

Status Update

Kissimmee Basin Water Reservations

Water Resources Advisory Commission Meeting – January 8, 2015

**Don Medellin, Principal Scientist
Applied Sciences Bureau**

Background

- **Rule development effort was initiated in June 2008**
- **Governing Board authorized staff to re-commence rule development effort on June 12, 2014**
- **Public Workshop #1 – July 30, 2014**
- **2015 Priority Water Body List–Approved Nov. 2014**
- **Public Workshop #2 – December 12, 2014**

Kissimmee River Restoration Project

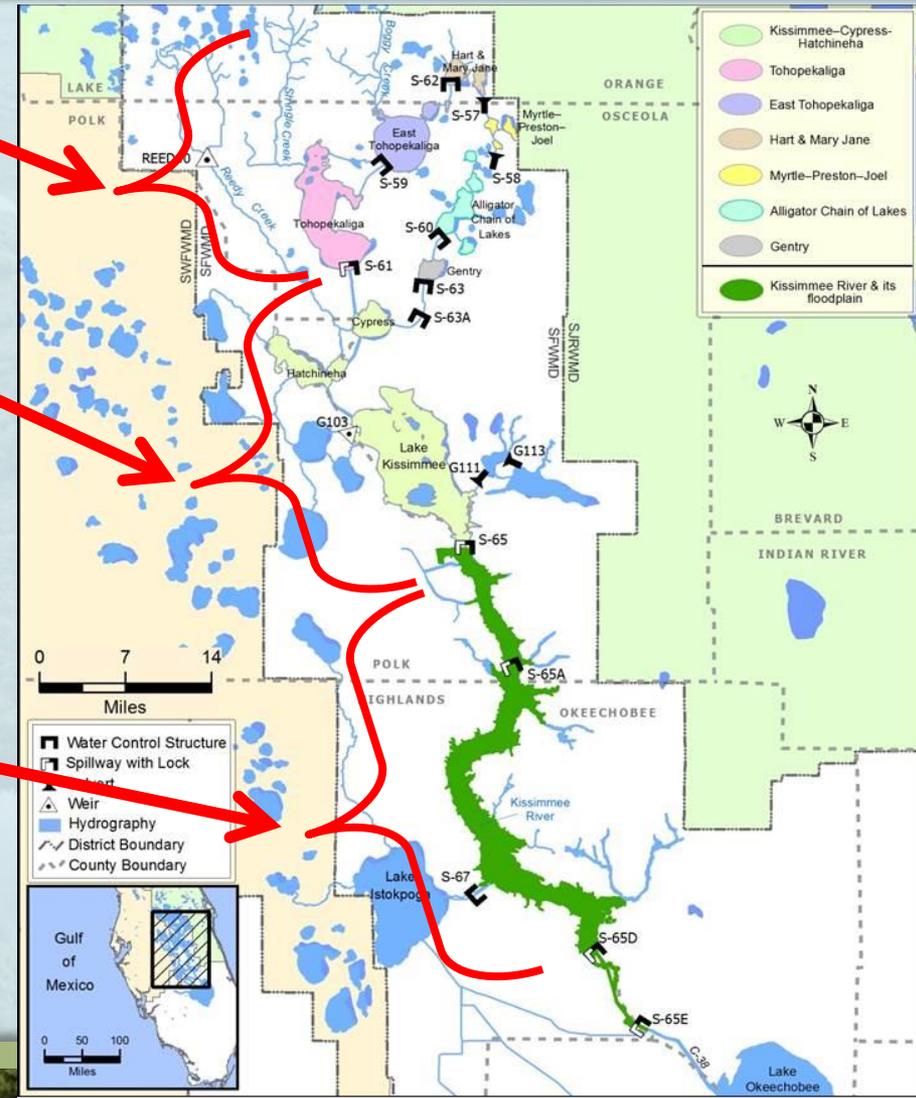
Upper Chain of Lakes

Implement restoration hydrology

- Headwaters Revitalization Schedule

Restore the physical form of the river

- fill C-38 Canal
- remove water control structures
- reconnect river oxbows



District Reservation Objectives

- **Protect water for the authorized Kissimmee River Restoration Project**
- **Ensure a healthy and sustainable, native fish and wildlife community**
- **Maintain C&SF Project operations consistent with federal regulation schedules**
- **Protect water supply inflows to Lake Okeechobee and the Greater Everglades Ecosystem (natural and human uses)**
- **Support solutions for Central Florida's water supply needs, consistent with other objectives**

Proposed Reservation Rule Overview

Reserved Water

- **Kissimmee River and Floodplain:**
 - All surface water reserved
- **Headwater Revitalization Lakes (Kissimmee, Cypress, Hatchineha)**
 - All surface water reserved
- **Upper Chain of Lakes**
 - Surface water for fish and wildlife reserved; some water available for allocation

