

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is in the process of installing one temporary earthen test plug within the L-38W Canal. It is located approximately 2.6 miles downstream (south) of the S-150 structure and Palm Beach/Broward County line, adjacent to the 11th FPL finger canal/berm on the west side of US27. The work is being performed by SFWMD Field Station staff, should take approximately two weeks to construct, and is expected to be completed by the end of January. Signage has been installed at the north and south boat ramps, which provide access to the L-38W Canal, to notify users of the location of the temporary earthen test plug, and boat buoys and reflectors have been installed at the temporary earthen test plug. The temporary earthen test plug will be removed after two consecutive wet seasons.

The objective of the temporary earthen test plug project is to explore how effective an earthen plug within the L-38W Canal is at hydrating the NE corner of WCA-3A. The expected benefits of the earthen plug will allow more water to be retained in the northeastern portion of WCA-3A, which will reduce peat fires and create longer hydroperiods. This will also improve prey production and extend the temporal and spatial extent of foraging habitat for wading birds nesting in the Alley North wading bird nesting colony, the largest wading bird colony in South Florida. In addition, flows from NE WCA-3A will potentially extend the period of surface water at the Alley North wading bird nesting colony which is prone to drying out during the nesting season. Surface water is necessary at nesting colonies because it limits access by mammalian predators, such as raccoons, which can cause mass nest abandonment and predation of a colony.

Please see attached map.

