

# Hydrology Goals for Florida Bay and Biscayne Bay

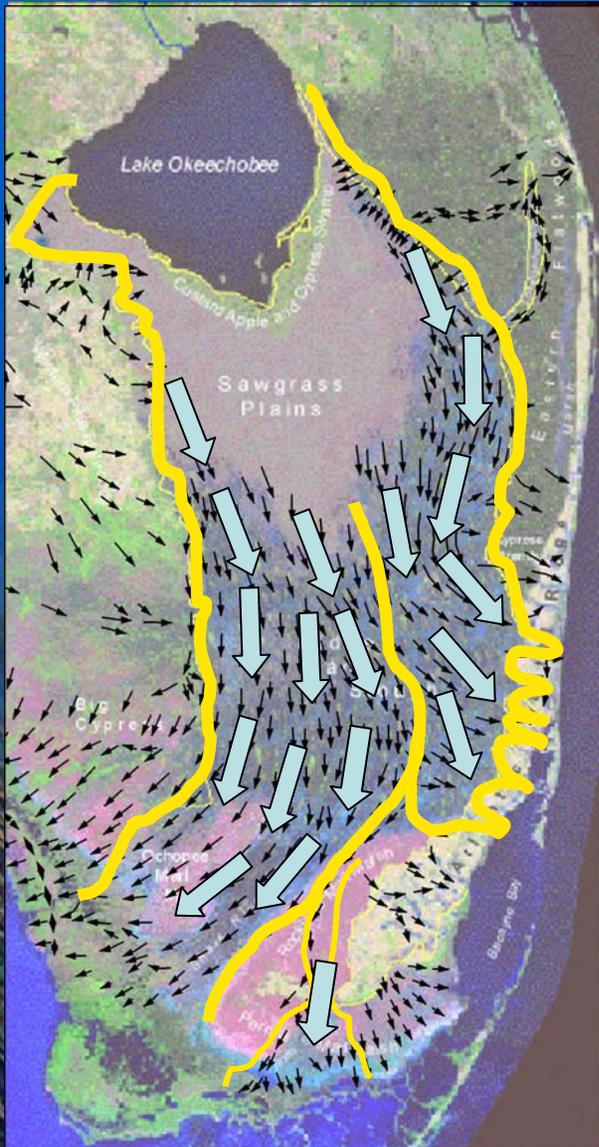
Florida Keys National Marine  
Sanctuary Advisory Council

August 15, 2006

Thomas Van Lent, Ph.D., P.E.  
Senior Scientist



# The Historical “River of Grass”



- Historical extent reveals pattern
- Flow patterns are etched into landscape
- Northern Biscayne Bay received much of the outflow from the Everglades
- Florida Bay received significantly inflows to the central bay

# Flow to Florida Bay

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (LZW) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

- Historically, the Everglades fed Taylor Slough
- Taylor Slough was primary source of freshwater to Florida Bay
- Primary inflow occurred in Central Florida Bay

# Today's Flow to Florida Bay

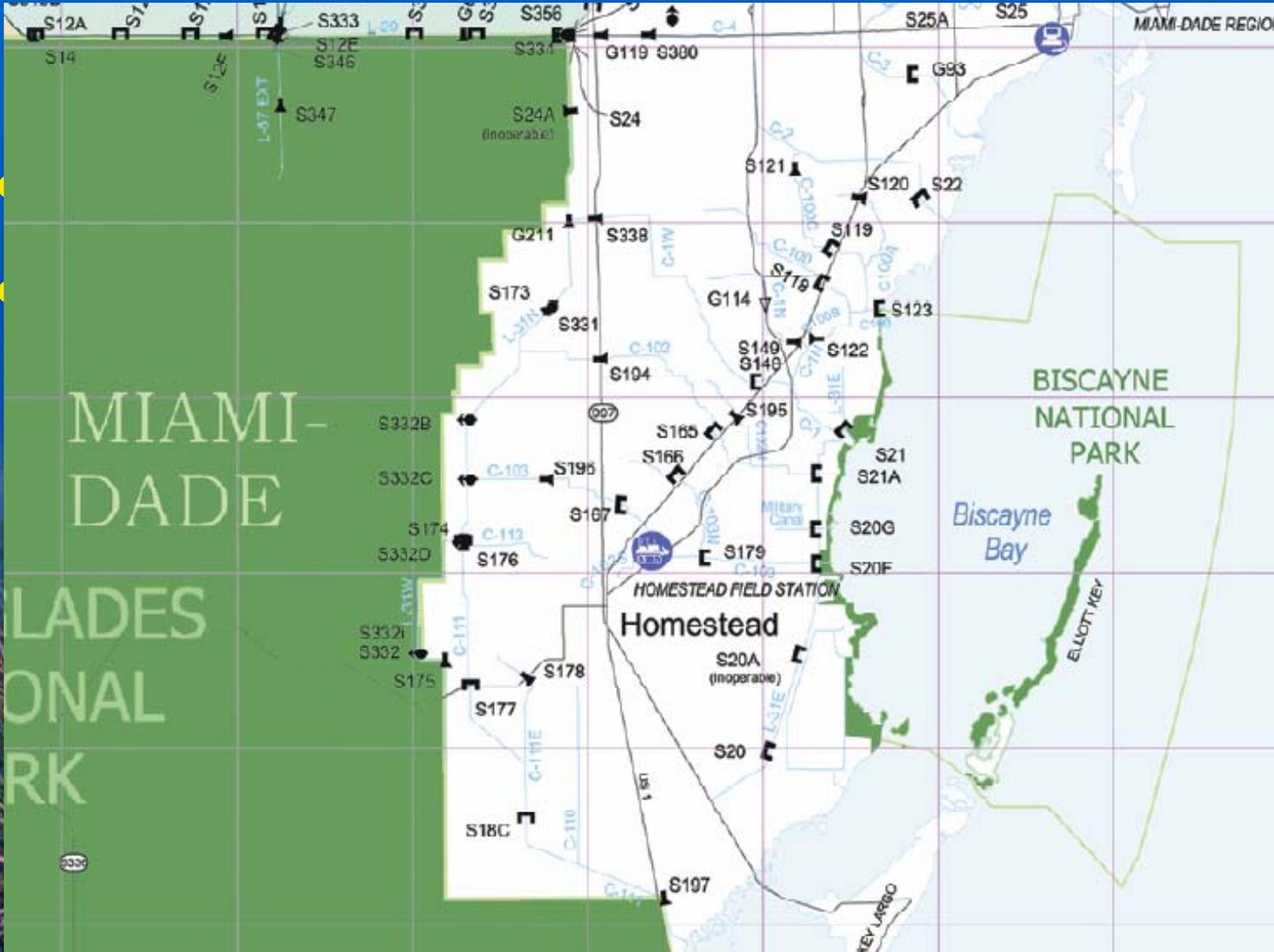
- Flow into Taylor Slough is diverted into canals
- Loss of Everglades connection to Florida Bay
- Most freshwater enters Florida Bay in the extreme northeast, and does not circulate

