



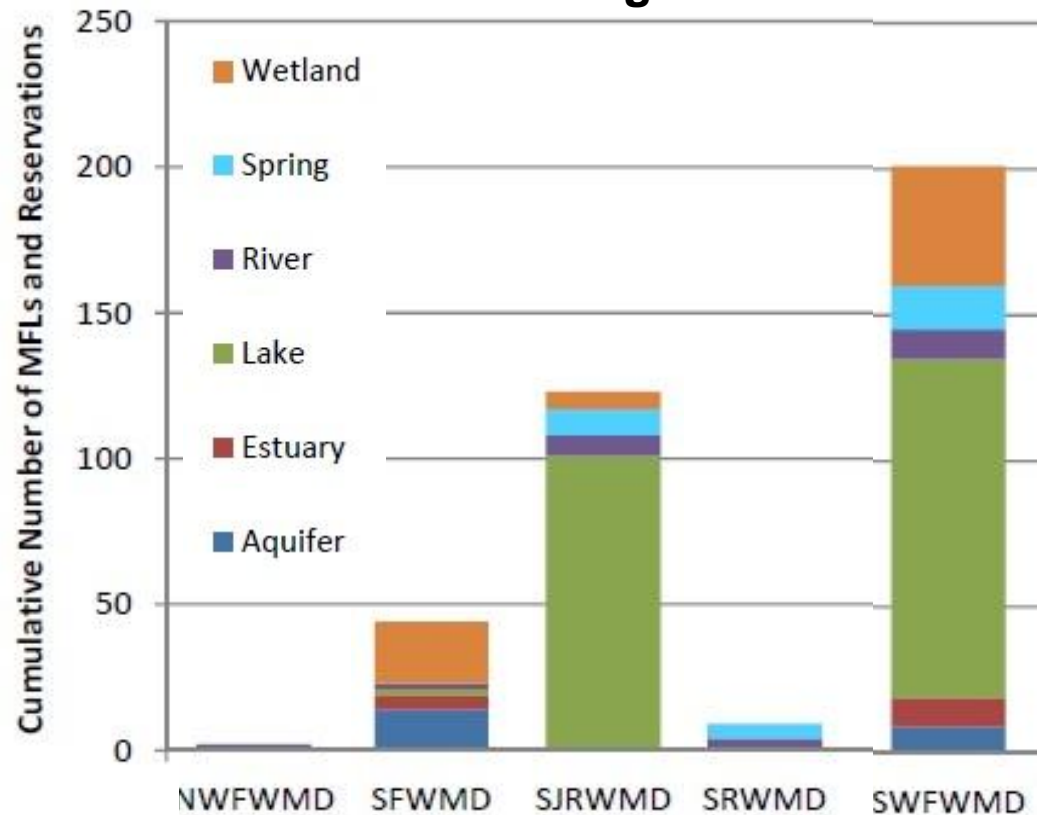
Beyond MFLs: Water Resource Protections

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By the Numbers:

Cumulative Number of MFLs & Reservations
Established through FY 2013



MFL Envy ?

Approaches may be different among WMDs but doesn't imply one is right and the others wrong

Does size matter?

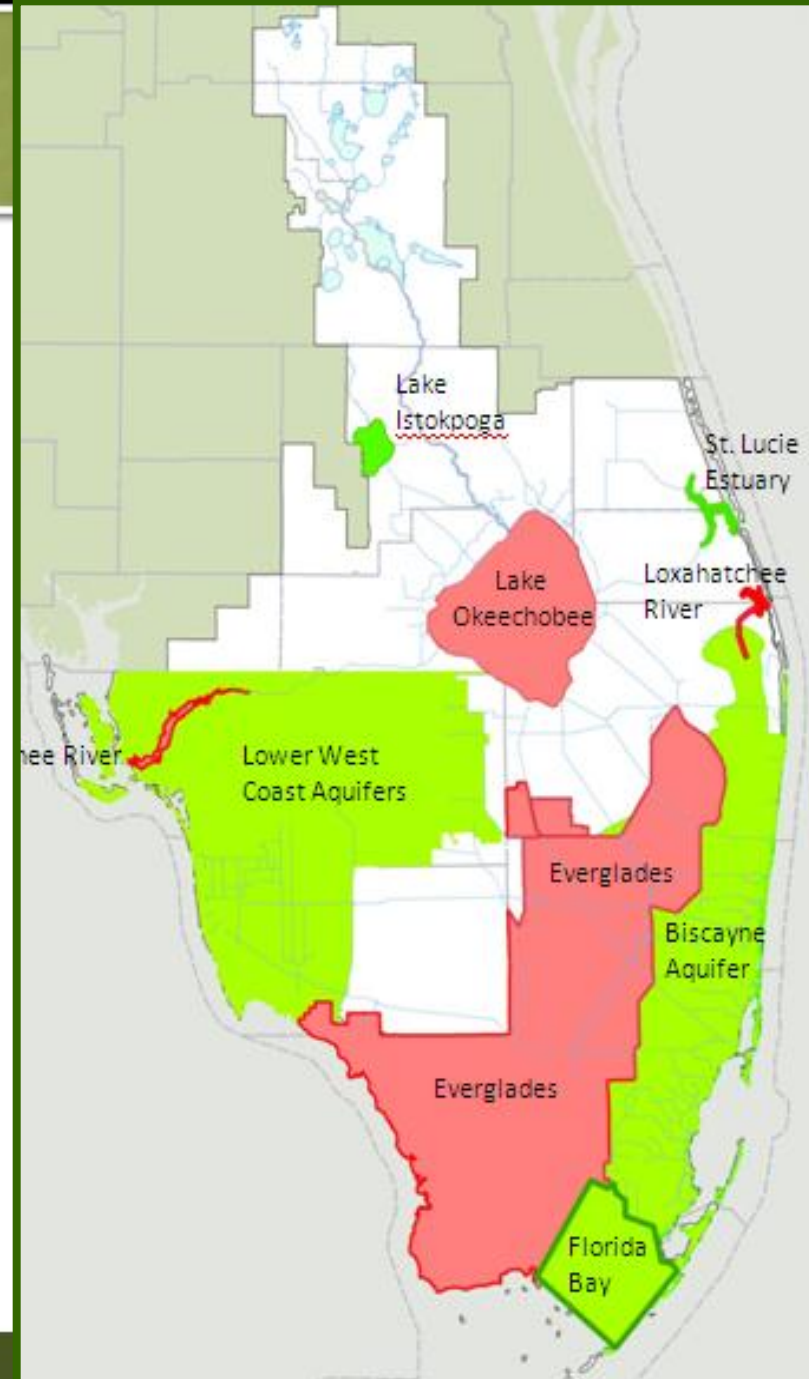
Is bigger better?

MFL Prevention Waterbodies

- Biscayne aquifer
- Lower West Coast aquifers
- St Lucie Estuary
- Lake Istokpoga
- Florida Bay

MFL Recovery Waterbodies

- Lake Okeechobee
- Everglades
- Caloosahatchee River
- Loxahatchee River



Does size matter?

Is bigger better?

