

BIG CYPRESS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

DEER AND HOG ANNUAL REPORT

1999-00

Prepared by: Ayouna R. Riddick, R. Bill Adams, & J. A. Bozzo

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 565,843-acre Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area (BCWMA) is located in what is known as the Big Cypress Swamp which lies in Collier, northern Monroe, and western Miami-Dade Counties. A large portion of the BCWMA boundary coincides with the authorized boundary of the Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP). Hardwood hammocks, cypress strands, pinelands, prairies and sawgrass ponds are the major plant communities on the area. The area's wildlife populations are managed jointly by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the National Park Service (NPS). Public hunting is a primary source of recreation on the BCWMA and white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus) and wild hogs (Sus scrofa) are the most popular game animals pursued by hunters. This report has been prepared to provide information on the 1999-00 hunting season on the BCWMA.

Record high water levels in the BCWMA led to unit closures during the 1999-00 muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons. Corn Dance, Stairsteps and Loop units were closed for the entire muzzleloading gun season. Bear Island, Deep Lake and Turner River units were closed during the last two days of the muzzleloading gun season. Bear Island, Deep Lake and Turner River units were opened to hunting by the beginning of the general gun season. Portions of the Corn Dance, Stairsteps, and Loop units remained entirely and/or partially closed to hunting throughout the general gun season.

Man-days of hunter pressure (11,255) for the 1999-00 hunting season decreased 36% from 1998-99 (17,485) and was 15.9% less than the prior five-year average (13,387). Hunter pressure decreased on all units as compared to the 1998-99 season. Total checked-deer harvest (253) for the archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons was 26.9% below last year's record harvest (346). The archery (25) and general gun (176) season harvests remained above the prior five-year average (20 and 162, respectively). The muzzleloading gun (52) season harvest was 14.7% below the prior five-year average (61). Deer harvest increased in the Bear Island, Deep Lake and Turner River units, and decreased in the Corn Dance, Loop and Stairsteps units as compared to the 1998-99 hunting season. Total checked-hog harvest for the 1999-00 hunting season (89) was

39% lower than the 1998-99 season (147), and the prior five-year average (148). Hog harvest also declined in all units during the 1999-00 hunting season as compared to the prior five-year average. The 1999 hunter success rate of 0.030 was greater than the previous five-year average (0.028).

White-tailed deer physical characteristics were similar to values recorded since implementation of the 5-inch antler rule in 1986-87. Mean dressed weight (72.4 lbs.) increased slightly over last year's mean of 72 lbs. Mean antler beam circumference (6.3 cm.) increased by 8.8% as compared to last year (5.79 cm.). Mean antler beam length (24.9 cm.) increased by 14.2% as compared to last year (21.8 cm.). Mean antler spread and number of points were 20.8 cm. and 4.9, respectively.

Mean dressed weight (79 lbs.) and shoulder height (64 cm) for wild hogs were in the upper range of recorded mean values. Mean dressed weight (79 lbs.) was 3.9% greater than the 16-year mean of 76 lbs. Mean shoulder height (64 cm.) increased within 2% from the 16-year mean (63 cm.). Mean body length (121 cm.) was 3.2% below the record high of 125 cm.

Summary Table 1. Deer harvest totals, man-days of pressure, and % hunter success (# deer/man-days x 100) for the 1994-2000 archery (A), muzzleloading (M) and general gun (GG) seasons in the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area.

Year	Harvest			Pressure			Success (%)		
	A	M	GG	A	M	GG	A	M	GG
94-95 ^a	18	58	48	2190	2270	5275	0.8	2.6	0.9
95-96 ^b	24	37	145	1695	1230	8365	1.4	3.0	1.7
96-97	16	72	183	1815	2215	11155	0.9	3.3	1.6
97-98	20	54	191	2130	2100	10180	0.94	2.6	1.8
98-99	21	82	243	2065	2135	13285	1.0	3.8	1.8
MEAN	20	61	162	1979	1990	9446	1.0	3.1	1.8
99-00 ^b	25	52	176	2510	1055	7690	1.0	4.9	2.3

Summary Table 2. Hog harvest totals, man-days pressure, and % hunter success (# hogs/man-days x 100) for the 1994-2000 archery (A), muzzleloading (M) and general gun (GG) seasons in the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area.

Year	Harvest			Pressure			Success(%)		
	A	M	GG	A	M	GG	A	M	GG
94-95 ^a	11	43	30	2190	2270	5275	0.5	1.9	0.6
95-96 ^b	21	35	93	1695	1230	8365	1.1	2.8	1.1
96-97	21	34	119	1815	2215	11155	1.15	1.5	1.1
97-98	32	31	125	2130	2100	10180	1.5	1.5	1.23
98-99	8	29	110	2065	2135	13285	0.4	1.4	0.8
MEAN	19	34	95	1979	1990	9446	0.9	1.8	1.0
99-00 ^b	11	11	67	2510	1055	7690	0.4	1.0	0.9

^a Closures affected Stairsteps, Turner River, Corn Dance and Loop units during the general gun season.

^b Closures affected all units during the muzzleloading gun season, and only the Corn Dance, Stairsteps and Loop units during the general gun season.

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INTRODUCTION

White-tailed deer and wild hog are important game animals on the BCWMA. Deer and hog hunting constitutes a significant component of recreation on the area (Jansen 1986). Deer and hogs are also important food items for the Florida panther (Felis concolor coryi) (Belden 1983, Maehr et al. 1990). The purpose of this report is to provide population, harvest and biological information collected on these species during the 1999-00 hunting season on the BCWMA.

Hunting

Deer and hog hunting was permitted during archery (30 days), muzzleloading gun (16 days) and general gun (51 days) seasons. However, only the archery season was opened as scheduled. Special regulations due to high water levels restricted hunting opportunities during the 1999-00 muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons (Appendix A.). These regulations were similar to those enacted for the high water periods during the 1994-95 and 1995-96 hunting seasons. The Corn Dance, Stairsteps and Loop units were closed to hunting during the entire muzzleloading gun season. The entire BCWMA was closed to hunting the last two days of the muzzleloading gun season. During the general gun season, Bear Island, Turner River and Deep Lake units were opened to hunting in accordance with special condition regulations for each unit. The Corn Dance, Stairsteps and Loop units remained closed through the beginning of the general gun season. Zones 1 and 2 of the Stairsteps Unit were closed until November 23, and Zones 3 and 4 did not open until December 23 and December 30, respectively. In the Corn Dance Unit, the area west of Eleven-Mile Road reopened to hunting on December 2 and a small section east of Eleven-Mile Road was reopened two weeks later on December 17. The area north of the oil pipeline at Raccoon Point in the Corn Dance Unit was closed throughout the entire general gun season. The Loop Unit remained closed until December 22. In addition to statewide rules, these hunts were governed by specific regulations for BCWMA (Appendix B). Prior to the 1990-91 hunting season, the NPS and then Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission agreed to several regulation changes with the provision that additional changes be held to a minimum for a period of five years. Major regulation changes have been enacted on the BCWMA either to reduce white-tailed deer and wild hog harvest or to reduce recreational pressure on the area. Most

of the regulatory changes have been summarized in previous reports (see Big Cypress National Preserve Deer and Hog Annual Report 1990-91). There weren't any major regulation changes for the 1999-00 hunting season.

Check station operations were similar to the previous season. During the archery season, Forty-Mile Bend and Bear Island check stations were staffed approximately 16 hours a day, five days a week, while Dona Drive check station was staffed on weekends. In addition to this coverage, all check stations were staffed full-time during the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons, except for Alligator Alley North and South. When check stations were not staffed, hunters would check themselves in and out using forms and self deposit boxes at each station. Check station locations are shown on the map in Appendix B.

Environmental Conditions

Water and fire are the primary environmental factors affecting deer and hogs on the BCWMA. Both of these factors may have positive and negative impacts on deer and hog populations.

During the 1999-00 hunting season, BCWMA experienced high water levels due to tropical weather systems. Tropical storm Harvey (Sept. 21), and hurricanes Irene (Oct. 16) and Katrina (Nov. 2) all produced record rainfall amounts in South Florida. In early-October, surplus water from Lake Okeechobee was impounded into Water Conservation Area 3A. Water from Water Conservation Area 3A entered the eastern sections of the management area through the L-28 gap. All of these factors led to the special regulations regarding ORV use and hunting on the BCWMA. Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologists monitored water levels at staff gauges on a weekly basis from October to late December (Table 1). Weekly meetings were held with NPS staff to evaluate water level fluctuations from the previous week, biological condition of observed and checked animals, and possible management options for the upcoming week. Recommendations provided by FWC biologists were based primarily upon water level comparisons and management actions taken during the 1995 high water event.

On October 19, water levels peaked throughout the BCWMA due to hurricane Irene. Water levels in Corn Dance and eastern Stairsteps units remained above normal thru most of November and early December due to hurricane Katrina. Water levels in 1995 and 1999 showed similar rates of decline for both

the east and west portions of Big Cypress once input sources were reduced (Figure 1 and 2, respectively). The southeastern section of Stairsteps Unit was heavily affected by the S12A and B water control structures staying open during the high water period (Figure 3).

Fires during 1999 burned 49,468 acres on the BCWMA (Table 2). Prescribed fires accounted for 92.2% of this acreage, while man-made (accidental or arson) and natural fires accounted for 7.8%. No burns were conducted in the Jetport Tract by FWC personnel because of low fuel loads, and high water levels followed by extreme drought conditions. The Jetport Tract is a 24,320-acre area in the Corn Dance Unit owned by Miami-Dade County and by agreement with the FWC is included as part of the management area.

SURVEY DATA

Deer population surveys have been conducted since 1977 on the BCWMA. In 1989, various annual surveys were conducted in a standard manner from May thru August. Aerial reconnaissance flights, and spotlight and track counts are the main survey techniques used to monitor deer populations throughout the management area. Original survey data are presented in Appendix C.

Bear Island

Deer track counts were conducted in the Bear Island Unit from 1977 to 1988 and have been summarized in previous reports (Manor et al. 1991). Track counts are no longer conducted in Bear Island because of wide variability in counts, and lack of a suitable tracking surface. Aerial surveys are conducted in Bear Island but the dense canopy cover restricts observer ground visibility for a vast portion of the unit.

In 1989, an experimental spotlight survey for deer was conducted to determine its feasibility in the Bear Island Unit. Since the 1989 survey, spotlight counts have been the primary technique used to monitor the unit's deer population through 1999 (Table 3). In 1999, spotlight surveys in eastern Bear Island resulted in a population index of 229 deer (1 deer per 83.4 acres). Population indices from the 1999 spotlight surveys increased by 40% in eastern Bear Island, as compared to 1998. The survey was conducted along a 3.2-mile transect and was replicated twice in 1999. Spotlight surveys were not conducted for western Bear Island in 1999. The western Bear Island spotlight survey previously existed along a grade which was later closed in conjunction with the removal of an oil pad in early 1999. Another survey route will be developed in the western portion of the unit.

Corn Dance

Deer track surveys were conducted in the Corn Dance Unit from 1981 through 1991 (Table 4). Ten transects were established in 1985 (Figure 4) and were measured before each survey to provide one-mile of suitable tracking medium. Mean deer tracks per mile of transect varied between 2.6 in 1985 and 3.9 in 1987 (Figure 5). In 1991, the number of deer tracks observed per mile of transect decreased slightly from the previous year (2.9 and 3.4 respectively). The population index for Corn Dance in 1991 was 1,253 deer (1 deer per 227 acres) (Table 4). Track count surveys have not been conducted since 1992 due

to insufficient manpower and funding.

Turner River

Track count surveys were conducted in Mullet Slough Strand of the Turner River Unit along a main buggy trail from 1988-1992. Track counts weren't conducted in this area from 1993-98 because access was blocked after the wildlife fence was constructed along Interstate 75 (Alligator Alley). Several years after the fence was completed, a gate was installed near the Alligator Alley South check station which allowed vehicle access to Turner River Unit from I-75. In 1999, a track count survey was conducted along the previous transect established in the Mullet Slough area. The mean number of deer tracks observed per mile in 1999 was 1.3, lower than all previous years except for 1988 (Table 5). The Mullet Slough portion of Turner River Unit had a population estimate of 65 deer or a density of (1 deer per 492 acres).

Stairsteps

Deer surveys have been conducted in the Stairsteps Unit since 1978. Some track count surveys were conducted in western portions while aerial surveys were conducted in eastern portions of the Stairsteps Unit (Table 6). The eastern Stairsteps is largely open Everglades marsh adjacent to the Shark River Slough. This area comprises approximately 50,000 acres. Prior to 1985-86, aerial surveys were flown on north-south transects at 2-mile intervals. In 1985, methodology was changed to conform to standards developed by Everglades National Park for systematic reconnaissance flights (SRF). These standards include east-west transects flown at 2 kilometer intervals with the survey area divided into 2-kilometer square cells. This technique provides an opportunity to estimate both density and distribution (Fleming 1984). Figure 6 defines the eastern Stairsteps survey area. Each survey consists of eight transects ranging from 8.04 to 16.09 kilometers for a total of 101.37 kilometers. The survey was conducted once in 1999.

The 1999 aerial deer survey yielded densities ranging from 1 deer per 20.9 acres to 1 deer per 52.2 acres. Deer population indices for 1999 were higher than all the previous population estimates for this area since 1985 (Figure 6).

HUNTING

Hunter pressure, success and checked-harvest have been documented for the last 20 years (Table 7). Hunting pressure on BCWMA was estimated at 11,255 man-days for archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons. This estimate was 35.6% less than the prior year (17,485 man-days) and 15.9% less than the 5-year average (13,387 man-days). Hunter success (game checked/man-day = 0.030) was greater than the prior 5-year average of 0.029. Checked-deer harvest (253) was 26.9% less than 1998-99 harvest (346) and was 4.5% higher than the prior 5-year average of 242. Hog harvest (89) was approximately 40% less than the previous season (147) and previous 5-year average (148) harvests. Deer and hog harvest by season compared to the previous 5-year averages are shown in Table 8.

The 1999-00 deer harvest was greater than the previous 5-year average for the archery, and general gun seasons, and less than the previous 5-year average for the muzzleloading gun season. Hunter success for deer was greater during the muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons as compared to the previous 5-year averages. There was no change in hunter success for the archery season as compared to the previous 5-year average. The 1999-00 hog harvest and hunter success values for all three seasons were less than the previous 5-year averages.

Deer harvest increased in the Bear Island, Deep Lake and Turner River units and decreased in Corn Dance, Loop and Stairsteps units as compared to the previous year (Table 9). Checked hog harvest decreased in all units except Turner River (Table 10). No hogs were taken in the Deep Lake Unit for the tenth consecutive year. The Deep Lake Unit was closed during the muzzleloading gun season and was restricted to "archery only" hunting during the general gun season.

Between 1980 and 1982 several different methodologies were utilized to estimate hunter pressure. Efforts to measure use were intensified in 1983 and 1984. During these years, consistent attempts were made to improve estimates of hunter use by combining check station information, vehicle surveys and other information. Since 1984 hunter use estimates have been standardized. Hunting pressure in 1999 was calculated by comparing Saturday vehicle counts with base year surveys conducted in 1984 (See Big Cypress Public Use Study, Jansen, 1986). The hunter pressure calculation involves multiplying the 1984

hunter activity (base year) estimates by the ratio of vehicles counted every Saturday during the 1999 hunting season to the weekly numbers obtained from the 1984 vehicle survey (base year) counts. All the previous years' vehicle survey results are summarized in Appendix D. Although vehicle surveys do not directly measure hunter pressure they do provide a good index and therefore trends over the past 13 years can be evaluated.

Hunting pressure decreased on all units as compared to last year's numbers (Table 11). Seasonal regulatory changes tend to have a direct affect on the amount of hunter pressure. For example, in the past decade, hunter pressure was lowest during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1999-00 (years with major high water events) due in part to hunting and/or ORV restrictions. In general, the hunting season's length and large land area have created low hunter densities on the BCWMA. Normally there are 50-500 hunters daily on the entire BCWMA, resulting in a hunter density of 1,110.5-11,362 acres per hunter (Schortemeyer et al. 1991).

Archery Season

The archery season was open September 2 through October 1. The 1999-00 archery season deer harvest (25) was 20% greater than the prior 5-year average of 19.8 (Table 12). Harvest was highest during the first, second and third weeks of the season. Archery deer harvest increased in Deep Lake, Turner River and Stairsteps units as compared to the 1998-99 season. Hog harvest (11) during archery season was 41% less than the prior 5-year average (18.6) and 27.3% less than the 1998-99 archery season harvest (Table 10). The Turner River Unit accounted for 54.5% of the hogs taken during the archery season. Hunting pressure (2,510 man-days) was 21.1% greater than the prior 5-year average of 1,979 man-days. Pressure also increased in every unit except for Corn Dance and Loop, and was greatest for Turner River (945 man-days, 37.6%) as compared to the 1998-99 season (Table 11). The 1999-00 archery season hunter success rate (0.014) was 26.3% less than the previous 5-year average (0.019).

Muzzleloading Gun Season

The muzzleloading gun season was open October 7 through October 22. Corn Dance, Stairsteps and Loop units were closed during the entire muzzleloading gun season. Turner River and Bear Island

units were closed the last two days of the season. Deer harvest (52) for the muzzleloading gun season was 14.8% less than the 5-year average of 61 (Table 13). Hog harvest (11) was 67.6% less than the previous 5-year average of 34 (Table 13). Turner River Unit accounted for 82.7% and 100%, of the deer and hogs harvested, respectively. Hunter pressure (1,055 man-days) decreased by 46.2% when compared to the prior 5-year average of 1,962 man-days. A decline in pressure was also documented for the Turner River and Bear Island units as compared to the 1998-99 season (Table 11). The muzzleloading gun success rate (0.060) was greater than the 1998-99 rate (0.052), and the previous 5-year average (0.048).

General Gun Season

The 1999-00 general gun season (November 11 through January 1) was 51 days in length. Hunter activity and harvest during the general gun season are summarized in Table 14. Portions of the Stairsteps, Loop and Corn Dance units were either entirely or partially closed during this season. Due to unit closures, only 7,690 man-days were recorded for hunter pressure, 18.6% lower than the prior 5-year average of 9,446 (Table 14). General gun deer harvest (173) was 6.5% more than the prior 5-year average of 162. Hog harvest (67) was 29.4% less than the prior 5-year average of 95. Turner River Unit accounted for 74.4% of the total deer and 79.1% of the hogs harvested during the general gun hunt. This unit also accounted for 55.3% (4,255 man-days) of the general gun pressure (Table 9). Pressure decreased in all units as compared to the previous year.

