

Weeki Wachee River Post-Survey Report



This report represents data collected
November 1 - 15, 2021

Submitted by

Sara Fay

Project Lead

SWFWMD Research Manager

Robin Grantham

taproot

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Executive Summary

Introduction & Background

The Southwest Florida Water Management District and Hernando County, with support from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, carried out a study regarding the recreational use of the Weeki Wachee River. The popularity of this destination as a recreational hub has highlighted concerns surrounding the degradation of the river and its ecosystems.

A study conducted by Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions showed that managing the kinds of activities that occur on the river and limiting where certain activities can occur may be as important, if not more important, as capping the number of users. Science-based recommendations were provided at the conclusion of the study with management options that could reduce the negative impacts of recreation on the river.

In February 2021 the District collaborated with The Taproot Agency to gather initial data in a social media pre-survey regarding visitor behaviors at the river. A District-led campaign began on March 1, 2021, to educate targeted audiences about the recreational best management practices that will help protect the Weeki Wachee River and reduce ecological impacts. This report provides post-survey data gathered via social media in November 2021 to determine whether behaviors have changed because of the campaign.

Methods of Data Collection and Analysis

The Taproot Agency deployed a social media survey using the ads function of the Facebook platform. The ad was active November 1–15, 2021, and gathered 435 total responses.

Parameters were set for the Facebook ad to run in the geographic area of the following Florida counties: Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk. Respondents were only excluded based on whether or not they had visited the Weeki Wachee River. If their response was “more than five years ago,” “don’t know” or “never visited,” they were terminated from the survey.

To avoid potentially skewed results/reactions and mirror the pre-survey, the members/followers of the following Facebook groups were also removed from this post-survey data: Friends of Weeki Wachee Preserve, Weeki Wachee River Rescue Team, Weeki Wachee River Rangers. The survey sample resulted in a theoretical margin of error of approximately +/-5% at the 95% confidence level.

Post-Survey Insights

The following insights were gleaned from the post-survey data represented in this report as it was compared to responses in the pre-survey.

- Regarding exiting vessels on the river, positive behavior change was recorded in the following ways:
 - 1% increase¹ in those reporting staying in their vessel when on the river
 - 5% increase in those who tie off in shallow water if they need to exit their vessel

¹ All increases or decreases noted are percent change.

- 11% decrease in those who would park on riverbanks or sand point bars
- Positive changes in opinion were recorded in how many respondents agreed with statements regarding actions while on the river:
 - 10% increase in those who agree (2%) and strongly agree (8%) with staying in vessels
 - 12% increase in those who strongly agree climbing on banks and bars damages the river
 - 5% increase in those who strongly agree climbing trees and rope swings damages trees
- Positive changes in respondents recognizing current challenges with the river (highlighted as part of the campaign):
 - 7% increase in recognition of “trampling vegetation” as a challenge
 - 4% increase in recognition of climbing and rope swinging from trees as a challenge
- Both the pre- and post-surveys tested the likelihood of respondents taking specified actions like staying in your vessel when on the river and not trampling vegetation. In both studies most respondents reported they were “very likely” to change knowing that it was better for the health of the river.
- Social media was by far the most memorable vehicle for campaign messages, not only across the entirety of respondents (63%), but also in each county (all greater than 58%). While this indicates a high recognition rate, it should be noted that this survey was conducted via social media which might have some impact on the responses. 16% of all respondents reported either not seeing/hearing the messages or “don’t know,” signifying a high dissemination of messaging to the target audience during the campaign.

Sample Demographics

When was the last time you visited the Weeki Wachee River?

	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Within in the last six months	42%	51%
6 months to one year ago	21%	18%
One to five years ago	26%	19%
More than five years ago*	6%	7%
Don't know*	1%	1%
Never visited*	4%	4%

*Respondent was terminated as not qualified for this survey.

In which Florida county do you live?

	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Citrus	9%	11%
Hernando	29%	19%
Hillsborough	12%	14%
Pasco	18%	19%
Pinellas	20%	24%
Polk	7%	4%
Other*	2%	8%
I don't live in FL	4%	2%

*Respondents were given the option to enter the name of their Florida county in a text box. Not all respondents who select the "Other" choice provided additional information. Responses that were recorded: Seminole, Sumter, Manatee, Orange, Brevard, Volusia, Miami-Dade, Martin, Lee, Clay and Alachua.

