



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

## MEDIA ADVISORY



October 27, 2010

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### SFWMD, FWC to Release Woodpeckers to Benefit Wildlife

*The birds are known as a "keystone" species because their nests attract other wildlife*



*(Click on the pictures for larger versions.)*

**WHAT:** Biologists will release 10 red-cockaded woodpeckers at the DuPuis Management Area as part of a long-standing partnership between the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to build the population of these important birds and benefit overall wildlife.

Designated as a Species of Special Concern, red-cockaded woodpeckers and the nests they construct play a vital role in the web of life in southern pine forests. They are considered a "keystone" species by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) because the cavities they construct in pine trees are used by a host of other animals, contributing to the richness of species in the pine forest. According to the USFWS, at least 27 species such as insects, birds, snakes, lizards, squirrels and frogs have been documented using woodpecker cavities.

Each fall since 2006, the SFWMD and the FWC have released 10 birds, five males and five females, in wild areas such as DuPuis and the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area. Presently, there are 16 birds in the DuPuis population, including two that fledged this year. Since 2006, six birds have fledged from nests in DuPuis.

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 28, 2010

**TIME:** 4:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** DuPuis Management Area Visitors' Center  
23500 S.W. Kanner Highway  
Canal Point, FL 33438

The visitors' center entrance is located on State Road 76 in Martin County, two miles east of Port Mayaca or seven miles west of the intersection with State Road 710.

**RSVP:** Please contact Gabe Margasak at 561-670-1245 or [gmargasa@sfwmd.gov](mailto:gmargasa@sfwmd.gov).

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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.*