

Social Science Program National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

Visitor Services Project



# Big Cypress National Preserve Visitor Study

Spring 2007



Park Studies Unit Visitor Services Project Report 184.1



Social Science Program
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

**Visitor Services Project** 

## Big Cypress National Preserve Visitor Study

Spring 2007

Park Studies Unit Visitor Services Project Report 184.1

December 2007

Eleonora Papadogiannaki Yen Le Steven J. Hollenhorst

Eleonora Papadogiannaki is a Research Assistant, Dr. Le is the VSP Assistant Director, Dr. Hollenhorst is the Director of the Park Studies Unit, Department of Conservation Social Sciences, University of Idaho. We thank Lourana Swayne, Publina Meldrum, Pixie Siebe, Sabrina Moyer, and the staff of Big Cypress National Preserve for assisting with the survey fieldwork, and David Vollmer for his technical assistance.

## Visitor Services Project Big Cypress National Preserve Report Summary

- This report describes the results of a visitor study at Big Cypress National Preserve during March 3-11, 2007. A total of 1002 questionnaires were distributed to visitor groups. Of those, 634 questionnaires were returned resulting in a 63.3% response rate.
- This report profiles a systematic random sample of Big Cypress National Preserve. Most results are presented in graphs and frequency tables. Summaries of visitor comments are included in the report and complete comments are included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.
- Forty-eight percent of visitor groups were in groups of two and 44% were groups of four or more. Fifty-two percent of visitor groups were family groups and 22% were with friends.
- Forty-seven percent of visitors were ages 56-70 years, 23% were 41-55 years, 10% were 71 years or older, and 5% were 15 years or younger. Three percent of visitors were of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity and 96% reported their race as White.
- United States visitors were from Florida (34%), Ohio (6%), Michigan (6%), and 42 other states. International visitors, comprising 14% of the total visitation, were from Canada (48%), Germany (18%), and 13 other countries.
- Sixty-four percent of visitors visited the preserve once in the 12 months prior to the survey and 63% visited the preserve for the first time in their life. Visiting Big Cypress National Preserve was the primary reason that brought 22% of visitor groups to the South Florida area (areas south of Lake Okeechobee), while 36% were visiting other attractions in the area. Twenty-one percent of visitors were local residents.
- Prior to this visit, visitor groups most often obtained information about the preserve through friends/ relatives/word of mouth (48%), and previous visits (43%). Sources to use on a future visit were preserve website (64%) and travel guides/tour books/publications (52%).
- Of visitor groups who spent less than 24 hours in the preserve (N=408), 44% spent up to two hours. Of those spending 24 hours or more (N=131), 30% spent seven or more days. The average length of stay was 1.6 days. Fifty percent of visitor groups camped in an RV/trailer park inside the preserve while 28% were tent camping in a campground.
- The most commonly visited sites in the preserve were Oasis Visitor Center/wildlife viewing area (55%) and H.P. Williams Roadside Park/wildlife viewing area (40%). Forty percent of visitor groups desired to visit the backcountry on this or past visits, of those 60% were able to visit the backcountry. Most common method used to access the backcountry was hiking (52%) and airboat (32%).
- The most common activities visitor groups participated in were viewing wildlife (69%), taking a scenic drive (66%), and driving through to another destination (52%).
- Regarding the importance of protecting preserve attributes/resources, it is important to note the number
  of visitor groups that responded to each question. The attribute/resource that received the highest
  combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings included native wildlife (98%,
  N=500, clean air (97%,N=596), clean water 97%, N=593), and natural setting (97%, N=593).
- Regarding use, importance, and quality of facilities, it is important to note the number of visitor groups that responded to each question. The most used facilities included restrooms (77%), wildlife viewing areas (65%), and scenic drive (64%). The facilities that received the highest combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings included campgrounds (92%, N=105) and wildlife viewing areas (86%, N=353). The facilities that received the highest combined proportions of "very good" and "good" quality ratings were Kirby Storter Boardwalk (91%, N=161) and wildlife viewing areas (91% N=345). The facility that received the highest combined proportions of "extremely crowded" and "very crowded" ratings was campgrounds (11%, N=98).

- Regarding the use, importance, and quality of visitor information services, the most used services were information brochure/map (74%) and outdoor exhibits/bulletin boards (57%). The information services that received the highest combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings were NPS Preserve website (84%, N=69) and assistance from park staff (82%, N=227). The information services that received the highest combined proportions of "very good" and "good" quality ratings were the ranger-led programs (93%, N=53) and assistance from park staff (93%, N=219).
- Average group expenditure inside and outside the preserve (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) was \$1,073, with a median expenditure (50% paid more and 50% paid less) of \$370. Average total expenditure per person was \$484.
- Fifty-two percent of visitor groups reported they would be likely to visit the Big Cypress Addition Lands
  area on a future visit. Thirty-seven percent of visitor groups were "not sure" if the availability of outfitters/
  guides would increase the likelihood of visiting the Big Cypress Addition Lands area on a future visit.
- Most visitor groups (89%) rated the overall quality of services, facilities, and recreational opportunities at Big Cypress National Preserve as "very good" or "good." Less than 2% of visitor groups rated the overall quality as "very poor" or "poor."

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the Park Studies Unit at the University of Idaho at (208) 885-7863 or the following website http://www.psu.uidaho.edu.

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION	
Organization of the report	
Presentation of the results	2
METHODS	3
Survey Design	3
Sample size and sampling plan	3
Questionnaire design	
Survey procedure	
Data Analysis	
Limitations	
Special Conditions	
Checking Non-response Bias	
RESULTS	
Demographics	
Visitor group size	
Visitor group type	
Visitors with organized groups	
United States visitors by state of residence	
International visitors by country of residence	
Number of visits to the preserve in past 12 months	
Number of visits to the preserve in lifetime	11
Visitor age	
Visitor ethnicity	
Visitor race	
Preferred languages for speaking and writing	
Preferred services provided in other languages	
Trip/Visit Characteristics and Preferences	
Visitor awareness of preserve being a unit of the National Park System	
Visitor awareness of national preserves are managed differently than national parks	)۱/ 10
Information sources used prior to visit	
Information sources to plan a future visit	
Places stayed on night before arrival at Big Cypress National Preserve	
Places stayed on night after departure at Big Cypress National Preserve	
Primary reason for visit to Big Cypress National Preserve area	
Places visited in the South Florida region	
Length of visit	
Number of vehicles	
Number of park entries	
Visitors who arrived by airplane	
Florida airport used	
Overnight stay	33
Overnight accommodations	
Sites visited	
Backcountry access	
Vehicles/equipment used to access Big Cypress backcountry	
Activities	
Ratings of Visitor Services, Facilities, Elements, Attributes and Resources	
Visitor facilities used	
Importance ratings of visitor facilities	
Quality ratings of visitor facilities	
Mean scores of importance and quality ratings of visitor facilities	
Visitor information services used	
Importance ratings of visitor information services	
Quality ratings of visitor information services	61

## TABLE OF CONTENTS (continued)

Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for visitor information services	65
Importance of protection of preserve attributes/resources	
Expenditures	
Total expenditures inside and outside of the preserve	
Number of adults covered by expenditures	68
Number of children covered by expenditures	68
Expenditures inside the preserve	69
Expenditures on the East coast (Atlantic coast)	71
Expenditures in West coast (Gulf coast)	76
Preferences for future visit	81
Future visit to Big Cypress Additional Lands Area	81
Interpretive programs/information services	84
Overall Quality	85
Visitor Comments	86
What visitors liked most	86
What visitors liked least	88
Planning for the future	
Additional comments	92
APPENDICES	95
Appendix 1: The Questionnaire	
Appendix 2: Additional Analysis	97
Appendix 3: Decision Rules for Checking Non-response Bias	99
Appendix 4: Visitor Services Project Publications	
Visitor Comments Appendix	105

#### INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of a visitor study at Big Cypress National Preserve during March 3-11, 2007 by the National Park Service (NPS) Visitor Services Project (VSP), part of the Park Studies Unit (PSU) at the University of Idaho.

## Organization of the report

The report is organized into three sections.

- <u>Section 1</u>: **Methods**. This section discusses the procedures, limitations, and special conditions that may affect the results of the study.
- <u>Section 2</u>: **Results**. This section provides summary information for each question in the questionnaire and includes a summary of visitor comments. The presentation of the results of this study does not follow the same order of questions in the questionnaire.

#### Section 3: Appendices

- Appendix 1: The Questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire distributed to groups.
- Appendix 2: Additional Analysis. A list of options for cross-references and cross comparisons. These comparisons can be analyzed within park or between parks. Results of additional analyses are not included in this report as they may only be requested after the results of this study have been published.
- Appendix 3: Decision rules for checking non-response bias. An explanation of how the non-response bias was determined.
- Appendix 4: Visitor Services Project Publications. A complete list of publications by the PSU. Copies of these reports can be obtained by visiting the website:

  http://www.psu.uidaho.edu/vsp/reports.htm or contacting the PSU office at (208) 885-7863.
- Visitor Comments Appendix: A separate appendix provides visitor responses to open-ended questions. It is bound separately from this report due to its size.

#### Presentation of the results

Results are represented in the form of graphs (see example below), scatter plots, pie charts, tables, or text.

#### SAMPLE ONLY

- 1: The figure title describes the graph's information.
- 2: Listed above the graph, the "N" shows the number of individuals or visitor groups responding to the question. If "N" is less than 30, "CAUTION!" is shown on the graph to indicate the results may be unreliable.
  - \* appears when total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding.
  - \*\* appears when total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer choice.
- Vertical information describes the response categories.
- Horizontal information shows the number or proportions of responses in each category.
- 5: In most graphs, percentages provide additional information.

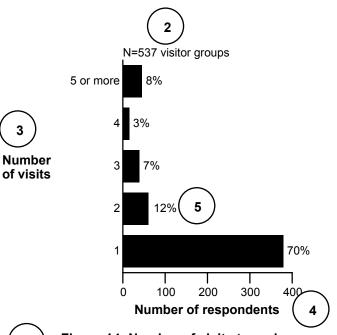


Figure 14: Number of visits to park in past 12 months

#### **METHODS**

## **Survey Design**

## Sample size and sampling plan

All VSP questionnaires follow design principles outlined in Don A. Dillman's book *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method* (2000). Using this methodology, the sample size was calculated based on park visitation statistics of previous years.

Brief interviews were conducted with a systematic, random sample of visitor groups that arrived at Big Cypress National Preserve during March 3-11, 2007. Interviewers contacted 1,098 visitor groups of which 1,002 of these groups (91.3%) accepted questionnaires. Table 1 presents the locations and numbers of questionnaires distributed at each location. Questionnaires were completed and returned by 634 visitor groups resulting in a 63.3% response rate for this study.

**Table 1: Questionnaire distribution locations**N=number of questionnaires distributed

Sampling site	N	Percent of total
Oasis Visitor Center	210	21
HP Williams	143	14
Loop Road	142	14
U.S. 41	80	8
I-75	73	7
Kirby Storter	61	6
Monroe Station	59	6
Turner River canoe launch	57	6
Wagonwheel/Birdon/Turner		
River roads	44	4
Seagrape Drive	37	4
Chamber of Commerce	33	3
Midway Campground	26	3
Bear Island	21	2
Monument Lake	16	2
Total	1,002	100

## Questionnaire design

The Big Cypress National Preserve questionnaire was developed at a workshop held with preserve staff to design and prioritize the questions. Some of the questions were comparable with VSP studies conducted at other parks while others were customized for Big Cypress National Preserve. Many questions asked visitors to choose answers from a list of responses, often with an open-ended option, while others were completely open-ended.

No pilot study was conducted to test the Big Cypress National Preserve questionnaire. However, all questions followed Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidelines and/or were used in previous surveys. Thus, the clarity and consistency of the survey instrument have been tested and supported.

## **Survey procedure**

Visitors groups were greeted, briefly introduced to the purpose of the study, and asked to participate. If visitors agreed, they were asked which member (at least 16 years of age) had the next birthday. The individual with the next birthday was selected to complete the questionnaire for the group. An interview, lasting approximately two minutes, was conducted with that person to determine group size, group type, and the age of the member completing the questionnaire. These individuals were asked for their names, addresses, and telephone numbers in order to mail them a reminder/thank you postcard and follow-ups. Visitors were asked to complete the survey after their visit, and return the questionnaire by mail. The questionnaires were pre-addressed and affixed with a U.S. first class postage stamp.

Two weeks following the survey, a reminder/thank you postcard was mailed to all participants. Replacement questionnaires were mailed to participants who had not returned their questionnaires four weeks after the survey. Seven weeks after the survey, a second round of replacement questionnaires was mailed to visitors who had not returned their questionnaires.

#### **Data Analysis**

Returned questionnaires were coded and the information was entered into a computer using custom and standard statistical software applications—Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), and a custom designed FileMaker Pro application. Descriptive statistics and cross-tabulations were calculated for the coded data and responses to open-ended questions were categorized and summarized. The data were entered twice—by two independent data entry staff—and validated by a third staff member.

#### Limitations

Like all surveys, this study has limitations that should be considered when interpreting the results.

- This was a self-administered survey. Respondents completed the questionnaire after the visit, which may have resulted in poor recall. Thus, it is not possible to know whether visitor responses reflected actual behavior.
- 2. The data reflect visitor use patterns to the selected sites during the study period of March 3-11, 2007. The results present a 'snapshot-in-time' and do not necessarily apply to visitors during other times of the year.
- 3. Caution is advised when interpreting any data with a sample size of less than 30, as the results may be unreliable. Whenever the sample size is less than 30, the word "CAUTION!" is included in the graph, figure, table, or text.
- 4. Occasionally, there may be inconsistencies in the results. Inconsistencies arise from missing data or incorrect answers (due to misunderstood directions, carelessness, or poor recall of information). Therefore, refer to both the percentage and N (number of individuals or visitor groups) when interpreting the results.

## **Special Conditions**

The weather was mostly hot and sunny. The temperatures during the survey period were in the upper 70s. This was typical weather for the area during March.

## **Checking Non-response Bias**

The three variables used to check non-response bias were group type, age of the group member who actually completed the questionnaire, and group size.

Table 2 shows insignificant differences between group types. There are significant differences between respondent and non-respondent ages and insignificant differences between respondent and non-respondent group sizes (see Table 3). See Appendix 3 for more details of the non-response bias checking procedure.

Table 2: Comparison of respondents and non-respondents group type

	Actual	Total	Expected
Group type	responded	distributed	value
Alone	57	96	59
Family	311	512	315
Friends	130	228	140
Family and friends	89	121	74
Other	9	13	8
Total	596	970	

Chi-square = 0.988 df = 4 p-value = 0.427

Table 3: Comparison of respondents and non-respondents age and group size

	Resp	ondent	Non-re	spondent	p-value
Variable	N	Average	N	Average	(t-test)
Group size	614	3.59	370	2.81	0.108
Age	616	56.81	371	49.42	<0.001

Two out of three tests show insignificant differences between respondents and non-respondents. In addition, a five-year difference in average age in most mail surveys is an expected trend (see Appendix 3). Therefore, the response bias is judged to be insignificant. The data is a good representation of a larger Big Cypress National Preserve visitor population for the duration of the survey period.

#### **RESULTS**

#### **Demographics**

## Visitor group size

#### Question 19

For this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, how many people were in your personal group, including yourself?

#### Results

- 48% of visitor groups were in groups of two (see Figure 1).
- 31% were in groups of three or four.
- 13% were in groups of five or more.

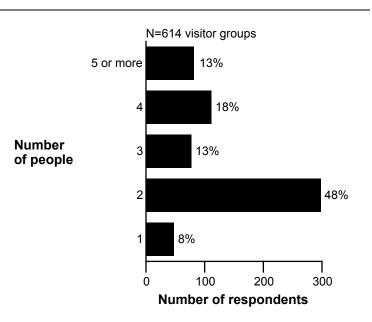


Figure 1: Visitor group size

## Visitor group type

#### Question 18

On this visit, what kind of personal group (not guided tour/educational/organized group) were you with?

#### Results

- 52% of visitor groups were made up of family members (see Figure 2).
- 22% were with friends.
- 10% were alone.
- "Other" groups (2%) included:

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife Boy Scouts Sailing club Fishing group Golf Wing Road Riders Association NGO groups

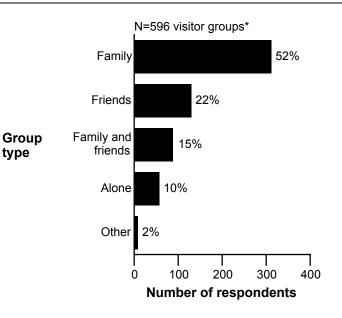


Figure 2: Visitor group type

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Visitors with organized groups

#### Question 17a

On this visit, were you and your personal group with a commercial guided tour group?

#### Results

 4% of visitor groups were traveling with a commercial guided tour group (see Figure 3).

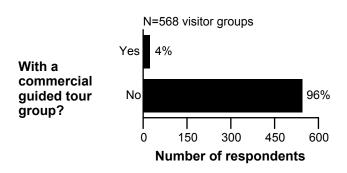


Figure 3: Visitors traveling with a commercial guided tour group

#### Question 17b

On this visit, were you and your personal group with an educational group (school, etc.)?

#### Results

• 1% of visitor groups were traveling with an educational group, such as a school group (see Figure 4).

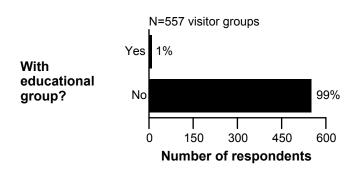


Figure 4: Visitors traveling with an educational group (school, etc.)

#### Question 17c

On this visit, were you and your personal group with an other organized group (church, business, etc.)?

#### Results

 2% of visitor groups were traveling with an other organized group (see Figure 5).

