

Diving deeper into our knowledge of Florida's underwater caves

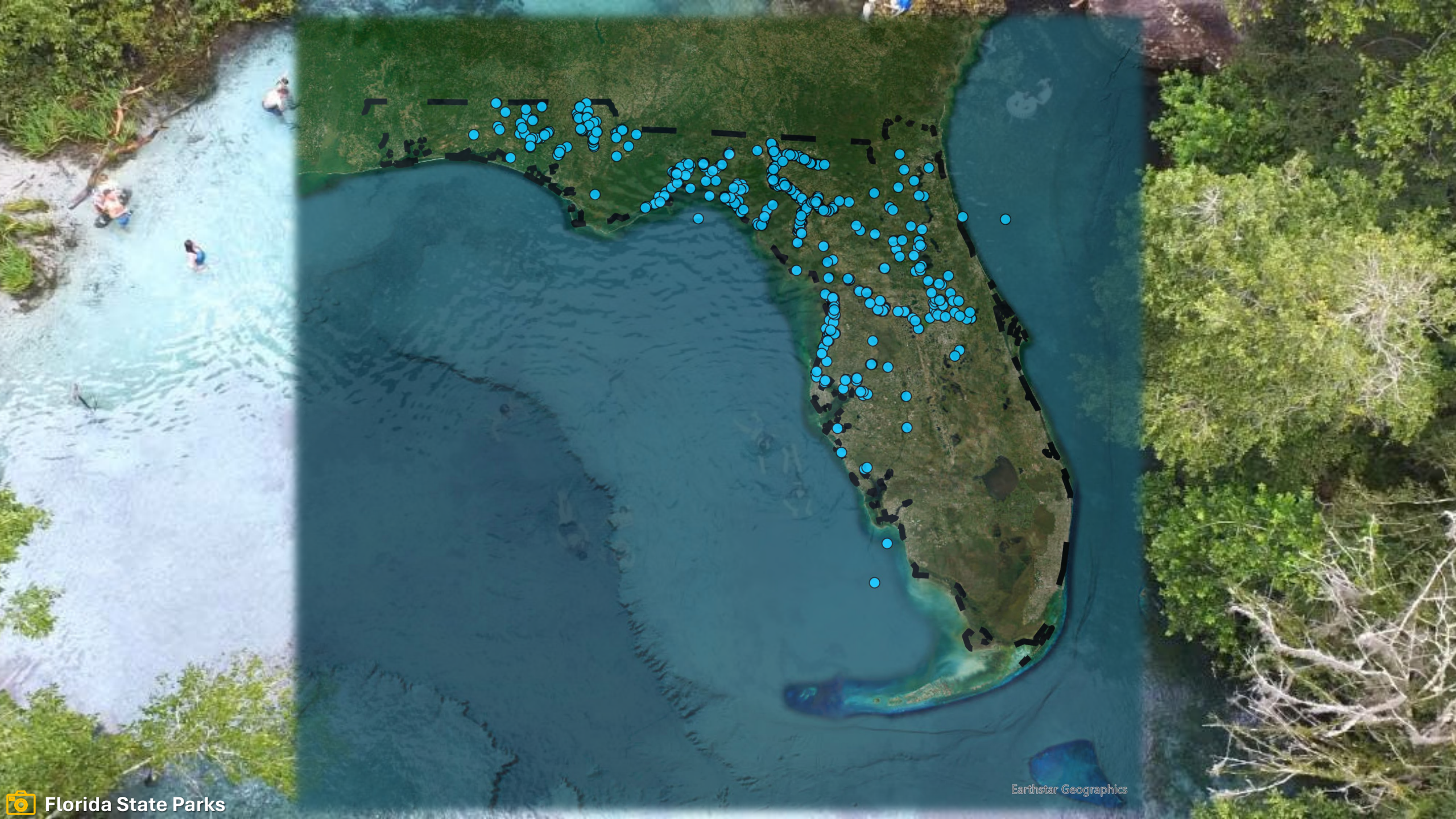
Patricia Spellman

Assistant Professor
University of South Florida



