

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Springs Coast Steering Committee

Approve Meeting Date

Southwest Florida
Water Management District

WATERMATTERS.ORG

Madison Trowbridge, Ph.D.

Springs Scientist

Natural Systems and Restoration

Management Committee Meetings

Dates	Objective
Feb 18, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quantifiable objective updates• Invited presenters
Jul 8, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve: 2027 Meeting Dates• Quantifiable objective updates• Invited presenters

Steering Committee Meetings

Dates	Objective
Mar 4, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quantifiable objective updates• Invited presenters
Jul 22, 2026 Jul 29, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approve: Meeting Dates• Quantifiable objective updates• Invited presenters

Recommendations

Approve change to the July 2026 Springs Coast Steering Committee meeting date.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

SWIM Plan Quantifiable Objective Updates – Rainbow River

Southwest Florida
Water Management District

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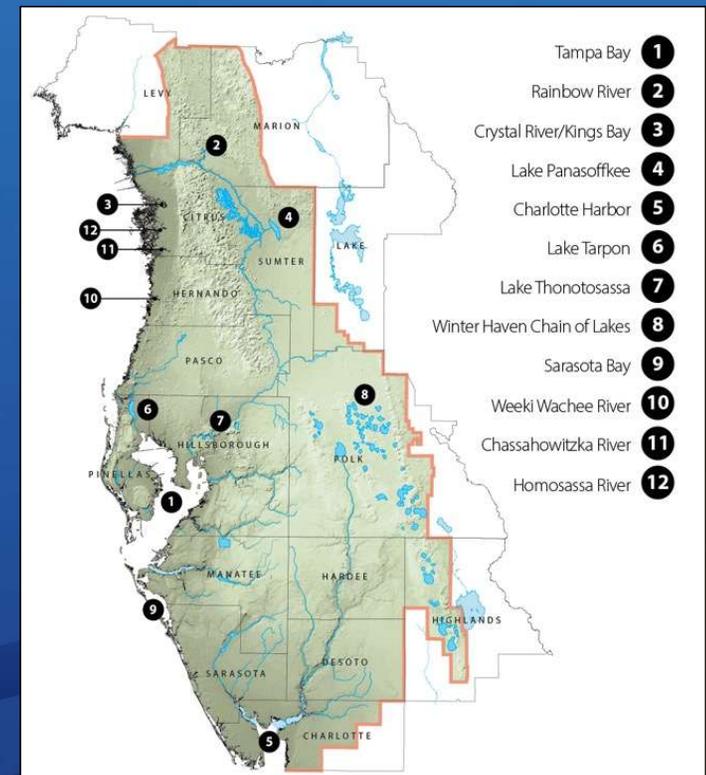
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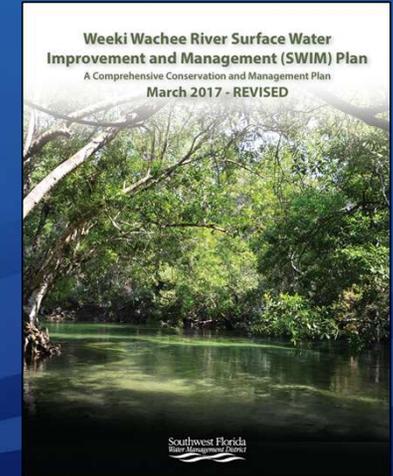
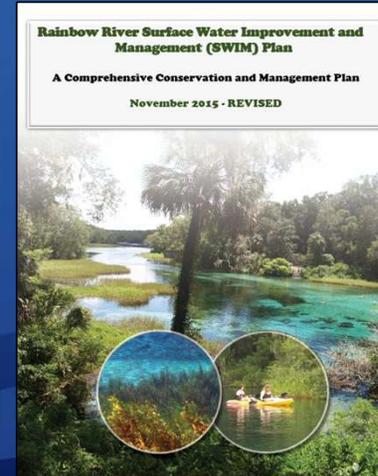
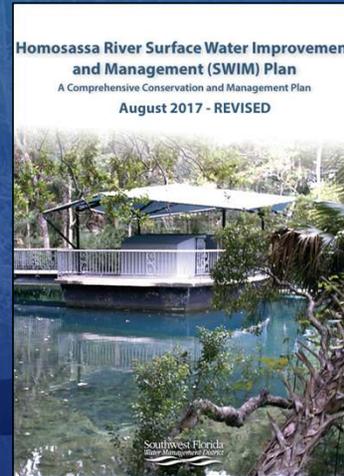
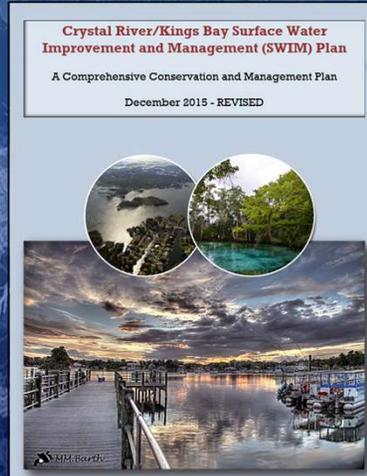
SWIM Act 373.453, F.S.

