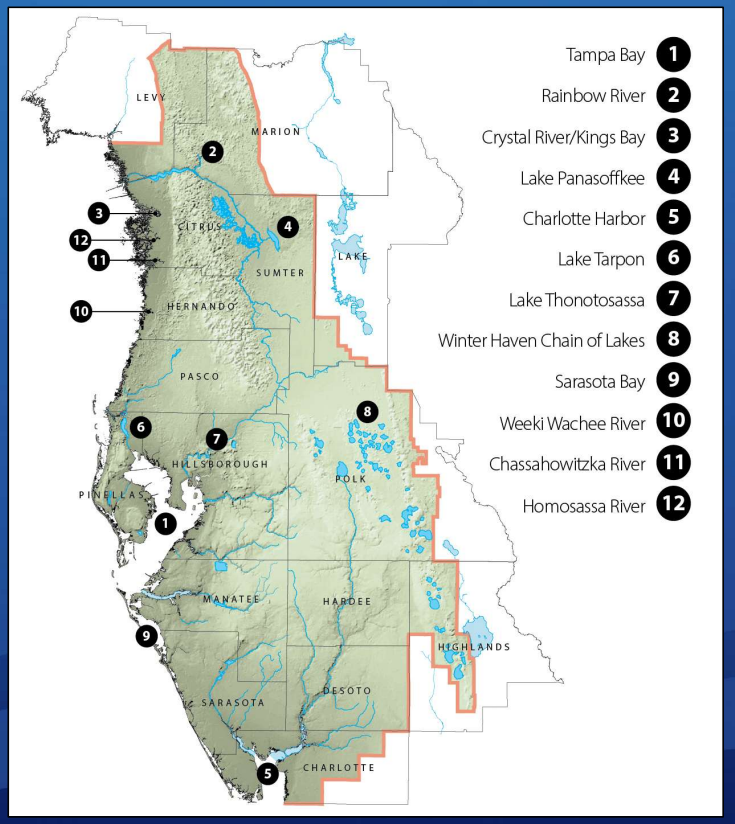

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Springs Coast Steering Committee
FY2026
Approve Meeting Dates
July 23, 2025
Southwest Florida
Water Management District
Madison Trowbridge, Ph.D.
Springs Scientist
Natural Systems & Restoration Bureau

The SWIM Act 373.453, F.S.

- Created by the Legislature in 1987
- Managed by the Water Management Districts
- Develop and maintain lists of priority surface waters
- Develop plans to protect and restore priority surface waters



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Springs Coast Committees

Mission

To build inter-agency partnerships to protect, manage, and restore springs

To develop comprehensive plans for the five first- magnitude springs systems

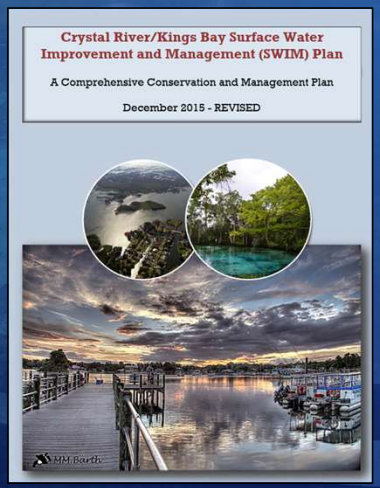
Technical Working Group

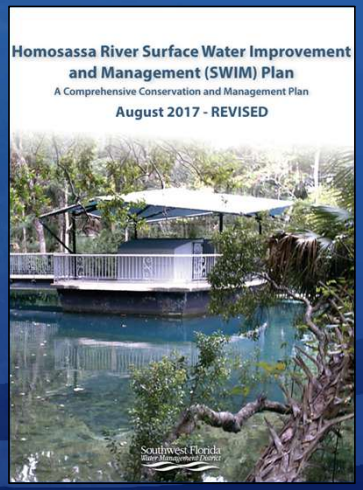
Springs Coast Management Committee

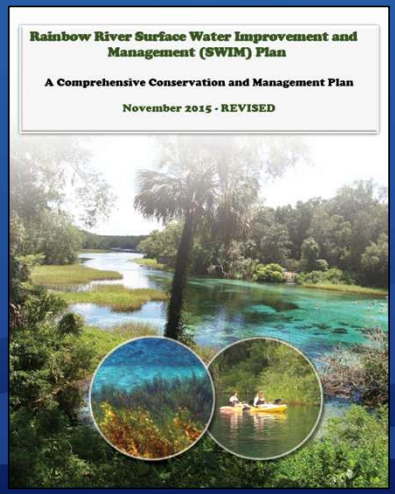
Springs Coast Steering Committee

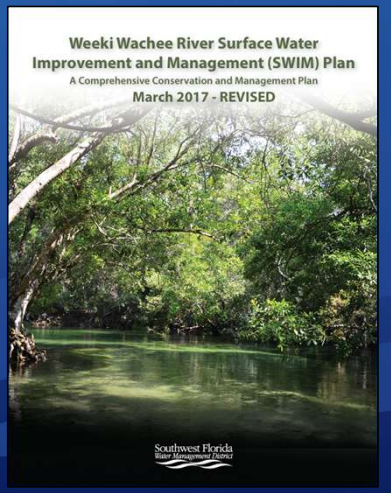
First-magnitude Springs SWIM Plans

- 2014: Springs Committees formed, SWIM Plan process began
- 2015 - 2017: SWIM Plans adopted
- 2020 - 2023: Quantifiable objective refinement process began
- 2024: Revised SWIM Plans adopted









Southwest Florida Water Management District

	Jul '25	Feb/Mar '26	Jul '26	Feb/Mar '27	Jul '27	Feb/Mar '28	Jul '28	Feb/Mar '29	Jul '29
Action items	Approve 2026 meeting dates		Approve 2027 meeting dates		Approve 2028 meeting dates Approve reconvening TWG		Approve 2029 meeting dates	Approve SWIM Plan (System 1)	Approve 2030 meeting dates
Information items	Quantifiable objective updates Invited speakers	Quantifiable objective updates Invited speakers	Quantifiable objective updates Invited speakers	Quantifiable objective updates Invited speakers	Discuss SWIM Plan schedule Quantifiable objective updates Invited speakers	Review SWIM Plan schedule Invited speakers	Draft SWIM Plan presentation (System 1) Invited speakers	Invited speakers	Draft SWIM Plan presentation (System 2) Invited speakers

	Feb/Mar '30	Jul '30	Feb/Mar '31	Jul '31	Feb/Mar '32	Jul '32	Feb/Mar '33	July '33	Feb/Mar '34
Action items	Approve SWIM Plan (System 2)	Approve 2031 meeting dates	Approve SWIM Plan (System 3)	Approve 2032 meeting dates	Approve SWIM Plan (System 4)	Approve 2033 meeting dates	Approve SWIM Plan (System 5)	Approve 2034 meeting dates	
Information items	Invited speakers	Draft SWIM Plan presentation (System 3) Invited speakers	Invited speakers	Draft SWIM Plan presentation (System 4) Invited speakers	Invited speakers	Draft SWIM Plan presentation (System 5) Invited speakers	Invited speakers	Quantifiable objective updates Invited speakers	Quantifiable objective updates Invited speakers

Management Committee Meetings

Dates	Objective
Feb 18, 2026	• Quantifiable objective updates • Invited presenters
Jul 8, 2026	• Approve: 2027 Meeting Dates • Quantifiable objective updates • Invited presenters

Steering Committee Meetings

Dates	Objective
Mar 4, 2026	• Quantifiable objective updates • Invited presenters
Jul 22, 2026	• Approve: Meeting Dates • Quantifiable objective updates • Invited presenters

Recommendations

Approve the future Springs Coast Management Committee meeting dates.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Quantifiable Objective Status Updates

Southwest Florida
Water Management District

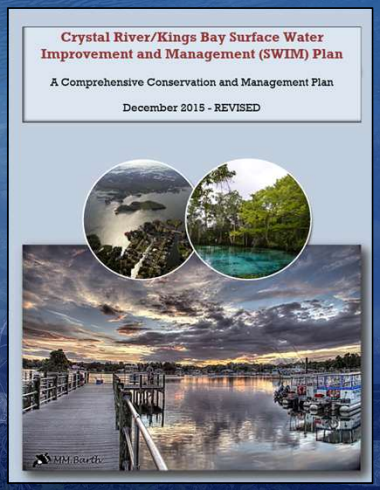
Madison Trowbridge, Ph.D.

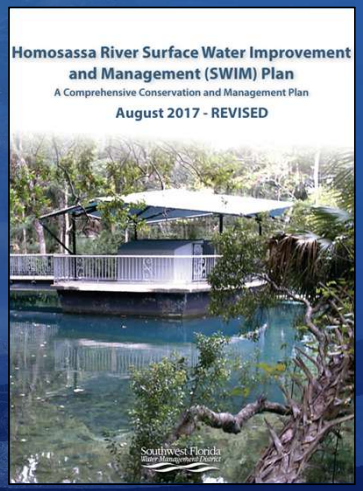
Springs Scientist

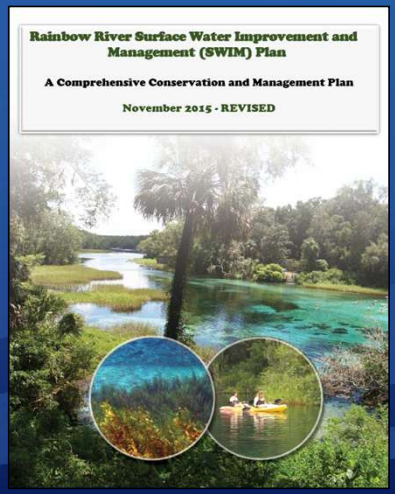
Natural Systems and Restoration

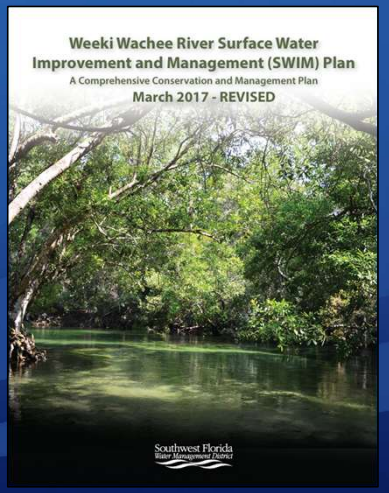
SWIM Plans

- Issues & Drivers
- Management Actions (Quantifiable Objectives & Indicators)
- Projects & Initiatives









SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Quantifiable Objectives & Indicators

WATER QUALITY

- Water clarity^
- Nitrate concentration*
- Total nitrogen concentration*
- Total phosphorus concentration*
- Chlorophyll concentration^*

WATER QUANTITY

- Minimum flows & levels (MFLs)

NATURAL SYSTEMS

- Submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)
- No net loss of shoreline*
- Shoreline enhancement*