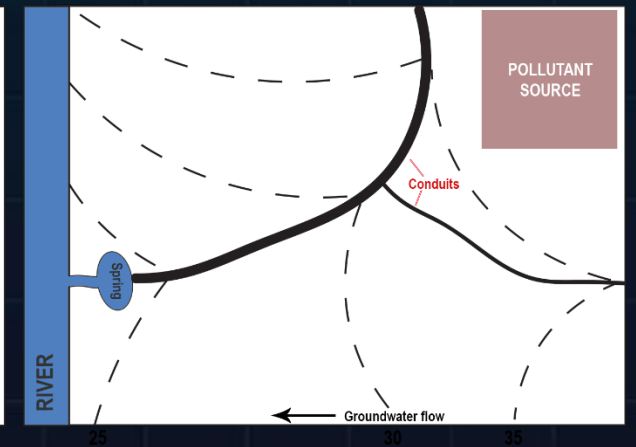
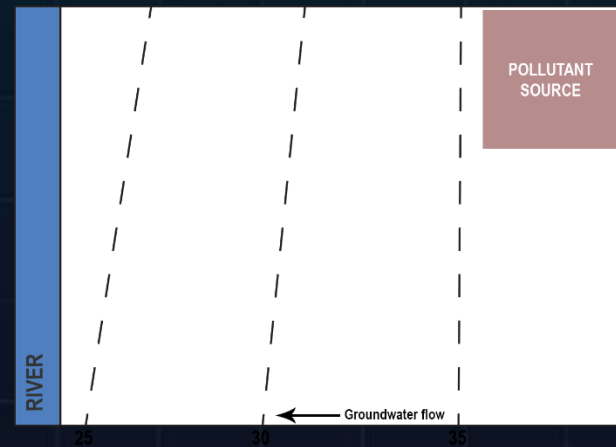
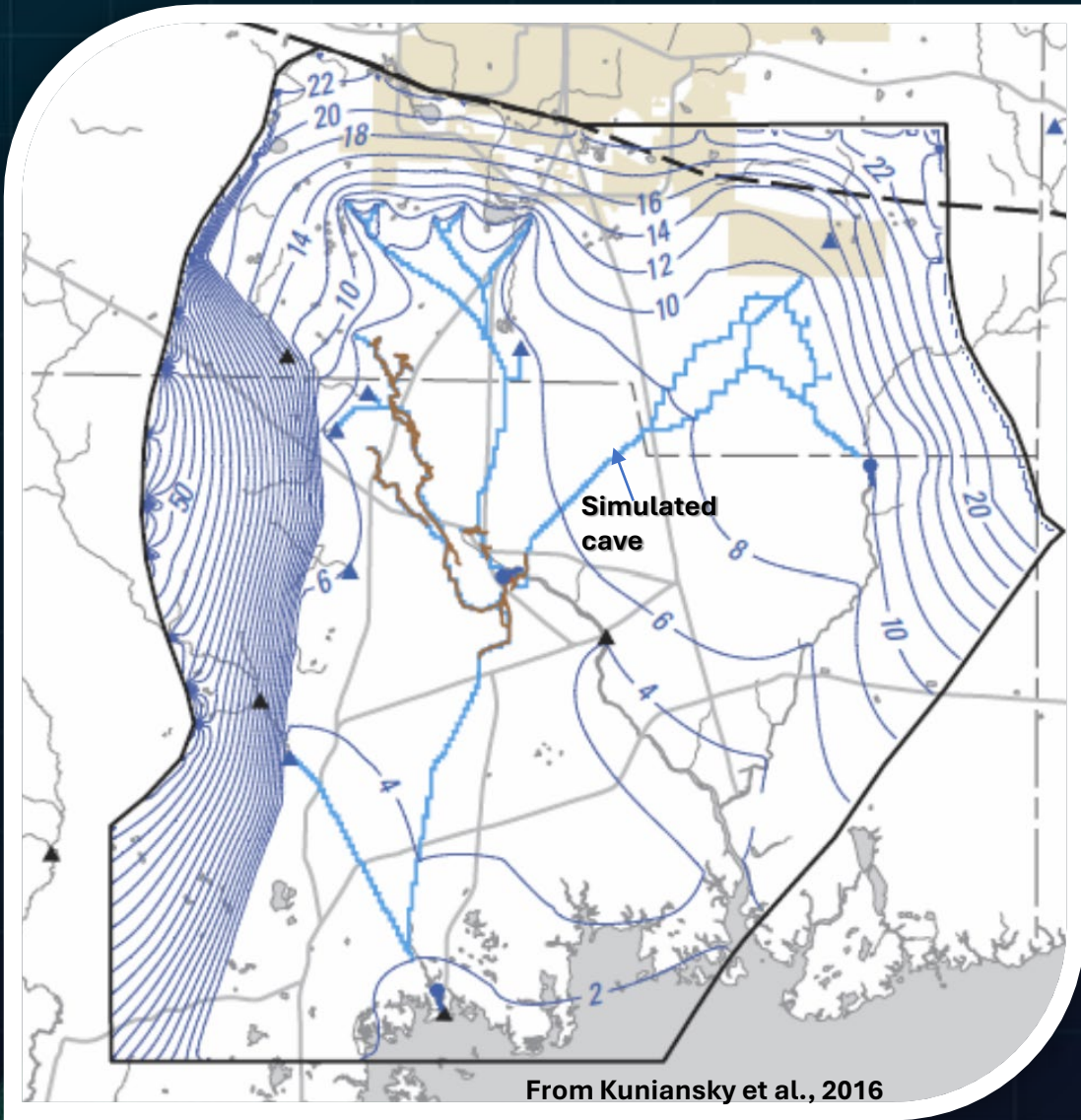
Collaborators and funding sources



