

BIG CYPRESS WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

DEER AND HOG ANNUAL REPORT

2000-01

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 some of the major plant communities found 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 2000-01 hunting season on the BCWMA.

On October 24, 2000, the NPS enacted new regulations regarding recreational off-road vehicle use and access on BCNP. These regulations were part of a Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan which was approved by the NPS director in late September 2000. During week 7 of general gun, Zone 4 of the Stairsteps Unit was closed to airboats. This closure was issued because of low water levels. All other hunts occurred as scheduled.

Man-days of hunting pressure (14,510) during the 2000-01 hunting season increased 22.4% from 1999-00 (11,255) and was 6.0% higher than the prior five-year average (13,690). Hunting pressure increased on all units except for Bear Island as compared to the 1999-00 season. Total checked-deer harvest (257) was four deer (1.6 %) more than the previous year's harvest. The archery (25) and muzzleloading gun (102) seasons harvest remained above the prior five-year average (21 and 59, respectively). The general gun (130) season harvest was 30.9% below the prior five-year average (188). Deer harvest increased in Bear Island, Corn Dance, Loop, and Stairsteps, and decreased in Turner River and Deep Lake as compared to the 1999-00 season. Total checked-hog harvest (124) was 28.2% greater than the 1999-00 season (89), but was 17.3% below the five-year average (150). Hog harvest increased in

all units except Turner River as compared to the 1999-00 season. The 2000-01 hunter success rate of 0.026 was less than the previous five-year average (0.031).

White-tailed deer physical characteristics were similar to values recorded since implementation of the 5-inch antler rule in 1986-87. Mean dressed weight (73.6 lbs.) was slightly lower than last years mean of 74 lbs. Mean antler beam circumference (6.1 cm.) increased by 1.6% over last year (6.0 cm.). Mean antler beam length (23.4 cm.) decreased 4.9% over last year (24.6 cm.). Mean spread was 19.6 cm. and mean number of points was 4.7.

Wild hog mean dressed weight and shoulder height were in the upper range of previous recorded mean values. Mean dressed weight (87 lbs.) was 12.6% greater than the 17 year mean of 76 lbs. Mean shoulder height (68 cm.) was 7.4% higher than the 17 year mean of 63 cm. Mean body length (124cm.) was only 1 cm. short of the highest mean body length on record.

Summary Table 1. Deer harvest totals, man-days of pressure, and % hunter success (# deer/man-days x 100) for the 1995-2001 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
95-96 ¹	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
99-00 ^a	25	52	176	2510	1055	7690	1.0	4.9	2.3
MEAN	21	59	188	2043	1719	9929	1.0	3.4	1.9
00-01	25	102	130	2185	2495	9929	1.1	4.1	1.3

Summary Table 2. Hog harvest totals, man-days pressure, and % hunter success (# hogs/man-days x 100) for the 1995-2001 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
95-96 ^a	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
99-00 ^b	11	11	67	2510	1055	7690	0.4	1.0	0.9
MEAN	19	28	103	2043	1719	9929	0.7	1.6	1.0
00-01	7	30	87	2185	2495	9929	0.3	1.2	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 hog 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 2000-01 hunting season on the BCWMA.

Hunting

Deer and hog hunting was permitted during archery (30 days), muzzleloading (16 days) and general gun (52 days) hunts. During the 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1999-00 hunting seasons, restrictions due to high water shortened the number of hunting days allowed and have been summarized in previous reports (Bozzo et al. 1994, Bozzo et al. 1995 and Riddick 2000). The 2000-01 hunting season was held as scheduled without any major unit closures. In addition to statewide rules these hunts were governed by specific regulations for the 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. During the 2000-01 hunting season, the NPS enacted new regulations concerning off-road vehicle (ORV) operation on the BCNP (Appendix A). These regulations (which further restrict ORV use) have the potential to indirectly impact the amount of recreational pressure the area receives.

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 A.

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. Dry conditions at the beginning of 2000 extended through spring. Below-average rainfall during that period left many of the cypress swamps and sawgrass marshes completely dry except for the deepest sloughs. By early summer, extensive afternoon rain events raised water levels to where most of the WMA was inundated. Above-average rainfall through mid-October left the area with high water levels through most of the muzzleloading gun season. By week 3 of the general gun season, water levels across the Big Cypress Swamp had receded to near normal levels. In late December, the Stairsteps Unit experienced very low water levels which eventually led to the December 24, 2000 notice to close the area to airboats.

Fires during 2000 burned 29,978 acres on the BCWMA (Table 2). Prescribed fires accounted for 99.7% of this acreage, while human caused (accidental or arson) and natural fires accounted for 0.3%. The acreage burned in 2000 with prescribed fire was 39% less than the 1999 acreage. An additional 103 acres were burned in the Jetport tract by FWC personnel. Burns were concentrated in prairies with efforts made to protect hammocks.

SURVEY DATA

Deer population surveys have been conducted since 1977 on the BCWMA. Since 1989, various annual surveys have been conducted in a standard manner from May thru August. Aerial reconnaissance flights, spotlight and track counts are survey techniques used to monitor deer populations in a representative sample of cover types found throughout the Preserve. Original survey data are presented in Appendix C.

Bear Island

Deer track counts were conducted on Bear Island from 1977 to 1988. 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 visibility of animals for a vast portion of the unit. In 1989, an experimental spotlight survey for deer was conducted to determine its feasibility. Since the 1989 survey, spotlight counts have been the primary technique used to monitor the unit's deer population through 1999 (Table 2). Spotlight surveys were not conducted in 2000 due to trail closures.

Corn Dance

Deer track surveys were conducted in the Corn Dance Unit from 1981 through 1991. 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 3). Track count surveys have not been conducted since 1992.

Turner River

Track count surveys were conducted in the Mullet Slough area 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 when 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 vehicles to access the Turner River Unit from I-75. The 1999 track count data are summarized in Table 4. Track count surveys were not conducted in 2000. The feasibility of this survey technique in this area needs to be evaluated.

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 the eastern portion of the Stairsteps Unit (Table 5). The eastern Stairsteps is largely open Everglades marsh adjacent to 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 3 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 twice in 2000.

The 2000 annual Stairsteps survey yields deer densities ranging from 1 deer per 105.7 acres to 1 deer per 42.3 acres. Deer population indices were comparable to 1998, but lower than last year's peak (Figure 4).

HUNTING

Hunter pressure, success and checked-harvest have been documented for the last 20 years.

Hunting pressure on the BCWMA was estimated at 14,510 man-days for the archery, muzzleloading gun and general gun seasons (Table 6). This estimate was 22.4% greater than last year's estimate (11,255 man-days) and 6.0% greater than the 5-year average (13,690 man-days). The hunter success rate (game checked/man-day = 0.026) was less than the prior 5-year average of 0.03. Deer harvest (257) was four animals (1.6%) more than the 1999-00 harvest and was 4.1% less than the prior 5-year average of 268. Hog harvest (124) was 28.2% greater than last year (89) and was 16.8% less than the previous 5-year average of 149. Deer and hog harvest by season compared to the previous 5-year averages are shown in Table 7.

In 2000-01, deer harvest was greater than the 5-year average for the archery and muzzleloading gun seasons, and less than the 5-year average for the general gun season. Hunter success for deer was greater in archery and muzzleloading gun seasons, and less during general gun season as compared to the previous 5-year averages. Deer harvest increased in the Bear Island, Corn Dance, Loop, and Stairsteps units but decreased in Turner River and Deep Lake units as compared to the previous year (Table 8). Hog harvest was greater than the previous 5-year average only for the muzzleloading gun season. Hog hunter success for all three seasons was less than the previous 5-year averages. The hog harvest increased in all units except for Bear Island as compared to the previous year (Table 9). No hogs were taken in Deep Lake Unit for the eleventh consecutive year.

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 2000 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 vehicle's counted every Saturday in 2000 to the weekly numbers obtained from the 1984 vehicle survey (base year) counts. All the results for previous vehicle surveys are summarized in Appendix D. Although vehicle surveys do not directly measure hunter pressure they do provide a good index and therefore the trends over the past 13 years can be analyzed.

Hunting pressure increased on all units as compared to last year's levels except for Bear Island (Table 10). 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, length of the hunting season and the large land area have created low hunter densities on BCWMA. Normally there are between 50 - 500 hunters daily on the entire BCWMA, resulting in a hunter density of 450 - 4,600 ha per hunter (Schortemeyer et al. 1991).

Archery Season

Archery season was open September 2 through October 1. The 2000-01 archery deer harvest (25) was 19% greater than the prior 5-year average of 21.2 (Table 11). Harvest was highest during the first 3 weeks of the season. Archery deer harvest increased in Bear Island, Loop and Stairsteps units as compared to 1999-00. Hog harvest (7) during archery was 37.6% less than the prior 5-year average (18.6). Archery hog harvest was comparable to the 1999-00 season in all units except for the 83.3 % decrease in harvest for Turner River (Table 9). Hunting pressure (2,185 man-days) was greater than the prior 5-year average of 2,043 man-days. Pressure decreased in all units compared to last year except Corn Dance. Pressure was the greatest in Turner River Unit (770 man-days, 35.2%) (Table 10). The 2000-01 archery hunter success rate (0.015) was 25% less than the previous 5-year average (0.020).

Muzzleloading Gun Season

The muzzleloading gun season was open between October 7 and October 22. Deer harvest (102) was 42.2% greater than the 5-year average of 59. Hog harvest (32) was 12.5% greater than the previous 5-year average of 28 (Table 12). Turner River Unit accounted for 44.1% and 56.7%, of deer and hogs harvested, respectively. Hunting pressure (2,495 man-days) increased 31.1% as compared to the prior 5-year average of 1,179 man-days. Turner River and Stairsteps units accounted for more than 60% of the season's hunting pressure. The Deep Lake Unit was closed to hunting during the muzzleloading gun season and was restricted to "archery only" hunting during the general gun season. Muzzleloading gun success rate (0.054) was 5.0% greater than the previous 5-year average (0.051).

