

6.4.2 Fanning Spring/Little Fanning– Recommended MFL

Manatee passage at Fanning Spring requires a minimum 2.71 ft. (NGVD) spring stage equivalent to provide enough depth for the 5.0 foot passage requirement during the cold season (November–April) for fully grown manatee to enter the spring pool. The recommended Lower Suwannee River median flow of 7,600 cfs in the cold season will control the spring run elevation and allow the 2.71 feet (NGVD) level to be met 85% of the time (7,600 cfs equates to average monthly stage of 4.3 ft). In addition, throughout the year, the historic flow regime for Fanning Spring will not be reduced by more than 10% (Figure 6-3). This is based on evaluation of the relationship of spring discharge to river stage, avoidance of significant adverse impact to the recreation and aesthetic values of the spring, manatee thermal refuge in the cold season (Nov–Apr) and available water in the springshed. (Table 6-3).

Table 6-3. Recommended MFL for Fanning/Little Fanning Spring.

	NOVEMBER 1 – APRIL 30	ANNUAL
Minimum Level	2.71 ft. NGVD in Fanning spring run to be met 85% of the time	Flow regime that will maintain 90% of historic flow regime

Table 6-4. Fanning/Little Fanning Spring Recommended MFL. Summary considerations for each water resource value

ECOLOGIC & HUMAN USE VALUE	IS VALUE APPLICABLE TO WATER BODY?	REQUIREMENTS TO AVOID SIGNIFICANTLY ADVERSE IMPACT	DOES RECOMMENDED MFL ADDRESS VALUE?
Recreation in and on the water	Yes	Full pool that minimizes “dark water” intrusion from river	Yes
Fish and wildlife habitats and the passage of fish	Yes	Minimum 5.0 ft. depth in Fanning spring run for manatee passage during cold season	Yes
Estuarine resources	Yes	Maintain acceptable flows to river in dry period to avoid significant adverse impacts	Yes
Transfer of detrital material	No	NA	NA
Maintenance of freshwater storage and supply	Yes	Availability of water for future use	Yes
Aesthetic and scenic attributes	Yes	Full Fanning spring pool that minimizes “dark water” intrusion from river	Yes
Filtration and absorption of nutrients and other pollutants	No	NA	NA
Sediment loads	No	NA	NA
Water quality	No	NA	NA
Navigation	No	NA	NA

Blue shading indicates limiting (most sensitive to flow reduction) value