



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Small Game Hunting Authorized on 1,330 Acres of Vacant Public Land**  
*SFWMD has allowed hunting on the sites in Miami-Dade and St. Lucie counties every year since 2006*

**West Palm Beach, FL** — For the fourth consecutive year, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is authorizing the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to establish two Public Small Game Hunting Areas on 1,330 acres of vacant public land in Miami-Dade and St. Lucie counties.

“The District has long made it a priority to provide hunting opportunities on public lands,” said SFWMD Governing Board member Michael Collins. “By working with our partners at FWC, we can again give hunters the chance to enjoy these wild areas of South Florida.”

The two Public Small Game Hunting Areas are:

- **Rocky Glades:** A 230-acre site in Miami-Dade County that was acquired by the District for the L-31N Project. The project will create an eight-mile-long detention basin to help prevent water from seeping out of Everglades National Park into the L-31N and C-111 canals.
- **C-23/C-24 Reservoir:** A 1,100-acre site spread over three parcels in St. Lucie County that will be used for construction of the C-23/C-24 Reservoir. The reservoir is a component of the Indian River Lagoon-South Restoration Project, a part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

The District classifies the two sites as vacant undesignated lands — properties that are not currently being used as management, impoundment or stormwater treatment areas or for right of way. Construction on each site, as part of the overall water resource project, will not occur until sometime after the 2009-10 hunting season. In the mean time, the District is attempting to best utilize the lands by making them available for hunting-related recreation.

“Based on reports from FWC officers and comments received by District staff, the hunting programs at these sites have been well received by the public,” Collins said. “These programs further demonstrate the District’s commitment to increasing recreational access to public lands, while continuing to manage them effectively to meet our environmental restoration, water supply, water quality and flood control missions.”

For more information on recreational opportunities on District lands, please visit [www.sfwmd.gov/recreation](http://www.sfwmd.gov/recreation).

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**About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)**

*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.*