- 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



First-Magnitude Springs SWIM Plans

- Surface Water Improvement & Management (SWIM) Plans
 - Issues & Drivers
 - Management Actions (Quantifiable Objectives & Indicators)
 - Projects & Initiatives



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

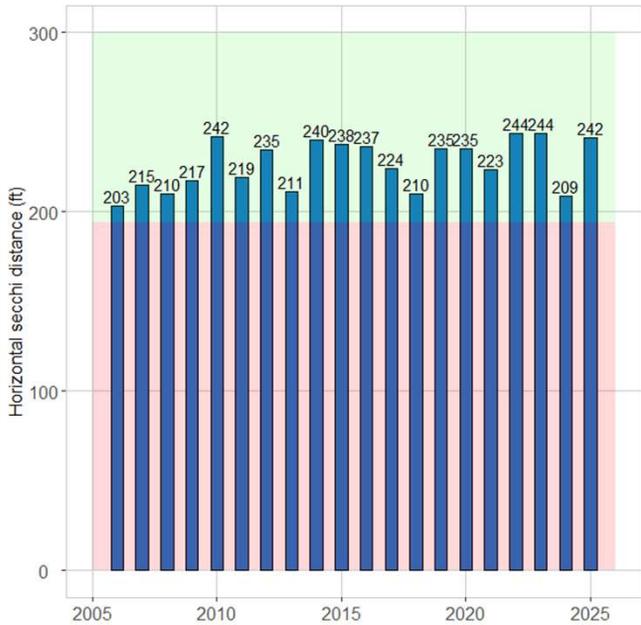
	Water quality	Target
	Nitrate concentration in the springs and river	< 0.35 mg/L
Water quantity		
	Minimum flows for the springs and river	> 95% natural flow
Natural systems		
 	Desirable submerged aquatic vegetation in the upper and lower portions of the river.	> 65%
 	Invasive aquatic vegetation in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



