

Lake Okeechobee Water Shortage Management Update

Water Resources Advisory Commission
Thursday, November 2, 2006
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sfwmd.gov

Purpose of Presentation

- Describe Management of Lake Okeechobee during Drought Conditions
 - Lake Okeechobee drought management – Then & Now
 - How administered?
 - Restrictions: who, where, when, & what?
 - How are impacts to water resources considered?

Lake Okeechobee Drought Management: Then & Now

■ Then:

- Supply Side Management Methodology
 - Lake reference elevations
 - Average demands
 - 1990 land use

■ Now:

- Water Shortage Rules changed in Sept. 2001
 - Uses phased cutbacks
 - 1 in 10 demands
 - Updated LOSA demands, including C-43 basin, STAs, etc.

How Administered?

- Water Shortages administered pursuant to Chapters 40E-21 and 40E-22, F.A.C.
- Planning for Water Shortage:
 - Interdepartmental water shortage team formed
 - Continuously Monitoring and Assessing Lake Okeechobee and Regional System Conditions:
 - supply source availability
 - demands
 - climatic forecasts

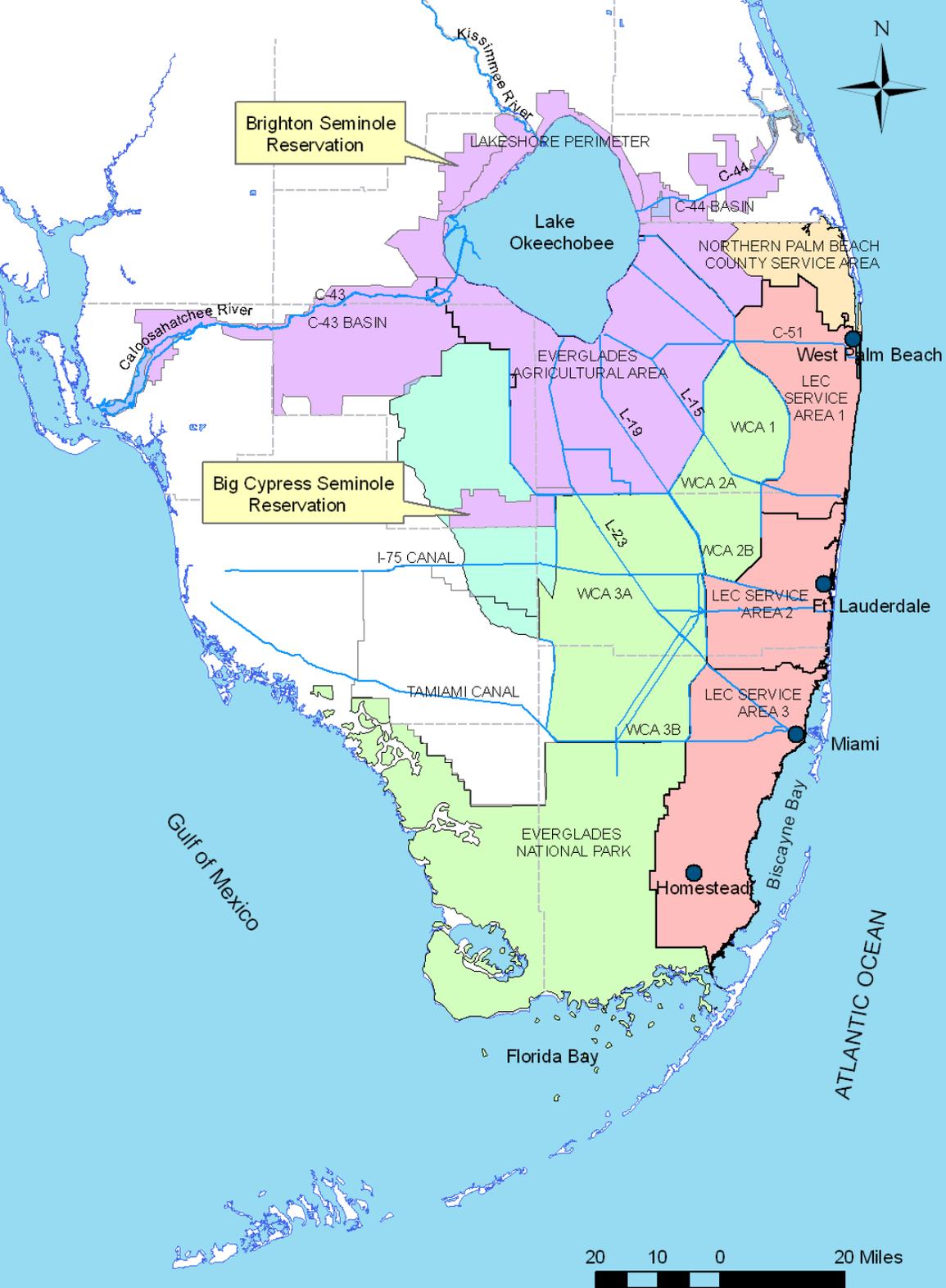
How Administered?

