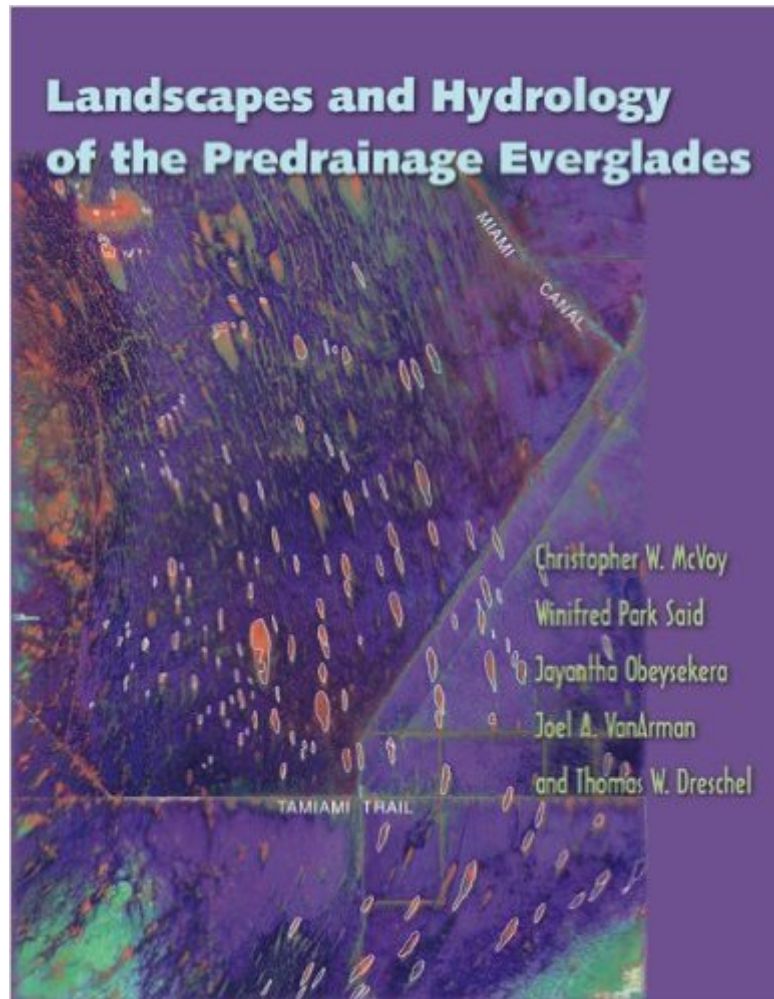


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Landscapes And Hydrology Of The Predrainage Everglades



Synopsis

"A magnificent undertaking in historical detective work, or âˆforensic ecologyâ™ in the authorsâ™ words. The book will totally reset our way of envisioning the Everglades."--Peter Stone, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control"Represents a landmark in the study of historical ecology in South Florida. It is a must-read for hydrologists, ecologists, policy makers, and managers involved in restoration ecology."--William F. Loftus, retired, Department of InteriorFlorida is in the midst of a colossal multi-billion dollar project to restore the Everglades, a flowing, patterned wetland, once larger than Delaware and Rhode Island combined. This comprehensive plan has been clouded by politics and, more important, challenged by the absence of a clear "original conditions" yardstick against which to measure restoration progress.A group of experts at the South Florida Water Management District have united in an effort to mitigate this dilemma. Using survey notes, historical maps, photos, and firsthand descriptions, they have reconstructed a vivid ecological--and hydrological--picture of the Everglades of the 1800s, before drainage of the swamp drastically altered the landscape. Painstaking documentation and cross-verification of the historic sources (included on a DVD) allow the reader a front-seat view of the process of "forensic" reconstruction.Landscapes and Hydrology of the Predrainage Everglades advances the science behind Everglades restoration. This landmark work offers an invaluable lens for scientists and policy-makers into the technical aspects of this massive wetland. The work is equally accessible to the layperson, gathering in one volume the many and varied voices of the first Europeans to set foot in the Everglades.Christopher McVoy is a soil physicist and wetland ecologist. Winifred Park Said is a botanist, modeler, and environmental planner. Jayantha Obeysekera is a hydrologist and director of the Hydrologic and Environmental Systems Modeling Department at the South Florida Water Management District. Joel VanArman is a biologist, retired after 35 years of Everglades studies. Thomas W. Dreschel is an environmental scientist specializing in aquatic systems.

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Customer Reviews

Although this publication does not address human pre-history in the region, it is absolutely critical to understanding the archaeology of southeast Florida. McVoy et al., by dividing the "Everglades" into distinct ecological zones, and by describing the natural seasonal hydraulic fluctuations, provide a framework for thinking about pre-historic settlement and subsistence activity in the region. Prior to this work, many archaeologists tended to think about the region as being constituted by the coast and the little used interior. That view is anything but accurate. Of greatest importance is the development of the concept of the ecological zone called the "ridge and slough"; the broad and ecologically diverse central portion of the Everglades that was most extensively exploited by native populations. I predict that this publication, when read in the context of the fairly scant archeological publications that consider region wide pre-history, will be the source of numerous research hypotheses in the years to come.

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