



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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# MEDIA ADVISORY

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## **SFWMD Conducting Prescribed Burn to Improve Historic Cypress Creek** *Smoke may be visible for several days from nearby communities*



### **WHAT:**

Conditions permitting, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in partnership with Martin County will conduct a series of prescribed burns starting this week in the Loxahatchee River/Cypress Creek Management Area to reduce wildfire danger and benefit the ecology of the area. Residents in nearby communities such as Ranch Colony and Jupiter Farms will likely see smoke from the managed burns north of Indiantown Road and west of Interstate 95.

Cypress Creek is an important tributary of the Loxahatchee River, providing nearly one third of water flow to the river's federally designated Wild and Scenic Northwest Fork. Several partners, including the District, are working to restore the historic Cypress Creek watershed to improve water quality and flows to the river.

The District developed the prescribed burn plan, which is part of the agency's overall land management program, in coordination with community leaders and local public safety officials. To increase safety and minimize smoke in the area, crews will split the burn into several portions to be completed over several days. Federal, state and local agencies will be assisting with the burns.

- WHY:** Prescribed fire benefits include:
- Reducing wildfire danger
  - Controlling exotic vegetation
  - Improving wildlife habitat and plant diversity
  - Maintaining fire-dependent plant communities
  - For more information: [Prescribed Burning: A Land Management Tool](#)

**WHERE:** [Click here for a map](#) with the location of the prescribed burns.

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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.*