

NEXT STEPS

The next step is to send us your comments on these preliminary alternatives and management zones. You may like some but not all of the elements of one alternative, or you may like a concept but disagree with the way we have translated that concept into actual visitor experiences or resource protection in the preserve. We need to know the reasons for your likes and dislikes. Maybe you have an entirely different vision that would solve issues better than any of the alternatives presented. This is the kind of feedback that will help us formulate the best possible future for the preserve. We encourage all ideas.

Each comment is considered on its own merits and unrelated to the number of similar comments received. Public comment analysis is not a voting process. Please take time to fill out the enclosed comment form or submit commits and return it within 60 days from receipt of this newsletter. Comments can also be provided through the internet by going to [www.parkplanning.nps.gov](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov) and selecting Big Cypress National Preserve. We also encourage you to attend one of the open houses that has been scheduled throughout the region (see dates, times, and locations listed on page 1 of this newsletter). We will consider your comments when we develop the NPS preferred alternative and the Draft GMP/EIS, which will include an analysis of the environmental consequences of implementing each of the alternatives.

Implementation of any approved alternative depends on funding. A general management plan provides analysis and justification for future funding requests but in no way guarantees that money will be forthcoming. The plan will establish a vision that will guide year-to-year management of the Addition. Full implementation of the approved plan could take many years.

Also, please be aware that due to the requirements of public disclosure (318 Department Manual 4 App.2.11), the National Park Service must make the names and addresses of commenters public if requested. Individual respondents, however, may request that this information not be released. The National Park Service will then determine whether the information may be withheld under the Freedom of Information Act and will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection if requested.



Project Schedule

Big Cypress National Preserve’s GMP process is expected to take several years to complete. A summary of the process and anticipated time frame is presented below. You will have opportunities to share ideas and comments throughout the process.

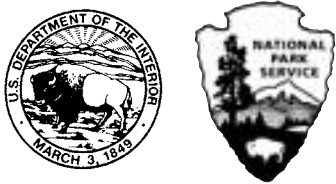
Step	Time frame	Planning Activity	How You Can Be Involved
1	2000 - 2001	<b>Initiate Project</b> The planning team assembles and begins to identify the project’s scope, customize the planning process, and establish contacts with participants.	
2	2001 - 2002	<b>Define Planning Context and Foundation</b> The team affirms the monument’s purpose, and significance. Team members collect and analyze relevant data and public comments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read newsletter</li><li>• Send us your ideas and comments</li><li>• Participate in public meetings</li></ul>
3	2002 – Spring 2006	<b>Develop and Evaluate Alternatives</b> Based on staff and public input, the team explores what the future of the national monument should look like and proposes a range of reasonable alternatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read newsletter</li><li>• Send us your ideas and comments</li><li>• Participate in public meetings</li></ul>
4	Spring 2006– Spring 2007	<b>Prepare a Draft Document</b> A draft general management plan and environmental impact statement is published. The draft document describes the alternatives and impacts of implementing each. Based on the impacts and public input, a preferred alternative is identified in the document.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read draft plan</li><li>• Send us your ideas and comments</li><li>• Participate in public meetings</li></ul>
5	Summer 2007– Fall 2008	<b>Prepare and Publish Final Document</b> Based on review by the National Park Service and the public, the team revises the general management plan and distributes a final plan. The plan is approved in a published Record of Decision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read the final plan, including NPS responses to substantive public comments and official letters.</li></ul>
6	2008 and beyond	<b>Implement the Approved Plan</b> After the Record of Decision is issued, and as funding allows, the general management plan is implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with the preserve to implement plan</li></ul>



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**Addition Lands General Management Plan**  
**Big Cypress National Preserve**  
**Florida**  
Newsletter 3 • October 2005

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



# Big Cypress National Preserve



*Inside the Newsletter...*

<i>Superintendent's Letter</i>	
<i>Public Meetings Schedule .....</i>	<i>page 1</i>
<i>Background</i>	
<i>Information Gathering and Analysis</i>	
<i>Major Issues.....</i>	<i>page 2</i>
<i>Management Zones Summary</i>	
<i>Alternatives .....</i>	<i>page 3</i>
<i>Alternative A .....</i>	<i>page 4</i>
<i>Alternative B .....</i>	<i>page 4-5</i>
<i>Alternative C .....</i>	<i>page 5-6</i>
<i>Alternative D .....</i>	<i>page 7-8</i>
<i>Alternative E .....</i>	<i>pages 8-9</i>
<i>Alternative F.....</i>	<i>page 10</i>
<i>Next Steps</i>	
<i>Project Schedule .....</i>	<i>page 11</i>

# Addition Lands GMP Newsletter