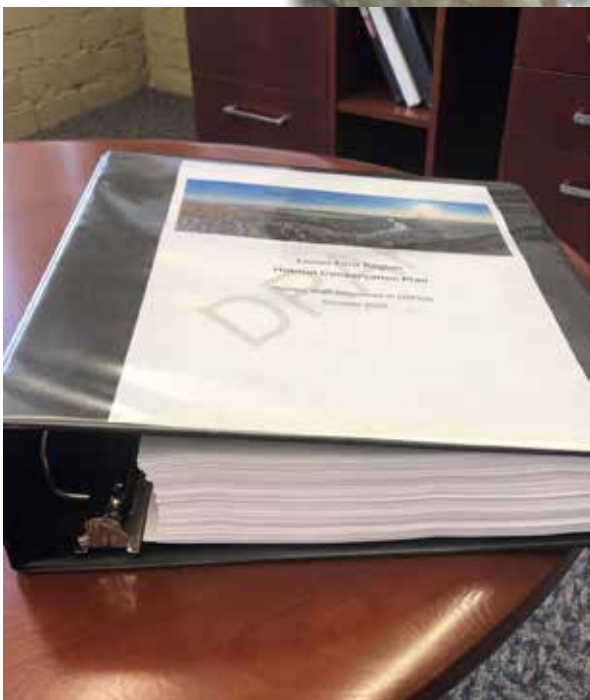


# Habitat Conservation Plan for the Lower Flint River Basin





# Drought SWAP Update

- Drought SWAP – 46 wells
- Dirt Road Improvements – Targeting 100 sites by October
- Flow Augmentation – Spring Creek – repaired and increased capacity
- Monitoring network for deep aquifers – 15 monitoring wells
- Updated mussel surveys – Starting 4<sup>th</sup> season
- Habitat Conservation Plan – fully drafted/in review



## HCP Management Measures to Avoid, Minimize, and Mitigate Incidental Take

Management Measure 1	Drought Period Source Switching (Drought SWAP)
Management Measure 2	Conservation Planning
Management Measure 3	Agricultural Water Use Measurement and Efficiency Programs
Management Measure 4	Continued Suspension for New and Modified Surface Water Withdrawal Permits
Management Measure 5	Drought Period Permit Conditions
Management Measure 6	Enhanced Agricultural Water Withdrawal Permit Compliance Protocols
Management Measure 7	Targeted Flow Augmentation during Critical Periods
Mitigation Measure 1	Sedimentation Controls

# GA-FIT Collaboration with Georgia Aquarium

- 2025 dive team mussel sampling

We can do more together to implement the HCP:

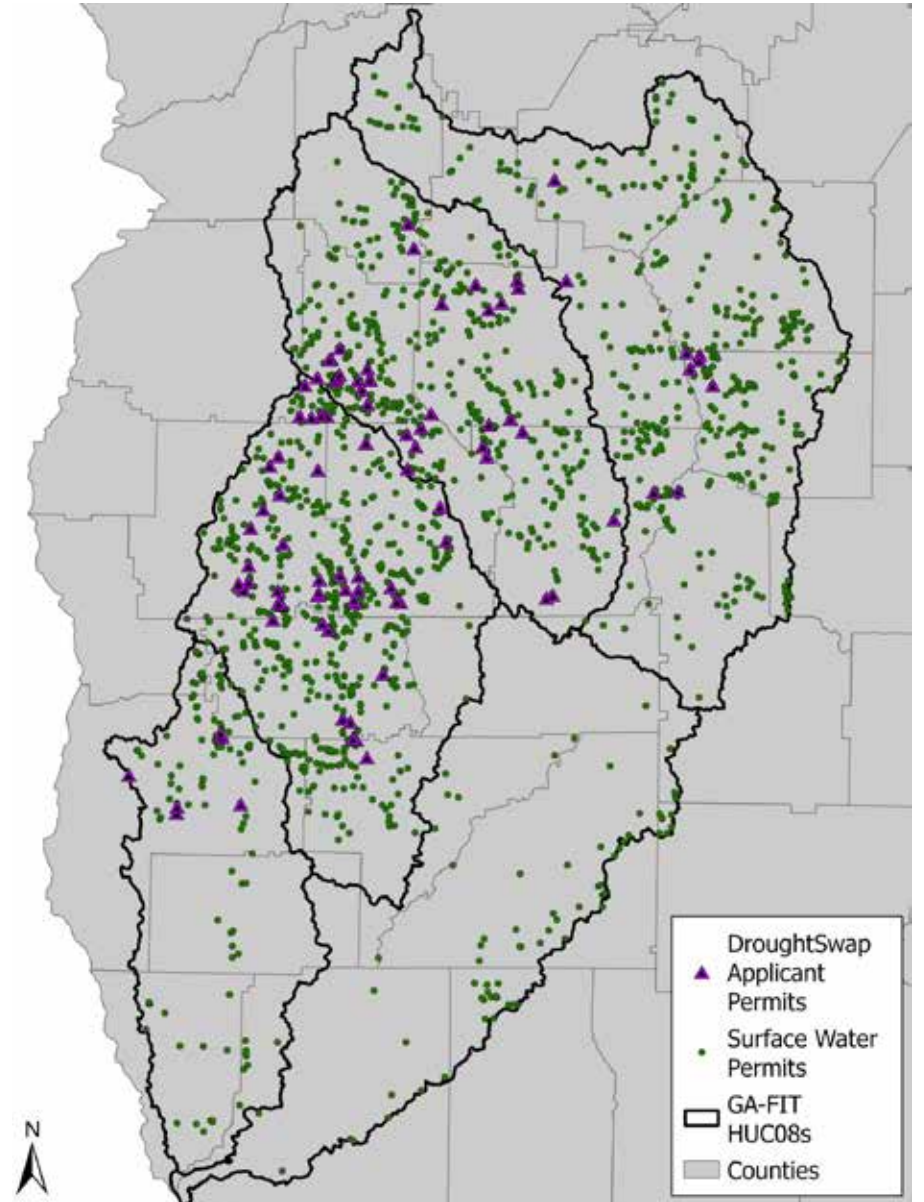
- Mussel monitoring
- Mussel/host fish propagation
- Mussel rescue capacity
- Water quality monitoring (DO, sediment)
- Research – life history, habitat assessment, tolerance to temperature, DO, water quality
- Amplify the message to build support for HCP implementation