Hunting pressure by week of general gun season is shown in Figure 8. In general, use is highest during the first 9 days followed by Thanksgiving week. Use levels decline after that until the end of the season. Use levels at the end of the season increase, but generally remain below levels in the first two weeks. Levels presented for the first week are actually for the first two days only (opening weekend). Remaining weeks cover a full 7-day period, except for 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 in which week eight is only 2, 3 and 5 days long respectively.

WHITE-TAILED DEER DATA

Herd Composition

Harvested deer were aged by tooth eruption and wear (Severinghaus 1949). In 1999-00, 83.8% of all deer checked were aged. There were no deer harvested in the fawn age class. The 1.5-year age class constituted 22.2% of the aged harvest, while the 2.5-year age class accounted for 47.6% (Table 15). Percentage of harvested deer greater than the 2.5-year age class was 30.2%. Harvest in the 4.5 (9.4%), 5.5 (2.8%) and 5.5+ (2.4%) year age classes increased as compared to last year (3.0%, 1.7% and 1.0%, respectively).

Deer age structure by unit of harvest is shown in Table 15. Bear Island, Turner River, and Stairsteps units had similar age structures related to harvest. For each, the 2.5-year age class dominated with moderate representation of the 1.5-year age class, however, the Bear Island Unit had great representation in the 3.5-year age class (30.0 %). Overall, age structure data indicated good recruitment in recent years despite the slight decrease in the percentage of deer in the 1.5 year age class for 1999-00. Field observations, surveys, and documented harvest have indicated fluctuating recruitment rates over the past 10 years. Recruitment rates may be affected by spring water levels, with high water levels potentially increasing fawn mortality.

Physical Characteristics

Antler characteristics and dressed weight by age class and unit of harvest are shown in Table 16. Overall, values in 1999-00 are similar to those reported since implementation of the 5-inch antler rule (1986-87). Mean dressed weight of all animals ranged from 82 pounds in 1996 to 67 pounds in 1986, and was 72.4 pounds for the 1999-00 season. Mean dressed weight for male deer was less in 1999-00 than in 1998-99 in the Turner River, Loop and Stairsteps units (Table 16). The most recent season high mean was 78 pounds in 1995. Mean antler circumference at 6.3 cm in 1999-00 is within the range set in previous years (5.6-7.4 cm). Mean antler length (24.9 cm) was within the range set in previous years (18.8-27.7 cm). Mean number of points per deer (4.9) was comparable to the previous year (3.8). Occurrence of spikes by age class and unit of harvest is shown in Table 17. Spikes accounted for 31% or greater of the

1.5 year age class for all units except Loop and Corn Dance units. The Bear Island Unit had the greatest mean dressed weight for deer (77.0 lbs.) followed by the Turner River Unit (73.6 lbs.).

WILD HOG DATA

Whenever possible, biological data was collected from harvested hogs when they were examined at check stations. Parameters normally measured included weight, body length, tail length and shoulder height. Measurements were taken on approximately 1,679 of the 2,648 hogs checked over the past 17 years.

Mean dressed weights, lengths, and shoulder heights for hogs harvested since the 1983-84 hunting season are shown in Table 18. Mean dressed weight and shoulder height were less than 1998-99. Mean body length (119 cm) was lower than last year's 124 cm. Mean dressed weight (75 lbs.) was 1.3% lower than the 16-year mean of 76.2 lbs.

Measured physical characteristics of male hogs harvested were greater than those of females in 1999-00 (Table 19). On average, males outweighed females by 33 pounds (95 lbs. vs. 62 lbs.). Mean body length of males was 6.4% greater than females (125 cm vs. 117 cm) while mean shoulder height of males was 10.3% greater (68 cm vs. 61 cm).

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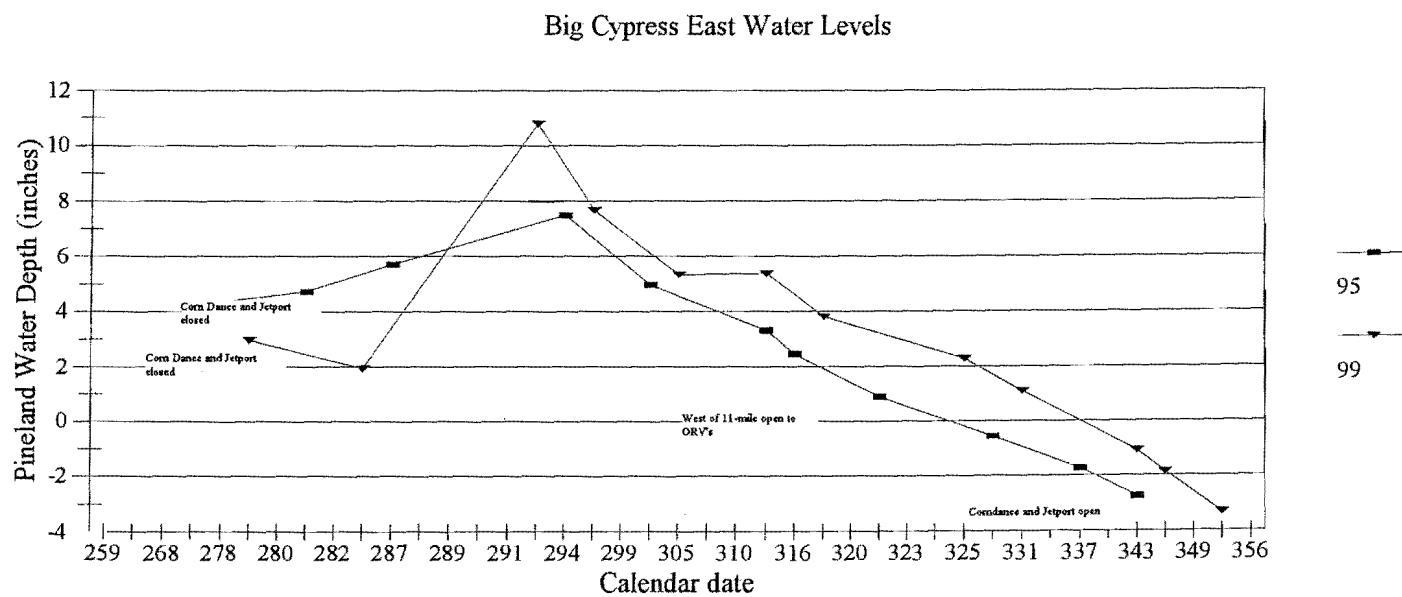


Figure 1. Mean water levels at selected monitoring sites during high water periods, Big Cypress WMA (East), 1995 and 1999.

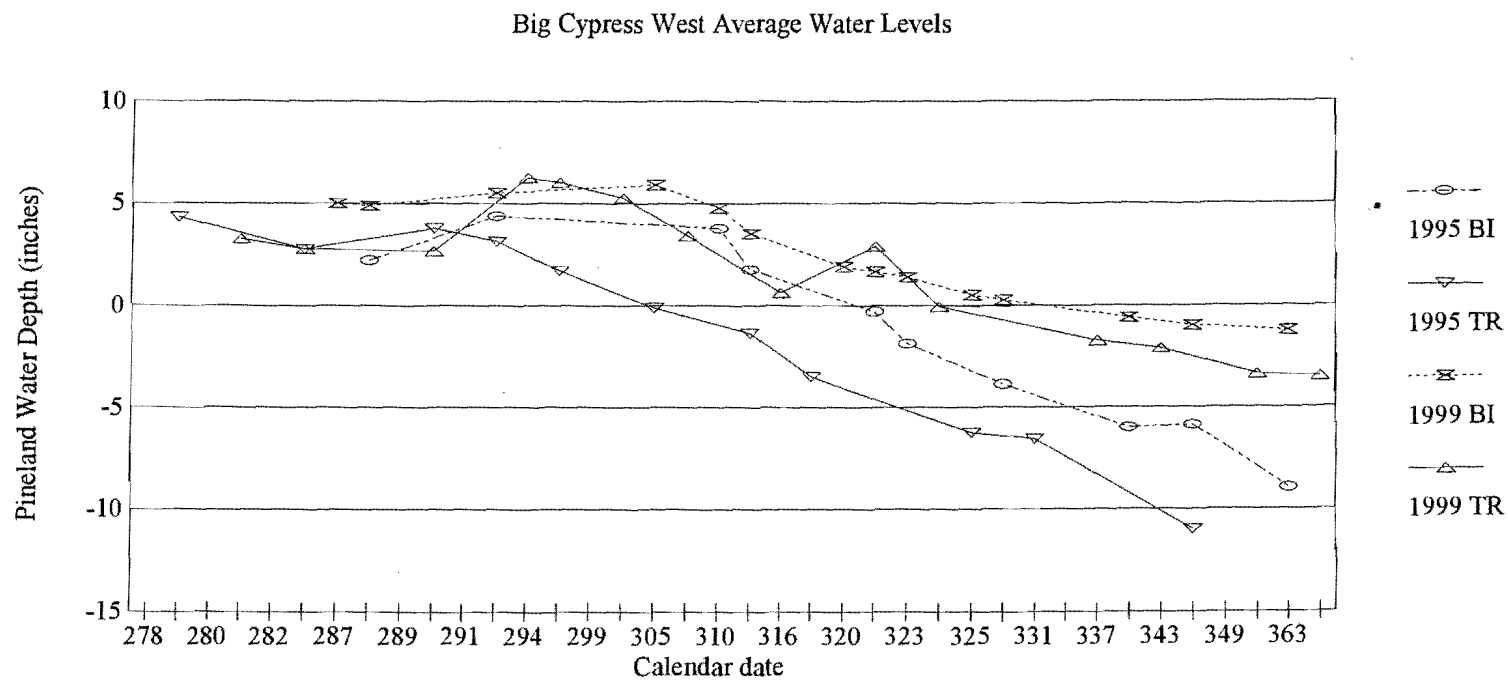


Figure 2. Mean water levels at selected monitoring sites during the high water periods, Big Cypress WMA (West), 1995 and 1999.

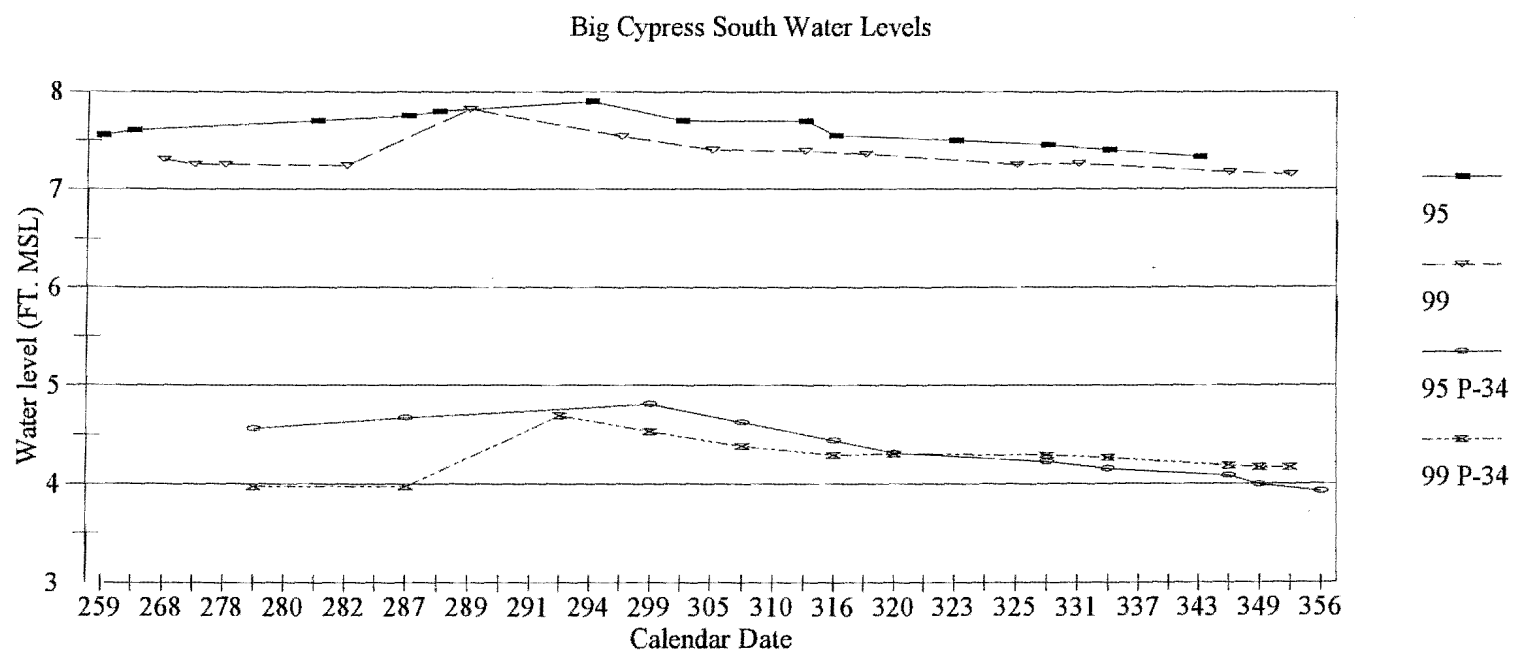


Figure 3. Mean water levels at selected monitoring sites during high water periods, Big Cypress WMA (South), 1995 and 1999.

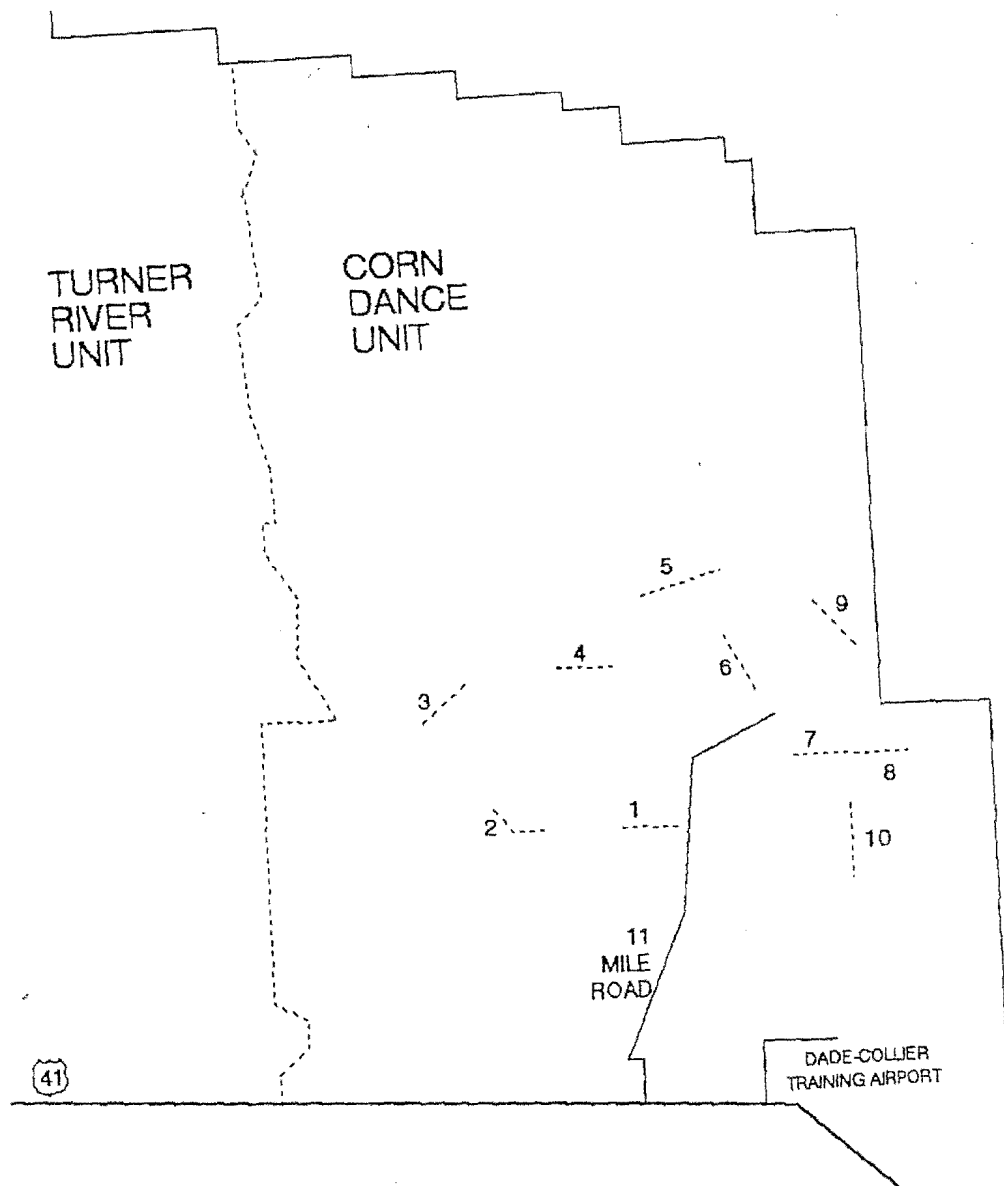


Figure 4. Deer track survey transects, Corn Dance Unit, Big Cypress WMA, 1985-1991.

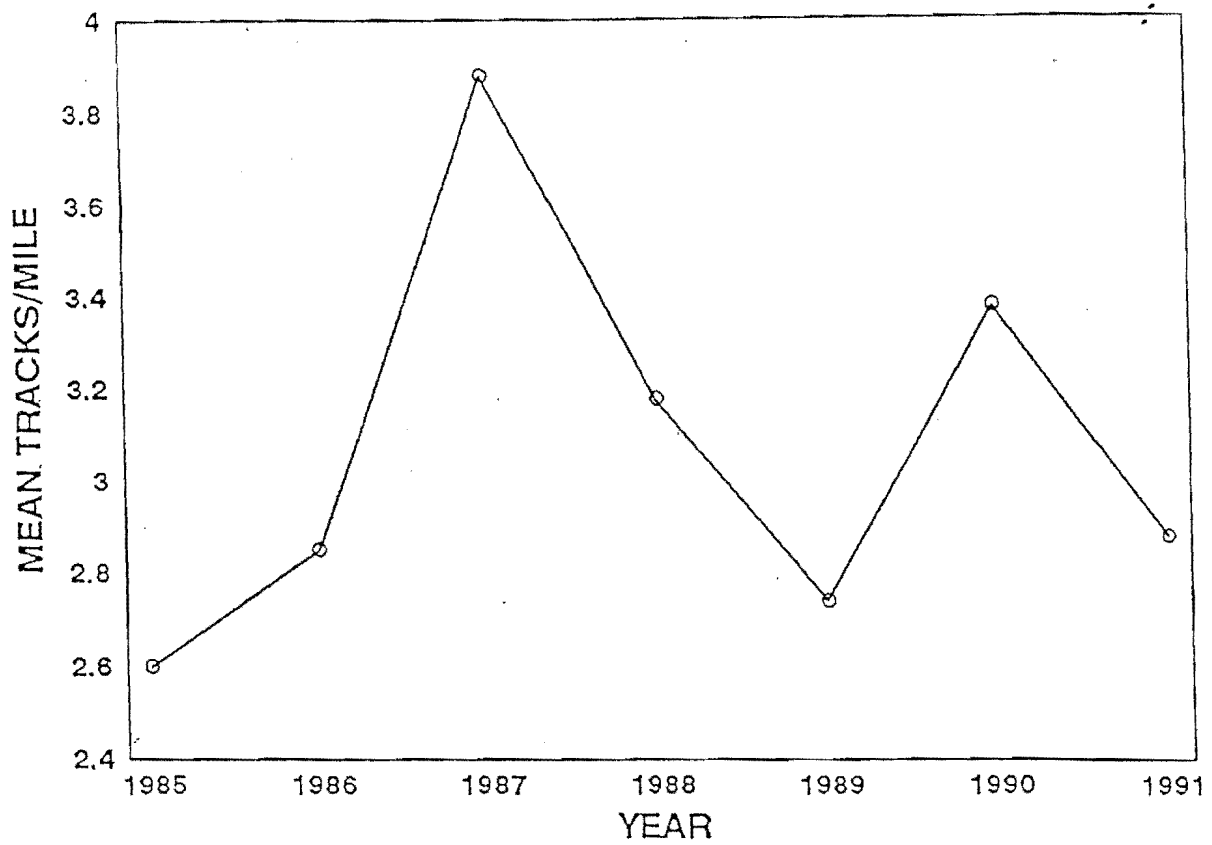


Figure 5. Mean number of deer tracks per one-mile transect in the Corn Dance Unit of the Big Cypress WMA, 1985-1991.

