

and three altered wetlands in North Central Florida

In south Florida, where exotic vegetation is prevalent, dryer landscapes favor some of the exotics over native species. With lowered water tables, the hydroperiod and pulsing of wet and dry may be more characteristic of the conditions to which the exotics are adapted. It has been suggested that evapotranspiration of exotics is greater than native wetland species and therefore may exacerbate the problem by increasing water loss and subsequent drying.

In non wetland areas, lower water tables increase the likelihood of drought conditions during portions of the year. Since the root zone of most vegetation is within the first meter of the soil column, water levels much below this zone produces drought stress and favors more drought tolerant species. To combat drought, as a result of lowered water tables in developed areas, irrigation of lawns and shrubbery is required.

Lowered base flows and a general decline in quantity of waters flowing in the lower reaches of some rivers as they meet the gulf and Atlantic has increased salinity of these near coastal waters eliminating fresh water floodplain vegetation in favor of salt tolerant species. In other rivers runoff from urban lands has radically changed timing and increased fresh water inputs altering species composition of tidal wetlands.

Increased flooding and longer hydroperiods in wetlands as a result of drainage of higher lands and impoundments will cause shifts in community structure as well. Many wetland species are not adapted to prolonged periods of deep inundation but require periods of low water or even dry conditions. Prolonged deep inundation will kill most wetland tree species and will favor herbacious communities.

MANAGING LANDSCAPES

In order that cumulative impacts might be minimized and controlled, cumulative losses should not be confused with cumulative effects. Each