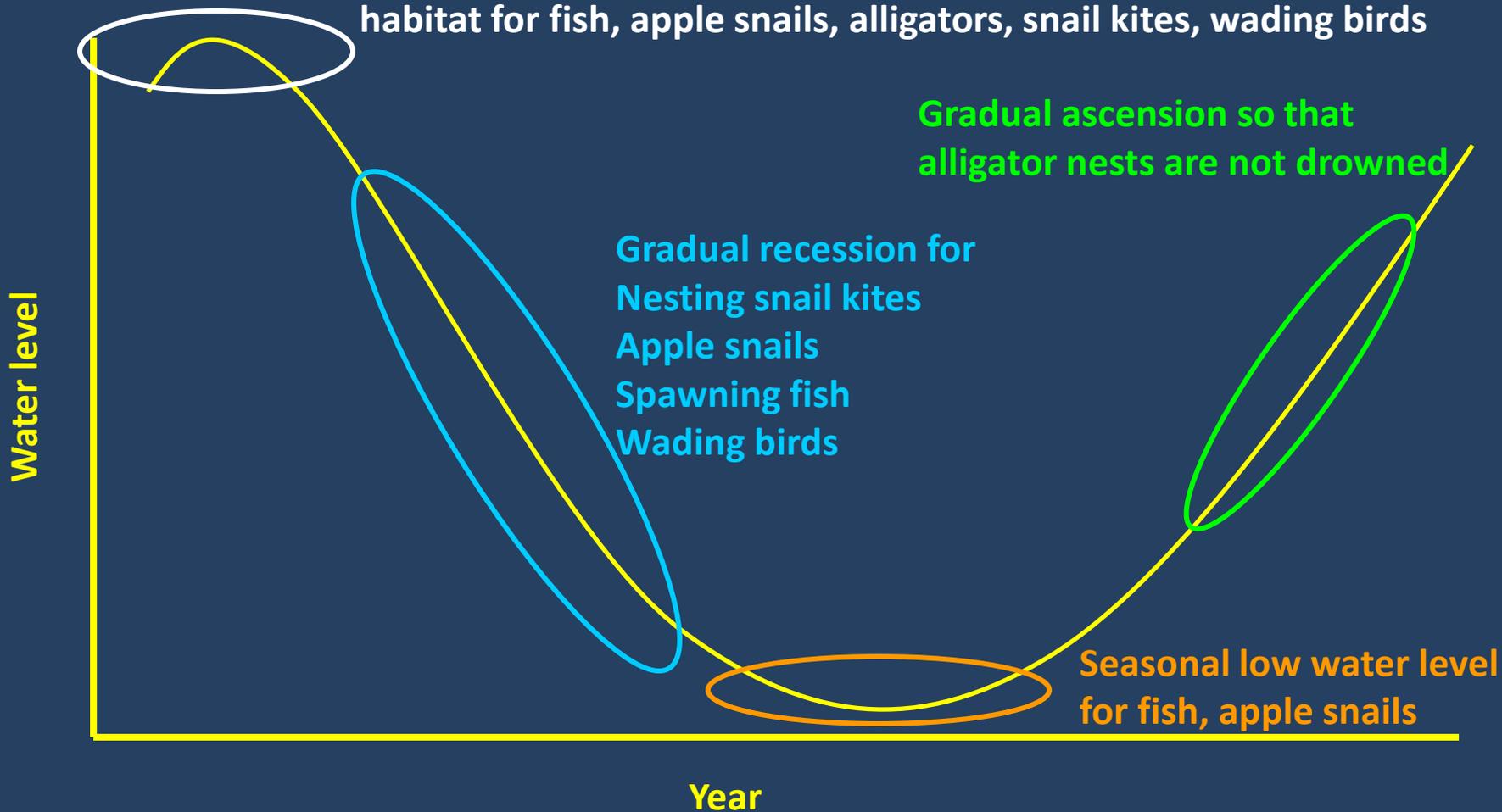
Kissimmee Basin Fish & Wildlife



- **Fish Community**
 - Approximately 50+ species
- **Water Birds**
 - 68 species of wetland dependent birds
 - 14 species of wading birds including Federally threatened wood stork
 - 16 species of ducks
- **Amphibians and Reptiles**
 - 24 species
- **Mammals**
 - 4 species wetland dependent

Fish and Wildlife Hydrologic Requirements for Upper Chain of Lakes

Flood emergent vegetation creates foraging and reproductive habitat for fish, apple snails, alligators, snail kites, wading birds