The following table provides a breakdown by timeframe of when residents last visited the river.

Pre / Post %	Within the last six months		6 months to one year ago		One to five years ago	
Citrus	44%	47%	20%	13%	36%	40%
Hernando	56%	71%	23%	14%	21%	15%
Hillsborough	41%	58%	21%	24%	38%	18%
Pasco	48%	63%	27%	19%	26%	19%
Pinellas	44%	67%	29%	17%	27%	16%
Polk	36%	69%	24%	15%	39%	15%
Other*	22%	55%	11%	23%	67%	23%
I don't live in FL	52%	0%	10%	33%	38%	67%

River Behaviors & Opinions

Which of the following resources do you use when planning a trip to the Weeki Wachee River? Select all that apply.

	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
YouTube videos	5%	8%
Social media pages (Facebook, Twitter)	19%	25%
Search engines (Google, Bing)	26%	25%
Travel Websites	3%	5%
WeekiWachee.com	20%	16%
Visitors Bureau	2%	2%
Word of Mouth	30%	27%
Other*	30%	25%

*Responses entered in the “Other” text box are recorded in Appendix II. Common responses were that they lived on the river or had visited in the past.

Note: top three resources are highlighted with bold, red text.

Please select up to three recreation activities you engage in while on the Weeki Wachee River.

	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Boat (motorized vehicle)	13%	14%
Kayak or Canoe	77%	69%
Paddleboard	7%	18%
Tubing	6%	5%
Swim or snorkel	41%	39%
Rope Swing	3%	5%
Observe wildlife (manatees, birds, etc.)	50%	50%
Camp	2%	2%
Hike	4%	4%
Picnic	9%	6%
Other (no responses recorded)	3%	3%

Note: top three activities highlighted with bold, red text.

If you exit your vessel, where do you leave it while on the river?

	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
I don't leave my vessel while I'm on the river	32%	33%
Park on riverbanks or sand point bars	40%	29%
Tie off in shallow waters	19%	24%
Let it float freely	5%	8%
Other	4%	5%

*Other responses recorded include (separated by semi-colons): In the river with my anchor attached, not on land; Anchor; Docked to eat; Tie to my ankle while I snorkel; Drop anchor; Tie off to tree limb; Depends on what activity I am engaging in; Use an anchor in shallow water; Kayak anchor; Snorkel or tube with kayak or tube beside me; Dock; Anchor in the shallows – I do not tie to any veg or push on to banks; Don't leave the boat unattended and anchor near shallow areas and sand bars; We tie up to each other and one holds boats while others snorkel; Hold it beside me; Actually I've talked to salon owners I tied to a tree and some shallow water so my grandson can go swimming

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

ALL RESPONDENTS (Pre/Post %)	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
People should stay in their vessels on the river.	15%	23%	17%	19%	27%	20%	30%	24%	12%	15%
Climbing on banks and sand point bars damages the river.	28%	40%	31%	28%	23%	17%	15%	11%	4%	4%
Climbing trees and rope swings damages trees.	28%	33%	30%	26%	22%	22%	16%	13%	5%	7%
Sandy white bottoms are a sign of an unhealthy spring.	7%	10%	8%	10%	47%	50%	29%	23%	9%	10%
The number of vessels should be limited on the river.	31%	41%	42%	33%	13%	12%	11%	10%	3%	5%
Vessels should only be allowed to park in designated spots on the river.	26%	34%	34%	31%	15%	12%	18%	14%	7%	9%
The river is too crowded with visitors.	31%	39%	27%	29%	28%	19%	11%	9%	4%	3%

Note: what follows is a breakdown of the agreement statements by county of residence (includes the “other” and “I don’t live in FL” as well). Highest post-survey percentage for each is noted in bold, red text.

Note: A breakdown of each statement with all six counties responses appears as Appendix IV in this report.

