

June 16, 2010



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Cypress National
Preserve

33100 Tamiami Trail East
Ochopee, FL 34141

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Big Cypress Press Release

June ORV Advisory Committee Meeting

The Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Advisory Committee (ORVAC) will meet at the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center, 33000 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, FL 34141 from 3:30 to 8:00 p.m., on Tuesday, June 22.

For more details about the ORVAC, meeting agendas and minutes, or to submit agenda items visit - <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/parkmgmt/orv-advisory-committee.htm>. Comments and requests may also be submitted in writing to - Superintendent, Big Cypress National Preserve, 33100 Tamiami Trail East, Ochopee, FL 34141, Attn: ORV Advisory Committee.

Superintendent Pedro Ramos also announced the appointment of Mr. Brad Cornell and Mr. Jorge Gutierrez to the advisory committee.

"I am also pleased to announce that Mr. Cornell and Mr. Gutierrez have been appointed by Secretary Salazar to join the committee." stated Ramos, "They will work closely with the current members to assist Big Cypress National Preserve with the implementation of the ORV Management Plan in the Original Preserve."

Mr. Cornell is currently employed by Audubon of Florida/ Collier County Audubon as Policy Associate and for many years has shown tremendous interest in the Preserve and the NPS mission. Mr. Cornell is known as an advocate for effective natural resource protection and restoration policies for the four-county Southwest Florida region.

Mr. Gutierrez joined the firm Gonzalez and Garcia and in 2009 opened the firm's new Miami office. In addition to practicing law, Mr. Gutierrez is passionate about the outdoors and is known to be an avid sportsman and conservationist with interests in wildlife management and access issues pertaining to public lands. He recently testified before Congress on these matters. Mr. Gutierrez has assisted the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission with technical assistance and comes to us well recommended by FWC Chairman Barreto and Director Wiley.

The ORV Advisory Committee was established pursuant to the Preserve's 2000 Recreational Off-road Vehicle Management Plan and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 to examine issues and make recommendations regarding the management of ORVs within the Preserve.

The establishment of the Committee fulfills the National Park Service's policy of civic engagement. It is envisioned that the committee will strengthen the relationship that the NPS has with its partners and communities. The Committee will be comprised of individuals that represent (1) Sportsmen / ORV users; (2) landowners; (3) academia; (4) environmental advocates; (5) the State government, and (6) Tribal Governments.

Bob DeGross
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Chief of Interpretation and Public Affairs

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