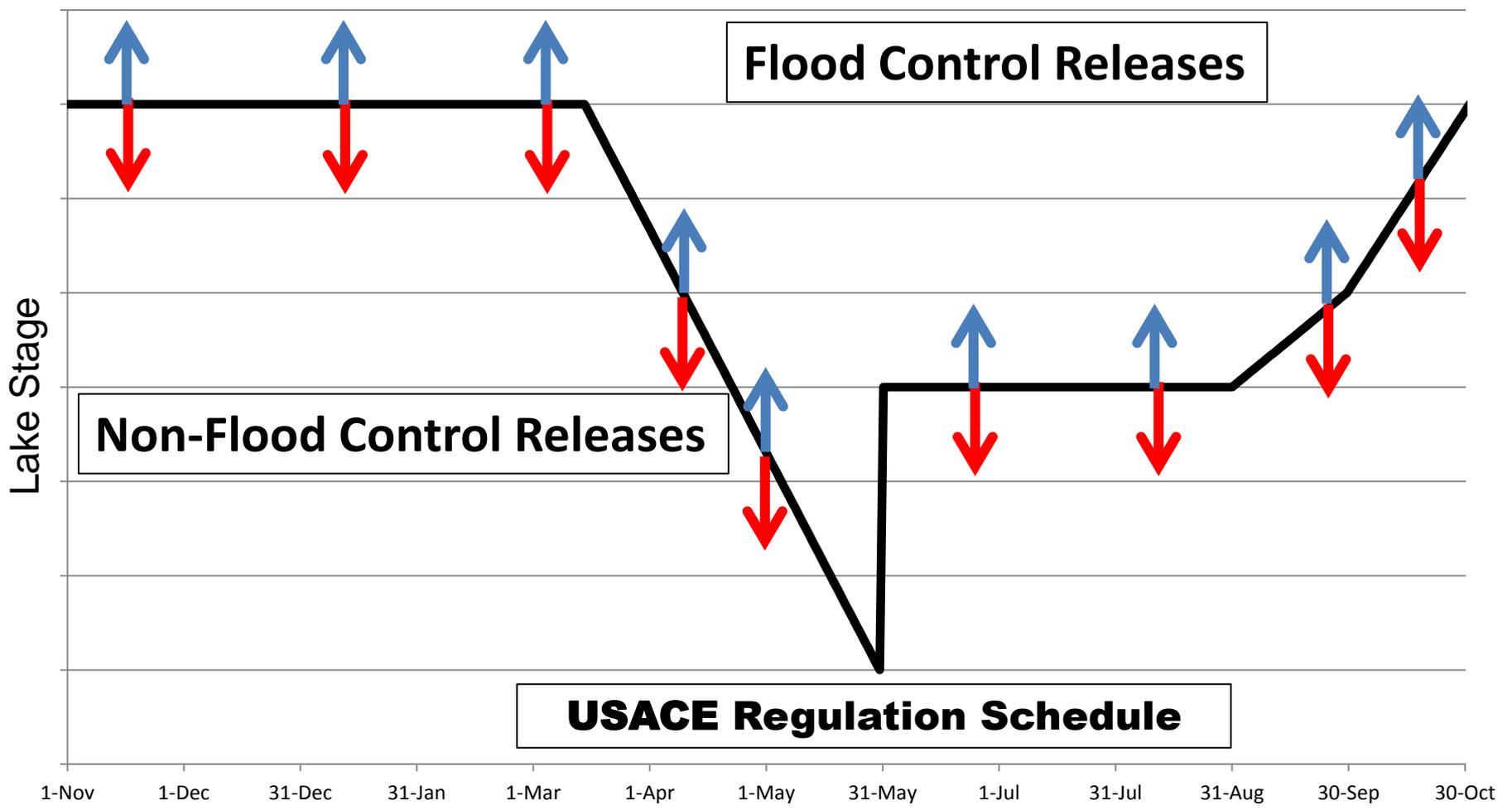
Basis for Seasonal High and Low

- **Seasonal High**
 - Based on the highest stage allowed in the regulation schedule and the date on which it occurs; approximately 90th percentile
 - Protecting water levels that go this high, inundates the existing area of wetlands at the lake margin
 - The number of species and abundance of individual organisms are related to the amount of habitat
- **Seasonal Low**
 - Based on 90th percentile of water levels on May 31 for the regulated time period
 - Variable low water levels are needed to maintain habitat for fish & wildlife

