenclature Committee. The committee was made up of representatives from state and federal agencies, the Florida university system, the general public, and hydrogeology consultants.