General Gun Season

The 2000-01 general gun season (November 11 through January 1) was 52 days in length. Hunter activity and harvest during the general gun season are summarized in Table 13. Hunter pressure (9,830) was slightly below the prior 5-year average of 9,928, however, it was 26% below the 1998-99 gun season pressure (13,285). The implementation of the preserve's ORV plan on October 24, 2000 may have been the reason for this decrease in hunter pressure. General gun deer harvest (130) was 30.1% less than the prior 5-year average of 188. Hog harvest (87) was 15.5% less than the 5-year average of 103. Turner River and Stairsteps units accounted for 76.9% of the deer and 69.0% of the hogs harvested during general gun, and accounted for 64.1% (6,305 man-days) of the total general gun pressure. Pressure increased in all units as compared to the 1999-00 general gun season except for Bear Island and Turner River where pressure actually decreased. This decrease in pressure was possibly attributed to hunters using Corn Dance, Loop and Stairsteps which were partially and/or completely closed during last year's high-water period. The general gun success rate (0.022) was less than the 1999-00 rate (0.032), and the previous 5-year average (0.029).

Hunting pressure by week of general gun season is shown in Figure 5. 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 2 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 2000-01, 72.8 % of all deer checked were aged. Five age classes were represented in the season's harvest. Thirty-nine percent (73) of the harvest was in the 3.5 year old age class, followed by the 2.5, 1.5, 4.5, and 5.5 year old age class at 29.4% (55), 16.5% (31), 11.8% (22), and 3.2% (6), respectively (Table 14). Harvest of deer in the 3.5 year old age class increased compared to the previous year, and harvest of the 2.5 year old age class decreased. Initial response (1986) to the 5-inch minimum antler requirement was a reduction in the total number of bucks harvested and elimination of the 0.5 year old age class from the checked harvest. In subsequent years (1987-1993), older bucks have increased in the harvest while yearlings (1.5 year olds) have been substantially reduced. As predicted under the 5-inch minimum antler regulation, age structure has shifted to older age classes for harvested bucks on the BCWMA.

Deep Lake, Loop, Turner River, and Corn Dance units had similar age structures related to harvest. For each, the 3.5 year old age class dominated the total harvest. The Stairsteps Unit had good representation in the 2.5 year old age class (51.4 %) while the Bear Island Unit had good representation in the 1.5 year old age class (39.3%). Overall, age structure data indicated good recruitment in recent years. 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 15. Overall, values in 2000-01 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 74 pounds for the 2000-01 season. Mean antler circumference at 6.3 cm in 2000 is within the range

set in previous years (5.6-7.4 cm). In 2000, mean antler length (24.5 cm) was within the range set in previous years (18.8-27.7 cm). Mean number of points per deer (5.3) increased by 24.5 % as compared to the previous year (4.0). Occurrence of spikes by age class and unit of harvest is shown in Table 16. Spikes comprised 15.6% of the total bucks harvested and 29% of the 1.5 year age class bucks harvested. The percentage of spikes in the 2.5 year age class (25%) increased from 13% compared to 1999-00. Mean dressed weight for male deer was greater in 2000-01 than in 1999-00 in all units except for Bear Island and Corn Dance units (Table 15). Mean dressed weight for deer was greatest in the Deep Lake Unit (78.3 lbs.) followed by the Turner River Unit (74.7 lbs.).

WILD HOG DATA

Whenever possible, biological data was collected from harvested hogs when they were examined at the check station. Parameters normally measured included weight, body length, tail length and shoulder height. Measurements were taken on approximately 1679 of the 2772 hogs checked over the past 18 years.

Mean dressed weights, lengths, and shoulder heights for hogs harvested during the last 18 years are shown in Table 17. Mean dressed weight and shoulder height were greater than last years. Mean body length (124 cm) was more than last year's average body length (119 cm). Mean dressed weight (87 lbs.) was 12.6% greater than the 17-year mean of 76 lbs. .

Measured physical characteristics of male and female hogs harvested were comparable to each other in 2000-01 (Table 18). Males outweighed females by 8.6% or 8 pounds (93 lbs. vs. 85 lbs.). Mean body length of females was 3.1% greater than males (123 cm vs. 127 cm). Mean shoulder height of females and males were nearly identical with each measuring just over 69 cm. .

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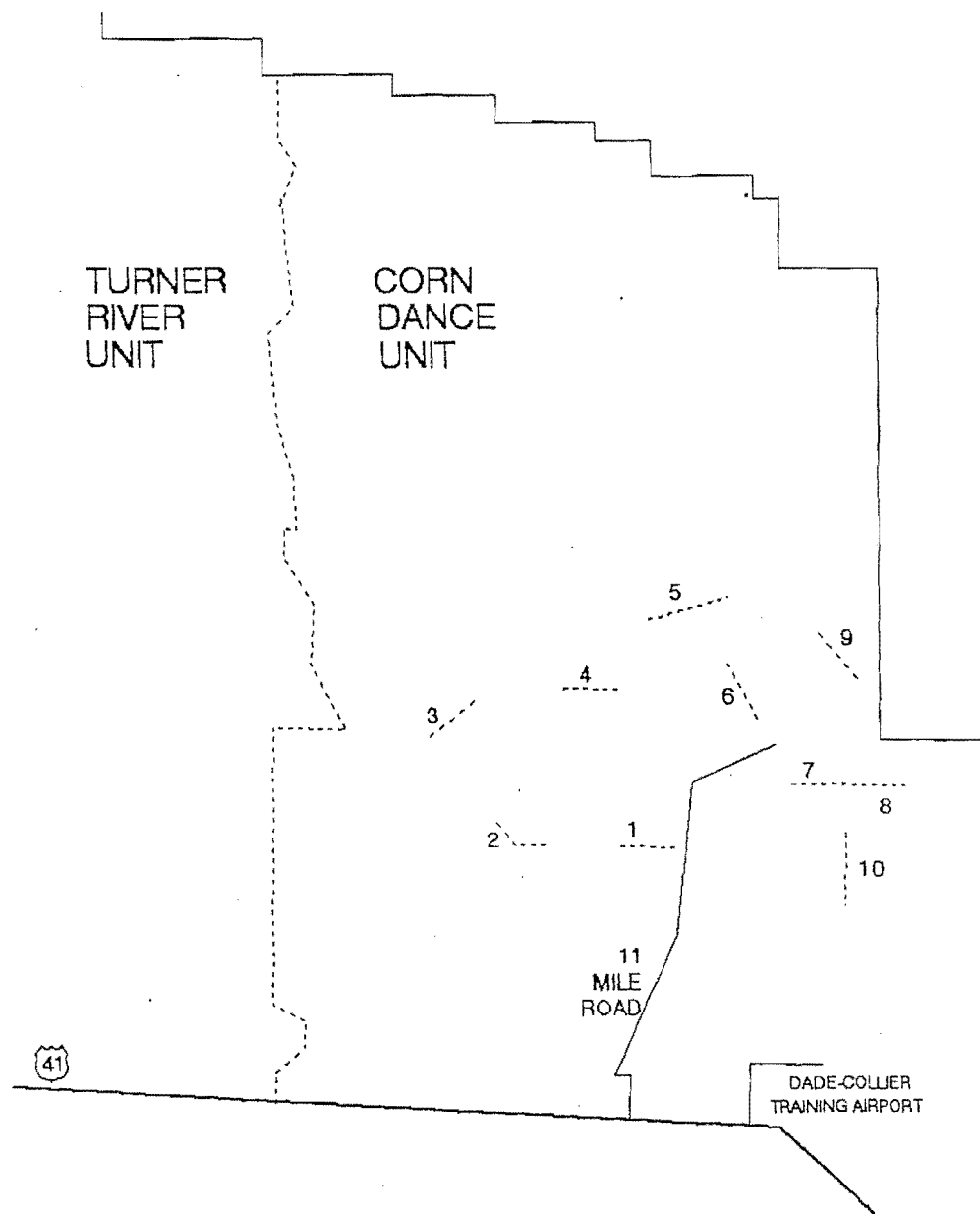


Figure 1. Deer track survey transects, Corn Dance Unit, Big Cypress WMA, 1985-1991.

