



Social Science Program
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitor Services Project

Big Cypress National Preserve

Visitor Study



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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Big Cypress National Preserve
33100 Tamiami Trail East
Ochopee, FL 34141

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March, 2007

Dear Visitor:

Thank you for participating in this important study. We want to learn about the expectations, opinions, and interests of visitors to Big Cypress National Preserve. This information will help us improve our management of this site and better serve you, our visitor.

This questionnaire will be given to only a few visitors, so your participation is very important! It should only take about 20 minutes after your visit to complete.

When your visit is over, please complete the questionnaire. Seal it with the stickers provided on the last page and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Littlejohn, NPS VSP Coordinator, Park Studies Unit, College of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 441139, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139, phone 208-885-7863, email: littlej@uidaho.edu.

We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Gustin".

Karen Gustin
Superintendent

DIRECTIONS

At the end of your visit:

- 1) Please have the selected individual complete this questionnaire
- 2) Answer the questions carefully since each question is different
- 3) Seal it with the stickers provided
- 4) Drop it in a U.S. mailbox

Thank you!

PRIVACY ACT and PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT statement:

16 U.S.C. 1a-7 authorizes collection of this information. This information will be used by park managers to better serve the public. Response to this request is voluntary. No action may be taken against you for refusing to supply the information requested. Your name is requested for follow-up mailing purposes only. When analysis of the questionnaire is completed, all name and address files will be destroyed. Thus the permanent data will be anonymous. Please do not put your name or that of any member of your group on the questionnaire. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Burden estimate statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 20 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to Margaret Littlejohn, NPS Visitor Services Project, College of Natural Resources, University of Idaho, P.O. Box 441139, Moscow, ID, 83844-1139; fax: 208-885-4261.

Please go on to the next page →

Your Visit To Big Cypress National Preserve

1. a) Prior to your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, were you and your group aware that this is a unit of the National Park System? Please check (√) **only one**.

_____ Yes _____ No

b) Prior to your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, were you and your group aware that **national preserves** are managed differently than **national parks**? Please check (√) **only one**.

_____ Yes _____ No

2. a) Prior to this visit, how did you and your group obtain information about Big Cypress National Preserve? Please check (√) **all** that apply in the left column.

b) For future trips to Big Cypress National Preserve, what sources would you and your group prefer to use to obtain information in planning your visit? Please check (√) **all** that apply in the right column.

a) Prior to this visit? (√)

b) Prior to future visits? (√)

_____ Obtained no information prior to visit → **Go on to part b of this question**

_____ Previous visits _____

_____ Friends/relatives/word of mouth _____

_____ Travel guides/tour books/publications _____

_____ Telephone/written/email inquiry to the preserve _____

_____ Newspaper/magazine articles _____

_____ Videos/television/radio programs _____

_____ Big Cypress National Preserve website: www.nps.gov/bicy _____

_____ Other websites _____

_____ School class/program _____

_____ Other National Park Service sites _____

_____ South Florida Parks newspaper _____

_____ Everglades City Chamber of Commerce _____

_____ Local businesses _____

_____ Other (Please specify below: _____

a) _____

b) _____)

c) From the sources you used **prior to this** visit, did you and your group receive the type of information about the preserve that you needed?

No



Yes → **Go on to Question 3**

d) If NO, what type of information did you and your group need that was not available? Please be specific.

3. What was your primary reason for visiting the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)? Please check (√) **only one**.

Resident of local area (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) → **Go on to Question 4**

Visit Big Cypress National Preserve

Visit other attractions in the area

Visit friends/relatives in the area

Business

Other (Please specify: _____)

4. On this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, what other places in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) did you and your group visit? Please check (√) **all** that apply.

Everglades National Park

Florida Keys

Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve

Naples

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Fort Myers

Biscayne National Park

Miami

Everglades City

Marco Island

Fort Lauderdale

Miccosukee Village and Cultural Center

Panther National Wildlife Refuge

Collier Seminole State Park

Other (Please specify: _____)

Please go on to the next page →

5. a) On this trip, did you and your group stay overnight away from home in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)?

Yes No → **Go on to Question 6**



- b) If YES, please list the number of nights you and your group stayed in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee).

