

Deep Fire

Wednesday, April 29, 2009 10:00 am

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Big Cypress National Preserve
33100 Tamiami Trail East
Ocohopee, FL 34141



Firefighters conducted a small burnout on the northwest section of the fire late yesterday evening. This burnout went well and is being monitored today. The fire is in good shape with few areas of major concern, based on predicted weather. However firefighters must continue to make the perimeter secure and work toward control of this fire. Today's activities will concentrate on the northern section of the fire with a burnout starting mid morning to secure that section of the fire.

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Today

Fire Size: 27,000
Containment: 60%

Weather forecast calls for generally easterly winds with predicted high temperature around 90 degrees. Crews will continue work today to secure all fire lines, mop up the interior and watch for spot fires. A burnout will be conducted on the north end of the fire to secure line south of Bear Island Grade. I-75 was opened this morning at 8:00 am and should remain open unless unexpected smoke conditions require additional short term closures. SH 29 opened this morning from US 41 to I-75 with warning signs and a reduced speed limit. SH 29 will remain closed north of I-75 to Oil Well Road.

The Role of Fire & Management



Fire is a natural and necessary component of the habitats of the Big Cypress region. Pinelands and freshwater prairies require periodic fires to control the spread of shrubs and trees. Occasional burns help provide open habitat for the proliferation of herbaceous plants and the wildlife that depend on them. Big Cypress National Preserve serves as important habitat for a variety of wildlife. These floral and faunal species have evolved in coexistence with wildlife in the ecosystem.

The fire management team of Big Cypress National Preserve actively utilizes fire to maintain the integrity of several local ecosystems, reduce fuel loads in susceptible areas, and create buffers to hamper wildfires.

Area and Road Closures

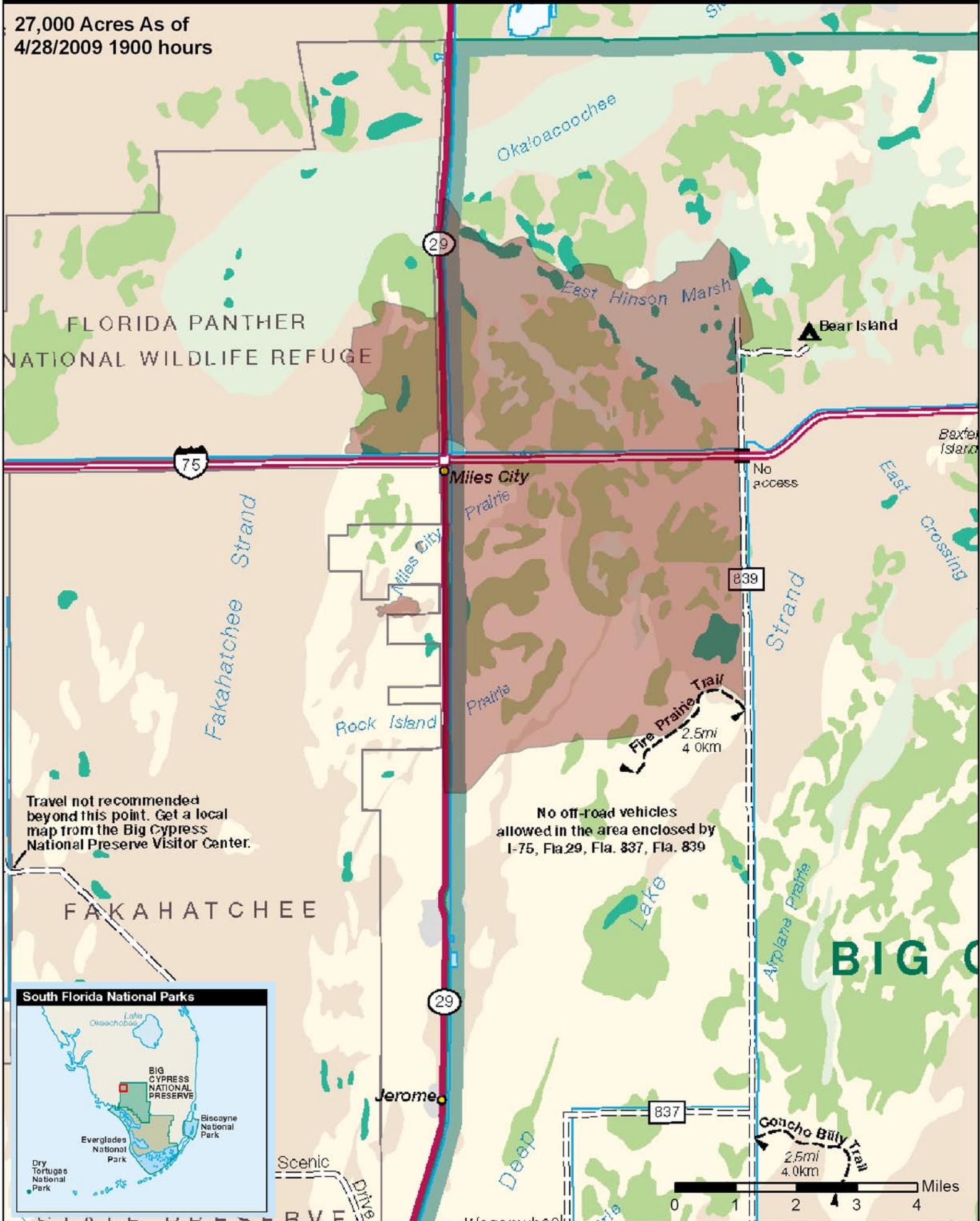
In the interest of safety, Big Cypress National Preserve has enacted some recreational access closures. These are necessary to ensure the safety of visitors and fire personnel. All areas in the Bear Island Unit, and all areas north of Fire Prairie Trail, including the trail itself, in the Deep Lake Unit are closed. I-75 and SH 29 **south** of I-75 to US 41 opened this morning at 8:00 AM with a reduced speed limit. I-75 will **remain open** unless smoke conditions force closure again, however all motorists are encouraged to exercise caution when driving through these areas. **SH 29 will remain closed north of I-75 to Oil Well Road.**



Deep Fire 04/29/2009



27,000 Acres As of
4/28/2009 1900 hours



FLORIDA PANTHER
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



Travel not recommended
beyond this point. Get a local
map from the Big Cypress
National Preserve Visitor Center.

No off-road vehicles
allowed in the area enclosed by
I-75, Fla. 29, Fla. 837, Fla. 839

