



NEWS RELEASE

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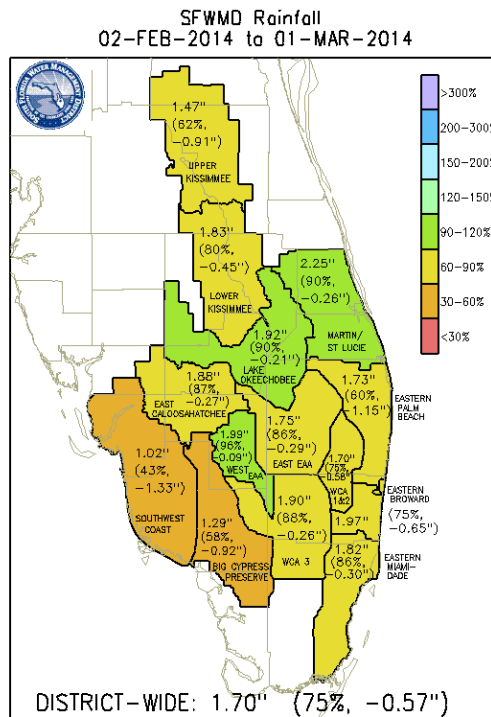
South Florida Water Management District

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February Rainfall is Slightly Below Average *One heavy rain day accounted for 41 percent of the month's rainfall*



(Click on the map for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – February’s rainfall matched the typical dry-season pattern of many dry days punctuated by one big rain day. It all averaged out to a slightly below-average month in what has been shaping up to be an overall average dry season, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported today.

“Soaking rainfall events happen even during the dry season, and they often bring enough rain to carry us through weeks of almost no rainfall,” said Susan Sylvester, Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “We remain focused on balancing flood control operations whenever needed while also meeting our water supply mission.”

District-wide rainfall for February averaged 1.7 inches, representing 75 percent of average. An average of 0.7 inches fell on February 12, which was the largest rain day of the month and accounted for 41 percent of the total for the month. The big rain day was beneficial to the system because it was widespread and slowly soaked the entire 16-county District, from Orlando to the Florida Keys.

In the early months of the dry season, the region experienced below-average rainfall. Since then, January was a particularly rainy month, and February was a bit shy of an average month. The 8.32 inches of rain that fell since the dry season started is equivalent to 98 percent of the historical average for the period.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 13.94 NGVD today, which is half an inch below its historical average for this date. The lake received 1.92 inches of direct rainfall in February, representing 90 percent of average.

<i>South Florida's Dry Season</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>November – May</i>• <i>About 18 inches of rainfall is the average</i>• <i>May and October are important transition months</i>• <i>March, April and May are the driest months because evaporation is highest</i>

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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.