

Upper/Middle Withlacoochee River Minimum Flows Development Kickoff Meeting

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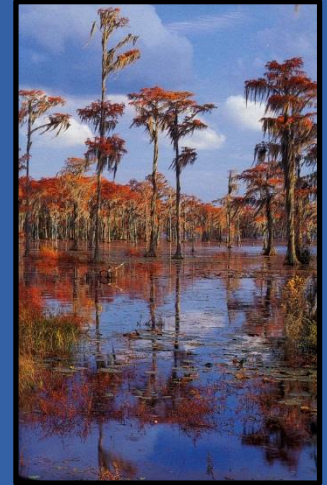
What is an MFL?

M = Minimum

F = Flow

and

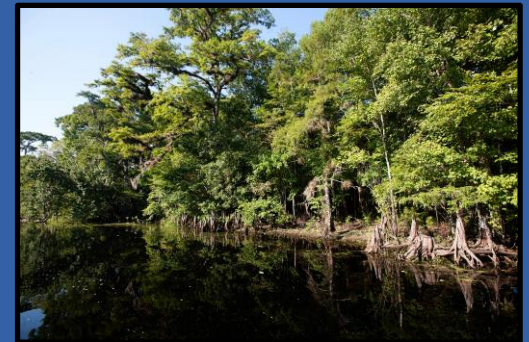
L = Level



- Minimum flows protect rivers, streams and springs
- Minimum levels protect lakes, wetlands and aquifers

What is a Minimum Flow?

- Required by law
- Established to protect rivers from damage caused by ground and surface water withdrawals
- Tool used by the District to:
 - Review requests for withdrawals of ground and surface water
 - Plan for future water needs

