

PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS, the Big Cypress National Preserve was established by an Act of the United States Congress to preserve and protect natural scenic, hydrologic, floral, faunal, and recreational values of the Big Cypress Watershed; and,*
- WHEREAS, the State of Florida was a major partner with the Federal Government in the acquisition of the lands that comprise the Addition; and,*
- WHEREAS, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has created a resolution regarding the draft general management plan for the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition; and,*
- WHEREAS, we applaud elements of the draft General Management Plan that provides a diversity of public access and recreation that includes a designated trail system that will support enjoyment of these lands by the public; and,*
- WHEREAS, we express strong concern that the wilderness designation would unnecessarily hinder natural resource management including control of invasive exotic species and maintenance of native fish and wildlife habitats; and,*
- WHEREAS, we express strong concern that the proposed wilderness designation and primitive backcountry management zones as proposed in the draft General Management Plan alternatives would not provide necessary flexibility for management of public access and would result in restrictions on public access too far below appropriate and sustainable levels; and,*
- WHEREAS, we hereby urge the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service to incorporate recommendations regarding the draft General Management Plan for the Addition into the final Record of Decision to include removal of proposed wilderness designation and primitive backcountry management zones; and,*
- WHEREAS, these acts of Congress or of implementing federal laws call for the National Park Service to consult with the State of Florida prior to implementation of regulations restricting activities; and,*
- WHEREAS, these acts of Congress or implementing of federal laws require that any action by the National Park Service to control or limit the use of motorized vehicles must be reasonable, equitable, and justified in terms of public enjoyment and important resource protection.*

*NOW THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners of Collier County, Florida, that we support public access to the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition and oppose the proposed wilderness designation.*

*DONE AND ORDERED THIS 29th Day of September, 2009.*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

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DONNA FIALA, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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DWIGHT E. BROCK, CLERK