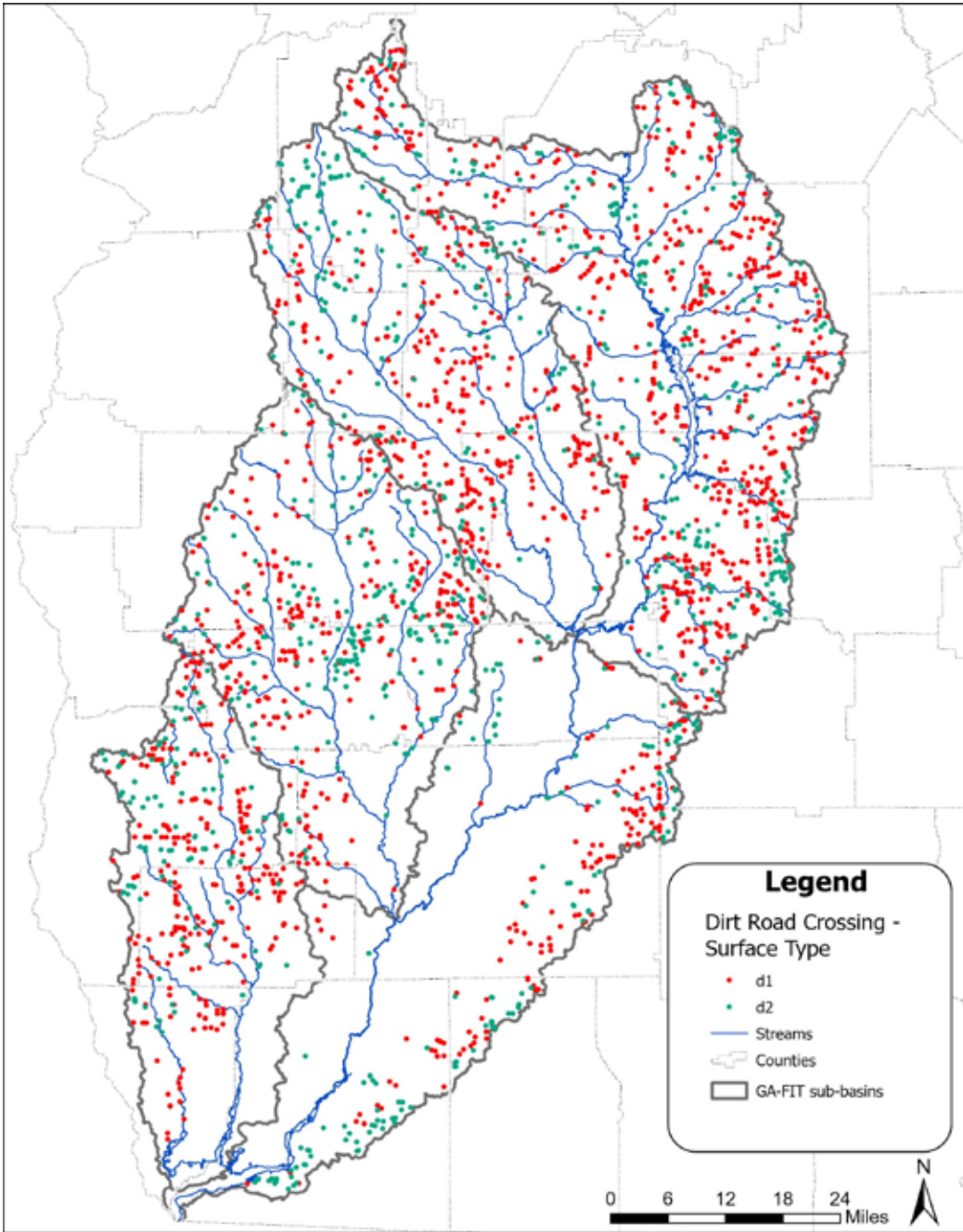




# DroughtSWAP

- Alternative water sources for use by farmers during drought
- Targeted installation on farms with surface water withdrawals
- Monitoring well network
- Development or update of farm conservation/irrigation management plan

