October 22, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: **File**

FROM: **Adam Munson, Environmental Scientist III**
Doug Leeper, Senior Environmental Scientist
Resource Conservation and Development Department
Southwest Florida Water Management District

SUBJECT: **Proposed minimum and guidance levels for Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida**

Lake June In Winter

General Description

Lake June In Winter (Figure 1) is located in the Peace River Basin of the Southwest Florida Water Management District in Highlands County, Florida (Sections 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36, Township 36S, Range 29E, and Sections 2, 3, and 4 Township 37S, Range 29E, and Sections 30 Township 30S, Range 36E). The area surrounding the lake is categorized as the Eastern Complex of the Central Ridge in the Lake Wales Ridge subdivision of the Central Lakes District (Brooks 1981). The subdivision is a region of high sand hills, composed of Pliocene and Early Pleistocene beach ridges and dunes overlying Upper Miocene coarse clastics. As part of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Lake Bioassessment/Regionalization Initiative, the area has been identified as the Southern Lake Wales Ridge lake region, and described as an area of generally clear water, low nutrient lakes and sandy well-drained soils (Griffith *et al.* 1997).

Lake June In Winter has a drainage area of 44 square miles (Belles 1985) and lies within the Lake Francis Outlet Drainage Basin in the Kissimmee Ridge watershed. The lake receives inflow from Lake Placid to the south, through Catfish Creek, when the surface of Lake Placid is above 93.1 ft above NGVD. Inlets along the southwest shore of the lake drain a natural wetland area and a 50-acre, dredged lake basin. A canal along the northern lakeshore provides another means of conveyance into the basin, connecting Lake June In Winter to Lake Henry, a natural, 64-acre lake. Historically, Lake June In Winter discharged through Stearns Creek to Lake Francis, which discharges to the north through Jack Creek. In the 1960s, a canal and water control structure were constructed to bypass Lake Francis and permit water to be discharged from Lake June In Winter through Stearns Creek, directly to Jack Creek. Conveyance through the canal is

currently controlled by a structure, G-90, which was built by the South Florida Water Management District in 1976, and is currently owned and operated by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. Discharge from Stearns Creek to Lake Francis is controlled by a structure, G91, which was installed by Highlands County in 1986 at the site of an existing culvert. Discharge out of Lake Francis, to Jack Creek, is controlled by a structure, G-92, which is also owned and operated by Highlands County. There are no permitted surface withdrawals from Lake June In Winter. There are, however, a number of permitted surface and ground water withdrawals in the area (Figure 3).

Uplands adjacent to Lake June In Winter have, for the most part, been cleared of native vegetation and are used for residential development or citrus production (Figure 2). Natural vegetation remains intact along the west shore of the lake in the Lake June In Winter Scrub State Park. Public access to the lake is available at the state park and at two community parks, Bishop Park and Lake June Park, which are located along the shore of the northeast basin of the lake. Public boat ramps and swimming areas are available at both community parks.

The "Gazetteer of Florida Lakes" (Florida Board of Conservation 1969, Shafer *et al.* 1986) lists the lake area as 3,504 acres at an elevation of 73 ft above mean sea level. The 1953 (photorevised 1972) United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 June-in-Winter quadrangle map does not indicate an elevation for the lake surface. A topographic map of the basin generated in support of minimum levels development (Figure 4) indicates that the lake extends over 3,689 acres at an elevation of 73 ft above the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD). Data used for production of the topographic map were obtained from field surveys conducted in June 2003 and aerial photography maps containing one-foot contour lines prepared using photogrammetric methods.

Figure 1. Location of Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida.

