



Revised Preliminary Alternatives



Dear Friends:

Last spring the National Park Service expanded the scope of the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition General Management Plan (GMP) to include a wilderness study and an off-road vehicle management plan. During the ensuing comment period and public meetings, over 100 of you expressed your views and suggestions on this expansion of scope. Based on your comments, we have revised the preliminary alternatives incorporating differing degrees of land proposed as wilderness and for off-road vehicle use. These alternatives also employ the same management zones described in preliminary alternatives published last October; namely, Developed, Frontcountry, Backcountry Recreation, and Primitive Backcountry.

This newsletter describes these five revised action alternatives, as well as the no-action alternative. We invite you to review the revised alternatives and offer us your comments either by filling out and returning the form included, or electronically through the Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. You may also submit your comments at any of three public meetings announced in the newsletter.

Your participation is critical to ensure that we consider a wide range of views in developing the alternatives. We greatly appreciate the valuable information you have supplied thus far, and we ask you to continue to provide your input as the GMP process moves forward. Only with your help can we successfully develop a GMP that will benefit visitors and preserve, conserve, and protect the Addition's resources.

Sincerely,

Karen Gustin
Superintendent



You're Invited...

We welcome your comments and hope to see you at one of the open houses/public meetings listed below:

Tuesday

May 1, 2007; • 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. EDT
Edison College
7007 Lely Cultural Pkwy.
Naples, FL. 34113-8977

Wednesday

May 2, 2007; • 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. EDT
Everglades City School
415 School Drive
Everglades City, FL. 34139

Thursday

May 3, 2007; • 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. EDT
Weston Branch Library
4205 Bonaventure Blvd
Weston, FL. 33332

BACKGROUND

In October 2005 the National Park Service (NPS) published a newsletter that outlined six preliminary alternatives to manage the Addition over the next 15-20 years. Three public meetings were held in December 2005 to get feedback and public input on those alternatives.

In the spring of 2006 the NPS notified the public that the scope of the GMP had been expanded to include a wilderness study and an off-road vehicle (ORV) management plan. Expanding the scope to include these additional elements will result in time and cost savings, since the three processes have similar environmental compliance and public involvement needs. The comprehensive nature of this expanded planning process intends to fully consider all legislated uses and designations. Accordingly, the NPS published a Federal Register notice on April 25, 2006, and mailed a newsletter to the public in May 2006. That same month, three public meetings were held to gather feedback on wilderness and ORV management issues.

Since that time, NPS staff has completed an initial review of wilderness eligibility and developed conceptual ORV trails for the Addition. A revised set of preliminary alternatives has now been prepared that incorporates a range of wilderness and ORV trail opportunities. These new, comprehensive alternatives are the main subject of this newsletter.



WILDERNESS

A wilderness study of the Addition was required by the enabling legislation for the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition. Specifically, Public Law 93-440 as amended by Public Law 100-301 states:

“...the Secretary shall review the area within the Preserve or the area within the Addition ... and shall report to the President, in accordance with section 3 (c) and (d) of the Wilderness Act (78 Stat. 891; 16 U.S.C. 1132 (c) and (d)), his recommendations as to the suitability or nonsuitability of any area within the preserve or the area within the Addition ... for preservation as wilderness, and any designation of any such areas as a wilderness shall be accomplished in accordance with said subsections of the Wilderness Act.”

Furthermore, the Record of Decision signed in 2000 for the Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan states, “until the wilderness suitability study and general management plan are completed, the Addition Lands will remain closed to recreational ORV use.”

Therefore, the NPS decided to complete the wilderness study in conjunction with the GMP process and incorporate it into the GMP alternatives. The inclusion of the wilderness study in the GMP will fulfill the legal requirements of the enabling legislation and the record of decision for the ORV management plan while providing efficiencies of time and money.

WILDERNESS STUDY

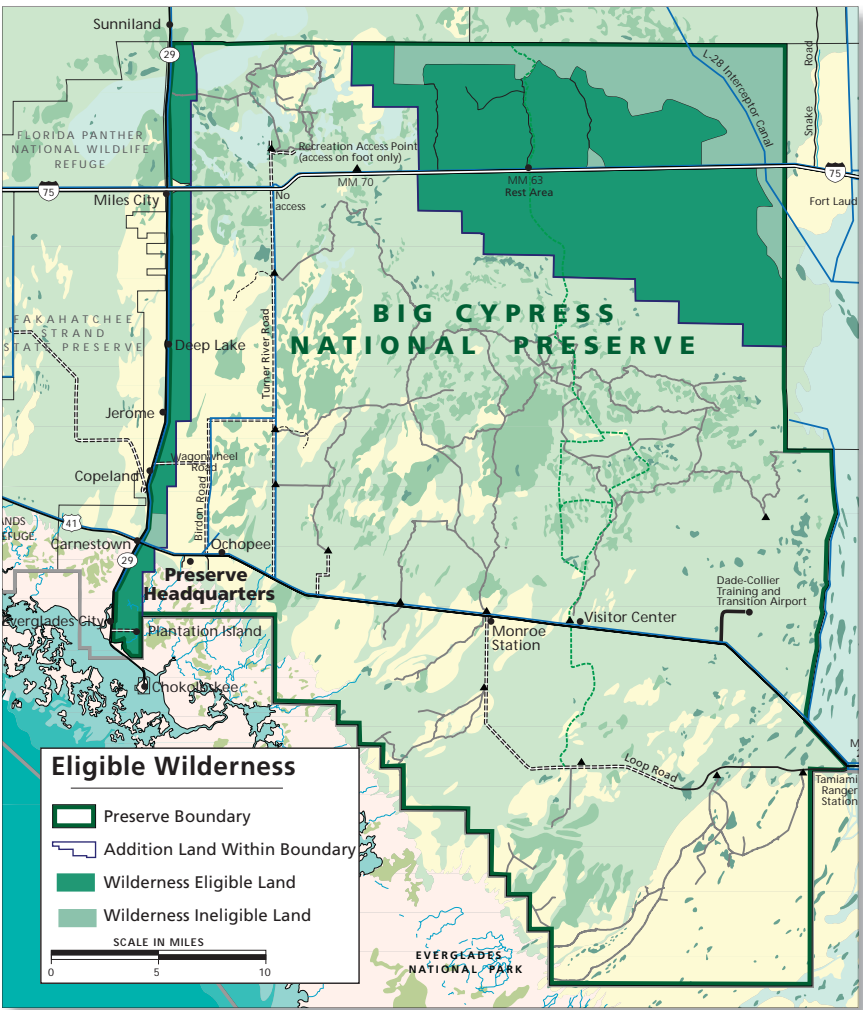
A wilderness study includes both a review of wilderness eligibility and an NPS proposal for wilderness designation. An initial wilderness review of the Addition was recently completed by NPS staff. Addition lands were evaluated for wilderness eligibility according to the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 USC 1132), which defines wilderness in the following manner:

“A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been

affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.”