^ denotes indicator status
* denotes not applicable to all systems

Rainbow River
Indicators & Quantifiable Objectives

Indicators

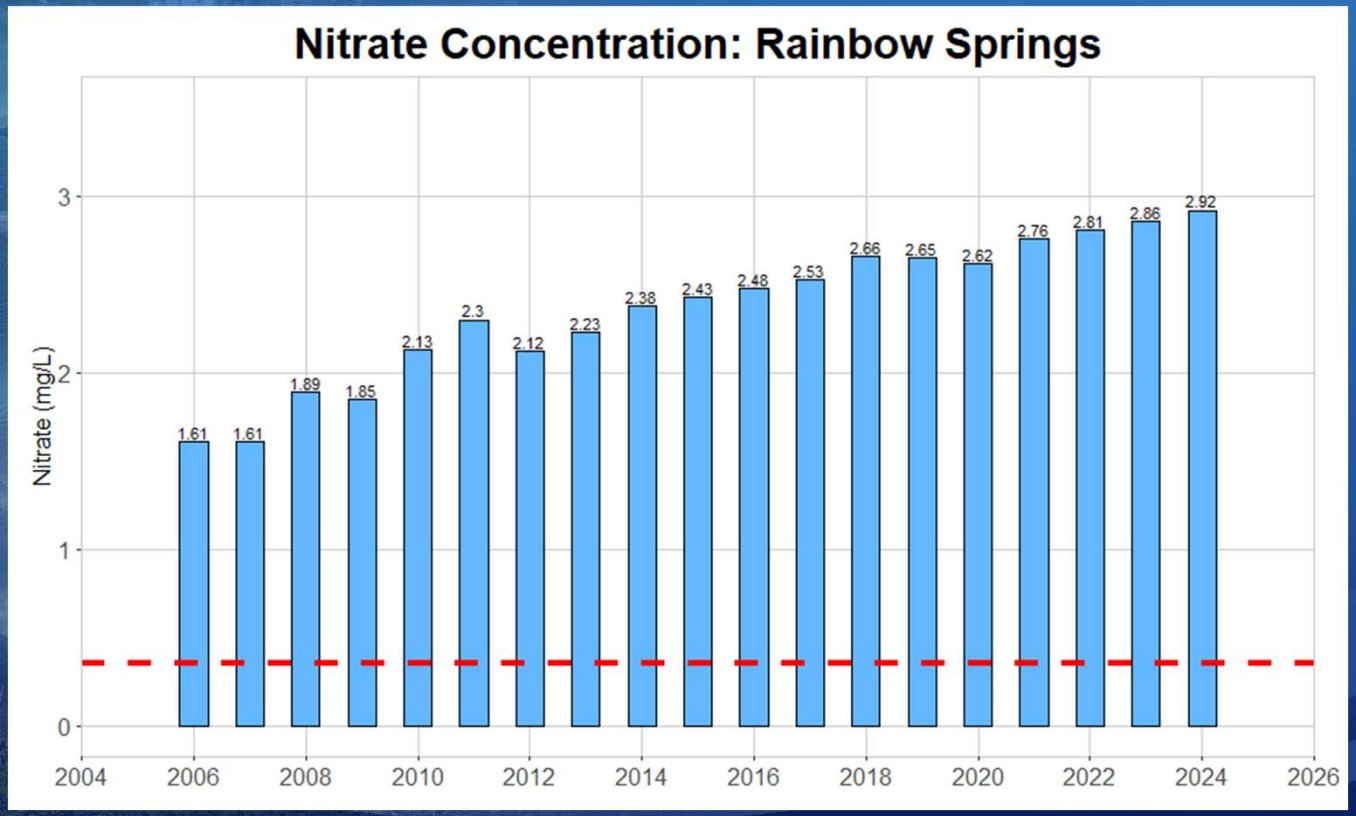
Water clarity	Threshold
Near the headspring	194 ft
Middle portion of river	47 ft
Lower portion of the river	26 ft

Quantifiable Objectives

Water quality	Target
Nitrate concentration in the springs and river	< 0.35 mg/L
Water quantity	
Minimum flows for the springs and river	> 95% natural flow
Natural systems	
Desirable submerged aquatic vegetation in the upper and lower portions of the river.	> 65%
Invasive aquatic vegetation in the upper and lower portions of the river.	< 10%