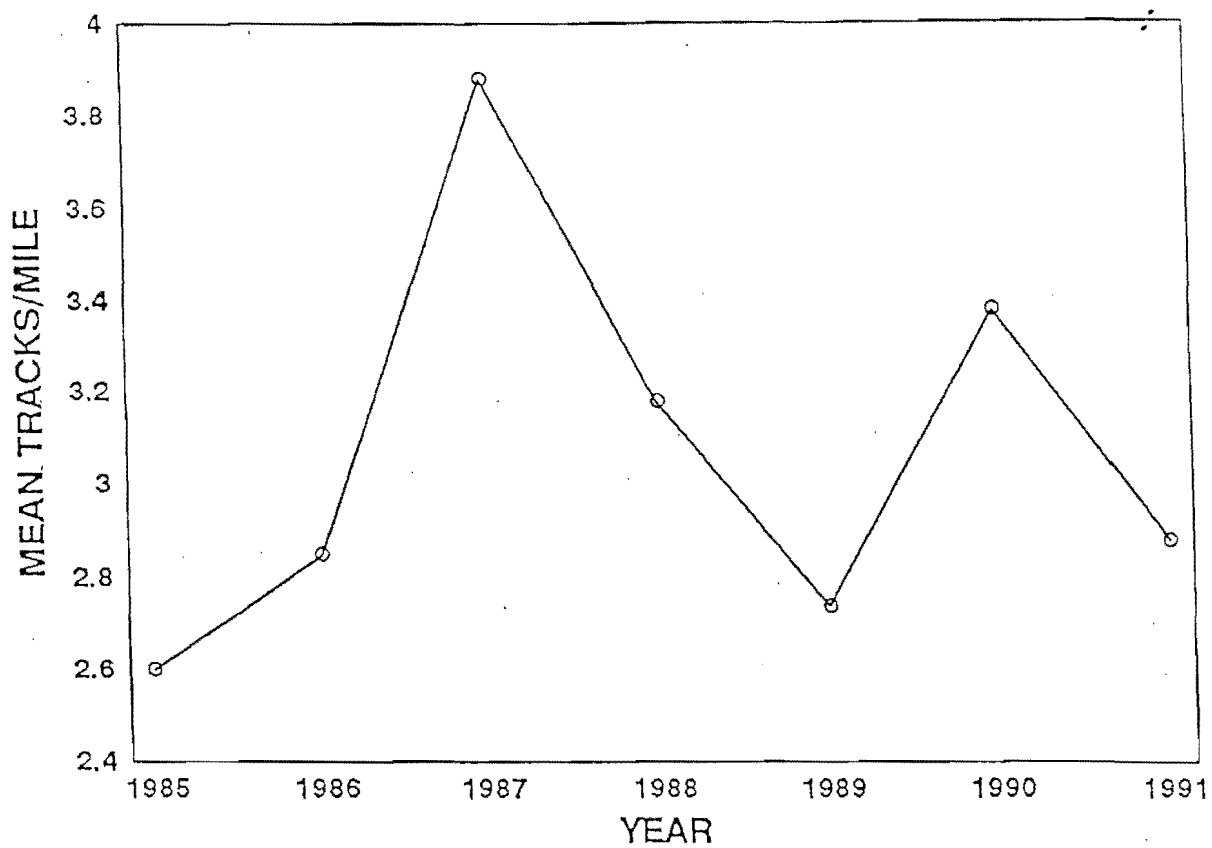


Figure 2. Mean number of deer tracks per one-mile transect in the Corn Dance Unit of the Big Cypress WMA, 1985-1991.

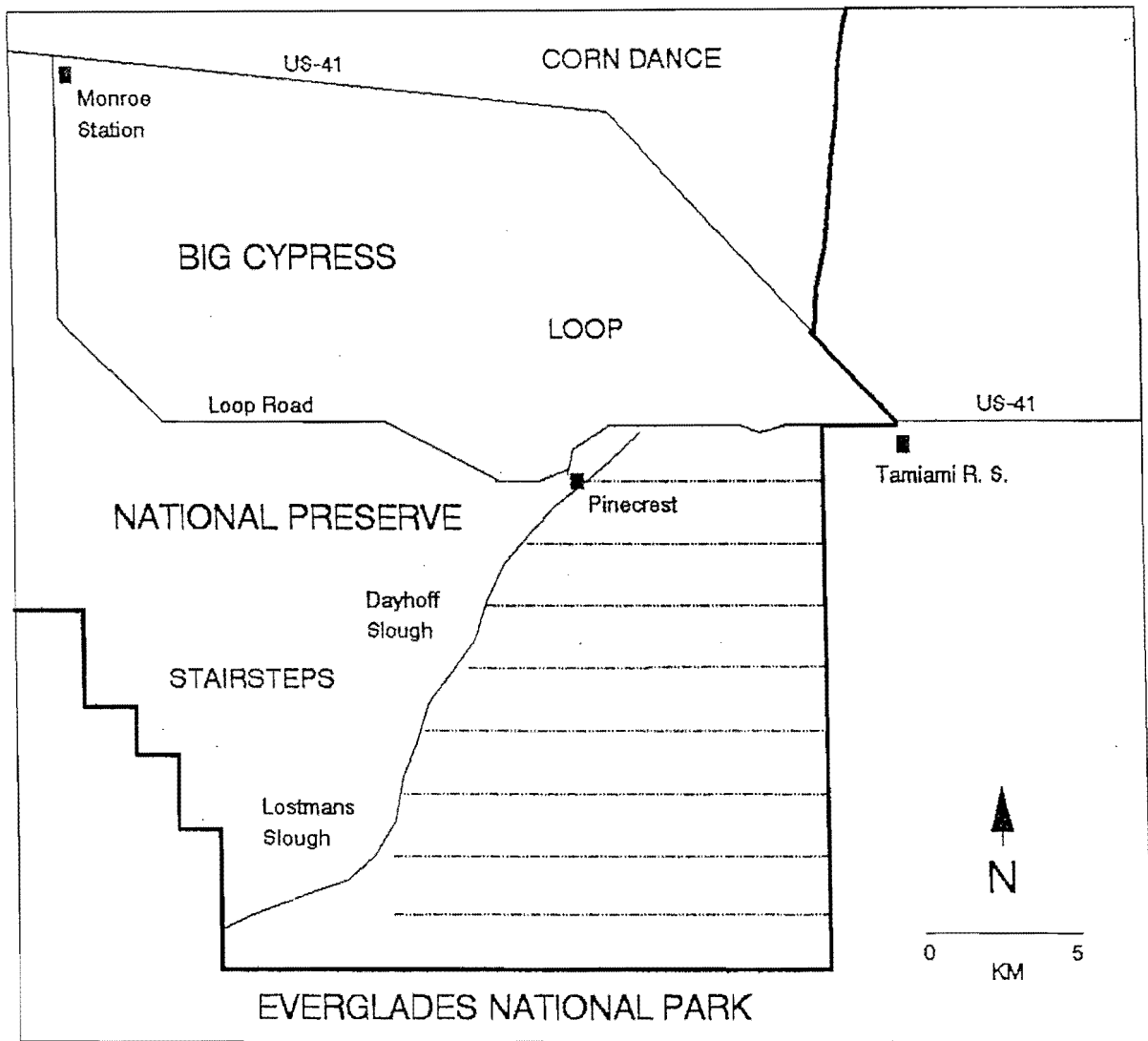


Figure 3. Aerial deer survey transects for the eastern Stairsteps Unit, Big Cypress WMA, 1985-2000.

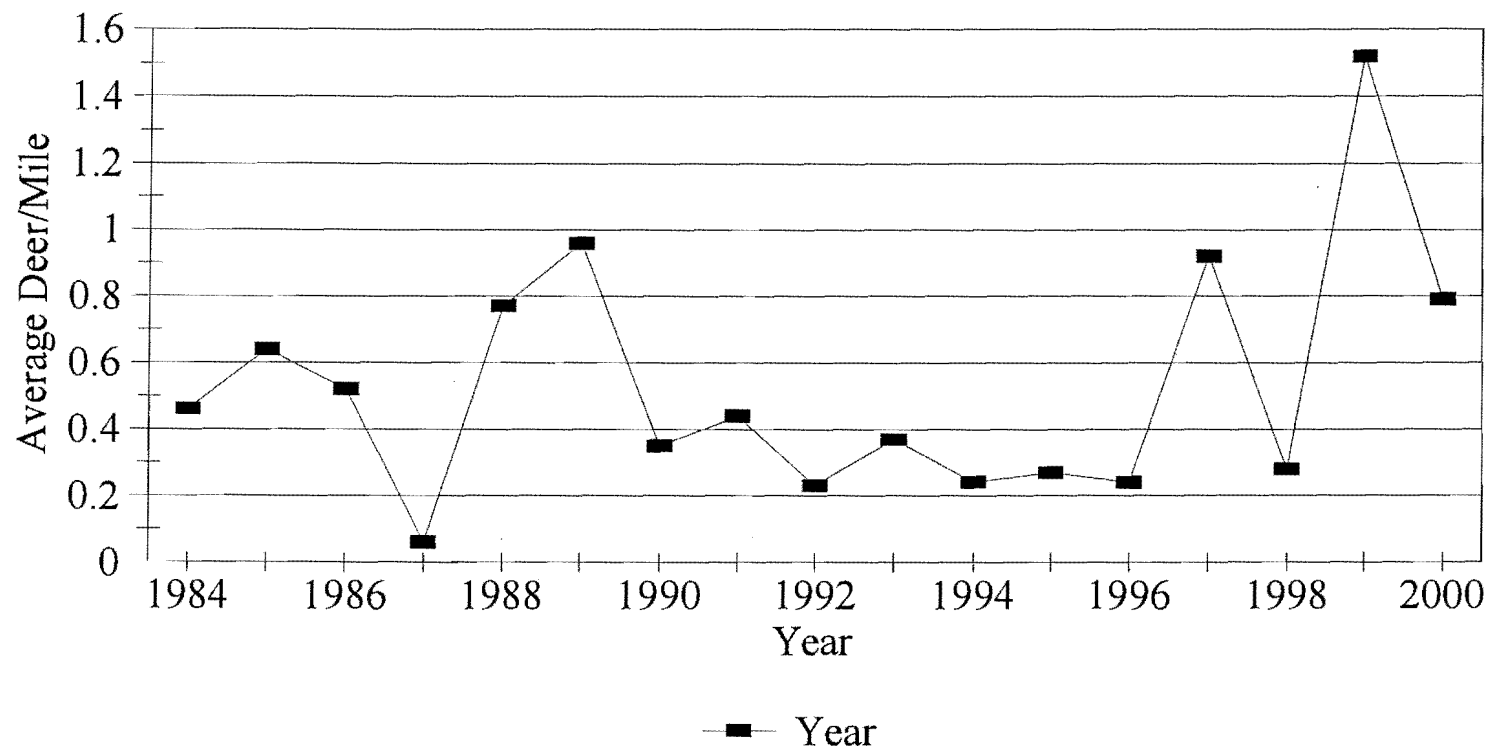


Figure 4. Average number of deer observed per mile during aerial surveys in the eastern Stairsteps Unit, Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1984-2000.

