



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Big Cypress
National Preserve

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Big Cypress National Preserve News Release

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For Immediate Release
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Big Cypress National Preserve Off-Road Vehicle Permits for 2003

Superintendent John Donahue announced today that off-road vehicle permits for the period January 1, 2003 through January 31, 2004 will be available beginning December 15. There will be no need to hold a special drawing for permits this year as the Preserve has not neared the 2,000 permit limit for off-road vehicle permits as defined in the Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan of 2000. The plan calls for a random drawing to be held in order to distribute the limited number of permits if it appears that demand will exceed supply. As of the time of this release, Big Cypress National Preserve staff reports under 1,750 permits have been sold for the 2002 season, therefore drawing entry forms will not be used this year.

Permit holders who have their off-road vehicle operator's licenses and have had their vehicles inspected may apply by mail for the 2003 permit. Other interested recreationists should plan to take the operator's course, have their vehicles inspected and buy a permit early in the year in order to ensure that permits are available. Permits will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Off-road vehicle permits, inspections and courses are available Friday through Monday from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. For further information contact the Big Cypress National Preserve Visitor Center at 239-695-1201.

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