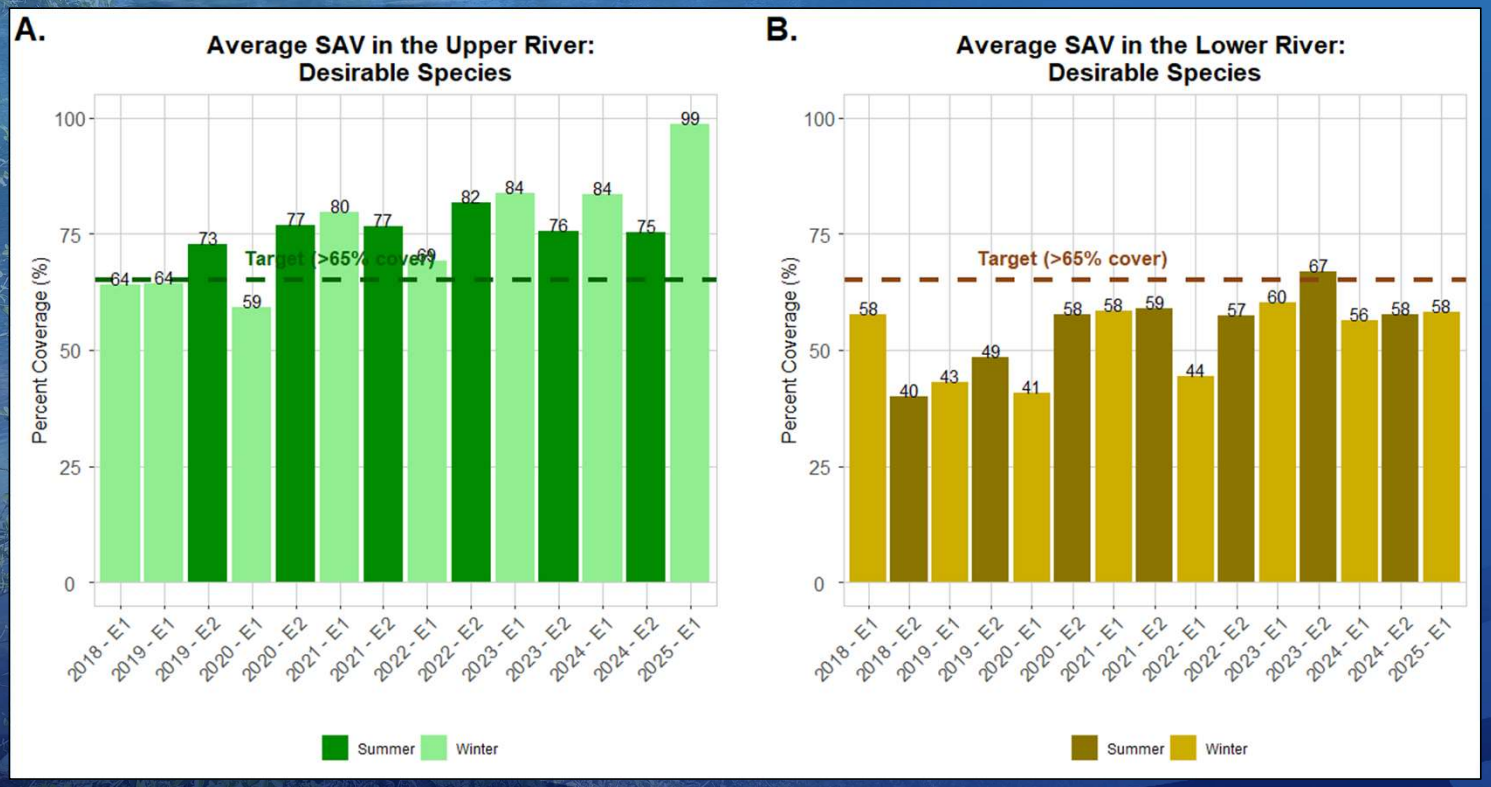
Rainbow River – Quantifiable Objectives

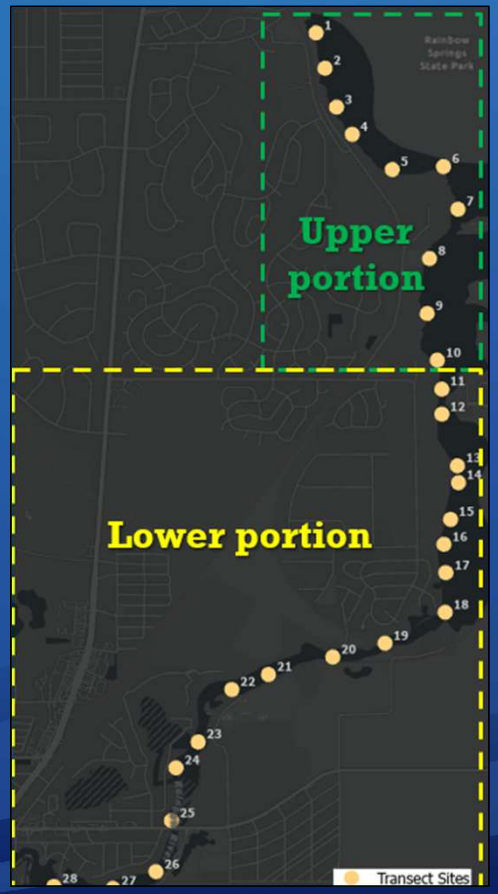
Nitrate Concentration



Rainbow River – Quantifiable Objectives

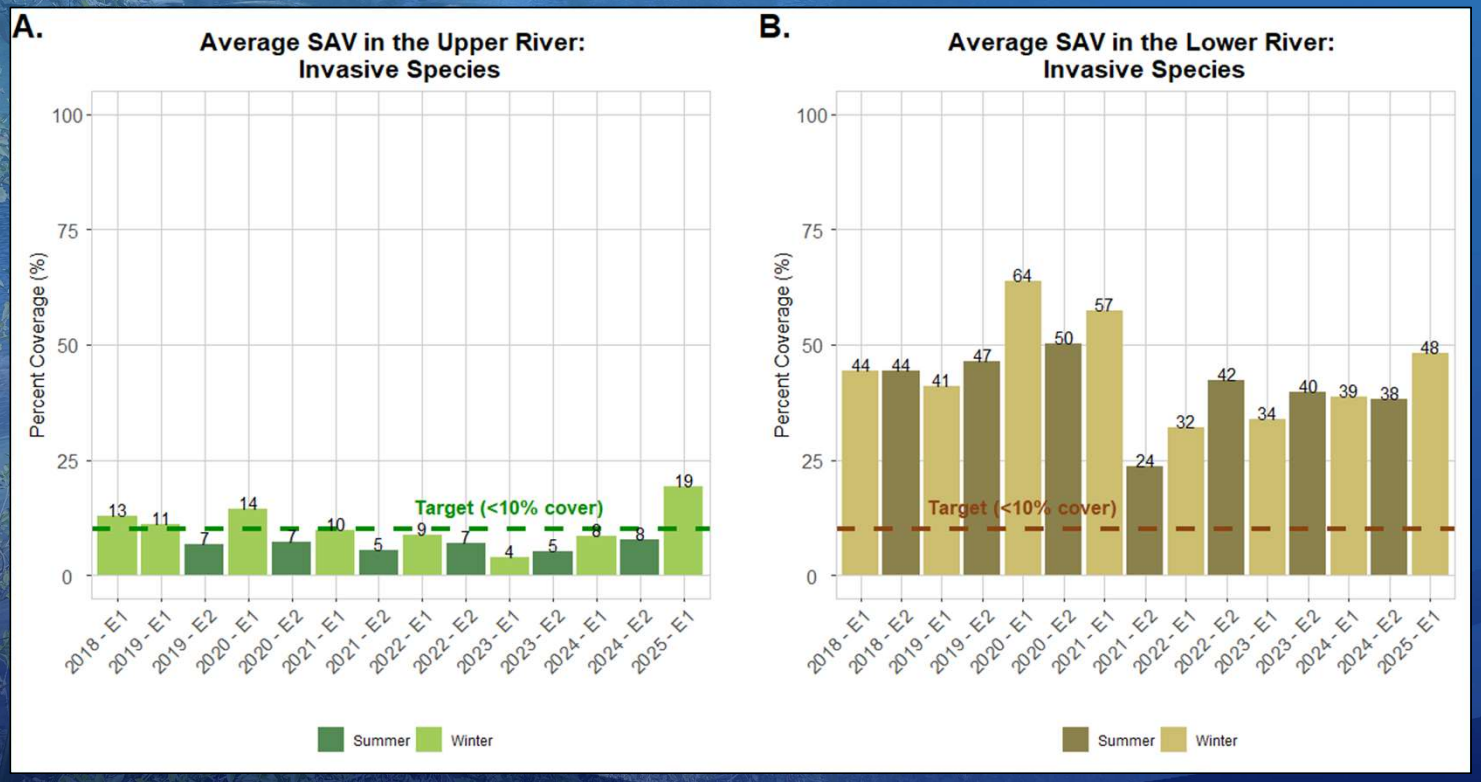
Desirable Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)

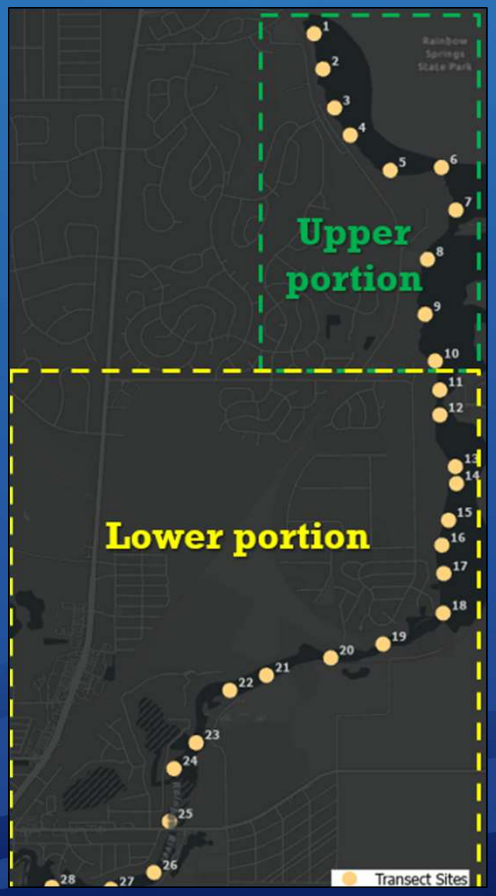




Rainbow River – Quantifiable Objectives

Invasive Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)





SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Weeki Wachee River
Indicators & Quantifiable Objectives

Indicators

Water clarity	Threshold
Near the headspring	115 ft
Near the Estates	28 ft
Near the Gardens	21ft

Quantifiable Objectives

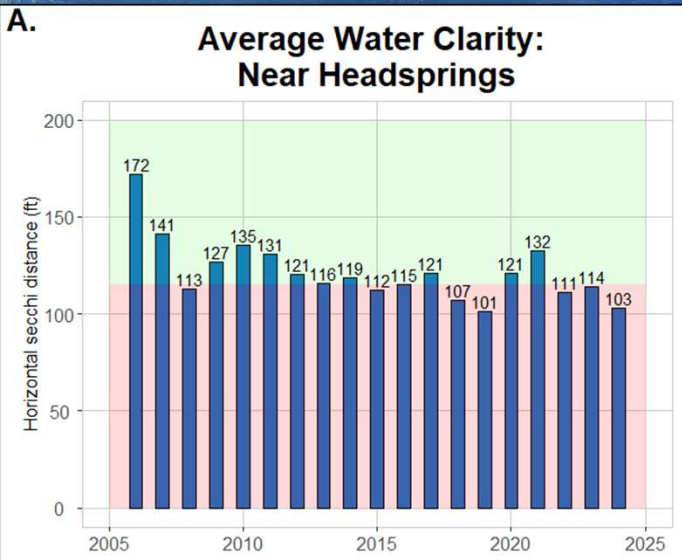
Water quality	Target
Nitrate concentration in the springs	< 0.20 mg/L
Water quantity	
Minimum flows for the springs and river	> 90% natural flow
Natural systems	
Coverage of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation in the upper and lower portions of the river.	> 40%
Coverage of invasive aquatic vegetation (including filamentous algae) in the upper and lower portions of the river.	< 10%

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Weeki Wachee River - Indicators

Water Clarity

A.



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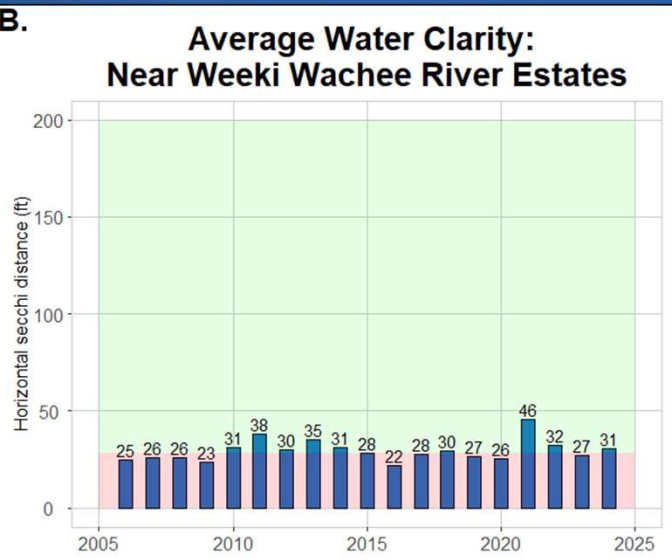

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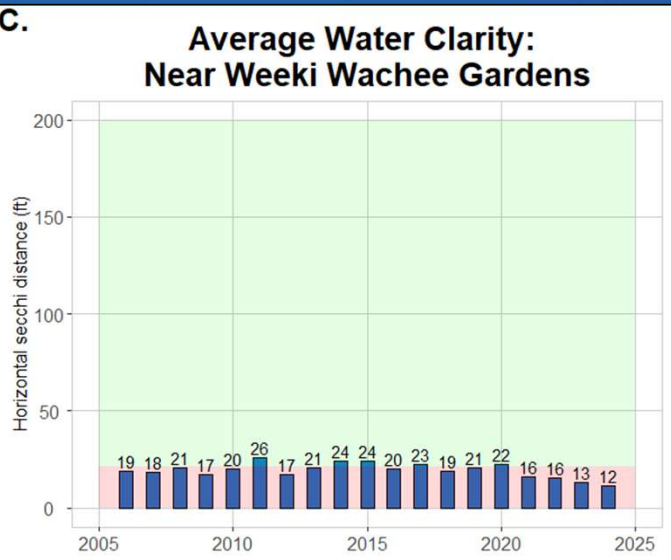
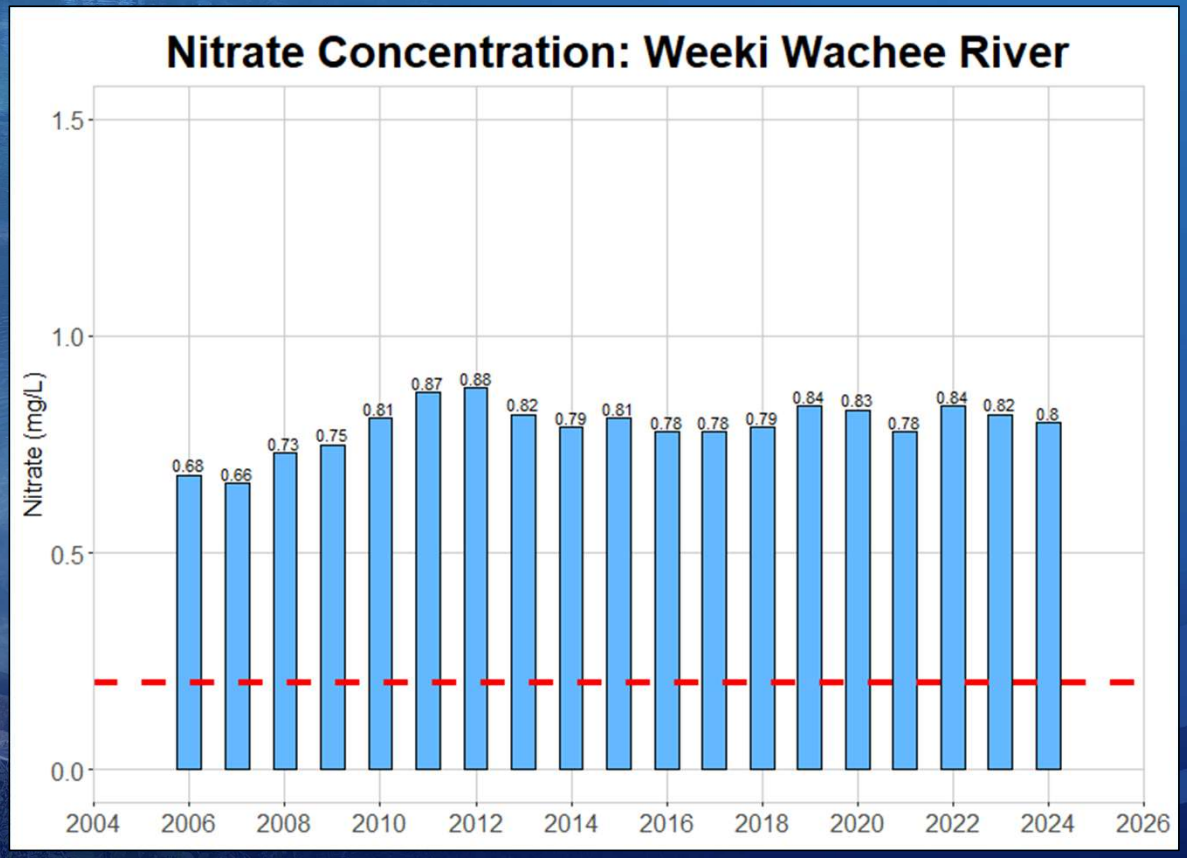


