



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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SFWMD Plans Prescribed Burn Today at DuPuis

Smoke may be visible from the site on the Martin/Palm Beach County line

West Palm Beach, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) plans to conduct a prescribed burn today in the DuPuis Management Area to reduce wildfire danger and benefit the ecology of area.

Crews are conducting the approximately 370-acre burn in a remote portion of the 22,000-acre natural area to reduce excessive ground cover that can fuel large wildfires. This also improves habitat for wildlife. The scheduled burn is part of a regular prescribed burn program at DuPuis and is scheduled to be complete by the end of the day.

Prescribed fire is one of the most ecologically important and cost effective tools for land management in Florida, providing numerous benefits to people, wildlife and the environment. Fire ecology studies have shown that many wildlife species, including deer and turkey, and many rare mammals, birds and reptiles use habitats with fire-dependent plant communities that require periodic burning to maintain their productivity.

Prescribed fire benefits include:

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

In an average year, the Florida Forest Service issues about 120,000 prescribed burning authorizations statewide for about 2 million acres of land. The District manages close to 1 million acres of land subject to natural and prescribed fires.

[Click here for a map](#) with the location of the prescribed burn.

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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.