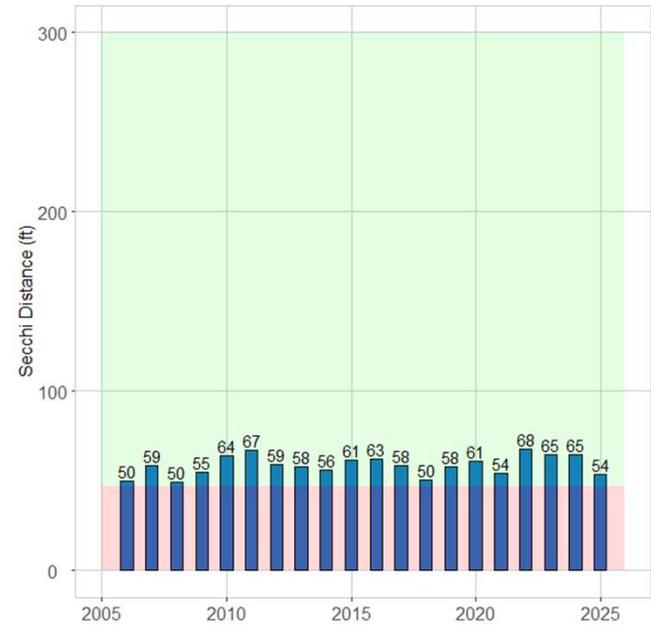
Rainbow River – Indicators

Water Clarity

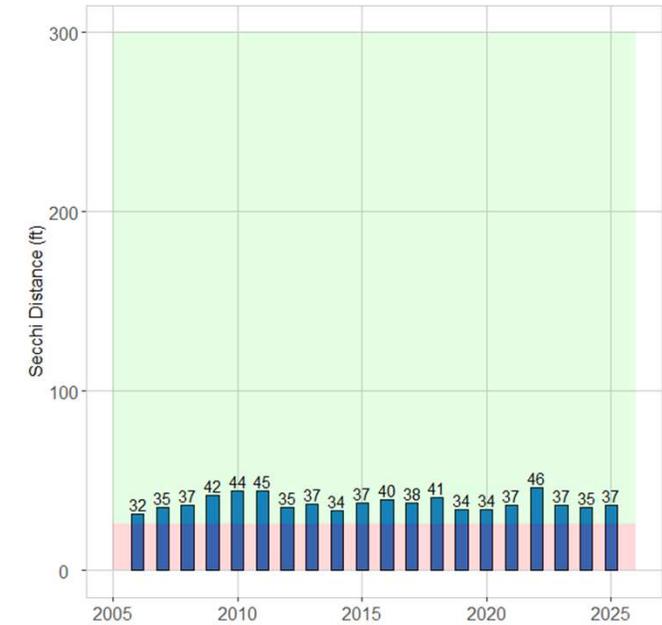
A. Mean Water Clarity: Headspring



B. Mean Water Clarity: Middle