Number of nights inside the preserve (see map on page 8)

Number of nights in East coast (Atlantic coast) communities

Number of nights in West coast (Gulf coast) communities

- c & d) In what type of lodging did you and your group spend the night(s)? Please check (√) **all** that apply.

	c) Inside preserve (√)	d) Outside preserve (√)	
		East coast	West coast
Lodge/motel/hotel/B&B, etc.	n/a	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Tent camping in campground	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Camping in RV/trailer park	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Backcountry camping	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Private camp	<input type="text"/>	n/a	n/a
Personal seasonal residence	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Residence of friends or relatives	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Other (Please specify below: _____)	n/a	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
d) East _____		West _____)	

6. On this visit, how long did you and your group spend at Big Cypress National Preserve? (Please list partial hours/days as 1/4, 1/2, or 3/4.)

Number of hours, if **less than 24 hours**

Number of days, if **more than 24 hours**

7. On this visit, how many times did you and your group enter Big Cypress National Preserve (see the map on page 8)?

Number of entries

8. a) On this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, how many **vehicles** did you and your group use to arrive at the preserve?

Number of vehicles

- b) On this trip, did your group have any members who arrived in Florida on an airplane?

Yes No → **Go on to Question 9**

c) If YES, at which Florida airport did that person(s) arrive? Please write in the name of the airport.

9. a) In what town/city did you and your group stay on the night before your arrival at Big Cypress National Preserve? If you stayed at home, please write the name of the town where you live.

Nearest town/city_____ State _____

b) In what town/city did you and your group stay on the night after your departure from Big Cypress National Preserve? If you stayed at home, please write the name of the town where you live.

Nearest town/city_____ State_____

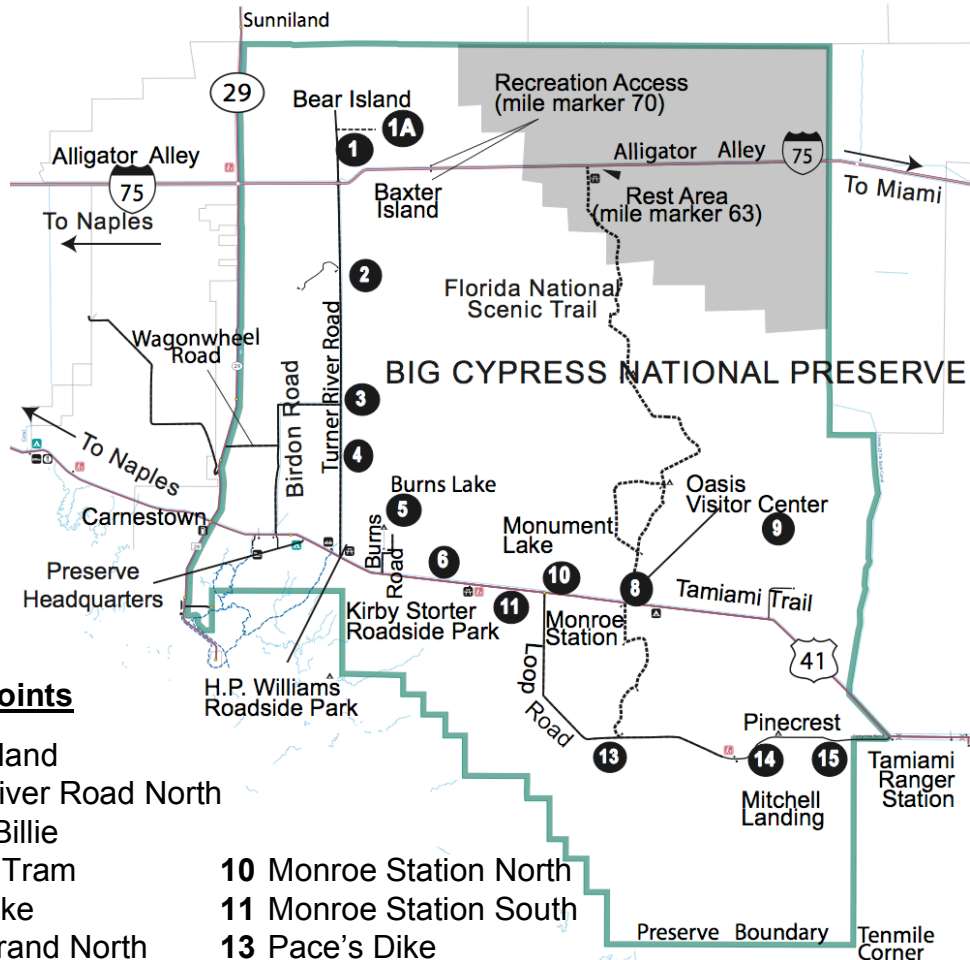
10. a) On **this** visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, what activities did you and your group participate in? Please check (√) **all** that apply in the column (a).