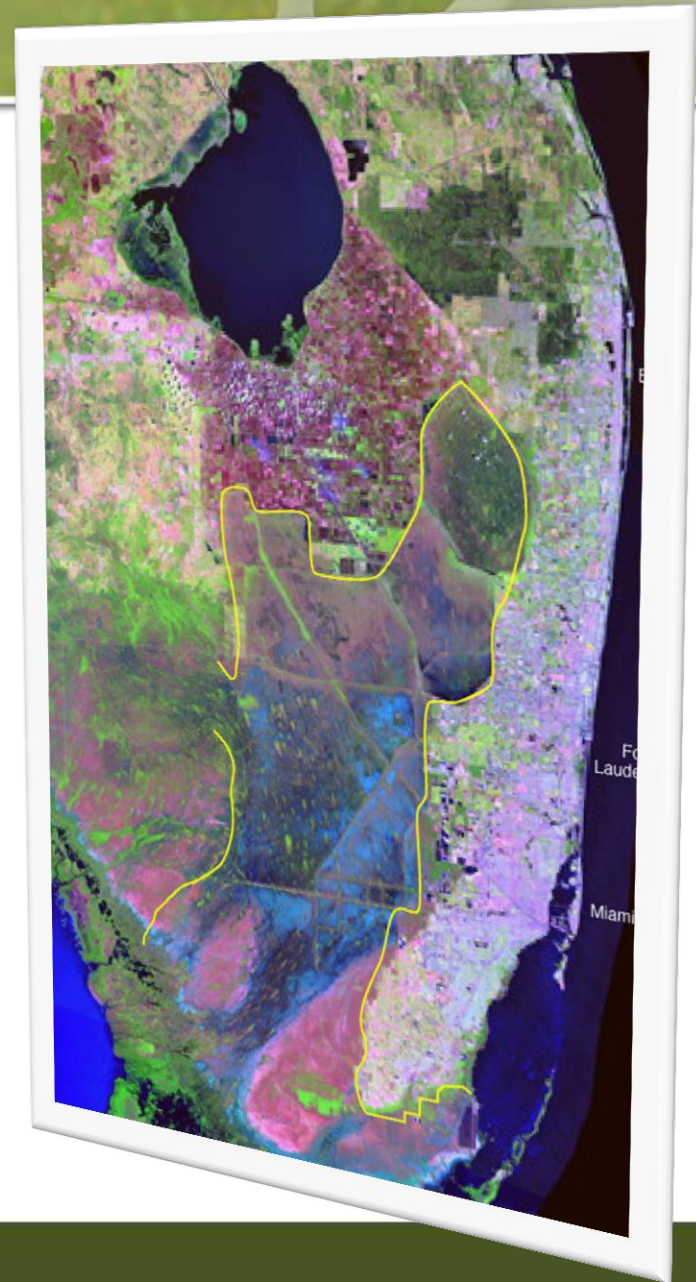
MFL Prevention Waterbodies

- 1,040,769 acres Biscayne aquifer
- 3,282,831 acres LWC aquifers
- 6,840 acres St Lucie Estuary
- 27,692 acres Lake Istokpoga
- 270,533 acres Florida Bay

MFL Recovery Waterbodies

- 439,832 acres Lake Okeechobee
- 2,172,062 acres Everglades
- 17,106 acres Caloosahatchee
- 610 acres Loxahatchee

7.3 million acres total



Some observations ...



- Everyone wants their own MFL
- Perception that a waterbody is not “valued” or “worthy” unless it has an MFL established
- MFLs seen by many as the “gold standard” of resource protection
- What most folks really want is protection and restoration
- In some cases, MFL tunnel vision *may* get in the way of a broader approach