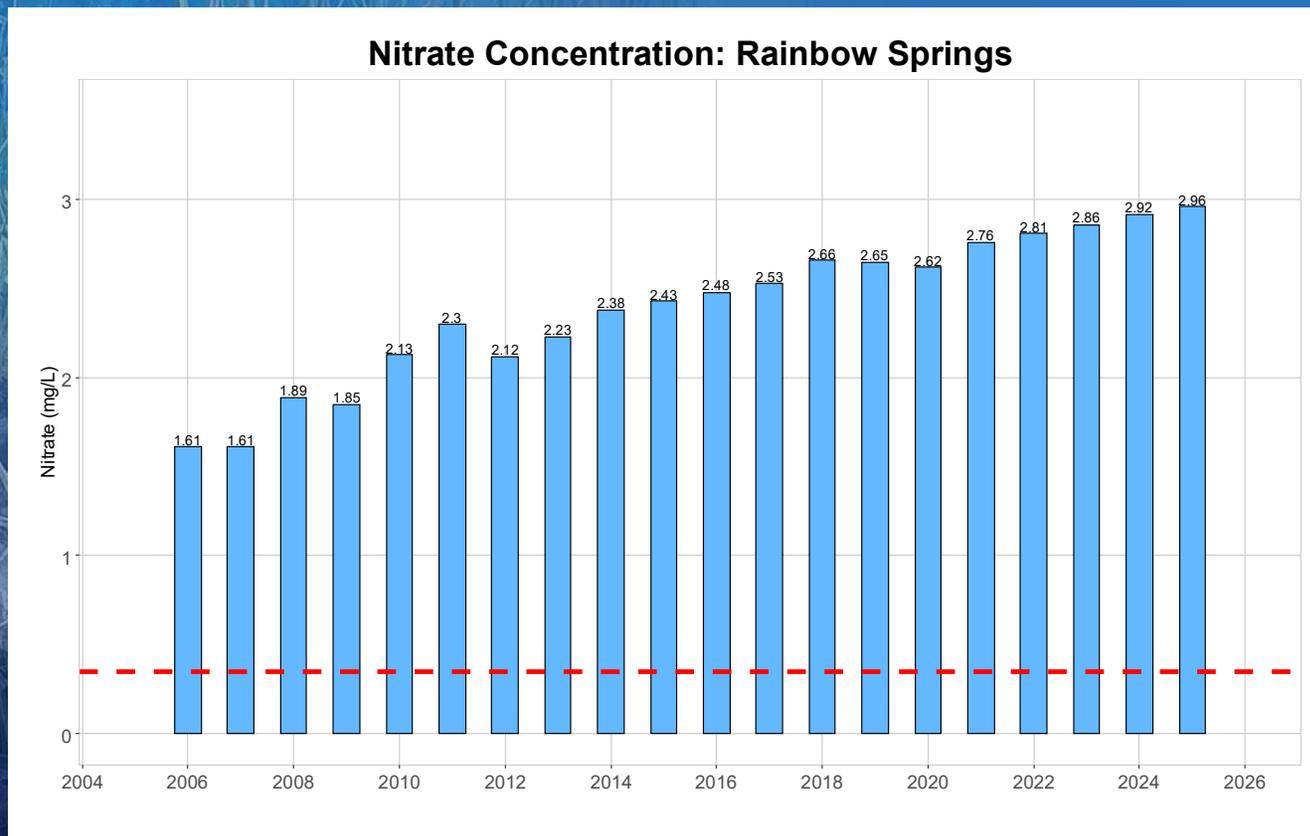


C. Mean Water Clarity: Lower



Rainbow River – Quantifiable Objectives

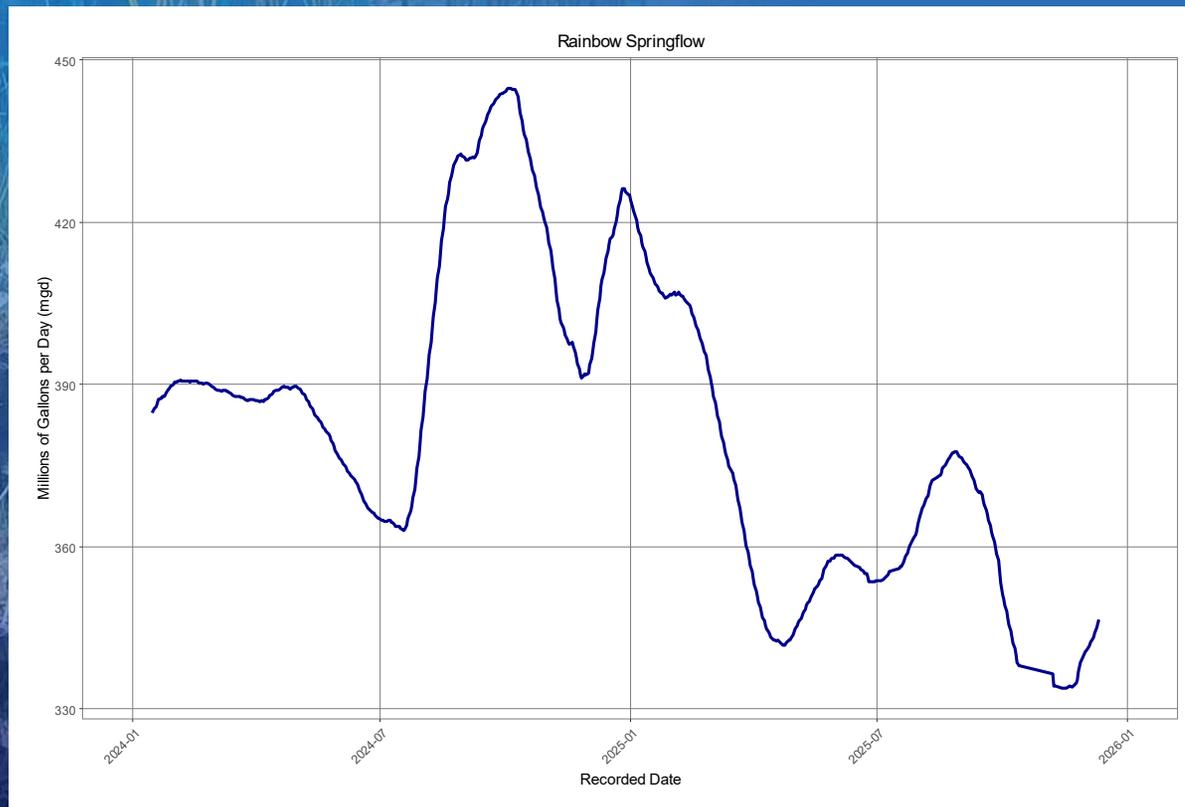
Nitrate Concentration