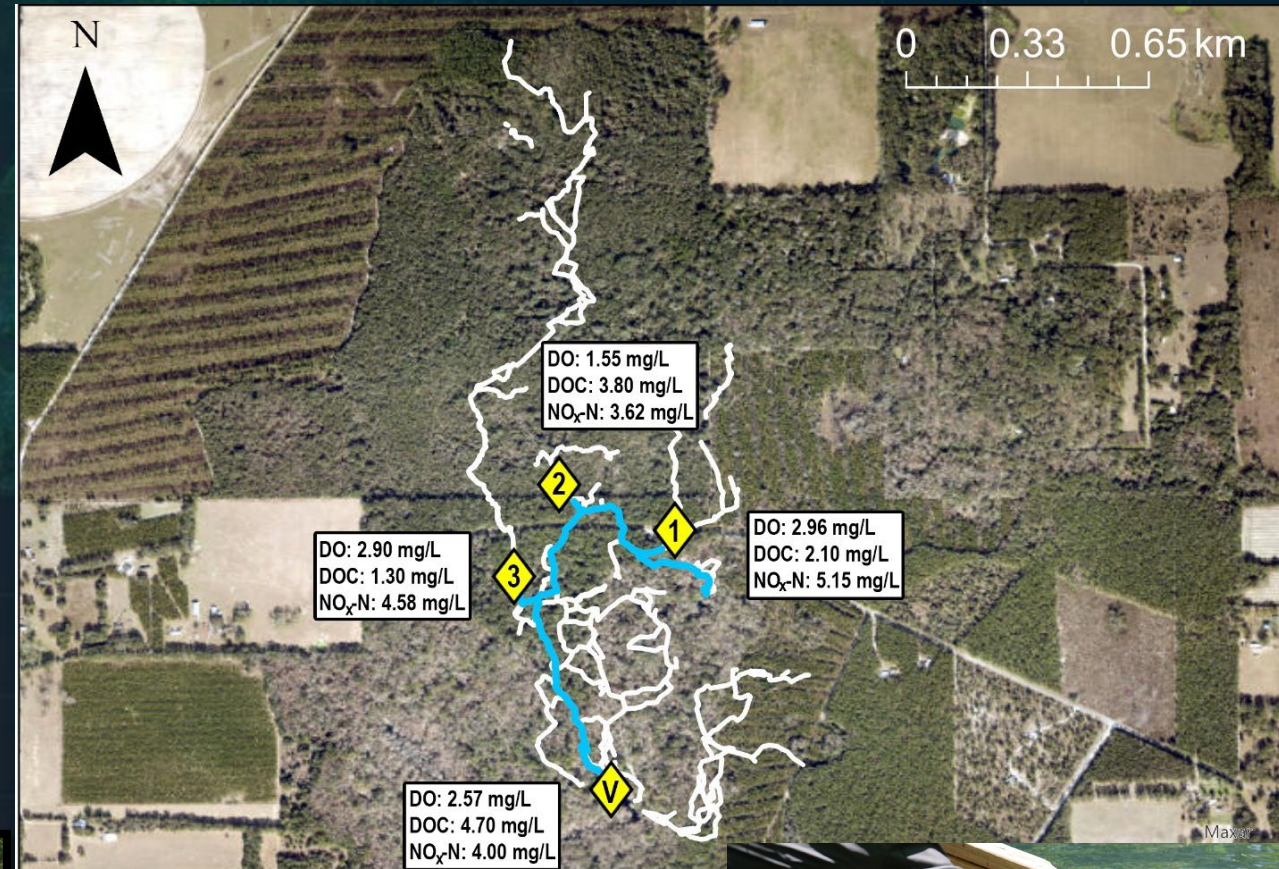
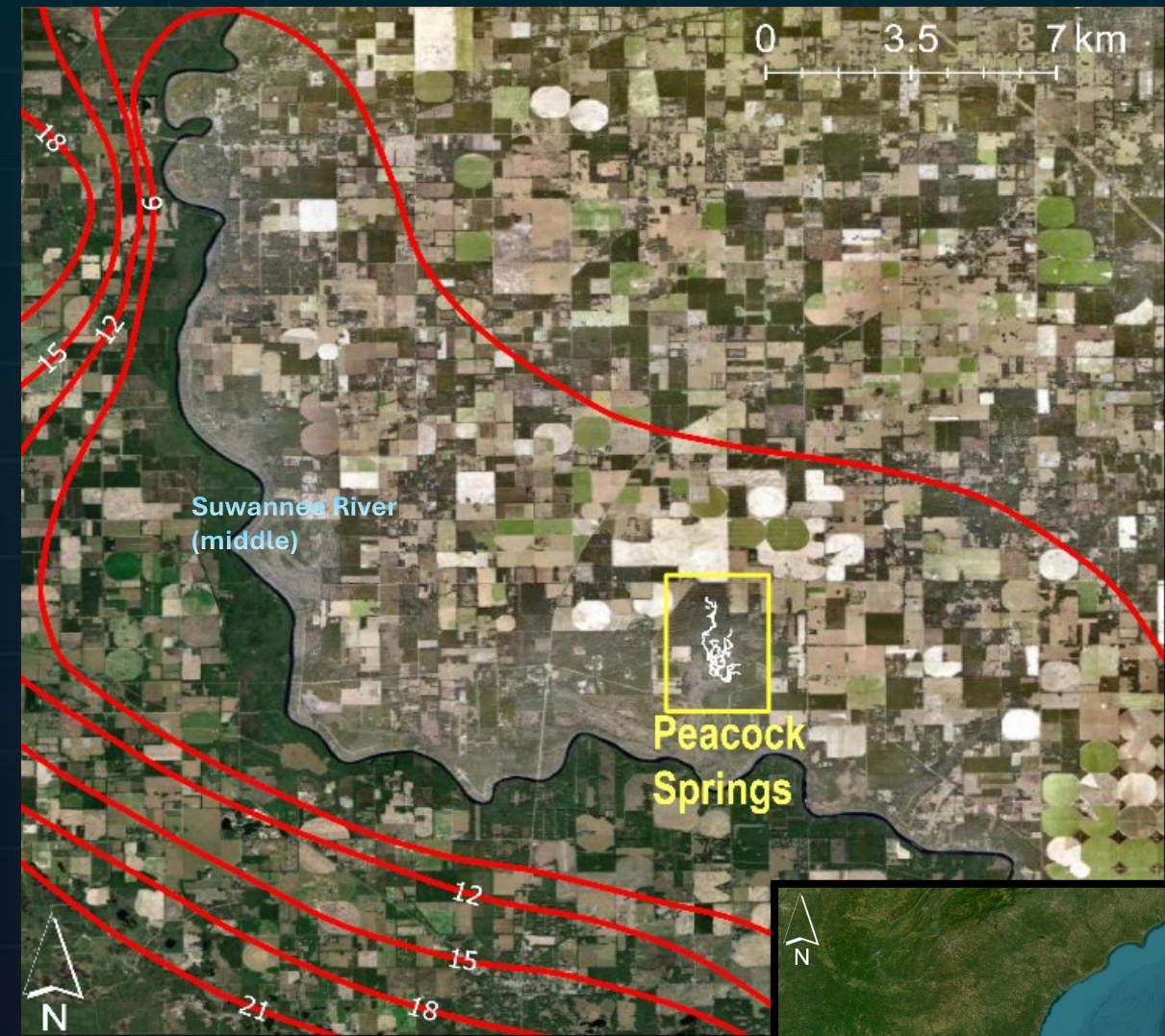