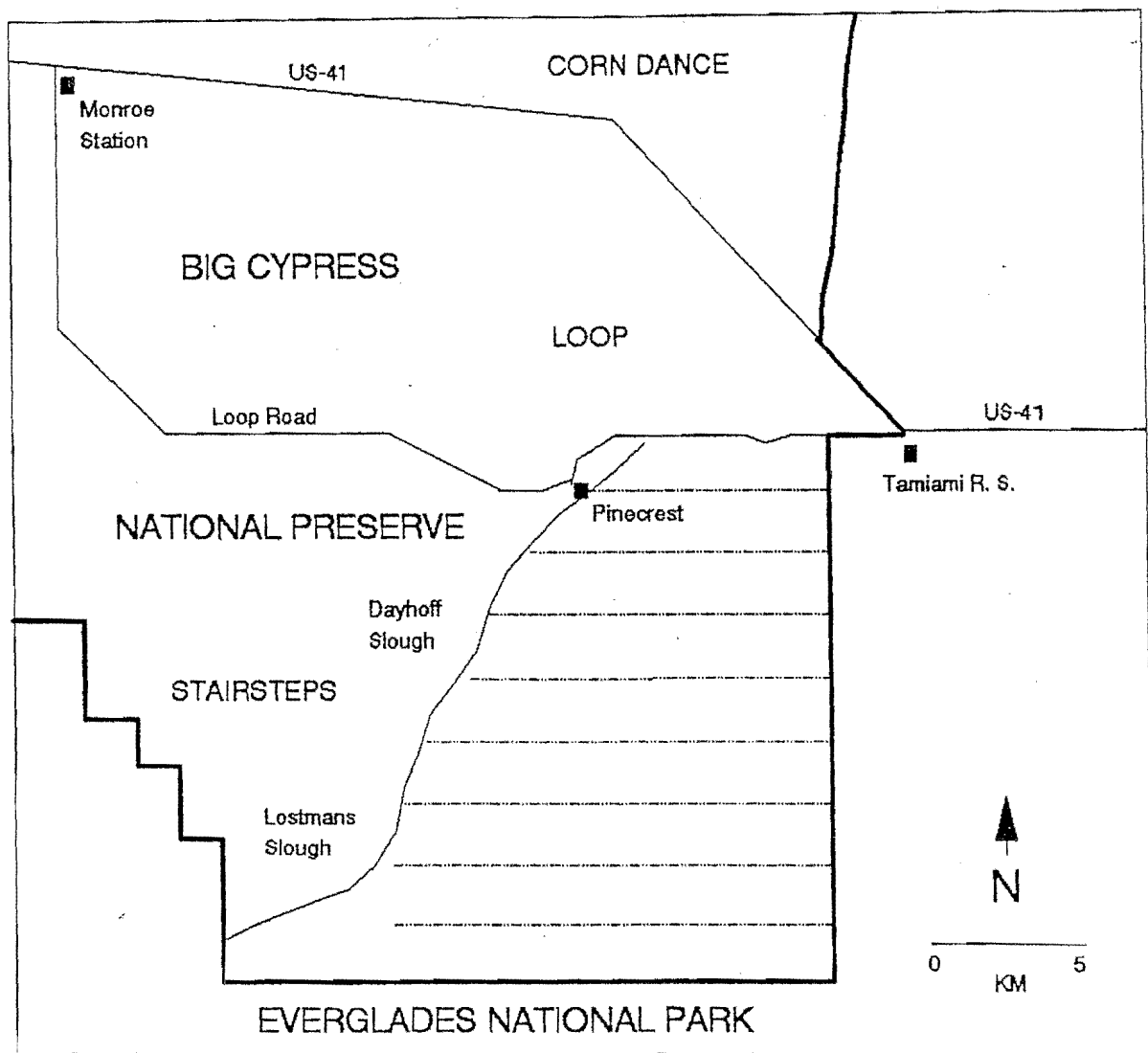


Figure 6. Aerial deer survey transects for the eastern Stairsteps Unit, Big Cypress WMA, 1985-1999.

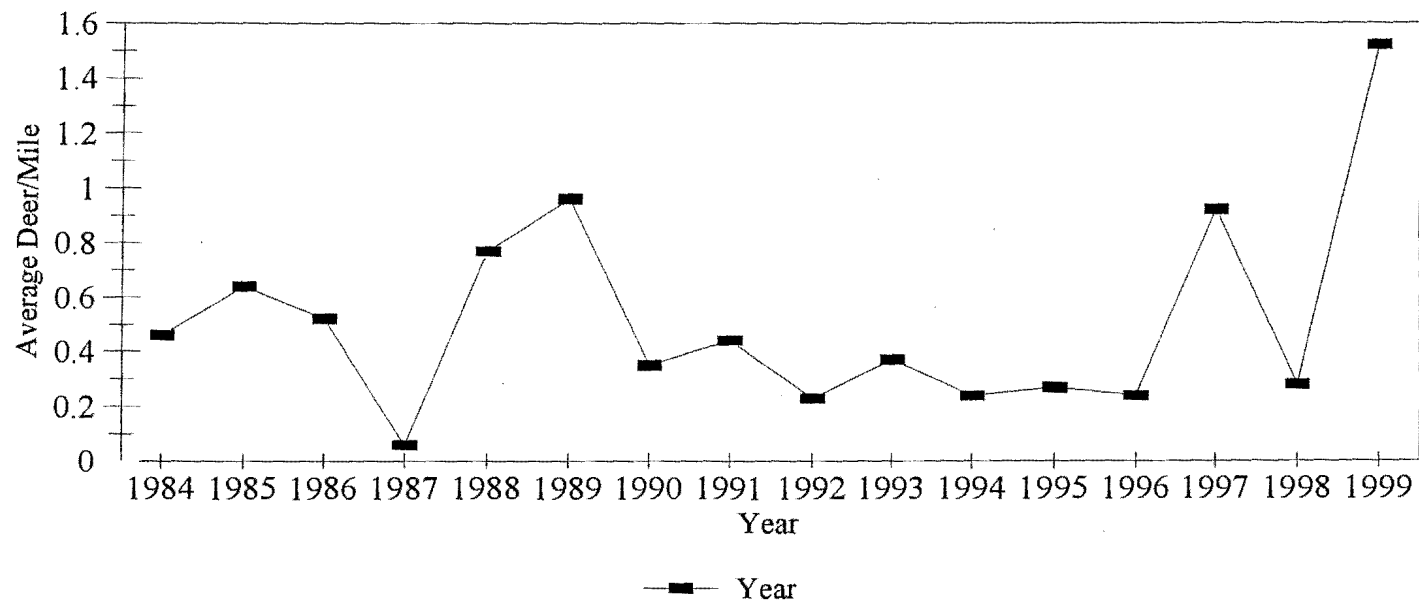


Figure 7. Average number of deer per mile in the eastern Stairsteps Unit, Big Cypress WMA, 1984-99.

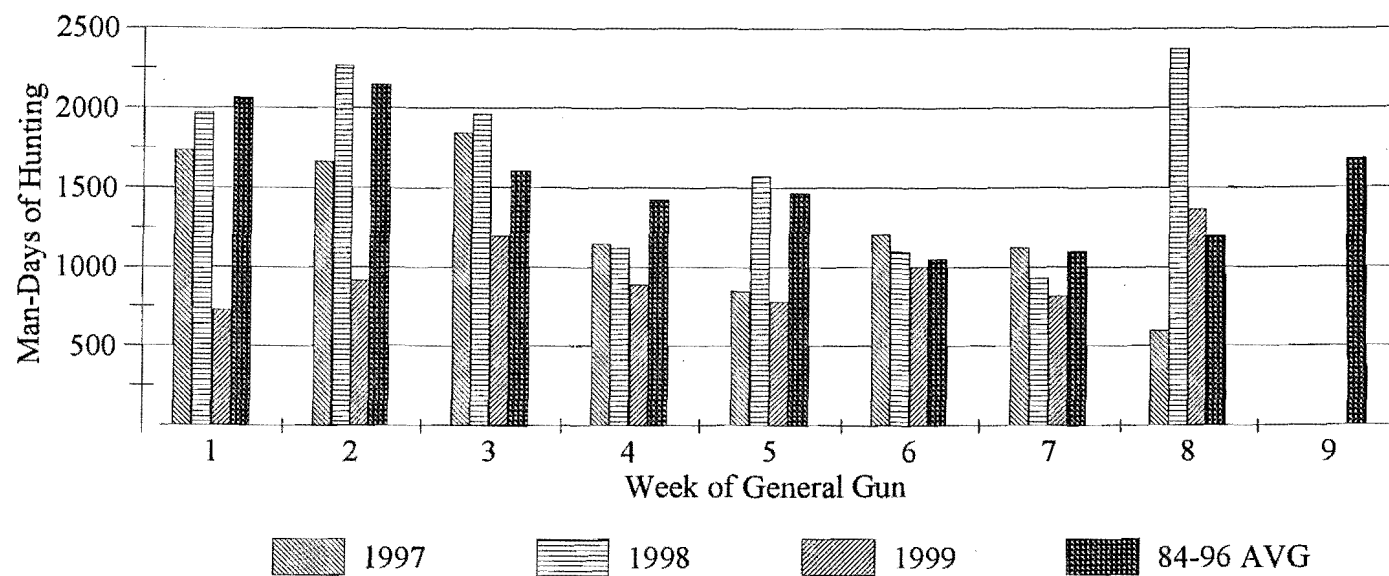


Figure 8. Weekly hunting pressure for the general gun season, Big Cypress WMA, 1984-1999.

Table 1. Water levels (inches) at selected gauges during the high water period on the Big Cypress WMA, 1999-00.

Date	Water Gauges										
	BI Grade	BI Check Station	Turner River	CC N old	CC N new	CC S	11-mile marker 6	11-mile marker 19	11-mile marker 23	East Hinson	Hog Head
10/01/99		4.5	3.25	7.9	7.8	7.25	3.5	3			
10/02/99				7.9	7.76	7.24					
10/05/99	4			7.9	7.76	7.25					
10/06/99	4.25	4.375	2.75				3.25	2.875	2.75		
10/09/99				7.9	7.76	7.24					
10/10/99	4						0.31	3	2.5		
10/16/99		3.75	6.25	8.4	8.22	7.82					
10/17/99	4.5	3	6							16.12	
10/18/99											12.51
10/19/99	4.25	2	5.25				9.75	14.25	8.375	16.09	
10/24/99	3	0.375	3.375	8.2	8.05	7.54	8.25	8.125	6.625	16	
11/01/99		-2.5	0.625	8.1	7.94	7.4	5.625	5.375	5	15.81	
11/02/99	2.25										
11/05/99											12.8
11/08/99	-0.25	-2.5	2.875	8.1	7.91	7.39	5.75	5.375	5	15.82	12.72
11/14/99	-3	-4	-0.0625	8	7.87	7.36	3.875	3.625	3.9375	15.65	12.56
11/21/99	-6.25	-6.25	-1.75	7.95	7.8	7.25	2.1875	1.9375	2.75	15.47	12.4
11/27/99		-6.25		7.9	7.75	7.26					
11/28/99	-6.875						1.125	0.5	1.625	15.38	
12/05/99		-11.875	-3.375								
12/07/99							-1.25	-1.875	-0.1875		
12/12/99	-12.5	-9.5	-3.5	7.7	7.58	7.17	-2.125	-2.625	-0.875	15.04	
12/19/99	-12.75	-10.5	-4	7.7	7.5	7.15	-3.5	-4.1875	-2.3125		

Table 2. Number of acres burned in Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1979-1999.

Year	Total Acres	Human Caused	Prescribed	Natural
1979	24,147	21,482	2,642	23
1980	27,717	20,052	7,440	225
1981	217,378	215,037	1,683	658
1982	49,218	44,691	4,527	-
1983	11,474	1,297	9,950	227
1984	23,064	4,013	17,713	1,338
1985	16,595	2,510	8,729	5,356
1986	51,443	32,718	18,322	370
1987	27,998	3,775	21,767	2,456
1988	40,866	23,751	17,031	84
1989	58,080	17,051	40,386	643
1990	73,058	9,913	62,950	645
1991	40,552	1,631	37,993	928
1992	53,590	2,865	50,689	36
1993	45,652	33	45,000	322
1994	46,339	-	44,739	1,600 ^a
1995	27,248	113	27,106	29
1996	27,146	3,096	23,891	159
1997	31,889	-	30,907	982
1998	41,352	482	37,511	3,841
1999	49,468	74	45,603	3,490
Totals	984,274	404,584	556,579	23,412
Avg./Yr.	46,870	19,266	26,504	1,115

^a Lightning and human caused combined (Unpublished data from BCNP, May 1999)

Table 3. Population indices for white-tailed deer on the Big Cypress WMA based on spotlight counts, 1988-1999.

Time of survey	Source	Unit	Number of Surveys	Deer Count High/Average	Population Estimate	Density (deer:acre)
1988 Annual	McGrady, April 1988	Deep Lake	1	8/8	378	1:128
1989 Annual	McGrady, Manor & Schortemeyer, June 1989	Eastern Bear Island	2	11/7	266	1:72
1989 Annual	McGrady, Manor & Schortemeyer, May 1989	Western Bear Island	3	24/11.3	683	1:26
1990 Annual	Schortemeyer & Manor, June 1990	Eastern Bear Island	4	2/1.3	33	1:584
1990 Annual	Schortemeyer & Manor, June 1990	Western Bear Island	5	4/2.4	140	1:137
1991 Annual	Schortemeyer, Manor & Bozzo, July 1991	Eastern Bear Island	3	11/5.7	180	1:106
1991 Annual	Schortemeyer, Manor & Bozzo, July 1991	Western Bear Island	3	16/7.7	736 563	1:26 ^c 1:34 ^d
1992 Annual	Schortemeyer & Bozzo, June 1992	Eastern Bear Island	3	16/7.3	262	1:73
1992 Annual	Schortemeyer & Bozzo, June 1992	Western Bear Island	2	14/14	490	1:39
1993 Annual	Schortemeyer & Bozzo, July 1993	Eastern Bear Island	2	10/9.5	163	1:117
1993 Annual	Schortemeyer & Bozzo, July 1993	Western Bear Island	2	4/3	140	1:137
1994 Annual	Schortemeyer & Bozzo, June 1994	Eastern Bear Island	3	7/5	115	1:167
1994 Annual	Schortemeyer & Bozzo, June 1994	Western Bear Island	3	2/0.7	70	1:274
1995 Annual	Schortemeyer, Bozzo & Myers, June 1995	Eastern Bear Island	3	10/7.7	262 163	1:73 ^a 1:117 ^b
1995 Annual	Schortemeyer, Bozzo & Myers, June 1995	Western Bear Island	3	7/4.3	245	1:78
1996 Annual	Schortemeyer, Bozzo & Myers, July 1996	Eastern Bear Island	2	13/21	213	1:90
1996 Annual	Schortemeyer, Bozzo & Myers, July / August 1996	Western Bear Island	2	21/15	736	1:26
1997 Annual	Bozzo & Myers, June 1997	Eastern Bear Island	2	10/8	163	1:117
1997 Annual	Schortemeyer & Bush, June 1997	Western Bear Island	2	10/7.5	348	1:55
1998 Annual	Schortemeyer, Steelman, Bozzo & Boon, June 1998	Eastern Bear Island	2	11/10.5	163	1:117
1998 Annual	Schortemeyer, Steelman & Bozzo, June 1998	Western Bear Island	2	13/10.5	455	1:42
1999 Annual	Schortemeyer, Steelman & Bozzo, June 1999	Eastern Bear Island	2	14/14	229	1:83

^a 6.4 mile transect

^b 3.2 mile transect

^c 3.1 mile transect

^d 5.0 mile transect

Table 4. Population indices obtained from track count surveys for white-tailed deer in the Corn Dance Unit (283,791-acres) of the Big Cypress, 1980-91.

Time of survey	Source	Population Index	Density (deer: acre)
1991 Annual	McCown 1991	1253	1:227
1990 Annual	McCown 1991	1500	1:189
1989 Annual	McCown 1989	1215	1:234
1988 Annual	McCown 1988	1412	1:201
1987 Annual	McCown 1987	1720	1:165
1986 Annual	McCown 1986	1260	1:225
1985-86 Pre-hunt	Schortemeyer 1985	280-385	1:1013-737
1985 Annual	McCown 1985	1140	1:249
1982-83 Post-hunt	Pylant, memo 11 April 1983	1266-2250	1:213-120
1981-82 Post-hunt	Pylant, memo 21 April 1982	1080-1875	1:250-144
1980-81 Post-hunt	Pylant, memo 28 Dec. 1981	1620	1:185

Table 5. Population indices obtained from track count surveys for white-tailed deer in the Turner River Unit (Mullet Slough Area = 32,000-acres) of the Big Cypress WMA, 1988-1992 and 1999.

Time of survey	Source	Population Index	Density (deer:acre)
1999 Annual	Steelman, May 1999 ^c	65	1:459
1992 Annual	Bozzo, May 1992 ^a	269	1:119
1991 Annual	Schortemeyer, Manor & Bozzo, May 1991 ^a	145	1:221
1990 Annual	Schortemeyer, Manor & Bozzo, May 1990 ^a	345	1:93
1989 Annual	McGrady & Manor, May 1989 ^a	300	1:107
1988 Annual	McGrady April, 1988 ^b	58	1:549

^a Cypress Lane, three replications.

