



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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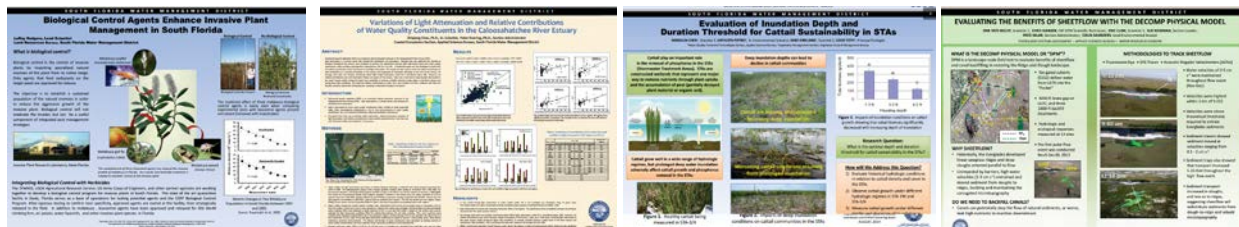
South Florida Water Management District

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SFWMD Science Supports Restoration of South Florida's Environment *Studies of water levels and biocontrols have led to real-world solutions*



[\(Click here to view all the posters.\)](#)

West Palm Beach, FL — Does organic matter, matter in the Everglades? Lake sediments: to dredge or not to dredge?

Finding the answers to these and a host of ecological and hydrological questions provides the science-based foundation for South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) efforts to restore the Everglades and South Florida's unique ecosystems. To publicly share their work, more than 20 SFWMD scientists discussed their research this month at the August Governing Board meeting. Illustrated posters also were on display throughout the week summarizing the studies and findings.

One recent study, for example, evaluated water depth and duration of inundation in the Stormwater Treatment Areas (STAs). The goal was to help water managers identify the optimal water level for cattail health. Cattails are one of the primary plants used in the STAs to remove phosphorus and thereby improve the quality of water flowing to the Everglades.

Another study concluded that biocontrols, or tiny insects that serve as natural enemies to unwanted species, are an effective tool in the management of melaleuca and other invasive plants.

To engage the public, each poster included a banner capturing the topic or basic question addressed by the scientists' highly technical work. The broad range of research themes in the display are listed here, linked to its technical poster:

- [Blowing the unpredictability of algal blooms out of the water](#)
- [Rolling in the deep: How water levels affect cattail in the STAs](#)
- [Where's the phosphorus?](#)
- [Flows inch up, down by the Bay](#)
- [Mission possible: Science to direct optimization of STAs](#)
- [Unlocking the STA phosphorus removal puzzle](#)
- [Dr. Strangebug: Integrating biological control with invasive plant management](#)
- [The rise and fall of invasive plants in the Everglades](#)
- [Dry times are good times: Taking advantage of dry season water levels to revitalize STA plants](#)
- [Algae makes a difference: PSTA is a key ingredient in improving water quality](#)
- [Is "taking a load off" always effective?](#)
- [For "Peat's" sake – In the Everglades, the organic matter matters](#)
- [The envelope, please! \(Seagrasses and salinity in the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon\)](#)
- [Going with the flow: Restoring freshwater flows to Florida Bay](#)
- [Lake sediments: To dredge or not to dredge?](#)
- [How a little restoration goes a long way](#)
- [How land use change and land management affect water quality and quantity](#)
- [We know it will flow, but when and where will it go?](#)
- [A bird's eye view for Everglades restoration](#)
- [Helping seagrasses "see the light"](#)
- [There's no business like flow business](#)
- [Wading birds: Are they finicky about where they feed?](#)
- [How modeling saved the dam on the Loxahatchee River](#)

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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.