QuickTime™ and a  
TIFF (LZW) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

# Measuring Success for Florida Bay

- How much of head waters of Taylor Slough is restored?
- How much water put into Taylor Slough stays in Taylor Slough?
- How much of canal system draining the area is “neutralized” (by either removal or buffering)?

# Biscayne Bay

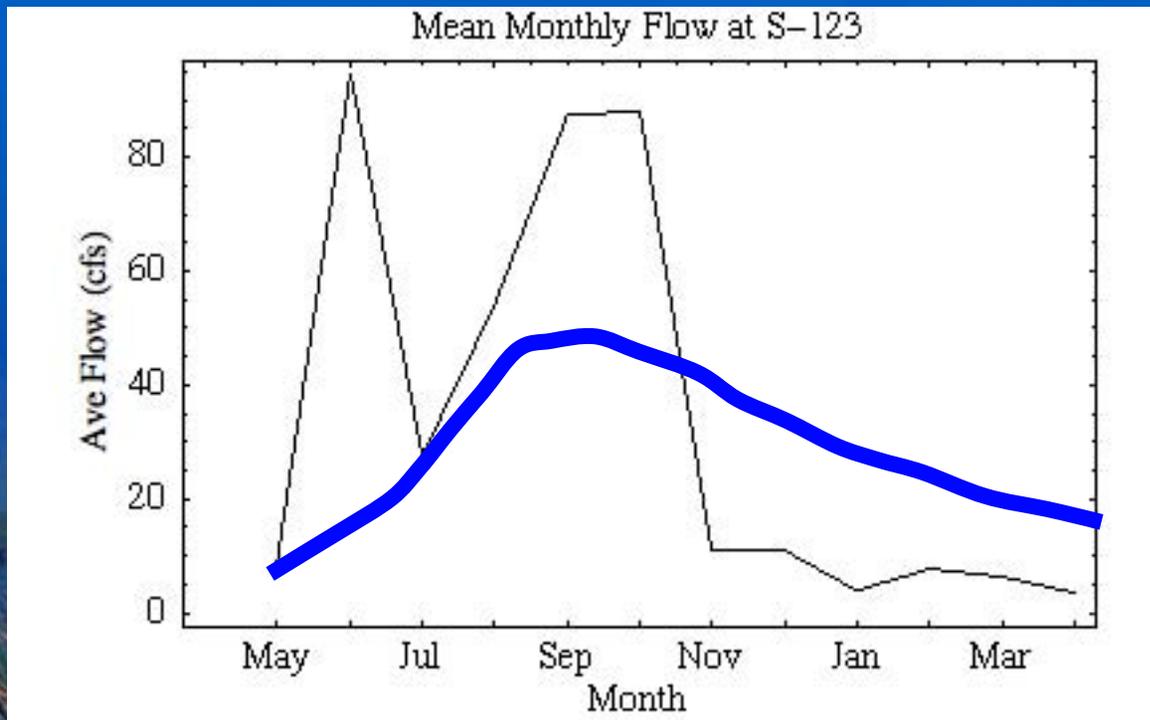


# Distribution of Flow to Biscayne Bay



- Today, flow into Bay is largely from point releases from canals
- Historically, would have been through small glades and sheetflow but primarily groundwater

# Timing of Flow



- Flows match rainfall; no storage
- Historical flows likely had lower peaks, longer durations, more groundwater

# Measuring Success for Biscayne Bay

- How much has spatial distribution of high flow events increased?
- How much as temporal distribution of flow shifted to dry season?