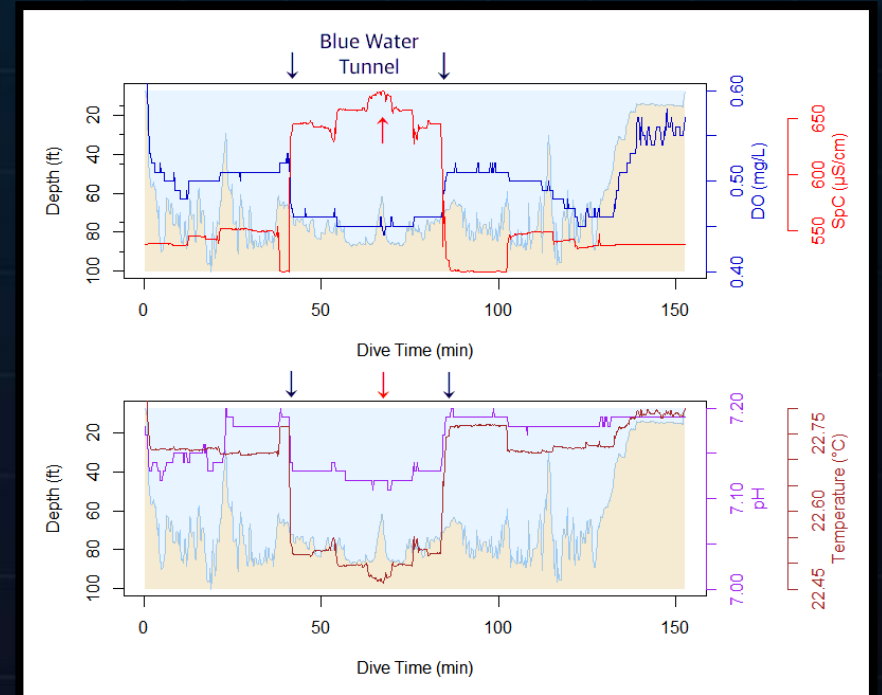
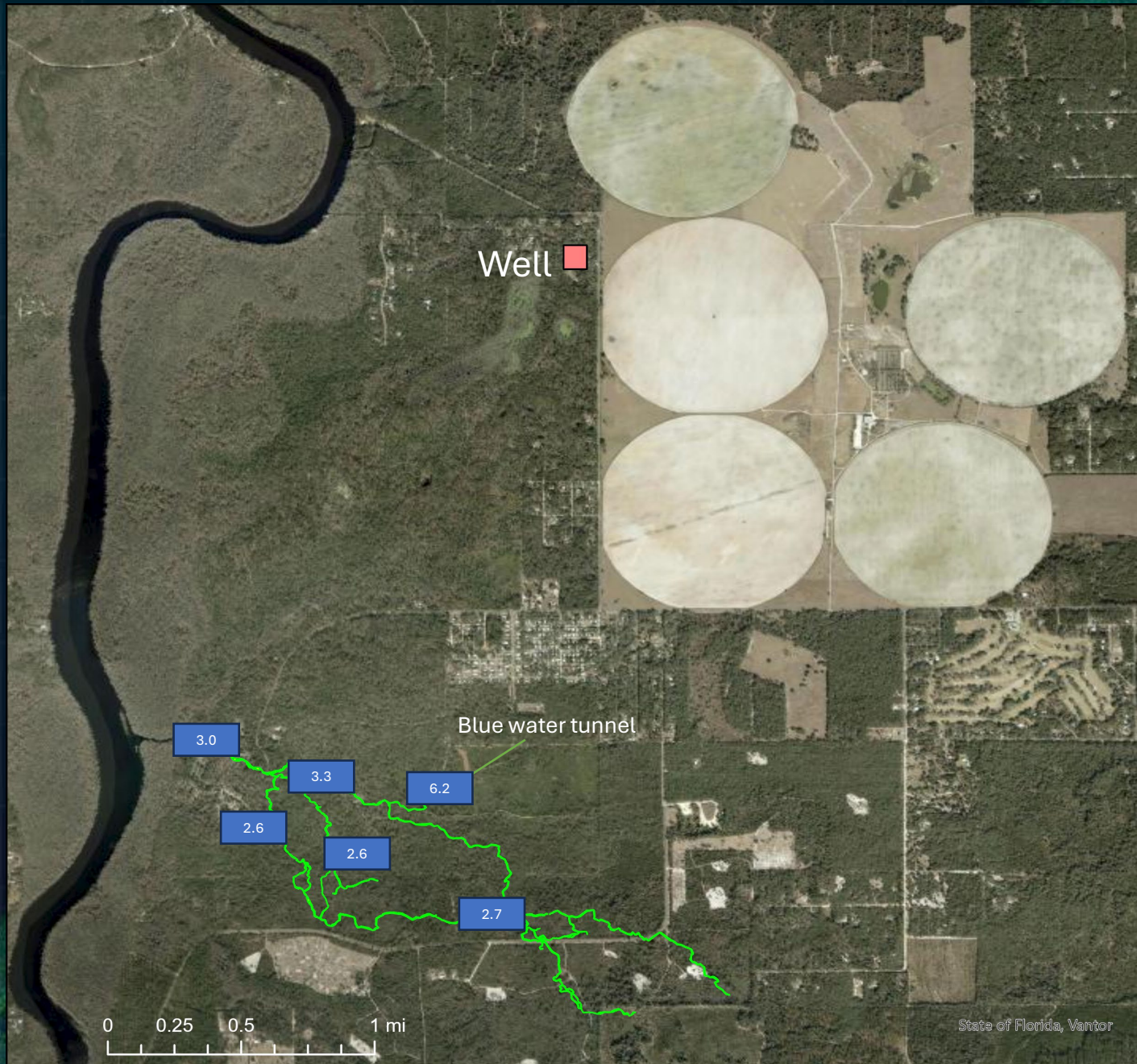
Conduit impacts on groundwater flow



Peacock Springs



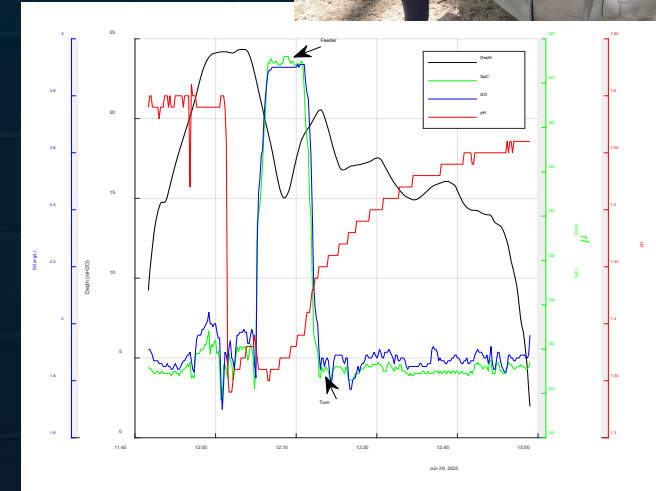
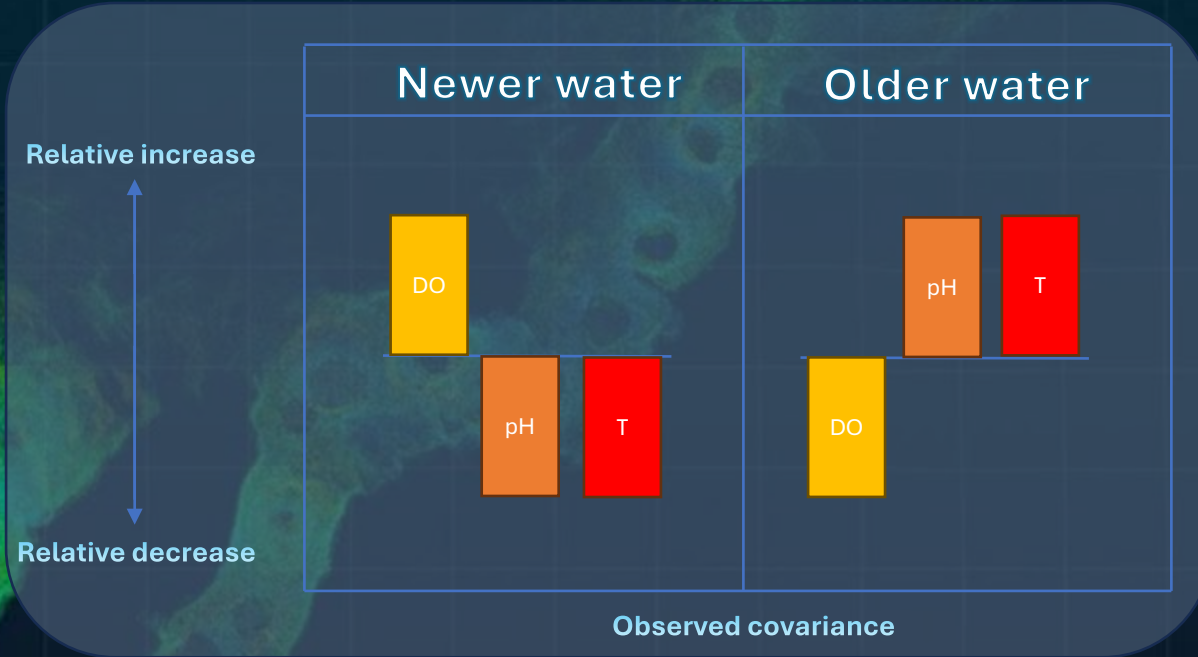
Manatee Springs water quality study – KUR Citizen Science



