

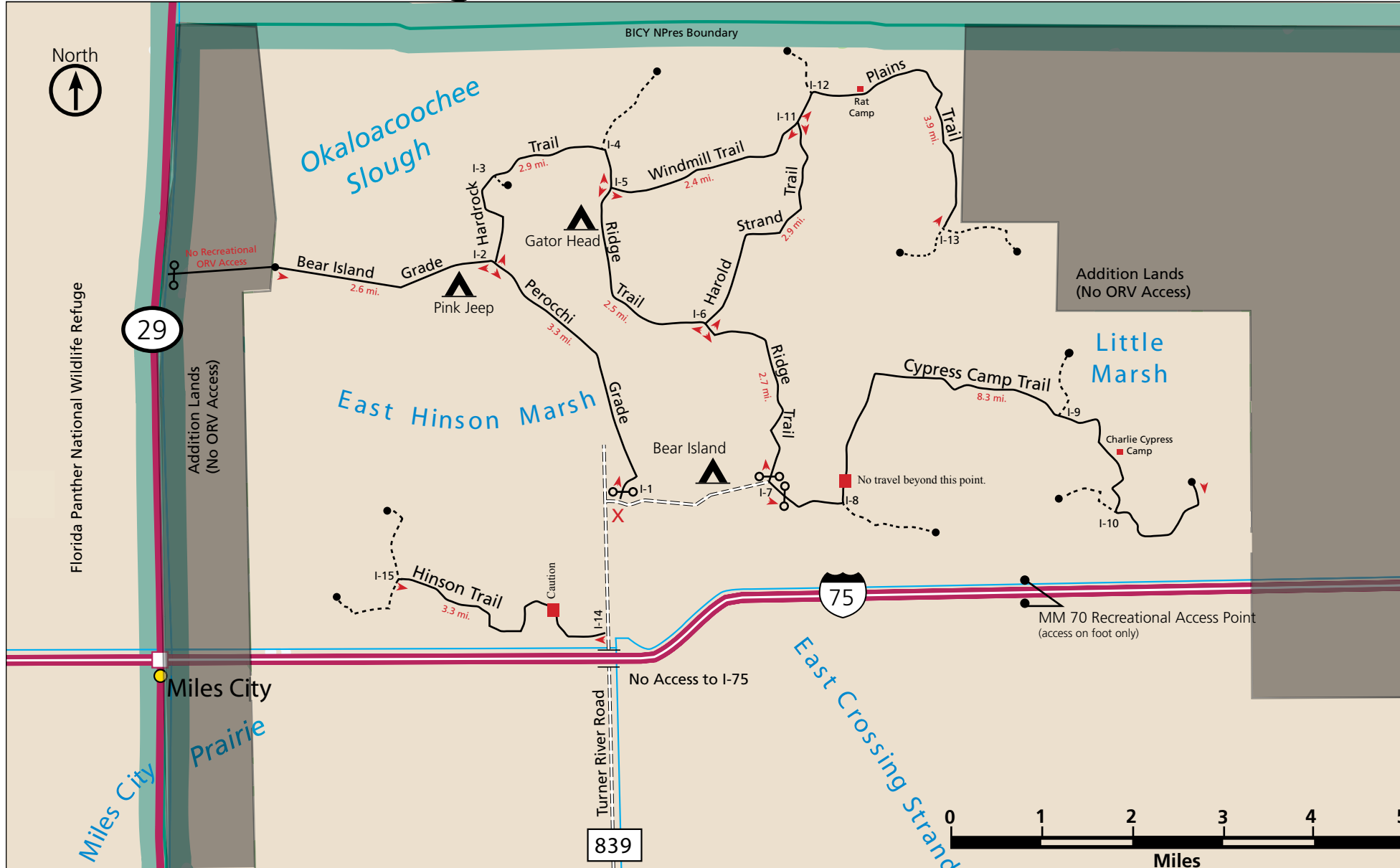
Big Cypress

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Big Cypress
National Preserve

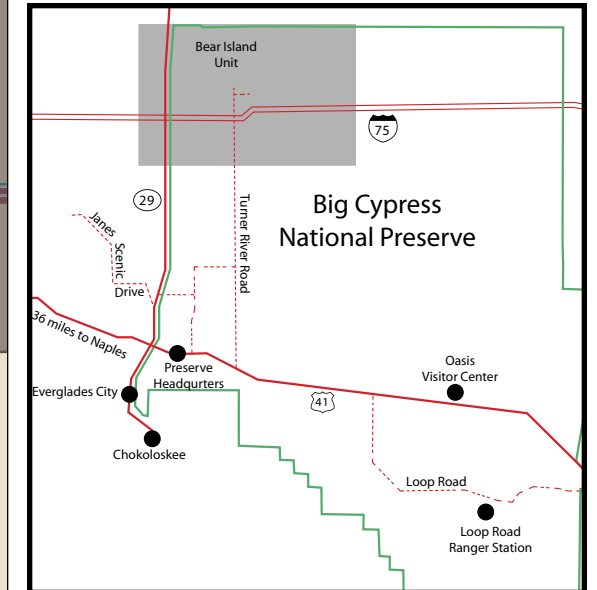
Bear Island Unit Designated ORV Trails



STAY ON DESIGNATED TRAILS ONLY. THE FUTURE OF THIS TRAIL SYSTEM DEPENDS ON YOU.

