



An Equal Opportunity Employer

Southwest Florida Water Management District

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TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (FL only)
World Wide Web: WaterMatters.org

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Director, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4702; TDD 1-800-231-6103 (FL only); or email ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org.

NEWS RELEASE

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The Southwest Florida Water Management District urges year-round water conservation. Water levels may rise and fall, but our water resources remain limited. The District encourages efficient, non-wasteful uses of water to sustain our high quality of life. For more information about ways to conserve water, contact the District at 1-800-423-1476 or visit the District's website at WaterMatters.org

Water Resource Monthly Update Feb. 3, 2012

Aquifer Levels (in feet) *

Regions **	Jan 31	Previous week	Same date last year	Normal range ***
North	-1.63	-1.32	-0.30	0 to +3
Central	0.78	1.18	1.62	0 to +5.5
South	-1.82	-2.09	-0.46	0 to +8

* Aquifers are underground layers of rock and sand that hold water. In southwest Florida, more than 80 percent of the water supply comes from aquifers.

** **North** (Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion and Sumter counties)
Central (Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk counties)
South (Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Manatee and Sarasota counties)

*** Aquifer levels normally fluctuate to varying degrees in different regions. The normal range shows how much each region normally fluctuates, with 0 as the bottom of the normal range.

**** Readings show how current levels compare to normal ranges for this time of year. Anything below a zero is below the normal range.

2012 Rainfall (in inches) *

	Jan 1-31	Jan
	Actual **	Historic Avg. ***
North	0.99	2.78
Central	0.99	2.43
South	0.49	2.19

Historic Rainfall (January - December in inches)

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	Jan–Dec
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Historic Avg.
North	48.35	49.61	50.63	49.30	45.43	38.73	58.85	62.50	53.51
Central	53.44	49.29	51.56	46.64	41.44	43.13	51.62	68.52	52.45
South	46.40	48.61	48.84	47.37	38.53	42.28	61.65	62.65	52.39

* The rainfall values for the current month and year are considered provisional and subject to revision. The other annual figures are final.

** Actual rainfall for the time frame referenced at the top of the column.

*** Historical average rainfall for the time frame referenced at the top of the column. The District's historical rainfall records date back to 1914.

Lake Levels (in feet, relative to MLM) *

Regions **	Jan levels	Previous month	Same date last year
Northern	-4.44	-4.13	-4.32
Tampa Bay	0.54	0.73	0.21
Polk Uplands	-0.80	-0.59	-1.33
Lake Wales Ridge	-3.22	-2.90	-4.27

* Each month the District measures water levels in 76 lakes. The lake levels are compared to the lakes' adopted minimum low management (MLM) levels. The MLM level is how low each lake has historically dropped at the end of the dry season each year.

** **Northern** (Citrus, Hernando and Sumter counties)

Tampa Bay (Hillsborough and Pasco counties)

Polk Uplands (Northern Polk County)

Lake Wales Ridge (Portions of Polk and Highlands counties)

Streamflows *

	Jan percentile **	Previous month percentile	Same date last year percentile	Normal range percentile ***
Withlacochee River near Holder	2	4	8	25-75
Withlacochee River near Trilby	8	15	9	25-75
Hillsborough River near Zephyrhills	16	37	49	25-75
Peace River at Arcadia	4	20	42	25-75
Peace River at Bartow	18	56	14	25-75

* **Streamflow**, also known as discharge, is the volume of water passing a location in a certain amount of time, usually measured as cubic feet per second.

** The **percentile** compares current flows to historical flows during the same time of year on a scale of 0-100. For example, if the river is shown at the 50th percentile, it means that half of the historical flows for this time of year were higher and half were lower than the current flow.

*** Any flow that falls between the 25th and the 75th percentile is considered **normal**. Less than the 25th would be considered below normal and above the 75th above normal.