Water Quality Role of Wetlands in Florida Watersheds. (S10-debusk154453-Oral)

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Abstract:

The role of wetlands in contaminant removal or other water quality enhancement functions has been widely studied on a site- or use-specific basis. For example, numerous constructed wetland systems have been evaluated for site-specific treatment of municipal or industrial wastewaters, landfill leachate, and other waste streams. It becomes a more difficult task to evaluate the water quality-related functions of wetlands in a broader, landscape (e.g., watershed-scale) context, due to the increased area of interest and the inherent ecological and hydrological complexity of natural systems such as watersheds. Nevertheless, wetland management, construction and restoration projects have increasingly incorporated the concept of watershed management; that is, reduction of pollutants, or more generically, protection of water quality, in downstream areas of the watershed. In this context, the functional role of wetlands in improving or maintaining water quality in Florida watersheds is examined through the introduction of key concepts and presentation of case studies.

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Presentation Information:

Presentation Date: Monday, November 11, 2002
Presentation Time: 8:30 am

Keywords:

wetlands, water quality, watershed, biogeochemistry