



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
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MEDIA ADVISORY

June 5, 2009

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SFWMD Continues Apple Snail Tag and Release Experiment to Benefit Endangered Florida Bird

Scientists to release 3,000 more apple snails at Lake Okeechobee



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[Apple Snail Photo Gallery](#)

WHAT: Scientists from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will tag and release approximately 3,000 apple snails, continuing an experiment to study the re-establishment of the significant species in Lake Okeechobee. Apple snails are the primary food source for the endangered snail kite and other wildlife. The apple snail release supports the District's Everglades and ecosystem restoration efforts.

Traveling by airboat, District biologists tagged and released nearly 1,600 apple snails in April and have already begun collecting data. They will repeat the process of gluing plastic tags to the mollusk shells and slogging through a lakeside marsh to release the new and larger batch of snails. There will be space on District vessels for the media to document the release up close and talk with the scientists.

Researchers will continue monitoring the release site to collect data on survival rates and other key indicators. The data collected will aid the District and its partners in restoring and protecting the Everglades and its wildlife.

WHEN:

APPLE SNAIL TAGGING	APPLE SNAIL RELEASE
Monday, June 8, 2009, and Tuesday, June 9, 2009	Wednesday, June 10, 2009

RSVP: Please RSVP to Gabe Margasak at gmargasa@sfwmd.gov or (561) 670-1245 as space on the research boats is limited.

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About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)
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.