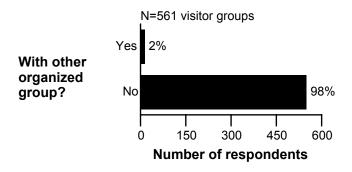


Figure 5: Visitors traveling with an other organized group (church, business, etc.)

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## United States visitors by state of residence

#### Question 20b

For you and your personal group what is your state of residence?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group. –

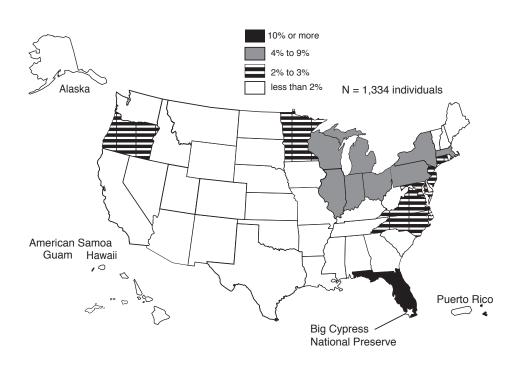
#### Results

- U.S. visitors comprised 86% of total visitation to the preserve during the survey period.
- 34% of U.S. visitors came from Florida (see Table 4 and Map 1).
- 6% came from Ohio and 6% came from Michigan.
- Smaller proportions came from 42 other states.

Note: Visitors from Florida may include seasonal residents.

Table 4: United States visitors by state of residence\*

		Percent of	Percent of
	Number	U.S. visitors	total visitors
	of	N=1,334	N=1,550
State	visitors	individuals	individuals
Florida	452	34	29
Ohio	84	6	5
Michigan	81	6	5
New York	69	5	4
Pennsylvania	64	5	4
Massachusetts	61	5	4
Illinois	55	4	4
Wisconsin	49	4	3
Indiana	47	4	3
New Jersey	36	3	2
Minnesota	31	2	2
North Carolina	27	2	2
Connecticut	26	2	2
Maryland	26	2	2
Oregon	23	2	1
Virginia	21	2	1
29 other states	182	14	12



Map 1: Proportions of United States visitors by state of residence

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## International visitors by country of residence

Question 20b
What is your country of residence?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

- International visitors comprised 14% of total visitation to the preserve during the survey period.
- 48% of international visitors came from Canada (see Table 5).
- 18% came from Germany.
- 13% came from the United Kingdom.
- Smaller portions came from 12 other countries.

Table 5: International visitors by country of residence \*

Country	Number of visitors	Percent of international visitors N=216 individuals	Percent of total visitors N=1,550 individuals
Canada	104	48	7
Germany	39	18	3
United Kingdom	27	13	2
Netherlands	11	5	<1
France	8	4	<1
Norway	6	3	<1
Czech Republic	5	2	<1
Belgium	4	2	<1
Austria	2	5	<1
Ireland	2	1	<1
Mexico	2	1	<1
Sweden	2	1	<1
Switzerland	1	<1	<1
Honduras	1	<1	<1
Japan	1	<1	<1

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Number of visits to the preserve in past 12 months

#### Question 20c

How many times have you visited Big Cypress National Preserve in the past 12 months (including this visit)?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

#### Results

- 64% of visitors visited the park once in the past 12 months (see Figure 6).
- 19% visited three or more times.
- 18% visited two times.

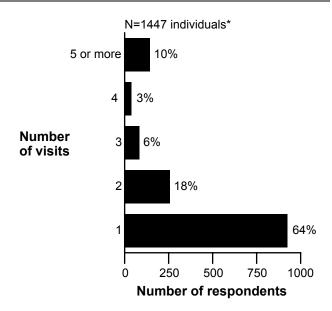


Figure 6: Number of visits to preserve in the past 12 months

## Number of visits to the preserve in lifetime

#### Question 20c

How many times have you visited Big Cypress National Preserve in your lifetime (including this visit)?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

- 63% of visitors visited the park once in their lifetime (see Figure 7).
- 28% visited three or more times.
- 10% visited two times.

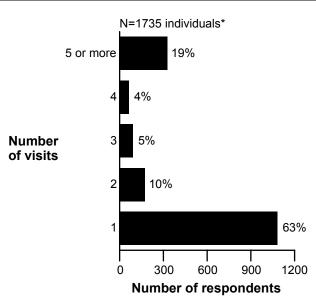


Figure 7: Number of visits to preserve in lifetime

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Visitor age

Question 20a

For you and your personal group, what is your current age?

Note: Response was limited to seven members from each visitor group.

- Visitor ages ranged from 1 to 91 years old.
- 47% of visitors were in the 56-70 years age group (see Figure 8).
- 10% were 71 years or older.
- 5% were 15 years or younger.

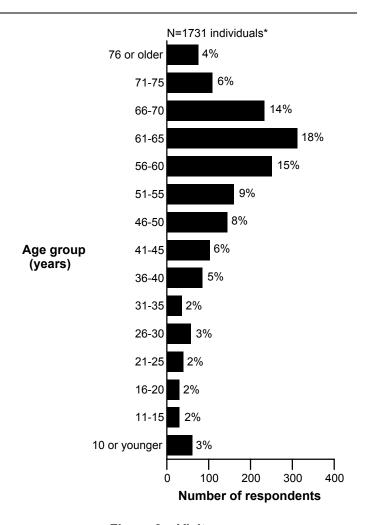


Figure 8: Visitor age

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Visitor ethnicity

#### Question 20d

Are you or members of your group Hispanic or Latino?

#### Results

 3% of visitors were Hispanic or Latino (see Figure 9).

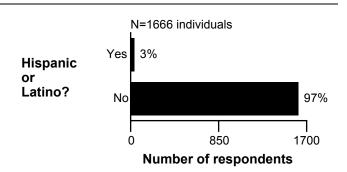


Figure 9: Respondent ethnicity

## **Visitor race**

#### Question 21

What is your race? What is the race of each member of your personal group?

- 96% of visitors were White (see Figure 10).
- 4% were American Indian or Alaska Native.

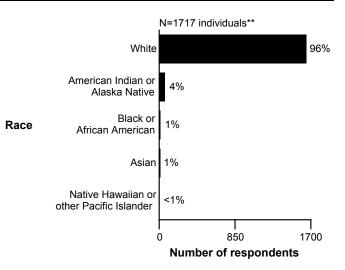


Figure 10: Respondent race

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Preferred languages for speaking and writing

#### Question 22a

When visiting an area such as Big Cypress, what one language do you and most members of your group prefer to use for speaking? (openended)

#### Results

 Most visitor groups preferred to speak English (see Table 6).

#### Table 6: Preferred language for speaking

N=597 visitor groups;

some visitor groups listed more than one language.

Number of times

Language	mentioned
One language	
English	566
German	9
French	6
Spanish	4
Japanese	1
Korean	1
Multiple languages	
English/German	5
Spanish/English	3
English/German/Spanish	1
Polish/English	1

#### Question 22a

When visiting an area such as Big Cypress, what one language do you and most members of your group prefer to use for reading? (openended)

#### Results

 Most visitor groups preferred to read English (see Table 7).

## Table 7: Preferred language for reading

N=581 visitor groups;

some visitor groups listed more than one language.

Number of times mentioned Language One language 550 **English** German 9 French 6 Spanish 4 1 Japanese Korean 1 Multiple languages English/German 3 3 Spanish/English English/Dutch 1 English/German/Latin 1 French/English 1 Polish/English 1

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Preferred services provided in other languages

#### Question 22b

What services in the preserve would you like to have provided in languages other than English? (open-ended)

#### Results

- 39% of visitor groups (N=244) responded to this question.
- Most visitor groups preferred to have services provided in English (see Table 8).

#### **Table 8: Preferred services**

N=251 comments

some visitor groups listed more than one service.

	Number of times
Service	mentioned
None	188
Signs	16
All services	11
Brochures	11
Maps	7
Exhibits/bulletin boards	5
Guide books	4
General information	3
Information at visitor center	2
Restrooms	2
Other services	2

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

#### Question 22c

Which language, other than English, would you like services to be provided in?

#### Results

 Most visitor groups preferred to services to be provided in Spanish (see Table 9).

## Table 9: Preferred language

N=67 visitor groups; some visitor groups listed more than one language.

Some violed groups hated more than a	Number of times
Language	mentioned
One language	_
Spanish	24
German	11
French	5
Braille	2
Dutch	1
Israeli	1
Japanese	1
Norwegian	1
Multiple languages	
All	5
Spanish/French	3
German/French	2
German/Spanish	2
Spanish/French/German	2
Dutch/German	1
English/Spanish/French	1
French/German/Japanese/Chinese	1
French/Japanese/German/Spanish	1
Spanish/German/Japanese	1
Spanish/German/Scandinavian/Japanes	e 1
Spanish/Italian	1

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## **Trip/Visit Characteristics and Preferences**

## Visitor awareness of preserve being a unit of the National Park System

#### Question 1a

Prior to your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, were you and your group aware that this is a unit of the National Park System?

#### Results

 61% of visitor groups were aware, prior to their visit, that Big Cypress National Preserve is a unit of the National Park System (see Figure 11). Aware preserve is unit of National Park System?

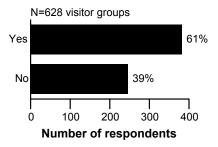


Figure 11: Visitor groups who were aware that Big Cypress National Preserve is a unit of the National Park System

## Visitor awareness of national preserves are managed differently than national parks

#### Question 1b

Prior to your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, were you and your group aware that national preserves are managed differently than national parks?

#### Results

 73% of visitor groups were unaware prior to their visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, that national preserves are managed differently than national parks (see Figure 12). Aware national preserves are managed differently than national parks?

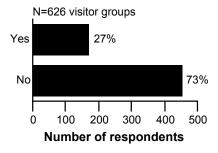


Figure 12: Visitor groups who were aware that national preserves are managed differently than national parks

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Information sources used prior to visit

#### Question 2a

Prior to this visit, did you and your group obtain information about Big Cypress National Preserve?

#### Results

 76% of visitor groups obtained information about the preserve prior to their visit (see Figure 13). Obtained information about the preserve prior to visit?

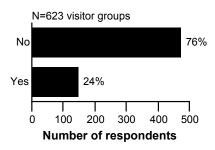


Figure 13: Visitor groups who obtained information about Big Cypress National Preserve prior to this visit

#### Question 2a

Prior to this visit, how did you and your group obtain information about Big Cypress National Preserve?

#### Results

- As shown in Figure 14, the most common source of information was friends/relatives/word of mouth (48%).
- 43% of visitor groups obtained information from previous visits.
- 40% used travel guides/tour books/publications.
- "Other" sources of information (12%) included:

Interpretive programs
Signs
Map
Previous knowledge
Nature group
Park rangers/employees
Other employees
Tourist Office (AAA)

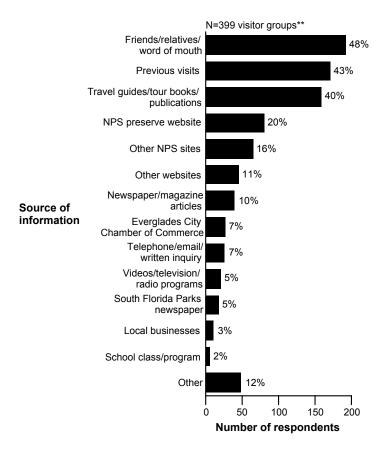


Figure 14: Sources of information used by visitor groups prior to this visit

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

#### Question 2c

From the sources you used prior to this visit, did you and your group receive the type of information about the preserve that you needed?

#### Results

 88% of visitor groups received the information they needed for this trip to Big Cypress National Preserve (see Figure 15).

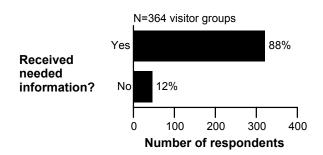


Figure 15: Visitor groups who received needed information prior to this visit

#### Question 2d

If NO, what type of information did you and your group need that was not available?

#### Results

 Additional information that visitor groups (N=20) needed included:

> Activity schedules All kinds of information Birding information

Boat ramps Camping Canoeing cost

Detailed map of the area

Directions
Eco tours
Electricity

Fishing information Fishing sites

Habitat

Historic names

Information about the Loop Road Information about the preserve

Information about the trails Information accuracy Information for awareness

Information on the website Location of the preserve Map with special sites

Maps Nature trails Places to visit

**Plants** 

Preserve features

Rest areas Restaurants Road information Road signs quality Runnable trails Trail length Water

Water levels Wildlife

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Information sources to plan a future visit

#### Question 2b

For future trips to Big Cypress National Preserve, what sources would you and your group prefer to use to obtain information in planning your visit?

#### Results

- As shown in Figure 16, the most common source of information to plan a future visit was the NPS preserve website (64%).
- 52% of visitor groups preferred to use travel guides/tour books/publications.
- 33% preferred to use information from previous visits.
- "Other" sources of information (3%) included:

Hunting Maps Personal research

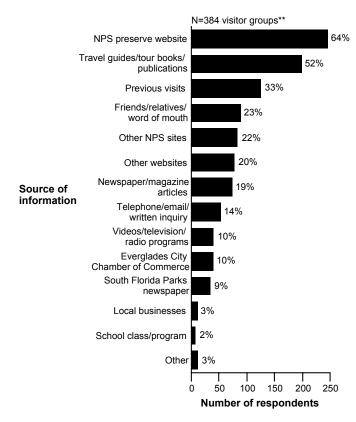


Figure 16: Sources of information to plan a future visit

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Places stayed on night before arrival at Big Cypress National Preserve

#### Question 9a

In what town/city did you and your group stay on the night before your arrival at Big Cypress National Preserve? If you stayed at home, please write the name of the town where you live.

#### Results

 As shown in Table 10, the most common cities/towns that visitor groups spent the night prior to their visit were:

> 21% Naples, FL 10% Fort Myers, FL 8% Miami, FL

Table 10: Places stayed on night before arrival at Big Cypress National Preserve
N=598 visitor groups

Oit of Tanana and Otata	Number of times
City/Town and State	mentioned
Naples, FL	123
Fort Myers, FL	59
Miami, FL	47
Everglades City, FL	33
Marco Island, FL	30
Fort Lauderdale, FL	23
Key Largo, FL	20
Homestead, FL	18
Florida City, FL	15
Bonita Springs, FL	14
La Belle, FL	10
Key West, FL	9
Okeechobee, FL	9
Cape Coral, FL	8
Chokoloskee, FL	8
St. Petersburg, FL	8
Sarasota, FL	6
Clearwater, FL	5
Collier Seminole State Park, FL	5
Marathon Key, FL	5
Islamorada, FL	4
Punta Gorda, FL	4
Sebring, FL	4
Tampa, FL	4
Venice, FL	4
Boca Raton, FL	3
Bonita Beach, FL	3
Englewood, FL	3
Flamingo, FL	3
Lake Placid, FL	3
Pembroke Pines, FL	3
Ruskin, FL	3
Tavernier, FL	3
Bradenton, FL	2
Clewiston, FL	2
Coral Gables, FL	2
Cutler Ridge, FL	2
Davie, FL	2

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Table 10: Places stayed on night before arrival at Big Cypress National Preserve

(continued) Number of times City/Town and State mentioned Ellenton, FL 2 2 Estero, FL 2 Immokalee, FL 2 Kissimmee, FL 2 Little Torch Key, FL 2 Moore Haven, FL 2 Orlando, FL West Palm Beach, FL 2 2 Pine Island, FL 2 Port Charlotte, FL Sanibel, FL 2 2 Tulsa, OK West Palm, FL 2 Alexandria, VA 1 Apopka, FL 1 Biscayne Park, FL 1 Bonita Bay, FL 1 Boston, MA 1 Captiva, FL Carson City, NV Chicago, IL Cooper City, FL 1 Cordele, GA 1 Crystal River, FL 1 Dade City, FL 1 Dallas, TX Detroit, MI Doral, FL 1 Duck Island, FL Dunedin, FL Eugene, OR Flint, MI Flom, MN 1 Frostproof, FL Gainesville, FL Golden Gate, FL Hallandale, FL 1 Hialeah, FL 1

Hillsdale, MI

1

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Table 10: Places stayed on night before arrival at Big Cypress National Preserve (continued)

Number of times City/Town and State mentioned Hollywood, FL 1 1 Hudson, MA Indian Rocks Beach, FL 1 Jupiter, FL 1 Lake City, FL Lake Suzy, FL Lake Worth, FL 1 Lakeland, FL 1 Laporte, IN 1 Lauderdale Lakes, FL Lehigh Acres, FL Longboat Key, FL Longview, WA 1 Long Key State Park, FL 1 Madeira Beach, FL Madison Heights, VA Miami Springs, FL 1 Minneapolis, MN 1 Myakka City, FL 1 New Philadelphia, OH 1 Newaygo, MI Ochopee, FL O Fallon, IL Osprey, FL Palmetto, FL Plantation, FL Pompano Beach, FL 1 Raleigh, NC 1 Riverview, FL 1 Rotonda West, FL 1 Stuart, FL Tamarack, FL Tequesta, FL **United Kingdom** Weeki Wachee, FL West Perrine, FL 1 Weston, FL 1

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Places stayed on night after departure at Big Cypress National Preserve

#### Question 9b

In what town/city did you and your group stay on the night after your departure from Big Cypress National Preserve? If you stayed at home, please write the name of the town where you live.