CITRUS COUNTY (Pre/Post %)	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
People should stay in their vessels on the river.	16%	30%	26%	17%	20%	17%	29%	20%	10%	10%
Climbing on banks and sand point bars damages the river.	39%	33%	33%	27%	12%	20%	12%	7%	4%	7%
Climbing trees and rope swings damages trees.	35%	30%	28%	20%	12%	20%	16%	13%	10%	10%
Sandy white bottoms are a sign of an unhealthy spring.	2%	3%	16%	10%	39%	33%	31%	30%	12%	17%
The number of vessels should be limited on the river.	24%	37%	39%	37%	20%	7%	14%	10%	4%	3%
Vessels should only be allowed to park in designated spots on the river.	26%	33%	39%	23%	8%	7%	24%	17%	4%	13%
The river is too crowded with visitors.	24%	33%	29%	13%	33%	30%	10%	10%	4%	7%

HERNANDO COUNTY (Pre/Post %)	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
People should stay in their vessels on the river.	26%	19%	19%	15%	26%	12%	23%	23%	8%	10%
Climbing on banks and sand point bars damages the river.	44%	37%	26%	19%	18%	10%	8%	10%	5%	4%
Climbing trees and rope swings damages trees.	42%	29%	26%	23%	18%	12%	8%	10%	5%	6%
Sandy white bottoms are a sign of an unhealthy spring.	15%	10%	10%	8%	47%	38%	22%	16%	5%	7%
The number of vessels should be limited on the river.	42%	36%	36%	22%	10%	11%	8%	6%	4%	6%
Vessels should only be allowed to park in designated spots on the river.	39%	29%	28%	19%	17%	14%	11%	4%	5%	14%
The river is too crowded with visitors.	51%	38%	24%	22%	14%	12%	8%	4%	3%	3%

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY (Pre/Post %)	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
People should stay in their vessels on the river.	10%	18%	17%	11%	26%	21%	32%	26%	15%	18%
Climbing on banks and sand point bars damages the river.	22%	40%	25%	16%	29%	24%	17%	13%	7%	3%
Climbing trees and rope swings damages trees.	17%	24%	36%	21%	30%	24%	13%	21%	2%	5%
Sandy white bottoms are a sign of an unhealthy spring.	10%	11%	3%	16%	46%	34%	26%	24%	15%	11%
The number of vessels should be limited on the river.	28%	37%	46%	37%	9%	8%	13%	8%	4%	5%
Vessels should only be allowed to park in designated spots on the river.	17%	29%	32%	24%	12%	11%	32%	24%	7%	8%
The river is too crowded with visitors.	32%	29%	25%	37%	20%	21%	19%	8%	4%	0%

PASCO COUNTY (Pre/Post %)	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
People should stay in their vessels on the river.	10%	20%	16%	11%	30%	19%	31%	22%	13%	19%
Climbing on banks and sand point bars damages the river.	21%	30%	34%	26%	26%	13%	15%	17%	5%	6%
Climbing trees and rope swings damages trees.	28%	30%	22%	20%	24%	22%	23%	9%	5%	9%
Sandy white bottoms are a sign of an unhealthy spring.	4%	9%	16%	6%	43%	44%	25%	17%	13%	15%
The number of vessels should be limited on the river.	28%	30%	36%	20%	17%	13%	15%	20%	4%	7%
Vessels should only be allowed to park in designated spots on the river.	20%	32%	36%	30%	18%	9%	18%	15%	9%	6%
The river is too crowded with visitors.	27%	32%	24%	26%	33%	13%	14%	15%	3%	6%

PINELLAS COUNTY (Pre/Post %)	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
People should stay in their vessels on the river.	10%	15%	17%	19%	28%	19%	33%	25%	11%	15%
Climbing on banks and sand point bars damages the river.	27%	35%	36%	35%	20%	12%	16%	7%	1%	3%
Climbing trees and rope swings damages trees.	29%	25%	32%	28%	22%	25%	14%	12%	3%	3%
Sandy white bottoms are a sign of an unhealthy spring.	7%	6%	8%	6%	43%	54%	36%	20%	7%	6%
The number of vessels should be limited on the river.	35%	33%	42%	42%	12%	7%	9%	6%	3%	3%
Vessels should only be allowed to park in designated spots on the river.	27%	28%	38%	33%	13%	12%	15%	13%	7%	6%
The river is too crowded with visitors.	27%	33%	32%	30%	29%	19%	8%	7%	4%	1%

