



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Cypress National Preserve
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Big Cypress National Preserve News Release

Release Date: Immediate

Contact: Big Cypress Duty Officer 561-923-5228

Big Cypress National Preserve Issues Temporary Area Closure for Mullet Prescribed Fire

OCHOPEE, FL — Big Cypress National Preserve has issued a temporary trail closure to promote visitor safety during prescribed fire activity, beginning Monday, June 9, 2025. Closure includes all portions of the Florida Trail (see below), areas and trails within the treatment perimeter, trails on the perimeter of the unit will remain open for use. During the closure all recreational use including off-road vehicles, hiking, camping, hunting and commercial activities are prohibited in the designated areas.

Prescribed fire is a carefully planned fire that uses fire science and specific environmental conditions to meet management goals for the preserve. A prescribed fire is one of Big Cypress's best tools to help create a mosaic of diverse habitats, manage for our endangered species, and reduce the threat of a destructive wildfire.

Please refer to the provided map and area description below, temporary closures include the following areas:

- **All areas WITHIN the treatment unit**
- **Florida Trail from I75 south to Raccoon Point CDU (Florida Trail is not restricted between Oasis and Raccoon Point CDU) * see map**
- **ADD 1 (between ADD 2 and Mullet Slough Connector) *see map**
- **ADD 2**
- **Boothill West (north of TRU 43) *see map**
- **Little Deer (north of TRU 36) *see map**
- **N Little Deer**
- **TRU 27**
- **TRU 28**
- **TRU 29**
- **TRU 31**
- **TRU 60**

- **TRU 83**
- **TRU 83S**
- **TRU 75**
- **TRU 77**
- **TRU 7**
- **Stump Camp Trail**

The following adjacent areas will remain open:

- Private lands in the designated area; residents should use caution and notify the Fire Duty Officer of entry by calling 561-923-5228.

Fire personnel anticipate 3-5 days of ignition operations and typically determine an area safe for reentry 2-4 days after ignitions are completed. Big Cypress Fire and Aviation will make a determination after ignitions are complete on when to lift the closure. The public will be advised of the implementation and subsequent termination of this closure by web alert, and by the posting of signs in the appropriate areas. If a longer closure is required, due to additional fire activity, an additional press release will be issued immediately.

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