



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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SFWMD Conducting Burn at Mecca Site to Benefit Loxahatchee
Smoke from the prescribed burn will be visible to Acreage/Loxahatchee residents

WHAT: Weather conditions permitting, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) plans to conduct an approximately 1,800-acre prescribed burn Wednesday at Mecca Farms. This work will help prepare the site for its future role of providing water flows to the Wild and Scenic Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River.

In October 2013, the SFWMD Governing Board approved acquisition of the Mecca Farms property from Palm Beach County. Located west of the Beeline Highway, the parcel will become a shallow-water storage area capable of sending water east through the C-18 canal and into the Northwest Fork of the river. Key objectives are to supplement flows during the dry season and help prevent saltwater intrusion into the lower reaches of the river.

The burn will also reduce wildfire danger for residents in the Acreage/Loxahatchee area by reducing fuel on the ground.

The District is coordinating with local fire departments, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Forest Service.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 19, 2014

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, see: [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.