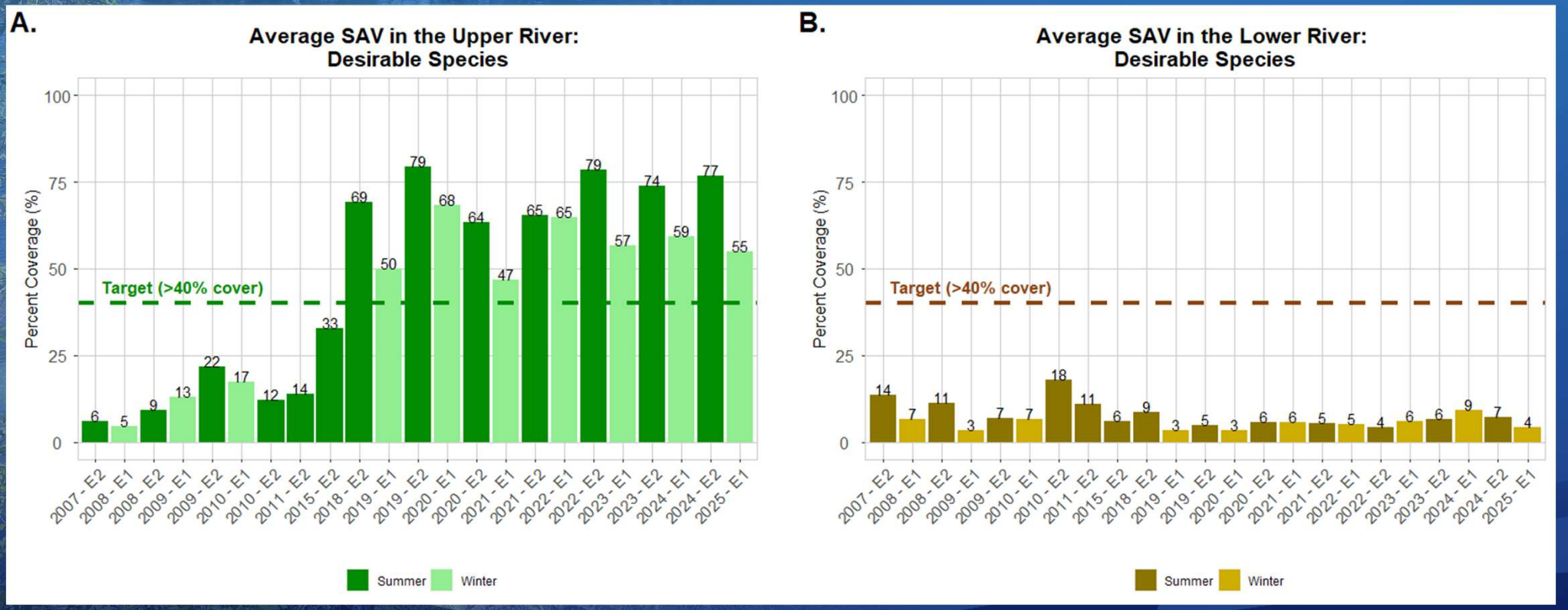
Weeki Wachee River – Quantifiable Objectives

Nitrate Concentration



Weeki Wachee River – Quantifiable Objectives

Desirable Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Crystal River/Kings Bay
Indicators & Quantifiable Objectives

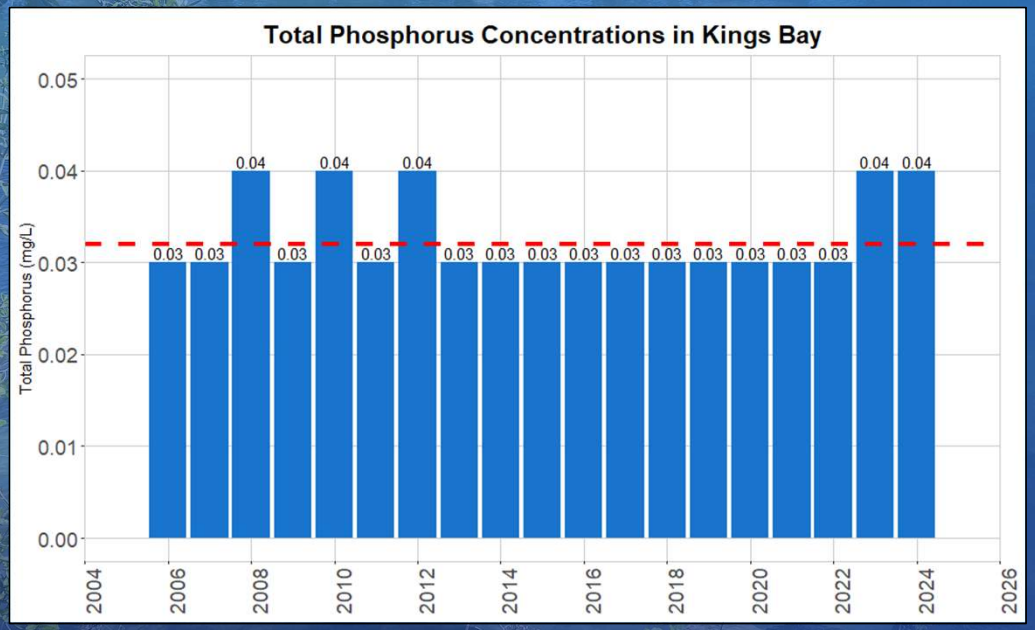
Indicators	Threshold
Water clarity – Hunter Cove	21 ft
Water clarity – Kings Bay Proper	8 ft
Chlorophyll concentration in the bay	10 µg/L

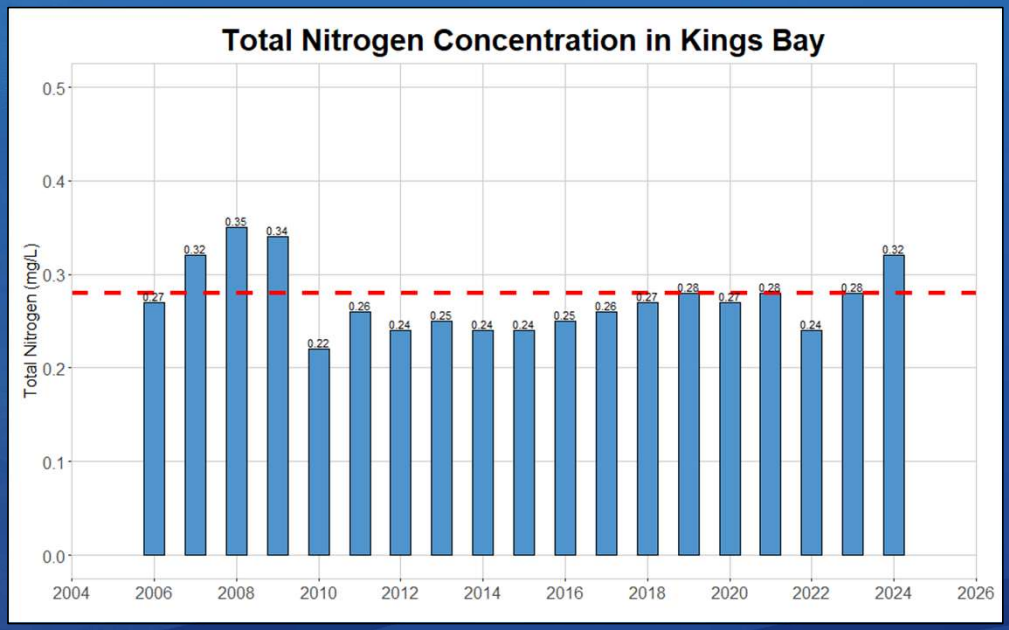
Quantifiable Objectives

Water quality	Target
Total nitrogen concentration in the bay	< 0.28 mg/L
Total phosphorus concentration in the bay	< 0.032 mg/L
Water quantity	
Minimum flows for the springs and river	> 89% natural flow
Natural systems	
Coverage of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation in the bay	> 65%
Coverage of invasive aquatic vegetation in the bay (including filamentous algae)	< 10%
No net loss of shoreline in natural condition along the bay and river	No net loss
Increase of enhancement to disturbed shorelines for the bay and river	> 20%

Crystal River/Kings Bay – Quantifiable Objectives

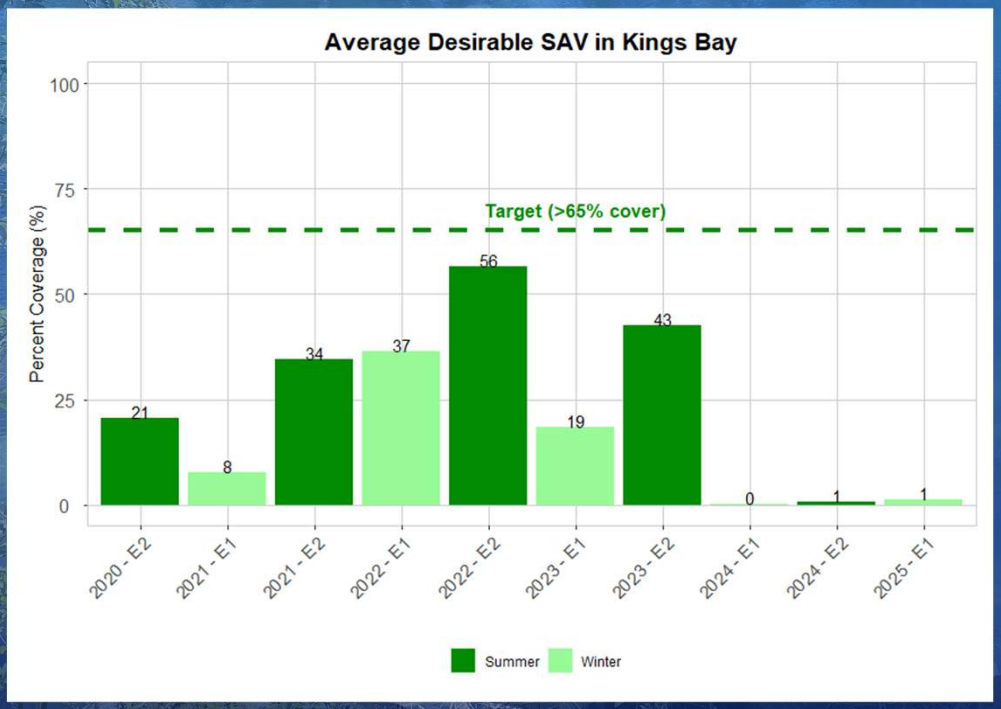
Total Nitrogen & Phosphorus Concentrations