#### Results

 As shown in Table 11, the most common cities/towns that visitor groups spent the night after their visit were:

> 21% Naples, FL 7% Fort Myers, FL 7% Miami, FL

Table 11: Places stayed on night after departure from Big Cypress National Preserve
N=574 visitor groups

	Number of times
City/Town and State	mentioned
Naples, FL	122
Fort Myers, FL	43
Miami, FL	39
Marco Island, FL	34
Everglades City, FL	23
Fort Lauderdale, FL	22
Florida City, FL	21
Bonita Springs, FL	18
Homestead, FL	13
Key Largo, FL	11
Key West, FL	11
Marathon Key, FL	10
Punta Gorda, FL	9
La Belle, FL	8
Okeechobee, FL	8
Cape Coral, FL	7
Chokoloskee, FL	7
Sanibel Island, FL	7
Sarasota, FL	7
Tampa, FL	7
Islamorada, FL	5
Orlando, FL	5
Port Charlotte, FL	5
Venice, FL	5
Arcadia, FL	4
Flamingo, FL	4
Unspecified, FL	4
Boca Raton, FL	3
Bonita Beach, FL	3
Collier Seminole State Park, FL	3
Estero, FL	3
Kissimmee, FL	3
Lake Placid, FL	3
Moore Haven, FL	3
Ocala, FL	3
Sebring, FL	3
St. Petersburg, FL	3
Tavernier, FL	3

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Table 11: Places stayed on night after departure from Big Cypress National Preserve

(continued)

(continued)	N
City/Town and State	Number of times mentioned
Atlanta, GA	2
Bradenton, FL	2
Bushnell, FL	2
Clearwater, FL	2
Coral Gables, FL	2
Cutler Ridge, FL	2
Englewood, FL	2
Everglades National Park, FL	2
Florida Keys, FL	2
Golden Gate, FL	2
Jupiter, FL	2
Nokomis, FL	2
Pembroke Pines, FL	2
Wauchula, FL	2
West Palm Beach, FL	2
Bayonet Point, FL	_ 1
Big Pine Key, FL	1
Biscayne Park, FL	1
Captiva Island, FL	1
Chicago, IL	1
Clewiston, FL	1
Coral Springs, FL	1
Davie, FL	1
Dunedin, FL	1
Ellenton, FL	1
Flint, MI	1
Flom, MN	1
Hallandale, FL	1
Hialeah, FL	1
Hollywood, FL	1
Hypoluxo, FL	1
Indian Rocks Beach, FL	1
Indianapolis, IN	1
Key Biscayne, FL	1
Key Colony Beach, FL	1

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Table 11: Places stayed on night after departure from Big Cypress National Preserve (continued)

Number of times City/Town and State mentioned Lake Worth, FL 1 1 Lakeland, FL Laporte, IN 1 Lauderdale Lakes, FL 1 Laverne, AL Little Torch Key, FL 1 Madeira Beach, FL Madison Heights, VA 1 Milwaukee, WI 1 Mims, FL Miramar, FL Myakka City, FL 1 New Philadelphia, OH 1 Palm Beach, FL 1 Palmetto, FL 1 Plantation, FL 1 Pompano Beach, FL 1 Port of the Islands, FL Redland, FL 1 Riverview, FL 1 Rotonda West, FL 1 Ruskin, FL 1 Sanford, FL 1 Santa Fe, NM Spring Hill, FL Sugar Loaf Key, FL Tamarack, FL Tifton, GA West Perrine, FL 1 1 Weston, FL Zephyrhills, FL

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Primary reason for visit to Big Cypress National Preserve area

#### Question 3

What was your primary reason for visiting the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)?

#### Results

- 21% of visitor groups were residents of the local area (see Figure 17).
- As shown in Figure 18, the most common reasons for visiting the Big Cypress National Preserve for nonresidents were:

36% Visit other attractions in the area

22% Visit Big Cypress National Preserve

19% Visit friends/relatives in the area

 "Other" primary reasons (21%) for visiting included:

Camping

Day trip

Drag racing

Fishing

Get away trip

Golf

Group tour

Guest visiting

Health reasons

Hiking

Hunting

Kayaking

Looked for slower pace highway

Meal

Motorcycle ride

Mystery ride

Photography

Property owner

Retirement

Sailing activities

Staying in Chokoloskee

Staying in RV park

Traveling through the preserve

Vacation

Visit Everglades

Visit Key West

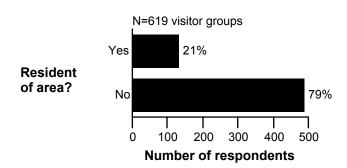


Figure 17: Resident of the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)

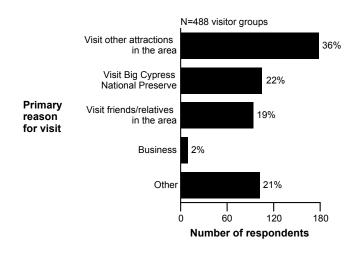


Figure 18: Primary reason for visiting Big Cypress National Preserve area

"Other" reason for visiting (continued):

Visit the Keys area

Warm weather

Watch/hunt alligators

Wedding in Miami Wildlife viewing/birdwatching

Windsurf racing Winter resident

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Places visited in the South Florida region

#### Question 4

On this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, what other places in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) did you and your group visit?

- 61% of visitor groups visited Everglades National Park (see Figure 19).
- 55% visited Everglades City.
- 51% visited Naples.
- "Other" places (13%) are shown in Table 12.

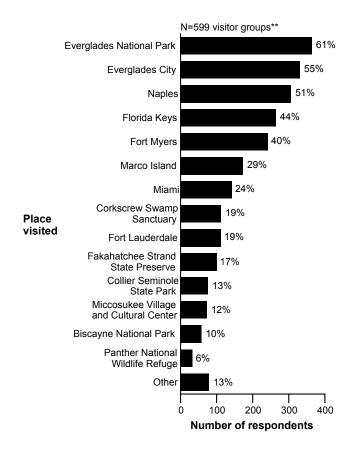


Figure 19: Places visited in the South Florida region

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Table 12: Other places visited in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)

N=66 comments:

some visitors listed more than one location.

Anna Maria Island Barefoot Beach Blues Festival Bonita Springs Bradenton

Caloosahatchee River

Caloosahatchee Regional Park

Cape Florida Lighthouse

Captiva Islands
Center of Island
Chocolate Island
Chokoloskee

Clam Pass Beach Park Clearwater Beach Clyde Butcher Gallery

**Coral Springs** 

Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Deerfield Beach

Delnor-Wiggins Pass State Park

Dog Beach Doral

Dry Tortugas

Eagle Lakes Community Park

Flamingo Fort Jefferson Goodland Hallandale

Historic Bok Sanctuary

Homestead

Homosassa Springs Wildlife Park J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife

Refuge

John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

Jungle Erv's airboat ride

Jupiter Lighthouse Kennedy Space Center

Kirby Koreshan Lake Manatee Lovers Key

Lovers Key State Park

Manatee Park

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Mound Key State Park Myaka River State Park Naples Botanical Garden Oscar Scherer State Park

Palm Springs

Picayune Strand State Forest

Pine Islands
Pompano Beach
Port Charlotte
Punta Gorda

Randell Research Center

Rookery Bay Sanibel Shark Valley Shy Wolf Sanctuary

Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve

Stormwater Treatment Area 5 Sugden Regional Park

Ten Thousand Islands Tigertail Beach Valuejet Memorial Venice Rookery

Wakodahatchee Wetlands

Wildlife areas

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Length of visit

#### Question 6a

On this visit how long did you and your group spend at Big Cypress National Preserve?

#### Number of hours if less than 24

#### Results

- 22% of visitor groups spent up to one hour at Big Cypress National Preserve (see Figure 20).
- 20% spent two hours.
- 15% spent seven or more hours.

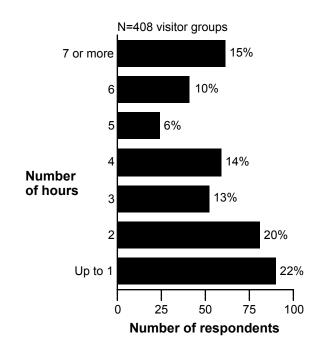


Figure 20: Number of hours spent visiting the preserve

#### Question 6b

On this visit how long did you and your group spend at Big Cypress National Preserve?

#### Number of days if more than 24 hours

- 32% of visitor groups spent up to two days at Big Cypress National Preserve (see Figure 21).
- 30% spent seven or more days.
- 22% spent three days.

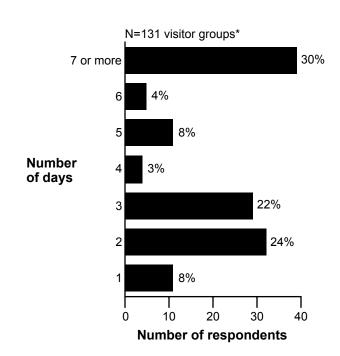


Figure 21: Number of days spent visiting the preserve

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# **Number of vehicles**

#### Question 8a

On this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, how many vehicles did you and your group use to arrive at the preserve?

#### Results

- 85% of visitor groups used one vehicle to arrive at the preserve (see Figure 22).
- 12% used two or more vehicles.

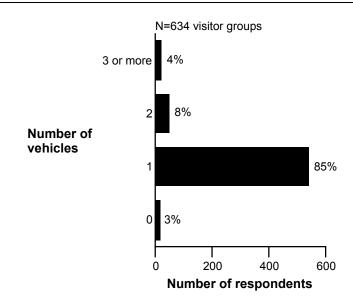


Figure 22: Number of vehicles used to arrive at the preserve

# **Number of park entries**

## Question 7

On this visit, how many times did you and your group enter Big Cypress National Preserve?

#### Results

- 57% of visitor groups entered the preserve once (see Figure 23).
- 26% entered the preserve twice.
- 18% entered the preserve three times or more.

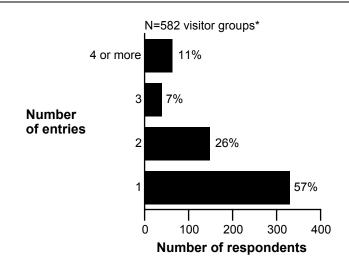


Figure 23: Number of times entered the preserve

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Visitors who arrived by airplane

#### Question 8b

On this trip, did your group have any members who arrived in Florida on an airplane?

#### Results

 39% of visitor groups had at least one member who arrived by airplane (see Figure 24).

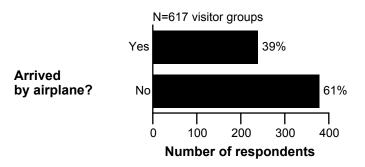


Figure 24: Visitor groups with members who arrived in Florida by airplane

# Florida airport used

#### Question 8c

If YES, at which Florida airport did that person(s) arrive?

#### Results

 As shown in Table 13, the most common airports that visitor groups used to arrive in Florida were:

> 42% Fort Myers 18% Miami 12% Fort Lauderdale

# Table 13: Name of Florida airport at which visitors arrived

N=242 visitor groups; some visitor groups listed more than one airport.

Name of airport	Number of times mentioned
Fort Myers SW Florida International Airpo	rt 103
Miami International	44
Fort Lauderdale Hollywood International Airport	30
Tampa International Airport	26
Orlando International Airport	25
Palm Beach International Airport	5
St. Petersburg – Clearwater Airport	4
Sarasota – Bradenton Airport	3
Jacksonville International Airport	1
Naples Florida Airport	1

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Overnight stay

#### Question 5a

On this trip, did you and your group stay overnight away from home in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)?

#### Results

 70% of visitor groups stayed overnight away from home in the South Florida region (see Figure 25).

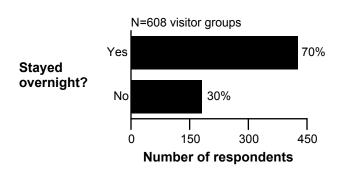


Figure 25: Overnight stay away from home in the South Florida region

#### Question 5b

If YES, please list the number of nights you and your group stayed in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee).

## Number of nights inside the preserve

#### Results

- 32% of visitor groups stayed seven or more nights inside Big Cypress National Preserve (see Figure 26).
- 21% spent two nights.
- 15% spent up to one night.
- 15% spent up to three nights.

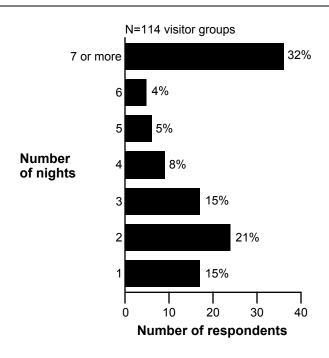


Figure 26: Number of nights stayed in Big Cypress National Preserve

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

#### Question 5b

If YES, please list the number of nights you and your group stayed in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee).

Number of nights in East coast (Atlantic coast) communities

#### Results

- 34% of visitor groups stayed one or two nights in East coast (Atlantic coast) communities (see Figure 27).
- 30% spent seven or more nights.
- 19% spent three or four nights.

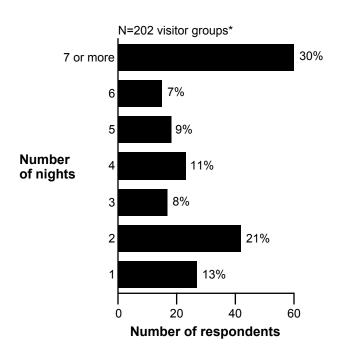


Figure 27: Number of nights stayed in East coast communities

#### Question 5b

If YES, please list the number of nights you and your group stayed in the South Florida region (areas south of Lake Okeechobee).

Number of nights in West coast (Gulf coast) communities

#### Results

- 36% of visitor groups stayed seven or more nights in West coast (Gulf coast) communities (see Figure 28).
- 22% spent three or four nights.
- 21% spent two nights.

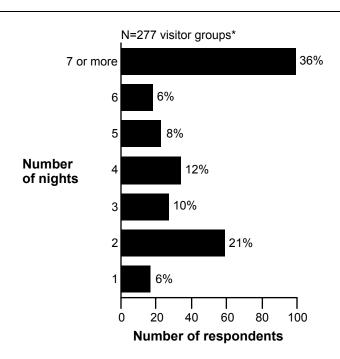


Figure 28: Number of nights stayed in West coast communities

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Overnight accommodations

#### Question 5c

In what type of lodging did you and your group spend the night(s)?

#### Type of lodging inside the preserve

#### Results

- 50% of visitor groups camped in RV/trailer parks (see Figure 29).
- 28% were tent camping in a campground.

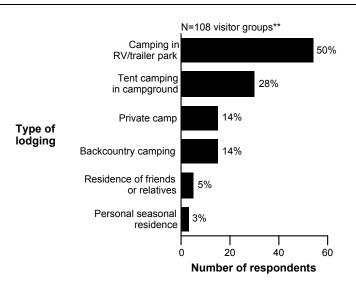


Figure 29: Type of lodging inside the preserve

#### Question 5d

In what type of lodging did you and your group spend the night(s)?

Type of lodging in East coast (Atlantic coast communities)

#### Results

- 60% of visitor groups stayed in a lodge/motel/hotel/B&B, etc. (see Figure 30).
- 21% stayed with friends or relatives.
- 21% camped in RV/trailer park.
- "Other" types of lodging (6%) included:

Condo Cruise ship Boat Cabin

Homestead Wal-Mart parking lot

Hostel

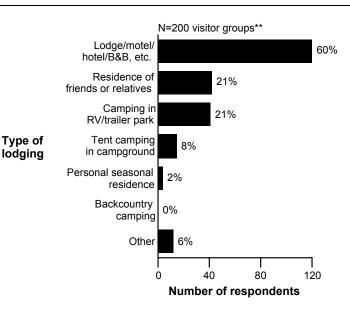


Figure 30: Type of lodging in East coast (Atlantic coast) communities

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

#### Question 5d

In what type of lodging did you and your group spend the night(s)?

<u>Type of lodging in West coast (Gulf coast)</u> communities

#### Results

- 53% of visitor groups stayed in a lodge/motel/hotel/B&B, etc. (see Figure 31).
- 23% stayed with friends or relatives.
- 20% camped in RV/trailer park.
- "Other" types of lodging (5%) included:

Condo Car Naval Air Station Key West State campgrounds State parks

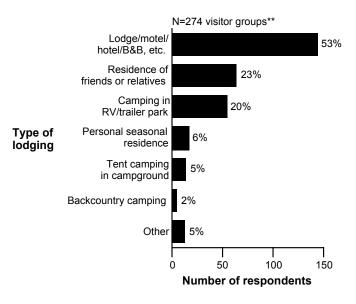


Figure 31: Type of lodging in West coast (Gulf coast) communities

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Sites visited

#### Question 11

During this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, which of the following sites did you and your group visit?

#### Results

 As shown in Figure 32, the most commonly visited sites were:

55% Oasis Visitor Center/wildlife viewing area40% H.P. Williams Roadside Park/wildlife viewing area39% Loop Road

• "Other" sites visited (12%) included:

Bear Island
Big Cypress Bend
Boat ramps
Burns Lake
Clyde Butcher Gallery
Dona Dr. Dump Station
East River Pond
Everglades City
Fakahatchee Strand
Gator Hook Strand
Halfway Creek
Highway 29
Holiday Park
I-75
Midpoint Campground

Mitchell Landing

Monument Lake
Pace's Dike
Pinecrest campground
Preserve Headquarters
Ranger Station
Rest area
Rt. 41
Seagrape Drive
Shark Valley
Sweetwater Strand
Tamiami Trail
Tree Snail Hammock Trail
Other places

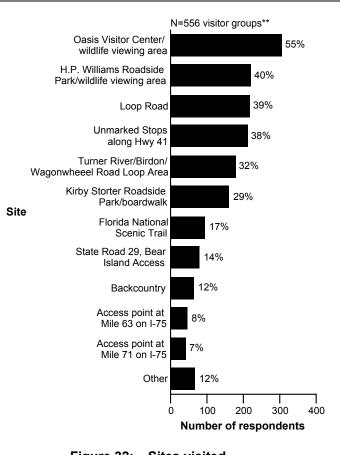


Figure 32: Sites visited

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Question 11 During this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, which of the following were your primary access points to the backcountry?

#### Results - Interpret with CAUTION!

 Not enough visitor groups responded to this question to provide reliable data (see Figure 33).