The four criteria mentioned above were used to evaluate the wilderness characteristics and values of Addition lands and make a determination of their wilderness eligibility.

Approximately 109,000 acres of the 147,000 acres (or 74%) of the Addition were determined to contain wilderness values and characteristics. (see Eligible Wilderness map below)



WILDERNESS DESIGNATION PROCESS

Step 1. NPS completes Wilderness Study/Environmental Impact Statement as part of the GMP, and the NPS Director proposes lands for wilderness designation.

Step 2. NPS Director sends wilderness proposal to the Secretary of the Interior.

Step 3. The Secretary of the Interior advises the President on the NPS proposal. The Secretary may approve, disapprove, or change the NPS proposal.

Step 4. The President recommends wilderness designation and forwards a recommendation to Congress. The President may approve, disapprove, or change the NPS proposal in the recommendation.

Step 5. Congress must pass an act to designate the lands as wilderness.

NEXT STEPS

Using the findings of the initial wilderness review, the NPS is incorporating various wilderness options into a revised set of preliminary alternatives. These new alternatives are presented in this newsletter for your review. The NPS will host several public meetings in May (see Public Meeting Schedule on Page 1) to gather feedback on wilderness alternatives. Eventually, a draft and final set of alternatives that incorporates NPS-proposed wilderness areas will be published. If the selected and approved alternative contains lands considered eligible for wilderness, then at that time it is proposed wilderness. Actual wilderness designation is a separate legislative process. See the text box to the left for additional information on the wilderness designation process.



The enabling legislation for the Addition allows for motorized use in the Addition and directs the NPS to develop rules and regulations to limit or control the use of motorized vehicles on Addition lands and waters.

The NPS recently evaluated existing trails in the Addition in order to begin developing an ORV management plan. This plan will guide NPS management of motorized access in the Addition, including permissible use areas and the development of a conceptual ORV trail network. The ORV management plan for the Addition will complement the one completed in 2000 for the original Preserve. The details of the ORV management plan, including trail routes and access points, will be integrated into the GMP alternatives.

TRAILS EVALUATION PROCESS

In order to develop a conceptual ORV trail system, Preserve staff first mapped the locations of existing roads, trails, and other disturbed areas in the Addition. Staff used available maps, aerial photographs, and global positioning system (GPS) equipment to locate roads and trails in the field and produce a map of potentially sustainable ORV trails.

A sustainable trail is defined as a travel surface that can support currently planned and future uses with minimal impact to the natural systems of the area. Sustainable trails should not adversely affect the naturally occurring hydrology and fauna. Sustainable trail design accommodates existing and future uses while only allowing appropriate uses.

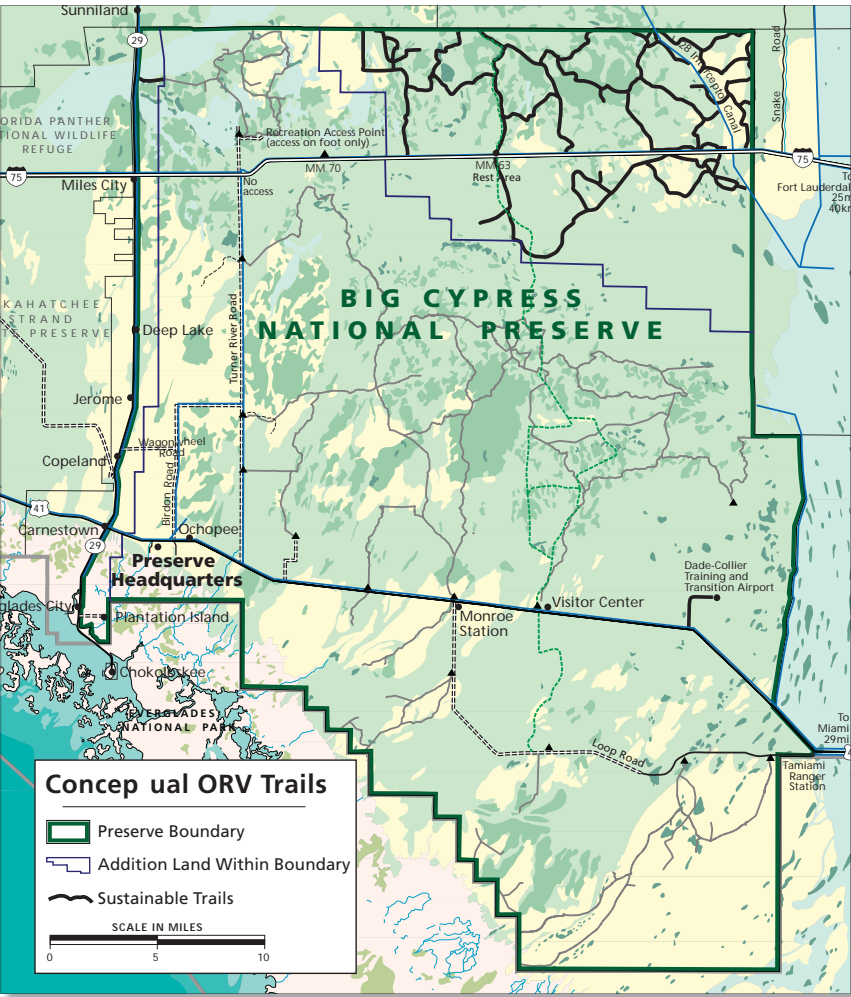
The GMP planning team conducted field investigations to determine which roads and trails could sustain ORV use. The following information was collected to help determine trail sustainability:

- vegetation type,
- trail width,
- level of use,
- and the presence of ruts, water, exotic plants, trail improvements, and rare or protected species.