^b Cypress Lane, two replications.

^c Cypress Lane, single replication.

Table 6. Population indices obtained from SRF Aerial Counts for white-tailed deer in the eastern Stairsteps Unit (50,000 acres) of the Big Cypress WMA, 1982-1999.

Time of Survey	Source	Population Estimate ^a	Density (deer:acre)
1982-83 Pre-hunt	Pylant, memo 30 Sept. 1982	833-1190	1:60-42
1982-83 Pre-hunt	Pylant, memo 11 April 1983	379-543	1:132-92
1984 Post Production (1 of 2)	Schortemeyer 1984	70-132	1:714-379
1984 Post Production (2 of 2)	Schortemeyer 1984	117-220	1:427-227
1984-85 Pre-hunt	Schortemeyer 1984	316-633	1:158-79
1985-86 Pre-hunt	Schortemeyer & Ramsey	410-820	1:120-60
1985-86 Post-hunt	Schortemeyer & Ramsey	240-480	1:210-105
1986-87 Pre-hunt (1 of 2)	Schortemyer & Ramsey	280-560	1:180-90
1986-87 Post-hunt	Schortemeyer & Ramsey	250-500	1:200-100
1987 Annual (1 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Ramsey	38-76	1:1322-661
1987 Annual (2 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Ramsey	19-38	1:2643-1322
1988 Annual	Schortemeyer & McGrady	485-980	1:103-51
1989 Annual	Schortemeyer & McGrady	620-1220	1:83-41
1990 Annual	Schortemeyer & Manor	200-442	1:227-113
1991 Annual June (1 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Bozzo	280-560	1:180-90
1991 Annual June (2 of 2)	Manor & Bozzo	280-560	1:180-90
1992 Annual June (1 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Bozzo	145-362	1:345-138
1992 Annual June (2 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Bozzo	32-79	1:1586-636
1993 Annual (1 of 2)	Schortemyer & Bozzo	234-581	1:214-86

Time of Survey	Source	Population Estimate ^a	Density (deer:acre)
1993 Annual (2 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Bozzo	88-221	1:566-266
1994 Annual (1 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Bozzo	113-284	1:441-176
1994 Annual (2 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Bozzo	152-379	1:330-132
1995 Annual June (1 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Bozzo	171-427	1:293-117
1995 Annual June (2 of 2)	Bozzo & Myers	50-126	1:991-396
1996 Annual June (1 of 2)	Bozzo & Myers	32-79	1:1586-634
1996 Annual June (2 of 2)	Bozzo & Myers	152-379	1:330-132
1997 Annual (1 of 2)	Bozzo & Myers	581-1453	1:86-34
1997 Annual (2 of 2)	Bozzo & Bush	259-648	1:193-77
1998 Annual (1 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Steelman	157-393	1:317-127
1998 Annual (2 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Steelman	176-442	1:283-113
1999 Annual	Bozzo & Steelman	958-2392	1:52.2-20.9

^a Low and high values provided in column were based on observing 100 and 40 percent of the population, respectively.

Table 7. Big Cypress WMA deer and hog harvest, and hunter success ratio, 1980-2000.

Year	Number of Man-Days	Number of Deer Harvested	Number of Hogs Harvested	Hunter Success Ratio ^a
1980-81	14,240	103	81	0.013
1981-82	16,539	104	44	0.009
1982-83	18,625	145	141	0.015
1983-84	23,015	140	201	0.015
1984-85	24,360	205	195	0.016
1985-86	17,195	156	111	0.016
1986-87	17,290	127	153	0.016
1987-88	17,525	208	138	0.020
1988-89	21,567	185	144	0.015
1989-90	21,660	186	154	0.016
1990-91	14,340	182	180	0.025
1991-92	17,083	216	254	0.028
1992-93	16,534	226	181	0.025
1993-94	15,910	253	162	0.026
1994-95 ^b	9,735	124	84	0.021
1995-96 ^c	11,290	206	148	0.031
1996-97	14,015	271	174	0.032
1997-98	14,410	265	188	0.031
1998-99 ^d	17,485	346	147	0.028
1999-00 ^e	11,255	253	89	0.030

^a Hunter Success Ratio = (deer and hog harvest)/man-days of hunting.

^b General Gun season was 9 days long in the Turner River and Corn Dance units and closed in the Stairsteps and Loop units.

^c Restricted Harvest

^d Archery season was closed for 2 days due to a hurricane.

^e Closures affected all units during Muzzleloading Gun season and Corn Dance, Stairsteps and Loop units during General Gun Season.

Table 8. Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area deer and hog harvest, and hunter success ratios by season for 1999-00.

Season	Number Harvested		Hunter Succ. Ratio ^a	
	1999-00	Prior 5 yr. Avg.	1999-00	Prior 5 yr. Avg.
Deer				
Archery	25	19.8	0.010	0.010
Muzzleloading	52	60.6	0.049	0.030
General Gun	176	162	0.023	0.017
Hog				
Archery	11	18.6	0.004	0.009
Muzzleloading	11	34.4	0.010	0.017
General Gun	67	95.4	0.009	0.010

^a Success ratio = no. of animals harvested/no. of man-days.

Table 9. Six-year comparison of documented deer harvest on the Big Cypress WMA, 1994-1999. - and *, indicate areas closed and partially closed, respectively, within a season.

NUMBER OF DEER HARVESTED						
Season	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00
<u>Archery</u>						
Bear Island	7	4	3	3	2*	0
Deep Lake	0	0	0	0	1*	6
Corn Dance	1	0	2	1	3*	2
Turner River	2	4	2	3	9*	10
Stairsteps	7	12	9	13	4*	6
Loop	1	4	0	0	2*	1
Total	18	24	16	20	21	25
<u>Muzzleloading</u>						
Bear Island	11	3*	14	3	6	9*
Deep Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn Dance	11	-	9	4	7	-
Turner River	13	21*	27	34	40	43*
Stairsteps	14	6*	19	7	26	-
Loop	9	7*	3	6	3	-
Total	58	37	72	54	82	52
<u>General Gun</u>						
Bear Island	13	10	15	14	15	16
Deep Lake	0	0	0	1	1	0
Corn Dance	10*	10*	20	16	21	1*
Turner River	25*	64	83	75	109	131
Stairsteps	-	54*	50	80	83	27*
Loop	-	7*	15	5	14	1*
Total	48	145	183	191	243	176
<u>Combined</u>						
Bear Island	31	17	32	20	23	25
Deep Lake	0	0	0	1	2	6
Corn Dance	22	10	31	21	31	3
Turner River	40	89	112	112	158	184
Stairsteps	21	72	78	100	113	33
Loop	10	18	18	11	19	2
Total	124	206	271	265	346	253

Table 10. Six-year comparison of documented hog harvest on the Big Cypress WMA, 1994-1999. - and *, indicate areas closed and partially closed, respectively, within a season.

NUMBER OF HOGS HARVESTED						
Season	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00
<u>Archery</u>						
Bear Island	0	0	1	1	0*	0
Deep Lake	0	0	0	0	0*	0
Corn Dance	1	0	8	10	0*	1
Turner River	6	12	5	17	5*	6
Stairsteps	1	6	4	2	1*	3
Loop	3	3	3	2	2*	1
Total	11	21	21	32	8	11
<u>Muzzleloading</u>						
Bear Island	4	4*	3	6	0	0*
Deep Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn Dance	1	-	5	2	2	-
Turner River	19	18*	17	15	18	11*
Stairsteps	15	7*	5	3	4	-
Loop	4	6*	4	5	5	-
Total	43	35	34	31	29	11
<u>General Gun</u>						
Bear Island	4	7	15	8	2	1
Deep Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corn Dance	6*	5*	19	13	21	4*
Turner River	20*	44*	37	45	42	53
Stairsteps	-	26*	40	48	40	8*
Loop	-	11*	8	11	5	1*
Total	30	93	119	125	110	67
<u>Combined</u>						
Bear Island	8	11	19	15	2	1
Deep Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corn Dance	8	5	32	25	32	5
Turner River	45	74	59	77	65	70
Stairsteps	16	39	49	53	45	11
Loop	7	20	15	18	12	2
Total	84	149	174	188	147	89

Table 11. Six-year comparison of documented hunter pressure on the Big Cypress WMA, 1994-1999. - and *, indicate areas closed and partially closed, respectively, within a season.

HUNTER PRESSURE (MAN-DAYS)						
Season	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00
<u>Archery</u>						
Bear Island	630	415	480	620	425*	515
Deep Lake	40	35	25	40	45*	80
Corn Dance	330	230	290	275	315*	300
Turner River	540	530	525	750	735*	945
Stairsteps	495	345	370	370	425*	565
Loop	155	140	125	75	120*	105
Total	2190	1695	1815	2130	2065	2510
<u>Muzzleloading</u>						
Bear Island	470	275*	565	375	390	125*
Deep Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn Dance	405	-	280	225	235	-
Turner River	605	475*	600	930	965	930*
Stairsteps	635	335*	515	445	400	-
Loop	155	145*	115	125	145	-
Total	2270	1230	2075	2100	2135	1055
<u>General Gun</u>						
Bear Island	3635	1635	2590	1360	2020	1465
Deep Lake	105	85	70	145	200	160
Corn Dance	560*	735*	1085	1335	1730	490*
Turner River	975*	3070*	2970	3730	5270	4255
Stairsteps	-	2605*	3035	2885	3490	1230*
Loop	-	235*	375	450	575	90*
Total	5275	8365	10125	10175	13285	7690
<u>Combined</u>						
Bear Island	4735	2325	3635	2625	2835	2105
Deep Lake	145	120	95	185	245	240
Corn Dance	1295	965	1655	1835	2280	790
Turner River	2120	4075	4095	5410	6970	6130
Stairsteps	1130	3285	3920	3700	4315	1795
Loop	310	520	615	650	840	195
Total	9735	11290	14015	14405	17485	11255

Table 12. Archery season harvest summary Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1999-00.

Week	Deer		Hog		Hunter Activity (man-days)	
	1999-00 dates	1999-00 Prior 5 yr. avg.	1999-00 Prior 5 yr. avg.	1999-00 Prior 5 yr. avg.	1999-00 Prior 5 yr. avg.	1999-00 Prior 5 yr. avg.
1 (9-4 to 9-5)	5	7.2	2	6.2	995	716
2 (9-6 to 9-12)	9	4	4	5	640	440
3 (9-13 to 9-19)	5	4.2	2	3.6	350	337
4 (9-20 to 9-26)	4	3.2	2	2	205	257
5 (9-27 to 10-3) ^a	2	1.2	1	1.8	320	229
Total	25	19.8	11	18.6	2510	1979

^a Five-week season began in 1990-91.

Table 13. Muzzleloading Gun season harvest summary Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1999-00.

Week	Deer		Hog		Hunter Activity (man-days)	
	1999-00	Prior 5 yr. avg.	1999-00	Prior 5 yr. avg.	1999-00	Prior 5 yr. avg.
1999-00 dates						
1 (10-9 to 10-10)	28	19	11	10.4	595	946
2 (10-11 to 10-17)	18	29.6	0	14.6	105	572
3 (10-18 to 10-24)	6	12	0	9.4	355	444
Total	52	60.6	11	34.4	1055	1962

Table 14. General Gun season harvest summary Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1999-00.

Week	Deer		Hog		Hunter Activity (man-days)	
	1999-00	Prior 5 yr. avg.	1999-00	Prior 5 yr. avg.	1999-00	Prior 5 yr. avg.
1999-00 dates						
1 (11-13 to 11-14)	31	36	6	16.2	725	1359
2 (11-15 to 11-21)	34	43.4	12	26	915	1422
3 (11-22 to 11-28)	30	23.6	9	12.8	1195	1510
4 (11-29 to 12-05)	19	17.4	8	8.8	890	1031
5 (12-06 to 12-12)	19	9	3	9.4	780	1031
6 (12-13 to 12-19)	13	9.6	14	6.2	1005	920
7 (12-20 to 12-26)	10	11.4	3	7.2	815	898
8 (12-27 to 1-02)	20	11.6	12	8.8	1365	1085
Total	176	162	67	95.4	7690	9256

Table 15. Age structure of male white-tailed deer harvested on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area by unit of harvest, 1999-00.

Age Class	Bear Island		Deep Lake		Turner River		Loop		Stairsteps		Corn Dance		All units combined	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1.5	4	20.0	1	25.0	35	22.2	1	50.0	6	23.1	0	---	47	22.2
2.5	8	40.0	3	75.0	76	48.1	0	---	13	50.0	1	50.0	101	47.6
3.5	6	30.0	0	---	22	13.9	0	---	5	19.2	0	---	33	15.6
4.5	2	10.0	0	---	16	10.1	0	---	1	3.8	1	50.0	20	9.4
5.5	0	---	0	---	5	3.2	0	---	1	3.8	0	---	6	2.8
5.5+	0	---	0	---	4	2.5	1	50.0	0	---	0	---	5	2.4
Sample size	20		4		158		2		26		2		212	

Table 16. Body and antler characteristics of male deer harvested during 1999-00, Big Cypress WMA.

AGE	SAMPLE SIZE BY UNIT							MEAN DRESSED WEIGHT (lbs.)						
CLASS	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	ALL	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	ALL
1.5	4	1	35	1	6	-	47	57	70	61.6	70	61.7	-	62.5
2.5	8	3	76	-	13	15	101	-	75	73.7	-	67.9	65.0	72.1
3.5	6	-	22	-	5	-	33	80	-	75.7	-	72.5	-	75.7
4.5	2	-	16	-	1	1	20	82.5	-	80.8	-	75.0	-	80.6
5.5	-	-	5	-	1	-	6	-	-	86.0	-	58.0	-	79.0
5.5+	-	-	4	1	-	-	5	-	-	-	75	-	-	75.0
TOTAL	20	4	158	2	26	2	212	77.0	72.5	73.6	72.5	67.7	65.0	74.0

	MEAN ANTLER MAIN BEAM CIRCUMFERENCE (cm)							MEAN ANTLER BEAM LENGTH (cm)						
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	ALL	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	ALL
1.5	4.7	5.5	5.2	5.8	4.8	-	5.1	15.9	17.5	20.0	20.5	14.0	-	19.1
2.5	5.6	8.8	6.0	-	6.1	5.5	6.1	21.9	29.6	24.5	-	23.6	13.8	24.2
3.5	6.5	-	6.7	-	7.2	-	6.7	24.8	-	28.0	-	26.9	-	27.2
4.5	7.5	-	8.2	-	-	8	8.1	37.0	-	32.0	-	-	39.5	33.0
5.5	-	-	8.5	-	6.4	-	8.1	-	-	33.4	-	24.7	-	31.7
5.5+	-	-	8.4	9.0	-	-	8.5	-	-	34.8	30.3	-	-	33.9
TOTAL	5.9	8.0	6.3	7.4	6.2	6.8	6.0	23.1	26.6	25.3	25.4	22.8	26.7	24.6

	MEAN NUMBER OF POINTS							MEAN SPREAD (cm)						
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	ALL	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	ALL
1.5	2.3	3.0	3.4	4.0	3.0	-	3.3	13.3	17.5	15.9	19	14.7	-	15.7
2.5	4.3	6.0	4.7	-	5.2	6	4.8	17.5	24.2	20.4	-	23.0	16.0	20.5
3.5	6.0	-	5.4	-	5.5	-	5.6	21.1	-	22.0	-	25.3	-	22.2
4.5	6.5	-	6.6	-	-	6	6.5	25.5	-	27.7	-	-	33.0	27.7
5.5	-	-	6.8	-	7.0	-	6.8	-	-	25.7	-	-	-	25.7
5.5+	-	-	6.8	6.0	-	-	6.6	-	-	26.3	27.0	-	-	26.4
TOTAL	4.6	5.3	4.9	5.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	18.6	22.5	20.8	23.0	22.0	24.5	20.1

Note: I = Bear Island Unit, II = Deep Lake Unit, III = Turner River Unit, IV = Loop Unit, V = Stairsteps Unit, and VI = Corn Dance.

Table 17. Inferior antler development of adult white-tailed deer harvested on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1999-2000.

Age Class	Number of Spikes							% of Spikes in Age Class						
	<u>I</u> ^a	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>VI</u>	<u>ALL</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>II</u>	<u>III</u>	<u>IV</u>	<u>V</u>	<u>VI</u>	<u>ALL</u>
1.5	3	0	11	--	2	--	16	75	0	31	--	33	--	34
2.5	2	0	10	0	1	0	13	25	0	13	0	8	0	13
3.5	0	--	1	--	0	--	1	0	--	6	--	0	--	3
4.5	0	--	2	--	0	0	2	0	--	13	--	0	0	10
5.5	--	--	0	--	0	--	0	--	--	0	--	0	--	0
5.5+	--	--	0	0	--	--	0	--	--	0	0	--	--	0
N ^b	3	0	3	--	1	--	7	60	0	11	--	14	0	17

^a Units of harvest: I = Bear Island, II = Deep Lake, III = Turner River, IV = Loop, V = Stairsteps, VI = Corn Dance.

^b N is the number of spikes harvested/zone that were not aged, while % of spikes in N is the number of un-aged harvested spikes in a zone / the total of un-aged harvested deer in a zone X 100.

Table 18. Physical characteristics of wild hogs harvested from Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1983-2000.

Year	Sample size	Mean Dressed Weight (lbs.)	Mean Body Length (cm.) ^a	Mean Shoulder Height (cm.)
1983-84	126	71 (20-198)	114 (42-170)	59 (15-90)
1984-85	119	71 (18-350)	116 (77-164)	61 (40-90)
1985-86	67	75 (18-375)	116 (54-152)	64 (28-90)
1986-87	75	70 (20-155)	115 (78-155)	63 (36-88)
1987-88	101	71 (16-245)	115 (75-166)	62 (39-98)
1988-89	108	83 (20-238)	120 (68-158)	63 (22-85)
1989-90	110	66 (25-180)	117 (85-171)	61 (45-87)
1990-91	134	77 (25-165)	118 (71-160)	63 (18-90)
1991-92	158	78 (25-235)	120 (47-170)	64 (27-90)
1992-93	147	64 (15-182)	104 (59-159)	57 (34-89)
1993-94	93	77 (25-220)	123 (58-161)	66 (44-94)
1994-95	39	80 (25-205)	120 (86-156)	65 (47-86)
1995-96	73	82 (25-175)	125 (73-150)	68 (45-91)
1996-97	83	90 (25-180)	124 (78-152)	70 (27-99)
1997-98	104	82 (21-210)	122 (35-162)	58 (43-98)
1998-99	95	82 (17-150)	124 (74-149)	67 (43-92)
1999-00	89	75 (30-157)	119 (88-156)	64 (22-83)

^a Body length does not include tail.

Table 19. Comparison by sex of physical characteristics of wild hogs harvested from Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1983-2000.

