

Lake Okeechobee Service Area Water Availability Rule

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Water Use Permitting
September 3, 2009



sfwmd.gov

Rule Adoption

Adopted rule amendments from Section 3.2.1(G) of Basis of Review:

- Established the "Lake Okeechobee Water Availability Rule"
- Amended the Lake's Minimum Flow and Level status from prevention to recovery
- Effective date of rule was October 14, 2008

Why have this rule?

- Component of recovery strategy for minimum flows and levels for Lake O.
- Address lower lake management levels per Army Corps interim schedule
- Ensure that water for Everglades restoration is not allocated away

Who does the rule affect?

- All uses of surface water from Lake O. or integrated conveyance systems within the basin
- Rule does not apply to groundwater withdrawals, mining, dewatering, or Minor General Permits

Irrigation Permit Expiration Basins: Lake Okeechobee Basin

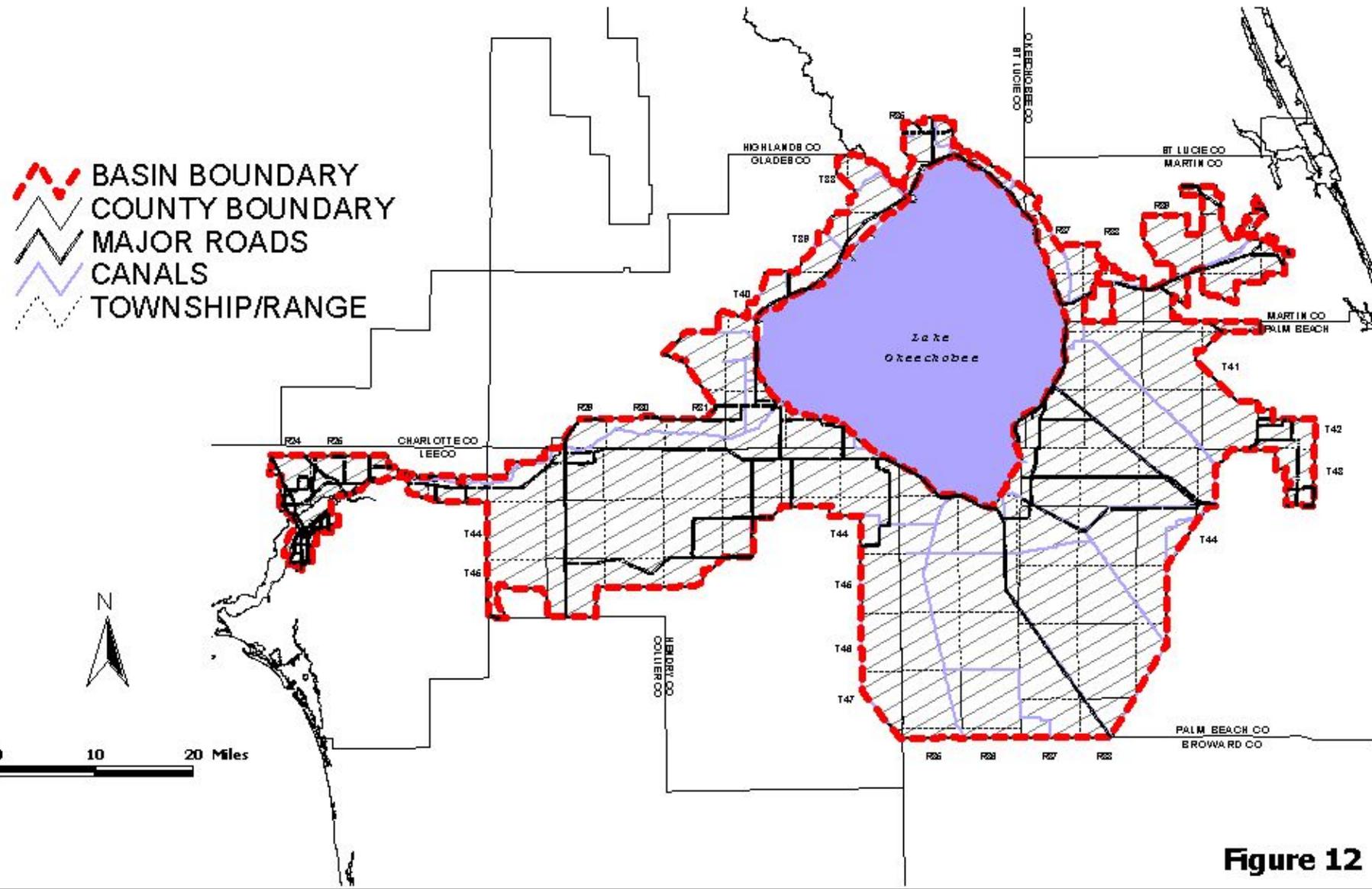


Figure 12

Overview of Lake Okeechobee Water Availability Rule Concepts

- **Historic, actual uses of water from the Lake will be 'capped'**
- **Historic, actual use (a.k.a. "base condition water use") should be conditionally allowed to be re-allocated**
- **Two Step Process:**
 - **Criteria for calculating "base condition water use" on a project scale**
 - **Criteria for allocating "base condition water use" on a project scale**

Overview of Lake Okeechobee Water Availability Rule Concepts, *cont.*

- **Step #1: Calculating “base condition water use”**
 - **By Use Class**
 - **Historic use as calculated using current “B List” criteria**
 - **Historic, unauthorized uses are included in base condition water use**

Overview of Lake Okeechobee Water Availability Rule Concepts, *cont.*

- **Step #2: Allocating “base condition water use”**
 - **Renewals:**
 - Re-issuance of existing permits with no changes
 - “Good to go”
 - **Modifications with no increase:**
 - Changes of withdrawal facility, change of crop type within permitted use class, etc.
 - “Good to go”

Overview of Lake Okeechobee Water Availability Rule Concepts, *cont.*

- **Step #2: Allocating “base condition water use,” *cont.***
 - **New uses or modifications for increased water**
 - **Water available from 1 of 4 sources:**
 - Water from certified (CERP) project
 - Lake Okeechobee, if offset by an alternative source
 - Alternative water supply
 - Available Lake Okeechobee Base Condition Water – Gov. Board’s discretion to not allocate Lake water, if improve minimum flow & level or restoration project /plan

Important Dates

- Irrigation permits within basin expired on Feb 28, 2009, unless timely application.
- Prior to Feb 28, 2010, GB can restrict the re-allocation of terminated base condition water use.
- After Feb 28, 2010, GB can restrict the re-allocation of unassigned, terminated, or reduced base condition water use.

Questions?