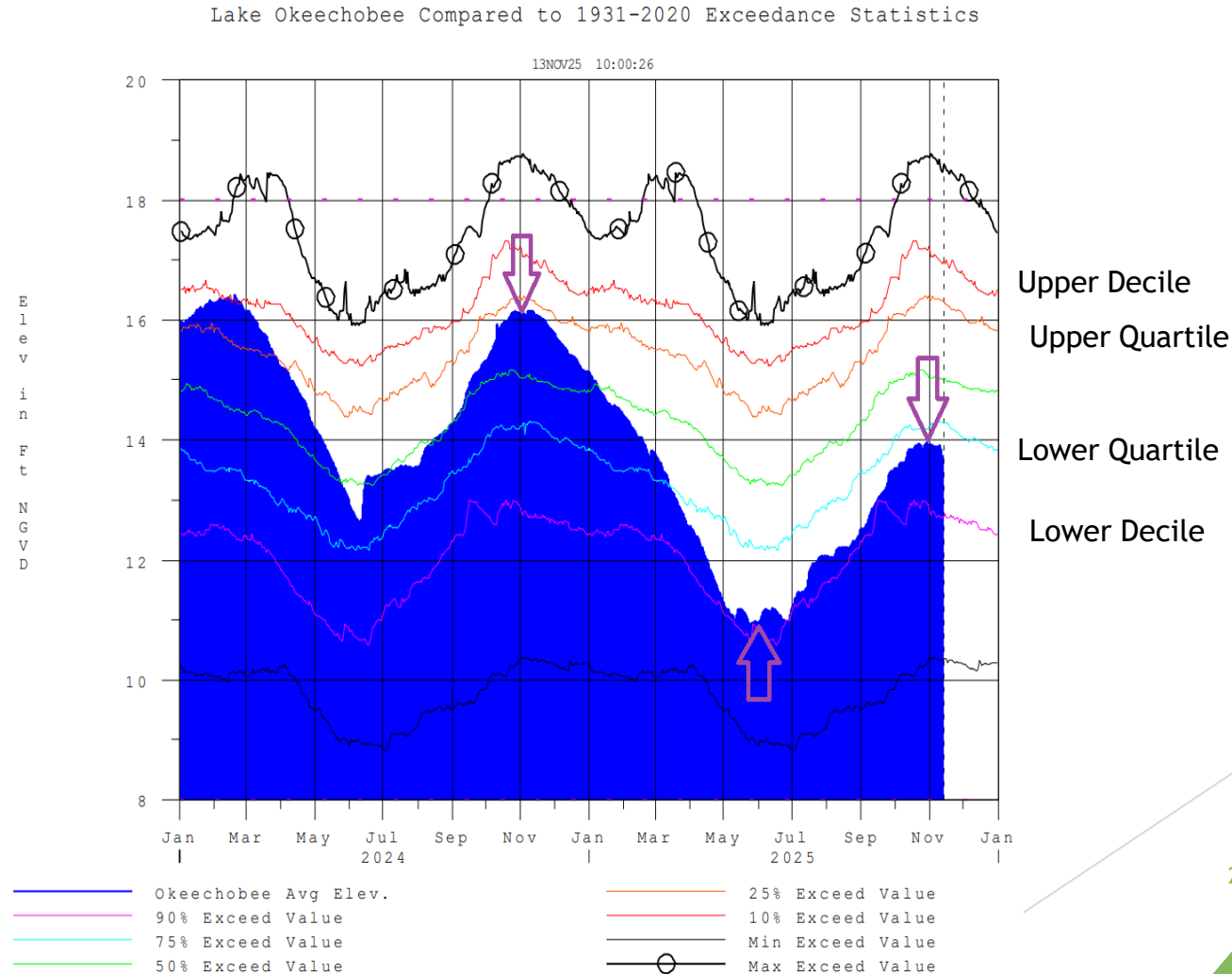