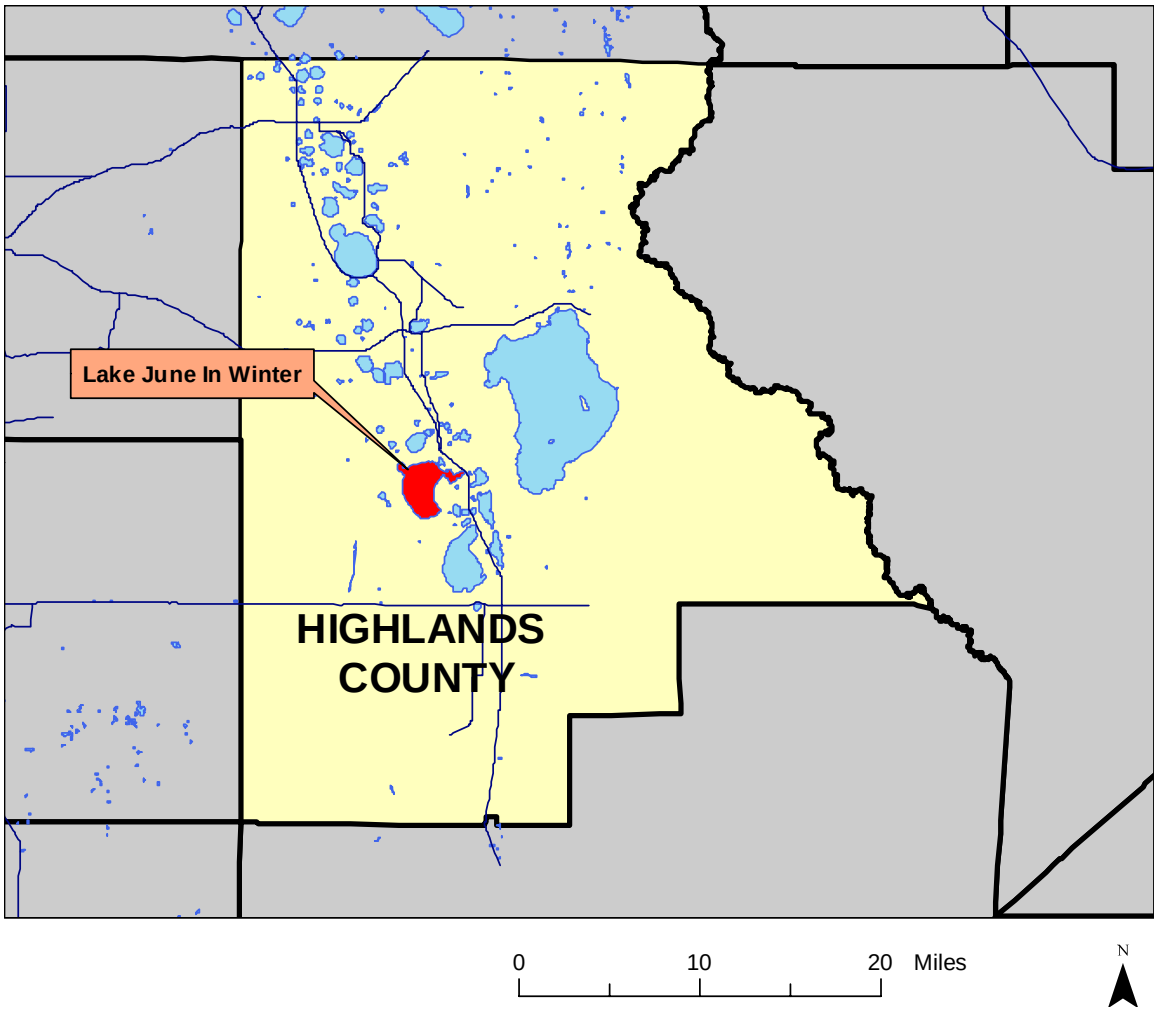


Figure 2. Location of District lake-level gauge, inlets, outlet, public boat ramps, and sites where hydrologic indicators were measured at Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida.

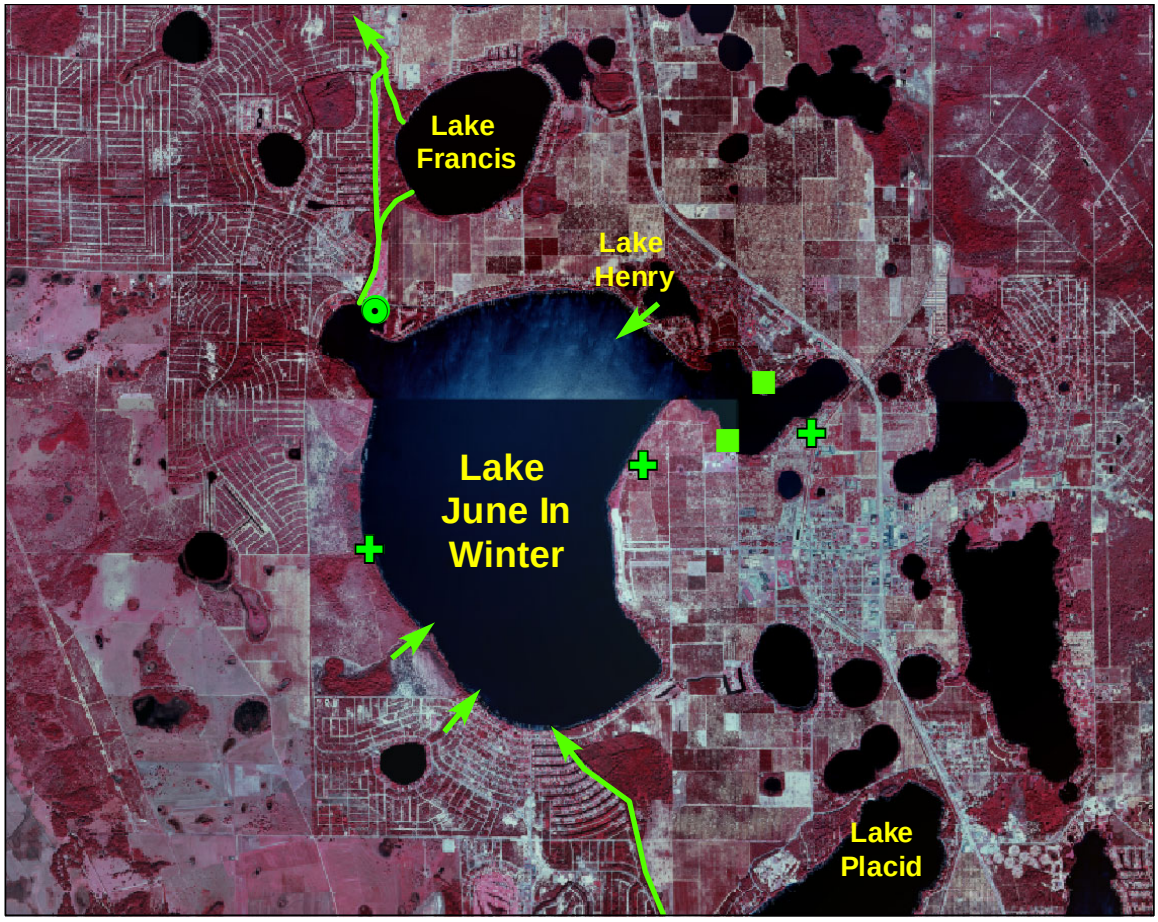
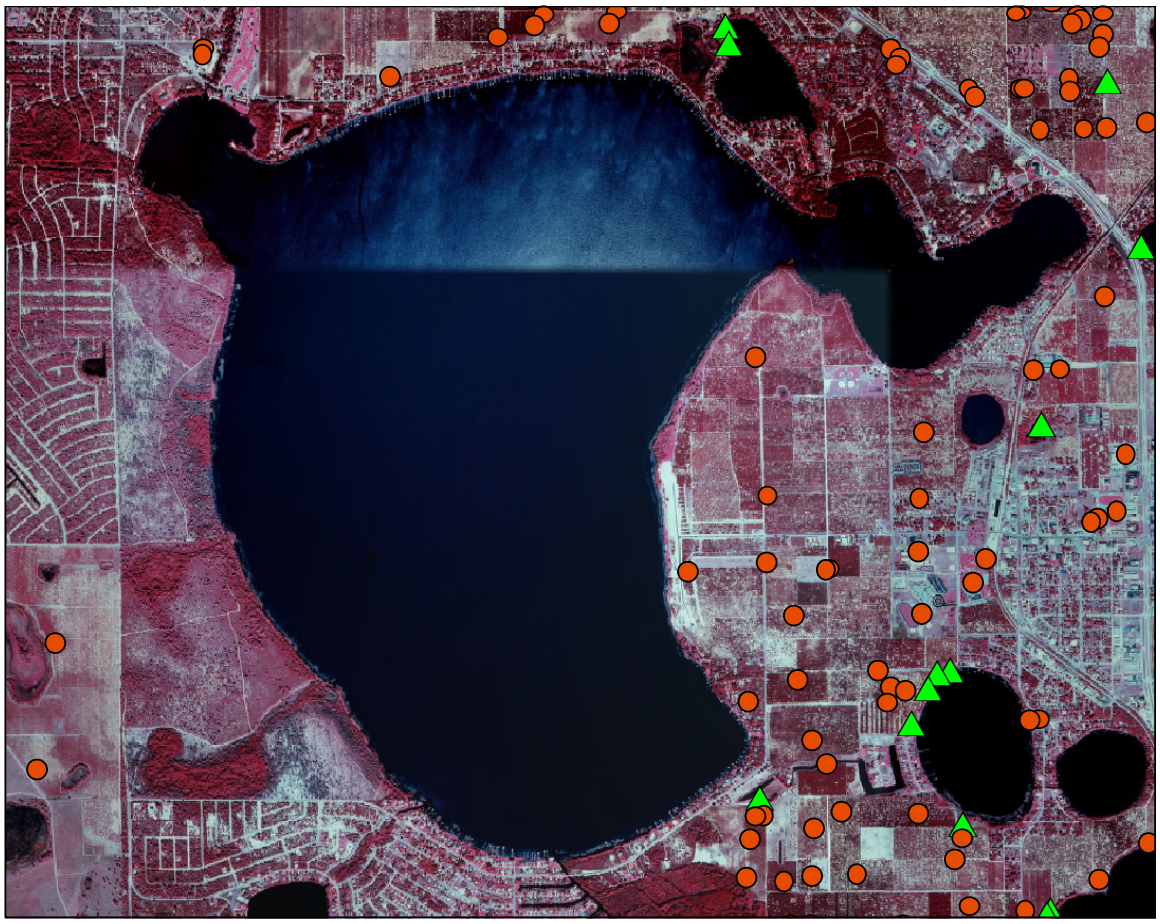