The data were then consolidated to produce a map of sustainable trails that served as the basis for the conceptual trail systems that are included in the revised preliminary alternatives.

TRAILS EVALUATION RESULTS

Approximately 139 miles of trails in the Addition were considered sustainable and potentially usable as part of a conceptual ORV trail system. These 139 miles include all trails that were mapped, evaluated, and considered sustainable. (see Conceptual ORV Trails map below)



ORV SPECIFICATIONS

We anticipate vehicle specifications to mirror those in the original Preserve's ORV management plan.

ORV PERMITS

A separate permit will be required for ORV use in the Addition. The number of permits issued for the Addition will vary, depending on the alternative.

NEXT STEPS

Using the findings of the existing trail evaluation, the NPS has incorporated various ORV trail options into a revised set of preliminary alternatives. These new alternatives are presented in this newsletter for your review. The NPS will host several public meetings in May (see Public Meeting Schedule on Page 1) to gather feedback on ORV trail alternatives. Eventually, a draft and final set of alternatives that incorporates NPS recommendations for an ORV trail system will be published. Other details of the ORV management plan, including vehicle specifications and allowable permit numbers, will be addressed based on available science and your input, and included in the GMP.



INTEGRATING THE WILDERNESS STUDY AND ORV MANAGEMENT PLAN INTO THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Now that the Addition has been evaluated in accordance with the Wilderness Act criteria and an initial ORV trails evaluation has been conducted, the results and findings can be incorporated into the Addition GMP. Integrating wilderness and ORV trails into the management alternatives of the GMP allows the NPS to address the two issues in a comprehensive manner – in combination with other management actions rather than in isolation.

MANAGEMENT ZONES

Management zones are descriptions of desired conditions for resources and visitor experiences in different areas of the Addition. Management zones identify the range of potential appropriate resource conditions, visitor experiences, and facilities for the Addition. Four management zones have been identified for use in the GMP: Developed, Frontcountry, Backcountry Recreation, and Primitive Backcountry. The management zones are the same as those presented in the October 2005 newsletter.

In formulating the action alternatives (alternatives B, C, D, E, and F), management zones were placed in different locations or configurations on a map of the Addition according to the overall concept of each alternative. No management zones were developed and applied to the no-action alternative (alternative A).

The two tables below identify allowable visitor uses and facilities by zone.

VISITOR USE

| Visitor Use | Developed | Frontcountry | Backcountry Recreation | Primitive Backcountry |
|---------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Hiking | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Biking | √ | √ | √ | |
| Camping | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Motor Boating | | | √ | |
| Paddling | | √ | √ | √ |
| ORV Use | | √ | √ | |
| Hunting | | | √ | √ |
| Fishing | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Guided Tours | √ | √ | √ | √ |

FACILITIES

| Facilities | Developed | Frontcountry | Backcountry Recreation | Primitive Backcountry |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Designated Hiking Trails | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Designated ORV Trails | | √ | √ | |
| Roads | √ | √ | | |
| Visitor Center/ Contact Station | √ | √ | | |
| Camp Sites | | | √ | √ |
| Campgrounds | √ | √ | | |
| Boardwalks | √ | √ | √ | √ |
| Concession Facilities | √ | √ | | |
| Park Operations | √ | √ | | |
| Research Equipment | √ | √ | √ | √ |



REVISED PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

In October 2005 the NPS published a newsletter that outlined six preliminary alternatives to manage the Addition over the next 15-20 years. Over the last year and a half, NPS staff have assessed the Addition for wilderness and evaluated existing ORV trails for sustainability. The findings of those two efforts have now been incorporated into a revised set of preliminary alternatives. These comprehensive alternatives include various levels of proposed wilderness areas and ORV opportunities.

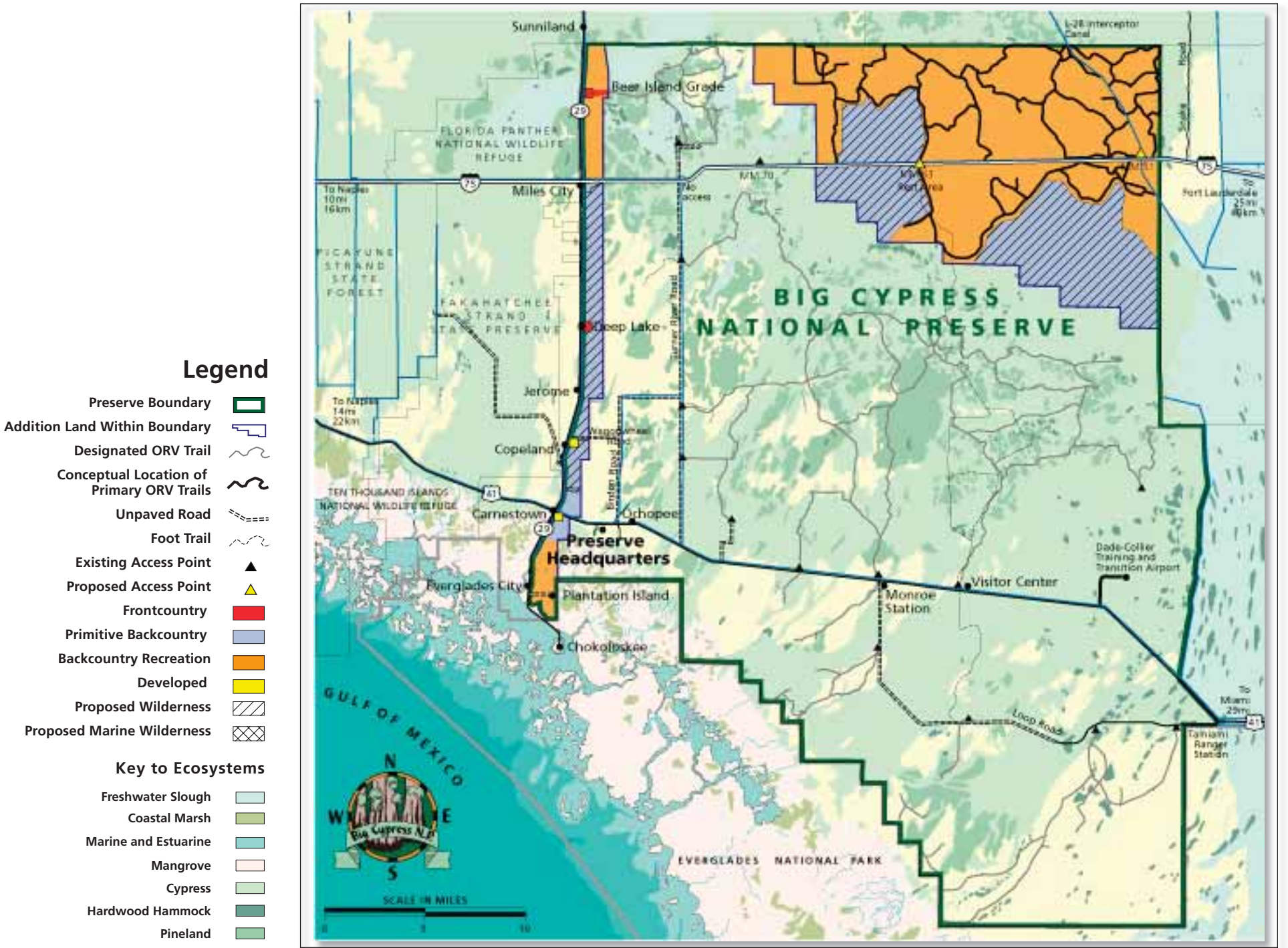
The alternatives were developed by the NPS based on public input and Preserve management considerations to explore different ways to manage resources, visitor use, and improve facilities and infrastructure in the Addition. The no action alternative (alternative A) is required by law and serves as a baseline for analyzing the action alternatives. The five action alternatives (alternatives B, C, D, E, and F) represent a reasonable range of wilderness and motorized opportunities. They can be described as presenting a continuum of resource preservation and recreation opportunities as is prescribed in the Addition’s enabling legislation. The action alternatives represent a full range of what the public has said it wants to see accomplished with regard to natural

