

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update

June 30- July 6, 2007

**Mission Statement:**

To underscore our commitment to keep you informed, we will send this update weekly. We encourage you to share this water resources information with your constituents.

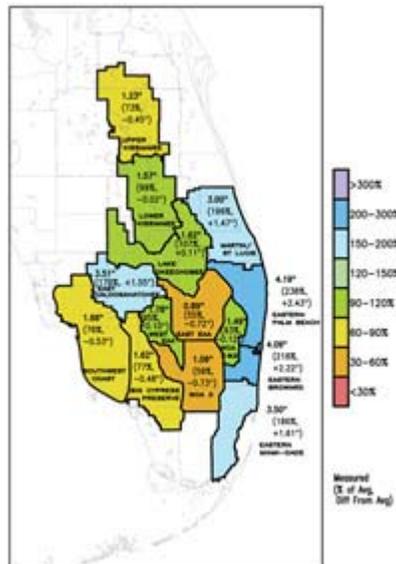


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South Florida Water
Management District
www.sfwmd.gov

District News and Happenings

- In only six weeks, more than 1.9 million cubic yards of phosphorus-rich muck were scraped and trucked off Lake Okeechobee's dried-out shoreline, exposed for two months by this year's drought. In addition, 1,000 native pond apple and cypress trees were planted on the rim canal and spoil islands near Clewiston, and 1,725 trees were planted near Moore Haven. By adding native trees where they once grew in abundance and cleaning off the lake's naturally sandy bottom, critical aquatic habitats will be restored when water levels return to normal.

System-Wide Overview

Click map for larger image

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 2.04 inches.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is for near average rainfall. Thunderstorm coverage will decrease on Thursday and Friday and will be focused over the interior and east.

System-wide overview:

Over the past 30 days, portions of Miami-Dade and Broward counties received more than 13 inches of rain, in stark contrast to Lake Okeechobee, which received less than five inches over the same period. The July position analysis for Lake Okeechobee shows that rainfall would need to be following the 90th percentile to relieve the water shortage, but instead, it has been following the 50th percentile.

U.S. Drought Monitor:

The [Drought Monitor](#) focuses on broad-scale conditions and identifies general drought areas, labeling droughts by intensity. This week, areas of the District fall into four areas of intensity, ranging from abnormally dry to severe drought.

Lake Okeechobee:

Lake Okeechobee measured at 8.82 feet NGVD 29 (7.52 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.10 feet lower than that day last week and 0.19 feet lower than it was a month ago.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

The upper Kissimmee Basin received 1.32 inches of rain over the last seven days, and the lower basin received 1.20 inches. No water releases are being made at this time. The Kissimmee River has lacked flow for 237 days.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

In the St. Lucie Estuary, no releases occurred at S-80 over the past week. Salinity levels in the estuary are within the preferred range. In the Caloosahatchee Estuary, discharge occurred at S-79 last week. Salinity remains high in the upper estuary. In the lower estuary and San Carlos Bay, the high salinity levels are good for seagrass and fair for oysters.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

Stages increased for most of the Everglades, but not significantly. Rainfall ranged from 1.4 inches in WCA-1 to 2.2 inches in WCA-3B. WCA-1 and WCA-3 continue to be below regulation, and WCA-2 is at regulation.

Everglades National Park:

Rainfall was patchy in the Park, leading to mixed patterns again. In Shark River Slough and at the Taylor Slough Bridge, water levels were down by 0.75 inches. In the southern part of the system, Craighead Pond water levels did not change, and the panhandle water levels increased by 2.6 inches.

Note: This rainfall information is based on rain gauges within the Park. The map above captures District rain gauge data only.

Florida Bay:

Salinity concentrations continue to drop or remain low across the bay.

Area Water Restrictions:



Click map for larger image

[Eastern Palm Beach, Broward, and a small portion of Martin County served by Tequesta Water Utilities - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)
Phase III water restrictions target outdoor water use, limiting lawn watering and

car washing to one day a week: Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd-numbered addresses; Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses.

These limitations and other actions and are intended to produce a 45 percent water use reduction by the combined conservation efforts of all users, including agricultural, industrial, commercial, golf course, landscaping and residential water users. The Phase III restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

[Lake Okeechobee Service Area - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Phase III water use restrictions predominantly impact predominantly impact agricultural, industrial and commercial water users in parts of Hendry, Glades, Okeechobee, Lee, Martin, St. Lucie and western Palm Beach counties. They also apply to residential users whose water source is Lake Okeechobee – or any of the surface water canals recharged by the lake – and includes utility customers in South Bay, Belle Glade, Pahokee, Okeechobee and Clewiston. North Lee County Utility service area customers are also affected by this order because they rely on the Olga Treatment Plant which draws water from Lake Okeechobee via the Caloosahatchee River. Agricultural water users in these areas are required to reduce surface water consumption by 45 percent. Residential users must limit lawn watering, boat and car washing to one day per week: Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. Groundwater sources (wells) are not restricted by this order.

[Lake Istokpoga Area/Upper Indian Prairie Basin \(portions of Highlands and Glades counties\) - Phase III Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Effective May 11, permitted agricultural and other area users who withdraw water directly from surface water sources connected to Lake Istokpoga will transition to Phase III water restrictions in incremental stages as the water level of Lake Istokpoga continues to drop below specified thresholds. Users were notified of the specific tiers representing 35 and 45 percent cutbacks and are encouraged to voluntarily exercise additional water conservation measures as practicable.

[Martin and St. Lucie Counties - Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Phase II water restrictions target outdoor water use, limiting lawn watering and car washing to two days a week: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd numbered addresses; Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses. These limitations and other actions and are intended to produce a 30 percent water use reduction by the combined conservation efforts of all users, including agricultural, industrial, commercial, golf course, landscaping and residential water users. The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who draw their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

[Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties - Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Phase II restrictions remain in place for Miami-Dade and Monroe counties, limiting lawn watering and car washing to two days a week: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd-numbered addresses; Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses.

These limitations and other actions and are intended to produce a 30 percent water use reduction by agricultural, industrial, commercial, golf course, landscaping and residential water users. The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who draw their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

[Lee, Collier, Hendry, and Glades Counties; portion of Charlotte County - Phase II Mandatory Water Use Restrictions](#)

Phase II restrictions remain in place in Lee, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties, along with a portion of Charlotte County, limiting lawn watering and car washing to two days a week: Wednesdays and Saturdays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for odd-numbered addresses; Thursdays and Sundays from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for even-numbered addresses.

These limitations and other actions are intended to produce a 30 percent water use reduction by agricultural, industrial, commercial, golf course, landscaping and residential water users. The Phase II restrictions in this region apply to users who get their water from public utilities, private wells, canals, ponds and lakes.

Phase II and Phase III restrictions allow low-volume, spot-watering using a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the designated landscape watering days. Additional watering days and times also have been allowed for new landscaping over a 30-day establishment period.

The use of 100 percent reclaimed water, an alternative water source, is not subject to restrictions. The use of water for health, fire, safety and other essential purposes also is not restricted.

Did you know?

The South Florida Water Management District manages and protects the water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. Want to hear more? It would be our pleasure to meet with your organization to give a presentation and answer your questions. If interested, please contact Niki Spencer at 800-432-2045 or 561-686-8800, ext. 6004.

** SFWMD water managers and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work together to manage Lake Okeechobee. Water releases from the lake are made in accordance with a federally authorized regulation schedule based on many factors such as time of year, current water conditions, predicted rainfall and lake level.*