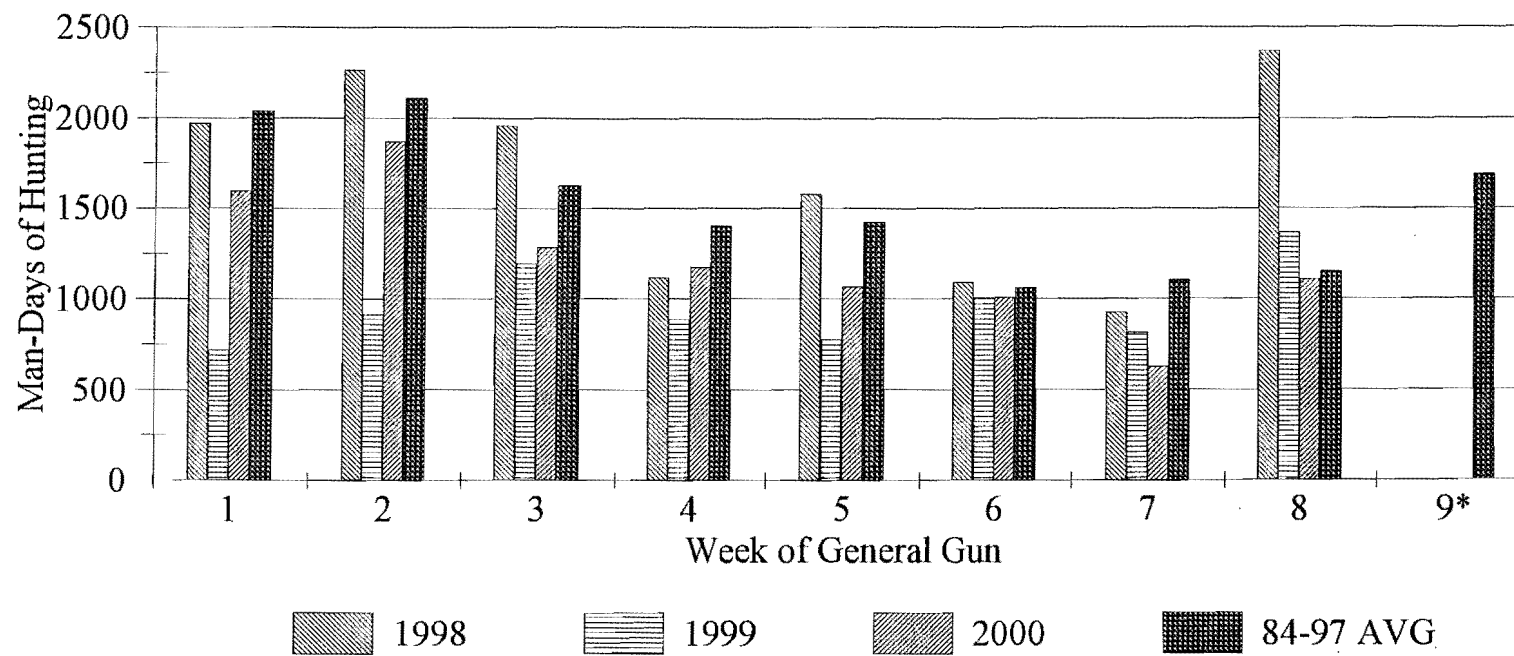


Figure 5. Weekly hunting pressure for the general gun season, Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1984-2000.

Table 1. Number of acres burned in the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1979-2000.

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	1,600a
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
2000	29,978	37	29,879	62
Totals	1,014,553	404,621	586,458	23,474
Avg./Yr.	46,116	18,392	27,112	1,067

^a Lightning and human caused combined
(Unpublished data from BCNP, May 1998)

Table 2. 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(e) 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 3. 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 4. 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 5. Population indices obtained from SRF Aerial Counts for white-tailed deer in the eastern Stairsteps Unit (50,000 acres) of the Big Cypress WMA, 1982-2000.

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
2000 Annual (1 of 2)	Schortemeyer & Bozzo	473-1182	1:106-42
2000 Annual (2 of 2)	Bozzo & Lotz	391-977	1:127-51

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

Table 6. Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area deer harvest, hog harvest and hunter success, 1980-2001.

Year	Number of Man-days	Number of Deer Harvested	Number of Hogs Harvested	Hunter Success ^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
2000-01	14,510	257	124	0.026

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

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

^c Restricted Harvest.

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

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

Table 7. Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area deer and hog harvest, and hunter success ratios by season for 2000-01.

Season	Number Harvested		Hunter Succ. Ratio ^a	
	2000-01	Prior 5 yr. Avg.	2000-01	Prior 5 yr. Avg.
Deer				
Archery	25	21.4	0.011	0.010
Muzzleloading	102	59.4	0.041	0.034
General Gun	130	187.6	0.013	0.019
Hog				
Archery	7	18.6	0.003	0.007
Muzzleloading	30	28	0.012	0.016
General Gun	87	102.8	0.009	0.010

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

Table 8. Six year comparison of documented deer harvest on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1995-2000. - and *, indicate areas closed and partially closed, respectively, within a season.

NUMBER OF DEER HARVESTED

Season	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01
Archery						
Bear Island	4	3	3	2*	0	2
Deep Lake	0	0	0	1*	6	3
Corn Dance	0	2	1	3*	2	0
Turner River	4	2	3	9*	10	7
Stairsteps	12	9	13	4*	6	9
Loop	4	0	0	2*	1	4
Total	24	16	20	21	25	25
Muzzleloading						
Bear Island	3*	14	3	6	9*	20
Deep Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn Dance	-	9	4	7	-	5
Turner River	21*	27	34	40	43*	45
Stairsteps	6*	19	7	26	-	24
Loop	7*	3	6	3	-	8
Total	37	72	54	82	52	102
General Gun						
Bear Island	10	15	14	15	16	9
Deep Lake	0	0	1	1	0	1
Corn Dance	10*	20	16	21	1*	9
Turner River	64	83	75	109	131	67
Stairsteps	54*	50	80	83	27*	33
Loop	7*	15	5	14	1*	11
Total	145	183	191	243	176	130
Combined						
Bear Island	17	32	20	23	25	31
Deep Lake	0	0	1	2	6	4
Corn Dance	10	31	21	31	3	14
Turner River	89	112	112	158	184	118
Stairsteps	72	78	100	113	33	67
Loop	18	18	11	19	2	23
Total	206	271	265	346	253	257

Table 9. Six year comparison of documented hog harvest on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1995-2000. - and *, indicate areas closed and partially closed, respectively, within a season.

NUMBER OF HOGS HARVESTED

Season	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01
Archery						
Bear Island	0	1	1	0*	0	0
Deep Lake	0	0	0	0*	0	0
Corn Dance	0	8	10	0*	1	2
Turner River	12	5	17	5*	6	1
Stairsteps	6	4	2	1*	3	2
Loop	3	3	2	2*	1	2
Total	21	21	32	8	11	7
Muzzleloading						
Bear Island	4*	3	6	0	0*	1
Deep Lake	-	-	-	-	-	-
Corn Dance	-	5	2	2	-	3
Turner River	18*	17	15	18	11*	17
Stairsteps	7*	5	3	4	-	6
Loop	6*	4	5	5	-	3
Total	35	34	31	29	11	30
General Gun						
Bear Island	7	15	8	2	1	0
Deep Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corn Dance	5*	19	13	21	4*	22
Turner River	44*	37	45	42	53	31
Stairsteps	26*	40	48	40	8*	29
Loop	11*	8	11	5	1*	5
Total	93	119	125	110	67	87
Combined						
Bear Island	11	19	15	2	1	1
Deep Lake	0	0	0	0	0	0
Corn Dance	5	32	25	32	5	27
Turner River	74	59	77	65	70	49
Stairsteps	39	49	53	45	11	37
Loop	20	15	18	12	2	10
Total	149	174	188	147	89	124

Table 10. Six year comparison of documented hunter pressure on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1995-2000. - and *, indicate areas closed and partially closed, respectively, within a season.

HUNTER PRESSURE (MAN-DAYS)

Season	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01
<u>Archery</u>						
Bear Island	415	480	620	425*	515	380
Deep Lake	35	25	40	45*	80	75
Corn Dance	230	290	275	315*	300	370
Turner River	530	525	750	735*	945	770
Stairsteps	345	370	370	425*	565	490
Loop	140	125	75	120*	105	100
Total	1695	1815	2130	2065	2510	2185
<u>Muzzleloading</u>						
Bear Island	275*	565	375	390	125*	310
Deep Lake	-	-	-	-	-	25
Corn Dance	-	280	225	235	-	475
Turner River	475*	600	930	965	930*	945
Stairsteps	335*	515	445	400	-	630
Loop	145*	115	125	145	-	110
Total	1230	2075	2100	2135	1055	2495
<u>General Gun</u>						
Bear Island	1635	2590	1360	2020	1465	1245
Deep Lake	85	70	145	200	160	165
Corn Dance	735*	1085	1335	1730	490*	1645
Turner River	3070*	2970	3730	5270	4255	3990
Stairsteps	2605*	3035	2885	3490	1230*	2315
Loop	235*	375	450	575	90*	470
Total	8365	10125	10175	13285	7690	9830
<u>Combined</u>						
Bear Island	2325	3635	2625	2835	2105	1935
Deep Lake	120	95	185	245	240	265
Corn Dance	965	1655	1835	2280	790	2490
Turner River	4075	4095	5410	6970	6130	5705
Stairsteps	3285	3920	3700	4315	1795	3435
Loop	520	615	650	840	195	680
Total	11290	14015	14405	17485	11255	14510

Table 11. Archery season harvest summary Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 2000-01.

Week	Deer		Hog		Hunter Activity (man-days)	
	2000-01	Prior 5-yr. avg.	2000-01	Prior 5-yr. avg.	2000-01	Prior 5-yr. avg.
2000-01 dates						
1 (9-2 to 9-3)	6	6.6	0	6.6	810	750
2 (9-4 to 9-10)	8	5.2	2	5.2	395	472
3 (9-11 to 9-17)	5	4.4	1	3.2	360	331
4 (9-18 to 9-24) ^a	2	3.6	2	1.8	340	243
5 (9-25 to 10-1) ^b	4	1.4	2	1.8	280	247
Total	25	21.2	8	18.6	2185	2043

^a BCWMA closed 9-24 & 25 due to hurricane.

