



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Plans Prescribed Burns to Benefit Kissimmee Ecology *Fire is an important land management tool*

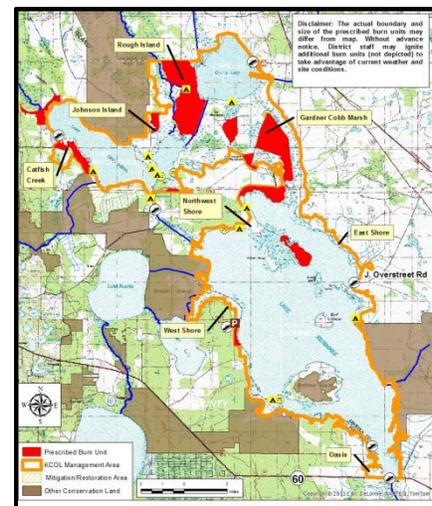
Orlando, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has planned prescribed burns on 6,000 acres throughout the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes Management Area (KCOL) from January through August to benefit the environment.

Dry vegetation combined with cooler weather and lower humidity during the winter and spring months create an opportunity to use fire to benefit habitats difficult to burn during other times of the year. Dates of the burns are variable because they are subject to weather conditions and other factors.

The objective of prescribed burning in the KCOL is to control woody shrub encroachment in prairies, marshes, mixed grasslands and pine flatwoods. The work will provide widespread ecological benefits for wildlife in the approximately 38,600 acres across Polk and Osceola counties.

Prescribed fire benefits also include:

- Reducing wildfire danger
- Controlling exotic vegetation
- Improving wildlife habitat and plant diversity
- Maintaining fire-dependent plant communities



(Click map for larger version.)

Open flames and dense smoke will be present in parts of the management area during the burns. The public is asked to remain aware of their surroundings and watch for prescribed burning operations. Burn managers will coordinate with local governments and municipalities as burns are scheduled.

For more information:

- [Prescribed Burning: A Land Management Tool](#)

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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.