

State of the Water Management System

Water Shortage Edition



Weekly Update
April 7 - 11, 2008



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.

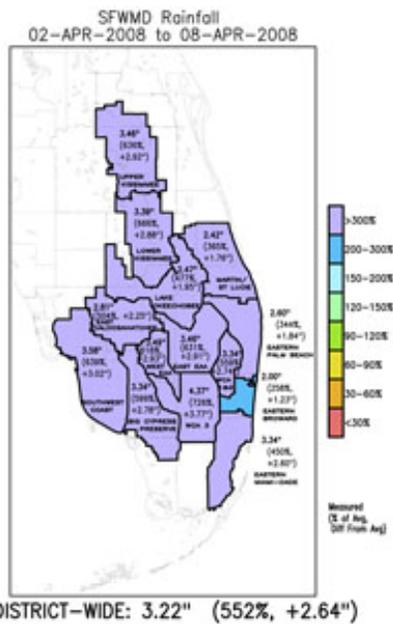
District News and Happenings

- South Florida Moves to Two-Day-A-Week Emergency Water Restrictions
- Above-Average March Rains Bring Relief to Water Shortage
- Wildlife Returns to North Fork of the New River
- Kissimmee River Tour Reveals Avian Response to Restoration
- Wood Duck Nesting Boxes Donated for Taylor Creek Stormwater Treatment Area

System-Wide Overview



South Florida Water Management District
www.sfwmd.gov



Click map for larger image

Rainfall overview:

- District-wide rainfall for the past week was 3.22 inches.

- A cold front is expected to bringing light to moderate shower activity Saturday night and Sunday.
- The rainfall outlook for the next seven days is below average.

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 levels of intensity, ranging from normal to severe drought.

Lake Okeechobee:

Lake Okeechobee measured 10.48 feet NGVD 29 (9.18 feet NAVD 88) on Tuesday, which is 0.19 feet higher than it was on this day last week and 0.38 feet higher than a month ago. The current stage is 0.39 feet higher than it was a year ago and 3.75 feet below its historical average for this time of year. Weekend rainfall totals at sites around the lake ranged from 1.50 to 3.74 inches.

Upper Chain of Lakes/Kissimmee Basin:

During the last 7 days, the upper Kissimmee Basin received 3.57 inches of rainfall, and the lower Basin received 3.39 inches of rainfall. Discharge from Lake Kissimmee continues as part of a gradual recession in lake water level and also to provide flow to the Kissimmee River. Releases are no longer being made from Lake Tohopekaliga and East Lake Tohopekaliga.

St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries:

Average salinity decreased slightly throughout the St. Lucie Estuary over the past week. Based on the salinity tolerance of oysters, salinity conditions in the estuary are good. Average salinity decreased in the Caloosahatchee Estuary last week. Salinity conditions in the upper estuary east of Ft. Myers are still poor. Conditions downstream of Cape Coral are fair for oysters.

Water Conservation Areas (WCAs):

Rainfall in the WCAs ranged from 2.26 to 6.2 inches. Water stages increased the most in northern WCA-3A, where the greatest amount of rain fell, and least in WCA-3B. Water depths range from 0.89 to 2.56 feet. Marsh stages in WCA-1 have risen again and are above regulation, WCA-2A marsh remains at levels above regulation and WCA-3A stages have reached the top of zone E1 of the regulation schedule, which is designed for protection of the Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow.

Everglades National Park:

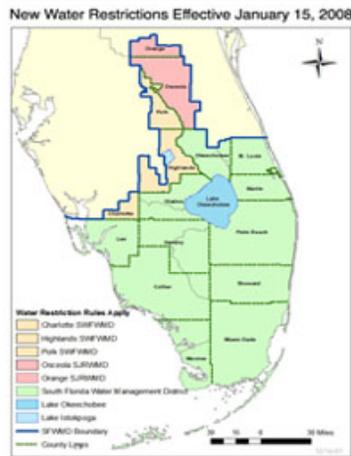
The Park received 2.82 inches of rain last week; water levels showed mixed trends.

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

Florida Bay:

Salinity levels showed mixed trends across Florida Bay.

Water Restrictions, starting January 15, 2008:



[Click map for larger image](#)

Residents and businesses of Broward, Glades, Hendry, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach and St. Lucie counties are limited to a one-day-per-week landscape irrigation schedule with two watering windows. Odd street addresses may irrigate lawns and landscapes on Mondays between 4:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Even street addresses may irrigate lawns and landscapes on Thursdays between 4:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Residents and businesses with more than five acres have expanded irrigation hours, between 12:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. or 4:00 p.m. and 11:59 p.m. on their designated irrigation day.

For all locations of Collier and Lee counties, other than the City of Cape Coral, the typical homeowner may choose one four-hour watering window on your designated irrigation day - either 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. or 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Because jurisdiction in certain counties is shared with other water management districts, the SFWMD has coordinated with these agencies to simplify implementation and enforcement. Residents of **Orange and Osceola counties** should adhere to any water restrictions set forth by the St. Johns River Water Management District. Residents of **Polk, Highlands, and Charlotte counties** should adhere to the water restrictions set forth by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. However, golf courses, nurseries, and agricultural users District-wide should follow SFWMD water use restrictions.

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.*