



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Outdoor Enthusiasts Score Bull's-Eye With Expanded Game Hunting *SFWMD extends recreational access at Miami's Rocky Glades*



(Photo provided courtesy of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.)

West Palm Beach, FL — As part of an ongoing effort to provide recreational access to public lands, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board expanded to almost 4,000 acres a popular hunting area in Miami-Dade County known as Rocky Glades.

“Increasing recreation on public land helps connect residents to these incredible natural areas,” said Tommy Strowd, SFWMD Director of the Operations, Maintenance and Construction Division. “Allowing hunts has the added benefit of helping to control non-native invasive reptiles and other nuisance species.”

Ducks and doves are among the small game that can be hunted in Rocky Glades, along with hogs and invasive Burmese pythons and Nile monitors. Hunts at the site are managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Expansion of hunting at the 3,900-acre site, officially designated as the Rocky Glades

Public Small Game Hunting Area, represents a successful melding of restoration with public access and recreation. The District acquired this land in western Miami-Dade County for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' L-31N Seepage Management Pilot Project, a component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP).

Portions of the property have been open since 2006 for small game hunting while awaiting project construction. Other recreational activities at the site, offered outside the hunting season, include hiking, biking and bird watching.

To date, the District has opened 621,000 acres of land to the public. Many of these properties are in their natural state or have basic enhancements such as informational kiosks and hiking trails. For more information on recreational opportunities throughout the District's 16-county region, visit www.sfwmd.gov/recreation.

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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.