

SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Media Advisory

March 1, 2012

CONTACT:

Gabe Margasak

South Florida Water Management District Office: (561) 682-2800 or Cellular: (561) 670-1245

www.sfwmd.gov/news

SFWMD Plans Prescribed Burn Today at CREW

Smoke may be visible to people in the area of Lee and Collier counties

WHAT:

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is conducting a prescribed burn today in the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Wildlife and Environmental Area to reduce wildfire danger and benefit the ecology of the area.

The burn is scheduled to include approximately 160 acres in a remote portion of Lee County in the 29,000-acre natural area. The effort will reduce excessive ground cover that can fuel large wildfires and improve habitat for wildlife.

WHY:

Prescribed fire benefits include:

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

WHERE: <u>Click here for a map</u> with the location of the prescribed burn.

###

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.