Big Cypress National Preserve Visitor Study

The Visitor Services Project
DIRECTIONS

One adult in your group should complete the questionnaire. It should only take a few minutes. When you have completed the questionnaire, please seal it with the sticker provided and drop it in any U.S. mailbox. We appreciate your help.

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. Data collected through visitor surveys may be disclosed to the Department of Justice when relevant to litigation or anticipated litigation, or to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting a violation of law. 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 12 minutes per response. Direct comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this form to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention Desk Officer for the Interior Department, Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503; and to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, Audits and Accountability Team, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

PLEASE GO ON TO NEXT PAGE
VISITING BIG CYPRUS NATIONAL PRESERVE

1. Prior to this visit, how did you and your group get information about Big Cypress National Preserve? Please check (✓) all that apply.

   ( ) RECEIVED NO INFORMATION PRIOR TO VISIT ➔ GO ON TO QUESTION 2

   ( ) STATE TOURIST INFORMATION CENTER

   ( ) HIGHWAY INFORMATION/SIGNS

   ( ) CONVENTION/VISITOR BUREAU OR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

   ( ) FRIENDS OR RELATIVES

   ( ) HOTEL/MOTEL

   ( ) OTHER NATIONAL PARK (Please specify: ______________________)

   ( ) OTHER TOURIST ATTRACTION

   ( ) TRAVEL GUIDE/TOUR BOOK

   ( ) WORLD WIDE WEB SITE

   ( ) CONTACTED THE PARK BY PHONE OR MAIL

   ( ) NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE (Please specify: ______________________)

   ( ) SOUTH FLORIDA PARKS NEWSPAPER

   ( ) TV/RADIO

   ( ) PREVIOUS VISIT(S)

   ( ) OTHER (Please specify: ________________________________)

2. How was Big Cypress National Preserve part of your travel plans? Please check (✓) only one.

   ( ) BIG CYPRUS NATIONAL PRESERVE WAS THE PRIMARY DESTINATION

   ( ) BIG CYPRUS NATIONAL PRESERVE WAS ONE OF SEVERAL DESTINATIONS

   ( ) BIG CYPRUS NP WAS NOT A PLANNED DESTINATION
3. On this trip, where did you and your group spend the night prior to arriving at Big Cypress National Preserve? Please check (✓) only one.

   _____ AT MY PLACE OF RESIDENCE
   _____ A FLORIDA STATE PARK
   _____ EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
   _____ EVERGLADES CITY HOTEL/MOTEL
   _____ MIAMI AREA HOTEL/MOTEL
   _____ NAPLES AREA HOTEL/MOTEL
   _____ MARCO ISLAND HOTEL/MOTEL
   _____ OTHER (Please specify: ____________________________________________)

4. On this trip, what other places did you visit in addition to Big Cypress National Preserve? Please check (✓) all that apply.

   _____ EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
   _____ FAKAHATCHEE STRAND STATE PRESERVE
   _____ CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY
   _____ COLLIER-SEMINOLE STATE PARK
   _____ MICCOSUKEE VILLAGE AND CULTURAL CENTER
   _____ FLORIDA KEYS
   _____ EVERGLADES CITY
   _____ NAPLES
   _____ MIAMI
   _____ FORT LAUDERDALE
   _____ FORT MEYERS
   _____ TAMPA/ST. PETERSBURG
   _____ MARCO ISLAND
   _____ OTHER (Please specify: ____________________________________________)

PLEASE GO ON TO NEXT PAGE
5. The map below shows many of the sites that make up Big Cypress National Preserve. Please mark the order in which you and your group visited these sites during this visit. Simply write 1 (for first site visited), 2 (for second site visited), and so forth in the boxes beside the sites on the map. If you did not visit a site, please leave the box blank.
6. a) On this trip, did your and your group use an off-road vehicle (airboat, swamp buggy, ATV, 4X4, etc.)? Please check (√) only one.

    _____ YES    _____ NO ➔ GO ON TO QUESTION 7

b) If YES, what type(s) of off-road vehicles did you and your group use? Please check (√) all that apply.