MFL alone may not = protection

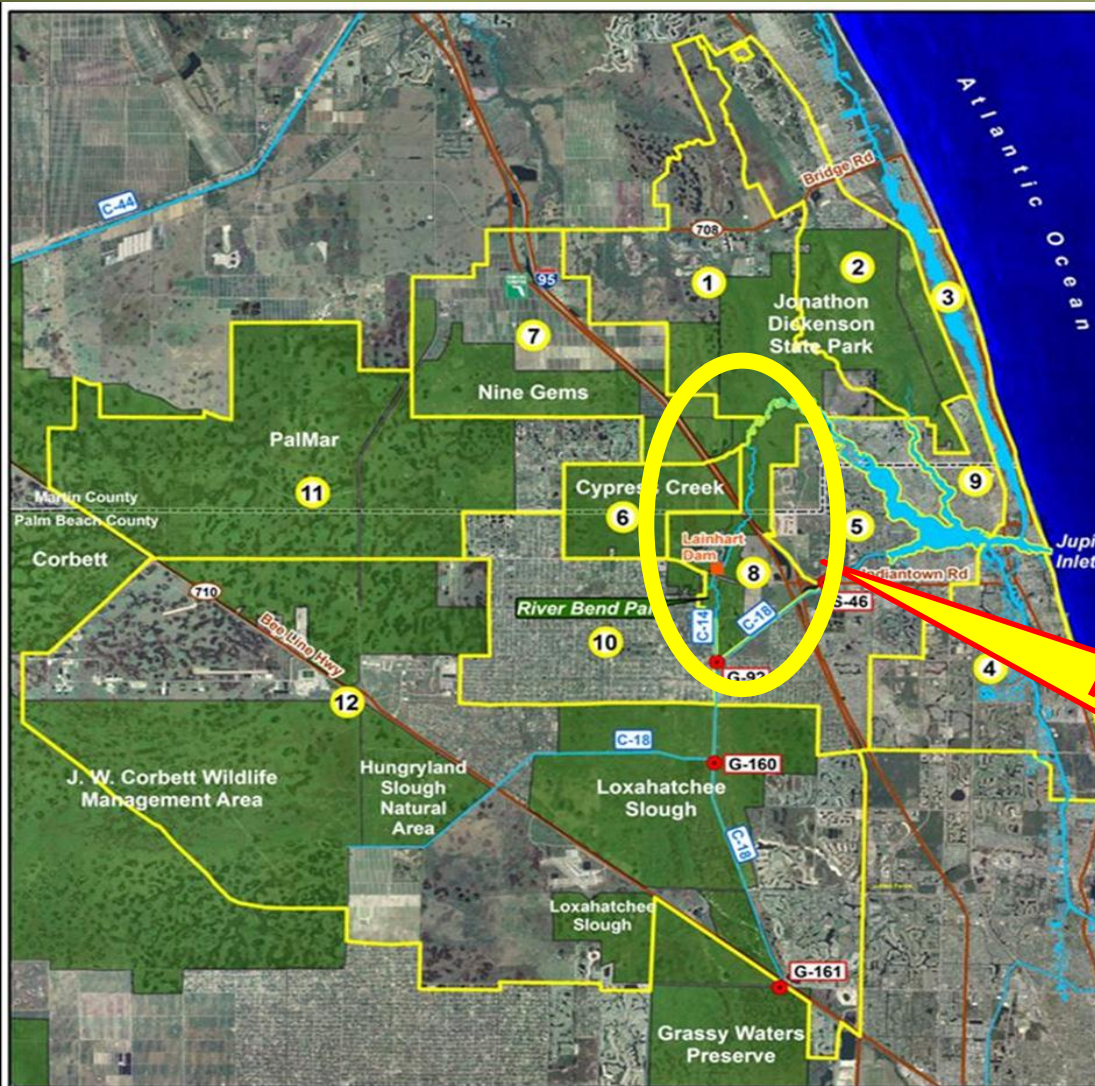


MFL

Loxahatchee River



MFL alone may not = protection



Loxahatchee River Watershed



MFL

Loxahatchee River

Loxahatchee Watershed

MFLs are important, but



Chapter 373 is a BIG toolkit



Ok, maybe not THAT big, but still

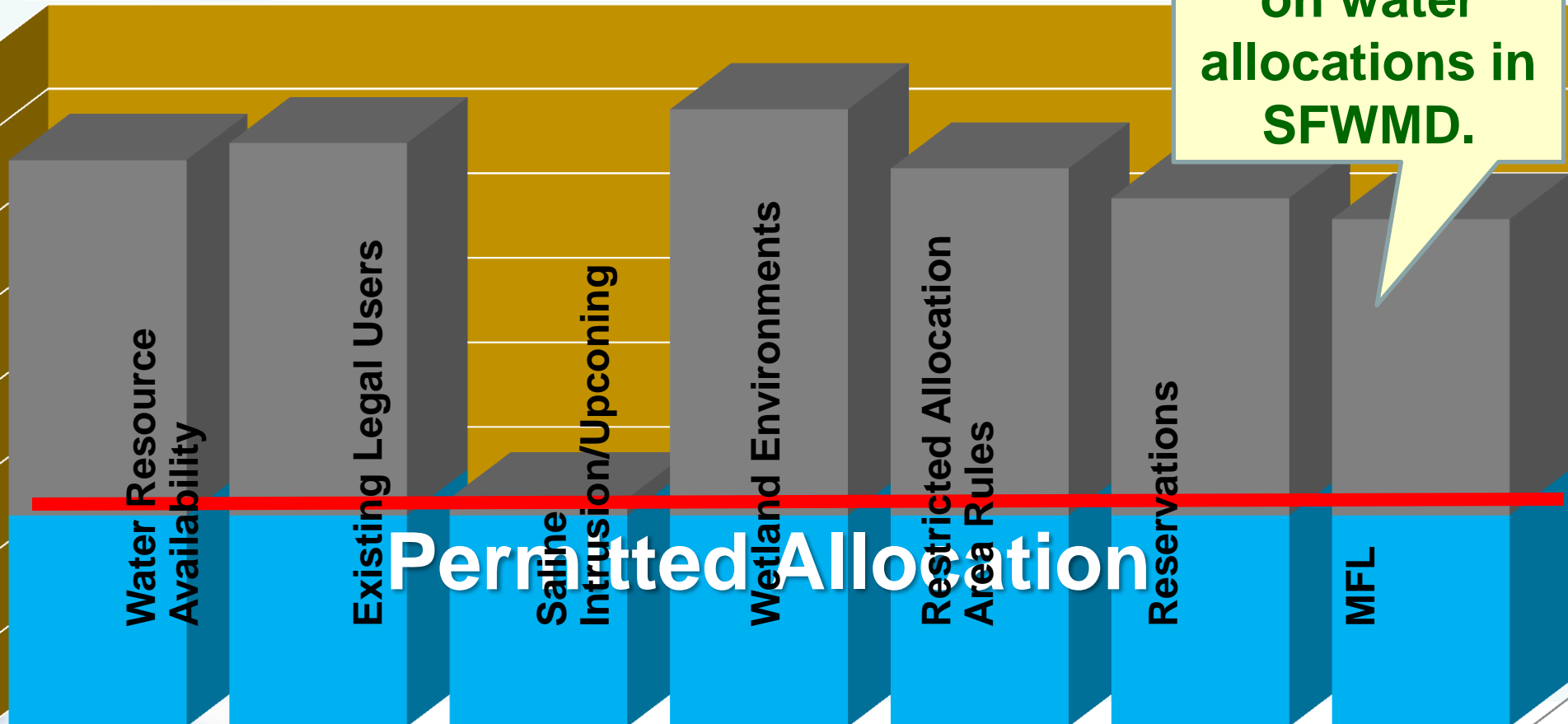
- Surface Water Management Criteria
- Best Management Practices
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Land Acquisition
- Planning
- Water Control Operations
- Project Construction
- Consumptive Use Criteria
 - ✓ Minimum Flows & Levels
 - ✓ Water Reservations
 - ✓ Restricted Allocation Area Rules



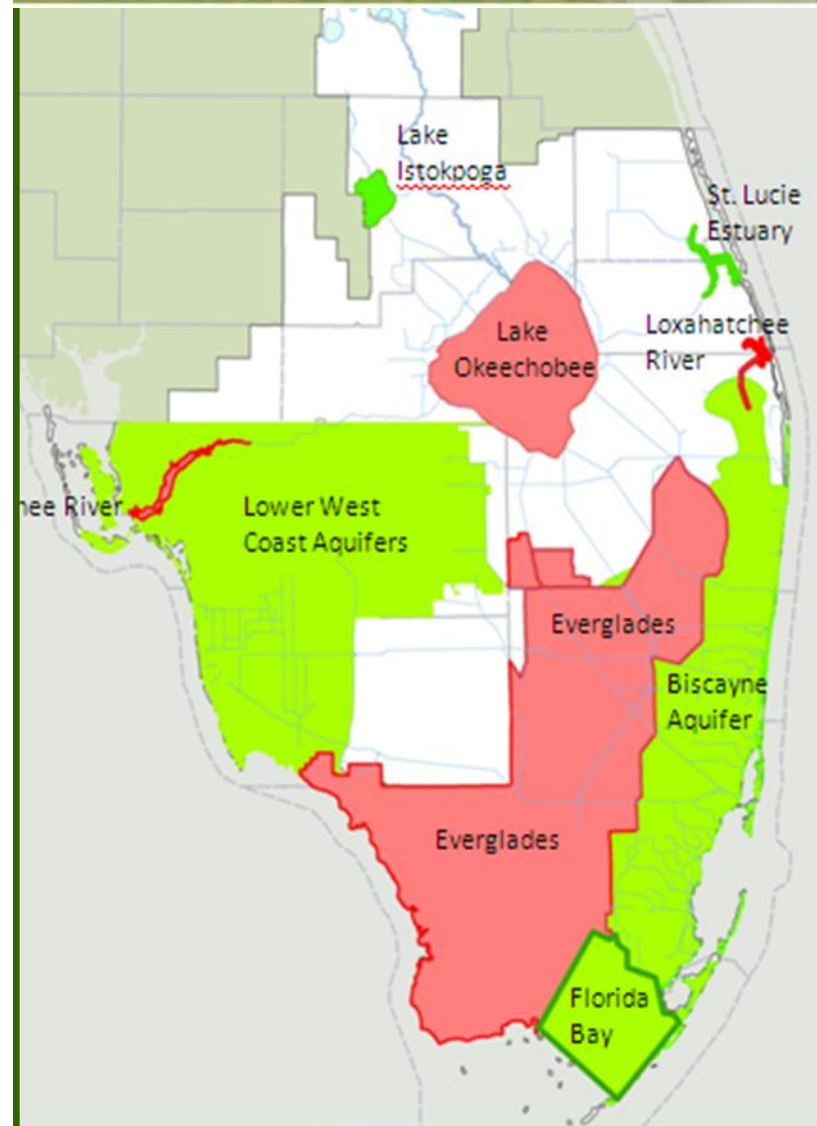
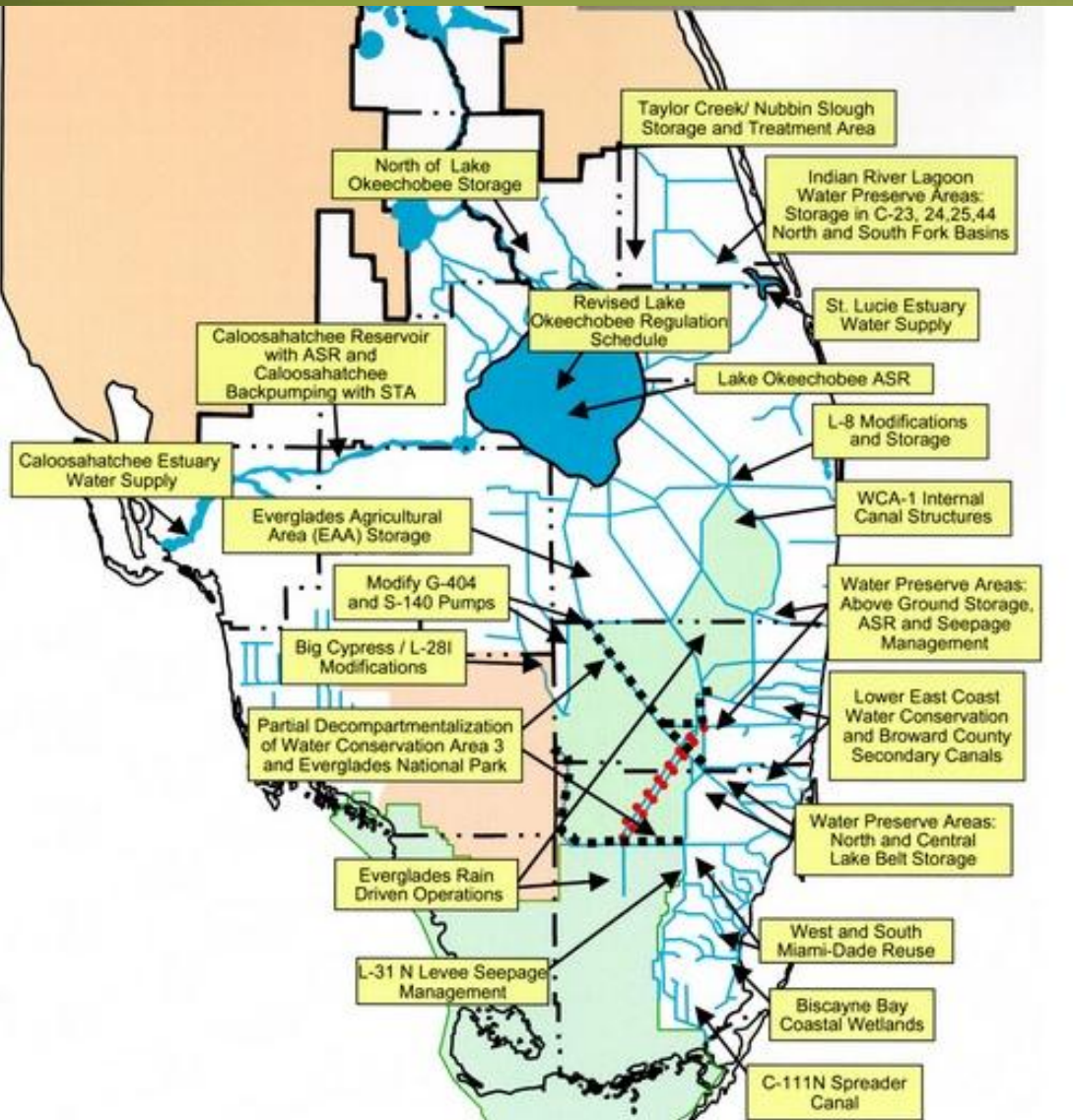
Implementation in water use permits