Signal interpretation from aggregated data

Sites used in interpretation

- *Madison Blue Spring*
- *Ichetucknee Blue Hole*
- *Peacock Springs*
- *Manatee Springs*
- *Lafayette Blue Springs*



Specific conductance was **not** unique

Increases for newer water interpretation	Decreases for newer water interpretation
Ichetucknee Blue Hole Peacock Manatee Springs* Lafayette Blue Springs	Madison Blue

[Uploading data to Hydroshare and SpeleoDB!](#)

<http://www.hydroshare.org>
<http://www.speleodb.org>

Divers can only do so much.





SUNFISH

SUNFISH features

3-D conduit mapping and imaging

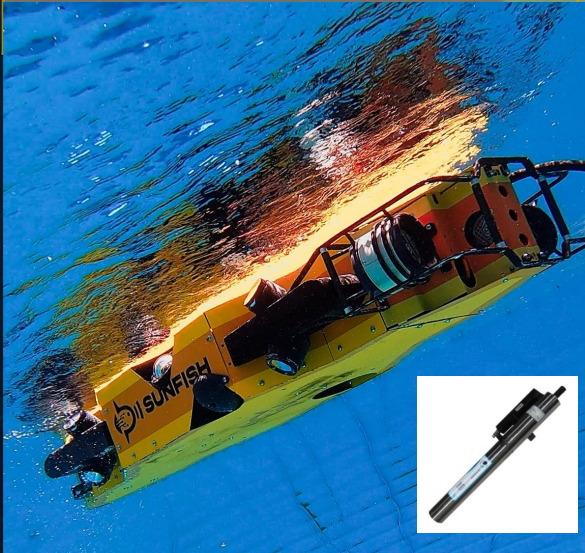
- Multibeam Sonar
- 10 cm resolution
- High definition
- 1920x1080 resolution

Geolocation

- 20 cm sample position accuracy within map, map accuracy 1% of distance from entrance
- SLAM

Water quality

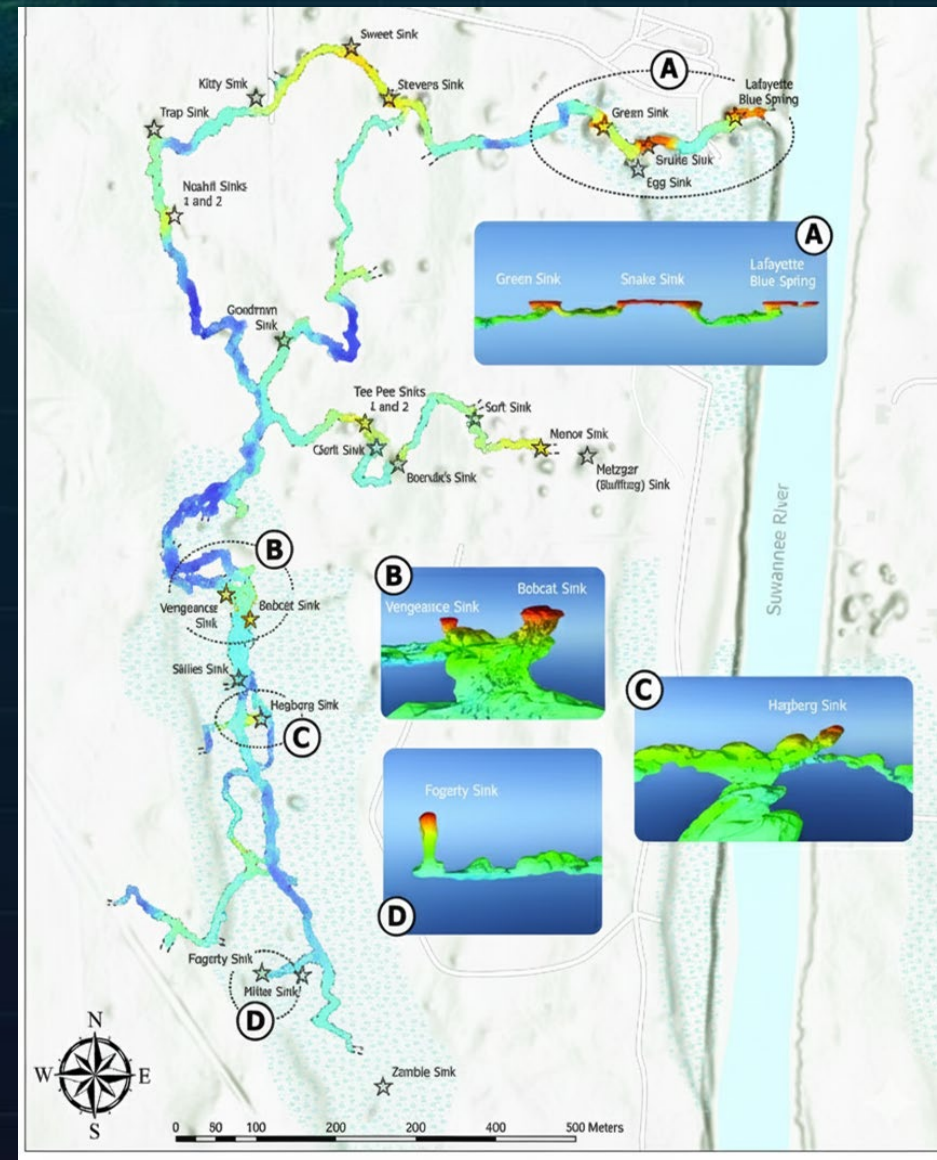
- Submersible Ultraviolet Nitrate Analyzer (SUNA)
- NBOSI Conductivity and temperature sensor
- **More optical water collection sensors



