



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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**CONTACT:**

**Gabe Margasak**

South Florida Water Management District

Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

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### **Recreation Abounds in South Florida on National Public Lands Day** *SFWMD public lands offer numerous opportunities to enjoy the South Florida outdoors*



*A campsite at the DuPuis Management Area in Martin County. (Click on the SFWMD Recreational Guide for information on recreational opportunities, including an interactive listing of activities and locations.)*

**West Palm Beach, FL** – With approximately 621,000 acres of land open to the public, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) joins the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in promoting opportunities to celebrate 2012 National Public Lands Day this Saturday.

On the west coast at the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed, outdoor enthusiasts can take a 3-mile guided hike on the Cypress Dome Trails. On the east coast, the SFWMD is partnering with NatureScape Broward to plant native wildflowers along the C-11 Canal just east of Flamingo Road. Recreational opportunities throughout the District's 16-county region can be found online at [www.sfwmd.gov/recreation](http://www.sfwmd.gov/recreation).

Nationwide, volunteers are an important component of successful management of public lands. During the past year, volunteers on District-managed lands have logged more than 8,470 hours from October 2011 through August 2012. Their work includes

serving as campground hosts, leading bird-watching tours and assisting with trail maintenance, trash cleanups and environmental education.

Throughout South Florida, the District provides recreational access to its public lands while continuing to manage them to support environmental restoration, water supply, water quality and flood control missions. Many of these properties are in their natural state or have enhancements such as picnic tables, informational kiosks, primitive campsites and hiking trails.

For more information on National Public Lands Day events, see:

- [National Public Lands Day](#)
- [CREW Hike](#)
- [Broward Wildflower Planting](#)

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### **About the South Florida Water Management District**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*