

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Abby Johnson, Office of Communications
Suwannee River Water Management District
386.362.1001 or 800.226.1066 (FL)
www.mysuwanneeriver.com



Prescribed burn planned at Mallory Swamp during May 2016



Helicopters are used to ignite controlled burns.

LIVE OAK, FL, May 11, 2016 – The Suwannee River Water Management District (District) land managers will be conducting prescribed burning operations on the Mallory Swamp Wildlife Management Area beginning May 13 and extending through May 31, 2016. Prescribed burning will be located north of Tom Gunter Road and east of the Crapps Tower grade in the northwestern corner of Mallory Swamp in Lafayette County.

The District plans to burn approximately 1,000 acres during this period using helicopters to ignite the burn. Using helicopters to ignite prescribed fires increases daily productivity and helps lower the overall costs associated with controlled burns. For example, by using helicopters to ignite burns in Mallory Swamp this fiscal year, the District has reduced costs by approximately 80%.

Additional burn notices will be issued by the District should the activity be extended due to weather conditions. This activity may temporarily produce smoke or other hazardous conditions. For the safety of recreational users, some roads may be closed and public access may be limited on certain sections of the Mallory Swamp Wildlife Management Area.

Prescribed burns facilitate ecological restoration by enhancing native wetland and upland vegetation and improving habitat for native wildlife. Prescribed burns also reduce fuel levels to help lower the intensity of any possible wildfires and prepare the area for tree planting activities.

The public can monitor the Important Notices page on the District website at <http://www.mysuwanneeriver.com/index.aspx?NID=61> for more definite burning dates as they become available. For additional information on the prescribed burn please contact Scott Gregor, Natural Resource Specialist, at 386-362-8130.

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