resource conditions, cultural resource conditions, and visitor use and experience at Big Cypress National Preserve, together with what the NPS is mandated to provide.

In developing this range of alternatives the NPS has adhered to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Wilderness Act, while giving careful consideration to the National Preserve designation that Congress assigned to Big Cypress National Preserve. In accordance with NEPA, this public planning process will disclose how these lands will be managed. Through our civic engagement process we have gathered valuable input into the future of the Addition.

Once the general management plan and wilderness study are completed, any lands proposed as wilderness would be managed as wilderness in accordance with the Wilderness Act. If there are lands that are eligible for wilderness but are not proposed as wilderness, then these lands would be managed to preserve their eligibility until Congress has taken final action.





Preliminary Alternative B
Addition Lands General Management Plan
Big Cypress National Preserve

United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service
DSC • March 2007 • 176 / 20076

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE B

CONCEPT

- Enable participation in a wide variety of challenging outdoor recreation experiences. Provides the greatest amount of motorized access, limited wilderness areas, and limited new non-motorized trail opportunities.

WILDERNESS

- Includes 50,000 acres of proposed wilderness

VISITOR FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

- New access point on I-75 at MM 51 that includes parking, restrooms, and orientation information
- Utilize Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) rest area on I-75 at MM 63 and develop new parking areas, a visitor contact station, and trailheads
- New trailhead at Bear Island Grade (motorized and non-motorized)
- New day use area with parking, restrooms, and trail/boardwalk at Deep Lake
- Explore visitor services partnerships at Carnestown

VISITOR ACCESS AND ORV TRAILS

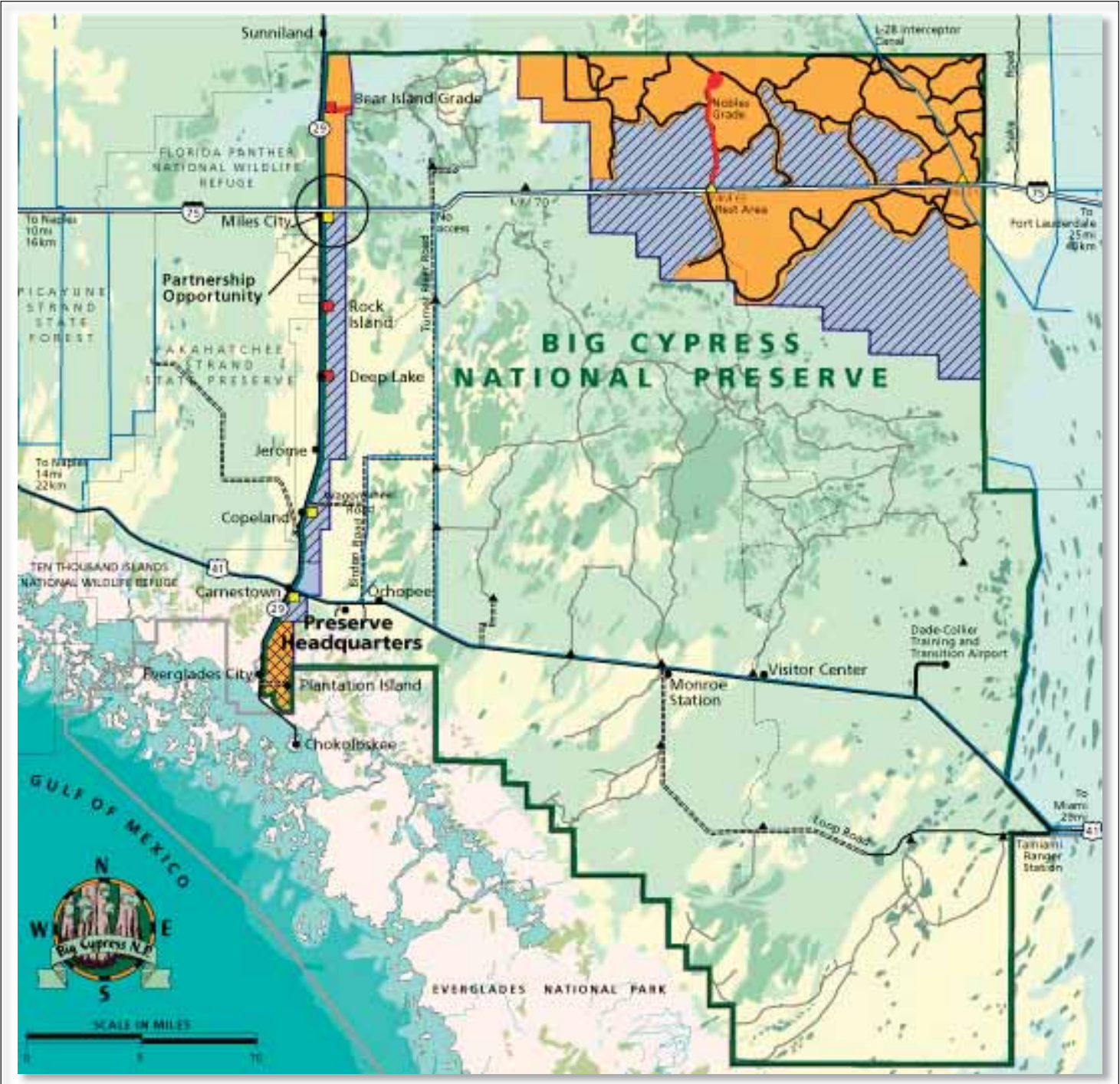
- New access points on I-75 at MM 51 and MM 63 geared to backcountry users (motorized and non-motorized)
- New canoe/kayak trails in the tidal areas south of US 41
- New access point at Bear Island Grade that will provide a connection to existing ORV trails in the Preserve
- Establish up to 139 miles of primary designated ORV trails

