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September 28, 2009 2:07 PM

Planning Committee
Big Cypress National Preserve
33100 Tamiami Trail East
Ochopee, FL 34141

Subject: Big Cypress National Preserve--Addition Lands Draft GMP

Dear Planning Committee,

I am writing you today in support of Alternative F in the Draft General Management Plan (GMP) for the Addition Lands of Big Cypress National Preserve. These lands should preserve the maximum amount of wilderness area to protect endangered and threatened species, such as the Florida panther and its habitat.

The wilderness designation will ensure that future generations will be able to experience a primitive and ecologically restored habitat in the Big Cypress Basin of the greater Everglades ecosystem. Other areas of Big Cypress are currently open to Off-Road Vehicles (ORV), so this plan provides wonderful opportunities for a unique visitor experience free from motorized uses.

In addition, ORV use in this ecologically sensitive area should continue to be prohibited due to its negative effects on wildlife and destructive impacts on these lands. The National Park Service should take full advantage of this opportunity to designate the Addition Lands a wilderness area.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

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