

INTRODUCTION

The Floridan aquifer system consists of the Upper and Lower Floridan aquifers separated by a middle confining unit. The middle confining unit and the Lower Floridan aquifer generally contain highly mineralized water in west-central Florida. In most reports on the hydrology of southwest Florida, the term "Floridan aquifer" has been applied to the water-bearing units herein referred to as the Upper Floridan aquifer. The Upper Floridan aquifer is a productive aquifer and supplies more than 10 times the amount of water pumped from either the surficial aquifer system or the intermediate aquifer system in most of the study area (Duerr and others, 1988).

This map report depicts the potentiometric surface of the Upper Floridan aquifer in west-central Florida measured in May 2000. The potentiometric surface represents the level to which water will rise in tightly cased wells that tap a confined aquifer system. The surface is mapped by measuring the altitude of water levels in a network of wells and is represented on maps by contours that connect points of equal altitude. This map represents water-level conditions near the end of the dry season, when ground-water levels usually are at an annual low and withdrawals for agricultural use typically are high. The cumulative average rainfall (41.14 inches) for west-central Florida (from June 1999 through May 2000) was 12.01 inches below the historical mean of 53.15 inches (Southwest Florida Water Management District, May 2000).

This report, prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, is part of a semi-annual series of Upper Floridan aquifer potentiometric-surface maps of west-central Florida. Potentiometric-surface maps have been prepared for January 1964, May 1969, May 1971, May 1973, May 1974, and for each May and September since 1975. Water-level data are collected in May and September to show the near annual low and high water-level conditions, respectively. Most of the water-level data for this map were collected by the U.S. Geological Survey during the period May 15-19, 2000. Supplemental data were collected by other agencies and companies. A potentiometric-surface map also was prepared for areas east and north of the Southwest Florida Water Management District boundary by the U.S. Geological Survey office in Altamonte Springs, Florida. Because water-level measurements were made during a 5-day period in mid-May, the measurements may not represent a "snapshot" of conditions at a specific time, nor do they necessarily coincide with a seasonal low.

WATER-LEVEL CHANGES FROM MAY 1999 TO MAY 2000

Water levels in about 90 percent of the wells measured in May 2000 were lower than the May 1999 water levels (Duerr and Torres, 2000). In 443 wells with paired measurements, the May 2000 levels ranged from about 13 feet below to about 5 feet above the May 1999 levels (fig. 1). The largest decrease in water levels was in north-central Pasco, southern Hillsborough, northeastern Manatee, northern De Soto, and most of Hardee Counties. The largest increase in water levels was in central and southwestern Sarasota County.

WATER-LEVEL CHANGES FROM SEPTEMBER 1999 TO MAY 2000

Water levels in about 99 percent of the wells measured in May 2000 were lower than the September 1999 water levels (Duerr and Torres, 2000). In 441 wells with paired measurements, the May 2000 levels ranged from about 47 feet below to about 1 foot above the September 1999 levels. The largest decrease in water levels was in southern Hillsborough and northern Manatee Counties and the largest increase in water levels was in coastal Hernando and coastal Pasco Counties.

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EXPLANATION

Areas where potentiometric surface changed, in feet

- 0 to 5
- 5 to 0
- 10 to -5
- 15 to -10

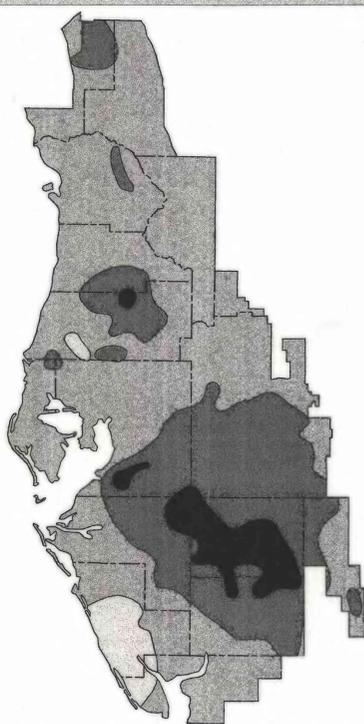


Figure 1. Change in potentiometric surface of the Upper Floridan aquifer from May 1999 to May 2000 in west-central Florida

EXPLANATION

- MUNICIPAL WELL FIELD
- POTENTIOMETRIC CONTOUR - - Shows altitude at which water would have stood in tightly cased wells. Contour interval is 10 feet. National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929. Hachures indicate depressions. Dashed where approximately located.
- BOUNDARY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
- OBSERVATION WELL - - Number is altitude of water level in feet above or below NGVD of 1929.
- SPRING
- CITY OR TOWN

NOTE: The potentiometric contours are generalized to synoptically portray the head in a dynamic hydrologic system, taking due account of the variations in hydrogeologic conditions, such as differing depths of wells, nonsimultaneous measurements of water levels, variable effects of pumping, and changing climatic influence. The potentiometric contours may not conform exactly with the individual measurements of water level.

SCALE 1:500,000

