Big Cypress National Preserve
Visitor Study
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,

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.
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? (✓)
   
   _____ 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  \( \Rightarrow \) 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>c) Inside preserve (✓)</th>
<th>d) Outside preserve (✓)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lodge/motel/hotel/B&amp;B, etc.</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tent camping in campground</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping in RV/trailer park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry camping</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private camp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal seasonal residence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence of friends or relatives</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify below:</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) East</td>
<td></td>
<td>West</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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  \( \Rightarrow \) 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.

a) This visit? (√)

b) Frequency of activities during past 12 months?
(Including this visit) Check (√) one.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Daily</th>
<th>Several times a week</th>
<th>Several times a month</th>
<th>Several times a year</th>
<th>Only once</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driving through to another destination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taking a scenic drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hiking/walking</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Birdwatching</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife viewing (other than birds)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airboating</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Off road vehicle driving</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoeing/kayaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Picnicking</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Photography/painting/drawing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camping</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Please specify:________________</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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
Loop Road
Access point at Mile 63 on I-75
Access point at Mile 71 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: _________________________________)
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Used service?</th>
<th>b) If used, how important?</th>
<th>c) If used, what quality?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1=Not important</td>
<td>1=Very poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2=Somewhat important</td>
<td>2=Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3=Moderately important</td>
<td>3=Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4=Very important</td>
<td>4=Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5=Extremely important</td>
<td>5=Very good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>a) Current age</th>
<th>b) U.S. ZIP code or name of country other than U.S.</th>
<th>c) Number of visits to Big Cypress National Preserve (including this visit)</th>
<th>d) Hispanic or Latino?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yourself</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member #2</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Member #3</td>
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<td>Member #4</td>
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<td>Member #5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member #6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member #7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>American Indian or Alaska Native</th>
<th>Black or African American</th>
<th>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</th>
<th>White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yourself</td>
<td>□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □</td>
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<td>Member #2</td>
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<td>Member #3</td>
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<td>Member #4</td>
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<td>Member #5</td>
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<td>Member #6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member #7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute/resource</th>
<th>Not important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Moderately important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Extremely important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenic views</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural setting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native wildlife</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native plants</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural quiet/sounds of nature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solitude</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean air</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clean water</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational opportunities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational opportunities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

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

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) Vehicle/equipment</th>
<th>b) Use primarily in Big Cypress?</th>
<th>c) Year of purchase</th>
<th>d) Purchased in South Florida?</th>
<th>e) Cost (U.S.$)</th>
<th>f) Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Yes No</td>
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<td>Yes No</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
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<td>Yes No</td>
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<td>Yes No</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
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<td>Yes No</td>
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<td>Yes No</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
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<td>Yes No</td>
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<td>Yes No</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes No</td>
<td>1 2 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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University of Idaho
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