Figure 3. Location of Water Use Permits issued by the Southwest Florida Water Management District in the vicinity of Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida.



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WUP Withdrawal Locations

WUDIDTYPE

- **Ground**
- **Surface**

0 1 Miles

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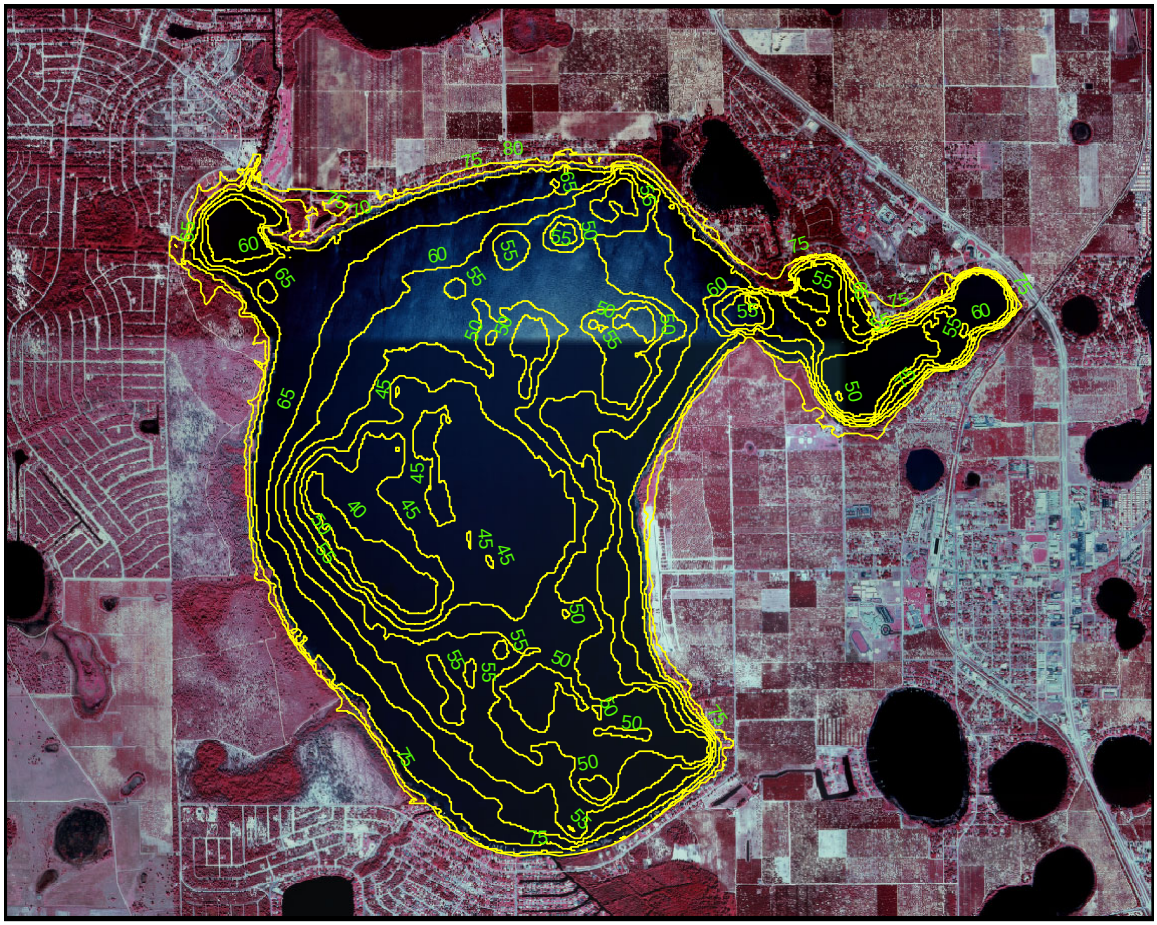
Aerial photography from 1999 USGS Digital Orhtophotograph

Map prepared June 23, 2003

Figure 4. Five-foot contours within the Lake June In Winter basin in Highlands County, Florida. Values shown are elevations in feet above the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929.



