

Understanding Minimum Flows

Minimum Flows protect springs, spring runs, streams and rivers. Minimum levels protect lakes, wetlands and aquifers. These “MFLs,” required by Florida law, set limits on how much water can be withdrawn from various water resources to prevent significant harm.

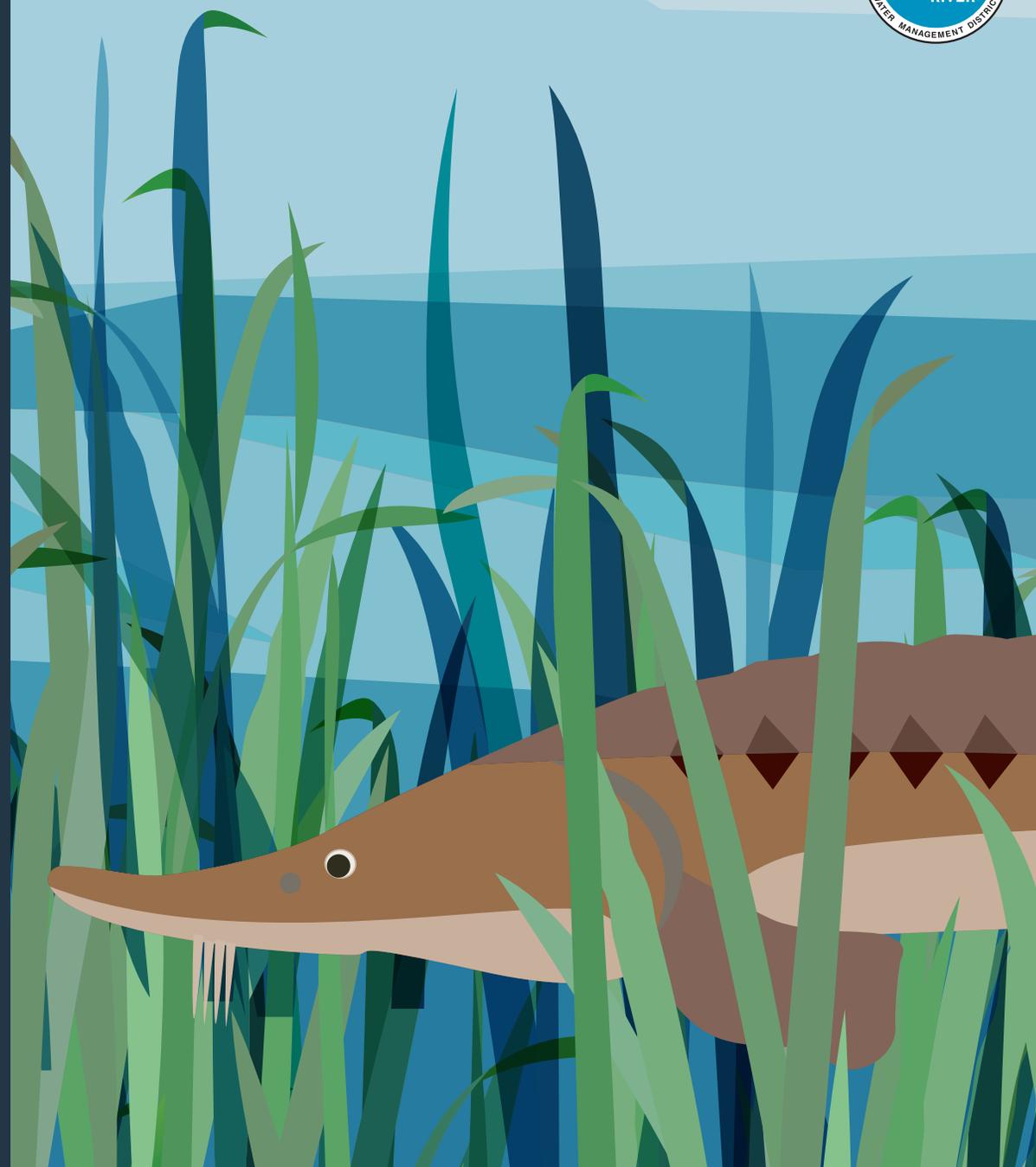
How are MFLs determined?

- examination of meteorological, hydrological, and ecological data
- historical range of flows, drought and flood conditions
- public and state agency review before adoption by District Governing Board

What do MFLs impact?

- decisions affecting permit applications and requests for water withdrawals
- declarations of water shortages
- assessments of water supply sources
- development of recovery or prevention strategies when a water body does not or will not meet an established MFL

MFLs are designed to limit impacts from water withdrawals for use by agriculture, public utilities and industry. Other programs address restoration efforts and water quality.



Maintaining Our Springs and Rivers

Florida aims to find the balance between meeting regional water supply needs while maintaining the healthy natural systems essential to Florida's economy and quality of life. Each water body needs a certain amount of water to properly function and retain its intrinsic economic, ecological and aesthetic value.



Woody logs remain partially submerged, providing underwater habitat

Maintain suitable water levels for recreation in springs

Sufficient flow protects water clarity and combats growth of nuisance algae

Depths allow wildlife to pass and migrate seasonally between springs and rivers



SUWANNEE RIVER
WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT