

Priority Water Bodies List and Schedule

To protect and conserve adequate water supplies for natural systems, the South Florida Water Management District applies region-wide water resource protection rules as well as Minimum Flows and Levels (MFLs), Water Reservations, and Restricted Allocation Area rules. In Volume II, Chapter 3 highlights the general process and legal requirements for applying these rules to specific water bodies. The chapter also summarizes the rules in effect as of 2010 as well as the priorities and anticipated schedule for developing new proposed rules in 2011 through 2015.

Rulemaking Helps Set Aside Needed Water

In accordance with state law, each year the District identifies specific water bodies for which MFL rules will be established. Another list specifies those water bodies for which Water Reservation and Restricted Allocation Area rules will be developed in order to protect natural systems from future consumptive use allocations. To date, MFL criteria have been adopted for 12 water bodies within the District's boundaries. The agency has also authorized Restricted Allocation Area and Water Reservation rules for several water bodies, some of which also have MFLs established. The specific locations and dates when rules were established for the priority water bodies are shown on the map.

In 2010, the District adopted its second Water Reservation rule to set aside water for the North Fork of the St. Lucie River in support of the CERP Indian River Lagoon – South Project. Water Reservation rule development for the Caloosahatchee Estuary [in support of the CERP Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project] and the Kissimmee River and Kissimmee Chain of Lakes continued throughout 2010. The District's Governing Board initiated development of the Restricted Allocation Area rule for Biscayne Bay, in support of the CERP Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project. The agency also successfully demonstrated that the 2007 Restricted Allocation Area rule protects the natural system water in the Everglades provided by the CERP Site 1 Impoundment (Fran Reich Preserve) Project, which enabled a Project Partnership Agreement to be executed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and construction to start.

The 2011 MFL Priority List and Schedule is anticipated to be adopted by the District's Governing Board in early 2011 and then submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval. Planned activities related to Water Reservation and Restricted Allocation Area rules are also expected to be provided. Further details on these plans are available at www.sfwmd.gov/reservations.



Regional Priority Water Bodies

LEGEND

RESTRICTED ALLOCATION AREAS

- 2007 – EVERGLADES AND LOXAHATCHEE
- 2008 – LAKE OKEECHOBEE SERVICE AREA

MINIMUM FLOWS AND LEVELS

- 2001
- 2002
- 2006

WATER RESERVATIONS

- 2009
- 2010