Year	Sex	Sample Size	Mean Dressed Weight (lbs.)	Mean Body Length (cm.)	Mean Shoulder Height (cm.)
1983-84	F	52	58 (22-145)	113 (42-170)	55 (16-76)
	M	74	81 (20-198)	115 (47-149)	61 (19-90)
1984-85	F	64	62 (18-150)	113 (77-142)	58 (40-74)
	M	55	82 (18-350)	120 (78-164)	65 (41-90)
1985-86	F	29	61 (20-125)	115 (57-146)	62 (28-75)
	M	38	85 (18-175)	117 (54-152)	65 (31-90)
1986-87	F	40	59 (20-150)	111 (78-145)	60 (36-79)
	M	35	83 (20-155)	118 (78-155)	66 (40-88)
1987-88	F	45	53 (16-101)	109 (75-145)	57 (39-74)
	M	56	85 (22-245)	120 (87-166)	66 (42-98)
1988-89	F	45	67 (20-156)	116 (68-144)	60 (22-80)
	M	62	93 (30-238)	122 (87-166)	65 (42-85)
1989-90	F	54	59 (25-150)	115 (85-171)	59 (46-80)
	M	56	73 (25-180)	118 (88-162)	62 (45-87)
1990-91	F	58	65 (25-145)	114 (71-139)	60 (18-85)
	M	76	85 (25-165)	122 (84-160)	66 (18-90)
1991-92	F	69	65 (25-200)	114 (79-147)	61 (43-88)
	M	89	88 (25-235)	124 (47-170)	66 (27-90)
1992-93	F	34	69 (15-140)	117 (59-149)	62 (39-80)
	M	83	84 (20-182)	124 (79-159)	68 (34-89)
1993-94	F	52	64 (25-115)	118 (80-157)	63 (44-94)
	M	41	94 (27-220)	127 (58-161)	70 (51-88)
1994-95	F	14	69 (30-125)	118 (97-135)	63 (47-78)
	M	25	86 (25-205)	121 (86-156)	66 (47-86)
1995-96	F	30	69 (25-112)	120 (92-141)	64 (50-86)
	M	43	91 (25-175)	128 (73-150)	68 (45-91)
1996-97	F	27	78 (25-150)	120 (78-147)	65 (46-97)
	M	56	96 (25-180)	126 (82-152)	71 (27-99)
1997-98	F	35	78 (30-125)	119 (35-145)	67 (48-88)
	M	69	84 (21-210)	123 (50-162)	54 (43-98)
1998-99	F	38	68 (24-150)	120 (89-145)	64 (43-91)
	M	56	91 (17-150)	127 (74-149)	70 (45-92)
1999-00	F	37	62 (33-100)	117 (91-150)	61 (22-78)
	M	52	95 (30-157)	125 (88-156)	68 (45-83)

Appendix A. Closure notices for the Big Cypress WMA fall 1999 hunting season.

National Park Service

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday Oct. 5, 1999

CONTACT: Deb Jansen, wildlife
Biologist (941) 695-2000 ext. 335
or Dan Sholly, Chief Ranger, ext. 324

Superintendent Wallace Hibbard announced today that the Corndance, Stairsteps and Loop Road Units of Big Cypress National Preserve are closed to all hunting and off-road vehicle use until further notice. Water levels have risen leaving few dry places for wildlife to seek shelter and forage. The only habitat available to wildlife during extremely high water is hardwood hammocks and hardwood scrub, which comprise approximately 3% of the Preserve. These areas are critical for all species as resting sites. High water levels in 1994/95 resulted in hoof rot in deer and hogs and increased mortality due to malnutrition. Hunting and off-road vehicle use adds yet another dimension of stress to already severely stressed populations. Superintendent Hibbard asks that all Preserve users reduce their activities in the area and avoid approaching wildlife during this time of stress.

Water levels are comparable to those of 1994 and 1995 when various closures were instituted in order to avoid additional pressure on wildlife already stressed by environmental events.

The Superintendent reminds all Preserve users that failure to comply with this closure will result in citations and fines. Water levels will be closely monitored and the area will be reopened to hunting and off-road vehicle use as soon as conditions permit. Attached is a map of the closed area.

-NPS-

ORDER
OF FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Order No. 99-7

Special Regulations for the Jetport Tract of
the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area.

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, of the Florida Constitution, hereby establishes, by order, special regulations for the Jetport tract of the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area (WMA). These special regulations are necessary due to inordinately high water levels throughout South Florida. The National Park Service has made the decision to close the Corn Dance Unit of Big Cypress WMA to hunting and ORV use until further notice. The Jetport tract, though not under National Park Service ownership, is administered and regulated as an integral part of the Corn Dance Unit. Closure of the Jetport would avoid confusion among users and problems that could arise from public use of this tract. Users of the Jetport could stray outside of this tract onto the closed National Park Service property. The boundaries between National Park Service and Jetport land may not be marked well enough to be enforceable. In addition, all lands surrounding the Jetport tract have been closed to hunting and use of airboats and vehicles. Consequently, the closure of other units of the Big Cypress WMA will displace hunters which could focus additional pressure on the Jetport tract and result in overcrowding and possibly overharvest. The special regulations are as follows:

- (1) Hunting and use of airboats and vehicles is prohibited, except by permit, in the Jetport tract of the Big Cypress WMA.
- (2) Any provisions of Rule 68A-15.064, F.A.C., which are inconsistent herewith are hereby superseded.

This order shall take effect at 12:01 a.m. on October 9, 1999 and shall remain in effect until rescinded by subsequent order.

^

National Park Service

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE

CONTACT:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dan Sholly, Chief Ranger
941-695-2000, ext.324

Superintendent Wallace Hibbard announced today that the Turner River and Bear Island Units of Big Cypress National Preserve are closed to all hunting, airboats, and off-road vehicle use effective October 22, 1999 at 6:00 p.m. until further notice. The Corn Dance, Loop, and Stairstep Units are already closed.

Water levels have risen throughout the Preserve, leaving few dry places for wildlife to seek shelter and forage. There is very limited, and in some areas no dry ground available to wildlife during this high water period. Hardwood hammocks and hardwood scrub, much of which is under water, comprise approximately 3% of the Preserve and are critical areas for all species as resting sites. Hunting and off-road vehicle use during times of prolonged high water adds yet another dimension of stress to already stressed wildlife populations.

Water levels exceed or are similar to those of 1994 and 1995 when the Preserve was closed in order to avoid additional pressure on wildlife already stressed by environmental events.

The Superintendent reminds all Preserve users that failure to comply with this closure will result in citations and fines. Water levels will be closely monitored and the area will be reopened to hunting and off-road vehicle use as soon as conditions permit.

-NPS-

National Park Service

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dan Sholly, Chief Ranger
(941) 695-2000 ext. 324

Superintendent Wallace Hibbard announced today that changes in water levels have enabled Big Cypress National Preserve to conditionally open some limited areas to hunting and off-road vehicle use for the general gun season.

On Friday, November 12, the Turner River and Bear Island units will open to off-road vehicles at 6 a.m. The units remain closed to airboats. Buggies may operate only within the hours of 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. On Saturday, November 13, Turner River, Bear Island and Deep Lake units will open to hunting under the current state regulations. Corndance, Loop and all Stairsteps Units remain closed due to high water conditions and subsequent stress upon wildlife populations. The Preserve will close to all hunting on Wednesday, November 17, one-half hour after sundown and to all off-road vehicles at 10 p.m. unless a decision is made that day to continue to this provisional opening.

Dogs will not be allowed in the possession of anyone hunting in the Preserve under this conditional opening. Burns Lake and Bear Island Campgrounds will remain closed due to wet conditions. Camping will be allowed in the parking area at the north end of Turner River Road.

Water levels will continue to be monitored and changes in rainfall or condition of wildlife may affect this provisional opening. All Preserve users should be aware of continued wet conditions and be prepared to encounter difficult travel and challenging conditions. Wildlife in the preserve has been under stressful conditions due to high water for several weeks. This stress makes all species vulnerable to continued disturbance. Hunters and all Preserve users are requested to exercise special consideration to lessen impacts on non-game wildlife.

The Superintendent reminds all Preserve users that failure to comply with the restrictions of this provisional opening will result in citations and fines. Attached is a chart, which shows each unit and its conditions under this provisional opening.

-NPS-

National Park Service

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dan Sholly, Chief Ranger
(941) 695-2000 ext. 324

11/17/99

Superintendent Wallace Hibbard announced today that continuing high water levels mean little change to the provisional hunting season opened last week in Big Cypress National Preserve. The Turner River, Deep Lake and Bear Island units will be open for the remainder of the season barring other serious considerations such as storms with large amounts of rainfall, or deteriorating condition of wildlife.

As announced at the opening of the hunt last week, all units remain closed to airboats. Off-road vehicles may operate only within the hours of 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. All of the current state hunting regulations apply. Corndance, Loop and all Stairsteps Units remain closed due to high water conditions and subsequent stress upon wildlife populations. Preserve staff will continue to monitor and evaluate the Corndance, Loop and Stairsteps units. Based upon conditions at this time, however, it appears unlikely that there will be any changes to the closures of Corndance, Loop and Zones 3 and 4 of the Stairsteps over the next few weeks. On November 24, conditions in the units that are closed will be reviewed. Call the Preserve Hunting Information Line (941) 695-2040 for updates.

Hunters are reminded that all dogs are prohibited in the backcountry. Bear Island Campground will remain closed due to wet conditions. Burns Lake and Monument Campgrounds, as well as privately owned campgrounds in the area are open. Camping will also continue to be allowed in the parking area at the north end of Turner River Road.

Water levels will continue to be monitored and changes in rainfall or condition of wildlife may affect this conditional opening. All Preserve users should be aware of continued wet conditions and be prepared to encounter difficult travel and challenging conditions. Wildlife in the preserve has been under stress due to high water for several weeks. This stress makes all species vulnerable to continued disturbance. Hunters and all Preserve users are requested to exercise special consideration to lessen impacts on non-game wildlife.

The Superintendent reminds all Preserve users that failure to comply with the restrictions of this provisional opening will result in citations and fines. Attached is a chart and map, which show the provisions for each unit under this conditional opening.

Big Cypress National Preserve **General Gun Hunting Season Information – Conditional Opening** **(November 17 – January 2, 2000)**

Note: Special conditions apply. Use limitations are in place to reduce stress on wildlife. Units that are closed will be monitored and reviewed by 11/24/99 to determine if further adjustments need to be made to this conditional opening. Call the Hunting Information Line for Updates (941) 695-2040.

Management Unit	Conditional Hunt	Special Conditions
Turner River	OPEN	-Open to Hunting -Open to ORVs, no airboats -ORV travel restricted to 4 a.m. –10 p.m. -No dogs
Deep Lake	Archery Only	-Open to Hunting, Archery Only -Walk in and non-motorized access only
Bear Island	OPEN	-Open to Hunting -Open to ORVs on designated trails only -ORV travel restricted to 4 a.m. –10 p.m. -No airboats -No dogs -Bear Island and Pink Jeep Campsites are closed -The Pit campsite (max. 8 sites) is open. -Camping is allowed at the ORV parking area located at the north end of the Turner River Road.
Loop	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, No ORV or Airboat travel
Corndance	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, No ORV or Airboat travel
Stairsteps – All Units	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, No ORV or Airboat travel

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

11/23/99

CONTACT: Dan Sholly, Chief Ranger
(941) 695-2000 ext. 324

Superintendent Wallace Hibbard announced today some changes to the provisional hunting season opened last week in Big Cypress National Preserve. The Turner River, Deep Lake and Bear Island units will be open for the remainder of the season. Effective Thursday, November 25, Zones 1 and 2 of the Stairsteps unit will be open to walk-in hunting. No off-road vehicles are allowed.

As announced at the opening of the hunt, all units remain closed to airboats. Off-road vehicles may operate only in the Turner River and Bear Island units between the hours of 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. All of the current state hunting regulations apply. The Corndance, Loop and Zones 3 and 4 of the Stairsteps units remain closed due to high water conditions and subsequent stress upon wildlife populations. Preserve staff will continue to monitor and evaluate these areas. On December 1, conditions in those units that are closed will be reviewed. Call the Preserve Hunting Information Line (941) 695-2040 for updates.

Hunters are reminded that all dogs are prohibited in the backcountry. Bear Island Campground will remain closed due to wet conditions. Burns Lake and Monument Lake Campgrounds, as well as privately owned campgrounds in the area are open. Camping will also continue to be allowed in the parking area at the north end of Turner River Road.

Water levels will continue to be monitored and changes in rainfall or condition of wildlife may affect this conditional opening. All Preserve users should be aware of continued wet conditions and be prepared to encounter difficult travel and challenging conditions. Wildlife in the Preserve has been under stress due to high water for several weeks. This stress makes all species vulnerable to continued disturbance. Hunters and all Preserve users are requested to exercise special consideration to lessen impacts on non-game wildlife.

The Superintendent reminds all Preserve users that failure to comply with the restrictions of this provisional opening will result in citations and fines. Attached is a chart and map, which show the provisions for each unit under this conditional opening.

-NPS-

Big Cypress National Preserve

General Gun Hunting Season Information - Conditional Opening

(November 23 - December 1, 1999)

Note: Special conditions apply. Use limitations are in place to reduce stress on wildlife. Units that are closed will be monitored and reviewed on 12/01/99 to determine if further adjustments need to be made to this conditional opening. Call the Hunting Information Line for Updates (941) 695-2040.

Management Unit	Conditional Hunt	Special Conditions
Turner River	OPEN	-Open to Hunting -Open to ORVs, no airboats -ORV travel restricted to 4 a.m. -10 p.m. -No dogs
Deep Lake	Archery Only	-Open to Hunting, Archery Only -Walk in and non-motorized access only -No dogs
Bear Island	OPEN	-Open to Hunting -Open to ORVs on designated trails only -ORV travel restricted to 4 a.m. -10 p.m. -No airboats -No dogs -Bear Island and Pink Jeep Campsites are closed -The Pit campsite (max. 8 sites) is open. -Camping is allowed at the ORV parking area located at the north end of the Turner River Road.
Loop	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, No ORV or Airboat travel
Corndance	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, No ORV or Airboat travel
Stairsteps - Zones 1 and 2	OPEN to hunting only	-Open to Hunting -No ORV or airboat travel -No dogs
Stairsteps - Zones 3 and 4	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, No ORV or Airboat travel

National Park Service

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/1/99

CONTACT: Dan Sholly, Chief Ranger
(941) 695-2000 ext. 317

Superintendent Wallace Hibbard announced today some changes to the provisional hunting season in Big Cypress National Preserve. The Turner River, Deep Lake and Bear Island units will be open for the remainder of the season. Effective Thursday, December 2, Zones 1, 2 and 3 of the Stairsteps unit and Corndance west of Eleven Mile Road will be open to walk-in hunting. No off-road vehicles are allowed.

As announced at the opening of the hunt, all units remain closed to airboats. Off-road vehicles may operate only in the Turner River and Bear Island units between the hours of 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. All of the current state hunting regulations apply. The Corndance east of Eleven Mile Road, Loop and Zone 4 of the Stairsteps units remain closed due to high water conditions and subsequent stress upon wildlife populations. Preserve staff will continue to monitor and evaluate these areas. On December 8, conditions in those units that are closed will be reviewed. Call the Preserve Hunting Information Line (941) 695-2040 for updates.

Hunters are reminded that all dogs are prohibited in the backcountry. Bear Island Campground will remain closed due to wet conditions. Burns Lake, Monument Lake, Loop Road, Pink Jeep and Pit Campgrounds, as well as privately owned campgrounds in the area, are open. Camping will also continue to be allowed in the parking area at the north end of Turner River Road.

Water levels will continue to be monitored and changes in rainfall or condition of wildlife may affect this conditional opening. All Preserve users should be aware of continued wet conditions and be prepared to encounter difficult travel and challenging conditions. Wildlife in the Preserve has been under stress due to high water for several weeks. This stress makes all species vulnerable to continued disturbance. Hunters and all Preserve users are requested to exercise special consideration to lessen impacts on non-game wildlife.

The Superintendent reminds all Preserve users that failure to comply with the restrictions of this provisional opening will result in citations and fines. Attached is a chart which shows the provisions for each unit under this conditional opening.

-NPS-

Big Cypress National Preserve

General Gun Hunting Season Information – Conditional Opening (December 2 – December 8, 1999)

Note: Special conditions apply. Use limitations are in place to reduce stress on wildlife. Units that are closed will be monitored and reviewed on 12/08/99 to determine if further adjustments need to be made to this conditional opening. Call the Hunting Information Line for Updates (941) 695-2040.

Management Unit	Conditional Hunt	Special Conditions
Turner River	OPEN	-Open to ORVs, no airboats -ORV travel restricted to 4 a.m. –10 p.m. -No dogs
Deep Lake	OPEN ARCHERY ONLY	-Walk in and non-motorized access only -No dogs
Bear Island	OPEN	-Open to ORVs on designated trails only -ORV travel restricted to 4 a.m. –10 p.m. -No airboats -No dogs -Bear Island campsite is closed -The Pit and Pink Jeep campsites are open. -Camping is allowed at the ORV parking area located at the north end of the Turner River Road.
Corndance – West of 11- mile road	OPEN – Walk in only	-No ORV or airboat travel -No dogs
Corndance – East of 11- mile road	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, No ORV or Airboat Travel
Stairsteps – Zones 1, 2 and 3	OPEN – Walk in only	-No ORV or airboat travel -No dogs -Loop Road Campground Open -Mitchell's Landing and Pinecrest Campgrounds Closed
Stairsteps – Zone 4	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, No ORV or airboat travel
Loop	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, No ORV or airboat travel

National Park Service

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
12/8/99

CONTACT: Dan Sholly, Chief Ranger
(941) 695-2000 ext. 317

Superintendent Wallace Hibbard announced today some changes to the provisional hunting season in Big Cypress National Preserve. All changes are effective 12/9/99. In addition to previous openings:

- Zone 2 of Stairsteps and the Turner River unit will open to airboats.
- Zone 1 of Stairsteps and western Corndance will now be open to off-road vehicles. No airboats.
- Dogs are now allowed in the Turner River, Bear Island and Zones 1 and 2 of Stairsteps per management area and federal regulations.
- Zone 3 of Stairsteps remains walk-in only for hunting.
- Turner River Unit is open to all off-road vehicles including airboats.
- Eastern Corndance, Loop Unit and Zone 4 of Stairsteps remain closed to all hunting and off-road vehicle use due to high water conditions and subsequent stress upon wildlife populations.

Off-road vehicles may operate only between the hours of 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. All of the current state hunting regulations apply. Preserve staff will continue to monitor and evaluate these areas. On December 15, conditions in those units that are closed will be reviewed. Call the Preserve Hunting Information Line (941) 695-2040 for updates.