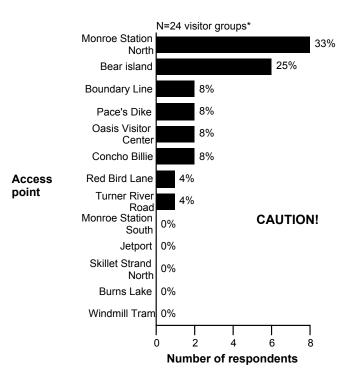


Figure 33: Backcountry access points

# **Backcountry access**

#### Question 27a

On this or past visits, did you and your group desire to explore the backcountry of Big Cypress National Preserve?

#### Results

 46% of visitor groups desired to explore the backcountry on this or past visits (see Figure 34).

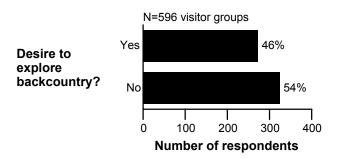


Figure 34: Desire to explore backcountry

#### Question 27b

If YES, were you able to access the backcountry?

#### Results

 60% of visitor groups were able to access the backcountry on this or past visits (see Figure 35).

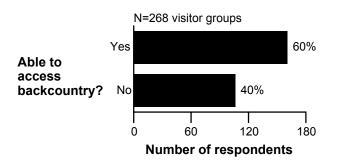


Figure 35: Ability to access backcountry

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

#### Question 27d

If YES, how did you and your group access the backcountry?

#### Results

- 52% of visitor groups accessed the backcountry via hiking (see Figure 36).
- 32% accessed the backcountry with airboats.
- "Other" types of transportation (10%) included:

Boat (fishing, pole, skiff, tour) Car Motorcycle Tram Van

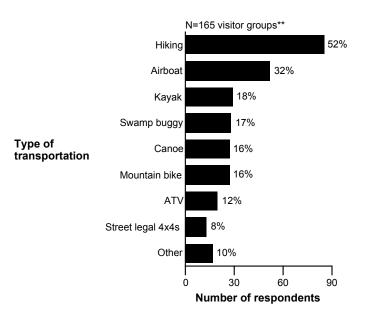


Figure 36: Types of transportation used to access the backcountry

#### Question 27c

If NO, what prevented you from accessing the backcountry?

#### Results

- 95% of visitor groups (N=102) responded to this question.
- Table 14 lists visitor groups' reasons for not accessing the backcountry.

Table 14: Reasons why visitors did not access the backcountry

N=109 comments;

some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
Lack of time	55
Did not have appropriate equipment	12
Lack of information/knowledge	11
Physical condition	7
Age	6
Fear (alligators, snakes, mosquitoes, etc.)	5
Barriers	3
Being alone	2
Costs	2
Other reasons	6

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Vehicles/equipment used to access Big Cypress backcountry

#### Question 28a

If you or members of your personal group own any of the vehicles/equipment mentioned in Question 27d please indicate the type of vehicle/equipment that you and/or members of your group own?

#### Results

- 27% of visitor groups owned canoes (see Figure 37).
- 25% owned mountain bikes.
- 20% owned kayaks.
- "Other" vehicle or equipment type (34%) included:

Bicycle Boat (fishing, pole, skiff) Motor vehicle (car, RV, SUV, truck, van) Motorcycle

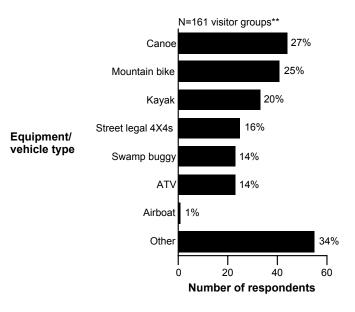


Figure 37: Type of vehicle/equipment that visitor groups owned

#### Question 28b

Do you primarily use the vehicle/ equipment (more than 50% of the time) to access Big Cypress National Preserve backcountry?

#### Results

 32% of the above vehicles/equipment were primarily used to access Big Cypress National Preserve backcountry (see Figure 38).

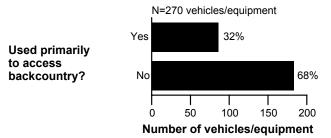


Figure 38: Vehicle/equipment used primarily in backcountry

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Question 28c In what year did you purchase the vehicle/equipment?

#### Results

- 57% of vehicles/equipment were purchased after 2001 (see Figure 39).
- 30% were purchased between 1991 and 2000.

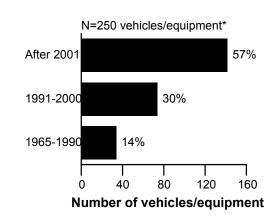


Figure 39: Year of purchase of the vehicle/ equipment

Year of

purchase

#### Question 28d

Did you purchase the vehicle/equipment in South Florida (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)?

#### Results

 39% of vehicles/equipment were purchased in South Florida (see Figure 40).

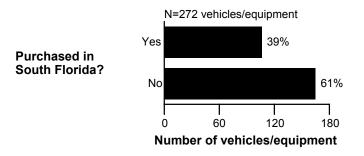


Figure 40: Vehicles/equipment purchased in South Florida

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

#### Question 28e

How much did the vehicles/equipment cost?

#### Results

- 68% of vehicles or equipment cost less than \$5,000 (see Figure 41).
- 19% of vehicles/equipment cost more than \$10,000.

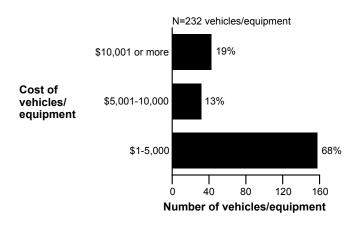


Figure 41: Cost of vehicles/equipment

#### Question 28f

What was the condition of the vehicle/ equipment when you purchased it?

#### Results

- 65% of the vehicles/equipment owned by visitor groups were purchased as "new" (see Figure 42).
- 34% of the vehicles/equipment were purchased as "used" either from a private owner or a dealer.

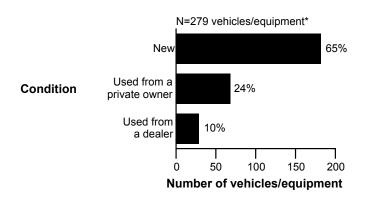


Figure 42: Condition of vehicle/ equipment

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

#### **Activities**

Question 10a

On this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, what activities did you and your group participate in?

#### Results

 As shown in Figure 43, the most common activities visitor groups participated in were:

69% Viewing wildlife (other than birds)
66% Taking a scenic drive
52% Driving through to another destination
48% Birdwatching

"Other" activities (6%) included:

Biking Boat tour Visit Clyde Butcher Gallery or other art galleries Viewing alligators Viewing vegetation Bird song recording Bringing other visitors Cruise Sports Visit visitor center Trolley ride Visit the beach Picking up trash Removing Florida holly Scouting for hunting Eating at a restaurant Use restrooms

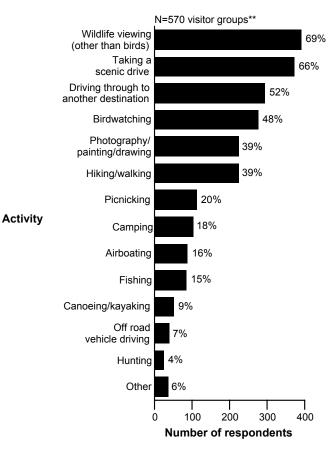


Figure 43: Activities participated in

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Frequency of activities

#### Question 10b

For visits to Big Cypress National Preserve during the last 12 months (including this visit), list the number of times you and your group participated in these activities.

#### Results

Visitor responses are shown in Table 15.

Table 15: Frequency of activities during past 12 months\* N=number of visitor groups who participated in each activity.

		Frequency (%)				
			Several	Several	Several	Only
Activity	N	Daily	times a week	times a month	times a year	Only once
Driving through to another destination	267	9	8	5	22	57
Taking a scenic drive	335	13	9	6	21	50
Hiking/walking	215	25	11	8	23	33
Birdwatching	242	21	9	7	20	44
Wildlife viewing (other than birds)	347	17	6	7	20	49
Airboating	79	9	0	0	15	76
Off road vehicle driving	38	16	8	16	37	14
Canoeing/kayaking	58	12	10	3	29	45
Fishing	89	17	18	16	38	11
Picnicking	95	18	11	11	23	38
Photography/painting/drawing	194	17	11	8	20	44
Hunting CAUTION!	28	7	4	32	43	14
Camping	97	47	5	11	22	14
Other CAUTION!	18	17	17	0	17	50

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Ratings of Visitor Services, Facilities, Elements, Attributes and Resources

# Visitor facilities used

#### Question 13a

Please indicate all of the visitor facilities that you and your group used during this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

#### Results

 As shown in Figure 44, the most commonly used visitor facilities included:

> 77% Restrooms 65% Wildlife viewing areas 64% Scenic drive 41% Trails

The least used facility was:

5% Access for disabled persons

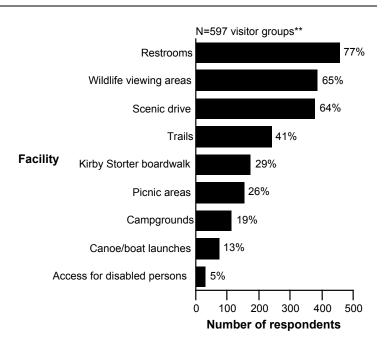


Figure 44: Visitor facilities used

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Importance ratings of visitor facilities

#### Question 13b

For the facilities that you and your group used, please rate their importance from 1 to 5.

1=Not important

2=Somewhat important

3=Moderately important

4=Very important

5=Extremely important

#### Results

- Figure 45 shows the combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings for visitor facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings were:

92% Campgrounds 86% Wildlife viewing areas 85% Access for disabled persons 83% Trails

- Figures 46 to 54 show the importance ratings for each facility.
- The facility receiving the highest "not important" rating that was rated by 30 or more visitor groups was:

7% Canoe/boat launches

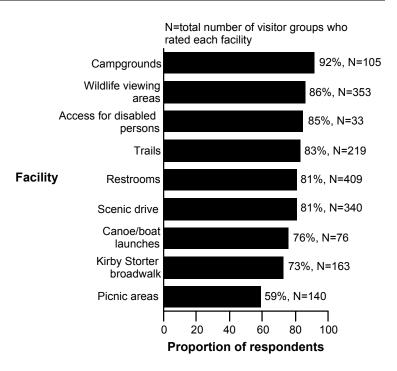


Figure 45: Combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings for visitor facilities

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

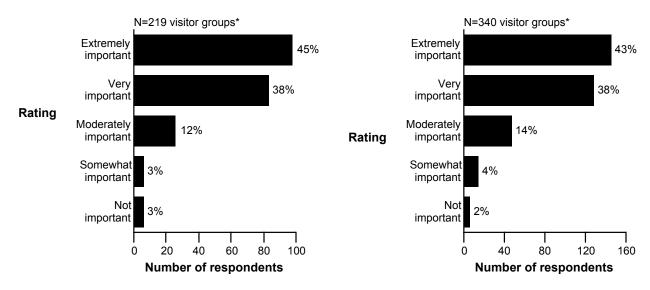


Figure 46: Importance of trails

Figure 47: Importance of scenic drive

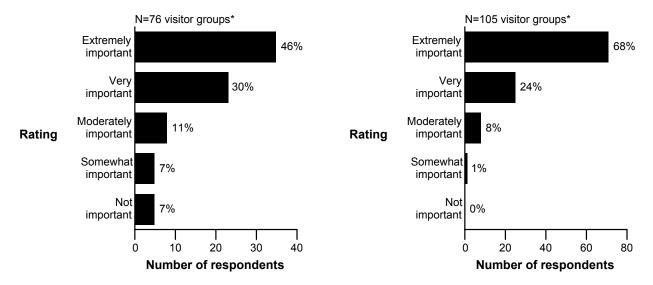


Figure 48: Importance of canoe/boat launches

Figure 49: Importance of campgrounds

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

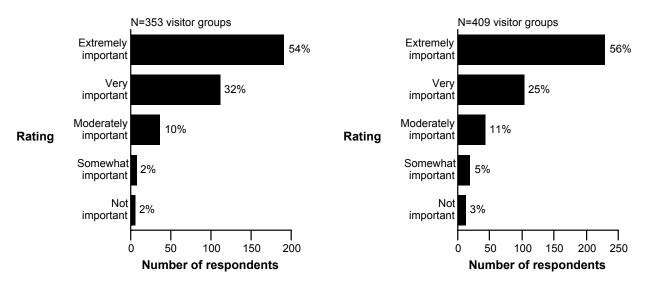


Figure 50: Importance of wildlife viewing areas

Figure 51: Importance of restrooms

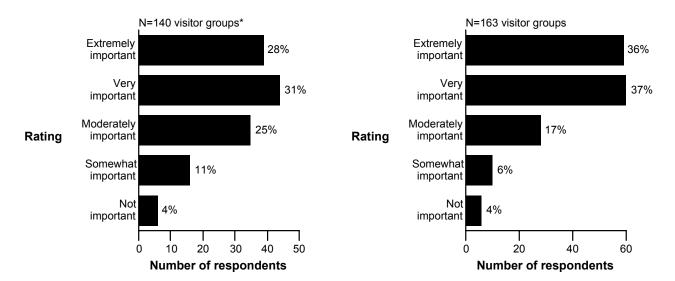


Figure 52: Importance of picnic areas

Figure 53: Importance of Kirby Storter boardwalk

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

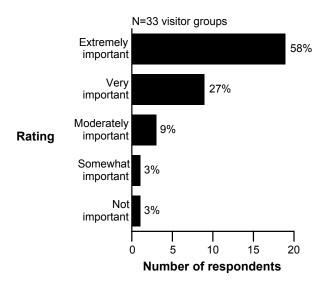


Figure 54: Importance of access for disabled persons

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# **Quality ratings of visitor facilities**

#### Question 13c

Next, for only those facilities that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

1=Very poor 2=Poor 3=Average 4=Good 5=Very good

#### Results

- Figure 55 shows the combined proportions of "very good" and "good" quality ratings for visitor facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The facilities that received the highest combined proportions of "very good" and "good" quality ratings were:

91% Kirby Storter boardwalk 91% Wildlife viewing areas 79% Picnic areas

- Figures 56 to 64 show the quality ratings for each facility.
- The facility receiving the highest "very poor" quality rating that was rated by 30 or more visitor groups was:

2% Campgrounds

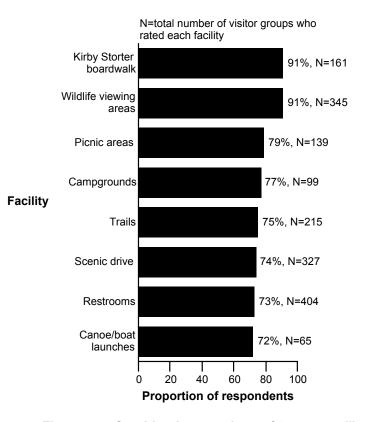


Figure 55: Combined proportions of "very good" and "good" quality ratings for visitor facilities

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

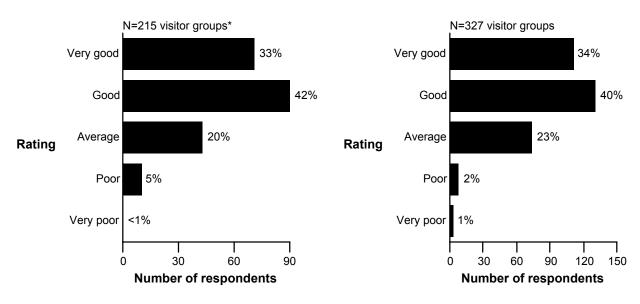


Figure 56: Quality of trails

Figure 57: Quality of scenic drive

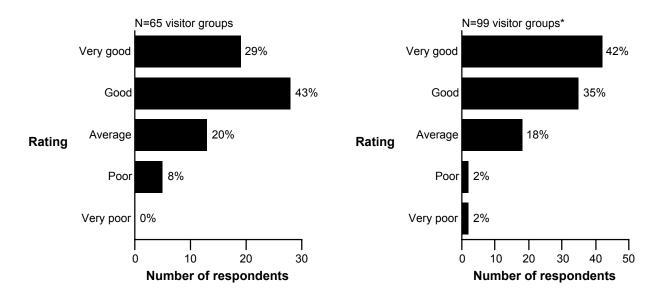


Figure 58: Quality of canoe/boat launches

Figure 59: Quality of campgrounds

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

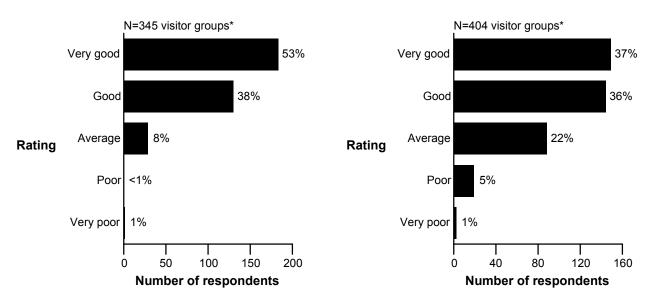


Figure 60: Quality of wildlife viewing areas

Figure 61: Quality of restrooms

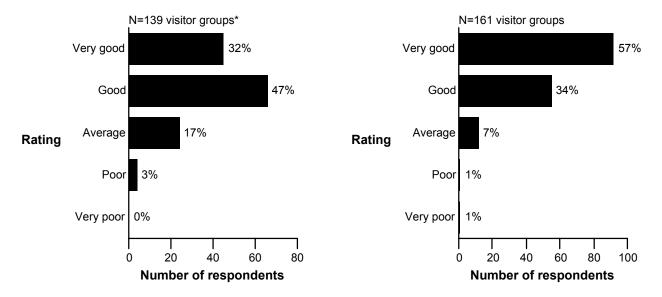


Figure 62: Quality of picnic areas

Figure 63: Quality of Kirby Storter boardwalk

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

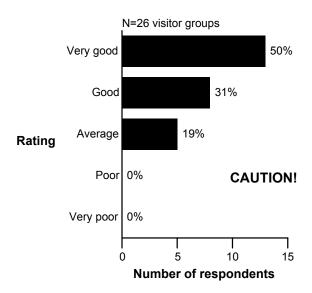


Figure 64: Quality of access for disabled persons

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Mean scores of importance and quality ratings of visitor facilities

- Figures 65 and 66 show the mean scores of importance and quality ratings for all visitor facilities that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- All visitor facilities were rated above average in importance and quality.

