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<u>CONTACT:</u> AnEta Sewell <u>Palm Beach County Service Center</u> South Florida Water Management District Office: (561) 682-6171

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Celebrate the Everglades at 11th Annual Everglades Day Festival SFWMD to give tours of Everglades living laboratory throughout the event



(Click picture for a larger version.)

WHAT: Bring the family to celebrate the natural beauty of the Everglades at the 11th annual Everglades Day Festival, hosted by the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) will be among more than 30 exhibitors from local clubs, nonprofit organizations and agencies attending the event.

The District, in association with the Audubon Society of the Everglades, will be providing guided tours of the Everglades living laboratory known as the Loxahatchee Impoundment Landscape Assessment (LILA). LILA is a working 80-acre model of the Everglades ecosystem on the grounds of the Refuge that gives experts an opportunity to research and apply restoration techniques on a small, controlled scale.

Organized around the theme of "Arts in the Everglades," this year's Everglades Day Festival will feature a wide variety of art, from paintings and photography to musical and dance performances. Renowned photographer Clyde Butcher, the event's special guest speaker, will deliver a presentation on the Everglades and photography.

Other activities at the day-long festival include wildlife presentations, canoeing, kayaking, fishing demonstrations and educational programs.

- WHEN: Saturday, February 6, 2010
- **TIME:** 8 a.m. 4 p.m.
- WHERE: Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge 10216 Lee Road Boynton Beach, FL 33473 <u>Click here for a map.</u>

WHO: The Everglades Day Festival is free and open to the general public.

The festival is held in partnership with the Friends of the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, the Audubon Society of the Everglades, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Palm Beach Cultural Council.

CONTACT: For more information, please call (561) 734-8303 or visit <u>www.fws.gov/loxahatchee</u>.

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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.