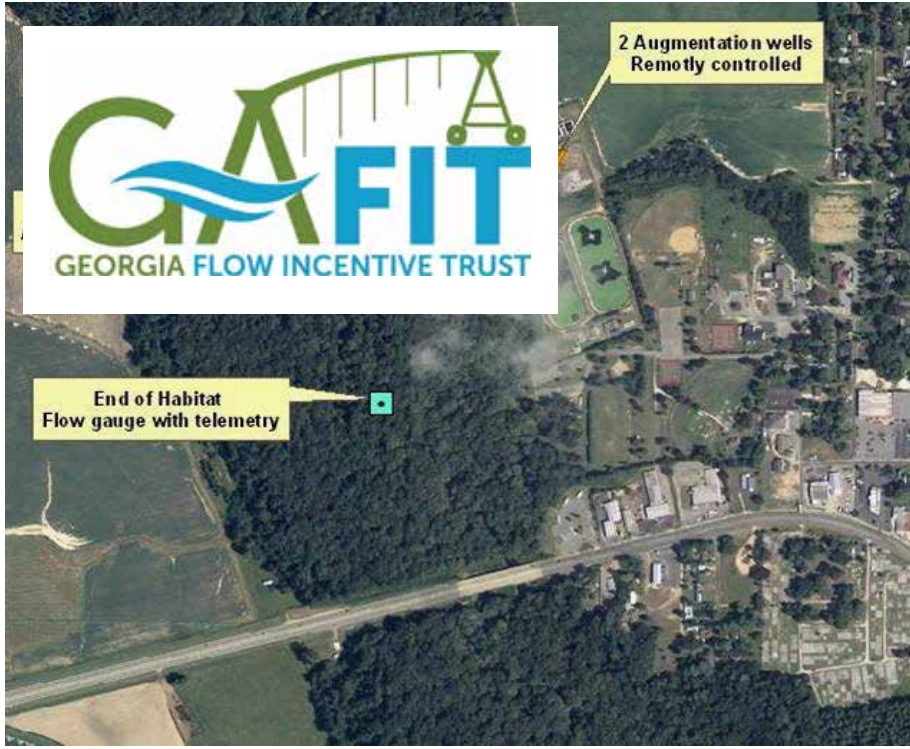






2 Augmentation wells  
Remotely controlled

End of Habitat  
Flow gauge with telemetry

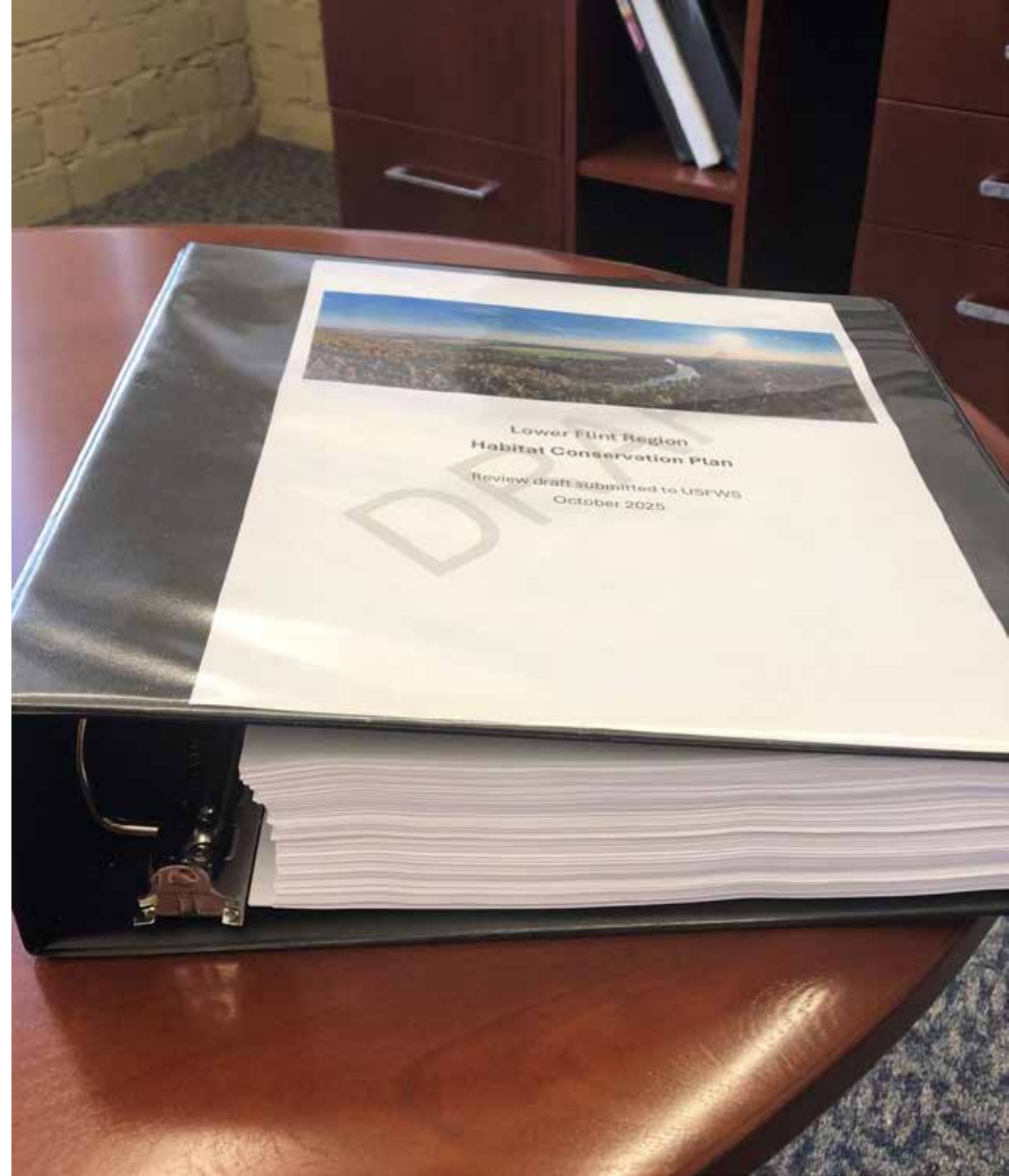


# Spring Creek Augmentation



# Habitat Conservation Plan

- A planning document designed to accommodate economic activity to the extent possible by authorizing the limited and unintentional take of listed species when it occurs incidental to otherwise lawful activities.
- 1982 Amendments to Endangered Species Act:
  - Allow take of listed species incidental to otherwise lawful activities, with the issuance of an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and provided that the ITP holder implements a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).
- Non-federal entities can apply for an Incidental Take Permit if they have developed a Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Applicants can include private citizens, corporations, Tribes, States, and counties.



# Lower Flint Region HCP

Covered Species

Six listed species of freshwater mussels

Incidental Take Permit Applicant

State of Georgia

Covered Activity

Agricultural water withdrawal program