POLK COUNTY (Pre/Post %)	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
People should stay in their vessels on the river.	11%	23%	23%	8%	20%	23%	23%	31%	23%	15%
Climbing on banks and sand point bars damages the river.	31%	31%	20%	15%	23%	31%	23%	15%	3%	8%
Climbing trees and rope swings damages trees.	23%	31%	29%	23%	20%	23%	20%	15%	9%	8%
Sandy white bottoms are a sign of an unhealthy spring.	11%	8%	0%	23%	54%	23%	26%	39%	9%	8%
The number of vessels should be limited on the river.	23%	62%	46%	31%	11%	0%	17%	8%	3%	0%
Vessels should only be allowed to park in designated spots on the river.	20%	46%	31%	15%	20%	8%	20%	15%	9%	15%
The river is too crowded with visitors.	20%	46%	29%	31%	37%	23%	14%	0%	0%	0%

OTHER (Pre/Post %)	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
People should stay in their vessels on the river.	10%	24%	10%	43%	20%	19%	40%	10%	20%	5%
Climbing on banks and sand point bars damages the river.	10%	52%	20%	29%	40%	19%	20%	0%	10%	0%
Climbing trees and rope swings damages trees.	20%	67%	10%	19%	20%	14%	40%	0%	10%	0%
Sandy white bottoms are a sign of an unhealthy spring.	0%	24%	10%	19%	60%	43%	20%	14%	10%	0%
The number of vessels should be limited on the river.	50%	57%	40%	29%	10%	14%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Vessels should only be allowed to park in designated spots on the river.	10%	38%	20%	43%	30%	14%	30%	5%	10%	0%
The river is too crowded with visitors.	30%	52%	30%	33%	30%	10%	10%	5%	0%	0%

I DON'T LIVE IN FL (Pre/Post %)	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
People should stay in their vessels on the river.	35%	33%	13%	50%	17%	17%	30%	0%	4%	0%
Climbing on banks and sand point bars damages the river.	48%	67%	22%	33%	17%	0%	13%	0%	0%	0%
Climbing trees and rope swings damages trees.	48%	33%	22%	50%	17%	17%	9%	0%	4%	0%
Sandy white bottoms are a sign of an unhealthy spring.	4%	17%	4%	17%	57%	50%	30%	17%	4%	0%
The number of vessels should be limited on the river.	35%	50%	35%	0%	17%	50%	13%	0%	0%	0%
Vessels should only be allowed to park in designated spots on the river.	44%	33%	35%	50%	9%	17%	9%	0%	4%	0%
The river is too crowded with visitors.	22%	33%	13%	33%	48%	17%	17%	17%	0%	0%

Based on what you know or have heard, what challenges does the Weeki Wachee River face?

	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
No challenges at the moment	10%	5%
Too many kayakers	32%	33%
Trampled vegetation	37%	44%
Too many people recreating on the river at one time	53%	51%
Worn down or eroded shorelines	39%	41%
Climbing and rope swinging from trees	33%	37%
Murky water	20%	16%
Too many vendors on the river	19%	23%
Other*	18%	22%

*Responses for "Other" are included in Appendix III. Motorized boat use was still a dominant theme in the responses and not every instance of it was recorded.

Note: what follows is a breakdown by county showing the percentage of respondents identifying challenges the river faces.

Pre / Post %	Citrus		Hernando		Hillsborough		Pasco		Pinellas		Polk	
No challenges at the moment	8%	7%	7%	4%	13%	8%	18%	2%	12%	12%	3%	0%
Too many kayakers	41%	47%	55%	37%	33%	24%	31%	33%	31%	30%	29%	46%
Trampled vegetation	63%	53%	52%	43%	36%	34%	37%	48%	44%	41%	49%	39%
Too many people recreating on the river at one time	57%	57%	66%	52%	61%	50%	55%	44%	64%	54%	49%	77%
Worn down or eroded shorelines	39%	60%	59%	40%	35%	29%	40%	50%	46%	38%	37%	39%
Climbing and rope swinging from trees	43%	43%	53%	41%	32%	29%	33%	43%	38%	29%	34%	54%
Murky water	22%	20%	25%	12%	23%	11%	20%	19%	26%	16%	14%	8%
Too many vendors on the river	20%	17%	36%	11%	20%	18%	18%	24%	20%	16%	20%	31%
Other	12%	20%	12%	15%	20%	37%	28%	19%	26%	33%	20%	23%

Note: Audiences in the “Other” or “I don’t live in FL” were excluded from this breakdown as they are not a primary target of the campaign. The top three post-survey challenges for each county are marked in bold, red text.

How likely are you to take the following actions knowing it would protect the Weeki Wachee River?

