



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

Visitor Services Project

# Big Cypress National Preserve

## ORV Permit Holder/Camp owner

### Visitor Study



OMB Approval #1024-0224 (NPS #07-018)  
Expiration Date: 01/31/2008



**United States Department of the Interior**

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April, 2007

Dear Sir/Madam:

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

This questionnaire will be given to only a selected number of participants, so your opinion is very important! It should only take about 20 minutes to complete.

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 Lena Le, VSP Assistant Director, Park Studies Unit, College of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 441139, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139, phone: 208-885-2585, email: [lenale@uidaho.edu](mailto:lenale@uidaho.edu).

We appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Karen Gustin  
Superintendent

### DIRECTIONS

This questionnaire is about your **most recent visit** to Big Cypress National Preserve. It should take about 20 minutes. When you have completed the questionnaire, please seal it with the stickers 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. 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 Lena Le, 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 Most Recent Visit To Big Cypress National Preserve

**NOTE:** In this questionnaire, your **personal group** is defined as anyone that you were visiting the park with, such as spouse, family, friends, etc. This does not include the larger group that you might be traveling with, such as school, church, scouts, or tour group.

1. a) When was your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?  
 In \_\_\_\_\_ (month/year)
- b) Before receiving this questionnaire, were you aware that **national preserves** are managed differently than **national parks**? Please check (√) **one**.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No

2. a) While planning for your most recent visit to the preserve, did you obtain additional information besides what you knew from previous visits?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Yes                      \_\_\_\_\_ No → **Go on to part c of this question**  
 ↓
- b) If YES, what sources of information about Big Cypress National Preserve did you and your group use? Please check (√) **all** that apply in column (b).
- c) 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 column (c).

b) Prior to most recent visit? (√)	c) Prior to future 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 Preserve website: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/bicy">www.nps.gov/bicy</a>	_____
_____ Other websites	_____
_____ School class/program	_____
_____ Other National Park Service areas	_____
_____ South Florida Parks newspaper	_____
_____ Everglades City Chamber of Commerce	_____
_____ Local businesses	_____
_____ Other (Please specify below:)	_____
b) _____	c) _____

d) From the sources you used prior to the most recent visit, did you and your group receive the type of information about the preserve that you needed?

No                       Yes → **Go on to Question 3**



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

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3. On your **most recent visit** to Big Cypress National Preserve, what other places in South Florida (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) did you and your group visit? Please check (✓) **all** that apply.

None (visited Big Cypress only) → **Go on to Question 4**

Everglades National Park

Florida Keys

Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve

Naples

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Miami

Biscayne National Park

Fort Myers

Everglades City

Marco Island

Miccosukee Village and Cultural Center

Fort Lauderdale

Panther National Wildlife Refuge

Collier Seminole State Park

Other (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

4. On your most recent 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**

5. a) On your most recent visit, 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 South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee).

Number of nights inside the preserve (see map on page 7)

Number of nights on East Coast (Atlantic Coast) communities (outside the preserve)

Number of nights on West Coast (Gulf Coast) communities (outside the preserve)

**Please go on to the next page →**

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of entries

7. a) On your most recent 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 your most recent visit, did your group have any members that arrived in Florida by an airplane?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes



\_\_\_\_\_ No → **Go on to Question 8**

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

\_\_\_\_\_

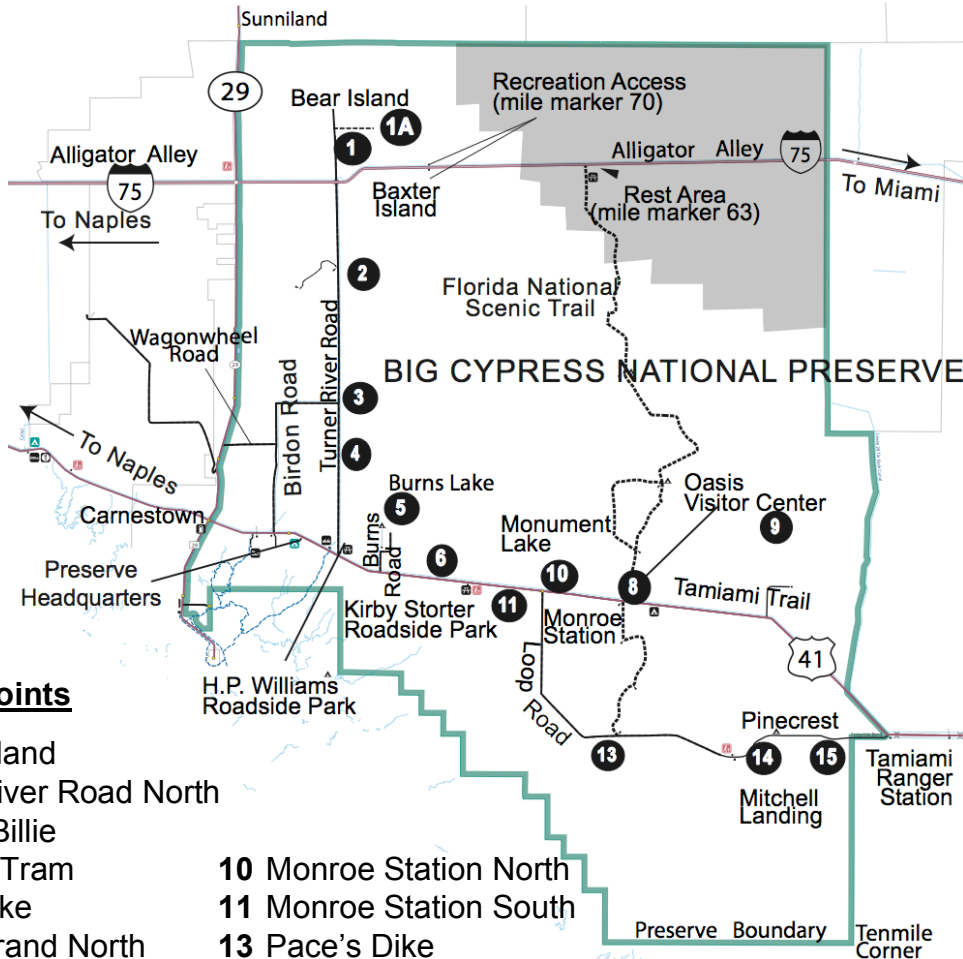
8. On your most recent trip, how did Big Cypress National Preserve fit into your travel plans? Please check (√) **one**.