Rainbow River – Quantifiable Objectives Flows

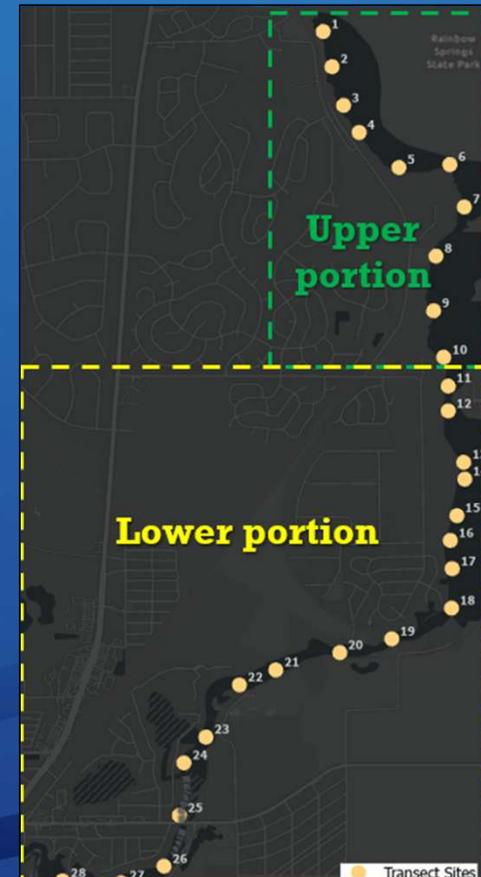
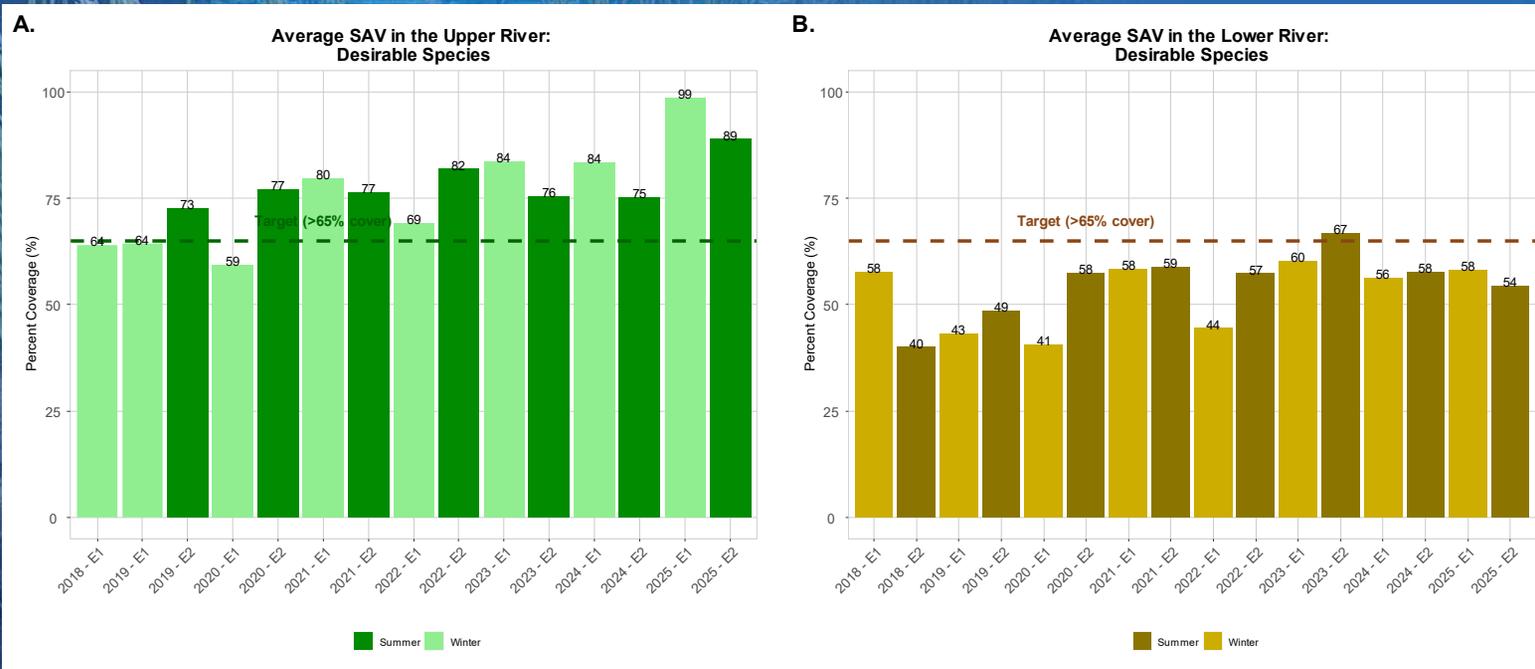
- Minimum Flow for the River: >95% Natural Flow
- MFL Status: Maintaining 99% Natural Flow