Map prepared October 16, 2003 using 1999 USGS digital orthophotography, elevation data from 1980 and 1981 SWFWMD aerial photography with contours maps (Sheet Nos. 28-36-29, 27-36-29, 26-36-29, 25-36-29, 33-36-29, 35-36-29, 36-36-29, 30-36-30, 31-36-30, 02-37-29, 03-37-29, 04-37-29, 10-37-29, 11-37-29), and elevation data collected on June 24, 2003 by SWFWMD staff.

0 1 Miles

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Previously Adopted Lake Management Levels

Based on work conducted in the 1970s (see SWFWMD 1996), the District Governing Board adopted management levels (currently referred to as Guidance Levels) for Lake June In Winter in May 1981 (Table 1). A Maximum Desirable Level of 75.00 ft above NGVD was also developed, but was not adopted by the Governing Board.

Table 1. Adopted guidance levels and associated surface areas for Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida.

Level	Elevation (feet above NGVD)	Lake Area (acres)
Ten Year Flood Guidance Level	75.13	3,802
High Level	75.50	3,826
Low Level	73.00	3,689
Extreme Low Level	72.50	3,664

Proposed Minimum and Guidance Levels

Proposed Minimum and Guidance Levels were developed for Lake June In Winter using the methodology for Category 3 Lakes described in Leeper *et al.* (2001), in accordance with modifications outlined in Dierberg and Wagner (2001). Proposed levels, along with lake surface area values for each level are listed in Table 2. Contour lines corresponding the proposed minimum level elevations are shown within the basin in Figure 5.

Table 2. Proposed minimum levels, guidance levels and associated surface areas for Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida.

Level	Elevation (feet above NGVD)	Lake Area (acres)
Ten Year Flood Guidance Level	75.5	3,826
High Guidance Level	74.7	3,778
High Minimum Lake Level	74.5	3,763
Minimum Lake Level	74.0	3,739
Low Guidance Level	73.2	3,699

Figure 5. Approximate location of the proposed Minimum Lake Level (yellow) and proposed High Minimum Lake Level (Blue) for Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida. Elevations listed are in feet above the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929.

Map prepared October 16, 2003 using 1999 USGS digital orthophotography, elevation data from 1980 and 1981 SWFWMD aerial photography with contours maps (Sheet Nos. 28-36-29, 27-36-29, 26-36-29, 25-36-29, 33-36-29, 35-36-29, 36-36-29, 30-36-30, 31-36-30, 02-37-29, 03-37-29, 04-37-29, 10-37-29, 11-37-29), and elevation data collected on June 24, 2003 by SWFWMD staff.

0 1 Miles

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Legend

CONTOUR

74.0 ft above NGVD

74.5 ft above NGVD

Summary of Data and Analyses Supporting Recommended Minimum and Guidance Levels

Hydrologic data are available for Lake June In Winter (District Universal ID Number STA 370 371) from April 1945 through the present date (Figure 6, see Figure 2 for current location of the SWFWMD lake-level gauge). Monthly mean water surface elevations, along with proposed guidance and minimum levels are graphed in Figure 7.

Based on water-use estimates and analysis of lake stage and ground water fluctuations, hydrologic data for lakes in the Highlands Ridge area that were collected prior to 1966 may be classified as Historic data, and data collected from 1966 through the present date may be classified as Current data (Ellison 2002). Hydrologic data collected for Lake June In Winter prior to 1977 could not, however, be classified as Historic or Current data due to modifications to the lake outlet conveyance system. Based on installation of Structure G-90 in 1976, hydrologic data from January 1977 through the present date were classified as Current data. Data collected through September 2003 were used to calculate the Current P10, P50, and P90 (Table 3).

The Category 3 Lake Normal Pool elevation was established at 75.5 ft above NGVD based on elevations associated with live oak *(Quercus virginiana) and pine (Pinus* sp.) along the east shore of the lake and saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*) along the western lakeshore (Table 4, Figure 2). The Normal Pool elevation is similar to the "high water" line (75.45 ft above mean sea level) previously established for the lake based on analysis of stratified beach deposits (Bishop 1967). The low floor slab elevation, extent of structural alteration, and the control point elevation were determined using available one-foot contour interval aerial maps and field survey data (Table 3). The control point for Lake June In Winter occurs at the Structure G-90 site. The structure includes two wiers with an invert of 74.0 ft above NGVD. The weirs are designed to accommodate up to one-foot of stop logs, so the control point ranges from 74.0 to 75.0 ft above NGVD (Figure 8). The Normal Pool elevation is above the control point elevation range, so the lake is considered to be Structurally Altered.

Based on the relationship between the control point elevation, the Normal Pool elevation, and the Current P10, the High Guidance Level was established at the Current P10 elevation of 74.7 ft above NGVD (Table 3). The Historic P50 was established at 74.2 ft above NGVD, by subtracting the difference between the Current P10 and P50 (0.5 ft) from the High Guidance Level. The Low Guidance Level was established at 73.2 ft above NGVD by subtracting the difference between the Current P10 and P90 (1.5 ft) from the High Guidance Level. Differences between the Current percentile statistics, rather than the Highlands Ridge Area Reference Lake Water Regime statistics (see Ellison 2002) were used to establish the Historic P50 and Low Guidance Level because the respective differences were less than the Reference Lake Water Regime statistics (RLWR50 = 1.1 ft, RLWR90 = 2.45 ft).