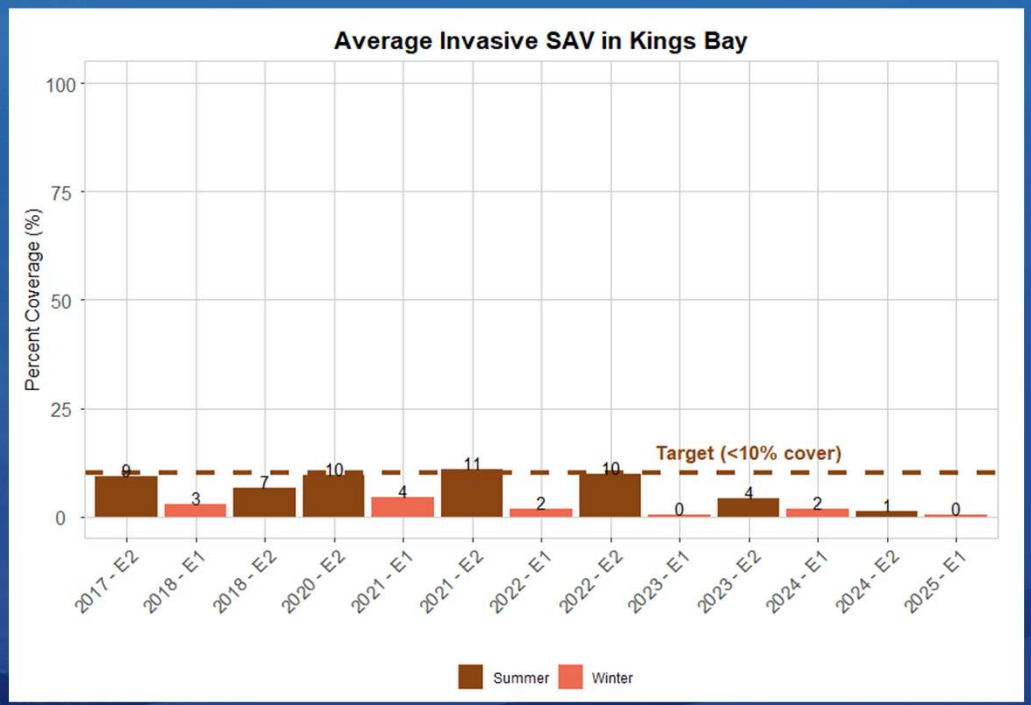




Crystal River/Kings Bay – Quantifiable Objectives

Desirable & Invasive Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)



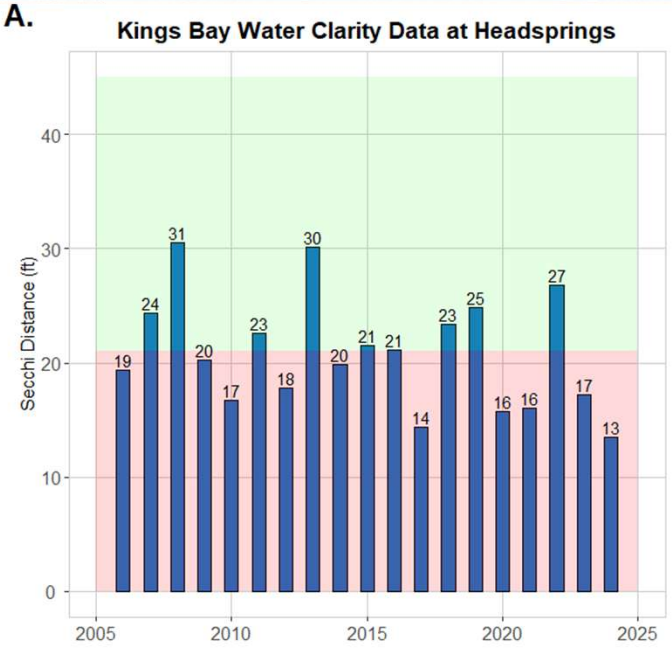


SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Crystal River/Kings Bay - Indicators

Water Clarity & Chlorophyll

A.



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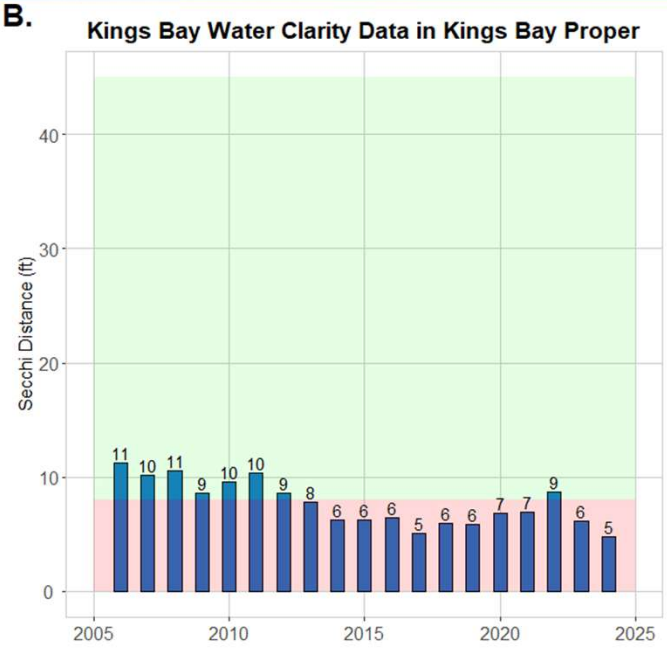

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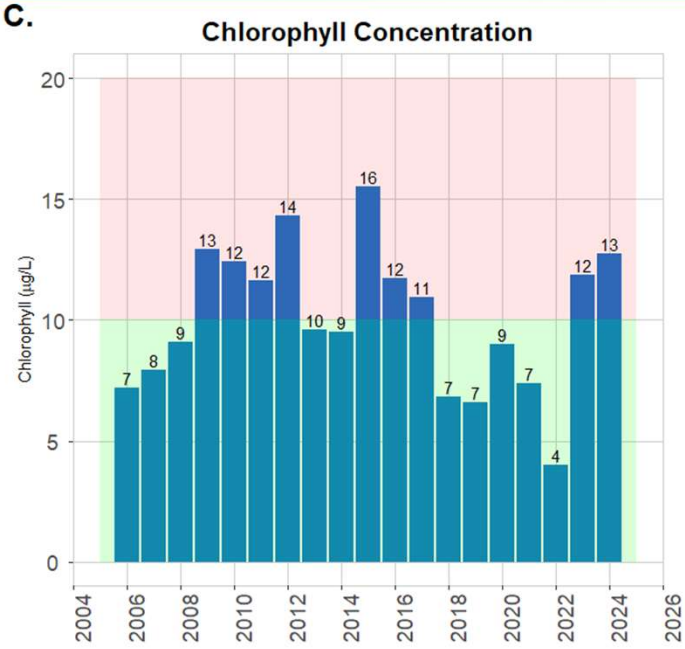


SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Homosassa River
Indicators & Quantifiable Objectives

Indicators

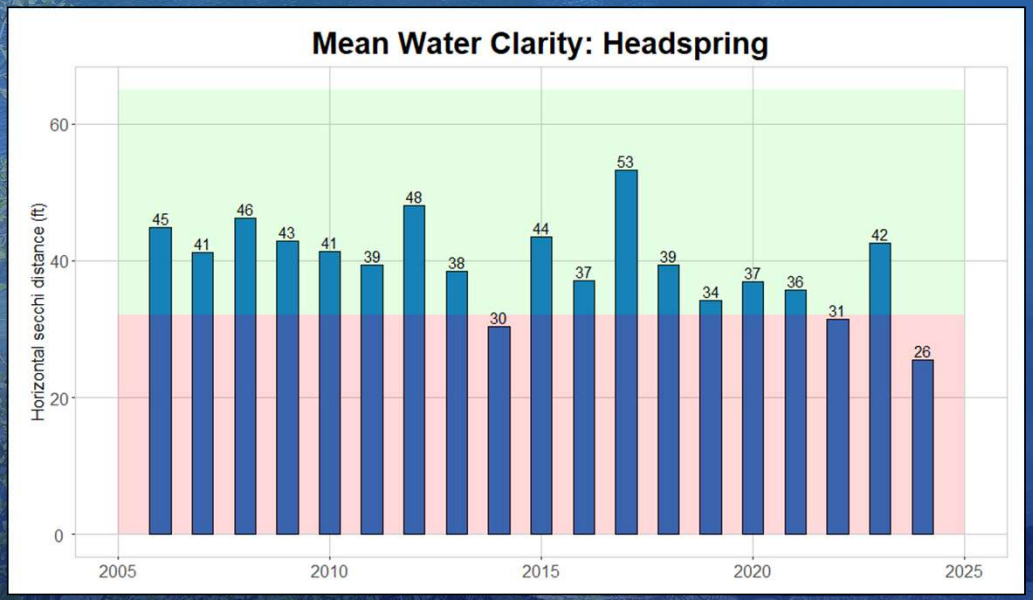
Water clarity	Threshold
Near the headspring	40 ft
Middle portion of river	11 ft

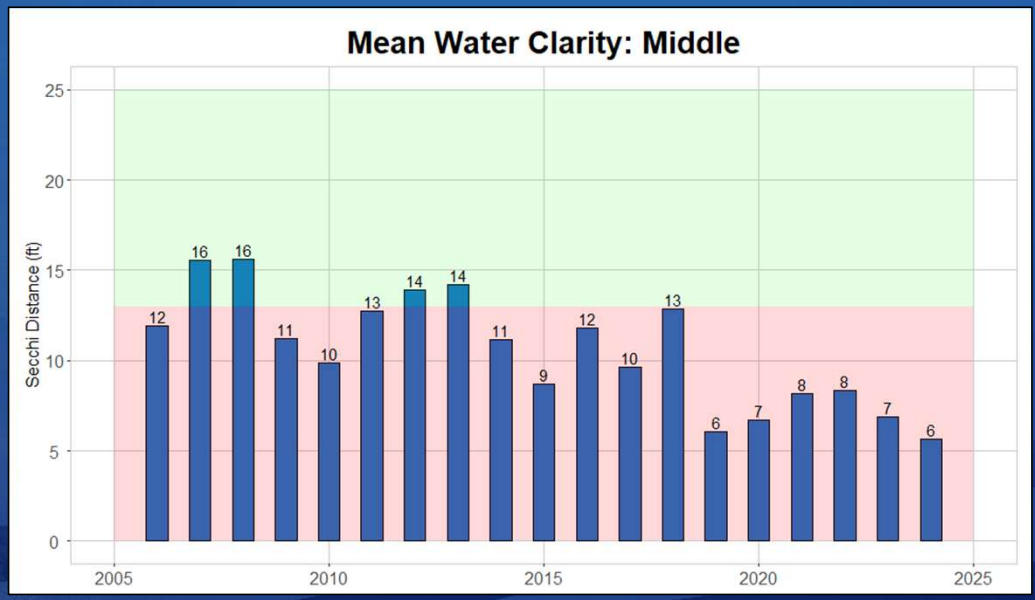
Quantifiable Objectives

Water quality	Target
Nitrate concentration in the springs	< 0.23 mg/L
Water quantity	
Minimum flows for the springs and river	> 95% natural flow
Natural systems	
Coverage of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation in the tidal freshwater habitat.	> 40%
Coverage of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation in the transition zone.	> 25%
Coverage of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation in the estuarine zone.	> 10%
Coverage of invasive aquatic vegetation in the tidal freshwater habitat, transition zone, and estuarine zone.	< 10%
No net loss of shoreline in natural condition along the river.	No net loss.

