



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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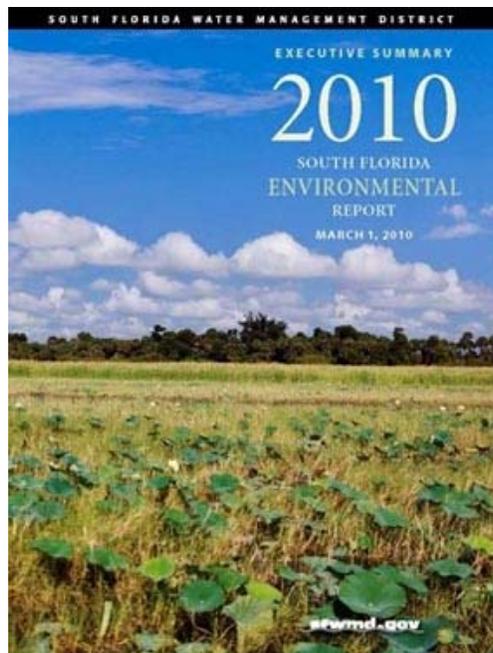
South Florida Water Management District

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South Florida Environmental Report is “One-of-a-Kind”
Annual report wins 12th national/international award



(Click on the picture to view the report.)

West Palm Beach, FL — An annual report detailing a year of restoration, scientific and engineering successes by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and its partners in the Kissimmee Basin, Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades and South Florida’s coastal areas has earned a communications industry designation as a “one-of-a-kind publication.”

The 2010 South Florida Environmental Report was released in March, marking the 12th year of streamlined environmental reporting by the District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

“Sharing the accomplishments and benefits of South Florida ecosystem restoration with the public is a vital component of our work,” said SFWMD Executive Director Carol

Ann Wehle. "Staff members did an exceptional job on this year's report and are honored to be acknowledged by their peers."

The 2010 report earned the Communications Concepts' APEX Awards Grand Award in the "One-of-a-Kind Publication" category for nonprofit organizations. The APEX Awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content and the ability to achieve overall communications excellence. The report was chosen as the best of 201 entries in the 22nd annual competition for writers, editors, publications staff and business and nonprofit communicators.

The two illustrated volumes, comprising more than 50 individual reports, include a 44-page executive summary and provide extensive research summaries, data analyses, financial updates and a searchable database of environmental projects.

Highlights of the 2010 report include:

- **Improving water quality.** The existing 45,000 acres of effective Stormwater Treatment Areas treated about 1.1 million acre-feet of runoff water in Water Year 2009. Since 1994, constructed wetlands and agricultural Best Management Practices have together prevented more than 3,200 metric tons of phosphorus from entering the Everglades Protection Area. Construction on an additional 12,000 acres of valuable treatment marshes is under way.
- **Kissimmee River restoration.** Work is nearly complete on the third phase of construction, which involves backfilling an additional four miles of the C-38 canal and recarving four miles of river channel to re-establish flow to six miles of reconnected river channel. In previously restored areas, plant and wildlife responses are meeting or exceeding expectations.
- **Wading bird nesting records lofty year.** In 2009, the estimated number of wading bird nests in South Florida was nearly 80,000. As the largest nesting effort recorded in the region since the 1940s, this year's significant increase is more than four times greater than the last breeding season and surpasses the previous record year, 2002, by approximately 11,000 nests.
- **Lake Okeechobee continues rebound.** Lake Okeechobee continues to show signs of recovery from the enduring impacts of the 2004–2005 hurricanes, including lower nearshore turbidity, more submerged aquatic vegetation beds and no severe algal blooms.

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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.