

Statement by Robert Knight
Director, Florida Springs Institute

I would agree that EPD is effective and efficient with only a few reservations (as one sees in any organization) concerning limitations of individual staff. With the virtual loss of the WMDs, EPD is more important than ever. I see a continuing degradation of the environment in Alachua County and surrounding counties, and EPD is our only local governmental group who can help to stem that tide. In my opinion, the biggest issues are groundwater protection (quantity and quality), surface water resource protection (springs, rivers, creeks, lakes, and wetlands), and habitat protection (county-owned lands). We need stronger environmental protection ordinances and review in the county.