Declaring & Implementing a Water Shortage:

- Numerous factors considered in declaring water shortage
- Order issued by Governing Board or Executive Director (Board concurrence)
- Notification to affected parties:
 - Users, elected officials, enforcement entities
 - Public information campaign
- Determine allocations and make water deliveries
- Variances / Compliance / Enforcement

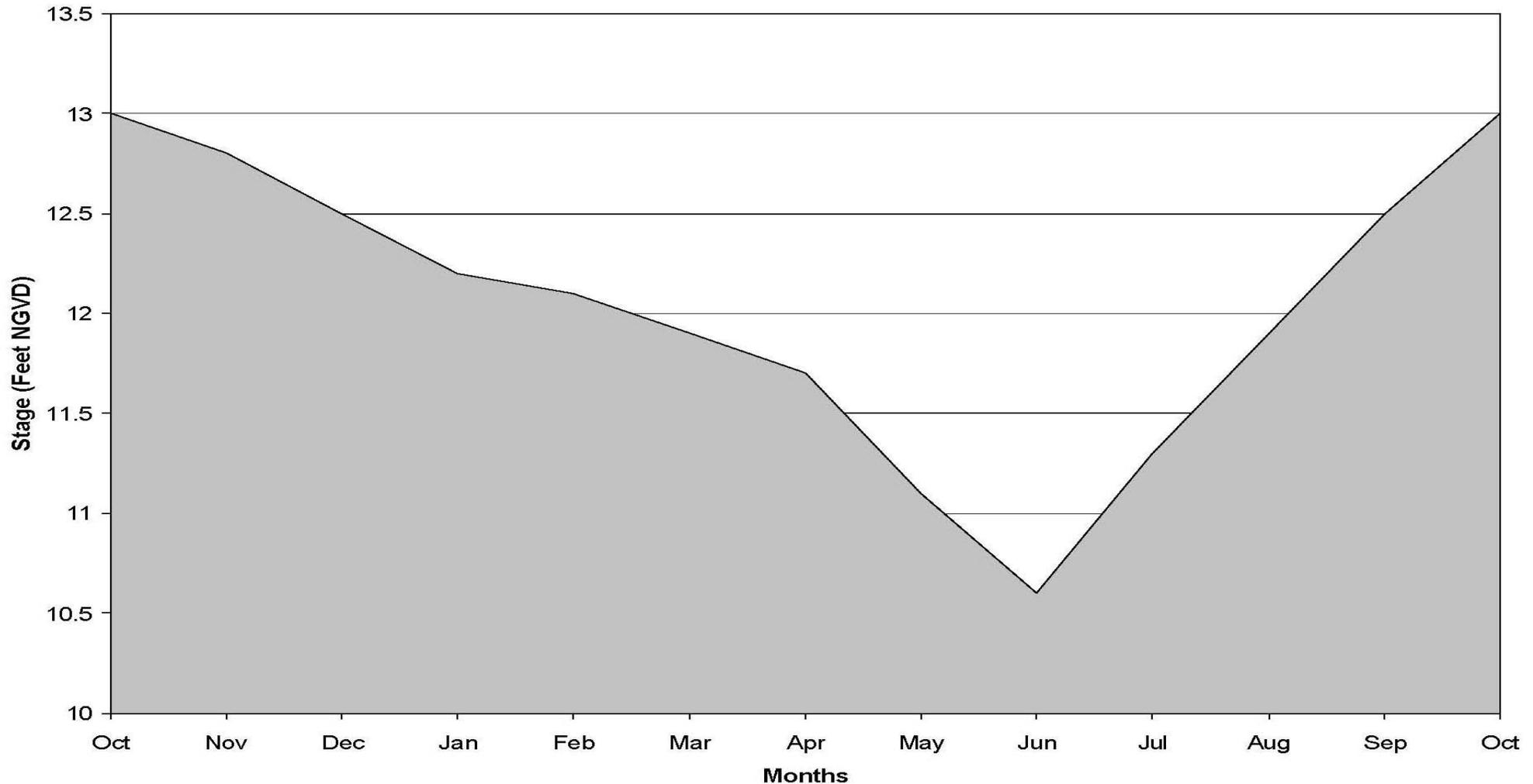
Restrictions: **Who**, Where, When and What?

- **Who: Users that are directly dependant on Lake Okeechobee**
 - Lake utilities
 - Seminole tribe
 - Ag/commercial/industrial
- **Who: Users that are indirect dependant on Lake Okeechobee**
 - LEC coastal areas



Restrictions: Who, Where, When and What?

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Restrictions: Who, Where, When and **What?**

- **Cutbacks increase with drought severity, as determined by triggers**
 - Phase I --- 15%
 - Phase II --- 30%
 - Phase III --- 45%
 - Phase IV --- 60%

Restrictions: Who, Where, When and What?

- Phase I cutbacks may be imposed when water levels fall below trigger line
- Phase II cutbacks may be imposed when water levels fall below trigger line & levels expected to reach June 1st stage of 10.5 feet NGVD
- Phase III or IV cutbacks may be imposed when water levels fall below or can be expected to fall below 10.5 feet NGVD by June 1st
 - Additional factors to consider

How are impacts to water resources considered?

- Environmental considerations embedded in 40E-21, F.A.C., Water Shortage Declaration Factors
- Water Deliveries:
 - STA's
 - WCA's
 - ENP
 - LEC Aquifers
- Lake Okeechobee
 - Habitat Improvement Plan

What's Next?

- **November Governing Board presentation**
 - **Conditions**
 - **Water Shortage management methodology**
 - **Consideration of imposing restrictions**
- **Continue to monitor conditions**

Questions?