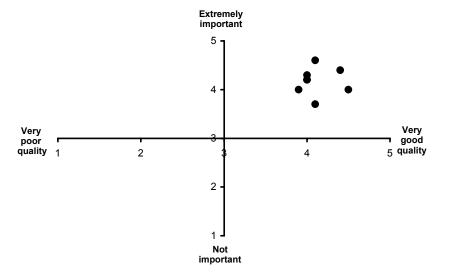


Figure 65: Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for visitor facilities

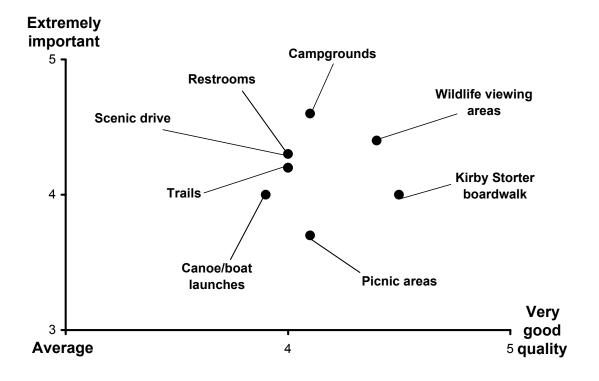


Figure 66: Detail of Figure 65

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Visitor perceptions of crowding at visitor facilities

Question 13d

Finally, for only those facilities that you and your group used, please rate from 1 to 5 how crowded you felt during your use of these facilities.

- 1=Not at all crowded
- 2=Somewhat crowded
- 3=Moderately crowded
- 4=Very crowded
- 5=Extremely crowded

#### Results

Visitor responses are shown in Table 16.

# Table 16: Perception of crowding at visitor facilities\*

N=number of visitor groups who rated each facility.

Rating (%)

Facility		Not at all crowded	Somewhat crowded	Moderately crowded	Very crowded	Extremely crowded	
Restrooms	395	64	21	11	3	2	
Wildlife viewing areas	346	45	31	19	5	<1	
Scenic drive	327	59	20	16	3	2	
Trails	214	75	16	7	1	<1	
Kirby Storter boardwalk	160	54	29	14	3	<1	
Picnic areas	136	64	23	10	3	0	
Campgrounds	98	32	19	38	9	2	
Canoe/boat launches	63	70	22	8	0	0	
Access for disabled persons <b>CAUTION!</b>	24	63	21	8	4	4	

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Visitor information services used

#### Question 14a

Please indicate all of the information services that you and your group used during this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

#### Results

 As shown in Figure 67, the most commonly used visitor information services included:

> 74% Preserve brochure/map 57% Outdoor exhibits/bulletin boards 49% Assistance from park staff 49% Indoor exhibits

 The least used information service was:

1% Junior Ranger program

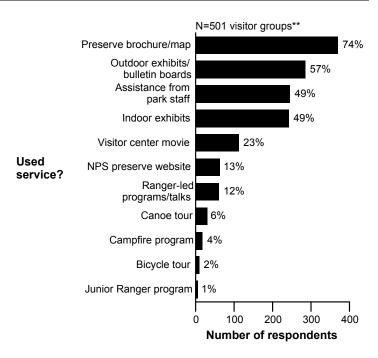


Figure 67: Visitor information services used

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Importance ratings of visitor information services

#### Question 14b

For the information services that you or your group used, please rate their importance from 1 to 5.

- 1=Not important
- 2=Somewhat important
- 3=Moderately important
- 4=Very important
- 5=Extremely important

#### Results

- Figure 68 shows the combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings for visitor information services that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The facilities receiving the highest combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings were:

84% NPS preserve website 82% Assistance from park staff 80% Canoe tour 78% Ranger-led programs/ talks (other than campfire programs)

- Figures 69 to 79 show the importance ratings for each service.
- The service receiving the highest "not important" rating that was rated by 30 or more visitor groups was:

6% Canoe tour

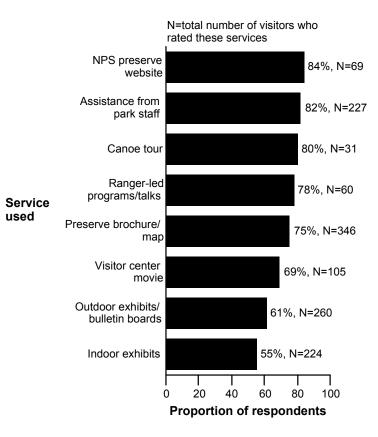


Figure 68: Combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings for visitor information services

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

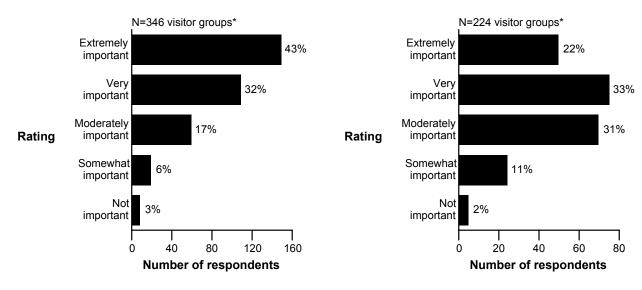


Figure 69: Importance of preserve brochure/map

Figure 70: Importance of indoor exhibits

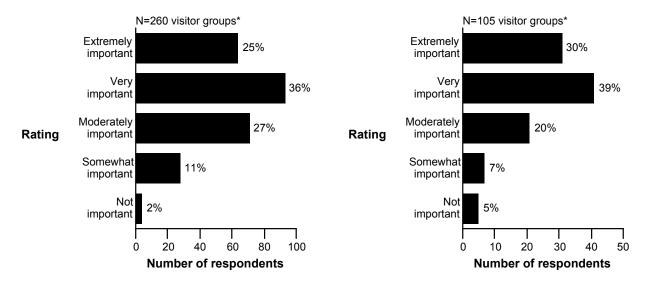


Figure 71: Importance of outdoor exhibits/bulletin boards

Figure 72: Importance of visitor center movie

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

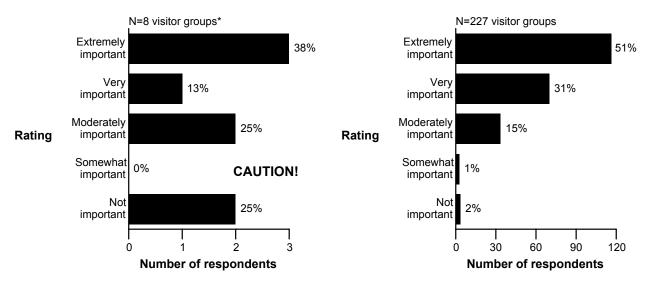


Figure 73: Importance of Junior Ranger program

Figure 74: Importance of assistance from park staff

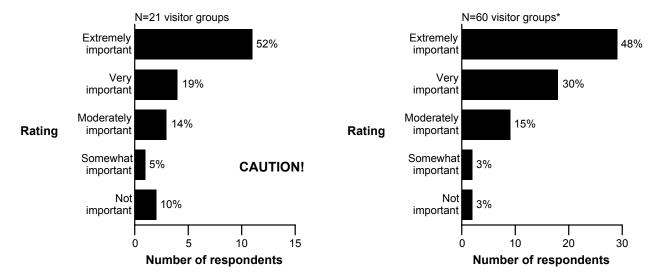


Figure 75: Importance of campfire program

Figure 76: Importance of ranger-led programs/talks (other than campfire program)

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

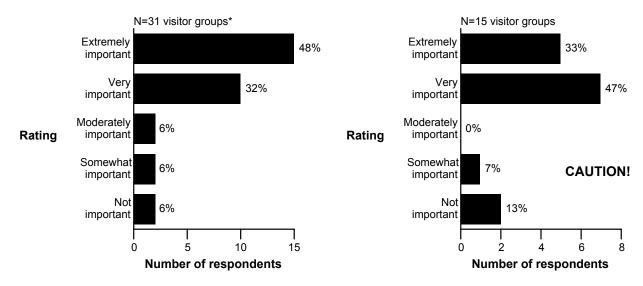


Figure 77: Importance of canoe tour

Figure 78: Importance of bicycle tour

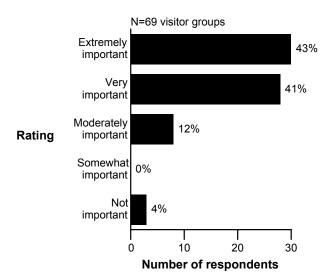


Figure 79: Importance of NPS preserve website: www.nps.gov/bicy used before or during visit

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Quality ratings of visitor information services

#### Question 14c

Finally, for only those services that you and your group used, please rate their quality from 1-5.

1=Very poor 2=Poor 3=Average 4=Good 5=Very good

#### Results

- Figure 80 shows the combined proportions of "very good" and "good" quality ratings for visitor information services that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- The services that received the highest combined proportions of "very good" and "good" quality ratings were:

93% Ranger-led programs/talks
(other than campfire
programs)
93% Assistance from park staff
84% NPS preserve
website
84% Preserve brochure/map

- Figures 81 to 91 show the quality ratings for each service.
- The service receiving the highest "very poor" quality rating was:

2% Ranger-led programs/talks (other than campfire program)

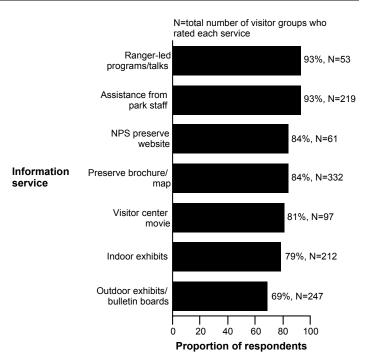


Figure 80: Combined proportions of "very good" and "good" quality ratings for visitor information services

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

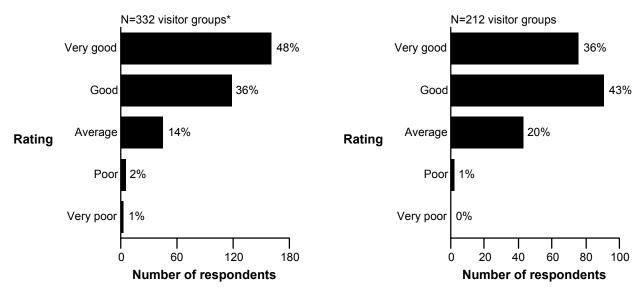


Figure 81: Quality of preserve brochure/map

Figure 82: Quality of indoor exhibits

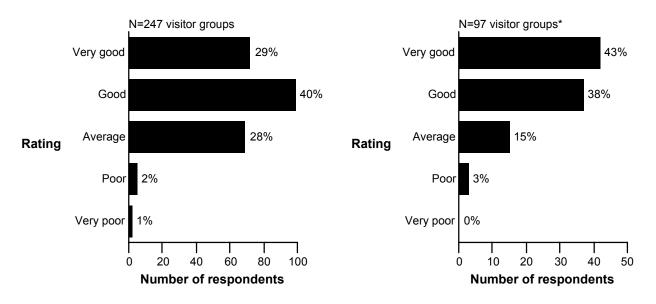


Figure 83: Quality of outdoor exhibits/bulletin boards

Figure 84: Quality of visitor center movie

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

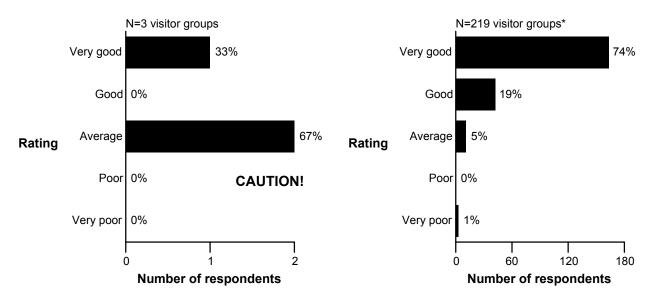


Figure 85: Quality of Junior Ranger program

Figure 86: Quality of assistance from park staff

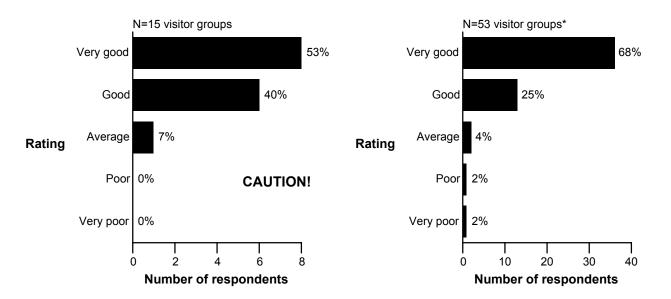


Figure 87: Quality of campfire program

Figure 88: Quality of ranger-led programs/ talks (other than campfire program)

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

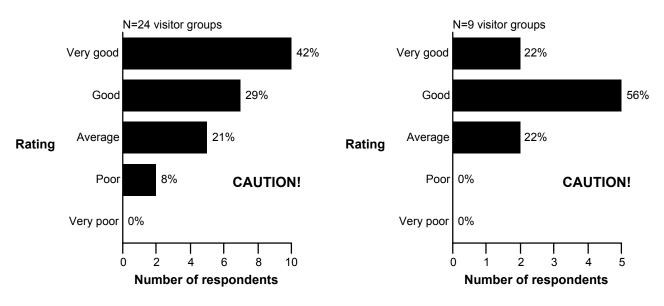


Figure 89: Quality of canoe tour

Figure 90: Quality of bicycle tour

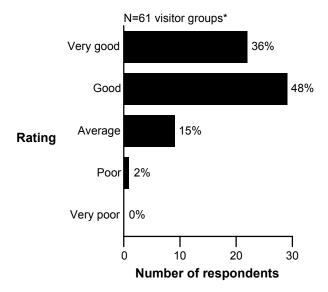


Figure 91: Quality of NPS preserve website: www.nps.gov/bicy used before or during visit

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for visitor information services

- Figures 92 and 93 show the mean scores of importance and quality ratings for all visitor information services that were rated by 30 or more visitor groups.
- All visitor information services were rated above average in importance and quality.

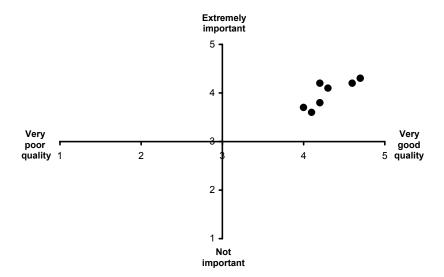


Figure 92: Mean scores of importance and quality ratings for visitor information services

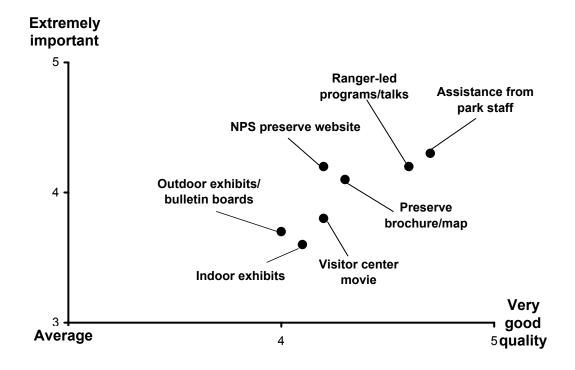


Figure 93: Detail of Figure 92

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Importance of protection of preserve attributes/resources

#### Question 23

It is the National Park Service's responsibility to protect Big Cypress National Preserve natural, scenic, and cultural resources while at the same time providing for public enjoyment. How important is the protection of the following attributes/resources in the preserve to you?

#### Results

As shown in Figure 94, the highest combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings included:

> 98% Native wildlife 97% Clean air 97% Clean water 97% Natural setting

The attribute/resource that received the highest "not important" rating was:

7% Recreational opportunities

Table 17 shows the importance ratings for attributes/resources as rated by visitor groups.

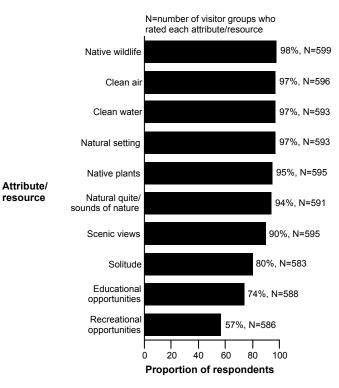


Figure 94: Combined proportions of "extremely important" and "very important" ratings for preserve attributes/resources

Table 17: Importance of protection of preserve attributes/resources\* N=number of visitor groups who rated each attribute/resource.

resource

		Rating (%)				
		Not	Somewhat	Moderately	Very	Extremely
Attribute/resource	N	important	important	important	important	important
Native wildlife	599	1	<1	1	16	82
Clean air	596	<1	1	2	19	78
Scenic views	595	1	2	7	29	61
Native plants	595	1	1	4	17	78
Natural setting	593	1	1	2	25	72
Clean water	593	<1	1	2	17	80
Natural quite/sounds of nature	591	1	<1	5	23	71
Educational opportunities	588	3	4	20	33	41
Recreational opportunities	586	7	9	27	25	32
Solitude	583	2	4	14	27	53

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## **Expenditures**

# Total expenditures inside and outside of the preserve

### Question 24

For you and your group, please report all expenditures for the items listed below for this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve and the surrounding area (areas south of Lake Okeechobee). Please write "0" if no money was spent in a particular category.