b) For visits to Big Cypress National Preserve during the past 12 months (including this visit), please list the number of times you and your group participated in these activities. Check **only one** for each activity.

Activity	b) Frequency of activities during past 12 months? (Including this visit) Check (√) one.				
	Daily	Several times a week	Several times a month	Several times a year	Only once
_____ Driving through to another destination	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Taking a scenic drive	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Hiking/walking	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Birdwatching	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Wildlife viewing (other than birds)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Airboating	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Off road vehicle driving	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Canoeing/kayaking	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Fishing	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Picnicking	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Photography/painting/drawing	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Hunting	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Camping	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____ Other (Please specify: _____)	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please go on to the next page →

11. During this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, which of the following sites did you and your group visit? Please check (✓) **all** that apply, using the map below to help you locate the sites and off road vehicle (ORV) access point numbers.



ORV Access Points

- 1 & 1A Bear Island
- 2 Turner River Road North
- 3 Concho Billie
- 4 Windmill Tram
- 5 Burns Lake
- 6 Skillet Strand North
- 8 Oasis Visitor Center
- 9 Jetport
- 10 Monroe Station North
- 11 Monroe Station South
- 13 Pace's Dike
- 14 Red Bird Lane
- 15 Boundary Line

- Florida National Scenic Trail
- Access point at Mile 63 on I-75
- Oasis Visitor Center/wildlife viewing area
- Kirby Storer Roadside Park/boardwalk
- H.P. Williams Roadside Park/wildlife viewing area
- State Road 29, Bear Island Access
- Turner River/Birdon/Wagonwheel Road Loop Area
- Unmarked stops along Highway 41
- Backcountry (Please specify your primary access point number _____)
- Other (Please specify: _____)
- Loop Road
- Access point at Mile 71 on I-75

12. 149,000 acres of land were authorized as “The Big Cypress Addition Lands” and added to Big Cypress National Preserve in 1988 (shaded area in map on page 8). The General Management Plan for this area is currently in the planning stages.

a) On a future visit, would you be likely to visit the Big Cypress Additional Lands area of Big Cypress National Preserve?

_____ Yes, likely _____ No, unlikely _____ Not sure

b) On a future visit, would you be **more** likely to visit the Big Cypress Additional Lands area if outfitters/guides were available?

_____ Yes, likely _____ No, unlikely _____ Not sure

c) What type of activities would you like to have available there? Please be specific.

13. a) Please check (√) **all** the visitor facilities that you and your group **used** during this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

b) For the facilities that you and your group **used**, please rate their importance from 1-5.

c) Next, for only those facilities that you and your group **used**, please rate their quality from 1-5.

d) Finally, for only those facilities that you and your group **used**, please rate from 1 to 5 how crowded you felt during your use of these facilities.

a) Used facility?	b) If used, how important?	c) If used, what quality?	d) If used, how crowded?
	1=Not important	1=Very poor	1=Not at all crowded
	2=Somewhat important	2=Poor	2=Somewhat crowded
	3=Moderately important	3=Average	3=Moderately crowded
	4=Very important	4=Good	4=Very crowded
	5=Extremely important	5=Very good	5=Extremely crowded
Check (√)			

_____ Trails	_____	_____	_____
_____ Scenic drive	_____	_____	_____
_____ Canoe/boat launches	_____	_____	_____
_____ Campgrounds	_____	_____	_____
_____ Wildlife viewing areas	_____	_____	_____
_____ Restrooms	_____	_____	_____
_____ Picnic areas	_____	_____	_____
_____ Kirby Storer boardwalk	_____	_____	_____
_____ Access for disabled persons	_____	_____	_____