NPS OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION FACILITIES

- New NPS operations facility on I-75 at MM 63
- Maintain the existing fire operations center at Copeland

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

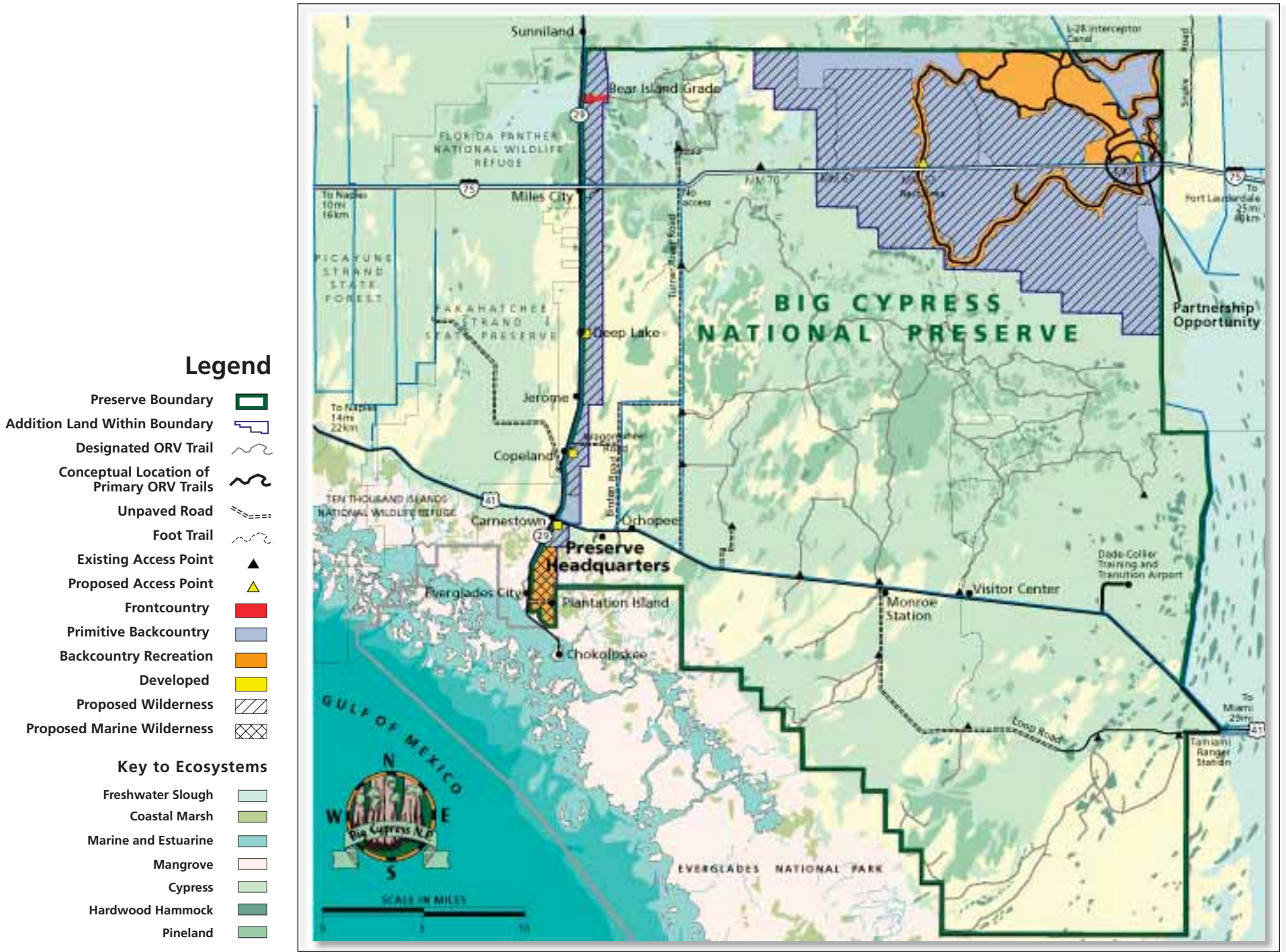
- Ongoing resource management activities and projects would continue, such as vegetation management through exotic plant control and the use of prescribed fire



Preliminary Alternative C
Addition Lands General Management Plan
Big Cypress National Preserve
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PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE C