Homosassa River - Indicators

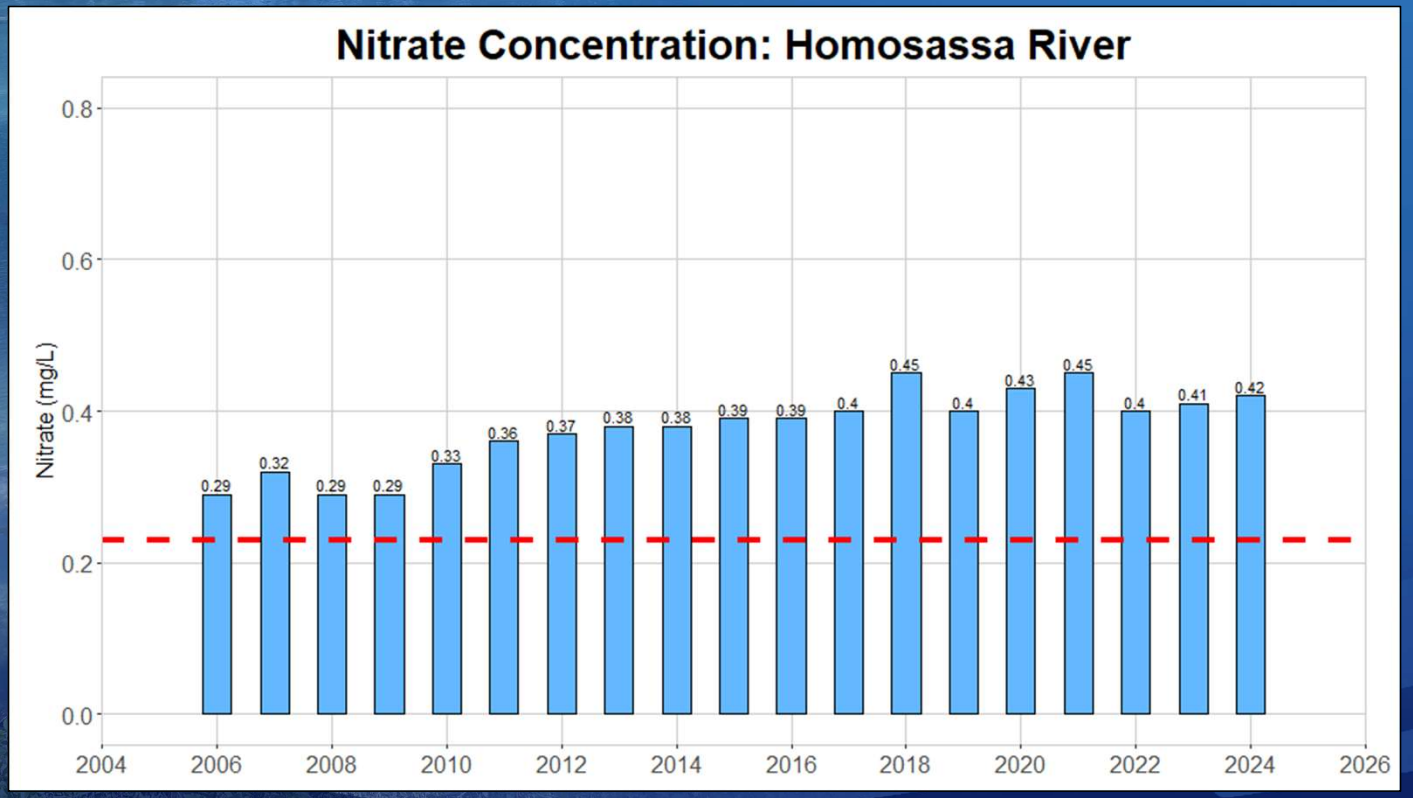
Water Clarity





Homosassa River – Quantifiable Objectives

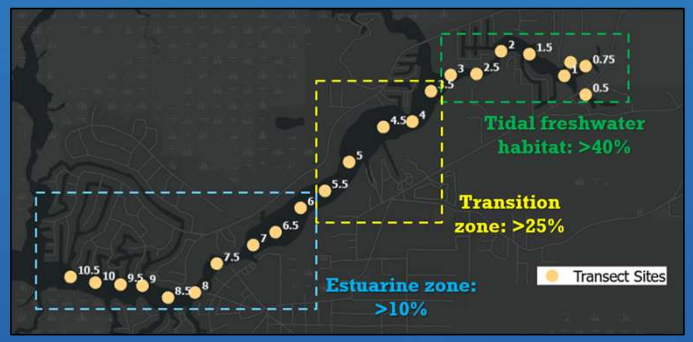
Nitrate Concentration



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Homosassa River – Quantifiable Objectives

Desirable Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)



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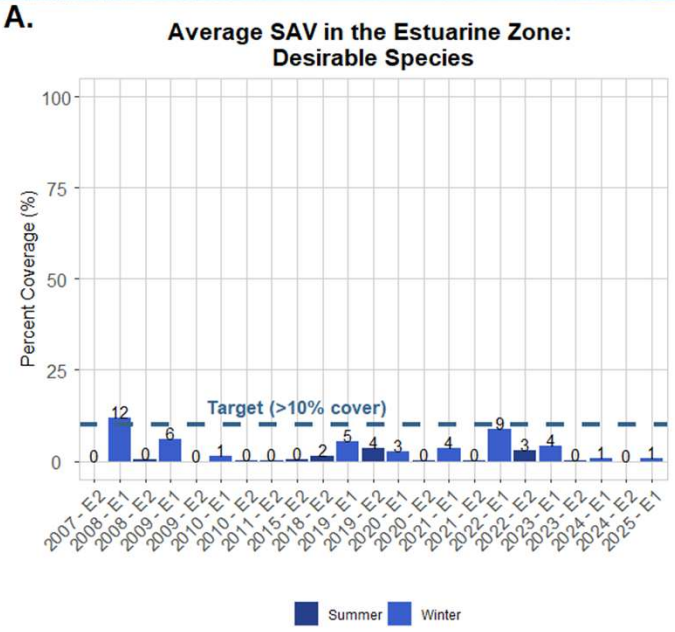

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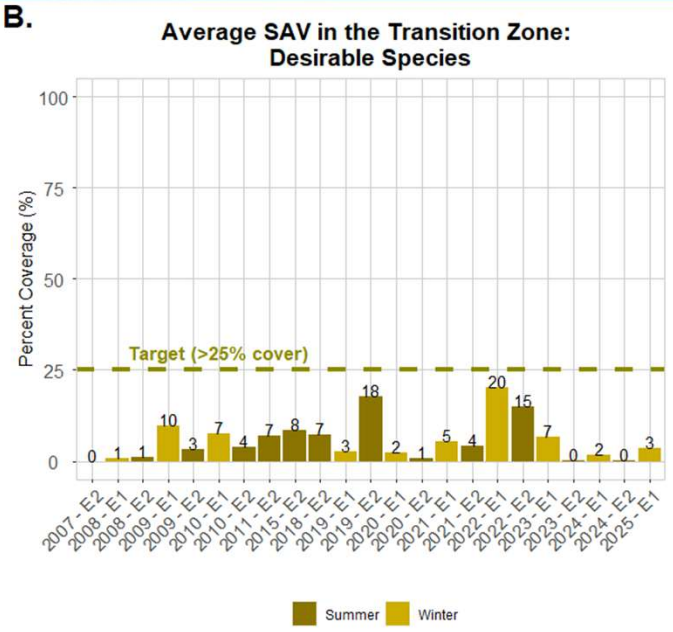

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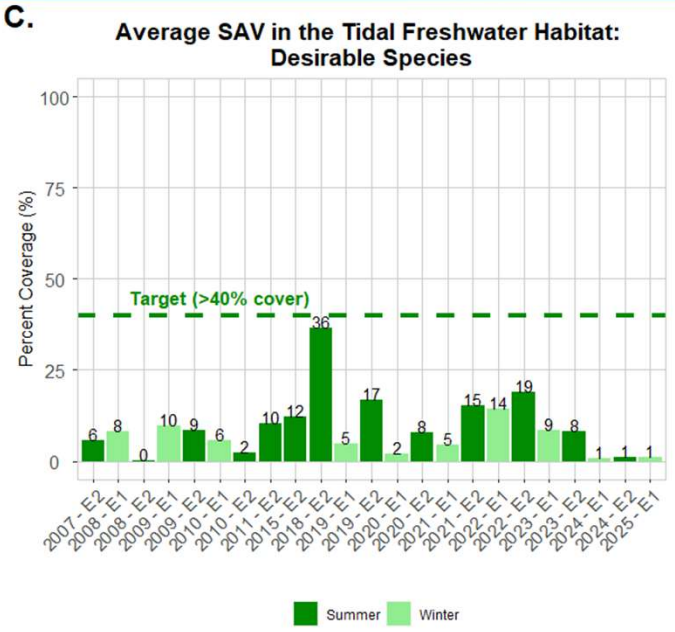
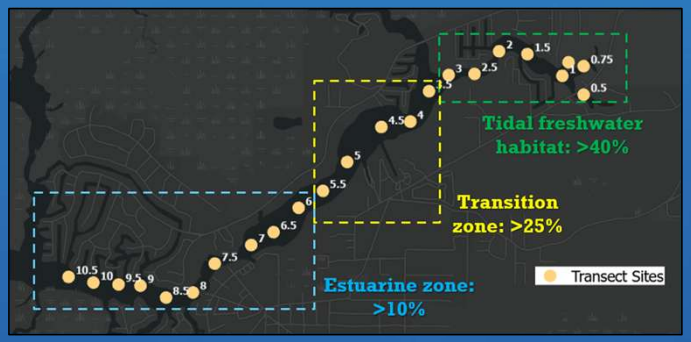


SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Homosassa River – Quantifiable Objectives

Invasive Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)



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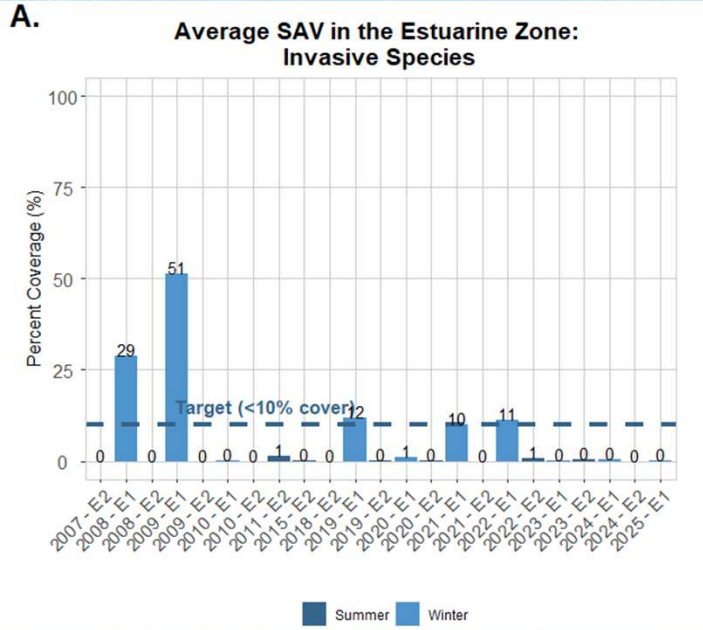

