

# Florida Integrated Science Center Hydrologic Data Program, 2004

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As the primary Federal science agency for water-resource information, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) monitors the quantity and quality of water in the Nation's rivers and aquifers, develops tools to improve the application of hydrologic information, and provides the information and tools to the public, cooperating agencies, and other potential users. The Florida Hydrologic Data Program supports the overall mission of the USGS and science priorities of the Florida Integrated Science Center (FISC) by providing the public with impartial, reliable information which is used for many purposes. These purposes include forecasting floods; managing river, groundwater, and reservoir levels; monitoring water-supply and water-quality conditions; and providing a hydrologic database upon which scientific studies can be developed.

A staff of 88 hydrologists, hydrologic technicians, and students work in support of the Florida Hydrologic Data Program at four locations in the State--Miami, Orlando, Tallahassee, and Tampa. Skilled scientific staff collect data using state-of-the-art instrumentation, analyzes and computes hydrologic records, maintains a long-term and consistent database, and provides access to historic and real-time data. Hydrologic Data Program scientists maintain over 2,300 stations that collect surface-water, ground water, water quality, and meteorological data. The data are archived in the National Water Information System (NWIS) database and published annually in the USGS report series entitled "Water Resources Data--Florida." Satellite, telephone, and radio telemetry at over 500 stations provide provisional data in near real-time to meet critical water-management needs.

Florida Hydrologic Data Program priorities are developed to meet Federal, regional, State, and local water-resources needs. Forty cooperative agencies work with the USGS in Florida to provide reliable, impartial, and timely information. Operating funds for individual stations in the Florida Hydrologic Data Program come from a blend of Federal funds appropriated to the USGS and other federal agencies, and from funds from State and local agencies. Greater than 30 percent of the operational funds for the Florida Hydrologic Data Program are provided through the USGS Cooperative Program. For fiscal year 2004, State and local cooperators matched the \$3.7 million appropriated to the USGS and contributed an additional \$4.2 million, for total program funding of \$11.6 million.