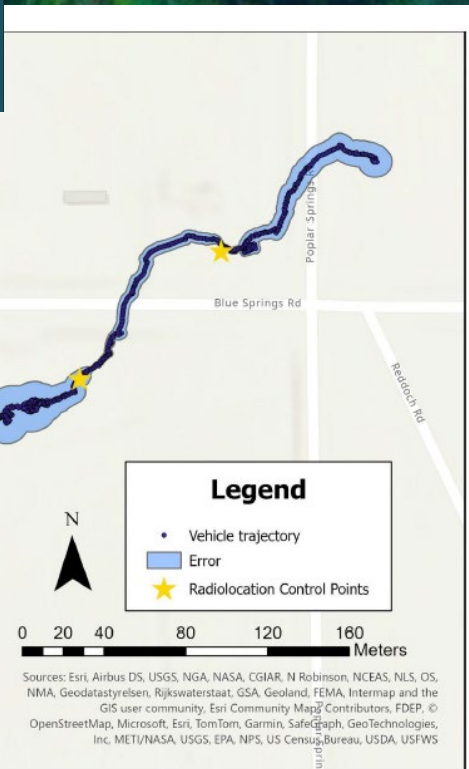
3-D conduit mapping



- Imaging and maps visualize cave system
- Refine and improve conduit hydraulic models
- Test hypotheses on flow, exchange, and contaminant transport
- Determine total porosity contributing to flow from maps (Right)
- Geophysics solutions for developing new tools for exploring caves



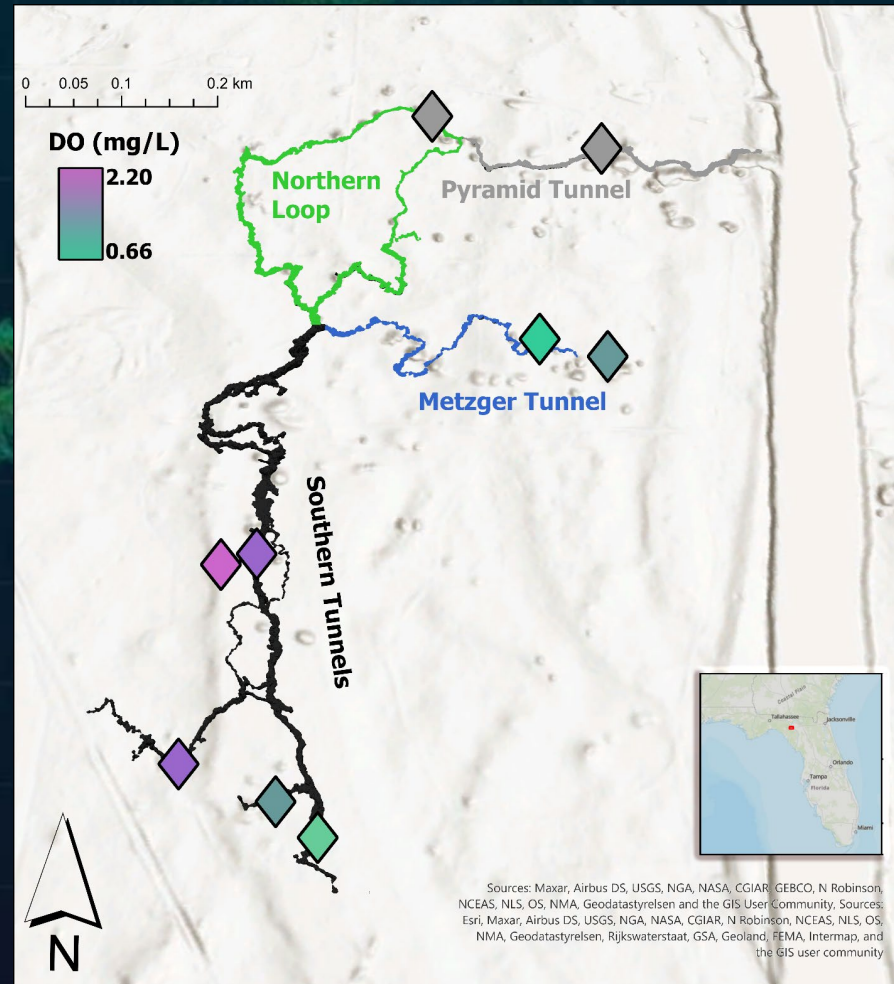
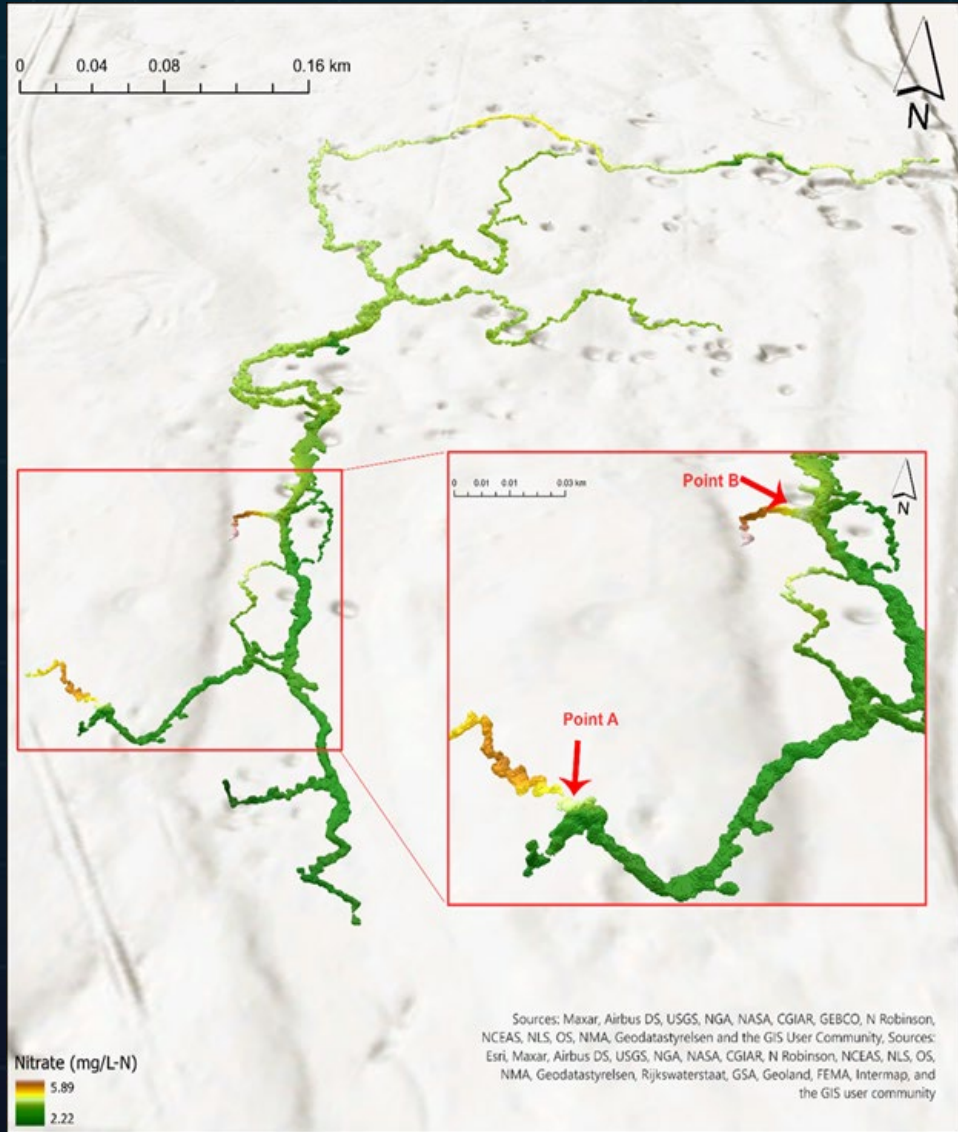
Geolocation



- Help refine potential contamination sources
- Geolocate with discrete features such as sinkholes/ elevation lows
- Improve current groundwater models
- Develop contaminant risk maps



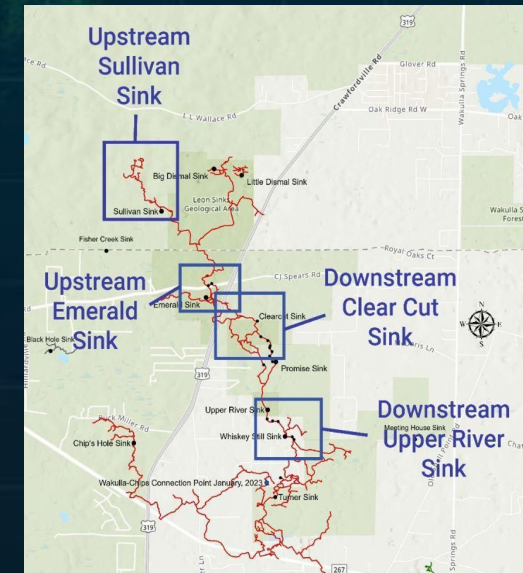
Water quality mapping



- Help refine potential contamination sources
- Geolocate with discrete features such as sinkholes/ elevation lows
- Improve current groundwater models
- Develop contaminant risk maps
- Build up knowledge base on controls of nitrate and other contaminants in the cave systems



Current and future work



Wakulla GIS	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4
FSU	●	●	●	●
USF	●			
Sunfish	●			
WKPP	●			
	● Advanced groundwater model development			
	● Develop contaminant risk maps using updated geochemistry and groundwater flow models			
	● AUV Development			
	● Mapping	7 miles	13 miles	14 miles
	● Develop GIS Database			



Priorities for USF when robot is improved: Manatee Spring, Madison Blue Spring, and Middle Suwannee River





Questions



NICOLE ALARID