- Designated Primary Trail
Primary Travel Routes 35 miles
- - - Designated Secondary Trail
Short Trails to Specific Destinations 9 miles
- Trail End - No ORVs Beyond this Point
- I-9 Marked Intersection
- ▲ Campground
- Gate
- 4.3 mi. ➤ Approximate Mileages
- Point of Interest
- X Hunter Check Station
All Hunters Must Check In and Out

Map Detail



The freshwaters of the Big Cypress Swamp, essential to the health of the neighboring Everglades, support the rich marine estuaries along Florida's southwest coast. Protecting over 720,000 acres of this vast swamp, Big Cypress National Preserve contains a mixture of tropical and temperate plant communities that are home to a diversity of wildlife, including the elusive Florida Panther.

Remote areas of the Preserve are challenging to reach by foot, generations have explored these areas by homemade airboats or swamp buggies. Today, people continue to enjoy this traditional recreational activity.

The following off-road vehicles (ORVs) are allowed on the trails in the Bear Island Unit: ATVs, swamp buggies and street legal 4x4 vehicles.

ORV use within Bear Island is allowed on designated trails only. These trails are marked with Carsonite posts that have green and/or red tape on them. There are several marked intersections; refer to map. All other trails within the unit are closed to ORV use. Bicycles are allowed only on open ORV trails. Hiking is allowed anywhere within the unit.

ORV Rules

ORV use is prohibited between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

ORV speed limit is 15 mph.

Ensure that your vehicle meets the applicable requirements.

ORV permit sticker is required.

ORV inspection sticker is required.

An ORV operator's permit (with photo), a valid driver's license, or learner's permit, is required of all persons operating an ORV. If the operator has a learner's permit, s/he must be accompanied by or within 100 feet of a licensed/permitted adult 18 years or older.

Riding double on ATVs is prohibited, unless the vehicle was manufactured for such purposes.

Riding in, or on, any trailer being towed by an ORV is prohibited.

Consumption of alcohol or possession of an open container of alcohol in or on a motor vehicle, including off-road vehicles, is prohibited.

Tread Lightly

Various trails within the unit may be difficult for some vehicles to traverse. Know the limitations of your vehicle and your off-roading skills. Stay on designated trails at all times.

Respect the rights of others including private property owners, all recreational trail users, campers and others. Allow them to enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

Do your part by leaving the area better than you found it by properly disposing of waste, minimizing the use of fire and avoiding the spread of invasive species.

Things to Remember

A backcountry permit is required for all modes of backcountry travel. Permits may be obtained at access points or at the Hunter Check Station.

Bicycle riding within the Bear Island Unit, and other areas of the Preserve, is allowed along designated ORV trail routes only.

Camping is allowed only in designated campgrounds within the Bear Island Unit. These include Bear Island Campground (40 sites), Pink Jeep Campground (9 sites) and Gator Head Campground (9 sites).

Fires are permitted only in campgrounds and must be completely extinguished prior to the user leaving the campsite.

Fires may be banned during high fire danger. Check bulletin boards for postings regarding special regulations.

Dogs are allowed on leash (6 foot maximum) only in Bear Island Campground. Within the backcountry the possession of dogs (other than bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers for hunting purposes during appropriate seasons) is prohibited.

Please know and follow all Big Cypress National Preserve and Florida State hunting rules and regulations.

Within the Bear Island Unit, individuals occupying a site may bring camping and hunting equipment onto the Preserve after 8 a.m. one day prior to the opening of Archery/Muzzle loading Season, General Gun Season, and Spring Turkey Season. All equipment must be removed from area before 6 p.m. one day after each season ends.

As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws, to legally possess firearms in the preserve. It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering this preserve. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are marked with signs at entrances.

Hunting within campgrounds is not allowed.

Emergency Numbers

National Park Service Emergency Dispatch
1-800-788-0511
#NPS on cell phones

For more information on

Big Cypress National Preserve, visit
www.nps.gov/bicy

Hunting in Florida, visit
www.myfwc.com/hunting

Responsible ORV recreation, visit
www.treadlightly.org