    _____ AIR BOAT (on a commercial tour)
    _____ AIR BOAT (privately owned)
    _____ SWAMP BUGGY
    _____ ATV (all-terrain vehicle)
    _____ 4X4 (four-wheel drive truck or jeep)
    _____ OTHER (Please describe: ________________________________)

7. a) On the list below, please check (√) all of the activities that you and your group participated in during this trip to Big Cypress National Preserve.

    _____ DRIVE ON HIGHWAY 41
    _____ SIGHTSEE
    _____ VISIT THE VISITOR CENTER
    _____ CAMP
    _____ VIEW BIRDS
    _____ VIEW WILDLIFE (other than birds)
    _____ PICNIC
    _____ CANOE/BOAT
    _____ HIKE
    _____ FISH
    _____ HUNT
    _____ OTHER (Please describe: ________________________________)

PLEASE GO ON TO NEXT PAGE ➔
8. To help managers plan for the future of Big Cypress National Preserve, please rate the importance (from 1 to 5) of the following park features and activities to you and your group during this visit. Circle your answers below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature/Activity</th>
<th>Importance?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not important</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCENIC VIEWS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPERIENCING WILDERNESS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPERIENCING SOLITUDE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMPING</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIRDWATCHING</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIEWING WILDLIFE (other than birds)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUNTING</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISHING</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIR BOATING</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OFF-ROAD VEHICLE USE (other than air boating)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. a) On this trip, did you and your group arrive in Florida on an airplane? Please check (✓) only one.

   □ YES  □ NO ➔ GO ON TO QUESTION 10

b) If YES, at which Florida airport did you and your group arrive? Please write in the name of the airport.

   __________________________________________________________

10. On this trip, what forms of transportation did you and your group use to arrive at Big Cypress National Preserve? Please check (✓) all that apply.

   □ PRIVATE VEHICLE
   □ RENTAL CAR
   □ TOUR BUS/ VAN
   □ AIR BOAT
   □ OTHER (Please specify: __________________________________________)
11. On this trip, from which direction did you and your group first enter Big Cypress National Preserve? Please check (√) only one.

_____ FROM NAPLES (East on Highway 41)
_____ FROM MIAMI (West on Highway 41)
_____ FROM INTERSTATE 75 (South on Highway 29)
_____ FROM EVERGLADES CITY (North on Highway 29)
_____ TRAVELED ON INTERSTATE 75 ONLY (East or West)
_____ OTHER (Please describe: ________________________________)

12. On this trip, how much time did you and your group spend at Big Cypress National Preserve?

If less than 24 hours: _____ NUMBER OF HOURS
If 24 hours or more: _____ NUMBER OF DAYS

13. On this visit, how many people were in your group, including yourself?

_____ NUMBER OF PEOPLE

14. a) On this visit, were you with a guided tour?

_____ YES _____ NO

b) On this visit, were you with an educational group?

_____ YES _____ NO

15. On this visit, what kind of group were you with? Please check (√) only one.

_____ ALONE
_____ FAMILY
_____ FRIENDS
_____ FAMILY AND FRIENDS
_____ OTHER (Please describe: ________________________________)

PLEASE GO ON TO NEXT PAGE
16. For you and each member of your group on this visit, please indicate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT AGE</th>
<th>U.S. ZIP CODE OR NAME OF FOREIGN COUNTRY</th>
<th>NUMBER OF VISITS TO BIG CYPRESS NP (INCLUDING THIS VISIT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YOURSELF</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBER #2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBER #3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBER #4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBER #5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBER #6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBER #7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. If this was your **first** visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, would you consider visiting Big Cypress National Preserve again?

- [ ] _____ **NOT A FIRST TIME VISITOR**  ⇒ **GO ON TO QUESTION 18**
- [ ] _____ **YES, LIKELY**
- [ ] _____ **NO, UNLIKELY**
- [ ] _____ **NOT SURE**

18. a) Is English the primary language used by you and your group?

- [ ] _____ **YES**  ⇒ **GO ON TO QUESTION 19**  
  
  - [ ] _____ **NO**

b) If NO, please list your primary language: ________________________________

19. As a result of your visit, do you feel you have a better understanding of why Big Cypress National Preserve is nationally significant?

- [ ] _____ **YES**
- [ ] _____ **NO**
- [ ] _____ **NOT SURE**
20. a) Please check (√) the visitor facilities and services which you or your group **used** at Big Cypress National Preserve during this visit.