Bear Island Campground will remain closed due to wet conditions. Burns Lake, Monument Lake, Loop Road, Pink Jeep and Pit Campgrounds, as well as privately owned campgrounds in the area are open. Camping will also continue to be allowed in the parking area at the north end of Turner River Road.

Water levels will continue to be monitored and changes in rainfall or condition of wildlife may affect this conditional opening. All Preserve users should be aware of continued wet conditions and be prepared to encounter difficult travel and challenging conditions. Wildlife in the Preserve has been under stress due to high water for several weeks. This stress makes all species vulnerable to continued disturbance. Hunters and all Preserve users are requested to exercise special consideration to lessen impacts on non-game wildlife.

The Superintendent reminds all Preserve users that failure to comply with the restrictions of this provisional opening will result in citations and fines. Attached is a chart, which shows the provisions for each unit under this conditional opening.

-NPS-

Big Cypress National Preserve

General Gun Hunting Season Information – Conditional Opening

(December 9 – December 16, 1999)

Note: Special conditions apply. Use limitations are in place to reduce stress on wild life. Units that are closed will be monitored and reviewed on 12/15/99 to determine if further adjustments need to be made to this conditional opening. Call the Hunting Information Line for Updates (941) 695-2040.

Management Unit	Conditional Hunt	Special Conditions
Turner River	OPEN	-Open to ORVs and airboats -Motorized travel restricted to 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -Dogs allowed per regulations
Deep Lake	OPEN ARCHERY ONLY	-Walk in and non-motorized access only -No dogs
Bear Island	OPEN	-Open to ORVs on designated trails only -ORV travel restricted to 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -No airboats -Dogs allowed per regulations -Bear Island campsite is closed -The Pit and Pink Jeep campsites are open. -Camping allowed at the ORV parking area located at the north end of the Turner River Road.
Corndance – West of 11-mile road	OPEN – Walk in and ORV ONLY	-OPEN to ORV travel, 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -No dogs -No Airboat travel
Corndance – East of 11-mile road	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, ORV or Airboat Travel
Stairsteps – Zone 1	OPEN – Walk in and ORV travel only	-No airboat travel -Dogs allowed per regulations
Stairsteps – Zone 2	OPEN – ORV and Airboat Travel	-OPEN to ORV and Airboat travel, 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. -Dogs allowed per regulations
Stairsteps – Zone 3	OPEN – Walk in Only	-No ORV or Airboat Travel -No dogs -Loop Road Campground Open -Mitchell's Landing and Pinecrest Campgrounds Closed
Stairsteps – Zone 4	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, No ORV or airboat travel
Loop	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, No ORV or airboat travel

National Park Service

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
12/16/99

CONTACT: Dan Sholly, Chief Ranger
(941) 695-2000 ext. 317

Superintendent Wallace Hibbard announced today a change to the provisional hunting season in Big Cypress National Preserve. Effective 12/17/99 another portion of the Corndance unit will be open to hunting and off-road vehicle use. The area open is bounded on the west side by Eleven Mile road, on the north side by the oil pipeline that extends eastward from Raccoon Point, on the east side by the Preserve boundary and on the south side by Highway 41. It remains closed to airboats. The area north of the pipeline to the Addition lands and east of Eleven Mile road (continued in a line north to the boundary of the Addition lands) is closed. Please refer to the attached chart for current information on the conditional hunting season in Big Cypress National Preserve.

In units open to them, off-road vehicles and airboats may operate only between the hours of 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. All of the current state hunting regulations apply. Preserve staff will continue to monitor and evaluate these areas. On December 22, conditions in those units that are closed will be reviewed. Call the Preserve Hunting Information Line (941) 695-2040 for updates.

Bear Island and Mitchell's Landing Campgrounds will remain closed due to wet conditions. Burns Lake, Monument Lake, Loop Road, Pinecrest, Pink Jeep and Pit Campgrounds, as well as privately owned campgrounds in the area are open. Camping will also continue to be allowed in the parking area at the north end of Turner River Road.

Water levels will continue to be monitored and changes in rainfall or condition of wildlife may affect this conditional opening. All Preserve users should be aware of continued wet conditions and be prepared to encounter difficult travel and challenging conditions in some areas. Wildlife in the Preserve has been under stress due to high water for several weeks. This stress makes all species vulnerable to continued disturbance. Hunters and all Preserve users are requested to exercise special consideration to lessen impacts on non-game wildlife.

The Superintendent reminds all Preserve users that failure to comply with the restrictions of this provisional opening will result in citations and fines. Attached is a chart, which shows the provisions for each unit under this conditional opening.

Big Cypress National Preserve

General Gun Hunting Season Information – Conditional Opening (December 17 – December 23, 1999)

Note: Special conditions apply. Use limitations are in place to reduce stress on wildlife. Units that are closed will be monitored and reviewed on 12/22/99 to determine if further adjustments need to be made to this conditional opening. Call the Hunting Information Line for Updates (941) 695-2040.

Management Unit	Conditional Hunt	Special Conditions
Turner River	OPEN	-Open to ORVs and airboats -ORV travel restricted to 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -Dogs allowed per regulations
Deep Lake	OPEN ARCHERY ONLY	-Walk in and non-motorized access only -No dogs
Bear Island	OPEN	-Open to ORVs on designated trails only -ORV travel restricted to 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -No airboats -Dogs allowed per regulations -Bear Island campground is closed -The Pit and Pink Jeep campsites are open. -Camping allowed at the ORV parking area located at the north end of the Turner River Road.
Comdance – West of 11- mile road (extended north to Addition lands)	OPEN	-OPEN to ORV travel -No dogs -No Airboat travel
Comdance – East of 11- mile road and South of the Oil Pipeline at Raccoon Point	OPEN	-OPEN to ORV travel -No dogs -No Airboat travel
Comdance – East of 11- mile road (extended north to Addition lands) and North of the oil Pipeline at Raccoon Point	Remains CLOSED due to high water.	-No Hunting, ORV or airboat travel
Stairsteps – Zone 1	OPEN	-OPEN to ORV travel: 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -No airboat travel -Dogs allowed per regulations
Stairsteps – Zone 2	OPEN	-OPEN to ORV and Airboat travel; 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -Dogs allowed per regulations
Stairsteps – Zone 3	OPEN – Walk in Only	-No ORV or Airboat Travel -No dogs -Loop Road Campground Open
Stairsteps – Zone 4	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, ORV or airboat travel -Mitchell's Landing Campground Closed
Loop	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, ORV or airboat travel -Pinecrest Campground Open

ORDER
OF FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

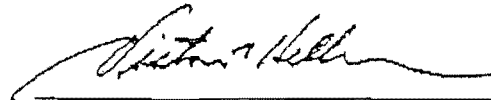
Order No. 99-14

Special Regulations for the Jetport Tract of the Big
Cypress Wildlife Management Area.

The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission of the State of Florida, acting under the authority of Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution, hereby rescinds Order No. 99-7 which order provided special regulations for the Jetport Tract of the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area (WMA) due to inordinately high water levels throughout South Florida resulting from Hurricane Irene as follows:

The Jetport Tract of the Big Cypress WMA shall be re-opened December 17, 1999 at 12:01 a.m. Use of the area shall be pursuant to Rule 68A-15.064(5), F.A.C. and other applicable rules and law, except the use of airboats is prohibited.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF THE
FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
THIS 6th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1999.


Allan L. Egbert, Ph.D.
Executive Director

ATTEST:

Agency Clerk

Authority: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Constitution; Law Implemented: Article IV, Section 9,
Florida Constitution, s. 120.81(5), Florida Statutes
Effective Date: December 17, 1999

WILDNET\RW\ORDERS\99-14.WPD

Post-It® Fax Note	7671	Date	12-16-99	# of Pages	1
To	Grant Starbuck	From			
Co./Dept.		Co.			
Phone #		Phone #			
Fax #	941-643-0385	Fax #			

National Park Service

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/22/99

CONTACT: Dan Sholly, Chief Ranger
(941) 695-2000 ext. 317

Superintendent Wallace Hibbard announced today changes to the provisional hunting season in Big Cypress National Preserve. Water levels have dropped slightly enabling opening of some selected areas of the Preserve that have been closed for several weeks due to high water and stress on wildlife populations. Effective 12/22/99 Zone 3 of Stairsteps is open to off-road vehicles and airboats. The Loop Unit is open to walk in hunting from Highway 41. Zone 4 of Stairsteps and the Loop Unit from Loop Road remain closed. Please refer to the attached chart for current information on the conditional hunting season in Big Cypress National Preserve.

In units open to them, off-road vehicles and airboats may operate only between the hours of 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day. All of the current state hunting regulations apply. Preserve staff will continue to monitor and evaluate these areas. On December 28 conditions in those units that are closed will be reviewed. Call the Preserve Hunting Information Line (941) 695-2040 for updates.

Bear Island and Mitchell's Landing Campgrounds will remain closed due to wet conditions. Burns Lake, Monument Lake, Loop Road, Pinecrest, Pink Jeep and Pit Campgrounds, as well as privately owned campgrounds in the area are open. Camping will also continue to be allowed in the parking area at the north end of Turner River Road.

Water levels will continue to be monitored and changes in rainfall or condition of wildlife may affect this conditional opening. All Preserve users should be aware of continued wet conditions and be prepared to encounter difficult travel and challenging conditions in some areas. Wildlife in the Preserve has been under stress due to high water for several weeks. This stress makes all species vulnerable to continued disturbance. Hunters and all Preserve users are requested to exercise special consideration to lessen impacts on non-game wildlife.

The Superintendent reminds all Preserve users that failure to comply with the restrictions of this provisional opening will result in citations and fines. Attached is a chart, which shows the provisions for each unit under this conditional opening.

Big Cypress National Preserve **General Gun Hunting Season Information – Conditional Opening** **(December 22 – December 29, 1999)**

Note: Special conditions apply. Use limitations are in place to reduce stress on wildlife. Units that are closed will be monitored and reviewed on 12/28/99 to determine if further adjustments need to be made to this conditional opening. Call the Hunting Information Line for Updates (941) 695-2040.

Management Unit	Conditional Hunt	Special Conditions
Turner River	OPEN	-Open to ORVs and airboats -ORV travel restricted to 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -Dogs allowed per regulations
Deep Lake	OPEN ARCHERY ONLY	-Walk in and non-motorized access only -No dogs
Bear Island	OPEN	-Open to ORVs on designated trails only -ORV travel restricted to 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -No airboats -Dogs allowed per regulations -Bear Island campground is closed -The Pit and Pink Jeep campsites are open. -Camping allowed at the ORV parking area located at the north end of the Turner River Road.
Corndance – West of 11-mile road (extended north to Addition lands)	OPEN	-OPEN to ORV travel -No dogs -No Airboat travel
Corndance – East of 11-mile road and South of the Oil Pipeline at Raccoon Point	OPEN	-OPEN to ORV travel -No dogs -No Airboat travel
Corndance – East of 11-mile road (extended north to Addition lands) and North of the oil Pipeline at Raccoon Point	Remains CLOSED due to high water.	-No Hunting, ORV or airboat travel
Stairsteps – Zone 1	OPEN	-OPEN to ORV travel: 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -No airboat travel -Dogs allowed per regulations
Stairsteps – Zone 2	OPEN	-OPEN to ORV and Airboat travel; 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -Dogs allowed per regulations
Stairsteps – Zone 3	OPEN	-OPEN to ORV and Airboat travel; 4 a.m. – 10 p.m. -No dogs -Loop Road Campground Open
Stairsteps – Zone 4	Remains CLOSED due to High Water	-No Hunting, ORV or airboat travel -Mitchell's Landing Campground Closed
Loop	OPEN – walk in only from Hwy 41, no entry from Loop Road	-No Hunting, ORV or airboat travel -Pinecrest Campground Open

National Park Service

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
12/28/99

CONTACT: Dan Sholly, Chief Ranger
(941) 695-2000 ext. 317

Superintendent Wallace Hibbard announced today changes to the provisional hunting season in Big Cypress National Preserve. Water levels have continued to drop slightly enabling opening of some selected areas of the Preserve that have been closed for several weeks due to high water and stress on wildlife populations. Effective 12/30/99 Zone 4 of Stairsteps is open to off-road vehicles and airboats during daylight hours only (6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.) No backcountry camping will be allowed. All areas of the Loop Unit are now open to walk in hunting. Please refer to the attached chart for current information on the conditional hunting season in Big Cypress National Preserve.

In units open to them, off-road vehicles and airboats may operate only between the hours of 4 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day, except Zone 4 of the Stairsteps where operating hours are 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All of the current state hunting regulations apply. Preserve staff will continue to monitor conditions in all units; hunting season closes ½ hour after sunset on January 2. Recreational use of the Preserve after hunting season closes will be evaluated in the same way hunting uses have been during this period of high water. Call the Preserve Hunting Information Line (941) 695-2040 for updates.

All Preserve campgrounds and privately owned campgrounds in the area are open.

Water levels will continue to be monitored and changes in rainfall or condition of wildlife may affect this conditional opening. All Preserve users should be aware of continued wet conditions and be prepared to encounter difficult travel and challenging conditions in some areas. Wildlife in the Preserve has been under stress due to high water for several weeks. This stress makes all species vulnerable to continued disturbance. Hunters and all Preserve users are requested to exercise special consideration to lessen impacts on non-game wildlife.

The Superintendent reminds all Preserve users that failure to comply with the restrictions of this provisional opening will result in citations and fines. Attached is a chart which shows the provisions for each unit under this conditional opening.

NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Service

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dan Sholly, Acting Superintendent
(941) 695-2000 ext. 317

1/5/00

Acting Superintendent Dan Sholly announced today Big Cypress National Preserve will be open for normal recreational operations effective January 5, 2000. High water and stress upon wildlife populations affected hunting season and recreational use from October through last week in the preserve. Various closures were in effect to protect wildlife and continue to provide limited access to recreational users over the last few months. Water levels have dropped to the point where Preserve staff feels normal recreational pressure can be sustained without undue harm to populations.

Preserve staff reminds recreationalists that all normal rules apply. Off-road vehicles and airboats must have valid permits and abide by all rules set forth in the ORV Guidelines provided at the time permits are purchased. Airboat operating hours are 5 a.m. to 1 a.m. All normal regulations apply.

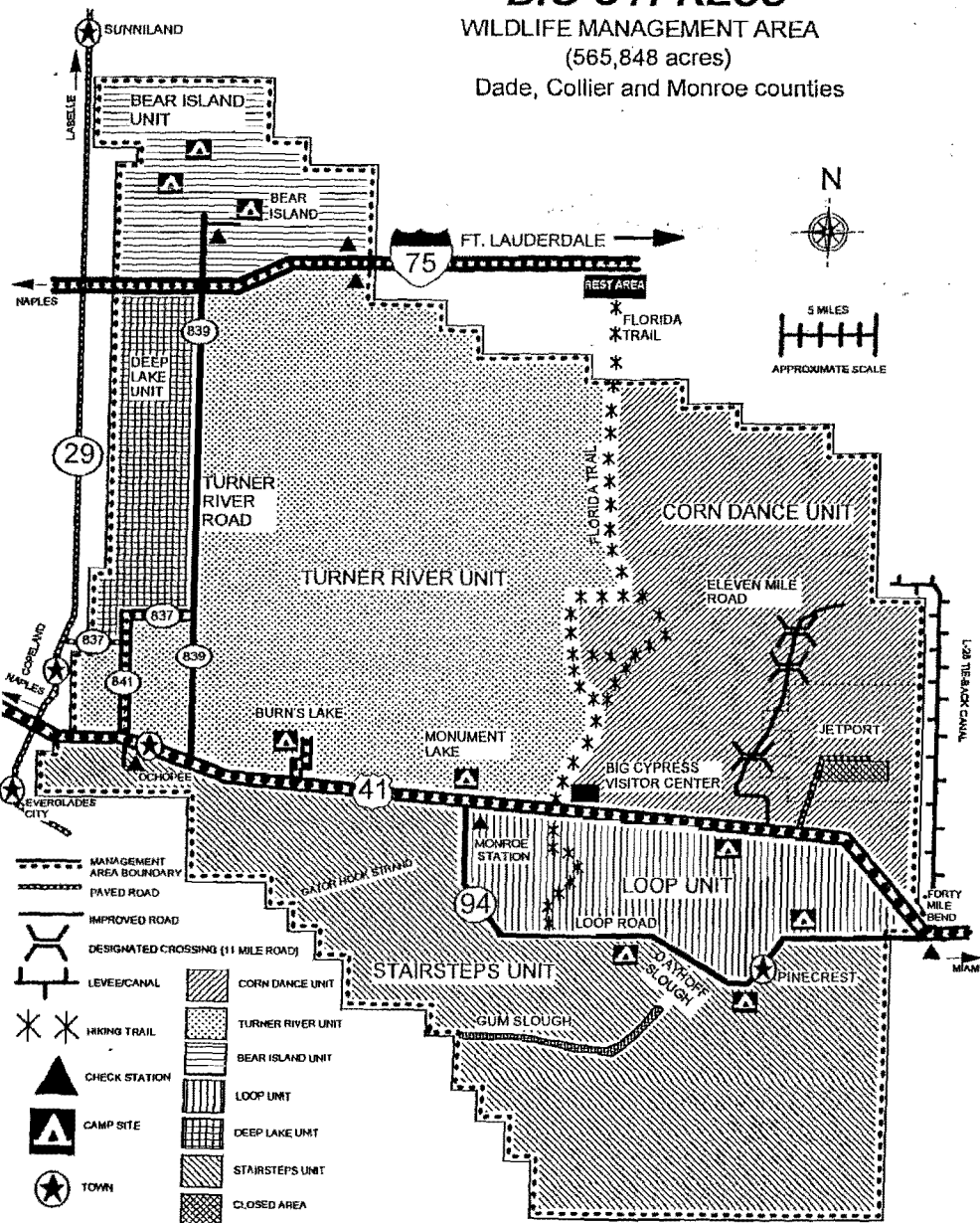
Monument, Bear Island, Midway, Loop, Pinecrest, Mitchell's Landing campgrounds and privately owned campgrounds in the area are open. Burns Lake Campground is closed for the season.

All Preserve users should be aware that wildlife in the Preserve has been under stress due to high water for several weeks. This stress makes all species vulnerable to continued disturbance. Please exercise special consideration to lessen impacts on wildlife.

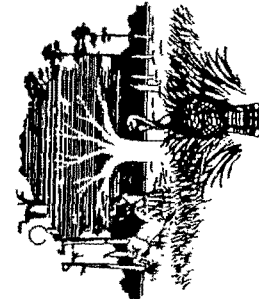
-NPS-

Appendix B. Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area 1999-00 regulations summary and area map.