The Ten Year Flood Guidance Level for Lake June In Winter was established at 75.5 ft above NGVD, using the methodology for open-basin lakes currently proposed for incorporation into District Rules (Chapter 40D-8, Florida Administrative Code). For the analysis, the long-term gauging record of Lake June In Winter was used to assess flooding potential. Flood frequency elevation estimates were based on probability analysis of annual peak stages recorded between 1945 and 2003 (58 years of record). Various frequency distributions and probability plots were compared to establish the best estimate of flood frequency elevations. The Ten Year Flood Guidance Level has been exceeded at least three times during the period for which lake stage data are available (see Figures 6 and 7). The highest surface elevation for Lake June In Winter included in the District Water Management Database, 77.58 ft above NGVD, occurred on October 6, 1948. The low of record, 71.60 ft above NGVD, was recorded on May 36, 1981.

Lake June In Winter contains extensive, diverse stands of aquatic macrophytes and other hydrophytes, including cattail (*Typha* sp.), pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), water primrose (*Ludwigia* sp.), spatterdock (*Nuphar luteum*), and eel grass (*Vallisneria americana*). Forested, hardwood-dominated wetlands occur along the west shore of the lake. The lake is not, however, contiguous with cypress-dominated wetlands of 0.5 or more acres in size, so it is classified as a Category 3 Lake for the purpose of minimum levels development.

Dock-Use, Aesthetics, Mixing, Basin Connectivity, Species Richness and Recreation/Ski Standards were evaluated for minimum levels development (Table 3, see Leeper *et al.* 2001, Dierberg and Wagner 2001). The dock use standard was established at 74.0 ft above NGVD, based on the elevation of sediments at the end of 90% of the 339 docks at the lake (71.0 ft above NGVD), a clearance value of 2 ft based on use of powerboats in the lake, and the difference between the Current P50 and Current P90 (1.0 ft). The Aesthetics Standard was established at the Low Guidance Level elevation of 73.2 ft above NGVD. A Mixing Standard for preventing potential re-suspension of lake sediments was established at 73.5 ft above NGVD, based on dynamic ratio values (see Bachmann *et al.* 2000) estimated for lake stages up to the Historic P50 elevation (Figure 9). The Basin Connectivity Standard was established at 69.0 ft above NGVD, based on the elevation that ensures connectivity among the major sub-basins of the lake (66.0 ft above NGVD), a 2-foot clearance values for use of powerboats on the lake, and difference (1.0 ft) between the Current P50 and Current P90 elevations. The Species Richness Standard was established at 67.4 ft above NGVD, based on limiting change in lake surface area to less than a 15% reduction from the area at the Historic P50 elevation. The Recreation/Ski Standard for safe skiing at Lake June In Winter was established at 46.0 ft above NGVD, based on the elevation at which the lake could contain a safe skiing area (45.0 ft above NGVD) and the difference (1.0 ft) between the Current P50 and Current P90 elevations.

Review of the relationships between lake stage and potential herbaceous wetland area or the area available for aquatic macrophyte colonization indicated that use of all but the Recreation/Ski Standard would be appropriate for minimum levels development. At the Recreation/Ski Standard elevation, the entire inundated area would be available for colonization by submersed or floating-leaved macrophytes (Figure 9).

All appropriate significant change standards were below the Historic P50 elevation. The Dock-Use Standard, the most conservative *(i.e.,* the highest) of the standards, was used to establish the proposed Minimum Lake Level at 74.0 ft above NGVD. The proposed High Minimum Lake Level was established at 74.5 ft above NGVD, an elevation corresponding the proposed Minimum Lake Level plus the difference (0.5 ft) between the Current P10 and the Current P50 elevations.

The proposed High Minimum Lake Level is 1.8 ft below the elevation of the floor slab of the lowest residential building (Low Floor Slab) and 1.7 ft below the elevation of concrete slab of a garage within the immediate lake basin. The proposed High Minimum Lake Level is 1.4 ft below the low spot on the paved roads (Low Road) that encircle the lake. When the lake is staged at the High Minimum Lake Level, the water surface is approximately 3.3 feet below the top of the public boat ramp located in Bishop Park, and approximately 3.6 ft below the top of the ramp at Lake June Park.

Figure 6. Surface water elevations through September 2003 at Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida.