Please go on to the next page →

14. a) Please check (√) **all** of the information services that you and your group used during this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

b) Next, for only those information services that you and your group **used**, please rate their importance from 1-5.

c) Finally, for only those services that you and your group **used**, please rate their quality from 1-5.

a) Used service?	b) If used, how important?	c) If used, what quality?
	1=Not important 2=Somewhat important 3=Moderately important 4=Very important 5=Extremely important	1=Very poor 2=Poor 3=Average 4=Good 5=Very good
Check (√)		

_____	Preserve brochure/map	_____	_____
_____	Indoor exhibits	_____	_____
_____	Outdoor exhibits/bulletin boards	_____	_____
_____	Visitor center movie	_____	_____
_____	Junior Ranger program	_____	_____
_____	Assistance from park staff	_____	_____
_____	Campfire program	_____	_____
_____	Ranger-led programs/talks (other than campfire program)	_____	_____
_____	Canoe tour	_____	_____
_____	Bicycle tour	_____	_____
_____	Preserve website: www.nps.gov/bicy used before or during visit	_____	_____

15. Overall, how would you and your group rate the quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities at Big Cypress National Preserve during this visit? Please circle **only one**.

Very poor Poor Average Good Very good

16 a) What did you and your group like **most** about your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?

b) What did you and your group like **least** about your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?

In this questionnaire, your personal group is defined as anyone that you are visiting the preserve with, such as spouse, family, friends, etc. This does not include the larger group that you might be traveling with, such as school, church, scout, or tour groups.

17. On this visit, were you and your personal group with the following groups?
- a) Commercial guided tour Yes No
- b) Educational group (school, etc.) Yes No
- c) Other organized group Yes No
(church, business, etc.)
18. On this visit, what kind of personal group (not guided tour/educational/organized group) were you with? Please check (✓) **only one**.
- Alone Family
- Friends Family and friends
- Other (Please specify: _____)
19. For this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself?
- Number of people
20. For you and your personal group, please indicate the following:
- a) Current age
 - b) U.S. Zip code or name of country (other than U.S.)
 - c) Number of visits to Big Cypress National Preserve in the past 12 months and in lifetime (including this visit)
 - d) Are you or members of your group Hispanic or Latino? Please circle **one** answer for each group member.

	a) Current age	b) U.S. ZIP code or name of country other than U.S	c) Number of visit to Big Cypress National Preserve (including this visit)		d) Hispanic or Latino?	
			past 12 months	lifetime	Yes	No
			<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Yourself	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Yes	No
Member #2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Yes	No
Member #3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Yes	No
Member #4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Yes	No
Member #5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Yes	No
Member #6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Yes	No
Member #7	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Yes	No

Please go on to the next page →

21. What is your race? What is the race of each member of your personal group?
Please check (√) **one or more** for you and each group member.

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	White
Yourself	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #2	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #3	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #5	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #6	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #7	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

22. a) When visiting an area such as Big Cypress, what **one** language do you and most members of your group prefer to use for the following?

Speaking

Reading

- b) What services in the preserve would you like to have provided in languages other than English?

- c) Which language? _____

23. It is the National Park Service's responsibility to protect Big Cypress National Preserve natural, scenic, and cultural resources, while at the same time providing for public enjoyment. How important is protection of the following attributes/resources in the preserve to you? Please circle **only one** response for each attribute/resource.

Attribute/resource	Not important	Somewhat important	Moderately important	Very important	Extremely important
Scenic views	1	2	3	4	5
Natural setting	1	2	3	4	5
Native wildlife	1	2	3	4	5
Native plants	1	2	3	4	5
Natural quiet/sounds of nature	1	2	3	4	5
Solitude	1	2	3	4	5
Clean air	1	2	3	4	5
Clean water	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Educational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5

24. For you and your group, please report all expenditures for the items listed below for this visit to the Big Cypress National Preserve and the surrounding **area** (areas south of Lake Okeechobee). **Please write "0" if no money was spent in a particular category.**

- a) Please list your group's total expenditures inside Big Cypress National Preserve.
- b) Please list your group's total expenditures in the surrounding area (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) on the East coast (Atlantic coast).
- c) Please list your group's total expenditures in the surrounding area (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) on the West coast (Gulf coast).