\_\_\_\_\_ Big Cypress National Preserve was the primary destination

\_\_\_\_\_ Big Cypress National Preserve was one of several destinations

\_\_\_\_\_ Big Cypress National Preserve was not a planned destination

9. a) During your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, which of the following sites did you and your group visit? Please check (✓) **all** that apply, using the attached map to help you locate the sites.



**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

Please go on to the next page →

b) Which wildlife management unit did you and your group **primarily** use on your most recent visit? Please check (√) **only one**.

- Bear Island Unit
- Stairsteps (Zone 2&3)
- Corn Dance Unit
- Other unit (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Turner River Unit
- Stairsteps (Zone 4)

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

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

a) **Your most recent visit?**

b) **Frequency of activities during past 12 months? (√)**  
(Including the most recent visit)

Check (√)	Daily	Several times a week	Several times a month	Several times a year	Only once
<input type="checkbox"/> Driving through to another destination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Taking a scenic drive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiking/walking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Birdwatching	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife viewing (other than birds)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Airboating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Off road vehicle driving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Canoeing/kayaking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Fishing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Photography/painting/drawing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Hunting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Camping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



11. 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 7). 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 activities would you like to have available there? Please be specific.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

12. a) Please check (√) **all of** the visitor facilities that you and your group **used** during your most recent 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) <b>Used facility?</b>	b) <b>If used, how important?</b>	c) <b>If used, what quality?</b>	d) <b>If used, how crowded?</b>
Check (√)	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

_____ Trails	_____	_____	_____
_____ Scenic drive	_____	_____	_____
_____ Canoe/boat launches	_____	_____	_____
_____ Campgrounds	_____	_____	_____
_____ Wildlife viewing areas	_____	_____	_____
_____ Restrooms	_____	_____	_____
_____ Picnic areas	_____	_____	_____
_____ Kirby Storer Boardwalk	_____	_____	_____
_____ Access for people with disabilities	_____	_____	_____

**Please go on to the next page →**

13. a) Please check (√) **all** of the information services that you and your group used during your most recent 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 information 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	1=Very poor
	2=Somewhat important	2=Poor
	3=Moderately important	3=Average
	4=Very important	4=Good
	5=Extremely important	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	_____	_____

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

Very poor          Poor          Average          Good          Very good

15. 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?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

16. On your most recent 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 (church, business, etc.)  Yes  No

17. On your most recent visit, what kind of personal group (not guided tour/ educational/organized group) were you with? Please check (√) **one**.

- Alone  Family
- Friends  Family and friends
- Other (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

18. For your most recent visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself?

Number of people

19. For you and your personal group on the most recent visit, please indicate:

- 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 (including your most recent visit)
- d) Number of visits to Big Cypress National Preserve in lifetime (including your most recent visit)
- e) Are you or members of your group on your most recent visit 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&d) Number of visits to Big Cypress National Preserve		e) Hispanic or Latino?	
			(including most recent visit) past 12 months	lifetime	Yes	No
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 →

20. 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 other Pacific Islander	White
Yourself	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #2	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #3	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #5	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #6	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Member #7	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

21. a) When visiting an area such as Big Cypress National Preserve, 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 and your group like to have provided in languages other than English?

\_\_\_\_\_

- c) Which language? \_\_\_\_\_

22. It is the National Park Service's responsibility to protect Big Cypress National Preserve's 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 **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

23. For you and your group, please report all expenditures for the items listed below for your most recent visit to 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 made **just for the most recent trip** to Big Cypress National Preserve.

	<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
	<b>a) Inside preserve</b>	<b>b) East Coast</b>	<b>c) West Coast</b>
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.**

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

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**Please go on to the next page →**

25. On a future visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, please check (✓) all commercial service such as airboat tours, canoe, or kayak rental that you and your group would like to use if they were available.

- Not interested in commercial services → **Go on to Question 26**
- Airboat tours
- Kayak rental
- Canoe rental
- Other (Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

26. 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 27**
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_)

27. a) On **your most recent** visit, 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 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 information for each vehicle. 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) Type of vehicle/equipment	b) Use primarily in Big Cypress?		c) Year of purchase	d) Purchase 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 visits to Big Cypress National Preserve?

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





**OFFICIAL BUSINESS**

**Visitor Services Project  
Park Studies Unit  
College of Natural Resources  
University of Idaho  
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Moscow, Idaho 83844-1139**