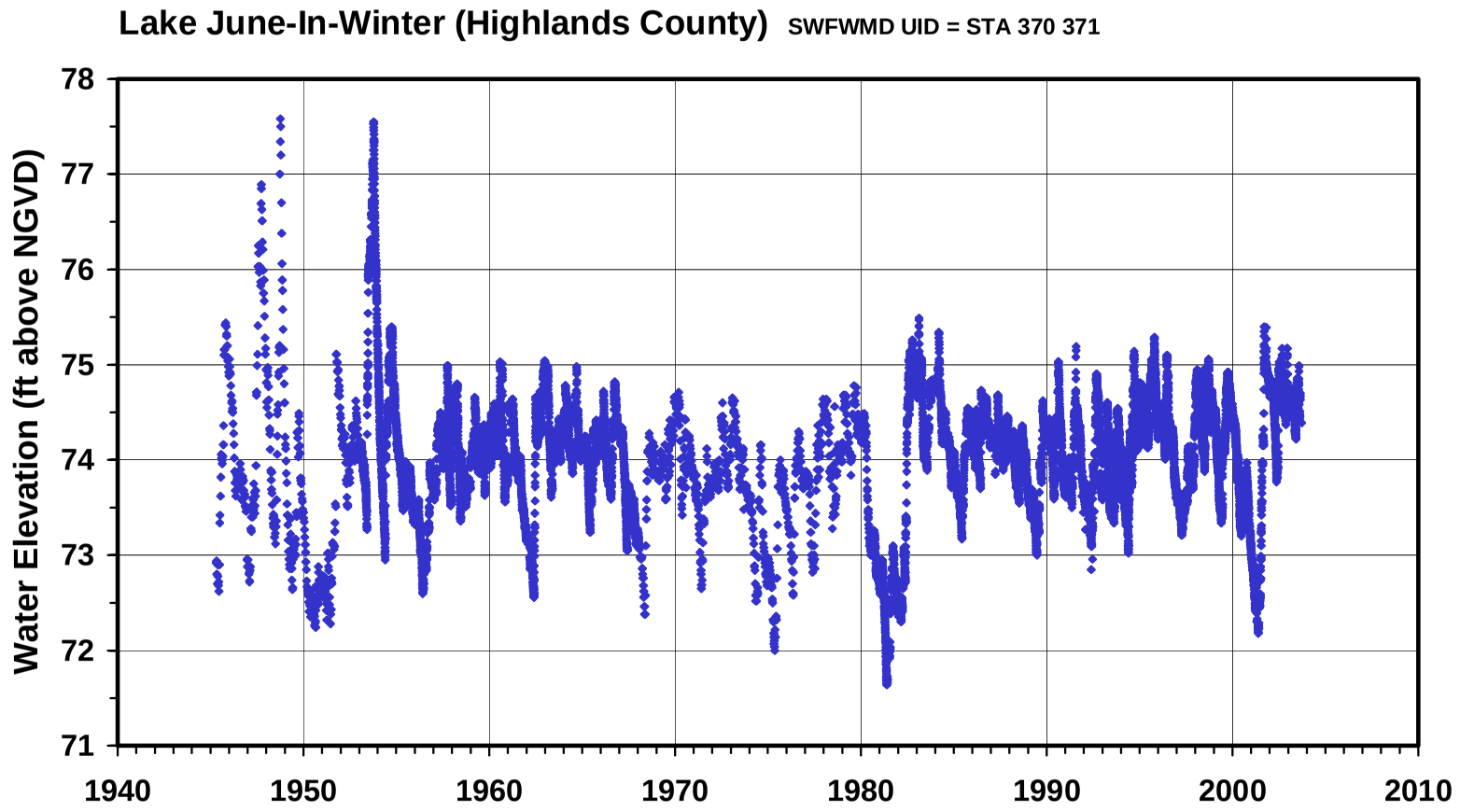


Figure 7. Mean monthly surface water elevations through September 2003, and proposed guidance and minimum levels for Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida. Proposed levels include the Ten Year Flood Guidance Level (10-YR), High Guidance Level (HGL), Low Guidance Level (LGL), High Minimum Lake Level (HMLL), and Minimum Lake Level (MLL).