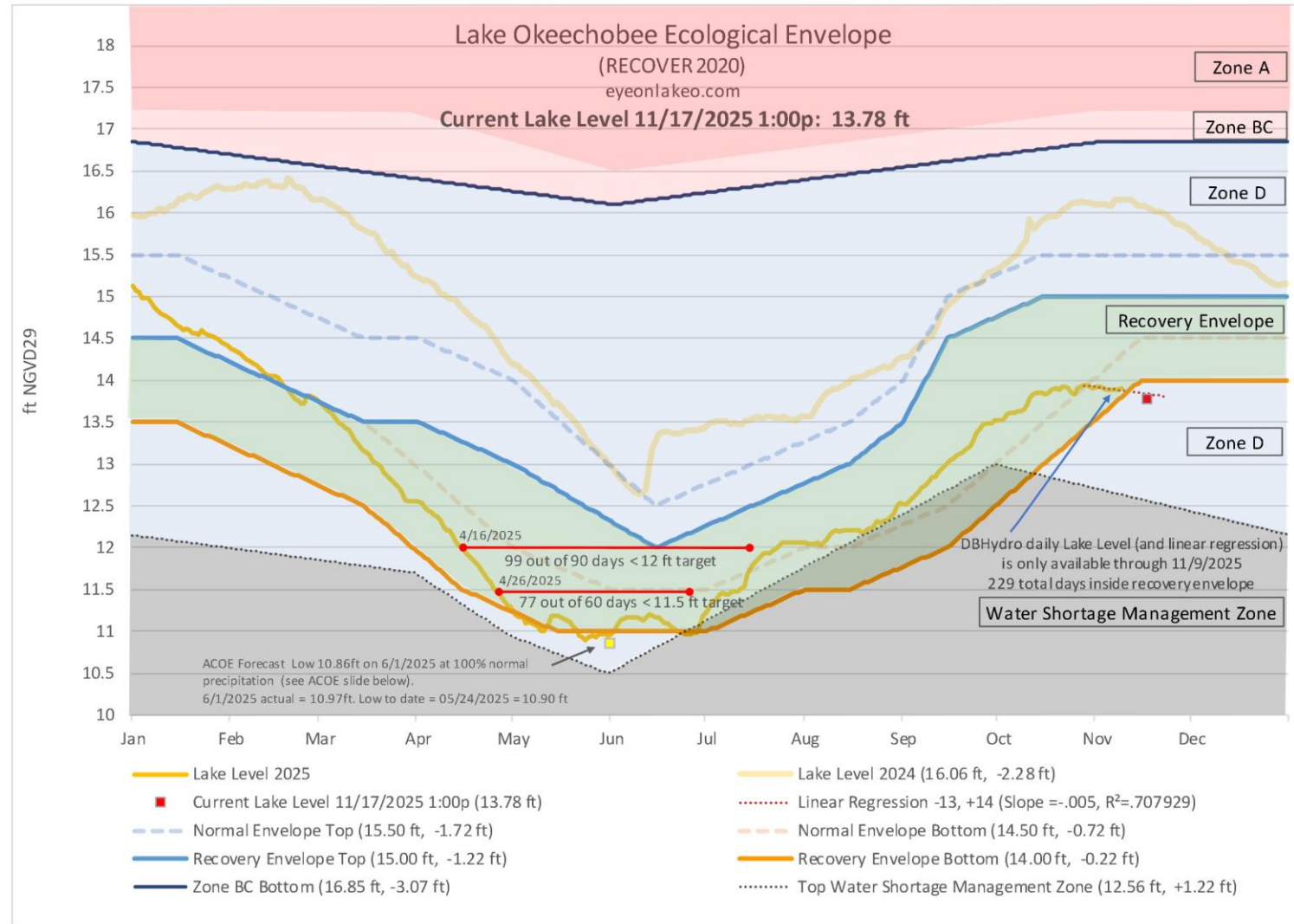