Note: Surrounding area residents should only include expenditures that were directly related to this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

#### Results:

- 40% of visitor groups spent \$601 or more (see Figure 95).
- 30% spent up to \$200.
- The average visitor group expenditure was \$1,073.
- The median expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$370.
- Average total expenditure per person (per capita) was \$484.
- As shown in Figure 96, the largest proportions of total expenditures inside and outside the preserve were:

36% Hotels/motels/ cabins/B&B, etc. 18% Restaurants and bars 11% Groceries and takeout food

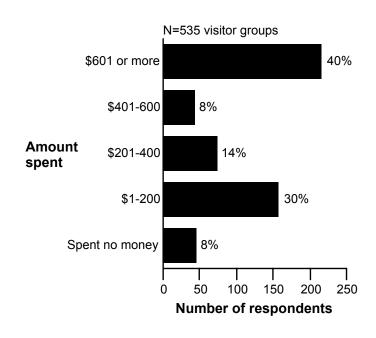


Figure 95: Total expenditures inside and outside of the preserve



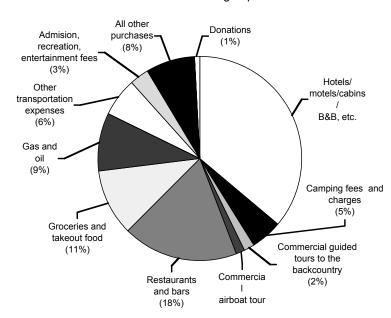


Figure 96: Proportions of total expenditures inside and outside of the preserve

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Number of adults covered by expenditures

#### Question 24d

How many adults (18 years or older) do these expenses cover?

#### Results

- 56% of visitor groups had two adults covered by expenditures (see Figure 97).
- 23% had four or more adults covered by expenditures.

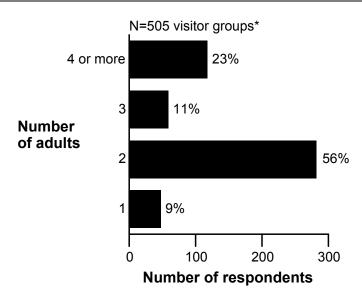


Figure 97: Number of adults covered by expenditures

## Number of children covered by expenditures

## Question 24d

How many children (under 18 years) do these expenses cover?

### Results

- 90% of visitor groups had no children covered by expenditures (see Figure 98).
- 6% had two or more children covered by expenditures.
- 4% had one child covered by expenditures.

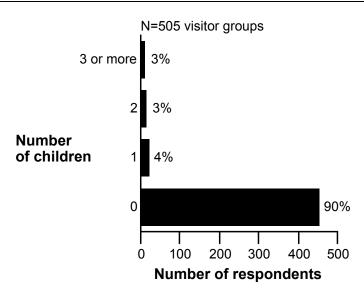


Figure 98: Number of children covered by expenditures

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# **Expenditures inside the preserve**

#### Question 24a

Please list your group's total expenditures inside Big Cypress National Preserve.

Note: Surrounding area residents should only include expenditures that were directly related to this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

### Results

- 54% of visitor groups spent no money inside the preserve (see Figure 99).
- 23% spent between \$1 and \$25.
- The average visitor group expenditure inside the preserve was \$26.
- The median expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$0.
- Average total expenditure per person (per capita) was \$11.
- As shown in Figure 100, the largest proportion of total expenditures inside the preserve was:

56% Camping fees and charges

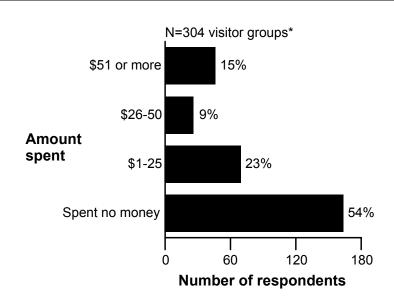


Figure 99: Total expenditures inside the preserve

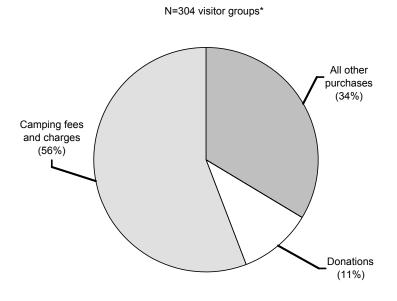


Figure 100: Proportions of total expenditures inside the preserve

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Camping fees and charges

- 74% of visitor groups did not spent any money for camping fees and charges inside the preserve (see Figure 101).
- 17% spent \$21 or more.

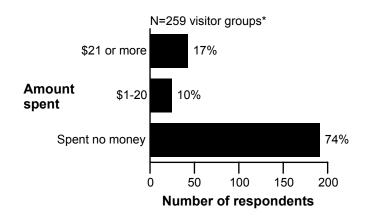


Figure 101: Expenditures for camping fees and charges inside the preserve

## All other purchases

- 68% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 102).
- 17% spent \$21 or more.

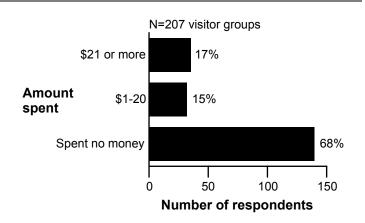


Figure 102: Expenditures for all other purchases inside the preserve

## **Donations**

- 76% of visitor groups did not donate any money (see Figure 103).
- 13% donated \$6 or more.

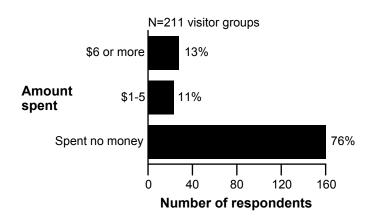


Figure 103: Expenditures for donations inside the preserve

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# **Expenditures on the East coast (Atlantic coast)**

### Question 24b

Please list your group's total expenditures in the surrounding area (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) on the East coast (Atlantic coast).

Note: Surrounding area residents should only include expenditures that were directly related to this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

#### Results

- 40% of visitor groups spent up to \$400 on the East coast (see Figure 104).
- 29% spent \$601 or more.
- 25% did not spend any money.
- The average visitor group expenditure on the East coast was \$609.
- The median expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$200.
- Average total expenditure per person (per capita) was \$257.
- As shown in Figure 105, the largest proportions of total expenditures on the East coast were:

35% Hotels/motels/cabins/ B&B, etc. 17% Restaurants and bars 12% Groceries and takeout food

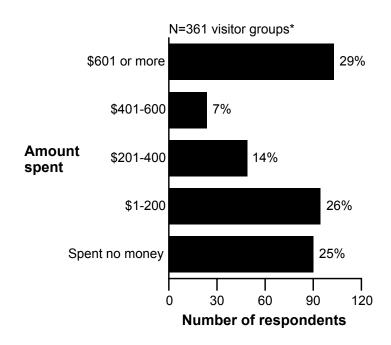


Figure 104: Total expenditures on the East coast (Atlantic coast)

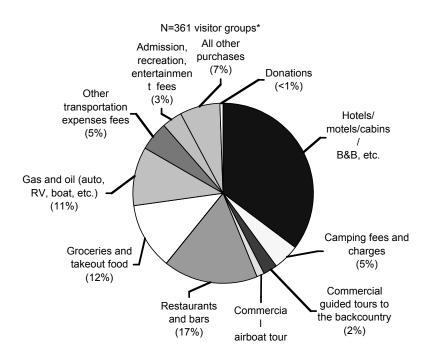


Figure 105: Proportions of total expenditures on the East coast (Atlantic coast)

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc.

- 55% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 106).
- 30% spent \$201 or more.

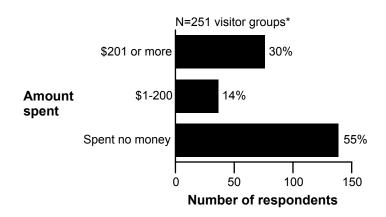


Figure 106: Expenditures for hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc. on the East coast

## Camping fees and charges

- 80% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 107).
- 11% spent \$101 or more.

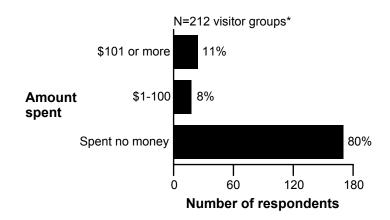


Figure 107: Expenditures for camping fees and charges on the East coast

# Commercial guided tours to the backcountry

- 88% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 108).
- 11% spent \$26 or more.

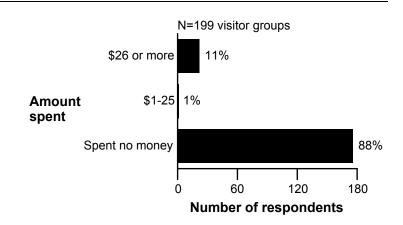


Figure 108: Expenditures for guide fees and charges on the East coast

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Commercial airboat tour

- 81% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 109).
- 15% spent \$26 or more.

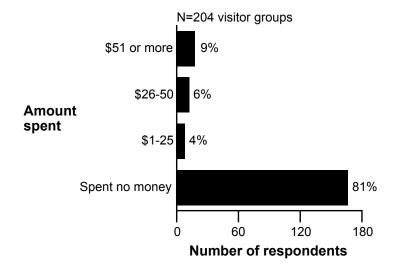


Figure 109: Expenditures for guide fees and charges on the East coast

## Restaurants and bars

- 37% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 110).
- 32% spent \$101 or more.
- 31% spent up to \$100.

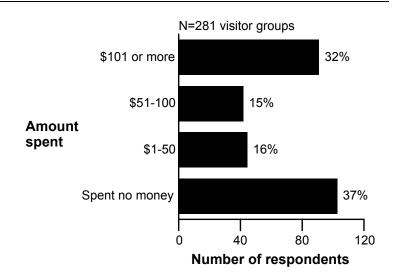


Figure 110: Expenditures for restaurants and bars on the East coast

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

### Groceries and takeout food

- 45% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 111).
- 31% spent \$51 or more.
- 24% spent up to \$50.

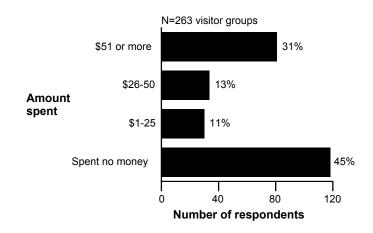


Figure 111: Expenditures for groceries and takeout food on the East coast

## Gas and oil

- 31% of visitor groups spent up to \$50 (see Figure 112).
- 30% did not spend any money.

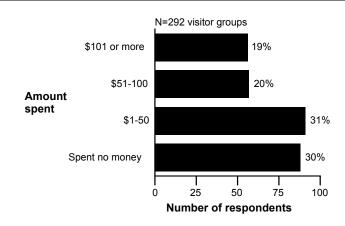


Figure 112: Expenditures for gas and oil on the East coast

## Other transportation expenses

- 76% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 113).
- 13% spent \$101 or more.

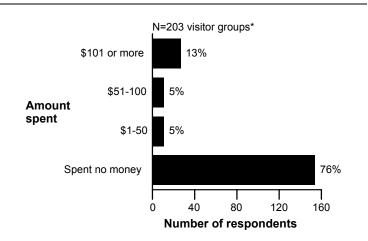


Figure 113: Expenditures for other transportation expenses on the East coast

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Admission, recreation, and entertainment fees

- 61% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 114).
- 19% spent \$51 or more.

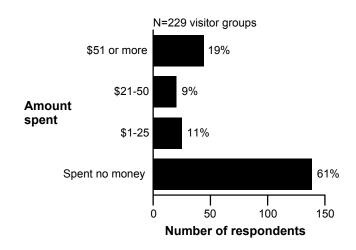


Figure 114: Expenditures for admission, recreation, and entertainment fees on the East coast

## All other purchases

- 76% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 115).
- 13% spent \$101 or more.
- 11% spent \$1 to \$100.

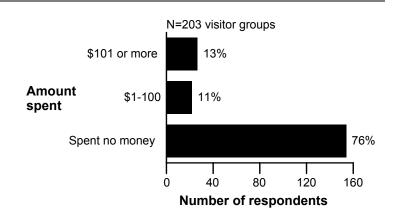


Figure 115: Expenditures for all other purchases on the East coast

## **Donations**

- 82% of visitor groups did not donate any money (see Figure 116).
- 12% donated up to \$25.

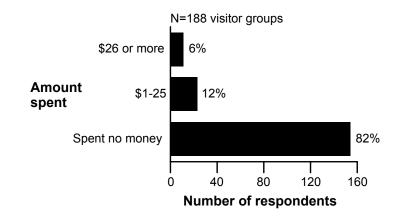


Figure 116: Expenditures for all donations on the East coast

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# **Expenditures in West coast (Gulf coast)**

#### Question 24c

Please list your group's total expenditures in the surrounding area (areas south of Lake Okeechobee) on the West coast (Gulf coast).

Note: Surrounding area residents should only include expenditures that were directly related to this visit to Big Cypress National Preserve.

#### Results

- 41% of visitor groups spent up \$400 on the West coast (see Figure 117).
- 37% spent \$601 or more.
- 15% did not spend any money.
- The average visitor group expenditure on the West coast was \$872.
- The median expenditure (50% of groups spent more and 50% of groups spent less) was \$290.
- Average total expenditure per person (per capita) was \$396.
- As shown in Figure 118, the largest proportions of total expenditures on the West coast were:

39% Hotels/motels/cabins/ B&B, etc. 20% Restaurants and bars 10% Groceries and takeout food

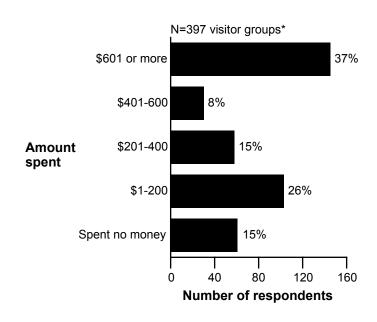


Figure 117: Total expenditures on the West coast (Gulf coast)

N=397 visitor groups\*

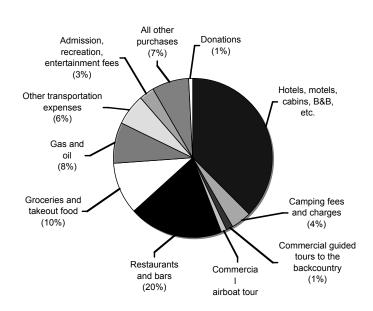


Figure 118: Proportions of total expenditures on the West coast (Gulf coast)

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc.

- 51% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 119).
- 23% spent \$401 or more.

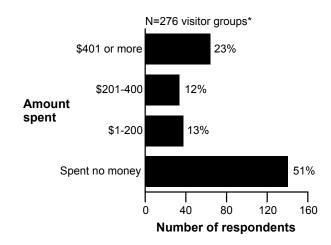


Figure 119: Expenditures for hotels, motels, cabins, B&B, etc. on the West coast

## Camping fees and charges

- 82% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 120).
- 12% spent \$101 or more.

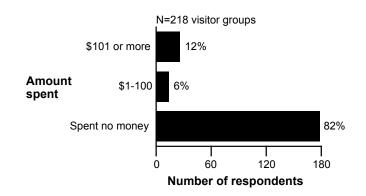


Figure 120: Expenditures for camping fees and charges on the West coast

# Commercial guided tours to the backcountry

- 86% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 121).
- 11% spent \$51 or more.

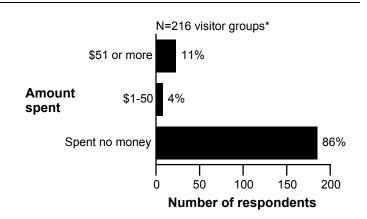


Figure 121: Expenditures for commercial guided tours to the backcountry on the West coast

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

### Commercial airboat tour

- 78% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 122).
- 17% spent \$51 or more.

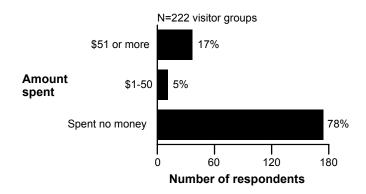


Figure 122: Expenditures for commercial airboat tour on the West coast

## Restaurants and bars

- 40% of visitor groups spent \$101 or more (see Figure 123).
- 24% did not spend any money.

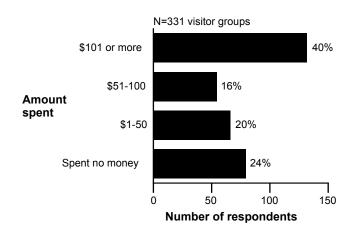


Figure 123: Expenditures for restaurants and bars on the West coast

## Groceries and takeout food

- 35% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 124).
- 25% spent \$101 or more.
- 24% spent up to \$50.

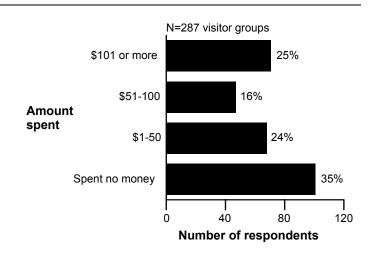


Figure 124: Expenditures for groceries and takeout food on the West coast

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Gas and oil

- 40% of visitor groups spent up to \$50 (see Figure 125).
- 40% spent \$51 or more.
- 19% did not spend any money.

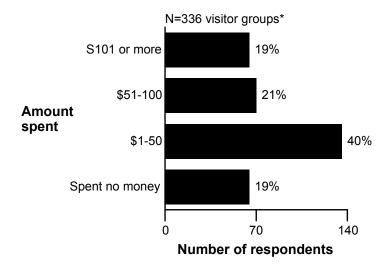


Figure 125: Expenditures for gas and oil on the West coast

## Other transportation expenses

- 72% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 126).
- 16% spent \$201 or more.

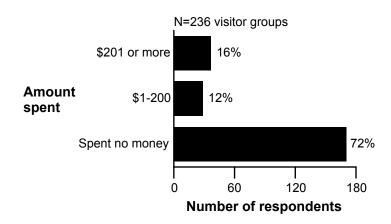


Figure 126: Expenditures for other transportation expenses on the West coast

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Admission, recreation, and entertainment fees

- 56% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 127).
- 24% spent \$51 or more.