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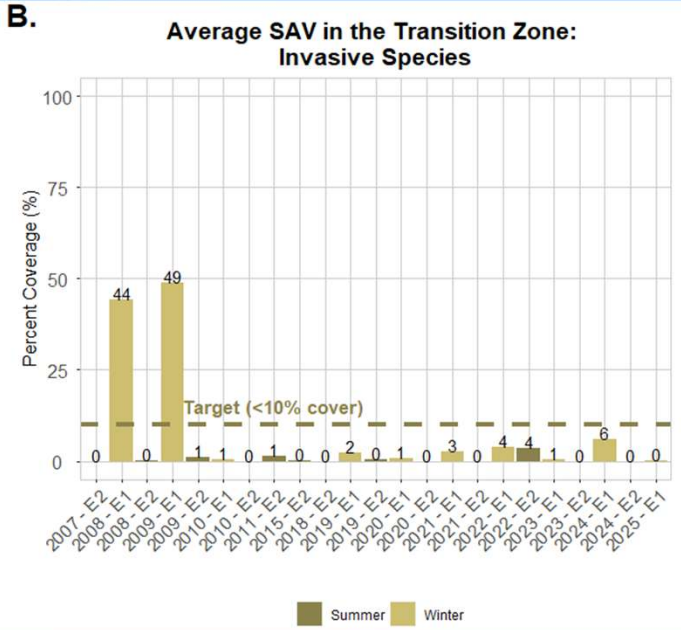

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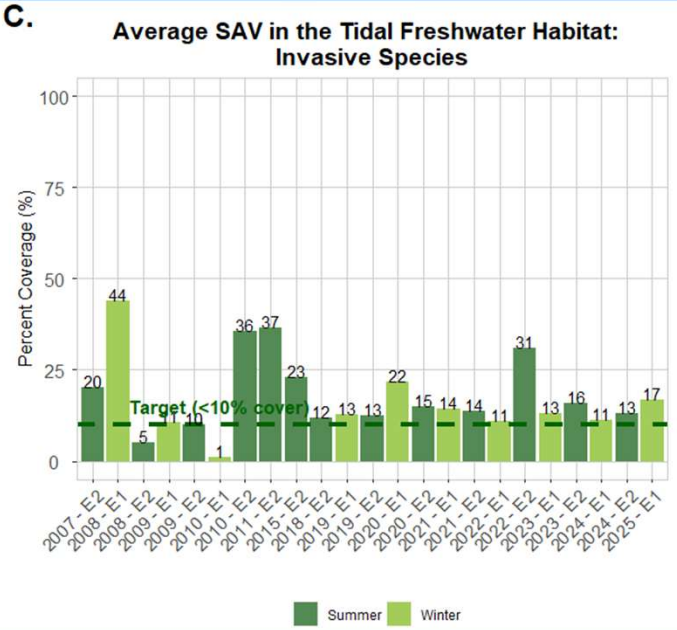


SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Chassahowitzka River
Indicators & Quantifiable Objectives

Indicators

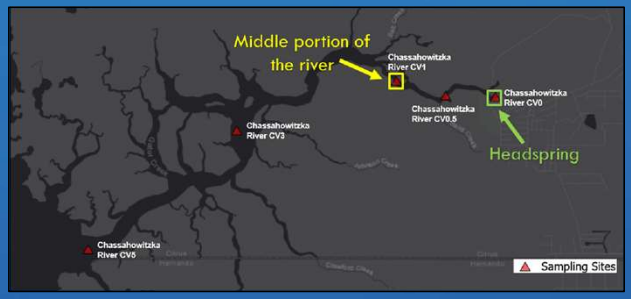
Water clarity	Threshold
Near the headspring	32 ft
Middle portion of river	13 ft

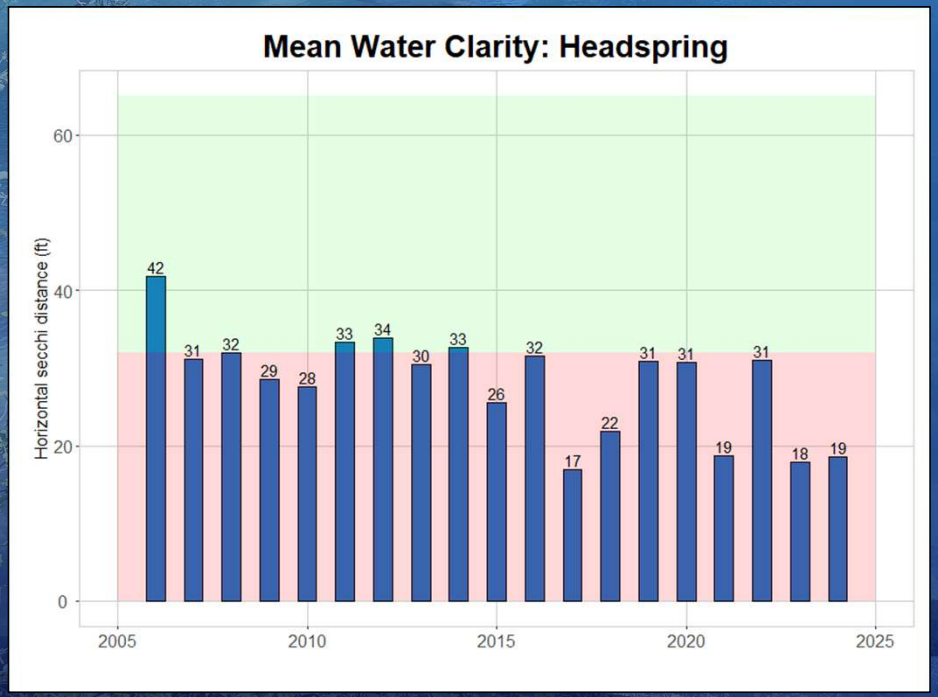
Quantifiable Objectives

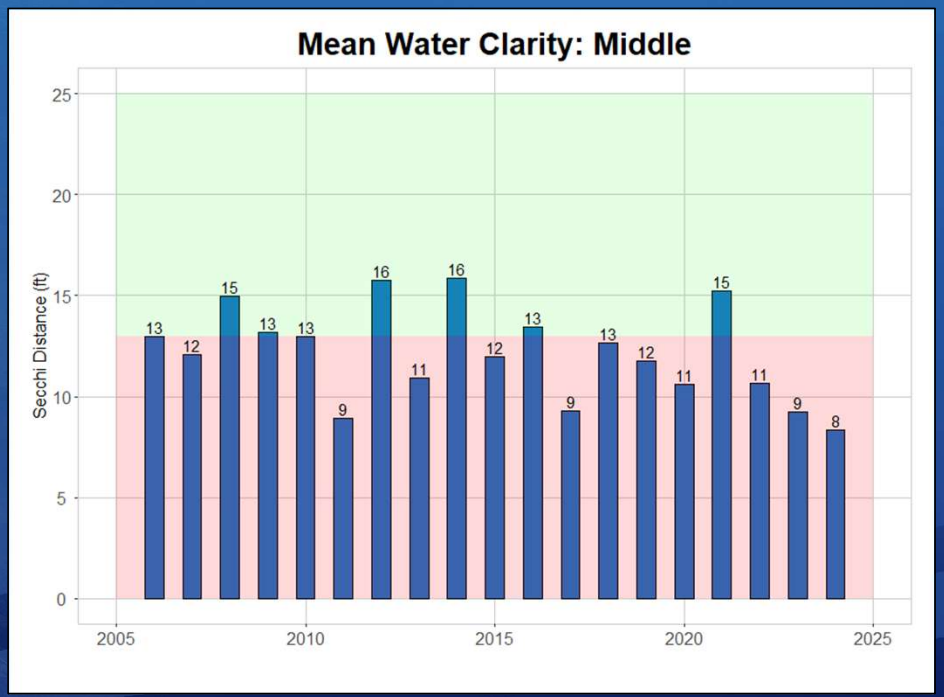
Water quality	Target
Nitrate concentration in the springs	< 0.23 mg/L
Total nitrogen concentration in the river	< 0.25 mg/L
Water quantity	
Minimum flows for the springs and river	> 92% natural flow
Natural systems	
Coverage of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation in the tidal freshwater habitat.	> 55%
Coverage of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation in the transition zone.	> 45%
Coverage of desirable submerged aquatic vegetation in the estuarine zone.	> 25%
Coverage of invasive aquatic vegetation in the tidal freshwater habitat, transition zone, and estuarine zone.	< 10%

