



Preliminary Alternative A No Action Alternative

Addition Lands General Management Plan Big Cypress National Preserve

United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service
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ALTERNATIVE A

CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT (NO-ACTION)

This alternative would continue the current management of the Addition Lands. The no-action alternative is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and serves as a basis of comparison for the action alternative. Recreational activities within the Addition Lands include fishing, hiking, and primitive camping. The Addition Lands are currently closed to recreational off-road vehicle (ORV) use and hunting.

Under this alternative access to and development in the Addition would remain limited and include the following existing facilities:

- A trailhead for the Florida National Scenic Trail on the south side of Interstate 75 (Alligator Alley) at the Florida Department of Transportation rest area at mile marker 63 would continue to be open for hikers. The trail extends north and south through a variety of habitats and connects to the trail within the original preserve.
- At Deep Lake a fire station would continue to be operated at a former homesite.
- Near Copeland, an acquired property is currently being used as a fire operations center. This facility provides office and work space for the preserve's fire management program. Under this alternative this facility would remain.
- The southeast corner of the intersection of State Highway 29 and U.S. Highway 41 is developed and encumbered with leases to the Collier County Sheriff's Office and Everglades City Chamber of Commerce. The activities at this location would continue until expiration of the leases in 2014.
- There are no visitor facilities or on-site orientation or interpretation materials provided within the Addition Lands. Orientation and interpretation would continue to be accomplished primarily through the Oasis Visitor Center on U.S. Highway 41 in the original preserve.

ALTERNATIVE B

CONCEPT

This alternative embraces Big Cypress' longstanding backcountry recreation values of self-reliance, isolation, exploration, discovery, and respect for nature. The aim of the alternative is to enable participation in a wide variety

of challenging outdoor recreational experiences while fostering a partnership among users, concessionaires, and NPS managers that ensures long-term care and sustainable use of backcountry resources.

Hunting, fishing, camping, ORV use, and other outdoor recreational activities could be permitted in designated areas of the preserve. Highly developed backcountry skills would be necessary to access many of the more remote areas where these activities would be permitted. However, not all visitors to the backcountry would be expert users.

Opportunities for less-skilled visitors would be provided through NPS- and concessionaire-led interpretive programs and backcountry excursions. The availability of short trails, visitor contact and information stations, and walk-in areas would provide opportunities for novice users to learn about preserve resources and develop the advanced skills before undertaking activities involving more backcountry knowledge and skills.

All backcountry recreational activities would be closely monitored and regulated to protect preserve resources and promote visitor safety. Separation of conflicting backcountry uses by time or location, establishment of permit and reservation systems, establishment of use limits, certification of advanced training, equipment inspection, and temporary or permanent closures of sensitive areas for specific activities should be expected.

ZONE ALLOCATIONS AND RELATED ACTIONS Developed Zone

The developed zone would include two recreational access points along I-75 in the northeast Addition Lands that would serve primarily as staging areas for independent and guided backcountry trips. Some facilities, such as visitor contact and information stations, restrooms, and short hiking trails, would also be provided to serve travelers along I-75.

The first recreational access point would be located near mile marker 51 on the north side of I-75 at the L-28 Interceptor Canal. This access point would be of interest to a variety of users such as hikers, ORV users, and boaters and would include parking, restrooms, and orientation information.

Farther west, the second access point would be co-located with the Florida Department of Transportation rest area at mile marker 63. This access point would have facilities on both the north and south sides of the highway. The south side facility would include a parking area, visitor contact station, and trailhead to allow walk-in and ORV access. The north side facility would include a parking area that would allow ORV access to an existing road