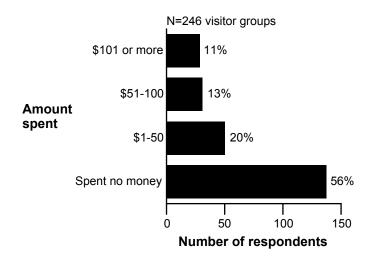


Figure 127: Expenditures for admission, recreation, and entertainment fees on the West coast

## All other purchases

- 46% of visitor groups did not spend any money (see Figure 128).
- 21% spent up to \$50.
- 20% spent \$101 or more.

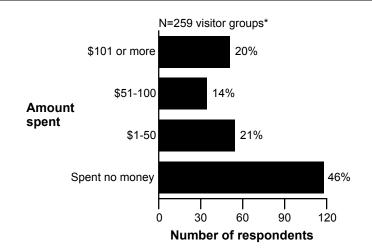


Figure 128: Expenditures for all other purchases on the West coast

### **Donations**

- 77% of visitor groups did not donate any money (see Figure 129).
- 17% donated up to \$25.

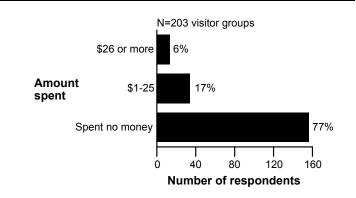


Figure 129: Expenditures for donations on the West coast

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Preferences for future visit

# **Future visit to Big Cypress Additional Lands Area**

149,000 acres of land were authorized as "The Big Cypress Addition Lands" and added to Big Cypress National Preserve in 1988. The general Management Plan for this area is currently in the panning stages.

### Question 12a

On a future visit, would you be likely to visit the Big Cypress Additional Lands area of Big Cypress National Preserve?

## Results

- 52% of visitor groups responded that they were likely to visit the Big Cypress Additional Lands on a future visit (see Figure 130).
- 36% of visitor groups were "not sure."

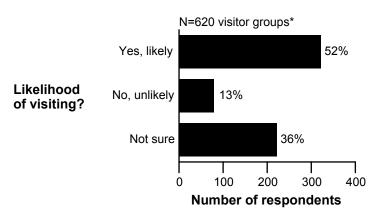


Figure 130: Likelihood of visiting the Big Cypress
Additional Lands area in the future

## Question 12b

On a future visit, would you be more likely to visit the Big Cypress Additional Lands area if outfitters/guides were available?

## Results

- 37% of visitor groups were "not sure" if the availability of outfitters/guides would increase the likelihood of a future visit (see Figure 131).
- 34% of responded they were "unlikely" to visit.

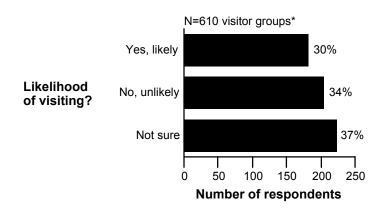


Figure 131: Likelihood of visiting the Big Cypress Additional Lands area in the future if outfitters/guides were available

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## Question 12c

What type of activities would you like to have available there? (open-ended)

## Results

- 52% of visitor groups (N=329) responded to this question.
- Table 18 shows a summary of visitor comments.

# Table 18: Activities available in Big Cypress Additional Lands area N=579 comments;

some visitor groups made more than one comment.

some visitor groups made more than one of	
Commont	Number of times
Comment	mentioned
CAMPING	
Camping	48
Primitive camping	4
r minuve camping	7
GUIDED ACTIVITIES/TOURS	
	4.4
Guided tours	11
Airboat tours	3
Eco tours	2 2 2
Self-guided tours	2
Sightseeing	2
HIKING/WALKING	
Hiking	83
Trails/roads/drives	23
Boardwalk	20
Walking	19
Guided hikes	6
Nature trails	6
Nature walk	4
Hiking/walking to view wildlife and/or vegetation	3
	•
NATURE VIEWING	
Wildlife viewing	44
Birdwatching	27
Wilderness activities	3
Observation stations	
	2 2
Plant viewing Other activities	2
Other activities	2
INTERPRETIVE A OTIVITIES	
INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES	
Information services	8
Ranger-led tours/walks	4
Information natural environment	3
Educational activities	2
Interpretive walks	2
Other activities	11

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

Table 18: Activities available in Big Cypress Additional Lands area (continued)

(continued)	
Comment	Number of times mentioned
MATER ACTIVITIES	
WATER ACTIVITIES	22
Fishing	33 32
Canoeing Kayaking	32 17
Airboating	7
Boat ride	2
Activities in the swamp	2
Equipment rental	2
Water tours	2
vvaler lours	2
ACCESS TO FACILITIES/ACTIVITIES	
Access to facilities/activities	7
ORV access	5
Limited access	
Road access	2 2 2
Other comments	$\overline{2}$
FACILITIES	
Picnic areas	5
Restrooms	4
Visitor center	4
Parking	3
RV sites	2
Other comments	6
Other comments	O
OTHER ACTIVITIES	
Biking	22
Hunting	21
Photography	12
Off road vehicle driving	10
No activities/preservation only	3
Picnicking	4
Driving	2
Family/children activities	2 2
Same as in the preserve	
Tram ride	2
Other activities	12

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding
\*\*total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# Interpretive programs/information services

#### Question 25

On a future visit to Big Cypress National Preserve would you and your group be interested in interpretive programs?

#### Results

 71% of visitor groups would be interested in interpretive programs on a future visit (see Figure 132).

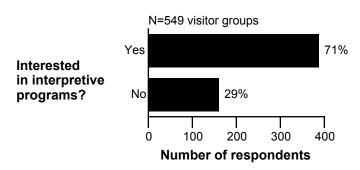


Figure 132: Interest in interpretive programs on a future visit

### Question 25

On a future visit to Big Cypress National Preserve, what interpretive programs/information services would you and your group like to have available at the preserve?

### Results

- 71% of visitor groups would like outdoor exhibits and trailside information panels to be available on a future visit (see Figure 133).
- 64% would like nature walks to be available.
- "Other" interpretive programs/ information services (5%) included:

Better information Bike trails Birdwatching Brochure Bulletin boards with sightings Canoe tours **Detailed maps** History of logging, agriculture, geology, etc. Internet virtual tour Rangers to keep an eye on people Recreation for children Recyclina Self-guided map tour Self-guided tour of plants

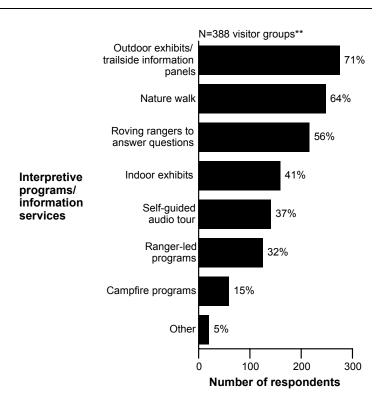


Figure 133: Interpretive programs/information services available for future visit

with brochure
\*total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

# **Overall Quality**

## Question 15

Overall, how would you and your group rate the quality of facilities, services, and recreational opportunities at Big Cypress National Preserve during this visit?

### Results

- 89% of visitor groups rated the overall quality as "very good" or "good" (see Figure 134).
- Less than 2% rated the overall quality as "very poor" or "poor."

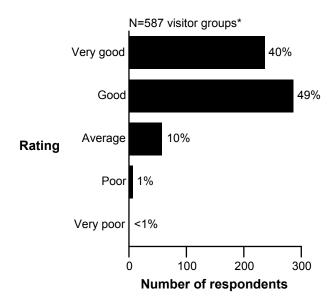


Figure 134: Overall quality of visitor facilities, services, and recreational opportunities

<sup>\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

<sup>\*\*</sup>total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

## **Visitor Comments**

## What visitors liked most

## Question 16a

What did you and your group like most about your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?

## Results

- 86% of visitor groups (N=545) responded to this question.
- Table 19 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of handwritten comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

## Table 19: What visitors liked most

N=819 comments:

some visitor groups made more than one comment.

_	Number of times
Comment	mentioned
PERSONNEL	
Staff was friendly and courteous	13
Staff was helpful	3
Well-informed staff	3
Other comments	3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Visitor center	8
Movie	6
Exhibits	5
Learning about the preserve	5
Ranger-led programs	9
Information	4
Preserve activities	4
Campfire program	2
Talk to rangers	2
Other comments	_ 6
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	20
Loop Road	22
Nice campgrounds	21
Boardwalk	20
Trails/drives	17
Cleanliness of the preserve	11
Clean restrooms	10
Viewing areas	10
Kirby Storter boardwalk	6
Turner River Road	6
Well-maintained	6
Swamp site	4
RV sites	3
H.P. Williams Wayside Park	2 2 2
Picnic areas	2
Sites	
Other comments	3

Table 19:	What visitors liked most (continued)	
Comment		Number of times mentioned
POLICIES/MANAGEMENT Easy access Lack of crowds No commercialization No fees Other comments		29 13 4 4 3
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Wildlife Wildlife viewing Seeing alligators Birdwatching Fishing Water activities (airboat ride, car Wilderness Hunting Preserved and untouched environ Plant viewing Clean air Other comments		101 73 68 47 27 13 11 7 7 4
GENERAL COMMENTS Enjoyed the beauty of the scene Enjoyed nature/outdoors Enjoyed the peace of the site Good weather Remoteness/solitude Everything Hiking/walking Biking Liked the preserve Relaxation Photography Other comments	ery	49 39 20 9 7 6 6 4 3 3 2 29

## What visitors liked least

## Question 16b

What did you and your group like least about your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?

#### Results

- 60% of visitor groups (N=380) responded to this question.
- Table 20 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of handwritten comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

## Table 20: What visitors liked least

N=403 comments;

some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
Attitudes of staff	6
Preserve staff	3
Guides were uninvolved	2
Other comments	2 3
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Lack of information	16
More detailed maps	3
Signage	3
Lack of information on bulletin boards	2
Other comments	4
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	
Dust/dusty roads	17
Trash/lack of trashcans	17
Bad condition of the restrooms	16
Loop Road	10
Condition of Highway 41	8
Campgrounds	7
Road conditions	7
Limited parking	5
Generators in campgrounds	3
Lack of trails	3
Not enough boardwalks	3 3 3
Trails	3
Dry areas	2 2
Lack of pull-off areas	2
Lack of showers in campgrounds Other comments	2
Other comments	۷

# Table 20: What visitors liked least (continued)

Comment	(continued)	Number of times mentioned
POLICY/MANAGEMENT Limited access Heavy traffic Speeding vehicles on gravel ro Restrictions Other comments	ads	7 6 6 2 9
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT Vegetation blocking wildlife view Airboats Alligators Low water level Wildlife/wilderness Fishing problems Lack of birds Need more viewing areas Noise Backcountry conditions Other comments	wing	7 6 4 4 3 3 3 3 2 11
CONCESSIONS Availability of food No drinking water No vending machines for water Limited merchandise in gift sho		5 5 2 2
GENERAL COMMENTS Nothing to dislike Limited time Bugs/mosquitoes Crowded places (visitor center, Other visitors' behavior High prices Long drive Weather conditions Size of the area Other comments	Loop Road, etc.)	73 24 10 10 9 5 4 3 2

# Planning for the future

## Question 26

If you were a manager planning for the future of Big Cypress National Preserve, what would you propose?

#### Results

- 44% of visitor groups (N=280) responded to this question.
- Table 21 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of handwritten comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

## Table 21: Planning for the future

N=403 comments;

some visitor groups made more than one comment.

Comment	Number of times mentioned
PERSONNEL	
More rangers available	5
Other comments	4
	·
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Provide more information	16
Interpretive programs	8
Develop more educational programs	7
Have more guided tours	7
Need better signage	4
Have more ranger-led activities/programs	4
Add more exhibits	3
Have more children activities	2 2
Interactive activities	2
Have more detailed map	2
Have more boat/canoe/kayak tours	2
Other comments	6
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	
Create more camping facilities	16
Need more trails/walkways	11
Create more boardwalks	9
Improve road conditions	6
Provide access to drinking water	5
Create more bike trails	4
More parking	4
Upgrade Loop Road	4
Improve restrooms	3
Road dust control	3 2 2 2
Boat ramps	2
Create more pull-off areas	2
Provide electricity	
Other comments	17

Other comments

Table 2	Planning for the future (continued)	
Comment	(common)	Number of times mentioned
POLICIES/MANAGEMENT		
More accessibility to preserve	e areas	12
Limit motorized access		10
Take anti-littering action Limit future development		9
Restrict airboat use		8 7
Keep the preserve as it is		6
Keep the preserve clean		6
More accessibility to activities		6
Promotion of the preserve	•	6
Stricter law enforcement		6
Add more lands		5
Increase backcountry access		4
Increase motorized access		4
Regulate speed limit		4
Stop commercialization		4
Accommodate activities		2
Limit the time visitors spend		2
Restrict access Stricter hunting regulations		2 2
Traffic regulation		2
Other comments		22
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	r	
Keep the preserve natural		13
Add more viewing areas		12
Protect the environment		9
Have more preservation		8
Balance human activities and		6
Remove vegetation from view	ving areas	4
Control exotic species		3
Increase numbers of wildlife		3
Allow more fishing	ve etete	3
Keep the preserve in a primiti Other comments	ve state	2 9
		Ü
CONCESSIONS		
Eating facilities/food stores		5
Equipment rental		2
<b>GENERAL COMMENTS</b>		
No action is necessary		11
Other comments		24

# **Additional comments**

### Question 29

Is there anything else you and your group would like to tell us about your visit to Big Cypress National Preserve?

#### Results

- 52% of visitor groups (N=330) responded to this question.
- Table 22 shows a summary of visitor comments. A complete copy of handwritten comments is included in the Visitor Comments Appendix.

## **Table 22: Additional comments**

N=574 comments;

some visitor groups made more than one comment.

PERSONNEL  Well-informed staff Preserve staff was friendly and courteous  Need more rangers available Good personnel Members of the staff with a bad attitude Other comments  INTERPRETIVE SERVICES Need more information Personnel Need better signage Enjoyed tours Educational opportunities Learned a lot Need a more detailed map Other comments  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked more trails Remove overgrown vegetation	Comment	Number of times mentioned
Well-informed staff Preserve staff was friendly and courteous Need more rangers available Good personnel Q Members of the staff with a bad attitude Other comments  INTERPRETIVE SERVICES Need more information Need better signage Enjoyed tours Educational opportunities Learned a lot Need a more detailed map Other comments  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked more trails  Need more trails	DEDCONNEL	
Preserve staff was friendly and courteous Need more rangers available Good personnel Q Members of the staff with a bad attitude Other comments  INTERPRETIVE SERVICES Need more information Need better signage Enjoyed tours Educational opportunities Learned a lot Need a more detailed map Other comments  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked more trails Learned Additional courteous Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park Need more trails		14
Need more rangers available Good personnel Good personnel Members of the staff with a bad attitude Other comments  INTERPRETIVE SERVICES Need more information Need better signage Enjoyed tours Educational opportunities Learned a lot Need a more detailed map Other comments  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked more trails Learned Liked more and better restrooms Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park Need more trails		
Good personnel  Members of the staff with a bad attitude Other comments  3  INTERPRETIVE SERVICES Need more information Need better signage Enjoyed tours Educational opportunities Learned a lot Need a more detailed map Other comments  5  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked more trails  2  Need more trails		
Members of the staff with a bad attitude Other comments  INTERPRETIVE SERVICES Need more information Need better signage Enjoyed tours Educational opportunities Learned a lot Need a more detailed map Other comments  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked more trails  P Need more trails  INTERPRETIVE SERVICES  8  A E STATE S		
Other commentsINTERPRETIVE SERVICESNeed more information9Need better signage5Enjoyed tours4Educational opportunities2Learned a lot2Need a more detailed map2Other comments5 FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park Need more trails 2		
Need more information9Need better signage5Enjoyed tours4Educational opportunities2Learned a lot2Need a more detailed map2Other comments5 FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park Need more trails 2		
Need better signage5Enjoyed tours4Educational opportunities2Learned a lot2Need a more detailed map2Other comments5 FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park Need more trails 2 Liked more trails	INTERPRETIVE SERVICES	
Enjoyed tours Educational opportunities Learned a lot Need a more detailed map Other comments  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park Need more trails	Need more information	9
Educational opportunities 2 Learned a lot 2 Need a more detailed map 2 Other comments 5  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds 8 Loop Road was nice 8 Liked the boardwalk 6 More campsites are needed 4 Liked visitor center 3 Midway campground was nice 3 Need more and better restrooms 3 Nice restrooms 3 Too much trash 3 Burns Lake was a great place 1 Improve road conditions 2 Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park 2 Need more trails 2	Need better signage	5
Need a more detailed map Other comments  5  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park Need more trails  5  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE  8  8  8  8  8  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1		
Need a more detailed map Other comments  5  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice Liked the boardwalk More campsites are needed Liked visitor center Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms Too much trash Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park Need more trails  5  FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE  8  8  8  8  8  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1	Educational opportunities	2
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds 8 Loop Road was nice 8 Liked the boardwalk 6 More campsites are needed 4 Liked visitor center 3 Midway campground was nice 3 Need more and better restrooms 3 Nice restrooms 3 Too much trash 3 Burns Lake was a great place 2 Improve road conditions 2 Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park 2 Need more trails 2		2
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE Liked the campgrounds 8 Loop Road was nice 8 Liked the boardwalk 6 More campsites are needed 4 Liked visitor center 3 Midway campground was nice 3 Need more and better restrooms 3 Nice restrooms 3 Too much trash 3 Burns Lake was a great place 2 Improve road conditions 2 Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park 2 Need more trails 2	·	2
Liked the campgrounds Loop Road was nice 8 Liked the boardwalk 6 More campsites are needed Liked visitor center 3 Midway campground was nice Need more and better restrooms Nice restrooms 3 Nice restrooms 3 Too much trash 3 Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park Need more trails 2	Other comments	5
Loop Road was nice  Liked the boardwalk  More campsites are needed  Liked visitor center  3  Midway campground was nice  Need more and better restrooms  Nice restrooms  Too much trash  Burns Lake was a great place  Improve road conditions  Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park  Need more trails	FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE	
Liked the boardwalk  More campsites are needed  Liked visitor center  3 Midway campground was nice 3 Need more and better restrooms 3 Nice restrooms 3 Too much trash 3 Burns Lake was a great place 1 Improve road conditions 2 Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park Need more trails 2		
More campsites are needed Liked visitor center 3 Midway campground was nice 3 Need more and better restrooms 3 Nice restrooms 3 Too much trash 3 Burns Lake was a great place Improve road conditions 2 Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park Need more trails 2	•	
Liked visitor center 3 Midway campground was nice 3 Need more and better restrooms 3 Nice restrooms 3 Too much trash 3 Burns Lake was a great place 2 Improve road conditions 2 Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park 2 Need more trails 2		
Midway campground was nice  Need more and better restrooms  Nice restrooms  Too much trash  Burns Lake was a great place  Improve road conditions  Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park  Need more trails  3  3  2  1  2  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1  1		
Need more and better restrooms3Nice restrooms3Too much trash3Burns Lake was a great place2Improve road conditions2Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park2Need more trails2		3
Nice restrooms3Too much trash3Burns Lake was a great place2Improve road conditions2Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park2Need more trails2		3
Too much trash  Burns Lake was a great place  Improve road conditions  Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park  Need more trails  3 2 Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park 2 2 2 3 3 2 4 5 6 7 7 8 7 8 8 7 8 8 7 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8		3
Burns Lake was a great place 2 Improve road conditions 2 Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park 2 Need more trails 2		ა ე
Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park 2 Need more trails 2		
Liked H.P. Williams Wayside Park 2 Need more trails 2		2
		2
	Remove overgrown vegetation	2