Permits issued based on most restrictive resource protection criteria

Rarely is MFL the constraint on water allocations in SFWMD.



MFL recovery strategies: CERP



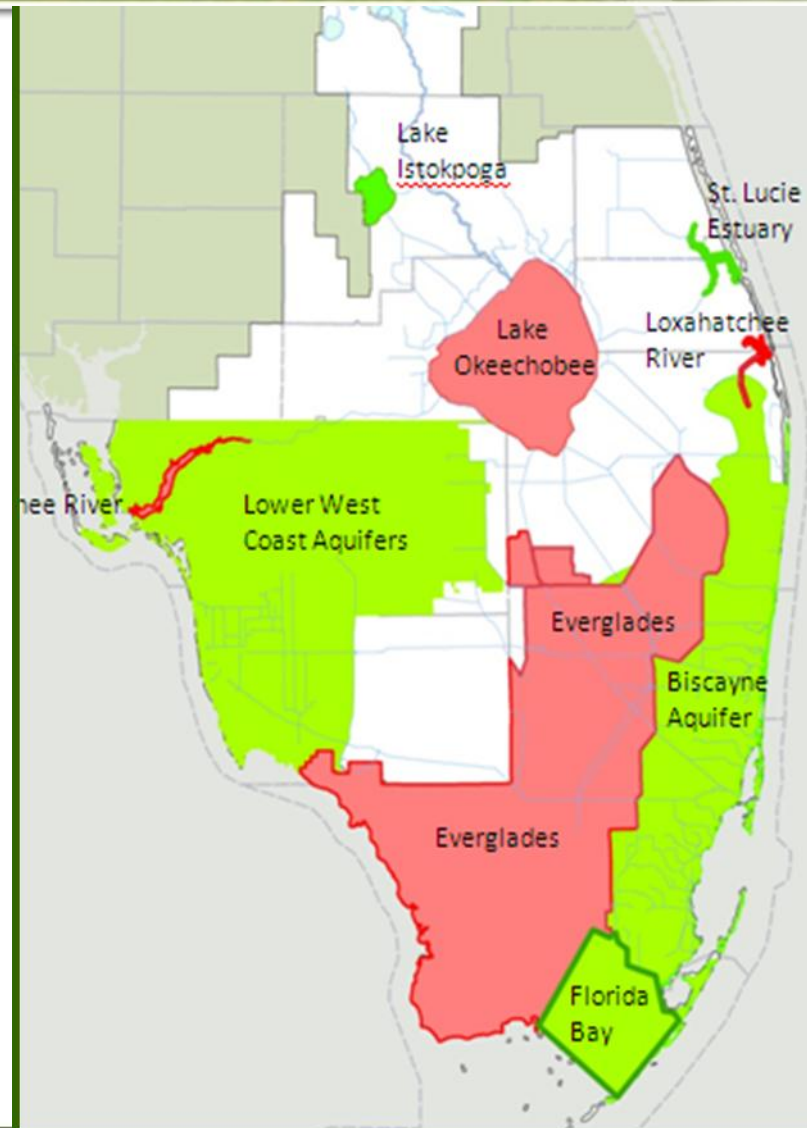
Recovery strategies have limitations

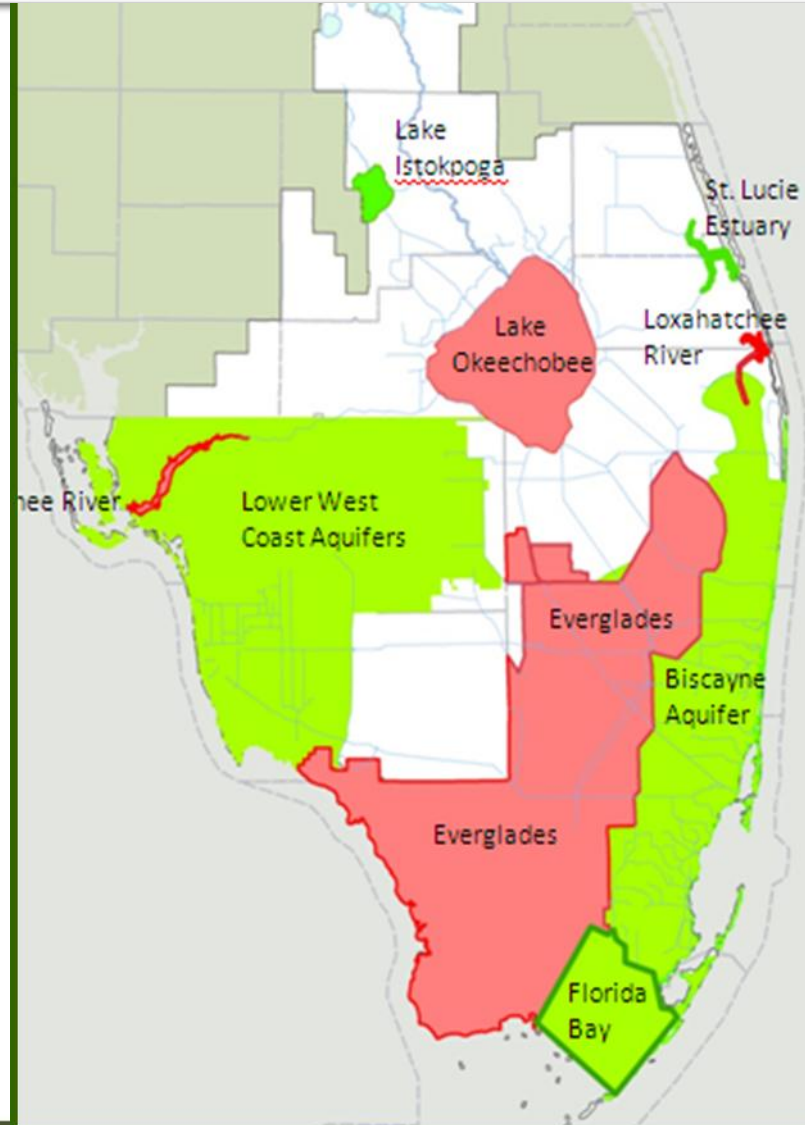
MFL violations not improved by cutbacks to permitted users due to overwhelming influence of C&SF flood control project

