



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Big Cypress National Preserve
33100 Tamiami Trail E
Ochopee, Florida 34141-1000

In reply refer to:

April 12, 2012

Memorandum

To: Off-Road Vehicle Advisory Committee Members (ORVAC)

From: Pedro Ramos, Superintendent

Re: NPS response to ORVAC memo "Recommendation for Managing Trail Pull-Offs, Including Dispersed Camping" dated October 26, 2010

We have reviewed the committee's memo related to trail pull-offs and dispersed camping. Currently we are managing this issue by allowing ORVs to park on the edge of the trail in such a manner that does not block travel by others. People are allowed to set up a camp, or take part in other recreational opportunities, near their vehicle or may choose to hike a distance from their vehicle to recreate in a site that they feel appropriate.

In the committee's memo it is recommended that the NPS consider allowing, in upland areas with stable soils only, pull-offs up to 100 meters on either side of the trail (width depending on presence of upland topography), for vehicle access and parking for purposes such as dispersed camping, hunting, establishment of tree stands, game retrieval, and photography.

Upon review and discussion the NPS feels that allowing such ORV vehicle travel would be difficult to enforce, and would create "use areas". Such use areas are not allowed within the ORV plan. The network of primary and secondary trails provides opportunities for people to participate in recreational activities, such as those the committee identifies above, next to or within a reasonable distance from the trail system.

At this time the NPS will continue to manage the issue by allowing people to pull off on the edge of the trail in such a manner that does not block travel by others.