- CONCEPT**
- Provide a variety of backcountry recreational opportunities and enhance day-use and interpretive opportunities along road corridors. Includes nearly equal areas for wilderness and ORV use, non-motorized trail opportunities, new frontcountry road and camping opportunities, and a partnership approach to visitor orientation on the west side of the Addition.
- WILDERNESS**
- Includes 69,000 acres of proposed wilderness
 - Marine wilderness would allow the already established motorboating to continue
- VISITOR FACILITIES AND AMENITIES**
- New access point on I-75 at MM 51 that includes parking and a visitor contact station
 - Utilize FDOT rest area on I-75 at MM 63 and develop new parking areas, a visitor contact station, and trailheads
 - New trailhead at Bear Island Grade (motorized and non-motorized)
 - New day use area with parking, restrooms, a shelter, and a trail/boardwalk at Deep Lake
 - New trailhead at Rock Island
 - Upgrade Nobles Grade into a road corridor to provide access to a new campground
 - Explore providing opportunities for commercial boat tours south of US 41
 - Explore visitor services partnerships at Carnestown - a range of commercial services would be encouraged
- VISITOR ACCESS AND ORV TRAILS**
- New access points on I-75 at MM 51 and MM 63 geared to backcountry users (motorized and non-motorized)
 - New canoe/kayak trails in the tidal areas south of US 41
 - New access point at Deep Lake (non-motorized access only)
 - New access point at Bear Island Grade that would provide a connection to existing ORV trails in the preserve
 - Establish up to 131 miles of primary ORV trails
- NPS OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION FACILITIES**
- New multi-agency visitor center and NPS operations facility near Miles City
 - New NPS operations facility on I-75 at MM 63
 - Maintain the existing fire operations center located at Copeland and expand for other operational needs
- RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**
- Ongoing resource management activities and projects would continue, such as vegetation management through exotic plant control and the use of prescribed fire



Preliminary Alternative D
Addition Lands General Management Plan
Big Cypress National Preserve

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PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE D

CONCEPT

- Provide a diversity of frontcountry and backcountry recreation opportunities and enhance day-use and interpretive opportunities along road corridors. Provides a moderate amount of wilderness, a sizeable ORV loop trail, non-motorized trail opportunities, and a partnership approach to visitor orientation on the east side of the Addition.

WILDERNESS

- Includes 104,000 acres of proposed wilderness
- Marine wilderness would allow the already established motorboating to continue

VISITOR FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

- New access point on I-75 at MM 51 that includes parking and a visitor contact station- partnership opportunity for visitor services
- Utilize FDOT rest area on I-75 at MM 63 and develop new parking areas and trailheads
- New trailhead at Bear Island Grade for non-motorized access
- New day use area at Deep Lake to include parking, a resource education center, a picnic area, and a trail/boardwalk
- Explore visitor services partnerships at Carnestown - a range of commercial services would be encouraged
- Explore providing opportunities for commercial boat tours south of US 41

VISITOR ACCESS AND ORV TRAILS

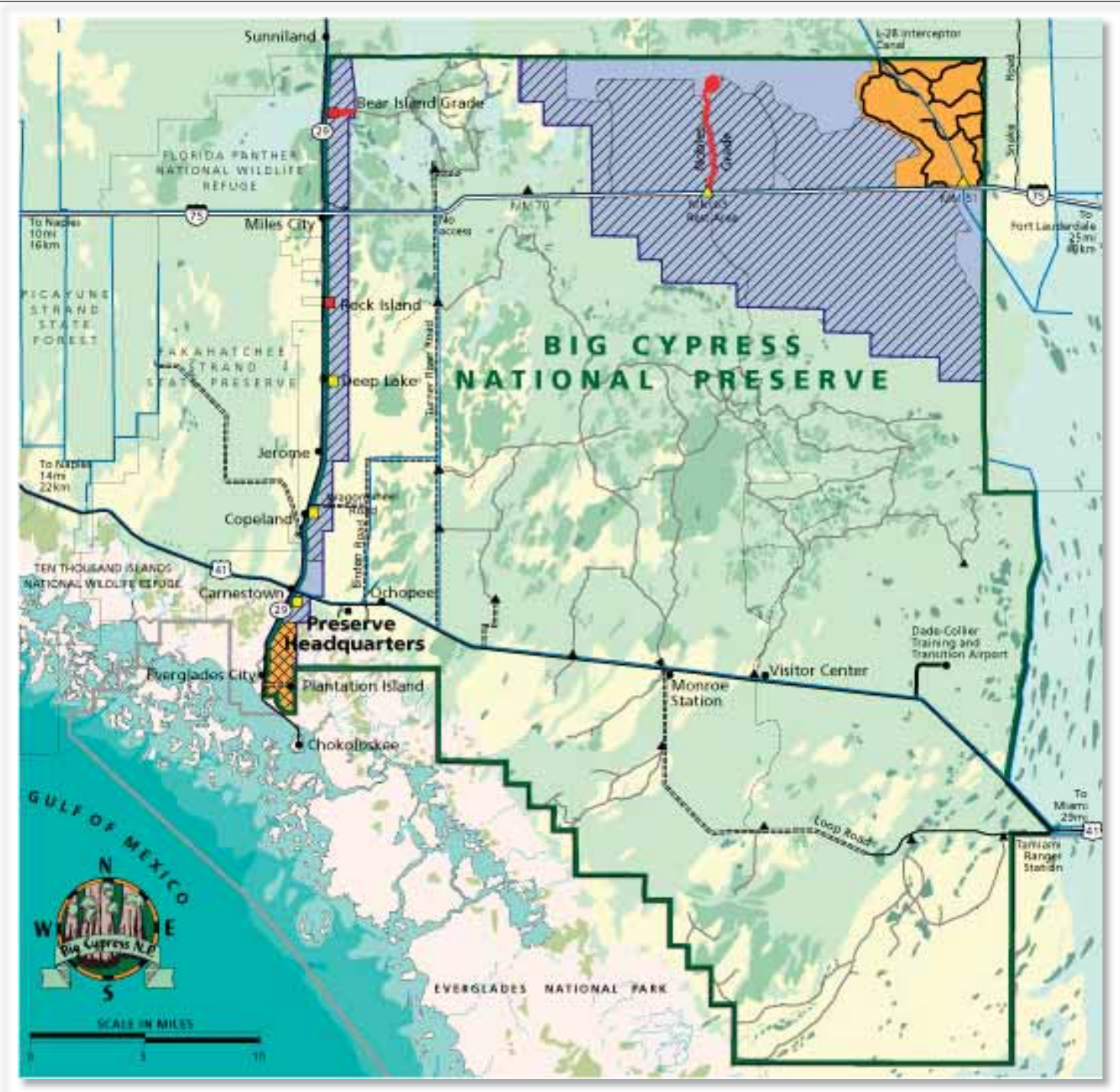
- New access points on I-75 at MM 51 and MM 63 geared to backcountry users (motorized and non-motorized)
- New canoe/kayak trails in the tidal areas south of US 41
- New access point at Bear Island Grade (non-motorized access only)
- Establish up to 76 miles of primary ORV trails