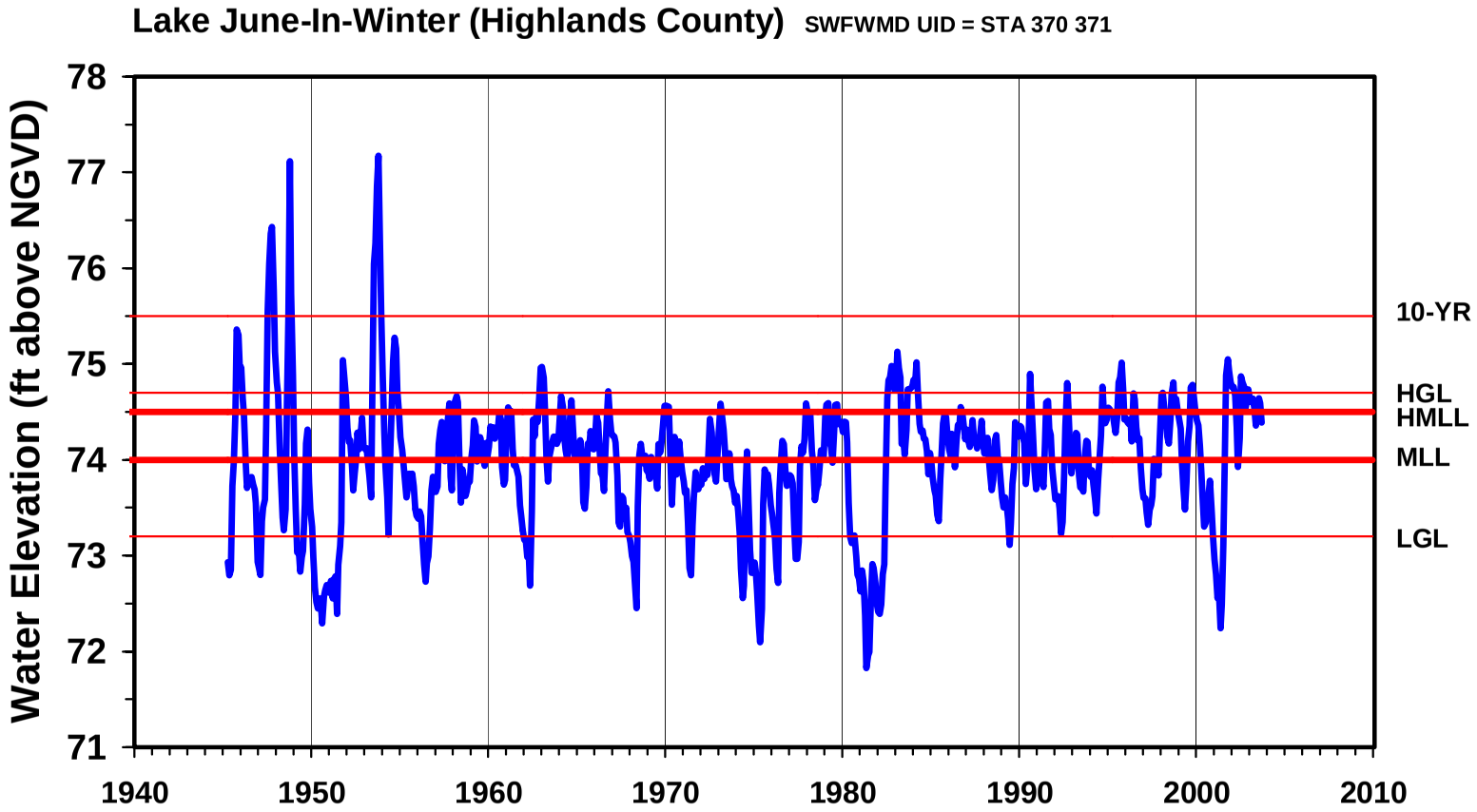


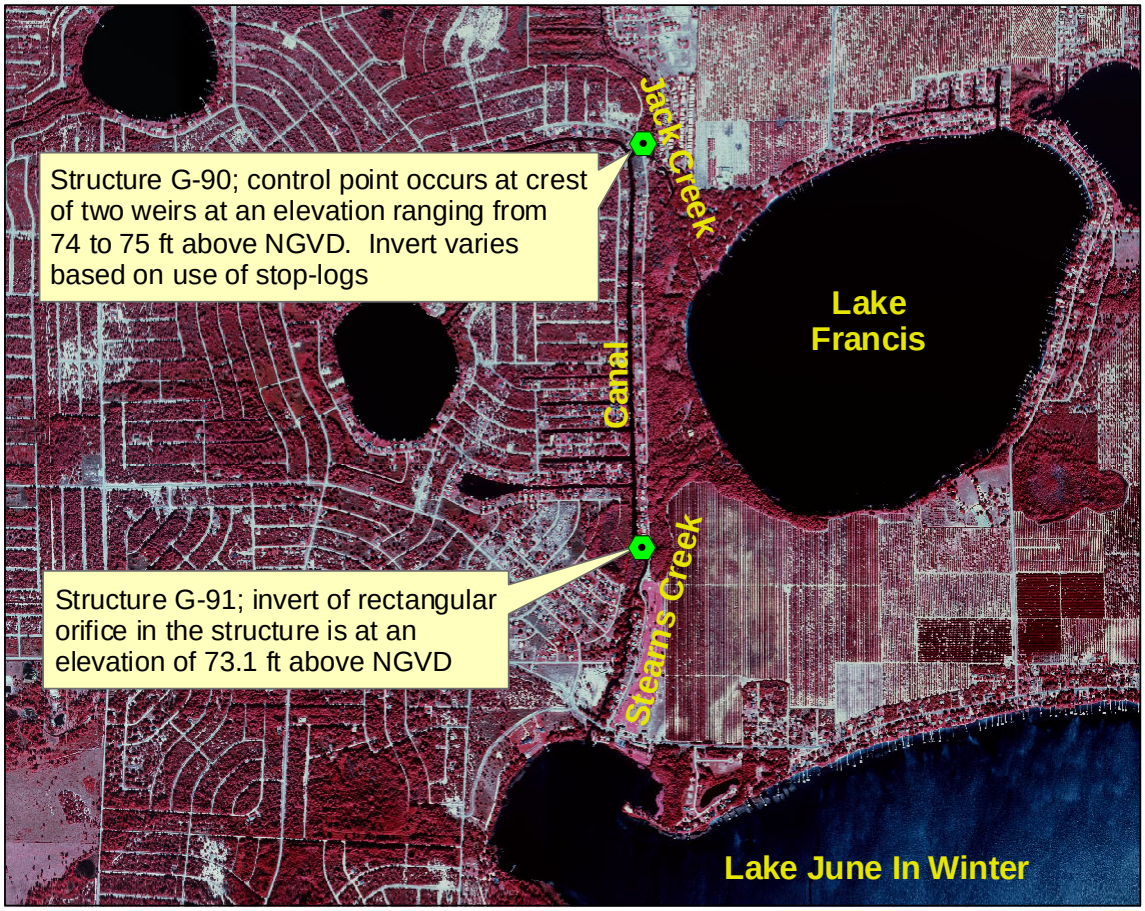
Table 3. Elevation data and associated area values used for establishing minimum levels for Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida.

Level or Feature	Elevation (feet above NGVD)	Lake Area (acres)
Current P10	74.7	3,773
Current P50	74.2	3,750
Current P90	73.2	3,699
Category 3 Lake Normal Pool	75.5	3,827
Low Floor Slab	76.3	3,704
Low Other (Garage)	76.23	3,866
Low Road	75.85	3,849
Control Point	74 - 75	NA
High Guidance Level	74.7	3,773
Historic P50	74.2	3,750
Low Guidance Level	73.2	3,699
Dock-Use Standard	74.0	3,739
Mixing Standard	73.5	3,714
Aesthetics Standard	73.2	3,699
Connectivity Standard	69.0	3,436
Species Richness Standard	67.4	3,199
Recreation/Ski Standard	46.0	294

Table 4. Elevation data used for establishing the Normal Pool Elevation for Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida. Data were collected on September 16, 2003 and October 15, 2003 by SWFWMD staff.

Hydrologic Indicator	Elevation (feet above NGVD)
Base of *Quercus virginiana*	74.25
Base of *Quercus virginiana*	74.65
Base of *Quercus virginiana*	73.85
Base of *Quercus virginiana*	74.05
Base of *Pinus* sp.	74.35
Base of *Serenoa repens*	76.39
Base of *Serenoa repens*	76.53
Base of *Serenoa repens*	76.64
Base of *Serenoa repens*	76.89
Base of *Serenoa repens*	76.99
N	**10**
Median	**75.5**
Mean	**75.5**
Standard Deviation	**1.3**

Figure 8. Outlet conveyance system for Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida.



Aerial photography from 1999 USGS Digital Orhtophotograph.

