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To damon_doumlele@nps.gov

cc

Subject From NPS.gov: ORV access

Email submitted from: lostdogusmc@msn.com at /bicy/parkmgmt/orv-advisory-committee.htm

From: Randy Whidden

My great grandfather hunted in the Big Cypress in the twenties and thirties. He was able to walk and carry game for great distances. He had one of the first buggies and set up camp where he could. I have grown up going to the Big Cypress and have walked a many of mile hunting. Unfortunately, I can no longer walk such great distances. I was injured in Iraq in 2003. I still get around pretty good, I just can't really walk that far. I have a 40% disability with the VA and I have to watch what I do. I had back surgery last November and was able to hunt in late December. I had to stay on my ATV and only set up a chair while hunting. Has there been a discussion of Americans with disabilities and how it would apply to road closures? Some of us can't walk to our favorite places or places we have always driven to. Making highways of primary roads and closing all others will force many disabled hunters to stay on main roads where you have concentrated ORV traffic. My cousin Dennis lost part of his leg while on duty as a deputy sheriff, he has been able to enjoy hunting in the Big Cypress because of the many trails he can ride and stop to set up a chair and hunt. These are the secondary roads. They provide public enjoyment of the park and also allow those of us with disabilities to hunt and generally enjoy the park. Every road you close is one more place Dennis will never visit.