Large scale regional storage projects key component of CERP

MFL recovery impacted by delays in CERP implementation

Concern that increasing demands would allocate water needed for restoration while waiting for CERP

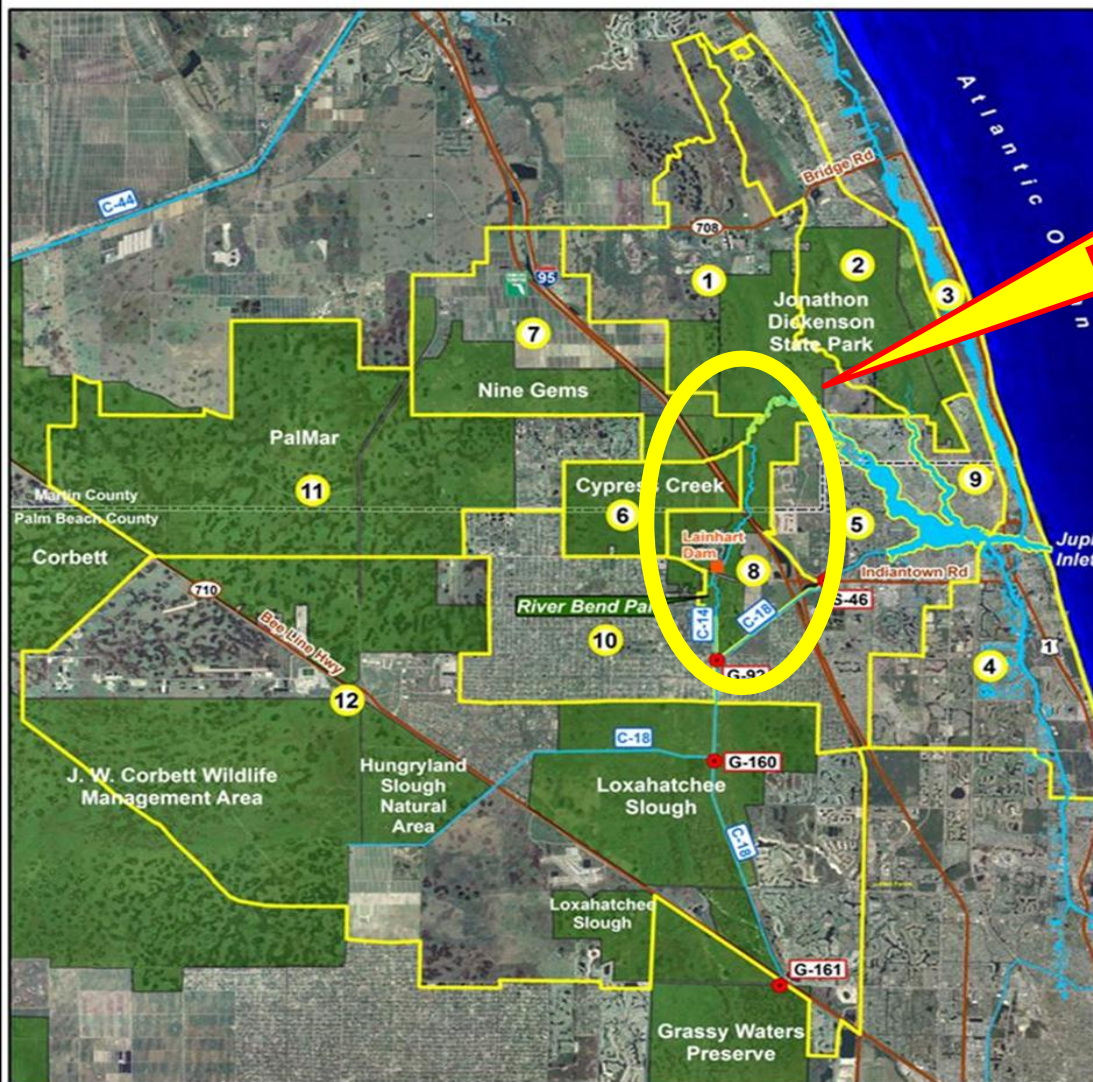




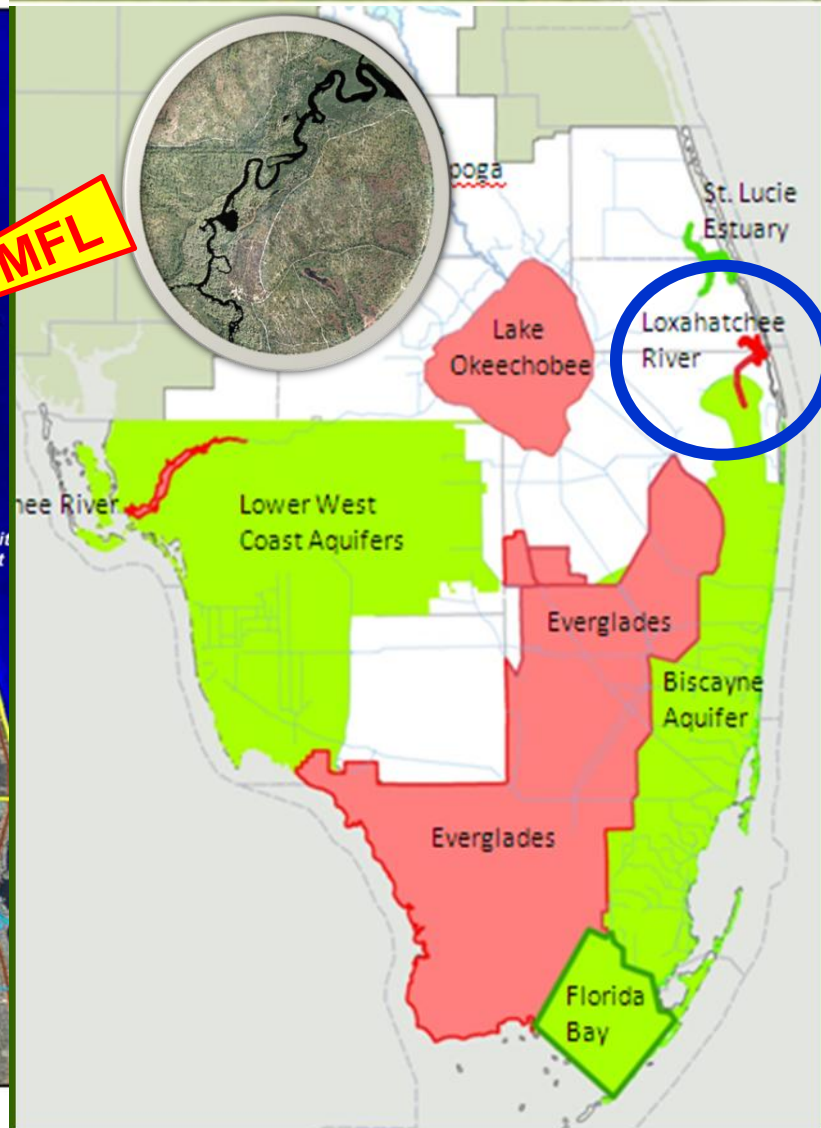
What does Restricted Allocation Rule do?

- Prohibits increases in allocation of water needed for the restoration of the Everglades and Loxahatchee River Watershed
 - Rule is a component of the MFL recovery strategies
 - Rule based on the public interest served in the restoration of these waterbodies
 - Base condition (actual) legal water use protected
 - Direct and indirect withdrawals included
 - Local groundwater storage, stormwater not needed for restoration and alternative sources not affected by rule

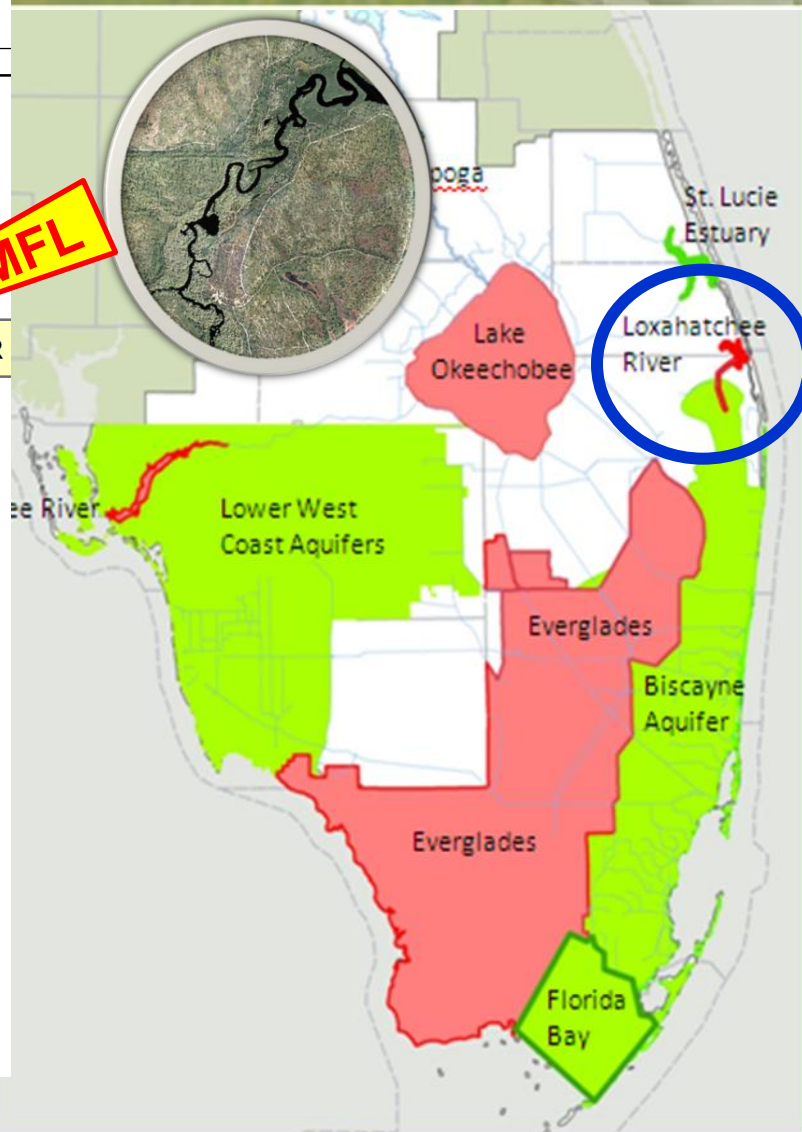
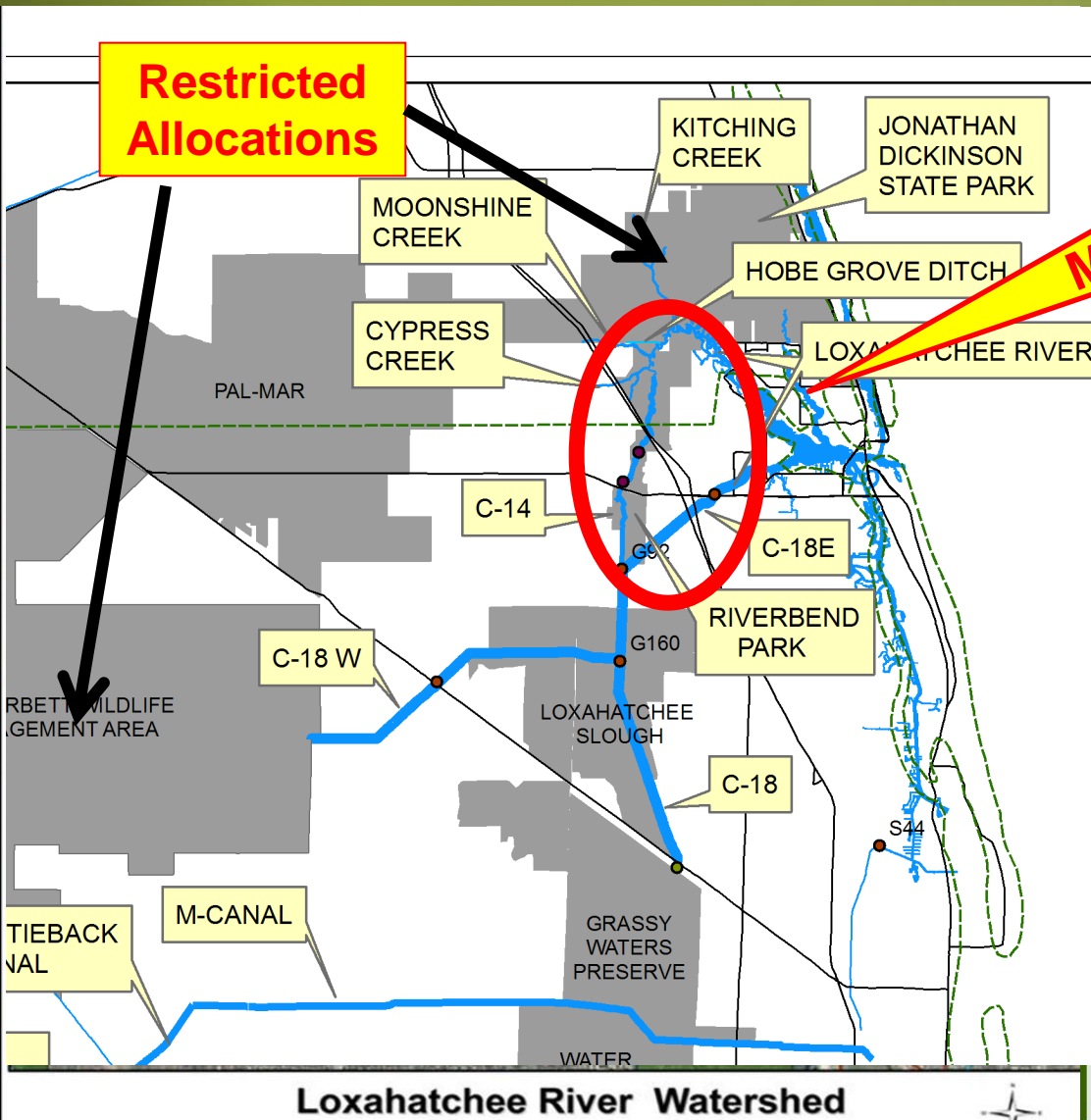
Public Policy Prong of “3 Part Test” Restricted Allocation Rules