Rainbow River – Quantifiable Objectives Flow

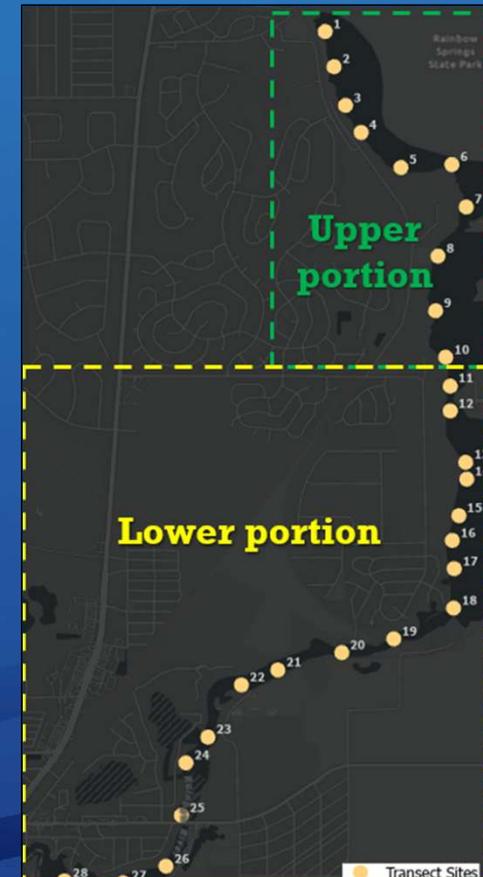
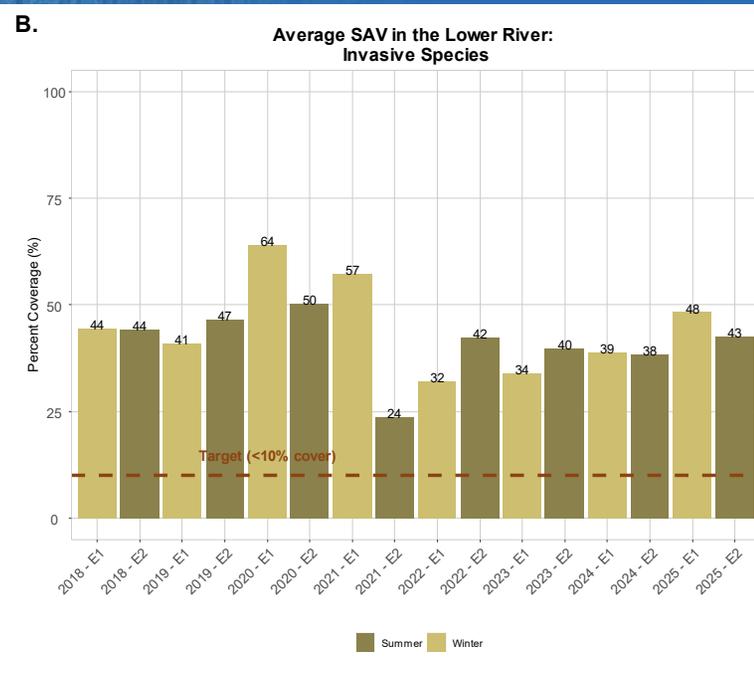
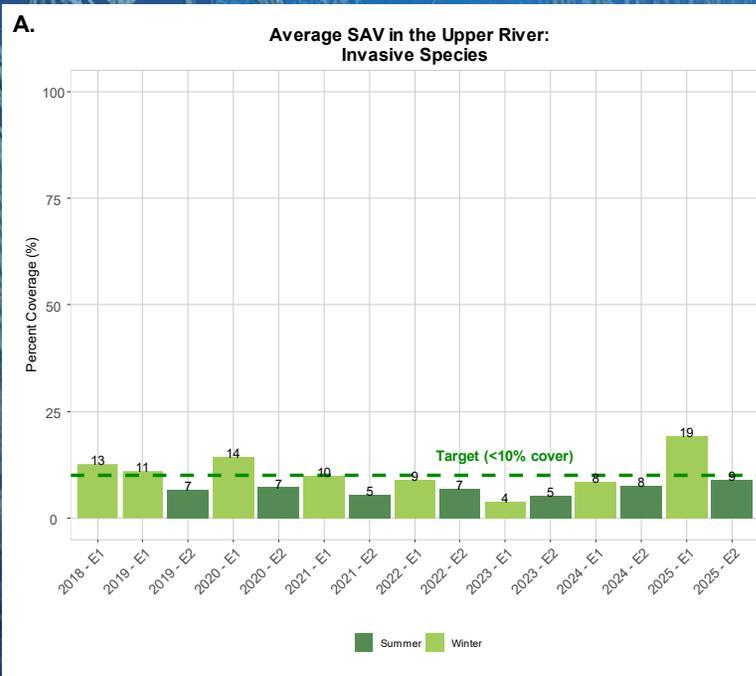


Rainbow River – Quantifiable Objectives

Desirable Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)



Rainbow River – Quantifiable Objectives Invasive Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)



SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

[WaterMatters.org/springs](https://www.watermatters.org/springs)



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