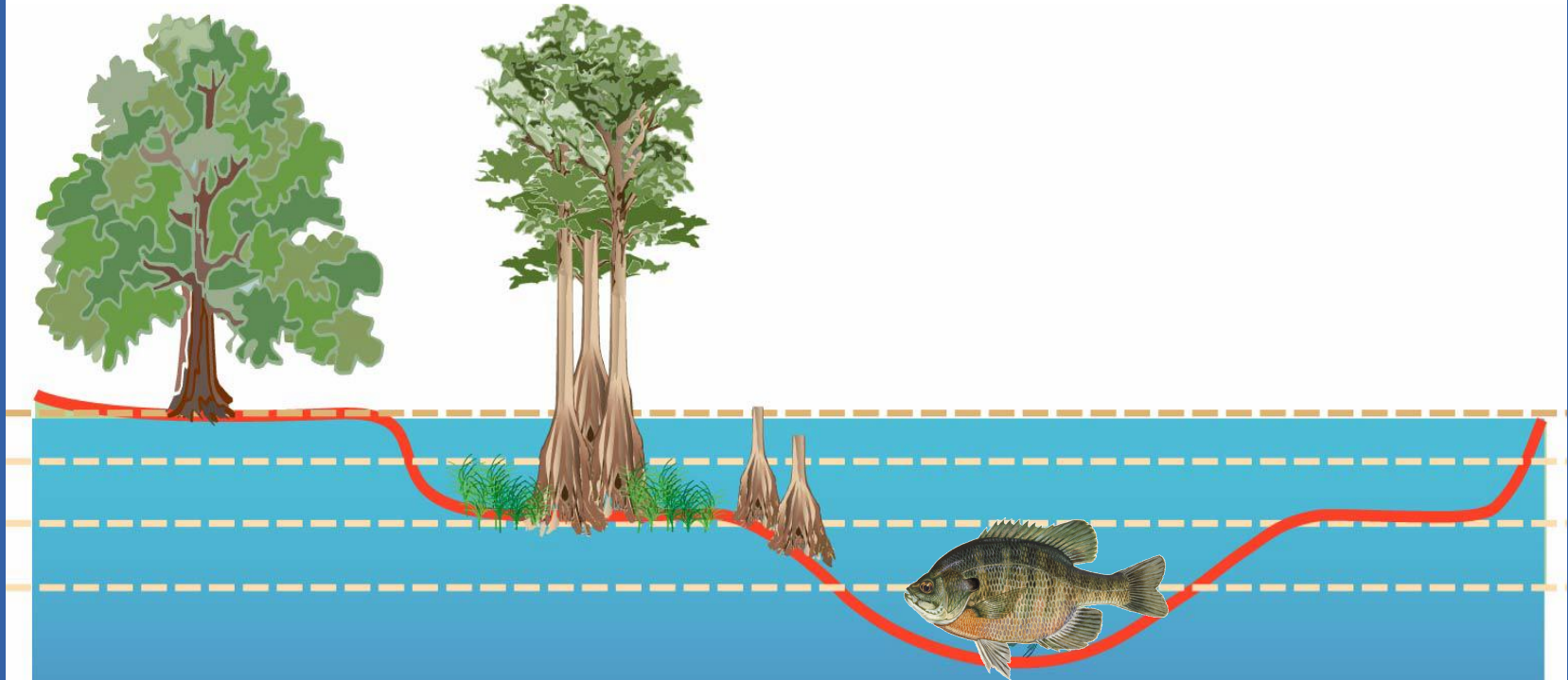




Upper/Middle
Withlacoochee
River

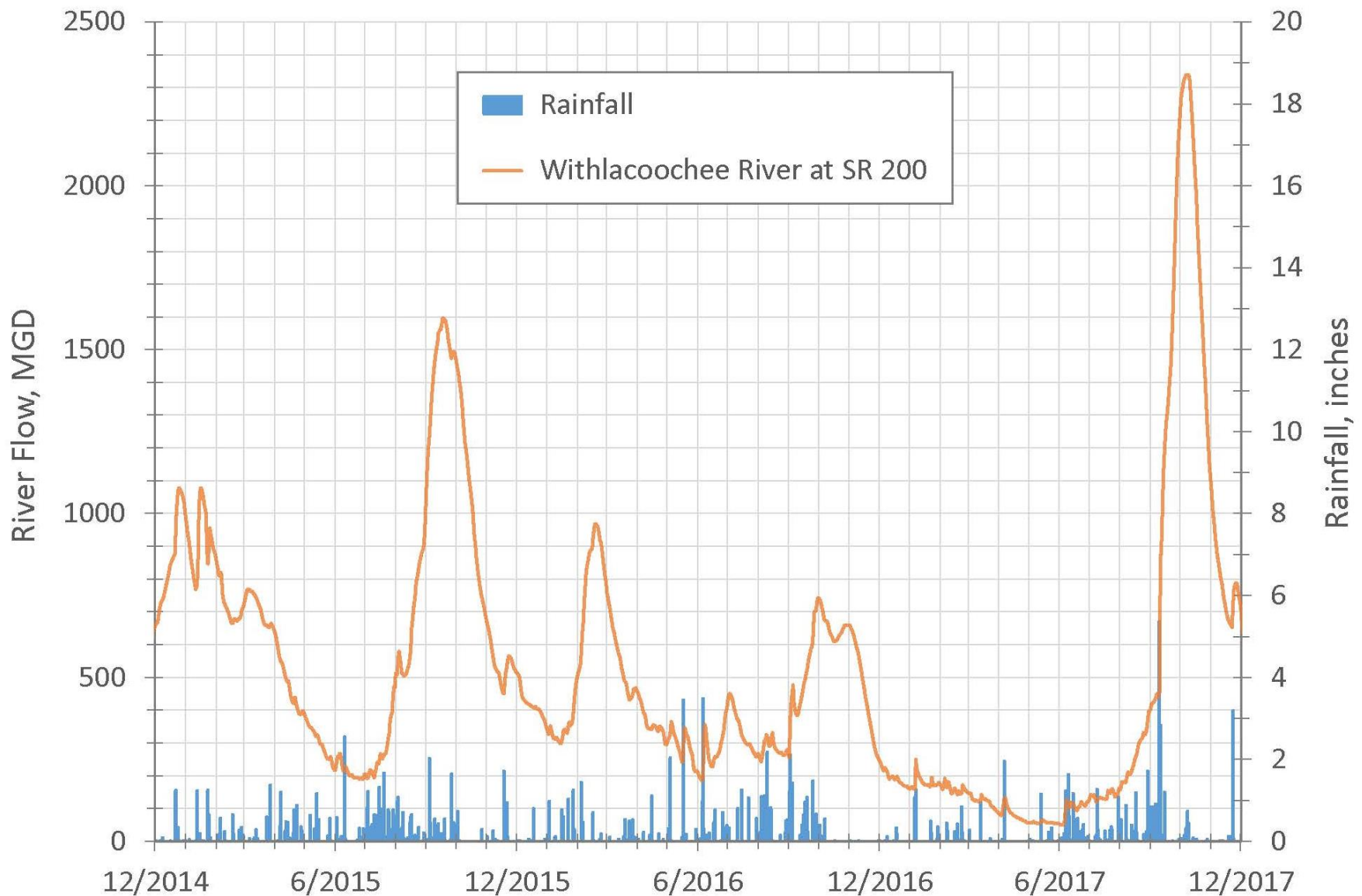


Upper/Middle Withlacoochee River Minimum Flows Development: A Habitat-Based Approach



How Do Changes in Flow From Withdrawals for
Human Use Affect Habitat?