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Used facility/service in Big Cypress NP?</th>
<th>b) If used, how important?</th>
<th>c) If used, what quality?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check (✓)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESTROOMS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMPGROUNDS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOAT LAUNCHES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISITOR CENTER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAILS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROADS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIRBY STORTER BOARDWALK</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICNIC AREAS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISITOR CENTER MOVIE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VISITOR CENTER EXHIBITS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMPFIRE PROGRAM</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RANGER TALK</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(other than campfire program)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WET WALK</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RANGER-LED WALKING TOUR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(other than wet walk)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CANOE TOUR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BICYCLE TOUR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please go on to next page
21. a) In your opinion, were the current number of signs in Big Cypress National Preserve adequate to direct you *within* the preserve?

   _____ YES, ADEQUATE ➔ **GO ON TO QUESTION 22**

   _____ NO, NOT ADEQUATE

   b) If NO, why were the signs not adequate?

   __________________________________________________________

22. a) During this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, was there anything specific which you or your group expected to see or do, but were not able to?

   _____ YES  _____ NO ➔ **GO ON TO QUESTION 23**

   b) If YES, what was it you expected to see or do?

   __________________________________________________________

   c) What kept you from seeing what you expected to see or do?

   __________________________________________________________

23. a) Prior to your visit, were you aware that Big Cypress is a national preserve, and **not** a national park?

   _____ YES  _____ NO  _____ NOT SURE

   b) Prior to your visit, were you aware that hunting, oil exploration, and off road vehicle use are accepted activities in Big Cypress National Preserve?

   _____ YES  _____ NO  _____ NOT SURE

   c) Prior to your visit, were you aware that national preserves, including Big Cypress National Preserve, are managed differently than national parks?

   _____ YES  _____ NO  _____ NOT SURE
24. a) Are you and your group interested in learning about Big Cypress National Preserve’s natural and cultural resources?

[ ] YES  [ ] NO  [ ] NOT SURE

GO ON TO QUESTION 25

b) If YES, on a future visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, what subjects would you be most interested in learning about? Please check (✓) all that apply.

[ ] NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE
[ ] ECOSYSTEMS (plants, animals, etc.)
[ ] RESEARCH STUDIES IN THE PRESERVE
[ ] WATERSHED RESTORATION/WATER QUALITY
[ ] FIRE MANAGEMENT/PREScribed BURNING
[ ] WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT
[ ] OTHER (Please specify: ____________________________)

c) On a future visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, how would you and your group prefer to learn about the preserve’s natural and cultural resources? Please check (✓) all that apply.

[ ] PRINTED MATERIALS (books, brochures, maps, etc.)
[ ] AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMS (videos, movies, slide shows, etc.)
[ ] RANGER-GUIDED WALKS/TOURS
[ ] RANGER-LED EVENING PROGRAMS AT CAMPGROUND
[ ] ROVING RANGERS AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS
[ ] VISITOR CENTER PERSONNEL
[ ] VISITOR CENTER EXHIBITS
[ ] ROADS/TRAILSIDE EXHIBITS
[ ] OTHER (Please specify: ____________________________)

PLEASE GO ON TO NEXT PAGE
25. To help managers plan for the future Big Cypress National Preserve, please rate the importance (from 1 to 5) of the following issues to you and your group. Circle your answers below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Importance?</th>
<th>Not important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Moderately important</th>
<th>Extremely important</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WATER QUALITY</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WILDLIFE HABITAT</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDANGERED SPECIES</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NON-NATIVE PLANTS</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26. a) On the scale below, please indicate from 1 to 5 how safe you and your group felt on this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve? Please circle only one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How safe did you feel?</th>
<th>Extremely safe</th>
<th>Extremely unsafe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

b) If you felt unsafe (if you circled 4 or 5), please explain why:

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

27. a) What did you like most about your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

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

____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
28. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the visitor services provided to you and your group at Big Cypress National Preserve during this visit? Please circle only one.

VERY GOOD    GOOD    AVERAGE    POOR    VERY POOR

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

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

30. Is there anything else you and your group would like to tell us about your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve? Please be specific.

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

Thank you for your help! Please seal the questionnaire with the sticker provided and drop it in any U.S. mailbox.

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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