

**BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE ADDITION LANDS  
COMMENTS TO ADDITION GMP, WILDERNESS AND ORV PLAN**

**Wilderness Designation:**

Note- If you AGREE with the NPS, put a check mark next to NPS after the 1 or if you agree with A-F, check the appropriate spaces next to the COMMENT

1. NPS ☐ The National Park Service considers up to 110,000 acres of the 147,000 acre Addition Lands suitable for Wilderness consideration.

COMMENT A ☐ The NPS is only required to do a wilderness suitability study. The NPS is not mandated by any rule, law or policy to formally propose any Wilderness Area within the Addition Lands. Wilderness designation violates the intention of the act to establish Big Cypress National Preserve and the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition Act.

COMMENT B ☐ Prior to closure of the Addition Lands by the NPS in 1988, the area was heavily trammled by man including Farming, Ranching, Logging, Oil Exploration, Hunting Leases, Private Property Hunting Camps etc. going back to the 1940s and beyond. This past activity alone makes this area inappropriate as Proposed Wilderness.

COMMENT C ☐ The Addition Lands are split down the middle by 1-75 [Alligator Alley] a major Interstate four lane highway, making the area inappropriate for Proposed Wilderness.

Comment D ☐ All areas between ORV trails are de facto Wilderness areas, making a formal Wilderness designation unnecessary to protect the resource. All areas between ORV trails are accessible only on foot.

COMMENT E ☐ Wilderness designation would make Adaptive Management impossible, as well as severely restrict management activities including controlled burns, fire suppression, removal of exotics, animal tracking, controlling reptiles of concern [Burmese Pythons] etc.

COMMENT F ☒ All of the Addition Lands should be designated Backcountry Recreation, allowing traditional uses including, Hunting, Fishing, Fogging, Dispersed Camping and full ORV access.

**ORV [Off Road Vehicle] Access:**

Note- If you AGREE with NPS, check the space next to NPS after 2 or if you AGREE with A-D check the appropriate spaces next to the COMMENT.

2. NPS ☐ National Park Service proposes a maximum of 140 miles of Primary ORV trails in the Addition Lands.

COMMENT A ☐ The INTENT of the 1974 Preserve legislation and the 1988 Addition Lands legislation was to allow reasonable ORV access to ALL of the Preserve and Addition Lands. Arbitrarily limiting total ORV trail mileage with no regard for overall ORV access was not the INTENT of the original Preserve or Addition Lands legislation.

COMMENT B ☐ The NPS proposes [improperly] the Addition Lands be under a separate Management Plan from the existing Preserve. I object that A more restrictive ORV trails to acreage formula is being applied in the Addition Lands. 140 miles of designated ORV trails in the 147,000 acre Addition Lands equals one mile of ORV trails per one thousand acres. 400 miles of designated ORV trails in the 582,000 acre existing Preserve equals one and on half miles of ORV trails per one thousand acres.

COMMENT C ☐ All units of the existing Preserve including the Addition Lands must be connected by numerous inter connecting ORV trails. The INTENT of the Congressional Act creating the Preserve was not to end up with a half dozen individual Preserves, isolated from each other.

COMMENT D ☐ ORV access must be provided in all of the Addition Lands strip along SR. 29. Both Wilderness and Backcountry Primitive is inappropriate for these areas.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS attached Yes ☐ No ☐

I thank you in advance for your consideration of my serious concerns above.

SIGNED First Name                      Last                      Organization                       
Address: Street                      City                      County                      STATE                      ZIP                       
SIGNATURE                      EMAIL                     

Electronic comments accepted 09/30/2009

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/commentForm.cfm?parkID=352&projectID=11164&documentID=27329>

Mail postmarked no later than 09/30/2009

National Park Service Attention: Big Cypress Preserve Planning Team, DSC-P

P.O. Box 25287 Denver, CO 80225-0287

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