Pre / Post %	Very Likely		Somewhat Likely		Not at all Likely	
Stay in the vessel when possible.	63%	61%	25%	25%	12%	14%
If you have to leave the vessel, tie off in shallow waters.	75%	81%	20%	13%	5%	6%
Avoid docking on riverbanks.	67%	73%	24%	17%	8%	10%
Don't trample vegetation or kick up silt.	88%	88%	10%	10%	2%	3%
Avoid climbing on banks and walking on sand point bars.	65%	65%	25%	24%	10%	11%
Don't climb trees or use rope swings.	80%	79%	11%	10%	9%	11%
Don't throw out litter or leave anything behind.	98%	97%	0%	<1%	2%	2%

**Are you a member of or follow any of the following social media groups/pages?
Select all that apply.**

	Pre-Survey	Post-Survey
Friends of Weeki Wachee Preserve	10%	14%
Weeki Wachee River Rescue Team	6%	8%
Weeki Wachee River Rangers	6%	9%
Weeki Crime Watch	2%	3%
Friends of Weeki Wachee State Park	8%	12%
Nature Coast Conservation	4%	6%
Sierra Club Adventure Coast	1%	3%
I do not belong to/follow any of these pages.	71%	62%

Note: Data presented in this report removed respondents who reported be part of/following the following groups listed above: Friends of Weeki Wachee Preserve, Weeki Wachee River Rescue Team and Weeki Wachee River Rangers. They are included here to show the small percentage of the whole number of respondents they accounted for in the survey. Similar to the pre-survey, the majority (62%) of post-survey respondents were not members/followers of these groups.

In the past six months, where did you see or hear messages about protecting the Weeki Wachee River? Select all that apply.

	Post-Survey Only
I have not seen or heard messages about protecting the Weeki Wachee River.	12%
Radio	3%
Internet	22%
Social media	63%
Billboard	1%
Television	8%
Newspaper	11%
Restaurant/Bar	2%
Kayak shop	5%
Vacation rental or hotel	1%
Newsletter	2%
Don't know	4%

County Comparison	Citrus	Hernando	Hillsborough	Pasco	Pinellas	Polk
I have not seen or heard messages	23%	4%	13%	7%	19%	15%
Radio	10%	3%	3%	2%	1%	8%
Internet	10%	16%	24%	20%	30%	31%
Social media	67%	59%	63%	74%	58%	77%
Billboard	3%	1%	0%	0%	0%	8%
Television	13%	10%	5%	9%	7%	15%
Newspaper	20%	10%	18%	9%	9%	15%
Restaurant/bar	3%	1%	3%	2%	0%	15%
Kayak shop	3%	4%	13%	2%	4%	8%
Vacation rental or hotel	3%	0%	0%	2%	0%	8%
Newsletter	3%	3%	0%	4%	1%	0%
Don't know	3%	3%	5%	6%	3%	0%

Appendix I: 2021 Weeki Wachee River Survey

1. **When was the last time you visited the Weeki Wachee River?**
 - a. Within the last six months
 - b. 6 months to one year ago
 - c. More than one year to five years ago
 - d. More than five years ago [TERMINATE]
 - e. Don't know [TERMINATE]
 - f. Never visited [TERMINATE]

2. **In which Florida county do you live?**
 - a. Hillsborough
 - b. Pasco
 - c. Hernando
 - d. Pinellas
 - e. Citrus
 - f. Polk
 - g. I don't live in FL
 - h. Other [TEXT BOX]

3. **Which of the following resources do you use when planning a trip to the Weeki Wachee River? Select all that apply.**
 - a. YouTube videos
 - b. Social media pages (Facebook, Twitter)
 - c. Search engines (Google, Bing)
 - d. Travel Websites
 - e. WeekiWachee.com
 - f. Visitors Bureau
 - g. Word of Mouth
 - h. Other [TEXT BOX]

4. **Please select up to three recreation activities you engage in while on the Weeki Wachee River.**
 - a. Boat (motorized vehicle)
 - b. Kayak or Canoe
 - c. Paddleboard
 - d. Tubing [SKIP TO Q6]
 - e. Swim or snorkel [SKIP TO Q6]
 - f. Rope Swing [SKIP TO Q6]
 - g. Observe wildlife (manatees, birds etc.) [SKIP TO Q6]
 - h. Camp [SKIP TO Q6]
 - i. Hike [SKIP TO Q6]
 - j. Picnic [SKIP TO Q6]
 - k. Other [TEXT BOX] [SKIP TO Q6]

