



NEWS RELEASE

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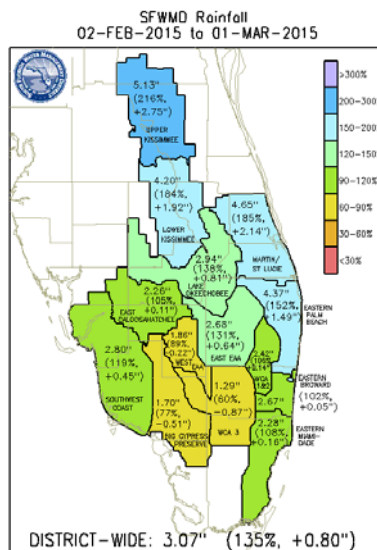
South Florida Water Management District

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Kissimmee Rainfall Continues Contribution to Lake Okeechobee Level *February rainfall, like January, was above average north of the lake*



(Click on map for larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – February rainfall was above average across much of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), with a significant portion falling the last day of the month.

Significantly, the Kissimmee basins continued their trend of above-average rainfall feeding Lake Okeechobee. Rainfall for the month north of the lake was about double the historical average for February. The two basins received 5.13 and 4.20 inches of rainfall respectively, representing 216 percent and 184 percent of average for the month.

“Above-average Kissimmee rainfall continues contributing to the already high lake stages,” said Jeff Kivett, SFWMD Division Director of Operations, Engineering and Construction. “Operations continue moving water south of the lake, and the District has increased pumping at temporary water storage areas where possible.”

District-wide, 3.07 inches of rain fell during February, representing 135 percent of average, or 0.80 inches above average. February 28 saw a District-wide average of about 1 inch, or about a third of the month's rainfall. Areas of eastern Palm Beach County experienced local maximums of 10 inches that day.

Lake Okeechobee also received above-average rainfall, with 2.94 inches of direct rainfall, representing 138 percent of average, or 0.81 inches above average. The lake stood at 14.71 feet NGVD today, which is 0.20 feet above its historic average for this time of year and nearly a foot higher than this time last year.

Most of the remainder of the District also saw above-average rainfall in February. Martin and St. Lucie counties, among the wettest areas of the 16-county District, saw 4.65 inches of rain, representing 185 percent of average, or 2.14 inches above average.

The Southwest Coast and East Caloosahatchee received 119 percent and 105 percent of average rainfall respectively.

Big Cypress Preserve was one of the few areas to receive below-average rainfall, with 1.70 inches representing 77 percent of average, or 0.51 inches below average.

More information is available at:

- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast](#)
- Interactive "Moving Water South" map: www.sfwmd.gov/movingwatersouth

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