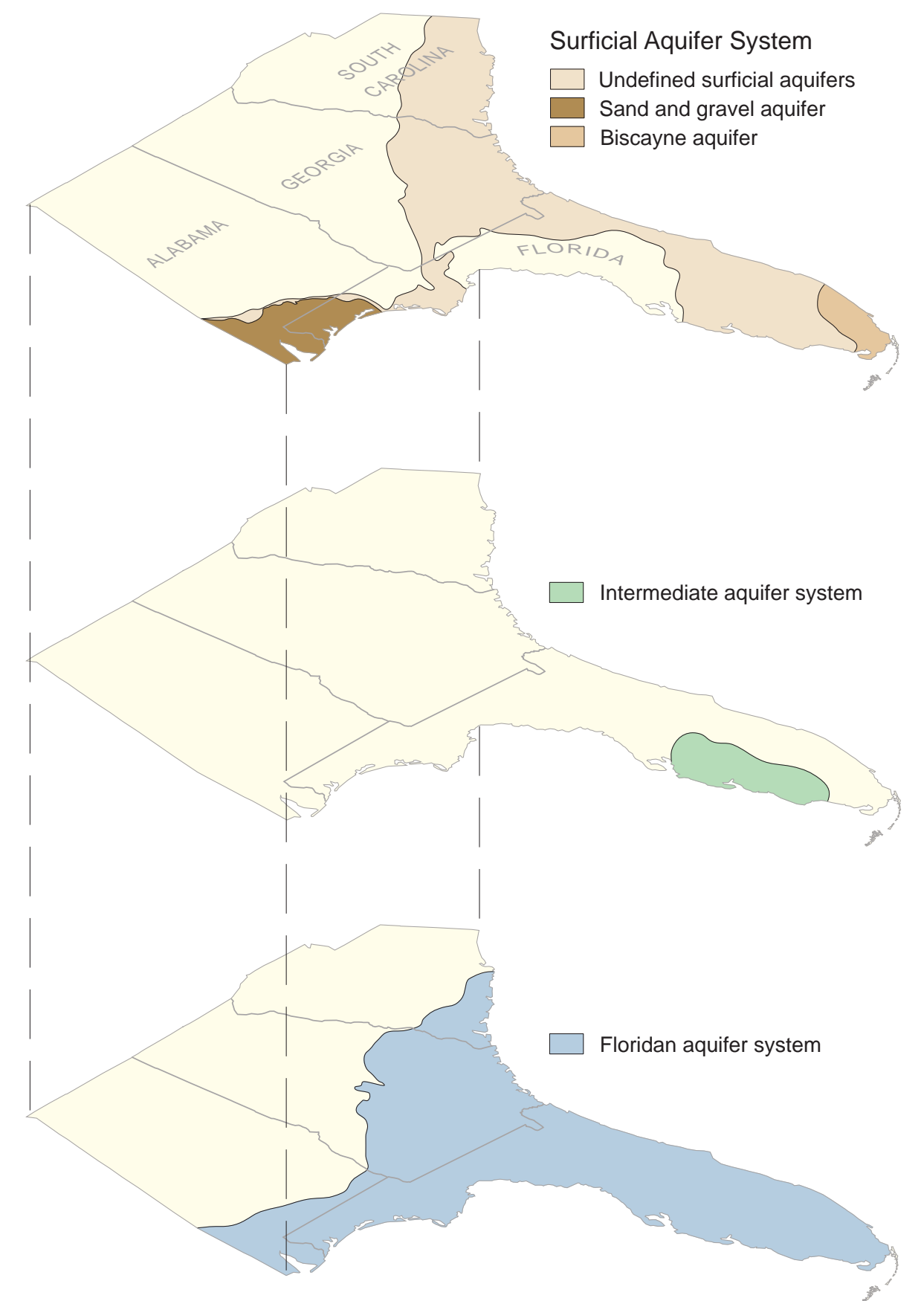


# Geology

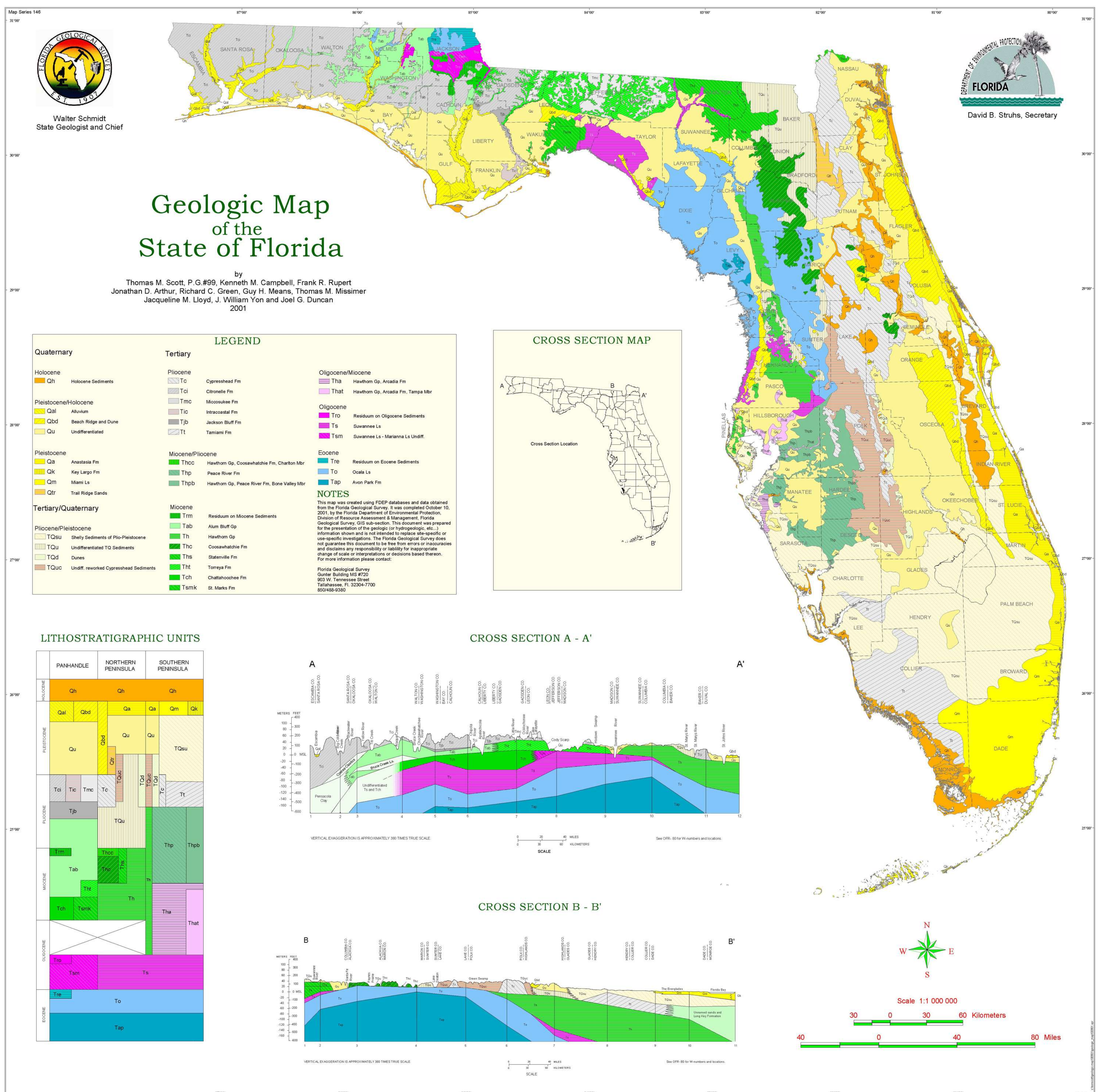
Compared to places like the northern United States, Florida has fairly simple geology and **stratigraphy** (layering of rock and sediment). Florida's subsurface rocks lie fairly flat, while the rocks in the northern and western United States have been intensely folded over millions of years to produce very complex geology.

Florida is comprised of three main aquifers: the surficial aquifer, which is broken down into the sand and gravel aquifer and the Biscayne aquifer, the intermediate aquifer, and the huge, statewide Floridan aquifer. Confining layers vary throughout the state. In some areas, the confining layers are absent or very thin, while in other areas, they can be almost 200 feet thick.

## Sequence of Aquifers



Water Resources Atlas of Florida, Institute of Science and Public Affairs



Above: Geologic map of Florida Map-Florida Geological Survey

All of Florida is underlain by thick sequences of limestone and dolostone. In most parts of the state, these rocks are covered with layers of sand. Together, the sand and carbonate rocks form an enormous groundwater reservoir, providing more groundwater than any other state: more than a quadrillion gallons!



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