BIG CYPRESS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (565,848 acres) Dade, Collier and Monroe counties



BIG CYPRESS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA **1999-2000** REGULATIONS SUMMARY AND AREA MAP



A COOPERATIVE PUBLIC WILDLIFE
AND RECREATIONAL AREA
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
www.state.fl.us/gfc/

This brochure is designed to provide the public with information and a summary of regulations pertaining to hunting and other recreational use on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area. To make it easier to learn about regulation changes on this area, regulations that are new or differ substantially from last year are shown in bold print. Area users still should familiarize themselves with all regulations for the area. For the exact wording of the wildlife laws and regulations, see Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's wildlife code on file with the Secretary of State and state libraries. This brochure and the quota hunt application forms should provide the information necessary for you to plan your hunting activities.

For information pertaining to hunting on private lands and trapping, consult the current Florida Hunting Handbook. This publication is available from any Commission office as well as county tax collectors and their subagents.

PERMIT, STAMP AND LICENSE INFORMATION:

Persons utilizing the wildlife management areas are required to have appropriate licenses, stamps and permits for hunting and/or fishing. Florida residents who are 65 years of age or older, and residents certified totally and permanently disabled as determined by a licensed Florida physician, Armed Forces or Veterans Administration, may obtain exemption certificates for most licenses, stamps and permits from the county tax collector. Hunters under age 16 and Florida residents in the U.S. Armed Forces, not stationed in Florida and home on leave with orders in possession are exempt from most permit, stamp and license requirements on this area.

Hunting License, Trapping License, Fishing License and Archery, Muzzleloading Gun, Wildlife Management Area, Wild Turkey and State Waterfowl permits may be purchased from county tax collectors, their subagents, or by telephone.

Unless exempted, all hunters on this wildlife management area must have the following in their possession and display them upon request of any Commission employee.

1. **Hunting License:** Information on the categories and costs of hunting licenses is available in the Florida Hunting Handbook.
2. **Wildlife Management Area Permit:** This \$25 permit is required to hunt on this area.
3. **Quota Permits:** A no-cost regular quota hunt permit is required to hunt on the Bear Island, Stairsteps, Loop, Corn Dance and Turner River units of this wildlife management area during November 13 through 21, November 22 through 28 and December 22 through January 2 of the general gun season. A no-cost special quota hunt permit is required to hunt on the Bear Island Unit from October 9 through 17 of the muzzleloading gun season and on the Deep Lake Unit November 13 through 21, November 22 through 28 and December 25 through January 2 of the second archery season.

A daily hunt permit (available at the check station) is required for hunting each day during non-quota periods of general gun and muzzleloading gun seasons on the Bear Island Unit (no exemptions). There are 200 daily hunt permits available on a first-come, first-served basis at the check station. Regular quota permits are available in the following numbers by management unit: Bear Island 200, Stairsteps 1,000, Corn Dance 300, Turner River 500 and Loop 250. There are 200

special quota permits available for the muzzleloading gun hunt in the Bear Island Unit and each of the 3 segments of the second archery season in the Deep Lake Unit.

Regular and special quota hunt permit applications are available from county tax collectors or their subagents on or about June 1. To apply for either permit, obtain a regular or special quota hunt application and follow the printed instructions.

Transfer of Permits—Quota hunt permits are transferable. The sale or purchase of any quota hunt permit is prohibited.

4. **Archery Permit:** This \$5 permit is required when hunting during any archery season outside of the South Zone general gun season dates.
5. **Muzzleloading Gun Permit:** This \$5 permit is required when hunting during the muzzleloading gun season.
6. **Wild Turkey Permit:** This \$5 permit is required if hunting turkeys.
7. **State Waterfowl Permit:** This \$3 permit is required while hunting ducks.
8. **Federal Duck Stamp:** Any hunter 16 years of age or older must possess a federal duck stamp while hunting ducks. This \$15 stamp is available at post offices.
9. **Migratory Bird Permit:** This free permit is required when hunting migratory game birds.

10. **National Park Service Off-Road Vehicle Registration Permit:** Any vehicle used off roads on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area shall have a National Park Service registration. This includes any four-wheel-drive vehicle having a current license plate. The National Park Service off-road vehicle registration permit is available at the Visitor Center. Call for more information: (941) 695-4111.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

1. Deer, wild hogs and bearded turkeys—Daily limit 1, season limit 2 for each game species (all hunts combined).
2. Gray squirrel, quail or rabbit—Daily limit 12, possession limit 24, for each game species.
3. Raccoon, opossum, armadillo, beaver, coyote, skunk and nutria—No bag limit.
4. Migratory game birds—See Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet.

GENERAL WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA REGULATIONS:

In addition to the regulations which follow, all general laws and regulations relating to wild animal life or freshwater aquatic life shall apply unless specifically excepted for this wildlife management area. Hunting or the taking of wildlife or fish on this area shall be allowed only during the open seasons and in the manner set forth herein.

1. Driving a metal object into any tree or hunting from a tree into which a metal object has been driven is prohibited.
2. It is illegal to cut or damage cattle fences.
3. Wild hogs may not be transported alive.

Appendix B. Continued

4. Fires are permitted only on designated camping areas or in back country campsites and must be completely extinguished prior to the user leaving the campsite.

5. It is unlawful for any person to leave any garbage or refuse or in any way litter in the management area. This includes dumping or draining of refuse or waste from any vehicle or trailer.

6. Hunters using the Bear Island Unit shall enter and exit ONLY through the designated entry point at the north end of Turner River Road or designated entry points along I-75. The I-75 access points are walk-in only and equipped with self-check station boxes.

7. Entering any fenced area within the Jetport area is prohibited.

8. The wanton or willful waste of wildlife is prohibited.

9. The removal of plants, rocks, minerals, animals or other natural objects is prohibited, except by written permit from National Park Service.

10. The head and evidence of sex may not be removed from the carcass of any deer on the area. Portions of the carcass may be removed immediately prior to cooking.

11. No person shall release any wildlife on this wildlife management area.

12. It is illegal to hunt over bait or place any bait or other food for wildlife on this wildlife management area.

13. Taking fox is prohibited.

14. Taking fox squirrel is prohibited.

15. Taking any turkey while it is on the roost is prohibited.

16. Killing swimming deer is prohibited.

17. Taking or attempting to take game with the aid of live decoys, traps, snares, nets, drugs, lights or recorded game calls is prohibited.

18. Any person hunting deer or accompanying another person hunting deer shall wear at least 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent-orange material above the waistline as an outer garment. This is not required when hunting during an archery-only season.

19. Deer and turkey may be dismembered in the field or camp, but each portion shall have a tag affixed to it identifying the name, address and hunting license number of the person who killed it; the date and location at which it was taken; and shall be readily traceable to the portion of the animal bearing the sex identification.

20. Constructing a building or other structures is prohibited.

GUNS OR DOGS:

21. The use or possession of a loaded firearm while under the influence of alcoholic beverages, chemical substances or controlled substances is prohibited (F.S. 790.151).

22. Hunting with gun and light is prohibited.

23. Hunting wildlife or the display or use of a gun in a manner capable of taking wildlife on or from the rights-of-way of County Roads 837, 839, 841, State Roads 84, 94, U.S. 41 and Burns Road is prohibited.

24. The use of guns other than muzzleloading guns or bow and arrow is prohibited in the Deep Lake Unit.

25. Authorized hunting equipment or dogs may be taken onto the area after 8 a.m. one day before the opening of the hunt and shall be removed from the area before 6 p.m. one day after the hunt.

26. For taking non-migratory game, only shotguns, rifles, pistols, longbows (including compound and recurved bows), crossbows (during the general gun hunt only) or birds of prey may be used.

27. For hunting deer, muzzleloading guns firing a single bullet must be at least .40 caliber; those firing two or more balls must be 20 gauge or larger.

28. Hunting deer with full-jacketed bullets or any rimfire cartridge is prohibited.

29. Fully automatic firearms, silencer-equipped firearms, centerfire semi-automatic rifles having a magazine capable of holding more than five rounds, explosive or drug-injecting devices and seguns are prohibited.

30. Guns or dogs are allowed only during periods in which their use for hunting is allowed.

31. Children under the age of 16 may not be in possession of a firearm unless in the presence of a supervising adult.

32. The possession of any firearm containing shells or cartridges or any capped or primed muzzleloading gun is prohibited at campsites or check stations. The discharge of firearms is prohibited on, from or across any campsite or check station.

33. Hunting deer or hogs with dogs is prohibited. All dogs are prohibited in the Loop unit. The possession of dogs customarily used for hunting (other than bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers) is prohibited during any period.

34. No person shall allow any dog to pursue or molest wildlife during any period in which hunting with dogs is prohibited.

35. No person shall possess any dog during any period in which hunting with dogs is prohibited, unless the dog is a non-hunting breed which is kept restrained.

VEHICLES:

NOTICE: You are strongly encouraged to contact the Big Cypress National Preserve office, HCR 61, Box 11, Ochopee, FL 33943 (941) 695-4111 regarding vehicle use regulations prior to your use of the preserve.

36. All vehicles, including aircrafts, used off roads shall have a National Park Service off-road vehicle registration permit. See Permit, Stamp and License Requirements for more information.

37. Vehicles shall not be parked in such a manner as to obstruct roads, gates, trails or firelanes.

38. Vehicle access or use for the purposes of hunting, fishing or frogging is prohibited except by all-terrain vehicles with 3 or more rubber tires, the front tire(s) of which shall be at least 7 inches wide and the rear tires of which must be at least 9 inches wide, and other vehicles with three or more rubber tires of 9-inch minimum width. Aircrafts are permitted except in the Bear Island, Deep Lake and Loop units. Vehicles are prohibited on Loop and Deep Lake units. In the Bear Island unit vehicles shall not be operated off designated roads and trails or outside designated vehicle access areas. Vehicles may be operated throughout the Corn Dance and Turner River units. For information on vehicle and aircraft use in the Stairsteps Unit contact the NPS.

39. All aircrafts used for taking wildlife, frogs or fish or for other recreational use must fly an orange flag at least 10 inches wide by 12 inches long at least 10 feet above the bottom of the vessel.

40. Only vehicles equipped with pneumatic tires may be operated on Jetport Road. Parking on the paved portion of Jetport Road is prohibited.

41. Vehicular use by the public on Eleven-Mile Road or the Florida Trail is prohibited. Vehicles may cross Eleven-Mile Road at designated and marked points only. Maps showing the location of crossings over Eleven-Mile Road are available at the Visitor Center.

42. No motor vehicle shall be operated on any part of the wildlife management area designated and posted as "CLOSED" because of inclement weather, poor road conditions, construction, management activities or wildlife surveys.

CAMPING:

43. Camping on the Bear Island Unit is permitted only at designated campsites by the use of tents, trailers or self-propelled camping vehicles. Camping is permitted on designated campsites on other units. Primitive camping is not limited to designated campsites except on Bear Island.

CHECK STATIONS:

44. Hunters shall check in at a designated check station when entering the area and check out at the same check station when exiting the area. A check station pass, issued at the check station, shall be retained in possession while hunting.

45. All game taken must be checked and tagged at a check station prior to removal from the area. It is important that as much of the animal as possible remains intact and that it be brought to the check station as soon as possible. Important biological data are obtained from the following animals or animal parts: deer (head, heart, kidney, liver), hog (head), turkey (wings and tail). If the animal is processed in the field, the above items should be brought to the check station along with the meat. Deer jawbones shall be saved and brought to the check station.

SEARCH:

46. A wildlife officer may search any camp, vehicle or boat when he or she reasonably believes a violation has been committed.

ARCHERY:

September 4 through October 3, in all units and November 13 through January 2, in the Deep Lake Unit only.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, archery permit (not required November 13 - January 2 in Deep Lake Unit), state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory game birds), quota hunt permits (see No. 3 under Permit, Stamp and License Information).

Legal to Take—Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, wild hogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or more, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria, and migratory game birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the Archery Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Possession of firearms or crossbows is prohibited, except that during the early duck season shotguns are permitted for duck hunting on all units except Bear Island and Deep Lake.

2. The transportation of archery equipment on airboats during the archery season is prohibited.

MUZZLELOADING GUN:

October 9 through 24, except in the Deep Lake Unit.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, muzzleloading gun permit, special quota permit (if hunting on the Bear Island Unit during the first 9 days) or daily permit (after first 9 days in Bear Island Unit).

Legal to Take—Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, wild hogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or more, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk and nutria.

Regulations Unique to the Muzzleloading Gun Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Only muzzleloading guns are allowed.

2. The transportation of muzzleloading equipment on airboats during the muzzleloading gun season is prohibited.

GENERAL GUN:

November 13 through January 2, except in the Deep Lake Unit.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, regular quota hunt permit (if hunting during November 13 - 28 and December 22 - January 2), daily hunt permit (if hunting on Bear Island Unit if hunting during non-quota periods, state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory game birds).

Legal to Take—Deer with one or more antlers at least five inches in length visible above the hairline, wild hogs with a shoulder height of 15 inches or more, gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria, and migratory game birds in season.

Regulations Unique to the General Gun Hunt—All General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply and bird dogs and retrievers are permitted except in Loop and Deep Lake units.

SMALL GAME:

January 3 through February 6.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, state waterfowl permit and federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks), migratory bird permit (if hunting migratory game birds).

Legal to Take—Gray squirrel, quail, rabbit, opossum, raccoon, beaver, coyote, armadillo, skunk, nutria, migratory game birds when in season.

Regulations Unique to the Small Game Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. The possession of centerfire rifles is prohibited.

2. The use of guns other than muzzleloading guns or bow and arrow is prohibited in the Deep Lake Unit.

3. Bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers are permitted, except in the Loop and Deep Lake units.

SPRING TURKEY:

March 4 through April 9.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit and wild turkey permit.

Legal to Take—Bearded turkeys or gobblers.

Regulations Unique to the Spring Turkey Hunt—In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise until 1 p.m.

2. The use of guns other than muzzleloading guns or bow and arrow is prohibited in the Deep Lake Unit.

3. No person shall possess any dog, except dogs not normally used for hunting kept restrained.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:

Mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, ducks, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established for these species which coincide with the muzzleloading gun, general gun and small game hunts. Ducks may also be taken during the early duck season (except in the Bear Island and Deep Lake units).

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements—Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, migratory bird permit, state waterfowl permit and

federal waterfowl stamp (if hunting ducks). Quota permit if hunting during any designated quota period.

Regulations Unique to Migratory Game Birds—See Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations pamphlet. In addition to these regulations, all wildlife management area regulations contained in this pamphlet shall apply and the use of lead shot for taking ducks and coots is prohibited.

FISHING AND FROGGING:

Permitted throughout the year.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REGULATIONS:

This area is a national preserve. All of these Big Cypress National Preserve regulations shall apply. For further information, contact the Big Cypress National Preserve, HCR 61 Box 11, Ochopee, Florida 34141, (941) 695-4111 or visit the Big Cypress National Preserve home page at <http://www/nps.gov/bicy>. For current hunter information call the 24-hour telephone line (941) 695-2040.

1. Any open container of an alcoholic beverage is prohibited in or on all motor vehicles, including off-road vehicles and airboats.

2. Loaded weapons cannot be carried in/on a motor vehicle, including off-road vehicles. Weapons in a vehicle must be packed, cased or stored, not available for ready use.

3. Weapons cannot be discharged from a motor vehicle, including off-road vehicles. A weapon may, however, be discharged from an airboat when the vessel is not under power and is stopped.

4. All private property owners in the preserve are required to obtain a hunting permit from the National Park Service prior to conducting any hunt on their property. Permits can be obtained by calling (941) 695-4111 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily.

5. Target practice and random discharge of firearms is prohibited.

6. The preserve is closed to the viewing of wildlife with an artificial light. Frogging is permitted.

7. The destruction, detachment or removal of any natural or cultural feature or non-renewable resource is prohibited.

8. Unattended property must be identified in a prominent location with owner's name, address and telephone number.

9. Airboat use is allowed only in the Corn Dance, Turner River and Stairsteps Units (except the area west from Barnes Strand) from 5 a.m. until 1 a.m.

10. Commercial taking of frogs is prohibited.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

1. Small tracts of private property are located within the boundary of the wildlife management area. These lands may be posted against trespass and should not be considered as part of the wildlife management area.

2. Anyone born on or after June 1, 1975 must have passed a Commission-approved hunter safety course prior to being issued a hunting license.

3. If you have any questions about this material, please call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (561) 625-5122 (1(800) 955-8771 (TDD)).

COOPERATION REQUESTED:

PLEASE DO NOT LITTER. TAKE OUT TRASH WITH YOU.

In recent years, unauthorized and uncontrolled fires have caused severe damage to area wildlife and wildlife habitats. Controlled fires are beneficial only when they are of the proper size and location, and when area conditions are suitable. UNCONTROLLED FIRES DO NOT BENEFIT WILDLIFE. Please use caution with campfires, smoking materials and vehicles to prevent damage to wildlife habitats.

The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: The Office for Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

The project described in this publication is part of a program funded by federal dollars under the Wildlife Restoration Act. Federal funds pay \$1,827,066 or 31 percent of the cost of the program.

YOUR
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Appendix C. Deer survey data, Big Cypress WMA, 1984-1999.

Table A. Number of deer tracks observed by transect, Monument/Corn Dance Unit, 1985-91.