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

Table 12. Muzzleloading Gun season harvest summary Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 2000-01.

Week	Deer		Hog		Hunter Activity (man-days)	
	2000-01	Prior 5-yr. avg.	2000-01	Prior 5-yr. avg.	2000-01	Prior 5-yr. avg.
2000-01 dates						
1 (10-7 to 10-8)	19	21.6	11	10.0	1120	888
2 (10-9 to 10-15)	51	26	12	11.2	745	450
3 (10-16 to 10-22)	32	11.8	9	6.8	630	381
Total	102	59.4	32	28.0	2495	1719

Table 13. General Gun season harvest summary Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 2000-01.

Week	Deer		Hog		Hunter Activity (man-days)	
	2000-01	Prior 5-yr. avg.	2000-01	Prior 5-yr. avg.	2000-01	Prior 5-yr. avg.
2000-01 dates						
1 (11-14 to 11-15)	24	39.4	16	15.2	1592	1294
2 (11-16 to 11-22)	38	46.0	28	25.6	1870	1379
3 (11-23 to 11-29)	18	28.2	10	13.6	1285	1596
4 (11-30 to 12-06)	16	20.4	10	10.4	1175	1130
5 (12-07 to 12-13)	8	12.8	5	10.0	1070	1111
6 (12-14 to 12-20)	9	11.8	6	9.0	1010	1064
7 (12-21 to 12-27)	6	13.4	2	7.8	630	1039
8 (12-28 to 1-03)	11	15.6	10	11.2	1110	1316
Total	130	187.6	87	102.8	9745	9929

Table 14. Age structure of male white-tailed deer harvested on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area by unit of harvest, 2000-01.

Age Class	Bear Island		Deep Lake		Turner River		Loop		Stairsteps		Corn Dance		All units combined	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1.5	11	39.3	1	25.0	13	13.5	1	6.7	4	11.4	1	11.1	31	16.5
2.5	2	7.1	1	25.0	30	31.3	4	26.7	18	51.4	0	----	55	29.4
3.5	9	32.1	2	50	39	40.6	7	46.7	11	31.4	5	55.6	73	39.0
4.5	5	17.9	0	---	12	12.5	2	13.3	2	5.7	1	11.1	22	11.8
5.5	1	3.6	0	---	2	2.1	1	6.7	0	---	2	22.2	6	3.2
5.5+	0	----	0	---	0	---	0	---	0	---	0	---	0	---
Sample size	28		4		96		15		35		9		187	

Table 15. Body and antler characteristics of male deer harvested during 2000-01, 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	11	1	13	1	4	1	31	63.9	65	60.0	-	77.5	-	66.1
2.5	2	1	29	4	7	-	54	85.0	85.0	71.9	76.0	69.1	-	72.3
3.5	9	2	40	7	2	5	74	84.3	85.0	73.4	70.7	73.0	55.0	73.6
4.5	5	-	12	2	1	1	22	85.0	-	79.3	78.0	77.0	-	80.4
5.5	1	-	2	1	-	2	6	83.0	-	95.0	85.0	-	-	90.0
5.5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	28	4	96	15	35	9	187	74.3	78.3	74.7	74.0	71.6	55.0	73.6

	MEAN ANTLER MAIN BEAM CIRCUMFERENCE (cm)							MEAN ANTLER BEAM LENGTH (cm)						
1.5	5.3	-	4.5	5.9	5.4	4.6	4.9	17.2	-	16.3	18.2	18.6	14.3	16.9
2.5	7.0	8.0	5.2	6.3	6.0	-	5.6	24.1	32.3	16.3	25.1	22.1	-	22.4
3.5	6.3	7.0	6.3	6.1	6.0	5.9	6.5	20.9	26.8	25.5	22.9	24.7	23.9	24.3
4.5	6.8	-	7.1	7.7	7.2	5.5	7.0	22.5	-	30.6	31.0	32.8	23.5	28.6
5.5	7.5	-	10.0	9.0	-	8.8	8.8	23.8	-	36.5	38.2	-	32.2	32.5
5.5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	6.1	7.4	5.5	6.5	6.0	6.4	6.1	20.0	28.6	22.5	25.3	23.1	24.6	23.2

	MEAN NUMBER OF POINTS							MEAN SPREAD (cm)						
1.5	3.4	-	3.2	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.2	13.7	-	13.7	18.4	18.3	15.5	14.6
2.5	6.0	8.0	3.8	5.3	4.5	-	4.3	22.8	28.6	16.6	25.0	21.3	-	19.0
3.5	4.8	6.0	5.1	4.9	4.3	4.4	4.9	18.8	23.3	20.2	19.1	21.6	17.9	20.1
4.5	3.8	-	6.6	7.5	7.5	4.0	6.0	22.0	-	25.1	28.1	22.3	21.0	24.2
5.5	4.0	-	8.0	8.0	-	8.5	7.4	26.5	-	38.0	31.2	-	24.8	29.1
5.5+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	4.1	6.7	4.7	5.5	4.4	5.1	4.7	17.9	24.9	19.0	21.4	21.0	19.5	19.6

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

Table 16. Inferior antler development of adult white-tailed deer harvested on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 2000-01.

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	2	0	4	0	3	0	9	18	0	31	0	75	0	30
2.5	0	0	4	0	10	0	14	0	0	14	0	56	--	25
3.5	1	0	3	0	5	0	9	11	0	8	0	45	0	12
4.5	0	--	0	0	1	0	1	0	--	0	0	50	0	5
5.5	0	--	0	0	--	0	0	0	--	0	0	--	0	0
5.5+	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
N ^b	0	0	1	0	3	3	7	0	0	4	0	10	60	10

^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 17. Physical characteristics of wild hog on the Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1983-2001.

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)
2000-01	124	87 (25-140)	125 (83-153)	68 (38-88)

^a Body length does not include tail.

Table 18. Comparison by sex of physical characteristics of wild hogs harvested on 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)

Table 18. continued

Year	Sex	Sample Size	Mean Dressed Weight (lbs.)	Mean Body Length (cm.)	Mean Shoulder Height (cm.)
2000-01	F	47	85 (60-120)	127 (95-150)	69 (38-88)
	M	77	93 (25-140)	123 (83-153)	70 (40-87)

APPENDIX A. National Park Service letter and map outlining the major regulations of the Final
Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Big Cypress National Preserve
HCR 61, Box 110
Ochopee, Florida 34141-9710

L3035 (BICY)

October 16, 2000

Dear Off-Road Vehicle User,

On September 28, 2000 the Director of the National Park Service signed the Record of Decision (ROD) approving the Final Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Big Cypress National Preserve. The National Park Service (NPS) will implement the Proposed Action alternative as described in the plan.

The purpose of this letter is to notify off-road vehicle (ORV) users of what actions will be undertaken in the near future to implement the ORV Plan. As a result of the comprehensive nature of the Proposed Action, implementing all aspects of the plan could take up to 10 years. This letter is not intended to summarize or replicate the details of the ORV Plan, but to discuss actions that will be taken in the near future.

Beginning Tuesday, October 24, 2000 the following actions and supporting regulations will become effective: (All regulations presently in effect will remain in effect unless specifically noted as changed.)

ACCESS POINTS - All ORVs will be required to depart from and return to any designated access point. Access point locations are depicted on the enclosed map, on maps found in the ORV Plan, on maps posted on bulletin boards at each access point (trail head), at check stations, and at the Oasis Visitor Center.

ORV USE BY UNIT -

Bear Island Unit - Permitted ORV use is for swamp buggies, ATCs, and street legal four wheel drive vehicles. Use will be restricted to designated trails. Access is allowed at Access Point 1. Most of the previously designated "Green Trail" and some of the western portions of the "Red Trail" are designated as ORV trails. The "Blue Trail", "Yellow Trail", and the eastern part of the "Red Trail" are closed to motorized use. The previously designated trails that are to be closed will be marked at the closed site by a dirt berm, rocks, signs and/or other devices, denoting the closure. ORV travel beyond these points is prohibited. The designated campsites and the Bear Island campground locations remain the same. The enclosed Bear Island map and a map on the bulletin board at Access Point 1 should be helpful in identifying which trails are open.

Turner River Unit and Corn Dance Unit - Permitted ORV use is for swamp buggies and ATCs (no airboats). Access is allowed at Access Points 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 10A. **All Prairies are closed to ORV travel** (prairies are defined as mostly treeless areas that are dominated by grasses and/or grass-like plants). Not all prairies have been marked or delineated. **ORV operators must seek routes that traverse around prairie areas.** Until trails are designated, it is understood that there will be some areas where travel will be necessary along the edges of prairies. Dispersed use is allowed in non-prairie areas this year.

(Airplane Prairie closure) A designated boundary has been marked around the boundary of Airplane Prairie, east of Turner River Road (some users know this area as Copeland prairie). This boundary may be used as a trail and has been marked with 1" metal conduit with red/white/red reflective tape on the top portion of the marker. ORVs must travel to the outside of these markers (see enclosed map). This route is intended to eventually become the designated trail for this area. Individuals who own private land within the Airplane Prairie "closed area" must contact the Chief Ranger's office to obtain a Special Use Access Permit to enter the area.

(Windmill Prairie) The southeastern boundary of Windmill Prairie has been designated for approximately two miles, traveling generally north and south (area 65 on the enclosed map). This boundary is intended to eventually become the designated trail for this area. ORVs must travel on the eastside of the markers when in that area (markers will be the same as described above in the Airplane Prairie section).

(Wagon Wheel Area) The area south of lower and upper Wagon Wheel Road and west of Turner River Road is closed to ORV use.