NPS OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION FACILITIES

- Maintain the existing fire operations center located at Copeland and expand for other operational needs
- New NPS operations facility on I-75 at MM 51

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

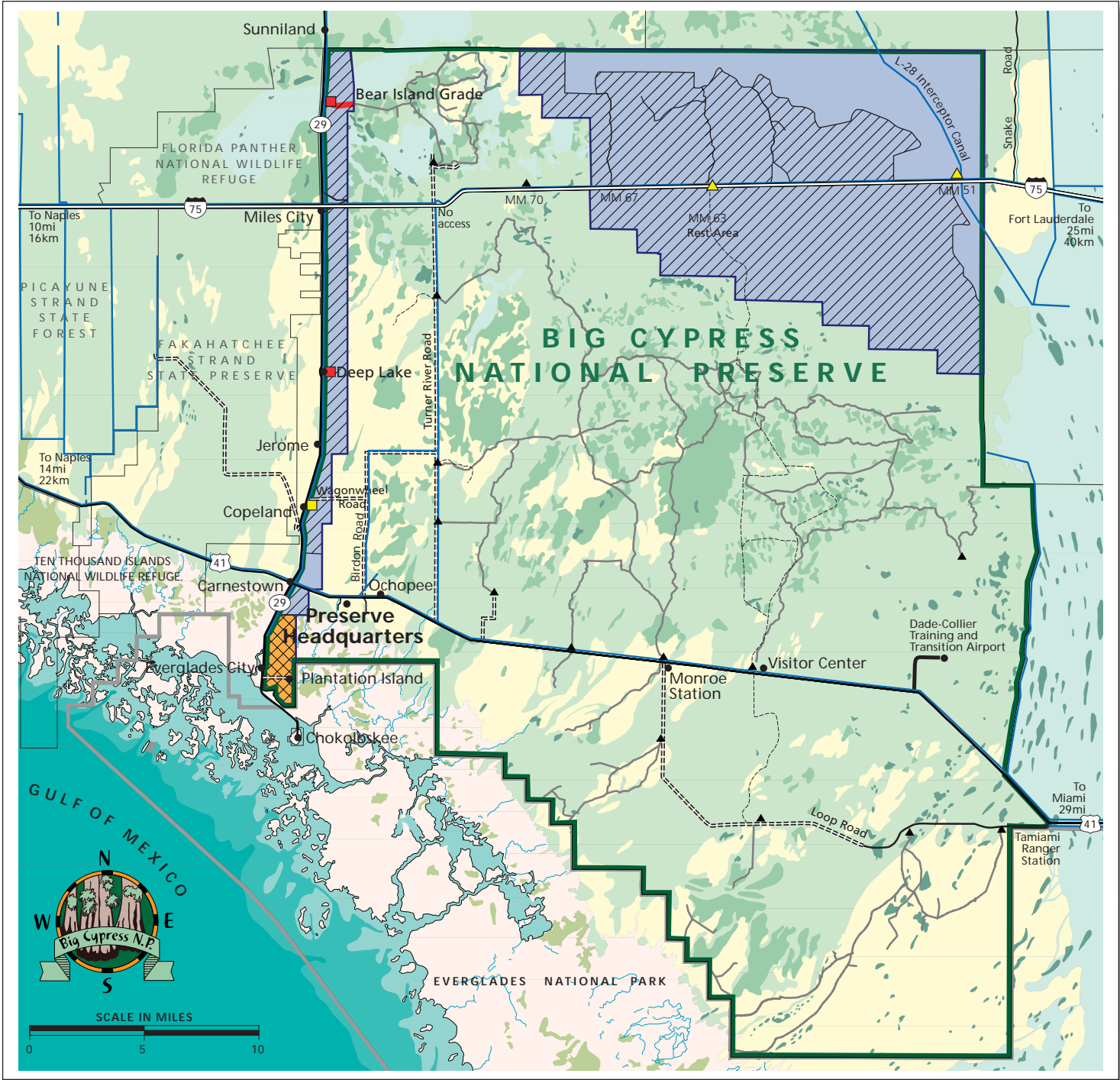
- Ongoing resource management activities and projects would continue, such as vegetation management through exotic plant control and the use of prescribed fire



Preliminary Alternative E
Addition Lands General Management Plan
Big Cypress National Preserve
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service
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PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE E

- CONCEPT**
- Expand opportunities for visitors with limited backcountry expertise to interact with preserve resources. Includes the maximum amount of wilderness, limited motorized use, expanded non-motorized trail opportunities, and new frontcountry road and camping opportunities.
- WILDERNESS**
- Includes 109,000 acres of proposed wilderness
 - Marine wilderness would allow the already established motorboating to continue
- VISITOR FACILITIES AND AMENITIES**
- New access point on I-75 at MM 51 that includes parking and a visitor contact station
 - Utilize FDOT rest area on I-75 at MM 63 and develop new parking area(s), trailheads, and a visitor contact station
 - New trailhead at Bear Island Grade for non-motorized access
 - New day use area at Deep Lake to include parking, a picnic area, and a trail/boardwalk
 - Upgrade Nobles Grade into a road corridor to provide access to a new campground
 - New trailheads at Rock Island and Bear Island Grade for non-motorized access
 - Explore visitor services partnerships at Carnestown - a range of commercial services would be encouraged
 - Explore providing opportunities for commercial boat tours south of US 41
- VISITOR ACCESS AND ORV TRAILS**
- New access points on I-75 at MM 51 and MM 63 (motorized and non-motorized)
 - New canoe/kayak trails in the tidal areas south of US 41
 - New access points at Rock Island and Bear Island Grade (non-motorized access only)
 - Establish up to 37 miles of primary ORV trails
- NPS OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION FACILITIES**
- New NPS operations facility on I-75 at MM 63
 - Maintain the existing fire operations center located at Copeland and expand for other operational needs
- RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**
- Ongoing resource management activities and projects would continue, such as vegetation management through exotic plant control and the use of prescribed fire



Preliminary Alternative F
Addition Lands General Management Plan
Big Cypress National Preserve

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PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE F

CONCEPT

- Resource preservation, restoration, and research would be the emphasis while providing self-reliant recreational opportunities. Provides the maximum amount of wilderness, no ORV use, and minimal new facilities.