5. **If you exit your vessel, where do you leave it while on the river?**
 - a. I don't leave my vessel while I'm on the river.
 - b. Park on riverbanks or sand point bars
 - c. Tie off in shallow waters

- d. Let it float freely
- e. Other [TEXT BOX]

6. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither agree nor disagree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree)

- a. People should stay in their vessels on the river.
- b. Climbing on banks and sand point bars damages the river.
- c. Climbing trees and rope swings damages trees.
- d. Sandy white bottoms are a sign of an unhealthy spring.
- e. The number of vessels should be limited on the river.
- f. Vessels should only be allowed to park in designated spots on the river.
- g. The river is too crowded with visitors.

7. Based on what you know or have heard, what challenges does the Weeki Wachee River face? Select all that apply.

- a. No challenges at the moment
- b. Too many kayakers
- c. Trampled vegetation
- d. Too many people recreating on the river at one time
- e. Worn down or eroded shorelines
- f. Climbing and rope swinging from trees
- g. Murky water
- h. Too many vendors on the river
- i. Other

8. How likely are you to take the following actions knowing it would protect the Weeki Wachee River? (Very Likely, Somewhat Likely or Not at all likely).

- a. Stay in the vessel when possible.
- b. If you have to leave the vessel, tie off in shallow waters.
- c. Avoid docking on riverbanks.
- d. Don't trample vegetation or kick up silt.
- e. Avoid climbing on banks and walking on sand point bars.
- f. Don't climb trees or use rope swings.
- g. Don't throw out litter or leave anything behind.

9. Are you a member of any of the following social media groups? Select all that apply.
[RANDOMIZE]

- a. Friends of Weeki Wachee Preserve
- b. Weeki Wachee River Rescue Team
- c. Weeki Wachee River Rangers
- d. Weeki Crime Watch
- e. Friends of Weeki Wachee State Park
- f. Nature Coast Conservation
- g. Sierra Club Adventure Coast
- h. I do not belong to/follow any of these pages.

10. In the past six months, where did you see or hear messages about protecting the Weeki Wachee River? Select all that apply.

- a. I have not seen or heard messages about protecting the Weeki Wachee River.
- b. Radio
- c. Internet

- d. Social media
- e. Billboard
- f. Television
- g. Newspaper
- h. Restaurant/bar
- i. Kayak shop
- j. Vacation rental or hotel
- k. Newsletter
- l. Don't know

Appendix II: “Other” text responses Q3

- My own knowledge...I have lived here my whole life...been on that river since 1970
- Weeki Wachee River adventures
- My local knowledge
- Lived here all my life
- Weather apps like Weatherbug
- Experiences there for the past 40+ years
- State Park website
- Bill board
- Weeki Wachee tide chart
- VRBO

Appendix III: “Other” text responses Q7

- To many tourist, the river should be for the locals an not a tourist attractions.. it ruins the river for people who live here an kayak rentals should be limited
- Too many hippies kayaking
- Motorized vehicles - dangerous to paddlers and environment
- Too many motor boats/jet skis
- Unsafe mix of motorboats and no motorized+swimmers
- Boaters being disrespectful with their motor boats; limit those!!
- Too many motorized vehicles
- If you remove all the kayak vendors that will greatly improve the river overall
- Careless humans
- Not aware. Last time I was there there weren't many people or evidence of.
- Pollution from construction poor homeowner room septic system and spring water being siphoned off for commercial use
- Trash
- DONT PASS NO EXITING YOUR VESSEL
- PROPELLERS
- Combustion engines should be illegal due to damage and especially danger.
- State Park Vendor is problem.
- Motor boats and jet skis oil slicks, pollution.
- Uneducated people who don't care about nature.
- Too many people mess with the manatees.
- When there is a lot of rain the river is murky. That is also when erosion occurs. Motorized vessels do substantially more damage than kayakers and paddleboards
- Nitrates
- People who don't follow signage to stay in boats. Also there should be tie-up locations so people can tie up their water craft for a few minutes. (To reapply sunscreen, get a drink of water, etc)
- Too many homes on the water with associated runoff.