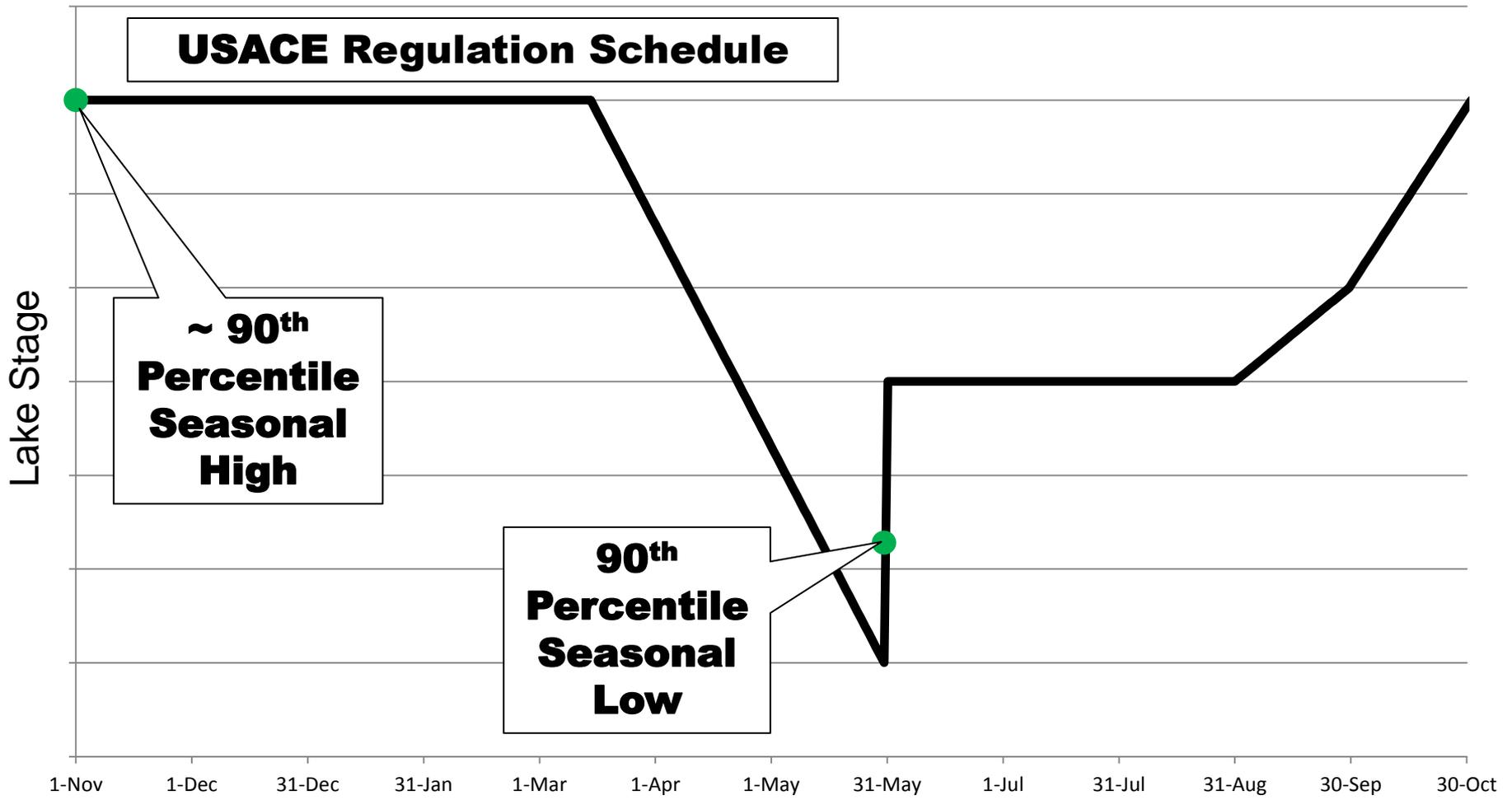
Regulation Schedules

- **Central & South Florida Flood Control Project**
 - All the lakes upstream of the Kissimmee River have an established regulation schedule.
 - All of the water bodies are interconnected via canals and control structures.
- **Each lake has a different regulation schedule federally mandated by the USACOE**
 - Water must be moved out when above the schedule.
 - Mandated responsibility of local sponsor - Not optional.
- **SFWMD implements schedule as the local sponsor using the federally authorized water control plan**