WILDERNESS

- Includes 109,000 acres of proposed wilderness
- Marine wilderness would allow the already established motorboating to continue

VISITOR FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

- New access point on I-75 at MM 51 that includes parking
- Utilize FDOT access site on I-75 at MM 63 and develop new parking area (s) and a trailhead
- New trailheads at Bear Island Grade and Deep Lake for non-motorized access

VISITOR ACCESS AND ORV TRAILS

- New access points on I-75 at MM 51 and MM 63 (non-motorized access only)
- New access points at Bear Island Grade and Deep Lake (non-motorized access only)
- No ORV trails

NPS OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION FACILITIES

- New NPS operations facility on I-75 at MM 63
- Maintain the existing fire operations center located at Copeland and expand for other operational needs

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

- Ongoing resource management activities and projects would continue, such as vegetation management through exotic plant control and the use of prescribed fire
- Reclaim disturbed sites within the Addition

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We have received many inquiries and questions about how wilderness and ORV issues will be addressed in the Addition. The information listed below is intended to answer the most frequently asked questions about these two subjects.

1. What does the legislation creating the Addition say about wilderness?
Section 7 the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition Act (16 USC § 698l), states in Section 7 that the Secretary of the Interior shall review the area within the Addition and report to the President, in accordance with the Wilderness Act, his recommendations as to the suitability or unsuitability of the area within the Addition for preservation as wilderness. Any designation of wilderness will be accomplished in accordance with the Wilderness Act.

2. What is meant by “eligible,” “proposed,” “recommended,” and “designated” wilderness?
As required by the legislation establishing the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition, the NPS is conducting a wilderness study, which is a formal, detailed examination of the wilderness character of all lands in the Addition. In the present context, “eligible” wilderness refers to lands determined as part of the wilderness study process to meet the criteria for wilderness as described in the Wilderness Act. If the wilderness study concludes that lands should be recommended for inclusion in the national wilderness preservation system, these lands will be included in a proposal to the Secretary of the Interior as “proposed” wilderness. If the Secretary advises the President that any of the proposed areas should be included in wilderness, those areas are considered “recommended” wilderness. The President forwards the wilderness recommendation to Congress, and any lands subsequently designated by an act of Congress are “designated” wilderness.

3. How does the NPS manage eligible lands proposed as wilderness?
Eligible lands that are proposed by the NPS as wilderness are managed as wilderness until Congress specifically releases such lands from further wilderness consideration.

4. May ORV use be allowed on eligible lands proposed as wilderness?
No. The Wilderness Act prohibits the use of motor vehicles and motorized equipment in wilderness. In accordance with the *NPS Management Policies 2006*, eligible lands proposed as wilderness will be managed as wilderness, and ORV use would not be permissible.

5. How does the NPS manage eligible lands not proposed as wilderness?
Eligible lands not proposed by the NPS as wilderness must be managed to preserve their wilderness eligibility until Congress has taken final action.

6. May ORV use be allowed on eligible lands not proposed as wilderness?
Yes, however, eligible lands not proposed as wilderness must be managed to preserve their wilderness eligibility until Congress has taken final action. ORV use could be permitted on designated trails in these areas only as long as such use would not diminish their eligibility and therefore Congress’ ability to consider these lands for wilderness designation.

7. Will hunting, fishing and trapping be allowed in the Addition?
Yes, Section 5 of the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition Act states the National Park Service “shall permit hunting, fishing, and trapping on lands and waters...within the preserve and the Addition in accordance with applicable laws of the United States and the State of Florida.”

The National Park Service “may designate zones where and periods when no hunting, fishing and trapping or entry may be permitted for reason of public safety, administration, floral and faunal protection and management, or public use and enjoyment.” Except in emergencies, the National Park Service will consult with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regarding regulations that involve restricting hunting, fishing, or trapping.

8. Are hunting and fishing allowed in wilderness?
Yes, hunting and fishing have long been associated with wilderness and are considered appropriate wilderness activities.



PROJECT SCHEDULE

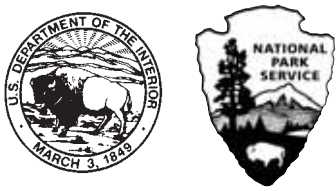
After the conclusion of the public meetings in May, NPS staff may revise the alternatives and will begin writing the draft management plan. The draft GMP/EIS is expected to be released for public review in 2008. At that time you will again have an opportunity to share your ideas and comments with us. Please be aware that the schedule shown below is subject to change.

| Time frame | Planning Activity | How You Can Be Involved |
|-----------------|--|--|
| Spring 2007 | Revised Preliminary Alternatives The NPS developed a range of preliminary alternatives incorporating the wilderness study and ORV management plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read newsletter• Send us your ideas and comments• Participate in public meetings |
| Summer 2007 | Begin Preparation of Draft Document | |
| Summer 2008 | Prepare and Publish Draft Document 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">• Read draft plan• Send us your ideas and comments• Participate in public meetings/hearings. |
| Summer 2009 | Prepare and Publish Final Document Based on review by the National Park Service and the public, the NPS revises the GMP and distributes a final plan. The plan is approved in a published Record of Decision | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read the final plan, including NPS responses to substantive public comments and official letters |
| 2009 and beyond | Implement the Approved Plan After the Record of Decision is issued, and as funding allows, the general management plan is implemented. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with the preserve to implement plan |

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General Management Plan/Wilderness Study/ORV Management Plan
Big Cypress National Preserve - Addition
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Big Cypress National Preserve



Inside the Newsletter...

*Superintendent's Letter,
Public Meetings Schedulepage 1*

*Background,
Wilderness,
Wilderness Eligible Map,
Wilderness Designation Process page 2*

*ORV Management,
Sustainable Trails Map page 3*

*Integrating the Wilderness Study and
ORV Management into the GMP,
Visitor Use and Facilities Tables,
Revised Preliminary Alternatives page 4*

Alternative A page 5

Alternative B page 6

Alternative C page 7

Alternative D pages 8

Alternative E page 9

Alternative Epage 10

*Frequently Asked Questions,
Project Schedulepage 11*

Addition Lands GMP Newsletter