U.S. Highway 41 Buffer - ORVs traveling north from Access Points 6 (Skillet Strand North), 10A (Monument Lake Campground), 10 (Monroe Station North), and 8 (Oasis), must travel in a northward direction for one mile or more before they begin dispersed use. **Travel within one mile north of U.S. Highway 41 is prohibited except when traveling to or from an access point in a southerly or northerly direction.**

Deep Lake and Loop Units - Remains closed to ORV use.

Addition Lands - Remains closed to ORV use.

Stairsteps Unit - Permitted ORV use will vary by zone (individuals who own private property within any closed area of the Stairsteps Unit must contact the Chief Ranger's office for a Special Use Access Permit).

- Zone 1 is permanently closed to all ORV use.

- Zone 2 is closed until trails are designated.

- Zone 3 is closed until trails are designated.

- Zone 4 is open to airboats only. Airboat launching is restricted to Access Points 14 and 15.

The southeast corner of Zone 4 is CLOSED, as depicted on the attached map and on maps on bulletin boards at Access Points 14 (Red Bird Lane/Mitchell's Landing) and 15 (Boundary Line). White 1 1/2" PVC stakes, with attached yellow "closed" signs, will mark the closed area on site. The area is closed as a Cape Sable seaside sparrow protection and restoration area (individuals who own private property within this closed area must contact the Chief Ranger's office to obtain a Special Use Access Permit to enter the area. A specific access route will be designated).

Airboat trail marking will be ongoing after October 24. Airboat trails will be marked with white 1 1/2" PVC stakes with a blue "airboat trail" sign attached. A color code system will be devised to differentiate between the various trails. When completed, maps will be given to airboat operators and posted at launch sites. As airboat trails are designated, airboat operators will be expected to follow those trails. The sparrow closure area is marked and is closed to all motorized vehicles immediately. Wherever there is a trail designated, you must follow it.

NIGHTLY CLOSURES - ORV use is prohibited throughout the preserve between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

DRIVER'S LICENSE - All ORV operators will have to possess a valid state driver's license (or a valid learner's permit and be accompanied by a licensed adult, 18 years or older).

SPEED LIMITS - Speed limits will be 30 MPH for airboats and 15 MPH for wheeled vehicles. Operating a vehicle at anytime without due care or at a speed greater than that which is reasonable and prudent is prohibited.

PERMITS -

Backcountry Permits - All backcountry users, including ORV users, hikers, and boaters are required to obtain a backcountry use permit for each trip taken. These permits will be available from dispensers at access points, trailheads, rangers, check stations, or the Oasis Visitor Center. However, a copy of the permit must be left in the permit receptacle at the specific trailhead used to enter the backcountry. Instructions for filling out the permit will be available on the bulletin board at each access point.

A permit will be required for each vehicle and/or each group as shown in the following examples. Example # 1: Four individuals enter on four ATCs. Each ATC would require a separate permit. Example #2: Four individuals enter on a buggy. One permit will be required for the buggy, noting that there were four people. Example #3: A group comprised of three individuals who are walking into the backcountry to hunt or to hike the Florida Trail. They will be generally staying together during their trip. One permit would be appropriate. Example #4: Private land owners traveling across the preserve to their property are required to obtain a permit for each trip made using the same instructions as given in examples #1 and 2.

If for some reason there is no permit available (all were used, vandalism, etc.) at the access point backcountry permit dispenser, the backcountry user should use any clean piece of paper available to record the necessary information and then leave the paper at the access point receptacle.

ORV Vehicle Permit - Year 2000 - Any ORV operating in the preserve must have a valid ORV vehicle permit. The year 2000 permits are valid until January 31, 2001. No new permits will be sold after the 2000 number limit is met, except to individuals who possessed a 1999 permit. As of this date, approximately 1600 permits have been issued. Permits may be purchased at the Oasis Visitor Center for \$25.00.

ORV Vehicle Permit - Year 2001 - The ORV plan calls for a vehicle inspection prior to applying for, and entry into, the random drawing for year 2001 ORV permits. This was to have taken place between October 1 and November 30, of this year. The purpose for the inspection (in addition to safety and gaining information about the types and specifications of ORVs) was to ensure that anyone entering the random drawing did in fact own an ORV.

Implementation of the ORV plan began with the Record of Decision, which has recently been signed. This time frame has caused us to slightly restructure the vehicle inspection and permit application process to the following:

- This year any individual holding a year 2000 ORV Permit will be allowed to enter that vehicle in the random drawing for year 2001 permits by filling out the enclosed application form and returning it by November 30, 2000. Nothing else needs to be done until the individual is notified that they have drawn a permit. They will then have until January 31, 2001 to bring their vehicle in for inspection, take the orientation/education class, and to pick up their permit.

- Individuals who hold a 2000 permit and who anticipate receiving a 2001 permit through the random drawing, may also have their vehicles inspected at anytime between November 9, 2000 and January 31, 2001.

- Individuals who do not have a 2000 ORV permit must bring their ORV to Oasis Visitor Center (during the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) between November 9 and November 30, 2000 to have their vehicle inspected. At the time of inspection, they may enter the permit drawing for 2001 permits.

- An individual may enter up to five different vehicles in the drawing. No vehicle may be entered more than once for the drawing, no matter if under a different name. Violation of the rules of procedure for the random drawing will result in no permit being issued to that individual(s) for that or any vehicle.

- The random drawing for 2001 ORV permits will be held at Oasis Visitor Center on December 11, 2000.

- Shortly after the drawing, the NPS will notify those individuals who drew permits. Those individuals will have until January 31, 2001 to complete the permitting process, which includes the following:

Inspections - Vehicles must be inspected at Oasis Visitor Center between November 9, 2000 and January 31, 2001 (during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).

Fees - A \$50.00 permit fee must be paid (cash, money order, or personal check).

ORV Operator Permit - Beginning February 1, 2001 any person operating an ORV within the boundaries of the preserve will be required to possess an ORV operators' permit and a state driver's license. The free ORV operator's permit will be given to those individuals who complete the ORV orientation/education class (approximately one to two hours long). This class will be offered at the Oasis Visitor Center on any Thursday, Friday, or Saturday beginning November 30, 2000 through January 27, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. The intent of the class is to inform ORV operators of their responsibilities as required under the new ORV Plan, including regulations and restrictions. **No ORV vehicle permit will be issued until the owner of the vehicle has received their ORV operator's permit.**

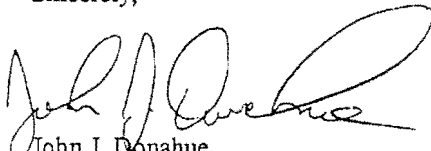
PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS - Owners of private property within the preserve will be issued a free Special Use Access Permit that will allow them reasonable access to their property. Preserve staff will work with individual landowners to determine what route is approved for use. Due to the large number of landowners the priority for issuing permits will be to those landowners that are located in immediately closed areas such as Airplane Prairie, Zone 4 sparrow area, Zone 2 and 3 etc. Landowners in these areas should contact the Chief Ranger's Office as soon as possible to set up a time for determining the route. If land ownership is not already established with the NPS, a certified copy of the deed must be provided before a permit will be issued.

We recognize that the ORV Plan is complicated and controversial. Implementing it in a reasonable manner is paramount to success. Your understanding and compliance is also critical. We recognize that the great majority of ORV users are good citizens who are concerned about protecting the preserve. Unfortunately, we have already experienced some vandalism. We will attempt to apprehend and prosecute anyone responsible for these acts. Your cooperation and assistance in preventing or apprehending such individuals will be enormously helpful. If vandalism persists and trail markers, signs, and bulletin boards, etc. are destroyed, we will have little choice but to close those areas to vehicles. Please help us prevent these thoughtless and costly acts that will interfere with the recreational activities of many people.

This year will be a learning process for all. None of us have all of the answers. Your feedback and input will be important in helping us determine where designated trails will be located. Many of you have already provided us with ideas for trail locations. We will be reviewing that information as marking of trails occurs in the various units. In addition to contacting us at preserve headquarters, please don't hesitate to talk with our staff in the field about specific on-site ideas you might have.