Brief Lake Okeechobee Update

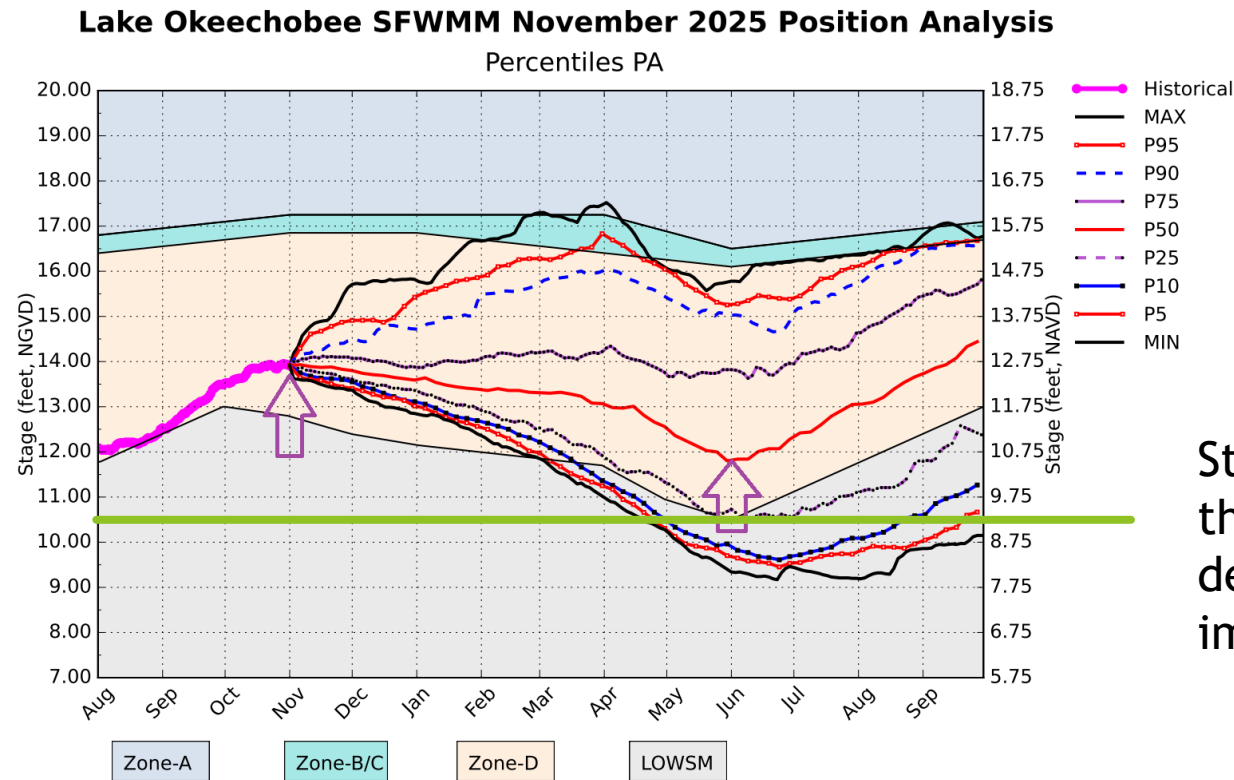
Where We Are. The lake declined from about 16 to 11 (5 feet) in the exceptional dry 2024-2025 Dry Season. We are starting the 2025-2026 dry at 14 which is 2 feet lower than last year.



Where We Are (Continued). Lake has been in the Recovery (lowered environmental) Envelope for over 230 days



Where We Are Going. SFWMD forecast shows a median decline of 2 feet in the 2025-2026 dry season. Two feet is much less than the 5 feet of the previous dry season. Lower quartile rainfall would increase the decline from 2 to 3.5 feet.



Stage at which the ability to deliver water is impacted.

Rainfall Forecast

Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is forecasting an equal (33%) to increased likelihood (40%) of drier than normal for the Lake Okeechobee watershed for the 2025 through 2026 dry season.

PBC is providing input to the USACE that water needs to be conserved this dry season. One point of contention is the delivery rate to the Caloosahatchee River Estuary.

Caloosahatchee River Estuary

The modeling used to evaluate the EIS for Lake Okeechobee regulation schedule prescribes a rate of 350 cfs (equates to 0.31 feet)*.

The MFL is 457 cfs (equates to 0.41 feet)*. Obligation to meet the MFL starts when the C-41 Reservoir is fully functional.

Desired flow is 700 to 2,000 (0.63 to 1.8 feet)*.

* for seven months of the dry season.

Discussion

