A site map can be viewed by clicking on the report site name.

EcoSummary

Bedman Creek @ Tuckahoe Rd, Alva

March 6, 2002

EXCELLENT

NPS BIOASSESSMENTS

Stream Condition Index (SCI): The standardized biological assessment tool used by FDEP biologist to indicate ecosystem health and identify impairment as compared to reference (natural) conditions of streams within the various ecoregions of Florida

For samples collected before June 8, 2004
All field and laboratory methods followed FDEP Standard Operating Procedures and met FDEP quality assurance/quality control standards.
For samples collected on or after June 8, 2004
All field and laboratory methods followed FDEP Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and met DEP quality assurance/quality control standards.

Purpose



A single Stream Condition Index sampling was performed at this site in order to examine the water quality in the stream and document the organisms that inhabit a potentially impacted stream in this geographical area. This is important because streams that are affected by human activities do not necessarily have poor water quality, and the biological standards on which the SCI is based require further refinement.

Watershed Characteristics

Bedman Creek?s drainage basin includes pine flatwoods, citrus groves, and improved pasture. Residential development is relatively sparse, but is increasing. The area around the sample site is mainly residential on multiacre lots. The creek flows into the Caloosahatchee River.

Results

The SCI indicated that Bedman Creek has adequate water quality to support a healthy aquatic insect community. **The stream scored 33 points out of 33 possible, and was rated ?Excellent?. Water chemistry met Class 3 standards for all**

parameters tested. The site is located in an open field. The riparian (stream bank) zone on both sides was open grass, but there was a narrow fringe of oaks and cabbage palms along the edge of the creek. Farther upstream the creek banks were more heavily vegetated. The in-stream habitat consisted of sand (59%), with small patches of vegetation, roots, rubble, leaf mats, and snags. Flow was moderate (between 0.1 and 0.25 m/sec). The habitat score was 112 out of 160 possible points.

Significance

These results indicate that this stream has adequate water quality to support a very healthy aquatic community.

Suggestions

Encourage good land use practices in the basin, and maintain a monitoring program to further refine Stream Condition Index standards and to detect effects of changes in local land use.

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