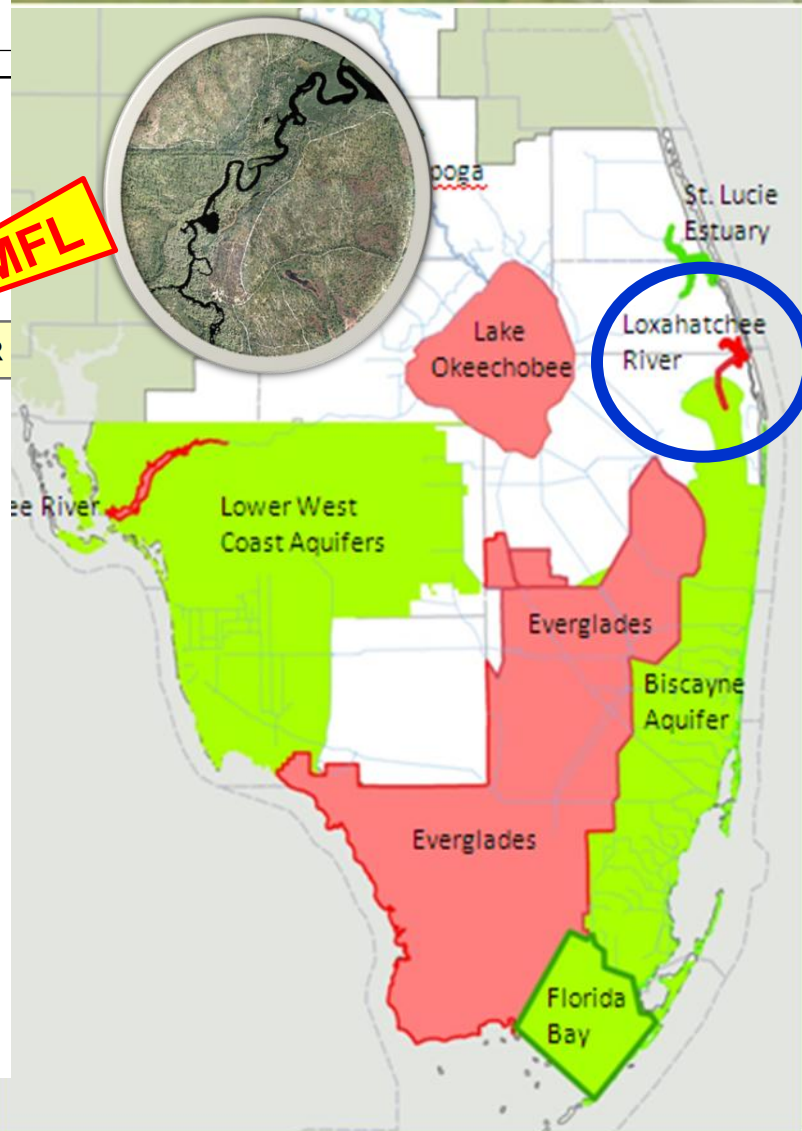
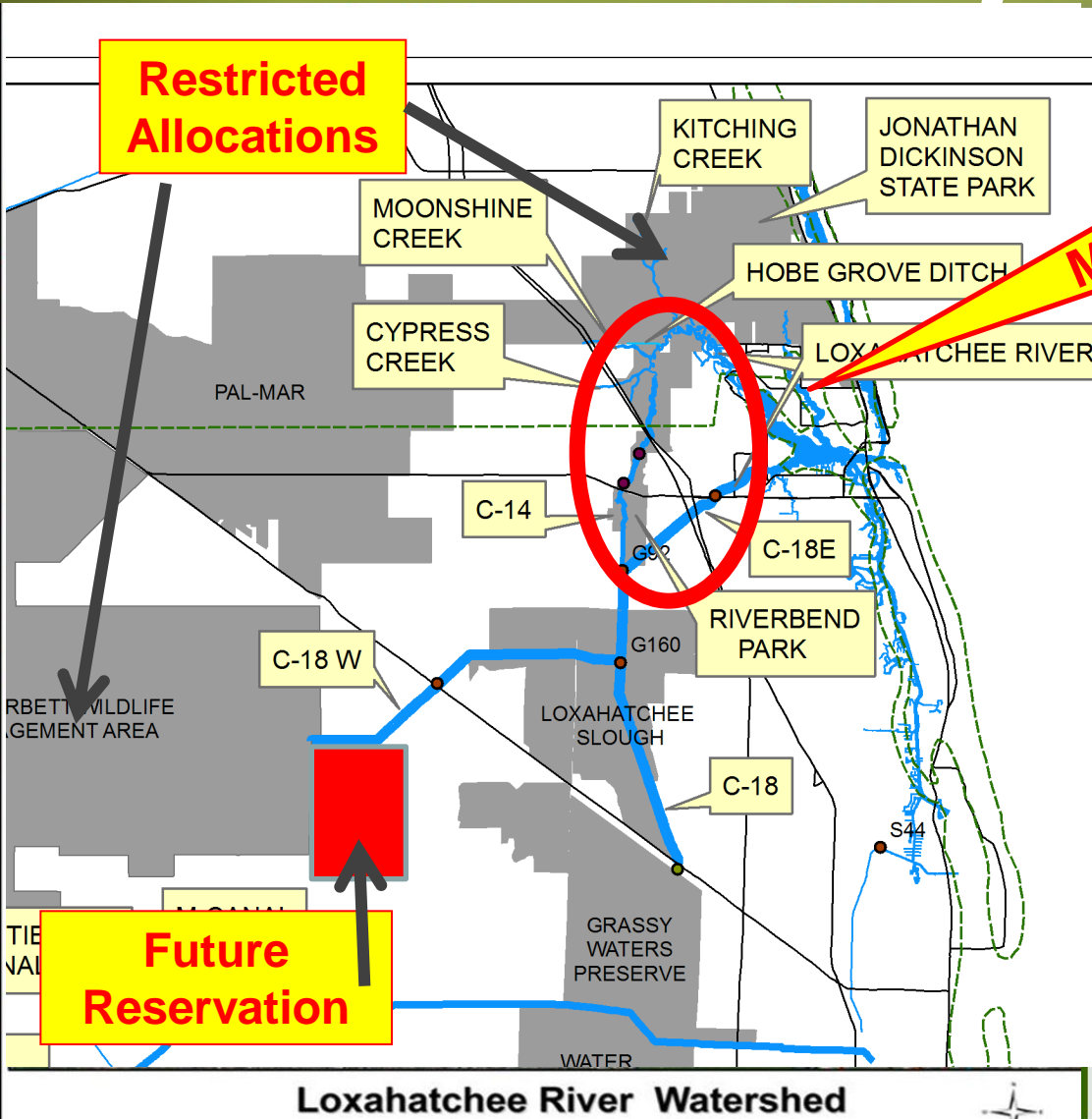
Loxahatchee River Watershed