Upper/Middle Withlacoochee River Flow



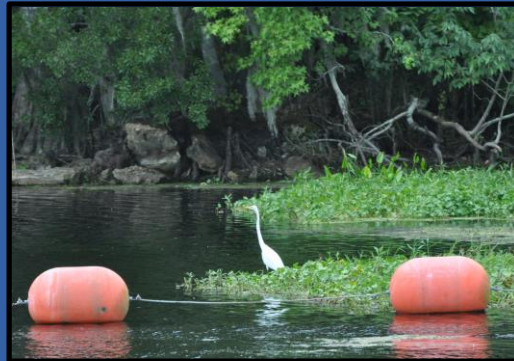
Environmental Values Protected When Developing Minimum Flows

- Recreation in and on the water
- Fish and wildlife habitats and the passage of fish
- Estuarine resources
- Transfer of detrital material
- Maintenance of freshwater storage and supply
- Aesthetic and scenic attributes
- Filtration and absorption of nutrients and other pollutants
- Sediment loads
- Water quality
- Navigation



Methods Used to Develop Upper/Middle Withlacoochee River Minimum Flows

- Habitat in the water for fish, crustaceans, snails and insects
- Sticks, logs, and roots in the water



Methods Used to Develop Upper/Middle Withlacoochee River Minimum Flows

- Floodplain wetlands habitat

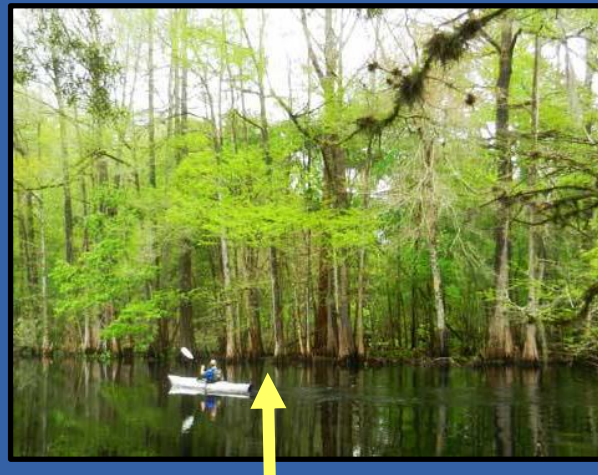
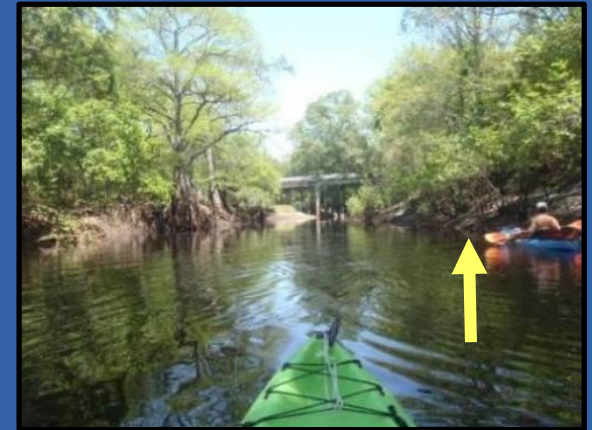




Amount of Habitat in the Water

Methods Used to Develop Upper/Middle Withlacoochee River Minimum Flows

- Can fish travel up and down the river
- Can boats get through



Methods Used to Develop Upper/Middle Withlacoochee River Minimum Flows

- Conduct many studies
- Collect a large amount of data
- Use best available information



Upper/Middle and Lower Withlacoochee Minimum Flows Development Draft Schedule

Collect
Data,
Develop
Models
(Oct
2017-Nov
2019)

Develop
Minimum
Flow
Recom-
mendations
(Nov 2019-
May 2020)

Review,
Input,
Public
Workshops
(May
2020-June
2021)

Governing
Board
Approval
(Aug
2021)

Publish
Rule

Compliance,
Prevention,
Recovery,
Permitting,
Re-evaluate

Stakeholder Input



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