

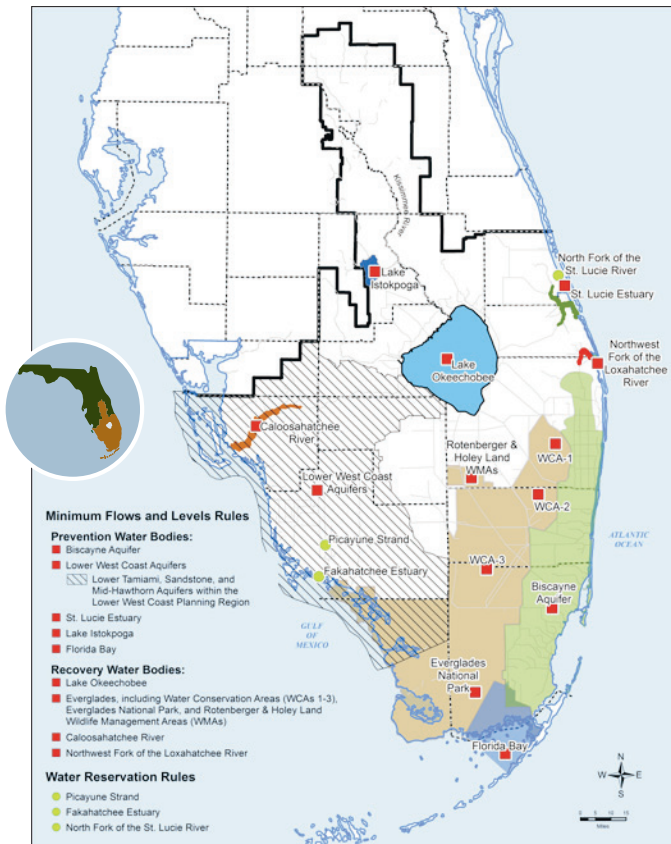
2012 Priority Water Bodies List and Schedule

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 provides a summary of current rules in effect during 2011 and the priorities and schedule for developing new rules planned for 2012 through 2017.

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, the District has adopted MFL rules for 13 water bodies and has authorized Restricted Allocation Area rules for several large areas including the Everglades and Loxahatchee River Watersheds and the Lake Okeechobee Service Area. Water bodies where MFL or Water Reservation rules have been adopted are shown on the top map. Water bodies where Restricted Allocation Area rules have been adopted are shown on the bottom map.

In 2011, the District continued collecting technical data and refining hydrodynamic and ecological models for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary. Technical evaluation and documentation of current MFL criteria for Florida Bay also progressed this past year. This information was used to help determine whether to update MFLs for these priority water bodies. On December 15, 2011, the District's Governing Board adopted the 2012 MFL Priority Water Body List and Schedule, which was subsequently submitted to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval. Planned activities in 2012 include continuing progress on the MFL evaluation for the Caloosahatchee River and Estuary, and Florida Bay.

Additional rulemaking activities include continuing Water Reservation rule development associated with two Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects: the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project and the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project (Phase 1). Water reservation rule development efforts for the Kissimmee River, its floodplain, and the Chain of Lakes will move forward in 2014 after completion of the Kissimmee Basin Modeling and Operation Study. Further details on these plans are available at www.sfwmd.gov/reservations.



Regional Priority Water Bodies