Public Policy Prong of “3 Part Test” Restricted Allocation Rules



Future Water Reservation to Protect “New” Project Water

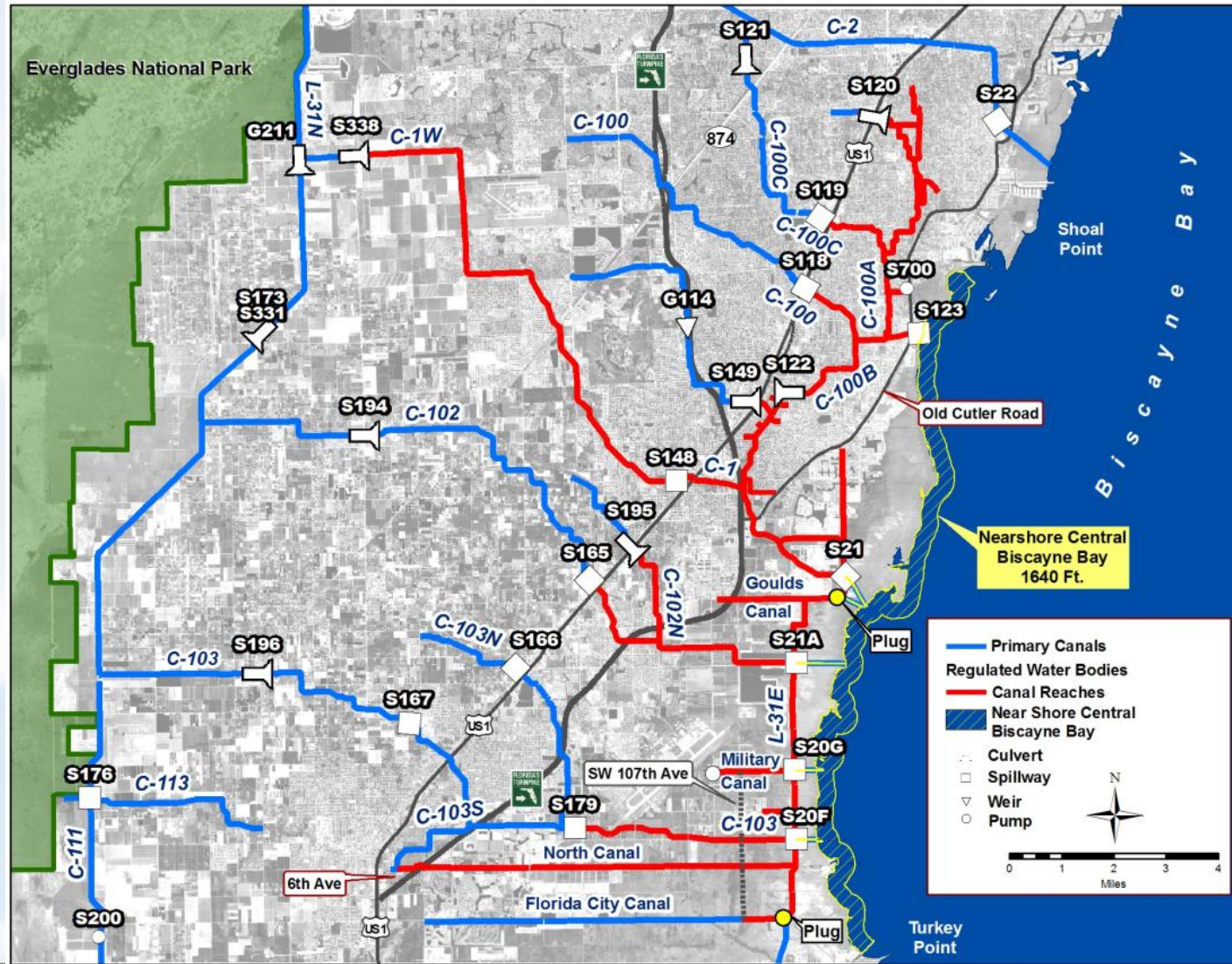


What does Water Reservation Rule do?

- Identifies water to be withheld from allocation for the protection of fish and wildlife
 - Established based on scientifically defensible determination of water needed for protection of fish and wildlife
 - Prevents increases in allocation from protected source
 - Existing legal uses protected ~~for duration of the permit~~ so long as they not contrary to the public interest

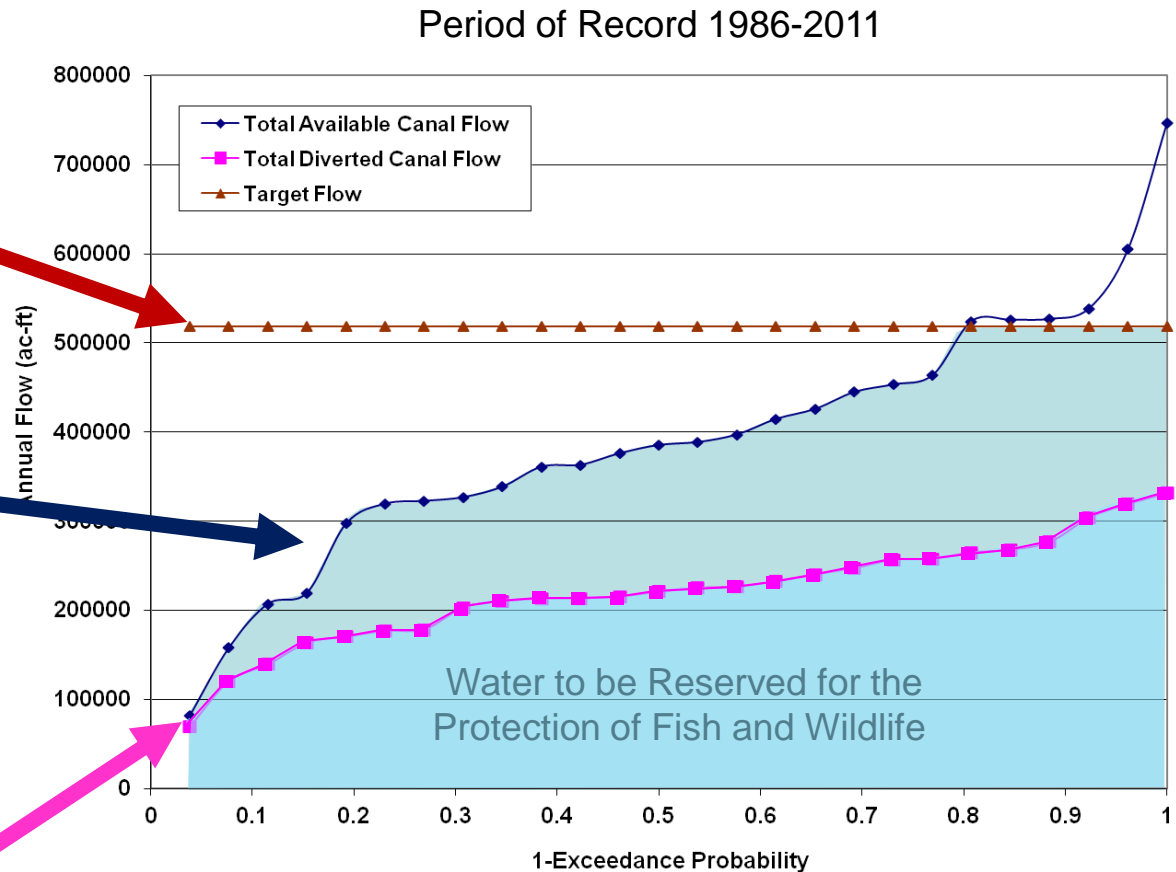


Biscayne Bay Water Reservation Rule



Reserves both “CERP Project Water” and existing canal flows up to target

- Near shore habitat flow target
- Existing canal flows
- CERP project water restored to sheetflow



Water Resource Protection

- MFLs are important tool for water resource protection, but they aren't the only tool
- Recovery strategies can take a LONG time
- Other tools may work effectively in conjunction with MFL

Kissimmee River Restoration

