



Preserve Needs

Partnerships and donations are important to the National Park Service. Volunteer assistance, donated funds and other support that citizens make allow us to complete many vital operations that may be difficult to achieve with appropriated dollars alone. If you are interested in assisting with Big Cypress National Preserve needs you may contact The South Florida National Parks Trust at 1390 South Dixie Highway #2203, Coral Gables, FL 33146, Telephone – 305-665-4769, Email: info@southfloridaparks.org

Monitor Florida Panthers

The Preserve is home to 20 Federally and State listed endangered and threatened species. The need exists to hire term staff to aid in the monitoring the health of these populations within the area. The funding will be used to hire student term employees to conduct the monitoring, providing the students with important career experience. Additionally, funding is needed for equipment costs related to field work, primarily flight time.

ESTIMATED NEED — \$45,000 salary for student employees
\$25k - 100,000 to aid in covering flight time



Provide Outreach to Local Communities

The Preserve is a remote rural area surrounded by large urban areas. The need exists to increase the knowledge of local residents to management challenges, recreational opportunities and direct quality of life benefits related to the protection of this unique area. Funds for this need will be used to hire a term employee that will coordinate and conduct activities within neighboring communities to foster an appreciation and understanding, for this protected area, within the residents.

ESTIMATED NEED — \$45,000 salary for term employee (1 year)

Welcome Center Exhibits

This project will fabricate and install the exhibits related to the new welcome center. The exhibit design (\$50,000) will be completed using NPS funds. The South Florida National Parks Trust has committed \$25,000 towards this project. Additionally, the NPS hopes to match 50% of the fabrication cost.

ESTIMATED NEED — \$500,000





Study the Endangered Big Cypress Fox Squirrel

Big Cypress fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger avicennia*) are disappearing in south Florida due to rapidly encroaching development. In the core of their range, which includes Big Cypress National Preserve, their status is unknown. Once a game species, they are now listed as threatened in the State of Florida. The ecology of this species in natural habitats is poorly known. Since May of 2007, we live-trapped, radio-collared, and monitored 13 fox squirrels within the Preserve. This study will aid in determining their home range sizes, habitat characteristics and use during hydrologic fluctuations, and their use of nests and food items.

ESTIMATED NEED — \$5,000 for additional telemetry equipment and other program needs.

Continued Operation of Resource Lab

On May 5, 2007 the Preserve opened its doors to a new Resource Management Laboratory. The new lab was designed to provide a clean and protected area for Resource Management staff and visiting researchers to complete their research and monitoring projects. This request is for equipment and materials to continue the vital operation of the new laboratory.

ESTIMATED NEED — \$18,000 for specialized laboratory equipment and materials.



Volunteer Program

This project will allow the NPS to purchase supplies and materials related to the Volunteer Program at Big Cypress National Preserve. Additionally, the funds will be used to support training and recognition needs of the program, including the annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet.

ESTIMATED NEED — \$6,000

Volunteer Housing

Annually the Preserve works with over 50 volunteers that provide a variety of visitor services. This need will cover the cost of housing for the volunteers while in the preserve.

ESTIMATED NEED — \$36,000 30 VIP housing units @ \$200/mo for 6 months.



Monroe Station Landscaping

Currently the Preserve is working, through a grant from the FL Dept. of Transportation, to stabilize and restore the historic Monroe Station. The need exists to complete and implement a landscape plan that will provide an attractive, suitable setting for this piece of Florida history.

ESTIMATED NEED — \$250,000



Hybrid Technology

The National Park Service is a leader in preserving our Nation's resources, and when possible should demonstrate conservation measures. This need is for the lease, purchase or donation of hybrid vehicles to be used by the Preserve's Education and Outreach Branch. Staff in this branch often travel to special events where such hybrid vehicles will be highly visible. The branch would require 3 vehicles.

ESTIMATED NEED — \$15,000 3 vehicles @ \$800/mo for 6 months



Implement a Volunteer "Trail Ranger" Program

This is a program that has been proven very successful in other public lands around the country that allow for the operation of ORVs. The program will recruit and train a number of volunteers that will ride the ORV trails providing public information for the trail users, educate users on proper trail riding operation and monitor effects of trail related issues.

ESTIMATED NEED — \$10,000