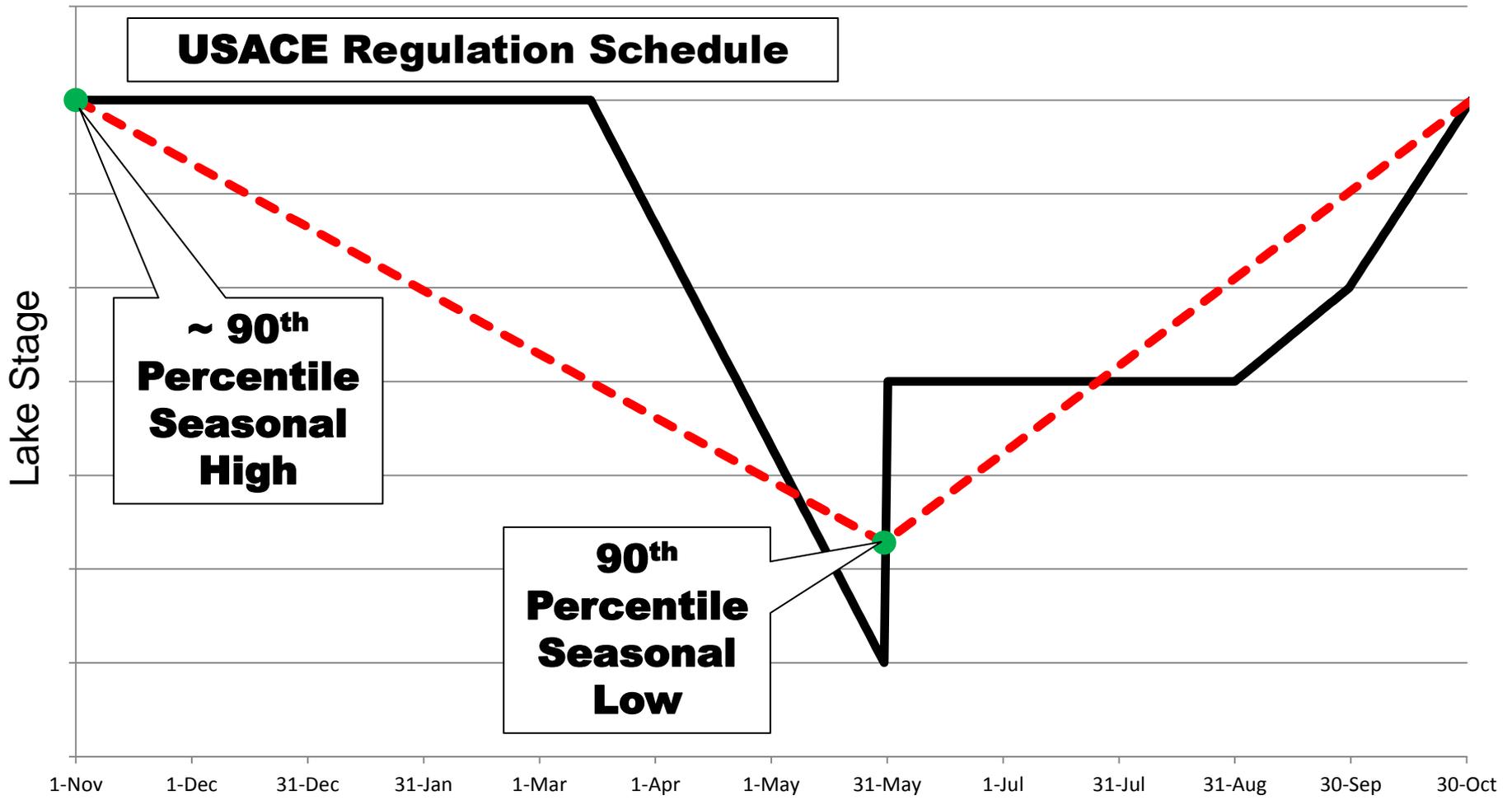
Existing Regulation Schedule



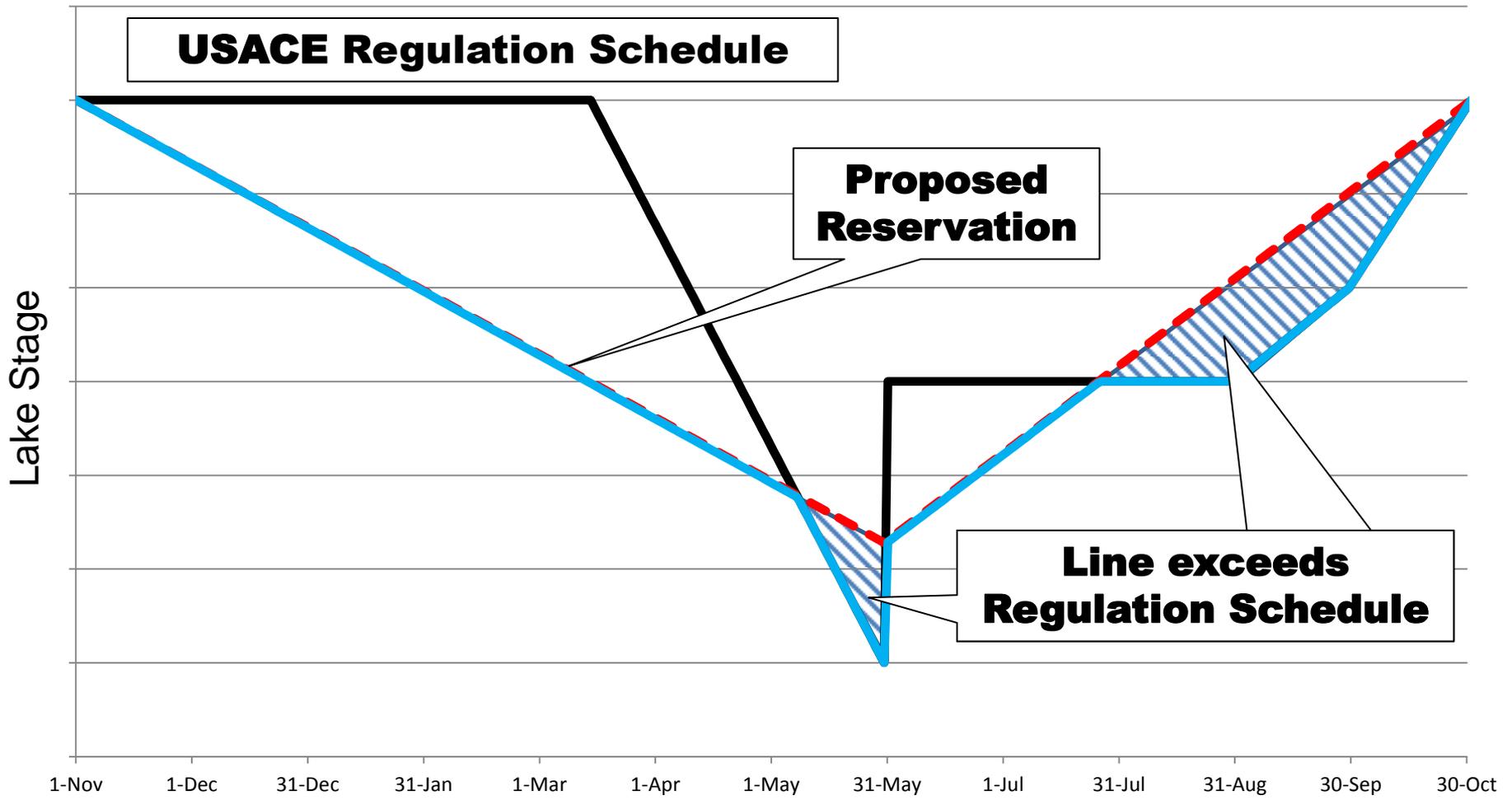
Proposed Reservation Process



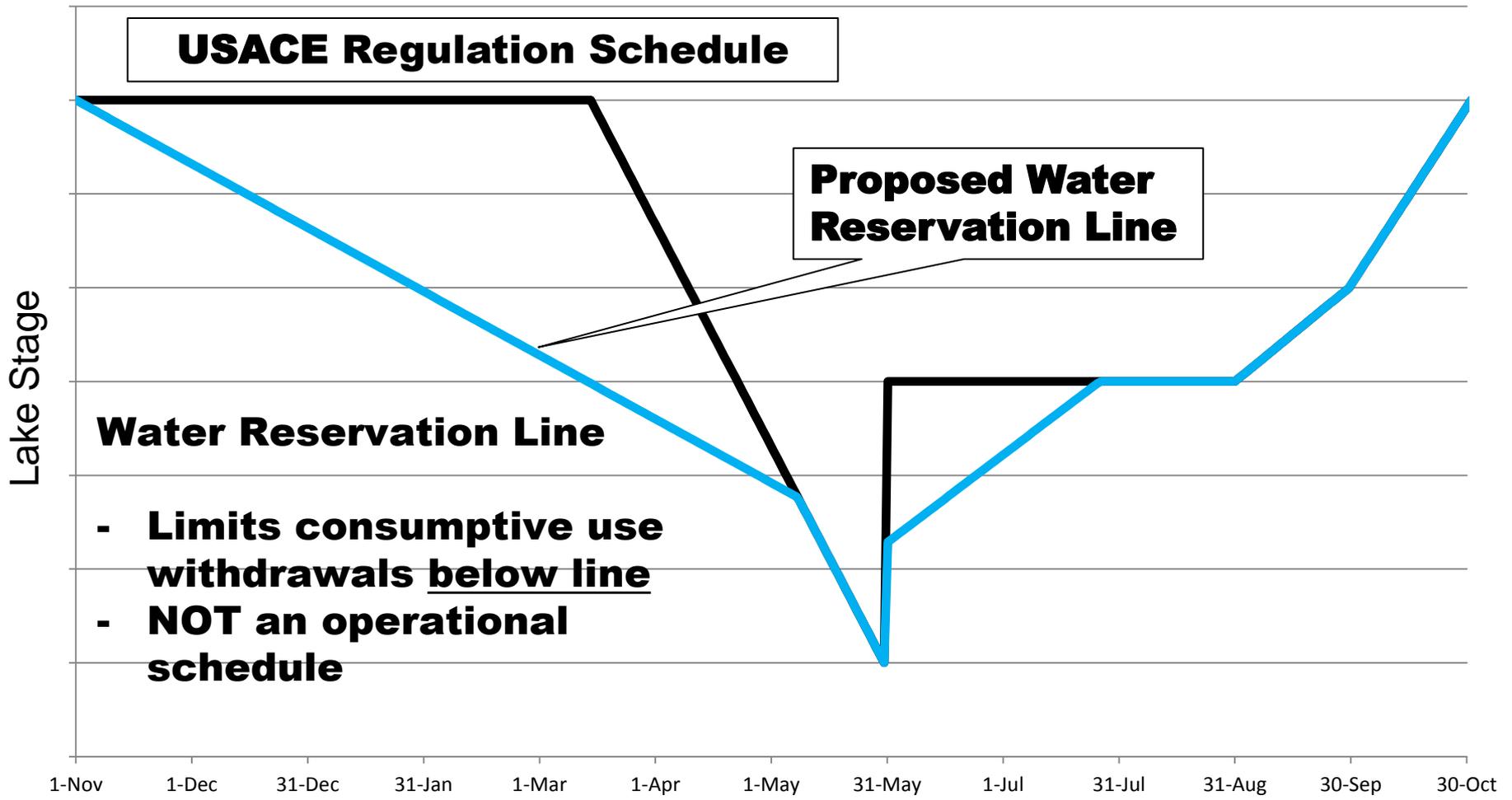
Proposed Reservation Process



Proposed Reservation Process



Proposed Reservation Process



Proposed Reservation Rule Overview

Reservation (Chapter 40E-10, F.A.C.)

- **Kissimmee River and Floodplain:**
 - All surface water reserved
- **Headwater Revitalization Lakes (Kissimmee, Cypress, Hatchineha)**
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- **Upper Chain of Lakes**
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- **Contributing sources regulated**
 - Surface waters
 - Groundwater - Surficial Aquifer System

