



NEWS RELEASE

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February Loves Rain: Valentine’s Day Storm Boosts Dry Month *Widespread rainfall on February 14 recharges the regional water supply*

February 14th Storm



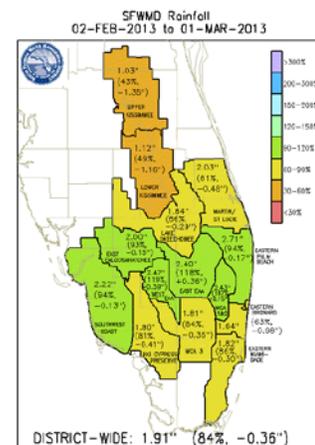
- 1.3 inches District-wide
- 68 percent of month’s rainfall
- Rain fell across the entire District
- Wettest single day since early October 2012; wettest Valentine’s day in at least 22 years
- Click on heart for the event report from the day

West Palm Beach, FL — A Valentine’s Day storm that drenched the entire South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) accounted for most of February’s rainfall and gave the regional water supply a beneficial boost heading into what has historically been the driest part of the dry season.

An average of about 1.3 inches of rain fell on February 14 alone, encompassing all 16 District counties, from Orlando to the Florida Keys. It was the wettest Valentine’s Day in the 22 years since the District began continuous daily rainfall tracking. Only about half an inch of rain fell the rest of the month, most of it in the last few days, bringing the February total to 1.91 inches District-wide. This is about 84 percent of average, or a deficit of 0.36 inches.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 14.38 feet NGVD today, which is 0.14 inches below average for this time of year. The lake was at 14.68 feet NGVD a month ago.

For the 2012-2013 dry season to date, the District has seen



(Click on the map for a larger version.)

4.72 inches of rain, representing a deficit of 3.73 inches, or 56 percent of average. Evapotranspiration, the loss of water from the ground and growing plants, begins to increase in March and April, speeding the decline in surface water levels.

Much of South Florida is also listed as being abnormally dry, or “D0,” as coded by the U.S. Drought Monitor. This designation is the lowest intensity on the drought scale. A section of South Florida, covering mostly Everglades National Park, is listed as being in a moderate drought, or “D1.”

While the region continues its winter dry out, water levels remain positioned at adequate levels because of abundant wet season rainfall last year.

For more information:

- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [National Weather Service Dry Season Forecast](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast](#)
- [U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

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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.