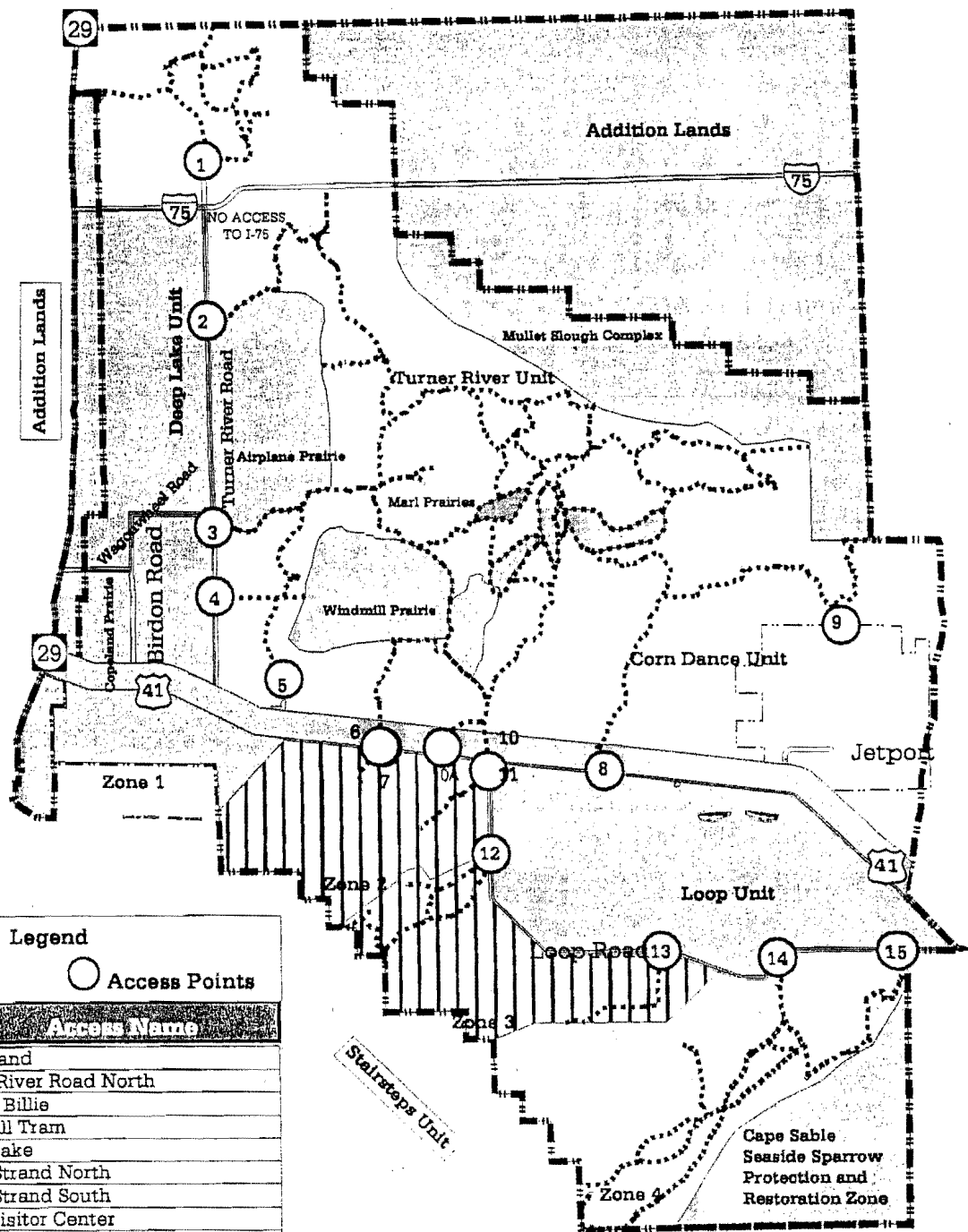
We look forward to continuing our mutual efforts to protect the resources of Big Cypress National Preserve for this and future generations.

Sincerely,



John J. Donahue
Superintendent

Enclosure (3)



Legend	
	Trails
	Access Points
Number	Access Name
1	Bear Island
2	Turner River Road North
3	Concho Billie
4	Windmill Tram
5	Burns Lake
6	Skillet Strand North
7	Skillet Strand South
8	Oasis Visitor Center
9	Jetport
10	Monroe Station North
10A	Monument Campground
11	Monroe Station South
12	Sig Walker
13	Pace's Dike
14	Red Bird Lane
15	Boundary Line

*Actual specific trail designations and closed areas will be determined in the field.

Map shows all ORV trails for all vehicle types. Refer to document for specific details.



Closed to ORVs



Closed until trails designated

ORV ACCESS POINTS, PRIMARY TRAILS, AND CLOSED AREAS*

BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



BICY/JULY-2000

5 0 5 10 Miles

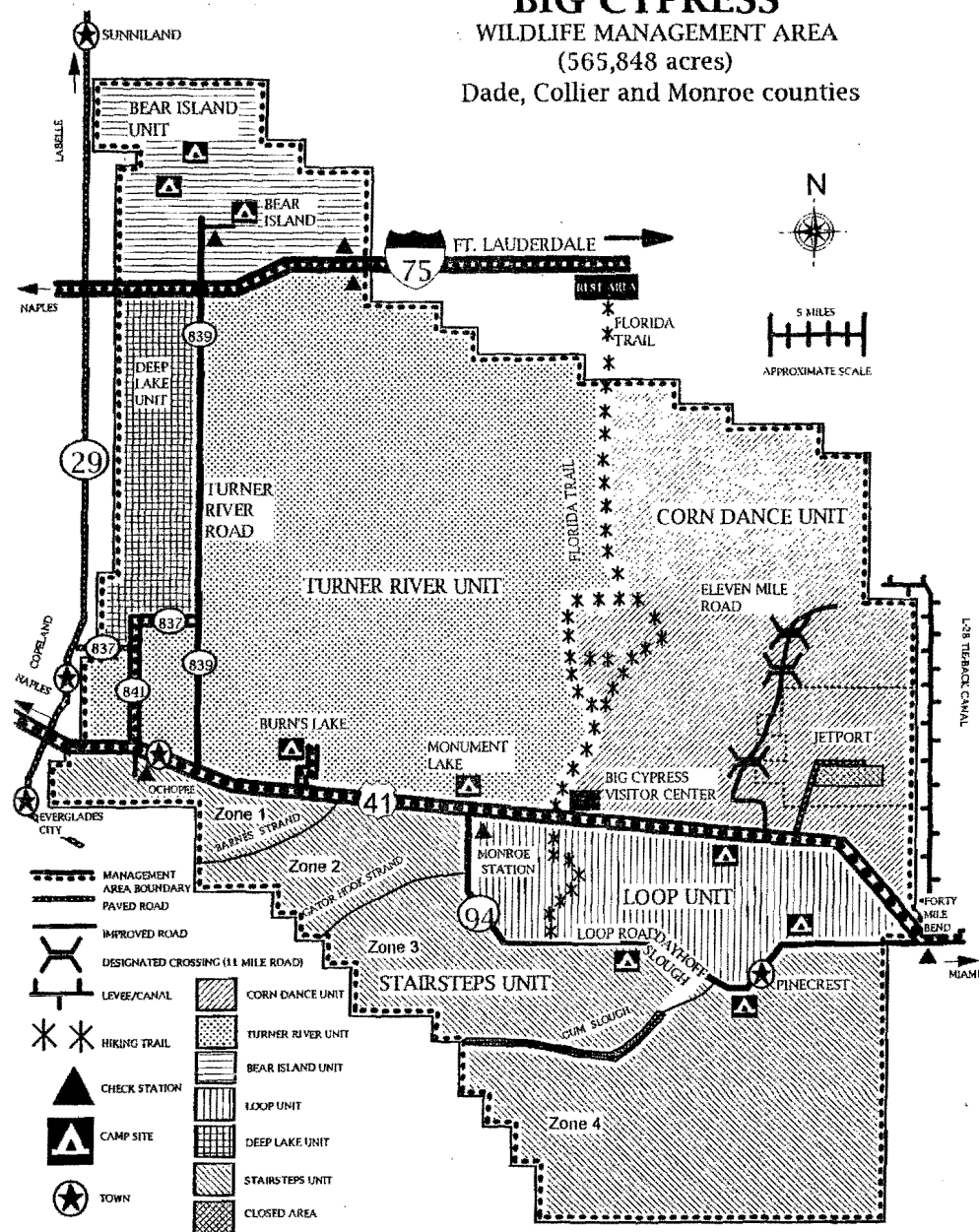
APPENDIX B. Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area 2000-01 regulations summary and area map.

BIG CYPRESS

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

(565,848 acres)

Dade, Collier and Monroe counties

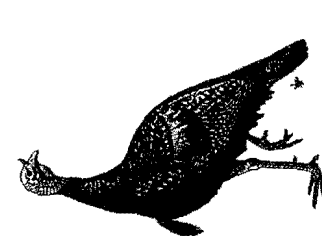


BIG CYPRESS

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

2000-2001

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/fwc/

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 11 through 19, November 20 through 26 and December 22 through January 1 of the general gun season. A no-cost special quota hunt permit is required to hunt on the Bear Island Unit from October 7 through 15 of the muzzleloading gun season and on the Deep Lake Unit November 11 through 19, November 20 through 26 and December 24 through January 1 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.

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 setguns 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 airboats, used offroads 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. Airboats 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 airboat use in the Stairsteps Unit contact the NPS.

39. All airboats 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 2 through October 1, in all units and November 11 through January 1, in the Deep Lake Unit only.

Permit, Stamp and License Requirements--Hunting license, wildlife management area permit, archery permit (not required November 11 - January 1 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 shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory game birds in season on all units except Deep Lake.

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

3. Duck hunting during the early duck season is prohibited in the Bear Island and Deep Lake Units.

MUZZLELOADING GUN:

October 7 through 22, 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), 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 Muzzleloading Gun Hunt--In addition to these regulations, all General Wildlife Management Area Regulations shall apply.

1. Only muzzleloading guns are allowed, except shotguns are permitted for hunting migratory game birds in season on all units except Deep Lake.

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

GENERAL GUN:

November 11 through January 1, 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 11 - 26 and December 22 - January 1), daily hunt permit required 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 waterfowl retrievers are permitted except in Loop Unit.

SMALL GAME:

January 2 through February 4.

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 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 Unit.

SPRING TURKEY:

March 3 through April 8.

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 hunting dog. Dogs not normally used for hunting may be kept if restrained.

MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS:

Mourning doves, white-winged doves, snipe, rail, moonhen, ducks, coots, woodcock and crows may be hunted during seasons established for these species which coincide with the archery, 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). Centerfire shotguns are permitted on the area (except in the Deep Lake Unit) for hunting migratory game birds when one or more of these species are legal to take.

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 ((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.

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APPENDIX C. Deer survey data, Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area, 1984-2000.

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

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

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

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, 1984-2000.

