



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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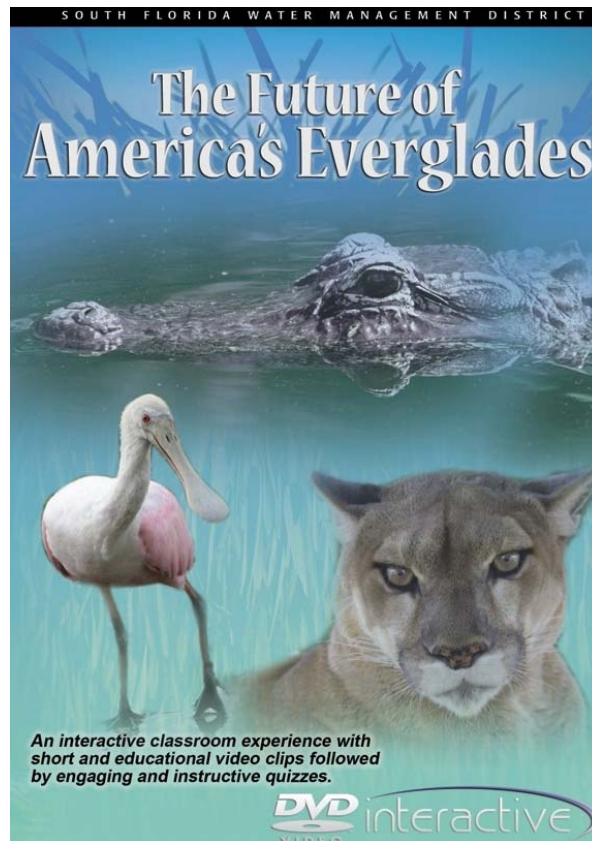
South Florida Water Management District

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SFWMD Distributing Educational DVD to Lee, Hendry Teachers
Interactive DVD introduces students of all ages to Everglades restoration



(Click on image for larger version.)

Fort Myers, FL – The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is distributing the latest edition of its award-winning educational DVD, *The Future of America's Everglades*, to teachers in Lee and Hendry counties in March.

The Future of America's Everglades provides an interactive classroom experience that introduces students of all ages to the Everglades ecosystem and the efforts under way to restore it. The DVD features 24 video segments – narrated by drama students from Cypress Lakes Middle School – that give viewers the opportunity to visit remote areas

often accessible only by airboats or helicopters and meet the people doing the important work of restoration. Each segment is accompanied by a vocabulary list and an interactive quiz.

Created by the SFWMD Lower West Coast Service Center and Fort Myers-based Main Sail Video Productions, the DVD uses videos and scripts originally produced for broadcast news. The first version was released in 2008 as a pilot educational project and featured five segments with questions and answers developed by Lee County teachers. The project was later expanded to its current size and incorporated improvements suggested by teachers.

Lee County teachers will receive copies of the DVD at a March 3 meeting at the Imaginarium. Service center staff will provide a demonstration during the meeting. Hendry County teachers will get their copies March 25.

Dubbed the “River of Grass” for the sawgrass that flourished throughout the marsh, America’s Everglades is a mosaic of freshwater ponds, prairies and forested uplands that supports a rich plant and wildlife community, including dozens of federally threatened and endangered species. Everglades restoration includes many diverse research efforts, construction projects and new technologies. This unique ecosystem and the efforts to restore it provide many opportunities to engage and inspire young people in the fields of science and math.

To learn more about the District’s Everglades restoration efforts, please visit www.sfwmd.gov/everglades. More information about the SFWMD Lower West Coast Service Center is available at www.sfwmd.gov/lwc.

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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.