Assessment of Water and Constituent Transport to the L31N Canal Following Two Hydraulic Alterations to Flow
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Goals

- Quantify groundwater seepage into the L31N canal to test the effectiveness of two restoration attempts (seepage barrier and one mile bridge)
- Determine an effective geochemical tracer to distinguish sources of groundwater seepage

Research Methodology

- Collect surface water and groundwater samples and analyze for geochemical constituents, including major ions and isotopes of hydrogen and oxygen
- Use flow meter and weather tower data to conduct water budgets for canal segments.

Results

- The L31N canal contributed to groundwater recharge during the first two miles in 2015, suggesting the seepage barrier held water within the park
- South of the barrier, the canal was recharged by groundwater from ENP – barrier only partially effective

Figure 1. Study area (yellow) in relation to ENP boundary (white)
Figure 2. Seepage barrier adjacent to L31N canal
Figure 3. One mile bridge allowing water to enter ENP at northeast Shark Slough
Figure 4. Study area. A) Surface water sites, B) Marsh transect sites and C) Groundwater sites. The red line in panel B represents the approximate location and extent of the seepage barrier in 2015 (red) and 2017 extension (blue)
Figure 5. Canal segments where water budgets are conducted
Figure 6. δ¹⁸O values for samples from A) October 2015 and B) October 2017. Orange lines represent seepage barrier length during sampling
Figure 7. Calculated groundwater seepage values from three canal segments in cubic feet per second. October 2015. S335 to Mile 1, Mile 1 to Mile 3 and Mile 5 to Mile 7. (Figure 5)

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. HRD-1547798. This NSF Grant was awarded to Florida International University as part of the Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) Program. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.