

HYDROLOGY AND LITTORAL VEGETATION IN THE KISSIMMEE CHAIN OF LAKES

We present monitoring data to describe distinct vegetation communities that occur along littoral zone elevation gradients and are likely sensitive to changes in water levels. Communities differ by indicator species, species diversity, and wetland indicator status. Our characterizations of littoral zone vegetation communities enable examinations of shifts in community type that may result from hydrological changes. Likewise, our vegetation community analysis will aid in the overall understanding of the relationship between littoral zone plant communities and hydrology within lake ecosystems.