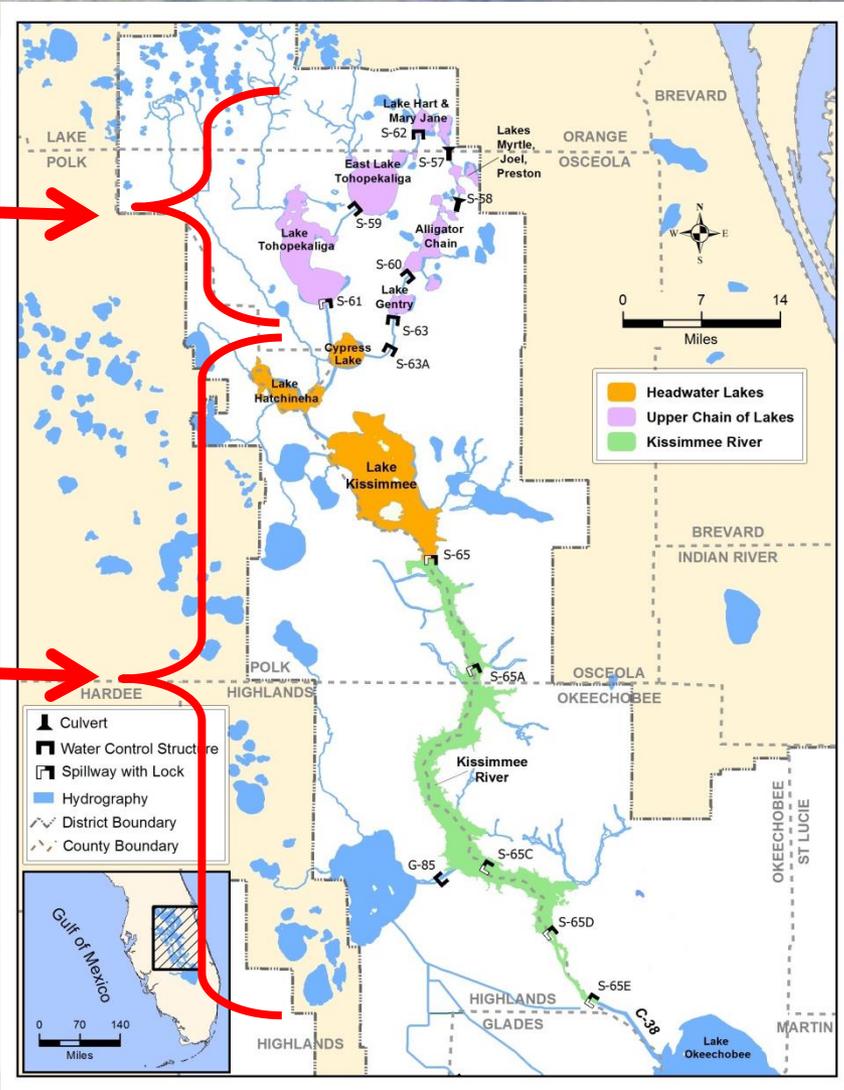
Water Reservation Waterbodies

Upper Chain of Lakes

Water will be reserved up to the proposed "Water Reservation Line"

Headwater Lakes & Kissimmee River

All of the water will be reserved as part of the rule

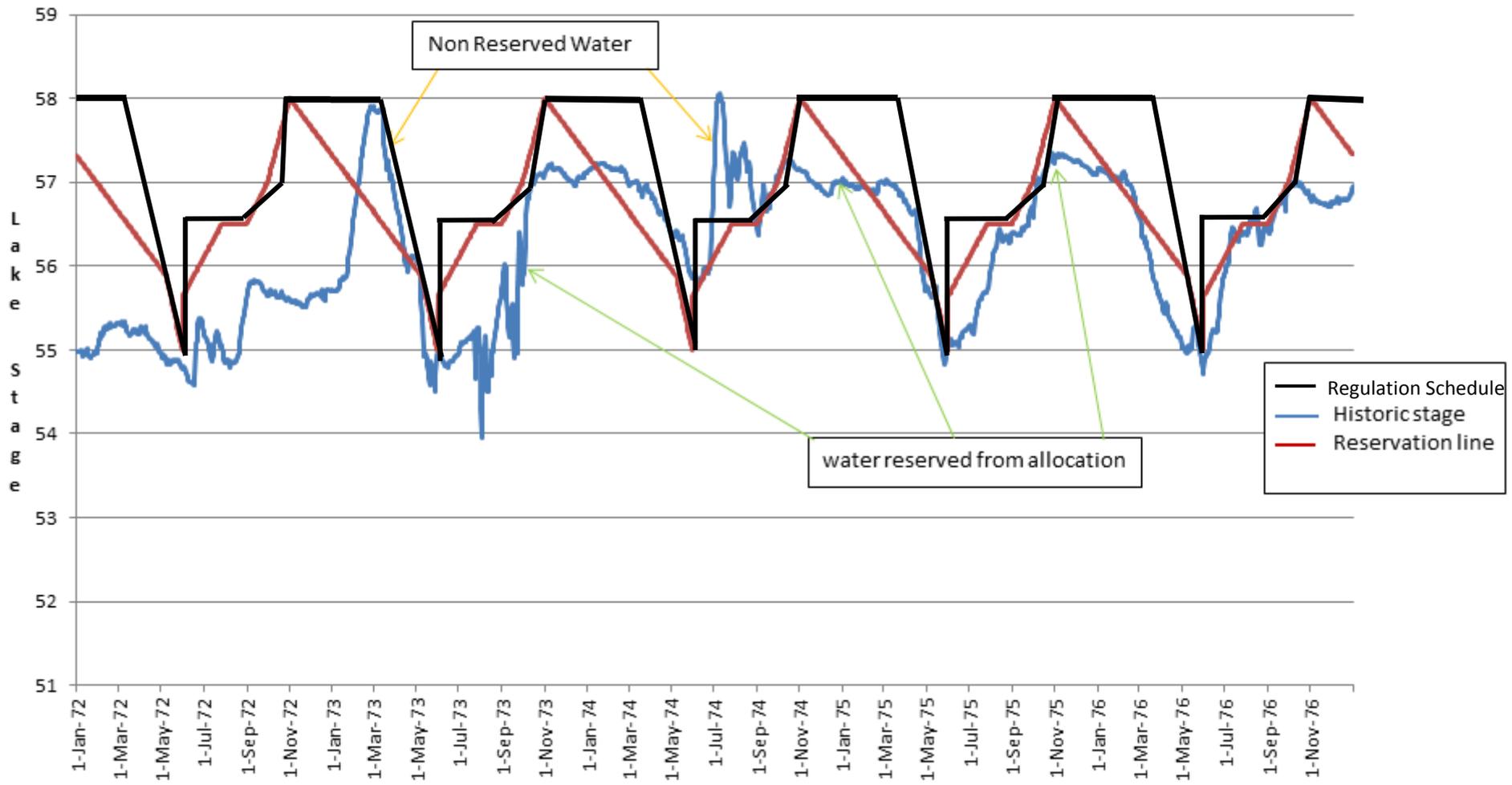


Proposed Reservation Rule Overview

Applicant's Handbook

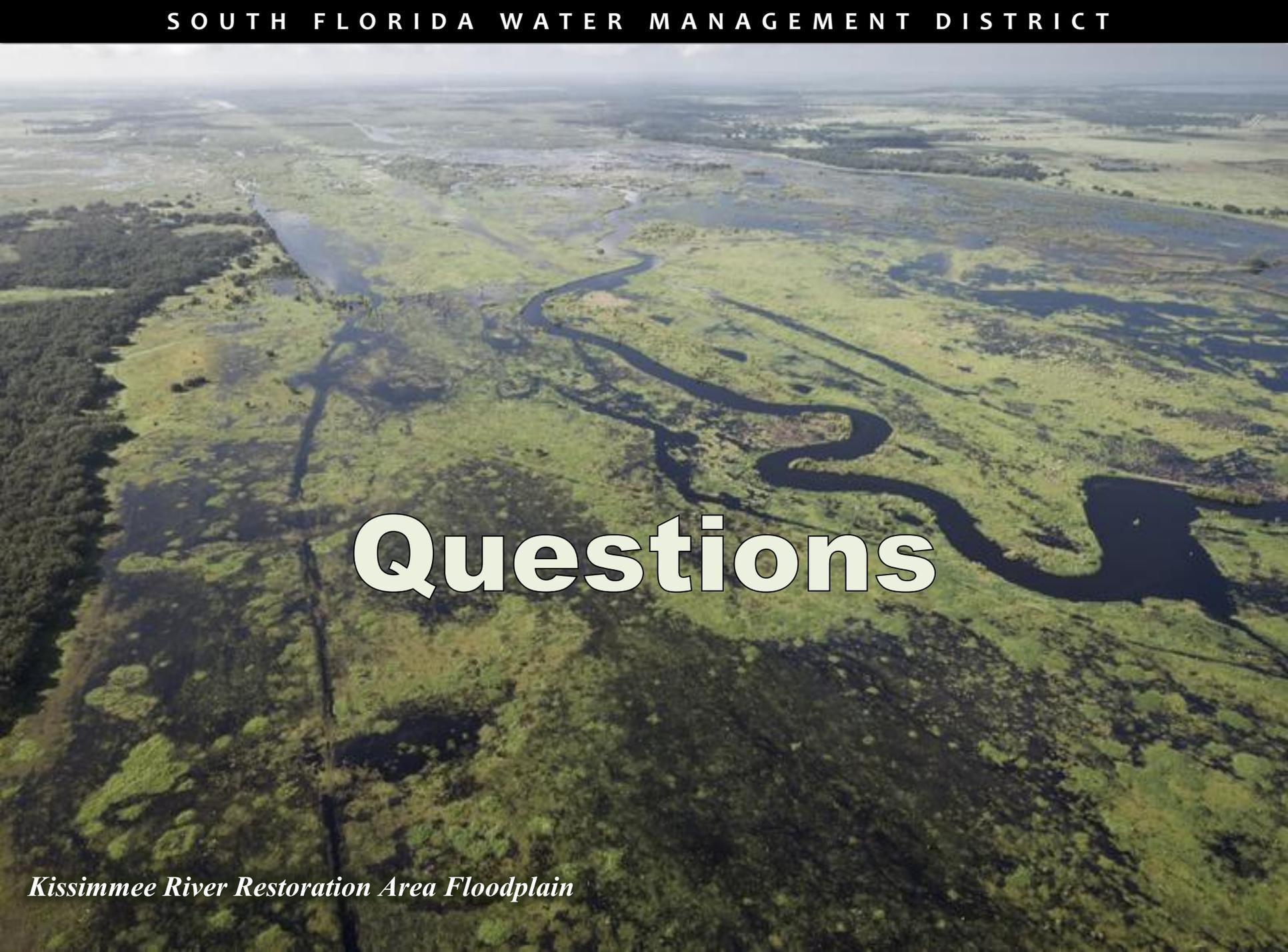
- **Criteria for consumptive use permit applicants**
- **Defines criteria for allocation of water that is not reserved**
- **Downstream check to protect River and Floodplain**

East Lake Toho



Next Steps

- **Governing Board update**
 - Early 2015
- **Public Comment on rule draft**
 - Requested by January 15
 - SFWMD's web site provides information
- **Technical Publication draft**
 - Early January
- **Additional workshops and meetings**
- **Prepare Statement of Estimated Costs**
- **On schedule for 2015 adoption**



Questions

Kissimmee River Restoration Area Floodplain