Survey Date	Transect Number	1	2	Day 3	4	5	6	7	Total	Mean
May 1985	1	2	1	4					7	2.3
	2	4	3	2					9	3.0
	3	1	2	3					6	2.0
	4	2	1	1					4	1.3
	5	2	0	1					3	1.0
	6	8	6	7					21	7.0
	7	2	4	3					9	3.0
	8	4	1	1					6	2.0
	9	0	2	2					4	1.3
	10	3	1	4					8	2.7
									77	2.6
May 1986	1	1	3	3	0	3	4	3	17	2.4
	2	4	7	7	5	5	1	3	32	4.6
	3	3	0	1	1	3	4	4	16	2.3
	4	2	1	3	1	1	4	2	14	2.0
	5	2	3	3	5	3	4	7	27	3.9
	6	4	4	4	5	2	5	3	27	3.9
	7	1	6	3	6	2	3	1	22	3.1
	8	1	3	3	2	2	0	2	13	1.9
	9	2	2	4	5	1	3	2	19	2.7
	10	1	1	0	3	3	1	3	12	1.7
									199	2.9

Appendix C., Table A. continued

Survey Date	Transect Number	1	Day 2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Mean
May 1987	1	2	2	0	3	13	7		27	4.5
	2	0	10	7	8	7	5		37	6.2
	3	2	11	6	4	6	6		35	5.8
	4	2	6	9	5	12	3		37	6.2
	5	5	8	4	3	6	6		32	5.3
	6	4	0	2	1	8	4		19	3.2
	7	1	1	0	1	3	0		6	1.0
	8	0	2	2	2	3	3		12	2.0
	9	3	2	3	3	1	0		12	2.0
	10	1	1	3	1	6	4		16	2.7
									233	3.9
May 1988	1	5	5	7	4				21	5.3
	2	3	3	5	6				17	4.3
	3	4	1	1	3				9	2.3
	4	3	3	4	0				10	2.5
	5	4	6	7	3				20	5.0
	6	2	2	1	2	0	3		10	1.7
	7	3	0	4	4	3	4		18	3.0
	8	2	3	3	0	3	4		15	2.5
	9	2	2	2	1	3	4		14	2.3
	10	3	7	4	3	3	5		25	6.3
									159	3.2

Appendix C., Table A. continued

Survey Date	Transect Number	1	Day 2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Mean
May 1989	1	7	4	1	4	3			19	3.8
	2	7	2	2	3	0			14	2.8
	3	5	3	2	3	3			16	3.2
	4	4	3	3	5	3			18	3.6
	5	2	4	2	2	2			12	2.4
	6	3	2	1	4	6			16	3.2
	7	4	2	3	0	2			11	2.2
	8	3	2	0	1	2			8	1.6
	9	3	3	1	2	0			9	1.8
	10	3	3	2	3	3			14	2.8
									137	2.7
May 1990	1	3	4	4	6	6	5		28	4.7
	2	5	7	6	3	5	1		27	4.5
	3	3	3	4	1	1	3		15	2.5
	4	2	1	2	4	2	3		14	2.3
	5	3	4	4	2	2	2		17	2.8
	6	3	3	2	5	4	2		19	3.2
	7	5	2	3	3	5	3		21	3.5
	8	1	3	1	7	3	4		19	3.2
	9	1	4	4	7	5	1		22	3.7
	10	3	3	3	4	4	4		21	3.5
									203	3.4

Appendix C., Table A. continued

Survey Date	Transect Number	1	Day 2	3	4	5	6	7	Total	Mean
June	1	6	3	2	5				16	4.0
1991	2	6	7	2	5				20	5.0
	3	0	1	0	0				1	0.3
	4	5	1	3	2				11	2.8
	5	4	2	1	8				15	3.8
	6	8	5	2	2				17	4.3
	7	2	2	0	1				5	1.3
	8	0	1	1	1				3	0.8
	9	1	3	1	8				13	3.3
	10	3	6	2	3				14	3.5
									115	2.9

Table B. Number of deer observed per mile during aerial surveys of the eastern Stairsteps Unit, 1984-1999.

Survey	Transect Number	Left Observer	Right Observer	Total Deer	Average Deer/mile
Pre-hunt	1	0	10	10	1.03
August 1984	2	0	3	3	0.31
	3	1	2	3	0.31
	4	0	2	2	0.21
				18	0.46 (a)
Pre-hunt	1 (55)	0	1	1	0.16
August 1985	2	3	2	5	0.81
	3	0	2	2	0.27
	4	6	9	15	1.72
	5	3	0	3	0.30
	6	1	4	5	0.51
	7	4	2	6	0.54
	8 (62)	1	3	4	0.36
				41	0.64 (b)
Post-hunt	1 (55)	0	0	0	0.00
February 1986	2	0	1	1	0.16
	3	2	1	3	0.40
	4	4	4	8	0.92
	5	2	2	4	0.40
	6	2	3	5	0.51
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8 (62)	1	2	3	0.27
				24	0.38 (c)

Appendix C. Table B. continued

Survey	Transect Number	Left Observer	Right Observer	Total Deer	Average Deer/mile
Pre-hunt	1 (55)	0	0	0	0.00
August 1986	2	0	1	1	0.16
(1 of 2)	3	0	7	7	0.95
	4	2	5	7	0.80
	5	2	0	2	0.20
	6	2	0	2	0.20
	7	0	3	3	0.27
	8 (62)	3	3	6	0.54
				28	0.44 (d)
Pre-hunt	1 (55)	0	1	1	0.16
August 1986	2	2	0	2	0.32
(2 of 2)	4	7	9	16	1.83
	5	0	3	3	0.30
	6	0	2	2	0.20
	7	1	1	2	0.18
	8 (62)	3	4	7	0.63
				33	0.52 (e)
Post-hunt	1 (55)	0	0	0	0.00
February 1987	2	0	0	0	0.00
	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	4	3	7	0.80
	5	4	0	4	0.40
	6	3	2	5	0.51
	7	3	0	3	0.27
	8 (62)	6	0	6	0.54
				25	0.39 (f)

Appendix C., Table B. continued

Survey	Transect Number	Left Observer	Right Observer	Total Deer	Average Deer/mile
Annual	1 (55)	0	0	0	0.00
May 1987	2	2	0	2	0.32
(1 of 2)	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	0	1	1	0.11
	5	0	0	0	0.00
	6	0	0	0	0.00
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8 (62)	0	1	1	0.09
				4	0.06 (g)
Annual	1 (55)	0	0	0	0.00
May 1987	2	0	0	0	0.00
(2 of 2)	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	1	0	1	0.11
	5	0	0	0	0.00
	6	1	0	1	0.10
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8 (62)	0	0	0	0.00
				2	0.03 (h)
Annual	1 (55)	0	1	1	0.22
May 1988	2	3	0	3	0.42
	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	8	4	12	1.45
	5	3	2	5	0.59
	6	4	0	4	0.41
	7	10	4	14	1.35
	8 (62)	6	6	12	1.16
				51	0.77 (i)

Appendix C., Table B. continued

Survey	Transect Number	Left Observer	Right Observer	Total Deer	Average Deer/mile
Annual	1 (55)	0	9	9	1.96
June 1989	2	5	0	5	0.70
	3	2	3	5	0.67
	4	9	13	22	2.66
	5	3	2	5	0.59
	6	0	2	2	0.20
	7	2	0	2	0.19
	8 (62)	10	4	14	1.35
				64	0.96 (j)
Annual	1 (55)	1	0	1	0.20
June 1990	2	3	0	3	0.41
	3	0	3	3	0.38
	4	6	4	10	1.24
	5	0	3	3	0.37
	6	2	1	3	0.32
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8 (62)	0	0	0	0.00
				23	0.35 (k)
Annual	1 (55)	0	2	2	0.40
June 1991	2	2	1	3	0.41
(1 of 2)	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	4	6	10	1.24
	5	0	1	1	0.12
	6	2	3	5	0.54
	7	1	0	1	0.10
	8 (62)	3	4	7	0.71
				29	0.44 (l)

Appendix C., Table B. continued

Survey	Transect Number	Left Observer	Right Observer	Total Deer	Average Deer/mile
Annual	1 (55)	0	0	0	0.00
June 1991	2	0	1	1	0.14
(2 of 2)	3	1	1	2	0.26
	4	6	2	8	0.99
	5	0	1	1	0.12
	6	5	2	7	0.75
	7	2	3	5	0.51
	8 (62)	3	2	5	0.51
				29	0.44 (m)
Annual	1 (55)	0	0	0	0.00
June 1992	2	2	7	9	1.24
(1 of 2)	3	0	2	2	0.26
	4	0	1	1	0.12
	5	0	1	1	0.12
	6	2	2	4	0.21
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8 (62)	0	0	0	0.00
				15	0.23 (n)
Annual	1 (55)	0	0	0	0.00
June 1992	2	0	1	1	0.14
(2 of 2)	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	0	1	1	0.12
	5	1	0	1	0.12
	6	0	0	0	0.00
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8 (62)	0	0	0	0.00
				3	0.05 (o)

Appendix C., Table B. continued

Survey	Transect Number	Left Observer	Right Observer	Total Deer	Average Deer/mile
Annual	1 (55)	0	1	1	0.20
June 1993	2	0	0	0	0.00
(1 of 2)	3	0	2	2	0.25
	4	6	0	6	0.75
	5	0	10	10	1.21
	6	0	3	3	0.33
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8 (62)	0	2	2	0.22
				24	0.37 (p)
Annual	1 (55)	0	0	0	0.00
June 1993	2	0	0	0	0.00
(2 of 2)	3	1	0	1	0.12
	4	1	0	1	0.12
	5	1	5	6	0.72
	6	0	0	0	0.00
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8 (62)	1	0	1	0.11
				9	0.14 (q)
Annual	1 (55)	0	0	0	0.00
June 1994	2	0	0	0	0.00
(1 of 2)	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	0	6	6	0.75
	5	0	0	0	0.00
	6	1	0	1	0.11
	7	1	0	1	0.10
	8 (62)	4	0	4	0.41
				12	0.18 (r)

Appendix C., Table B. continued

Survey	Transect Number	Left Observer	Right Observer	Total Deer	Average Deer/mile
Annual	1(55)	0	0	0	0.00
June 1994	2	0	0	0	0.00
(2 of 2)	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	1	0	1	0.12
	5	1	2	3	0.37
	6	3	1	4	0.43
	7	2	5	7	0.71
	8(62)	1	0	1	0.10
				16	0.24 (s)
Annual	1(55)	0	0	0	0.00
June 1995	2	0	0	0	0.00
(1 of 2)	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	0	0	0	0.00
	5	1	2	3	0.37
	6	3	2	5	0.55
	7	1	0	1	0.11
	8(62)	8	0	8	0.82
				17	0.27 (t)
Annual	1(55)	0	0	0	0.00
June 1995	2	0	0	0	0.00
(2 of 2)	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	0	0	0	0.00
	5	0	5	5	0.62
	6	0	0	0	0.00
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8(62)	0	0	0	0.00
				5	0.08 (u)

Appendix C. Table B. continued

Survey	Transect Number	Left Observer	Right Observer	Total Deer	Average Deer/mile
Annual	1 (55)	0	0	0	0.00
June 1996	2	0	0	0	0.00
(1 of 2)	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	0	0	0	0.00
	5	2	0	2	0.27
	6	0	0	0	0.00
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8 (62)	0	1	1	0.10
				3	0.05 (v)
Annual	1 (55)	0	1	1	0.20
June 1996	2	0	6	6	0.83
(2 of 2)	3	0	0	0	0.00
	4	3	0	3	0.45
	5	1	0	1	0.16
	6	1	0	1	0.11
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8 (62)	2	1	3	0.30
				15	0.24 (w)
Annual	1	0	0	0	0.00
July 1997	2	3	2	5	0.69
(1 of 2)	3	4	3	7	0.92
	4	6	12	18	2.27
	5	3	1	4	0.53
	6	4	3	7	0.77
	7	2	7	9	0.92
	8	1	4	5	0.89
				55	0.92 (x)

Appendix C. Table B. continued

Survey	Transect Number	Left Observer	Right Observer	Total Deer	Average Deer/mile
Annual	1	0	2	2	0.39
July 1997	2	1	1	2	0.28
(2 of 2)	3	4	5	9	1.19
	4	0	6	6	0.76
	5	0	3	3	0.40
	6	0	3	3	0.33
	7	1	0	1	0.10
	8	0	0	0	0.00
				26	0.41 (y)
Annual	1	0	0	0	0.00
June 1998	2	1	0	1	0.13
(1 of 2)	3	1	3	4	0.45
	4	0	2	2	0.25
	5	1	1	2	0.22
	6	2	1	3	0.32
	7	1	2	3	0.30
	8	1	0	1	0.17
				16	0.25 (z)
Annual	1	0	0	0	0.00
June 1998	2	1	0	1	0.13
(2 of 2)	3	1	1	2	0.25
	4	2	2	4	0.50
	5	0	3	3	0.33
	6	8	0	8	0.85
	7	0	0	0	0.00
	8	0	1	1	0.09
				19	0.28 (aa)

Appendix C., Table B. continued

Survey	Transect Number	Left Observer	Right Observer	Total Deer	Average Deer/mile
Annual	1 (55)	1	1	2	0.39
June 1999	2	6	5	11	1.52
	3	7	3	10	1.32
	4	9	5	14	1.76
	5	3	4	7	0.94
	6	8	12	20	2.20
	7	17	0	17	1.74
	8 (62)	7	3	10	1.77
				3	1.52 (ab)

Appendix C., Table B. continued

(a) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: .46 deer/72.7 acres x 1/1.00 = 1 deer/158 acres.
2. 50% of animals observed: .46 deer/72.7 acres x 1/.50 = 1 deer/79 acres.
3. 40% of animals observed: .46 deer/72.7 acres x 1/.40 = 1 deer/63 acres.

(b) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: .64 deer/79.3 acres x 1/1.00 = 1 deer/124 acres.
2. 50% of animals observed: .64 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.50 = 1 deer/62 acres.
3. 40% of animals observed: .64 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.40 = 1 deer/50 acres.

(c) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: .38 deer/79.3 acres x 1/1.00 = 1 deer/209 acres.
2. 50% of animals observed: .38 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.50 = 1 deer/104 acres.
3. 40% of animals observed: .38 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.40 = 1 deer/83 acres.

(d) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: .44 deer/79.3 acres x 1/1.00 = 1 deer/180 acres.
2. 50% of animals observed: .44 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.50 = 1 deer/90 acres.
3. 40% of animals observed: .44 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.40 = 1 deer/72 acres.

(e) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: .52 deer/79.3 acres x 1/1.00 = 1 deer/152 acres.
2. 50% of animals observed: .52 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.50 = 1 deer/76 acres.
3. 40% of animals observed: .52 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.40 = 1 deer/61 acres.

(f) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: .39 deer/79.3 acres x 1/1.00 = 1 deer/200 acres.
2. 50% of animals observed: .39 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.50 = 1 deer/100 acres.
3. 40% of animals observed: .39 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.40 = 1 deer/80 acres.

(g) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: .06 deer/79.3 acres x 1/1.00 = 1 deer/1,322 acres.
2. 50% of animals observed: .06 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.50 = 1 deer/661 acres.
3. 40% of animals observed: .06 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.40 = 1 deer/529 acres.

(h) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: .03 deer/79.3 acres x 1/1.00 = 1 deer/2,643 acres.
2. 50% of animals observed: .03 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.50 = 1 deer/1,322 acres.
3. 40% of animals observed: .03 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.40 = 1 deer/1,057 acres.

(i) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: .77 deer/79.3 acres x 1/1.00 = 1 deer/103 acres.
2. 50% of animals observed: .77 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.50 = 1 deer/51 acres.
3. 40% of animals observed: .77 deer/79.3 acres x 1/.40 = 1 deer/41 acres.

Appendix C., Table B. continued

(j) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.96 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/83 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.96 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/41 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.96 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/33 \text{ acres}.$

(k) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.35 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/227 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.35 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/113 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.35 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/91 \text{ acres}.$

(l) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.44 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/180 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.44 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/90 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.44 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/72 \text{ acres}.$

(m) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.44 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/180 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.44 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/90 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.44 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/72 \text{ acres}.$

(n) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.23 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/345 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.23 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/173 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.23 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/138 \text{ acres}.$

(o) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.05 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/1586 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.05 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/795 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.05 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/636 \text{ acres}.$

(p) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.37 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/214 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.37 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/107 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.37 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/86 \text{ acres}.$

(q) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.14 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/566 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.14 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/283 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.14 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/226 \text{ acres}.$

(r) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.18 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/441 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.18 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/220 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.18 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/176 \text{ acres}.$

Appendix C., Table B. continued

(s) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.24 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/330 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.24 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/165 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.24 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/132 \text{ acres}.$

(t) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.27 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/293 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.27 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/147 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.27 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/117 \text{ acres}.$

(u) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.08 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/991 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.08 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/496 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.08 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/396 \text{ acres}.$

(v) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.08 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/1586 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.08 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/793 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.08 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/634 \text{ acres}.$

(w) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.08 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/330 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.08 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/165 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.08 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/132 \text{ acres}.$

(x) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.92 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/86 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.92 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/43 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.92 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/34.4 \text{ acres}.$

(y) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.41 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/193 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.41 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/96.5 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.41 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/77.2 \text{ acres}.$

(z) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.25 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/317 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.25 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/158 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.25 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/127 \text{ acres}.$

(aa) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $.28 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/283 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.28 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/142 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.28 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/113 \text{ acres}.$

Appendix C., Table B. continued

(ab) Density estimates based on 10% area coverage:

1. 100% of animals observed: $1.52 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/52.2 \text{ acres.}$
2. 50% of animals observed: $1.52 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/26.1 \text{ acres.}$
3. 40% of animals observed: $1.52 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/20.9 \text{ acres.}$

APPENDIX D. Summary of vehicle survey results conducted on the Big Cypress Wildlife
Management Area.

Vehicles Only

[illegible]

ATC

[illegible]

SWAMP BUGGY

[illegible]

AIRBOAT

[illegible]

TOTAL

ARCHERY	84-85	85-86	86-87	87-88	88-89	89-90	90-91	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95i	95-96j	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00
Opening weekend	212	154	131	207	173	210	158	215	131	213	267	190	189	273	219	300
1st week	118	94	60	89	144	94	118	93	87	111	119	106	107	159	130	154
2nd week	116	72	100	89	143	128	87	122	95	93	161	87	92	119	81	105
3rd week	141	94	102	81	110	127	91	94	105	117	133	88	90	78	78	87
4th week							82	82	63f	105	95	82	74	87	75	96
MUZZLELOADING																
Opening weekend	339	169d	241	191	293	268	214	246	250f	232	260	190	246	278	311	169j
1st week	234	142	167	163	254	156	141	229f	219f	154	208	143	140	218	170	23j
2nd week	180	133	157	159	256	169	124	163	162f	187	211	104	136	141	205	205j
GENERAL GUN																
Opening weekend	899	674	684	737	929	783	524	685	541f	555	327	196	348	429	522	179j
Midweek	166	151														
1st week	459	335	399	418	435	421	368	383f	298f	351	169	129	294	237	307	115j
2nd week	520	262	245	255	476	391	146	413f	382f	426	143	232	275	298	329	168j
3rd week	365	379	342	350	301	361	278	343f	371f	341	107	177	219	225	227	168j
4th week	387	212	223	226	488	676	339	319f	341f	301	114	187	259	156	327	144j
5th week	295	175	197	217	317	411	280	269f	254f	293	136	292	156	253	232	217j
6th week	251	137	191	215	331	342	279	443f	474f	92h	50	190	261	231	153	29j-h
7th week	443	259	292	238	331	308	190	e	e	429	134	271	e	e	330	176j
8th week	543	363	412	380	181	211										

a) Excluding Loop Road, Pinecrest to Monroe Station; and/or County Roads 837 and 841; and/or U.S. 41 -TRR to west boundary, and/or Loop Road -40 Mile Bend to Pinecrest.

b) Excluding several locations.

c) Includes Mitchell's Landing.

d) Main campground (Bear Island) not counted.

e) No vehicle count-check in/out forms used to determine pressure.

f) Excludes 31 MM at Alligator Alley (I-75).

g) Excludes all Alligator Alley (I-75) segments.

h) Survey occurred on Christmas Day.

i) Stairsteps and Loop Units closed and Corn Dance and Turner River Units partially closed during General Gun season.

j) Various closures in effect; consult text for specifics.

All: Excluded S-12, S-12A and Bear Island other sites.