Table 22:	Additional comments (continued)	
	,	Number of mention

(COITHITUE	<del>s</del> u)
	Number of times
Comment	mentioned
FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE (continued)	
RV sites and parking	2
Turner River Road is nice	2
Well-maintained	2
Other comments	22
POLICIES/MANAGEMENT	
Keep the preserve as it is	6
Increase access points	4
Limit development around the preserve	4
Allow extended use of ORVs	3
Liked easy access	3
Place does not need commercialization	3
Protect the area	3
Ban motorized access	2
Expand the preserve	2
Increase stay time	2
Liked the changes done in the preserve	2
More advertisement of the place	2
Other comments	14
DESCUDEE MANAGEMENT	
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	0
Liked wildlife	9 7
Liked the alligators Good preservation efforts	6
Like the birds	5
Enjoyed canoeing/kayaking	3
Enjoyed canoeing/kayaking Enjoyed nature	3 3 3 3
Enjoyed the natural setting	3
The plants and flowers were beautiful	3
Alligators were frightening	2
Protect wildlife	2
Other comments	15
Other comments	15
GENERAL COMMENTS	
Enjoyed visit	83
Beautiful place	43
Will return in the future	32
Thank you	29
Keep up the good work	18
Great experience	7
Like bringing more visitors	7
Needed more time	7
Driving through the preserve	5
Interesting visit	5
· · · · · · ·	

	tional comments
	inued) Number of times mentioned
GENERAL COMMENTS (continued)	
Took some great photographs	5
Enjoyed wildlife viewing	4
Resident of the area	4
Like national parks and preserves	3
On an organized tour	3
Survey was long and a waste of time	3
Will recommend it to others	3
Complicated questionnaire	2
Enjoyed nature viewing	2
Enjoyed the peace of the area	2
Good survey	2
Met nice people	2
Relaxing visit	2
Saw a lot of things	2
Other comments	50

# **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1: The Questionnaire** 



# **Appendix 2: Additional Analysis**

The Visitor Services Project (VSP) offers the opportunity to learn more from VSP visitor study data. Additional analysis can be done using the preserve's VSP visitor study data that was collected and entered into the computer. Two-way and three-way cross tabulations can be made of any of the characteristics listed below. Be as specific as possible—you may select a single program/service/facility instead of all that were listed in the questionnaire. Include your name, address and phone number in the request.

- Awareness that site is unit of NPS
- Awareness of different management of national preserves and national parks
- Sources of information used prior to visit
- Sources of information preferred for future visits
- Received needed information
- Primary reason for visiting South Florida area (areas south of Lake Okeechobee)
- · Places visited in area
- Stay overnight away from home?
- Number of nights inside the preserve
- Number of nights in East coast (Atlantic coast)
- Number of nights in West coast (Gulf coast)
- Type of lodging used
- Number of hours spent in the preserve
- Number of days spent in the preserve
- Number of preserve entries
- Number of vehicles
- Members arriving by airplane

- Florida airport used
- Town/city stayed in night before arrival to preserve
- Town/city stayed in night after departure from preserve
- Activities participated in
- Frequency of activities
- Preserve sites visited
- Visit Additional Lands in the future
- Visit Additional Lands if outfitters/guides are available
- Visitor facilities used
- Importance of visitor facilities
- Quality of visitor facilities
- Crowdedness of visitor facilities
- Information services used
- Importance of information services
- Quality of information services
- Overall quality
- Commercial guided tour group
- Educational group
- Other organized group
- Group type
- Group size
- Visitor age
- State of residence

- Country of residence
- Number of visits in past 12 months
- Number of visits in lifetime
- Hispanic/Latino ethnicity
- Visitor race
- Importance of attributes/ resources
- Expenditures inside the preserve, in East coast, and in West coast
- Number of adults/children covered by expenditures
- Interpretative programs/ information services available on a future visit
- Desire to explore the backcountry
- Ability to access the backcountry
- Travel method used to access backcountry
- Vehicles/equipment primarily used in Big Cypress
- Year of purchase
- Purchased in South Florida
- Cost of vehicle/equipment
- Condition of vehicle/ equipment

Moscow, ID 83844-1139

For more information please contact: Visitor Services Project, PSU College of Natural Resources P.O. Box 441139 University of Idaho Phone: 208-885-7863 Fax: 208-885-4261 Email: littlej@uidaho.edu Website: http://www.psu.uidaho.edu

# **Appendix 3: Decision Rules for Checking Non-response Bias**

There are several methods for checking non-response bias. However, the most common way is to use some demographic indicators to compare between respondents and non-respondents (Dey 1997; Salant and Dillman 1994; Dillman 2000; Dillman, 2007; Stoop 2004). In this study, group type, group size and age of the group member (at least 16 years old) completing the survey were three variables that were used to check for non-response bias.

A Chi-square test was used to detect the difference in the response rates among different group types. The hypothesis was that group types are equally represented. If p-value is greater than 0.05, the difference in group type is judged to be insignificant.

Two independent-sample T-tests were used to test the differences between respondents and non-respondents. The p-values represent the significance levels of these tests. If p-value is greater than 0.05, the two groups are judged to be insignificantly different.

Therefore, the hypotheses for checking non-response bias are:

- 1. Respondents from different group types are equally represented
- 2. Average age of respondents average age of non-respondents = 0
- 3. Average group size of respondents average group size of non-respondents = 0

Table 2 shows no significant difference in group type.

As shown in Table 3, the p-value for respondent/non-respondent group size test is greater than 0.05, indicating insignificant differences between respondents and non-respondents. Thus, non-response bias for group size is judged to be insignificant. However, the p-value for respondent/non-respondent age test is less than 0.05 indicating significant age differences between respondents and non-respondents. In regard to age difference, various reviews of survey methodology (Dillman and Carley-Baxter 2000; Goudy 1976, Filion 1976, Mayer and Pratt Jr. 1967) have consistently found that in public opinion surveys, average respondent ages tend to be higher than average non-respondent ages. This difference is often caused by other reasons such as availability of free time rather than problems with survey methodology. In addition, because unit of analysis for this study is a visitor group, the group member who received the questionnaire may be different than the one who actually completed it after the visit. Sometimes the age of the actual respondent is higher than the age of the group member who accepted the questionnaire at the preserve. Thus, a 5-year difference in average age between respondents and non-respondents is an acceptable justification. Therefore, non-response bias is judged to be insignificant.

#### References

- Filion F. L. (Winter 1975-Winter 1976) Estimating Bias due to Non-response in Mail Surveys. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, Vol 39 (4): 482-492.
- Dey, E.L. (1997) Working with Low Survey Response Rates: The Efficacy of Weighting Adjustment. *Research in Higher Education*, 38(2): 215-227.
- Dillman D. A. (2000) *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
- Dillman D. A. (2007) *Mail and Internet Surveys: The Tailored Design Method, Updated version with New Internet, Visual, and Mixed-Mode Guide,* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
- Dillman D. A. and Carley-Baxter L. R. (2000) *Structural determinants of survey response rate over a 12-year period*, 1988-1999, Proceedings of the section on survey research methods, 394-399, American Statistical Association, Washington, D.C.
- Goudy, W. J. (1976) Non-response Effect on Relationships Between Variables. *Public Opinion Quarterly*. Vol 40 (3): 360-369.
- Mayer C. S. and Pratt Jr. R. W. (Winter 1966-Winter 1967) A Note on Non-response in a Mail Survey. *Public Opinion Quarterly*. Vol 30 (4): 637-646.
- Salant, P. and Dillman, D. A. (1994) *How to Conduct Your Own Survey*. U.S.: John Wiley and Sons, Inc. Stoop, I. A. L. (2004) Surveying Non-respondents. *Field Methods*, 16 (1): 23.

# **Appendix 4: Visitor Services Project Publications**

Reports 1-6 (pilot studies) are available from the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit. All other VSP reports listed are available from the parks where the studies were conducted or from the UI PSU. All studies were conducted in summer unless otherwise noted.

#### 1982

 Mapping interpretive services: A pilot study at Grand Teton National Park.

#### 1983

- Mapping interpretive services: Identifying barriers to adoption and diffusion of the method.
- 3. Mapping interpretive services: A follow-up study at Yellowstone National Park and Mt Rushmore National Memorial.
- 4. Mapping visitor populations: A pilot study at Yellowstone National Park.

#### 1985

- North Cascades National Park Service Complex
- 6. Crater Lake National Park

#### 1986

- 7. Gettysburg National Military Park
- 8. Independence National Historical Park
- 9. Valley Forge National Historical Park

#### 1987

- Colonial National Historical Park (summer & fall)
- 11. Grand Teton National Park
- 12. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- 13. Mesa Verde National Park
- 14. Shenandoah National Park (summer & fall)
- 15. Yellowstone National Park
- 16. Independence National Historical Park: Four Seasons Study

#### 1988

- 17. Glen Canyon National Recreational Area
- 18. Denali National Park and Preserve
- 19. Bryce Canyon National Park
- 20. Craters of the Moon National Monument

#### 1989

- 21. Everglades National Park (winter)
- 22. Statue of Liberty National Monument
- 23. The White House Tours, President's Park

## 1989 (continued)

- 24. Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- 25. Yellowstone National Park
- 26. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
- 27. Muir Woods National Monument

#### 1990

- 28. Canyonlands National Park (spring)
- 29. White Sands National Monument
- 30. National Monuments & Memorials, Washington, D.C.
- 31. Kenai Fjords National Park
- 32. Gateway National Recreation Area
- 33. Petersburg National Battlefield
- 34. Death Valley National Monument
- 35. Glacier National Park
- 36. Scott's Bluff National Monument
- 37. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

#### 1991

- 38. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park (spring)
- 39. Joshua Tree National Monument (spring)
- 40. The White House Tours, President's Park (spring)
- 41. Natchez Trace Parkway (spring)
- 42. Stehekin-North Cascades NP/ Lake Chelan NRA
- 43. City of Rocks National Reserve
- 44. The White House Tours, President's Park (fall)

- 45. Big Bend National Park (spring)
- 46. Frederick Douglass National Historic Site (spring)
- 47. Glen Echo Park (spring)
- 48. Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
- 49. Jefferson National Expansion Memorial
- 50. Zion National Park
- 51. New River Gorge National River
- 52. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK
- 53. Arlington House-The Robert E. Lee Memorial

## **Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)**

#### 1993

- 54. Belle Haven Park/Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve (spring)
- 55. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (spring)
- 56. Whitman Mission National Historic Site
- 57. Sitka National Historical Park
- 58. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore
- 59. Redwood National Park
- 60. Channel Islands National Park
- 61. Pecos National Historical Park
- 62. Canyon de Chelly National Monument
- 63. Bryce Canyon National Park (fall)

#### 1994

- 64. Death Valley National Monument Backcountry (winter)
- 65. San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (spring)
- 66. Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center
- 67. Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts
- 68. Nez Perce National Historical Park
- 69. Edison National Historic Site
- 70. San Juan Island National Historical Park
- 71. Canaveral National Seashore
- 72. Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (fall)
- 73. Gettysburg National Military Park (fall)

#### 1995

- 74. Grand Teton National Park (winter)
- 75. Yellowstone National Park (winter)
- 76. Bandelier National Monument
- 77. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve
- 78. Adams National Historic Site
- 79. Devils Tower National Monument
- 80. Manassas National Battlefield Park
- 81. Booker T. Washington National Monument
- 82. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
- 83. Dry Tortugas National Park

#### 1996

- 84. Everglades National Park (spring)
- 85. Chiricahua National Monument (spring)
- 86. Fort Bowie National Historic Site (spring)
- 87. Great Falls Park, Virginia (spring)
- 88. Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- 89. Chamizal National Memorial
- 90. Death Valley National Park (fall)
- 91. Prince William Forest Park (fall)
- 92. Great Smoky Mountains National Park (summer & fall)

#### 1997

- 93. Virgin Islands National Park (winter)
- 94. Mojave National Preserve (spring)
- 95. Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site (spring)
- 96. Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial
- 97. Grand Teton National Park
- 98. Bryce Canyon National Park
- 99. Voyageurs National Park
- 100. Lowell National Historical Park

#### 1998

- 101. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park & Preserve (spring)
- 102. Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (spring)
- 103. Cumberland Island National Seashore (spring)
- 104. Iwo Jima/Netherlands Carillon Memorials
- 105. National Monuments & Memorials, Washington, D.C.
- 106. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, AK
- 107. Whiskevtown National Recreation Area
- 108. Acadia National Park

- 109. Big Cypress National Preserve (winter)
- 110. San Juan National Historic Site, Puerto Rico (winter)
- 111. St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- 112. Rock Creek Park
- 113. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
- 114. Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve
- 115. Kenai Fjords National Park
- 116. Lassen Volcanic National Park
- 117. Cumberland Gap National Historical Park (fall)

## **Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)**

#### 2000

- 118. Haleakala National Park (spring)
- 119. White House Tour and White House Visitor Center (spring)
- 120. USS Arizona Memorial
- 121. Olympic National Park
- 122. Eisenhower National Historic Site
- 123. Badlands National Park
- 124. Mount Rainier National Park

### 2001

- 125. Biscayne National Park (spring)
- 126. Colonial National Historical Park (Jamestown)
- 127. Shenandoah National Park
- 128. Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore
- 129. Crater Lake National Park
- 130. Valley Forge National Historical Park

#### 2002

- 131. Everglades National Park
- 132. Dry Tortugas National Park
- 133. Pinnacles National Monument
- 134. Great Sand Dunes National Monument & Preserve
- 135. Pipestone National Monument
- 136. Outer Banks Group (Cape Hatteras National Seashore, Ft. Raleigh National Historic Site, and Wright Brothers National Memorial)
- 137. Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks and Sequoia National Forest
- 138. Catoctin Mountain Park
- 139. Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site
- 140. Stones River National Battlefield

### 2003

- 141. Gateway National Recreation Area: Floyd Bennett Field (spring)
- 142. Cowpens National Battlefield (spring)
- 143. Grand Canyon National Park North Rim
- 144. Grand Canyon National Park South Rim
- 145. C&O Canal National Historical Park
- 146. Capulin Volcano National Monument
- 147. Oregon Caves National Monument
- 148. Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site

### 2003 (continued)

- 149. Fort Stanwix National Monument
- 150. Arches National Park
- 151. Mojave National Preserve (fall)

#### 2004

- 152. Joshua Tree National Park (spring)
- 153. New River Gorge National River
- 154. George Washington Birthplace National Monument
- 155. Craters of the Moon National Monument & Preserve
- 156. Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park
- 157. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore
- 158. Keweenaw National Historical Park
- 159. Effigy Mounds National Monument
- 160. Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site
- 161. Manzanar National Historic Site
- 162. John Day Fossil Beds National Monument

#### 2005

- 163. Congaree National Park
- 164. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
- 165. Lincoln Home National Historic Site
- 166. Chickasaw National Recreation Area
- 167. Timpanogos Cave National Monument
- 168. Yosemite National Park
- 169. Fort Sumter National Monument
- 170. Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
- 171. Cuyahoga Valley National Park
- 172. Johnstown Flood National Memorial
- 173. Nicodemus National Historic Site

- 174. Kings Mountain National Military Park (spring)
- 175. John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site
- 176. Devils Postpile National Monument
- 177. Mammoth Cave National Park
- 178. Yellowstone National Park
- 179. Monocacy National Battlefield
- 180. Denali National Park & Preserve
- 181. Golden Spike National Historic Site
- 182. Katmai National Park and Preserve
- 183. Zion National Park (spring and fall)

## **Visitor Services Project Publications (continued)**

## 2007

184.1. Big Cypress National Preserve (spring)184.2. Big Cypress National Preserve (ORV Permit Holder/Camp Owner) (spring)

For more information about the Visitor Services Project, please contact the University of Idaho Park Studies Unit, website: www.psu.uidaho.edu or phone (208) 885-7863.

# **Visitor Comments Appendix**

This section contains complete visitor comments of all open-ended questions and is bound separately from this report due to its size.

**NPS D-175** 

December 2007



Printed on recycled paper