Map prepared October 21, 2003

0 1 Miles

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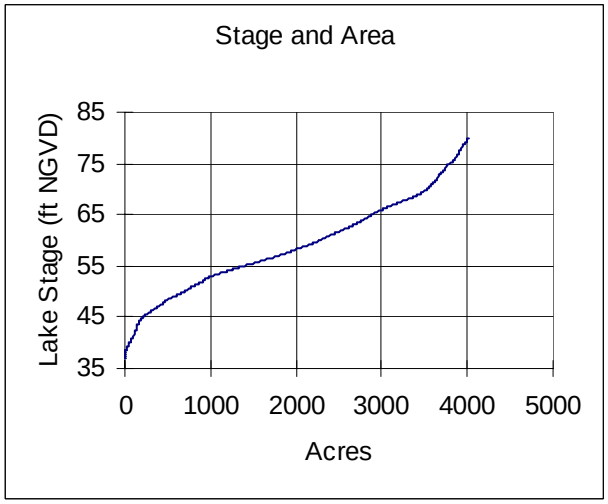
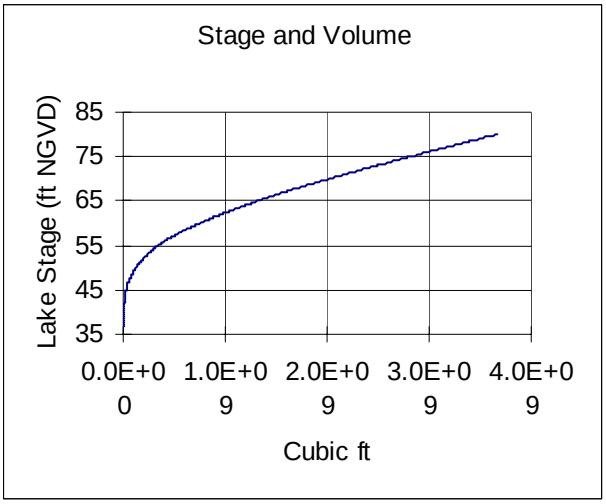
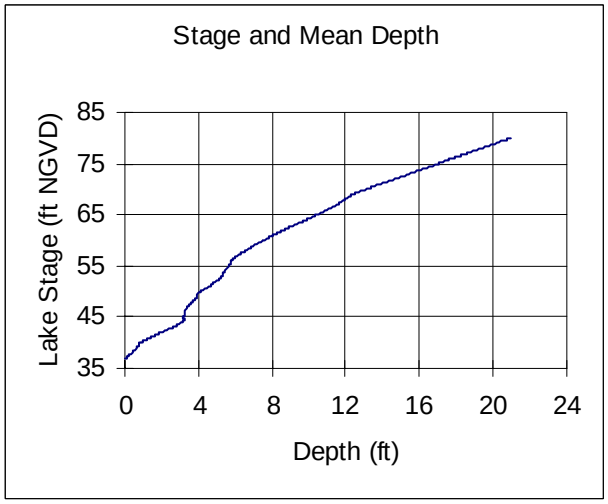
Table 5. Summary statistics for elevation data determined for docks (n=339) at Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida, based on data collected by SWFWMD staff on April 8, 2003. Percentiles (P10, P50, P90) represent elevations exceeded by 10, 50 and 90 percent of the docks.

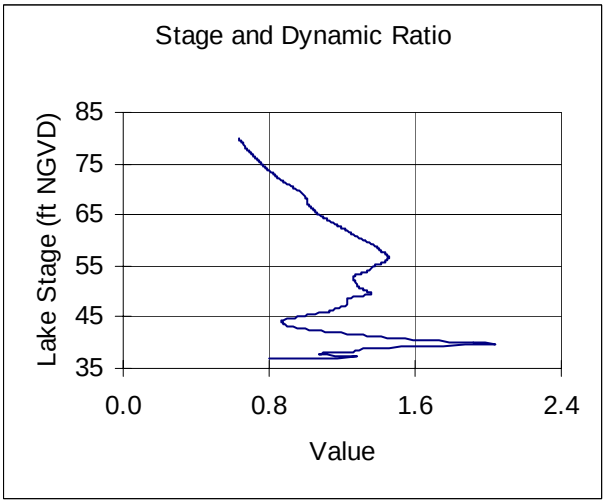
Statistic	Elevation of Sediments at Waterward End Docks (feet above NGVD)	Elevation of Dock Platforms (feet above NGVD)
Mean (SD)	69.3 (1.7)	76.3 (0.5)
P10	71.0	76.8
P50	69.7	76.3
P90	66.9	75.8
Maximum	72.1	78.2
Minimum	60.1	75.3

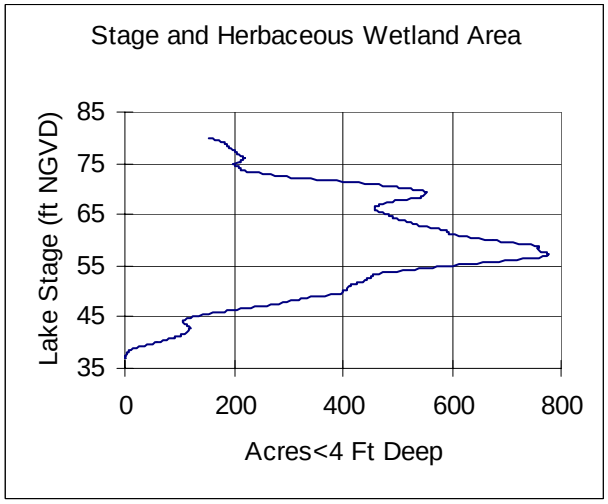
Figure 9. Surface area, volume, mean depth, dynamic ratio, area available for colonization by aquatic macrophytes, and potential herbaceous wetland area versus lake stage for Lake June In Winter in Highlands County, Florida.

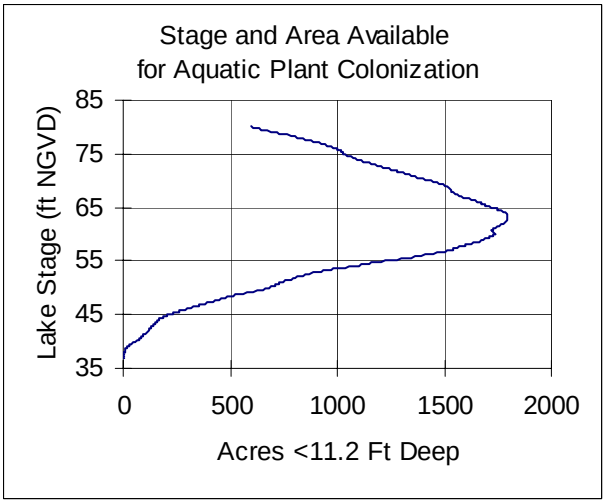












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