- Too many new rules
- Stop the rentals at the bottom and send a guide with rentals from top
- Lack of education for kayakers
- To many visitors trashing the river jet skis should be banned making big wakes I wish the river was shut down for two years except for property owner so it could recover
- Loud music

Appendix IV: Agreement statements all counties

People should stay in their vessels on the river.	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
Citrus	16%	30%	26%	17%	20%	17%	29%	20%	10%	10%
Hernando	26%	19%	19%	15%	26%	12%	23%	23%	8%	10%
Hillsborough	10%	18%	17%	11%	26%	21%	32%	26%	15%	18%
Pasco	10%	20%	16%	11%	30%	19%	31%	22%	13%	19%
Pinellas	10%	15%	17%	19%	28%	19%	33%	25%	11%	15%
Polk	11%	23%	23%	8%	20%	23%	23%	31%	23%	15%

Climbing on banks and sand point bars damages the river.	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
Citrus	39%	33%	33%	27%	12%	20%	12%	7%	4%	7%
Hernando	44%	37%	26%	19%	18%	10%	8%	10%	5%	4%
Hillsborough	22%	40%	25%	16%	29%	24%	17%	13%	7%	3%
Pasco	21%	30%	34%	26%	26%	13%	15%	17%	5%	6%
Pinellas	27%	35%	36%	35%	20%	12%	16%	7%	1%	3%
Polk	31%	31%	20%	15%	23%	31%	23%	15%	3%	8%

Climbing trees and rope swings damages trees.	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
Citrus	35%	30%	28%	20%	12%	20%	16%	13%	10%	10%
Hernando	42%	29%	26%	23%	18%	12%	8%	10%	5%	6%
Hillsborough	17%	24%	36%	21%	30%	24%	13%	21%	2%	5%
Pasco	28%	30%	22%	20%	24%	22%	23%	9%	5%	9%
Pinellas	29%	25%	32%	28%	22%	25%	14%	12%	3%	3%
Polk	23%	31%	29%	23%	20%	23%	20%	15%	9%	8%

Sandy white bottoms are a sign of an unhealthy spring.	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
Citrus	2%	3%	16%	10%	39%	33%	31%	30%	12%	17%
Hernando	15%	10%	10%	8%	47%	38%	22%	16%	5%	7%
Hillsborough	10%	11%	3%	16%	46%	34%	26%	24%	15%	11%
Pasco	4%	9%	16%	6%	43%	44%	25%	17%	13%	15%
Pinellas	7%	6%	8%	6%	43%	54%	36%	20%	7%	6%
Polk	11%	8%	0%	23%	54%	23%	26%	39%	9%	8%

The number of vessels should be limited on the river.	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
Citrus	24%	37%	39%	37%	20%	7%	14%	10%	4%	3%
Hernando	42%	36%	36%	22%	10%	11%	8%	6%	4%	6%
Hillsborough	28%	37%	46%	37%	9%	8%	13%	8%	4%	5%
Pasco	28%	30%	36%	20%	17%	13%	15%	20%	4%	7%
Pinellas	35%	33%	42%	42%	12%	7%	9%	6%	3%	3%
Polk	23%	62%	46%	31%	11%	0%	17%	8%	3%	0%

Vessels should only be allowed to park in designated spots on the river.	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
Citrus	26%	33%	39%	23%	8%	7%	24%	17%	4%	13%
Hernando	39%	29%	28%	19%	17%	14%	11%	4%	5%	14%
Hillsborough	17%	29%	32%	24%	12%	11%	32%	24%	7%	8%
Pasco	20%	32%	36%	30%	18%	9%	18%	15%	9%	6%
Pinellas	27%	28%	38%	33%	13%	12%	15%	13%	7%	6%
Polk	20%	46%	31%	15%	20%	8%	20%	15%	9%	15%

The river is too crowded with visitors/	Strongly Agree		Agree		Neither Agree nor Disagree		Disagree		Strongly Disagree	
Citrus	24%	33%	29%	13%	33%	30%	10%	10%	4%	7%
Hernando	51%	38%	24%	22%	14%	12%	8%	4%	3%	3%
Hillsborough	32%	29%	25%	37%	20%	21%	19%	8%	4%	0%
Pasco	27%	32%	24%	26%	33%	13%	14%	15%	3%	6%
Pinellas	27%	33%	32%	30%	29%	19%	8%	7%	4%	1%
Polk	20%	46%	29%	31%	37%	23%	14%	0%	0%	0%