

February 2008 Team of the Month

SCADA & Instrumentation Management Division
Water Shortage Team

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Water Shortage Team

This team is being recognized for devoting extra time and effort and performing key tasks to ensure that field equipment was functioning properly to get accurate information on drought conditions. In addition, they performed instrumentation upgrades and installations that became necessary due to the water shortage.

Declining water levels in the Water Conservation Areas caused many of the existing surface water wells to become dry. District staff in the Emergency Operations Center contacted SIM staff to emphasize the importance of water level data to the District's mission. Scientists and Engineers from the Watershed and Water Supply Divisions use this data to estimate mean flow and level conditions, and to calculate a Muck Fire Index used to gauge the level of risk currently present for a serious muck fire in the Everglades ecosystem. The data is also shared with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Geological Survey and the National Park Service.

SIM staff compiled a list of shallow groundwater wells within the WCAs equipped with electronic sensors. A total of eight sites in WCA-2A were selected to be added to our radio network. However, the dry conditions would not allow field staff members to implement the project plan by airboat. Instead they turned to the District's Flight Operations staff for assistance. Flight Operations made significant accommodations in their already full schedule which allowed this team to successfully complete all eight upgrades, giving the SIM Division the ability to provide reliable, daily and on-time water level data to internal and external customers.