



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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SFWMD Conducting Prescribed Burn to Improve Allapattah Flats

Smoke will likely be visible to drivers and residents



WHAT:

Weather conditions permitting, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) plans to conduct a 1,000-acre prescribed burn Wednesday to reduce wildfire danger and benefit the ecology of the Allapattah Flats Management Area in Martin County. Residents in nearby communities and drivers on County Road 714 will likely see smoke from the burn.

Located west of Interstate 95 and north of the C-44 Canal, the historic area has been inhabited for at least 2,000 years. During the wet season, native people would traverse the Allapattah Flats for travel and trade between the headwaters of the St. Johns River and the Everglades by poling canoes.

Today, 21,000 acres of wet flatwoods, marshes and sloughs are managed by the District for ongoing hydrologic restoration. This site hosts wildlife from white-tailed deer to armadillos and sandhill cranes and also offers numerous recreational activities for hikers, bikers and horseback riders.

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 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.