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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)
Annual	1 (55)	0	2	2	0.40
June 2000	2	2	4	6	0.87
(1 of 2)	3	2	4	6	0.78
	4	5	8	13	1.64
	5	6	3	9	1.15
	6	6	6	12	1.30
	7	1	2	3	0.39
	8 (62)	0	0	0	0
				51	0.79 (ac)
Annual	1 (55)	5	0	5	0.99
June 2000	2	8	2	10	1.34
(2 of 2)	3	5	0	5	0.66
	4	1	4	5	0.61
	5	2	0	2	0.26
	6	0	7	7	0.81
	7	2	0	2	0.20
	8 (62)	0	4	4	0.43
				40	0.62 (ad)

Table B. continued

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

1. 100% of animals observed: $.46 \text{ deer}/72.7 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/158 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.46 \text{ deer}/72.7 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/79 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.46 \text{ deer}/72.7 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/63 \text{ acres}.$

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

1. 100% of animals observed: $.64 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/124 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.64 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/62 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.64 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/50 \text{ acres}.$

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

1. 100% of animals observed: $.38 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/209 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.38 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/104 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.38 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/83 \text{ acres}.$

(d) 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: $.44 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/72 \text{ acres}.$

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

1. 100% of animals observed: $.52 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/152 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.52 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/76 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.52 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/61 \text{ acres}.$

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

1. 100% of animals observed: $.39 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/200 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.39 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/100 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.39 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/80 \text{ acres}.$

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

1. 100% of animals observed: $.06 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/1,322 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.06 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/661 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.06 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/529 \text{ acres}.$

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

1. 100% of animals observed: $.03 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/2,643 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.03 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/1,322 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.03 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/1,057 \text{ acres}.$

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

1. 100% of animals observed: $.77 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/103 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $.77 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/51 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $.77 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/41 \text{ acres}.$

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: $.18 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/176 \text{ acres}.$

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: $.28 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/113 \text{ acres.}$

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: $1.52 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/20.9 \text{ acres}.$

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

1. 100% of animals observed: $0.75 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/105.7 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $0.75 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/52.9 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $0.75 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/42.3 \text{ acres}.$

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

1. 100% of animals observed: $0.62 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/1.00 = 1 \text{ deer}/127.9 \text{ acres}.$
2. 50% of animals observed: $0.62 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.50 = 1 \text{ deer}/64.0 \text{ acres}.$
3. 40% of animals observed: $0.62 \text{ deer}/79.3 \text{ acres} \times 1/.40 = 1 \text{ deer}/51.2 \text{ acres}.$

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

Appendix C. Summary of vehicle surveys conducted on Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area during selected hunting seasons, 1984-2001.
Vehicles only

	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	00-01
ARCHERY																	
Opening weekend	141	90	91	140	109	109	99	141	67	135	156	124	104	136	99	161	120
1st week	74	60	42	58	100	49	71	57	49	67	71	69	52	62	75	85	40
2nd week	61	45	58	52	80	54	43	82	49	60	71	53	41	53	40	49	48
3rd week	79	56	56	49	67	64	53	54	65	65	84	54	43	44	44	40	46
4th week							51	52	27f	51	45	41	45	44	32	46	30
MUZZLELOADING																	
Opening weekend	179	111d	155	104	178	137	133	151	142f	129	152	96	115	113	155	133k	130
1st week	121	71	110	81	150	68	74	119f	126f	77	113	82	62	92	66	8k	64
2nd week	97	81	103	90	141	78	82	102	97f	104	123	67	58	61	66	k	82
GENERAL GUN																	
Opening weekend	406	348	371	389	422	373	285	408	266f	252	203	158	144	186	214	81k	178
midweek	53	49															
1st week	242	179	224	208	235	176	244	234f	147f	186	99	98	124	120	147	33k	102
2nd week	307	171	152	139	289	220	98	252f	212f	238	82	166	106	126	145	84k	106
3rd week	206	250	210	181	190	227	204	203f	273f	204	73	110	82	95	116	79k	116
4th week	225	137	141	114	306	369	217	220f	205f	157	88	130	78	69	120	53k	88
5th week	177	105	126	125	190	242	204	173f	143f	192	113	169	62	75	90	86k	87
6th week	138	78	115	126	194	218	200	308f	300f	73h	45	88	94	121	59	6k	36
7th week	245	167	182	138	179	194	145	e	e	249	121	145	e	e	123	52k	78
8th week	338	249	247	234	92	147											36
9th week																	

Appendix C. Summary of vehicle surveys conducted on Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area during selected hunting seasons, 1984-2001.

ATC

	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	00-01
ARCHERY																	
Opening weekend	56	21	6	2	4	6	6	9	19	17	30	20	20	30	41	72	37
1st week	18	4	3	2	2	0	5	10	4	11	14	12	18	30	24	19	13
2nd week	36	2	8	2	1	1	4	7	5	5	16	7	16	13	17	22	16
3rd week	29	9	3	6	4	0	6	12	5	10	18	10	7	5	5	14	30
4th week							3	8	8f	6	19	8	7	10	18	15	16
MUZZLELOADING																	
Opening weekend	54	10d	6	1	2	4	10	17	22f	16	19	33	28	30	31	21k	34
1st week	48	9	3	0	6	2	6	20f	22f	17	23	16	10	27	30	2k	43
2nd week	31	7	6	0	4	1	5	15	10f	14	21	17	25	23	49	k	25
GENERAL GUN																	
Opening weekend	134	41	34	11	34	14	14	60	71f	57	16	7	32	56	72	15k	42
midweek	28	12															
1st week	66	33	18	4	15	17	19	27f	35f	26	13	13	34	37	42	20k	28
2nd week	96	10	6	0	9	13	6	41f	51f	37	25	19	49	50	57	23k	18
3rd week	69	17	21	2	7	8	11	39f	33f	29	7	20	33	29	29	30k	32
4th week	63	10	4	2	19	24	53	25f	32f	41	12	17	82	16	98	29k	21
5th week	52	9	3	4	3	5	9	18f	17f	20	9	30	32	98	61	35k	29
6th week	55	4	6	8	3	9	11	29f	32f	5h	2	6	50	16	27	5k	13
7th week	89	7	5	2	7	6	14	e	e	45	5	19	e	e	78	20k	26
8th week	79	10	7	0	16	3											13
9th week																	

Appendix C. Summary of vehicle surveys conducted on Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area during selected hunting seasons, 1984-2001.
Swamp Buggy

	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	00-01
ARCHERY																	
Opening weekend	32	38	32	53	45	63	51	58	43	53	59	43	52	61	62	73	59
1st week	19	18	11	29	33	28	34	24	33	26	28	23	22	39	20	31	19
2nd week	13	21	17	16	37	44	33	31	38	22	35	23	23	33	26	20	18
3rd week	23	29	28	26	34	48	24	20	35	36	20	24	27	18	18	23	21
4th week							24	22	25f	32	16	24	11	24	26	26	28
MUZZLELOADING																	
Opening weekend	87	39d	73	71	100	104	65	70	77f	83	73	55	82	93	97	99k	111
1st week	53	55	48	54	67	69	48	81f	63f	48	47	42	52	65	65	20k	69
2nd week	43	38	42	61	64	50	33	41	46f	45	52	17	36	42	72	k	50
GENERAL GUN																	
Opening weekend	219	157	165	191	246	174	143	116	114f	123	103	31	82	126	140	86k	130
midweek	61	61															
1st week	94	91	107	132	96	125	97	67f	78f	58	57	14	72	52	87	62k	90
2nd week	87	60	58	80	124	114	42	86f	82f	81	34	44	69	90	99	65k	68
3rd week	64	110	79	121	60	89	63	75f	84f	66	25	41	56	59	55	50k	46
4th week	68	49	60	75	122	180	69	56f	69f	75	14	35	53	51	75	51k	72
5th week	59	50	56	67	69	107	61	42f	71f	61	14	48	42	52	65	72k	58
6th week	43	45	53	53	103	97	68	78f	83f	8h	3	22	81	56	47	16k	32
7th week	93	67	74	62	107	82	31	e	e	82	8	43	e	e	75	44k	47
8th week	93	92	102	84	53	50											32
9th week																	

Appendix C. Summary of vehicle surveys conducted on Big Cypress Wildlife Management Area during selected hunting seasons, 1984-2001.
Airboat

	84-85	85-86	86-87	87-88c	88-89c	89-90c	90-91c	91-92	92-93	93-94	94-95i	95-96j	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01
ARCHERY																	
Opening weekend	4	5	2c	12	15	32	2	7	2	8	22	3	13	46	17	32	15
1st week	7	12	4c	0	9	17	8	2	1	7	6	2	15	28	11	15	7
2nd week	6	4	17c	19	25	29	7	2	3	6	23	4	15	20	9	13	3
3rd week	10	0	15c	0	5	15	8	8	0	6	11	0	12	11	11	18	15
4th week							4	0	3f	16	15	9	11	9	5	9	7
MUZZLELOADING																	
Opening weekend	19	9d	7c	15	13	23	6	8	9f	4	16	6	21	42	28	1k	32
1st week	12	7	6c	28	31	17	13	9f	8f	12	25	3	16	34	9	18k	27
2nd week	9	7	6c	8	47	40	4	5	9f	24	15	3	17	15	18	0k	21
GENERAL GUN																	
Opening weekend	140	128	114c	146	227	222	82	101	90f	123	5	0	90	61	96	3k	55
midweek	24c	29c															
1st week	57	32	50c	74	89	103	8	55f	38f	81	0	4	64	28	31	0k	9
2nd week	30	21	29c	36	55	44	0	34f	37f	70	2	3	51	32	28	3k	15
3rd week	26	2	32c	46	44	37	0	26f	81f	42	0	6	48	42	27	0k	19
4th week	31	16	18c	35	41	103	0	18f	35f	28	0	5	46	20	34	3k	15
5th week	7	11	12c	21	53	57	6	36f	23f	20	0	45	20	28	16	11k	21
6th week	15	10	17c	28	31	18	0	28f	59f	6h	0	74	36	38	20	0k	20
7th week	16	18	31c	36	38	26	0	e	e	53	0	64	e	e	54	35k	0
8th week	33	12	56c	62	20	11											20
9th week																	

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 durin General Gun Season.

j) Various closures in effect; consult text for specifics. All: Excluded S-12, S-12A and Bear Island other sites.

k) Closures during Muzzle Loading and General Gun Seasons throughout all Units.