NOTE: Surrounding area residents should only include expenditures that were **just for this trip** to this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

	EXPENDITURES		
	a) Inside preserve	b) East coast	c) West coast
Hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc.	n/a	\$ _____	\$ _____
Camping fees and charges	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Commercial guided tours to the backcountry	n/a	\$ _____	\$ _____
Commercial airboat tour	n/a	\$ _____	\$ _____
Restaurants and bars	n/a	\$ _____	\$ _____
Groceries and takeout food	n/a	\$ _____	\$ _____
Gas and oil (auto, RV, boat, etc.)	n/a	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other transportation expenses (rental cars, taxis, auto repairs, but NOT airfare)	n/a	\$ _____	\$ _____
Admission, recreation, entertainment fees	n/a	\$ _____	\$ _____
All other purchases (souvenirs, film, books, sporting goods, clothing, etc.)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Donations	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

- d) How many people do the above expenses cover?
 _____ Adults (18 years or over) _____ Children (under 18 years)

Please write "0" if the expenditures did not include any children.

Please go on to the next page →

25. On a future visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, what interpretive programs/ information services would you and your group like to have available at the preserve? Please check (✓) **all** that apply.

- Not interested in interpretive programs → **Go on to Question 26**
- Outdoor exhibits/trailside information panels
- Indoor exhibits Nature walk
- Campfire programs Self-guided audio tour
- Ranger-led programs (other than campfire programs or nature walk)
- Roving rangers available to answer questions
- Other (Please specify: _____)

26. If you were a manager planning for the future of Big Cypress National Preserve, what would you propose?

27. a) On **this** or **past** visits, did you and your group desire to explore the backcountry of Big Cypress National Preserve?

- Yes No → **Go on to Question 28**

b) If YES, were you be able to access the backcountry?

- Yes No

c) If NO, what prevented you from accessing the backcountry?



d) If YES, how did you and your group access the backcountry? Please check (✓) **all** that apply.


- Airboat Swamp buggy ATV
- Kayak Canoe Hiking
- Mountain bike Street legal 4x4s
- Other (Please specify: _____)

28. If you or members of your personal group **own** any of the vehicles/equipment mentioned in Question 27d, please indicate the following for each. Use one line per vehicle or piece of equipment. If you **own** more than one of the same type, please number them, such as kayak # 1, kayak # 2, etc.

- a) Please write in column (a) the type of vehicle/equipment that you and/or members of your group **own**.
- b) Do you primarily use the vehicle/equipment (more than 50% of the time) to access Big Cypress National Preserve backcountry?
- c) In what year did you purchase the vehicle/equipment?
- d) Did you purchase the vehicle/equipment in South Florida (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)?
- e) How much did the vehicle/equipment cost?
- f) What was the condition of the vehicle/equipment when you purchased it?

a) Vehicle/equipment	b) Use primarily in Big Cypress?		c) Year of purchase	d) Purchased in South Florida?		e) Cost (U.S.\$)	f) Condition		
	Yes	No		Yes	No		1= New	2= Used from a dealer	3= Used from private owner
_____	Yes	No	_____	Yes	No	_____	1	2	3
_____	Yes	No	_____	Yes	No	_____	1	2	3
_____	Yes	No	_____	Yes	No	_____	1	2	3
_____	Yes	No	_____	Yes	No	_____	1	2	3
_____	Yes	No	_____	Yes	No	_____	1	2	3
_____	Yes	No	_____	Yes	No	_____	1	2	3
_____	Yes	No	_____	Yes	No	_____	1	2	3
_____	Yes	No	_____	Yes	No	_____	1	2	3

29. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?

Thank you for your help! Please seal the questionnaire with the stickers provided and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.  Printed on recycled paper

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

**Visitor Services Project
Park Studies Unit
College of Natural Resources
University of Idaho
P.O. Box 441139
Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139**