Chassahowitzka River - Indicators

Water Clarity

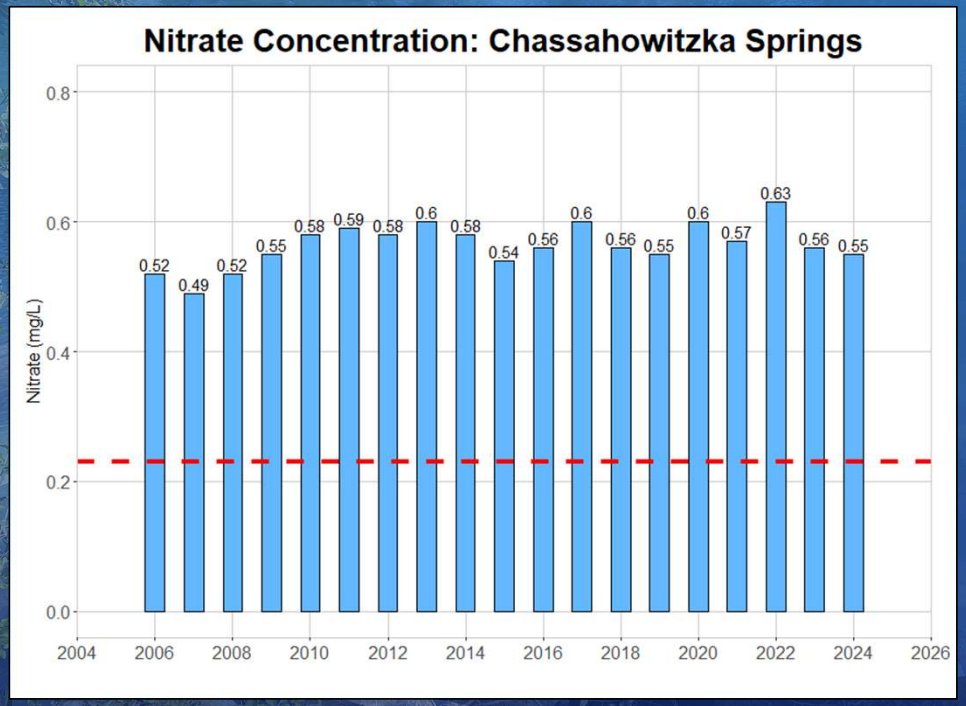


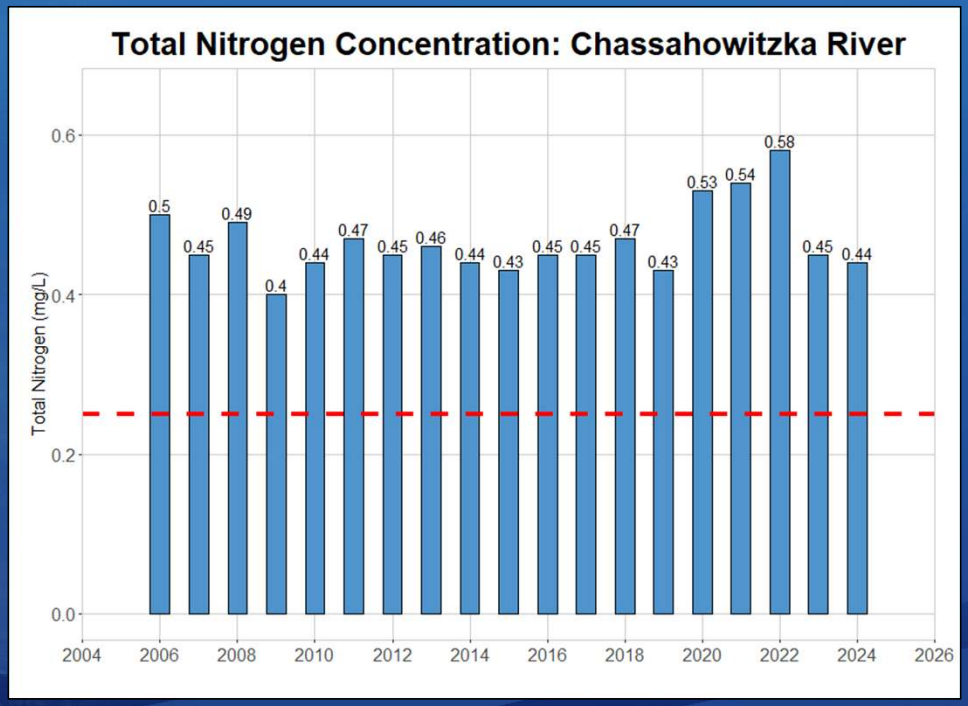




Chassahowitzka River – Quantifiable Objectives

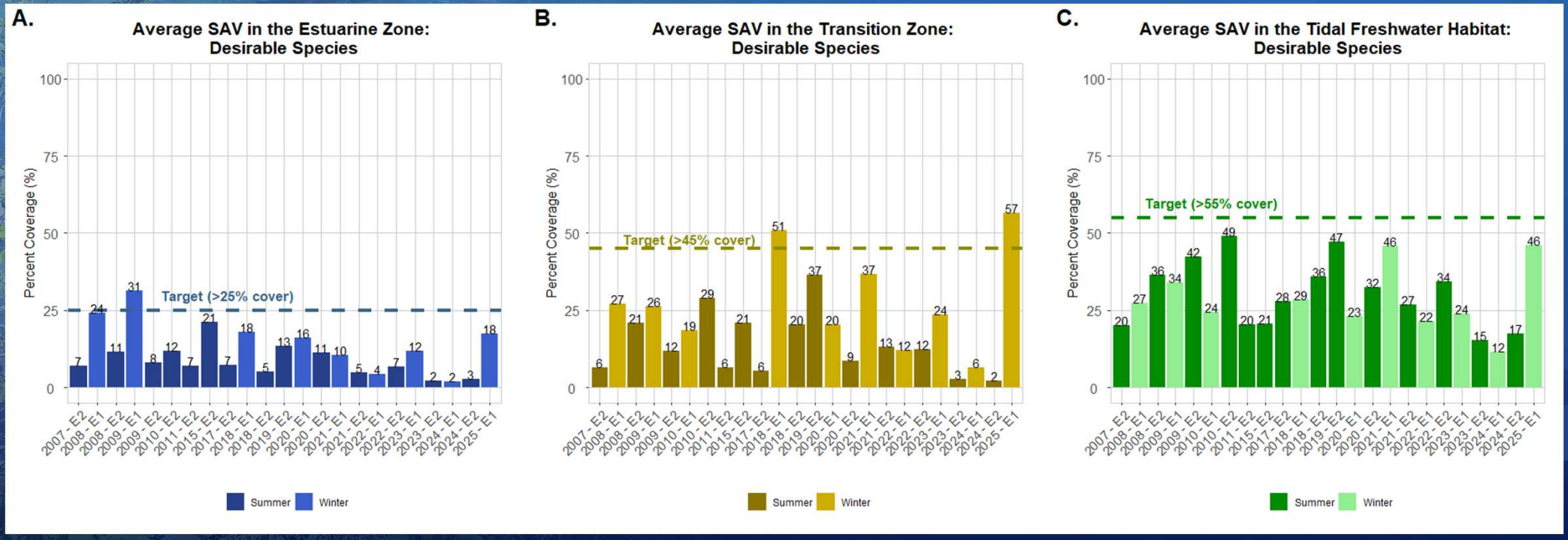
Nitrate & Total Nitrogen Concentrations





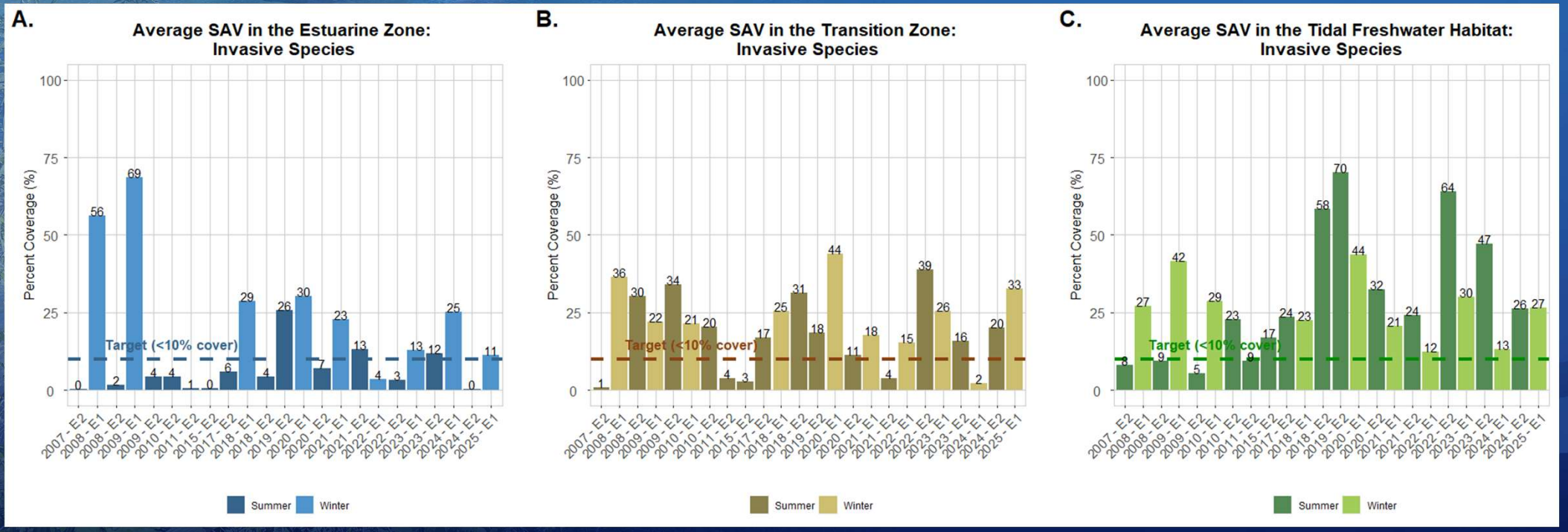
Chassahowitzka River – Quantifiable Objectives

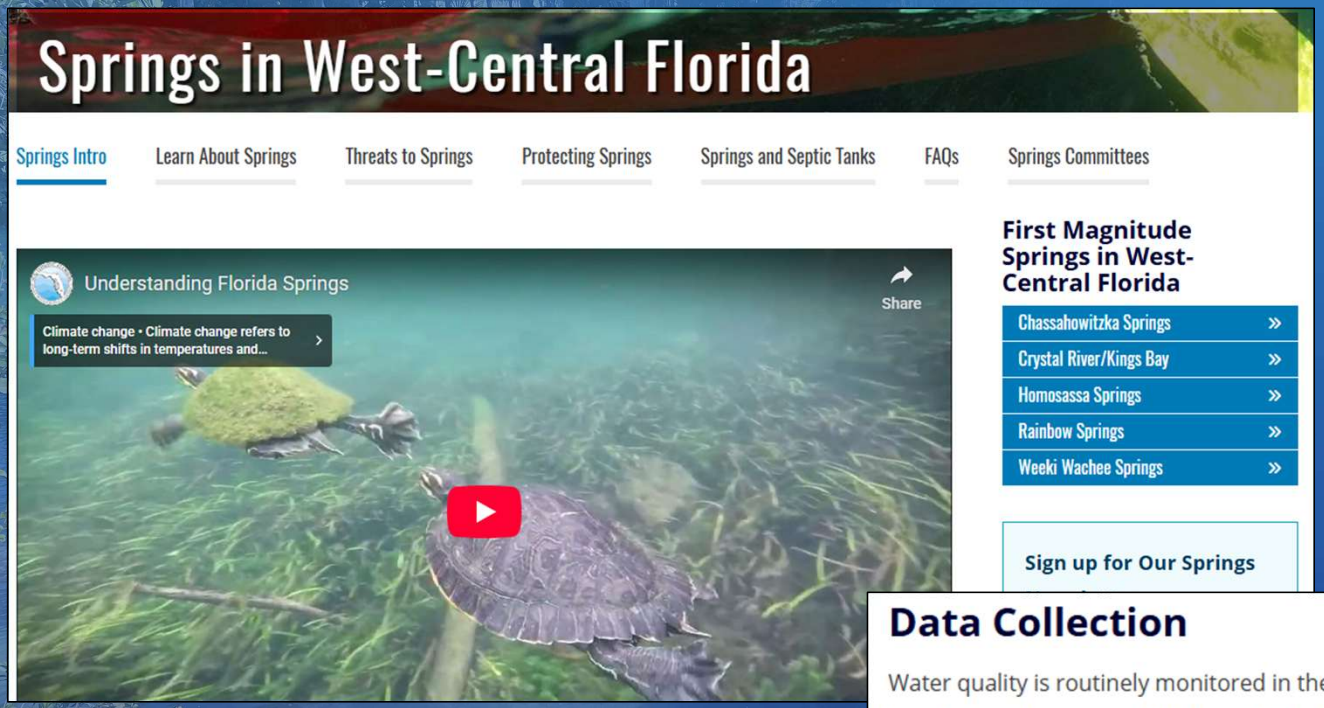
Desirable Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)



Chassahowitzka River – Quantifiable Objectives

Invasive Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)





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Data Collection

Water quality is routinely monitored in the Chassahowitzka River, with some parameters collected hourly. The data is available through the District's **Environmental Data Portal**. Various information is collected including nitrate levels, water clarity, spring flow and salinity. Submerged aquatic vegetation is currently mapped twice a year within the river at specified locations. A summary of the current data for the Chassahowitzka River in relation to the parameters collected by the District can be viewed in this report:

Environmental Monitoring of the Chassahowitzka River

WaterMatters.org/springs

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