

Chapter 4: Consultation and Coordination

SCOPING AND AGENCY CONSULTATION

Scoping is an early and open process to determine the breadth of environmental issues and alternatives to be addressed in an environmental assessment. Everglades National Park conducted both internal scoping with appropriate NPS staff and external scoping with the public and interested and affected groups and agencies.

INTERNAL AND PUBLIC SCOPING

Scoping was announced to the public in a February 13, 2002 press release, by email invitations, by mailing scoping brochures sent to individuals and organizations on a mailing list maintained by Everglades National Park Public Affairs office, and by a posting on the park's fire management website. The purpose of the scoping was to solicit input regarding fire management actions and identify issues of concerns to participants.

Two internal scoping meetings were held for park and concession employees and five public and agency scoping sessions were held throughout South Florida from January through March 2002. A total of 64 people attended the scoping meetings. Written comments were received from one individual who did not attend any of the meetings. Scoping comments included:

- Concerns about smoke from prescribed and wildfire and the potential to adversely affect human health inside and beyond park boundaries;
- The need to control invasive and other exotic plants in the park;
- The need to protect hammocks, the species associated with hammocks, and cultural resources during fire management activities;
- Connections between fire management planning, the new general management plan, and the East Everglades planning process;
- The need for fire management to mimic natural fire regimes;
- The potential for fire management to harm wildlife if simultaneous prescribed fires were too widespread;
- The need for adequate research and monitoring to determine whether fire management was meeting resource management objectives, and the need to better integrate research and operations;
- The appropriate frequency of fires;
- Effects of fire management on *Zamia pumila* (commonly known as coontie, Seminole bread, or Florida arrowroot), particularly because of Native American fire management practices that encouraged this dietary staple; and
- The use of fire management to reestablish and maintain natural conditions in the East Everglades area.

All concerns identified in public scoping were addressed in this environmental assessment.

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED

The agencies, organizations, and experts who were consulted in the process of preparing the new Fire Management Plan and this environmental assessment are listed below. Where specific

information from one of these sources was cited, complete source information was provided in the “Bibliography” section.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
 USFWS Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Fire Management Officer
 USFWS Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Fire Management Officer
 National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office
 U.S. National Park Service (USNPS) Southeast Region Fire Management Office
 USNPS Southeast Archaeological Center
 USNPS Big Cypress National Preserve
 USNPS Biscayne National Park
 USNPS South Florida Natural Resources Center, Everglades National Park
 The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
 U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Forests in Florida, Fire Staff Officer
 Florida State Historic Preservation Officer
 Florida Forest Service
 Florida State Parks
 South Florida Water Management District
 Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management
 Miami-Dade County Parks and Recreation
 South Florida Fire Management Council
 Florida Interagency Coordination Center
 Florida Interagency Fire Cooperators
 Pine Rocklands Working Group
 Imperiled Butterfly Working Group
 Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Working Group
 Boy Scouts of America
 Dr. Bill Platt, Louisiana State University

State Historic Preservation Office. The undertakings described in this document are subject to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Consultations with the Florida State Historic Preservation Office have been ongoing since inception of the project. This environmental assessment will be sent to the Florida State Historic Preservation Office for review and comment as part of the on-going Section 106 compliance for the Fire Management Plan.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. The USFWS and the NMFS were contacted at the onset of the planning process. Consultation with USFWS on the effects of prescribed burns on threatened and endangered species has continued annually. This environmental assessment will be sent to the USFWS and NMFS for review and comment as part of the on-going Section 7 compliance for the FMP.

AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION

A number of tribes traditionally, and currently, value the Everglades for hunting, gathering, ceremonial, and other practices. Traditionally associated tribes include the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, and the Independent Traditional Seminole Nation of Florida. During scoping in 2002, park staff met with representatives from the Miccosukee Tribe and the Seminole Tribe regarding the FMP. In July 2004 the National Park Service sent letters inviting the tribes to participate in government-to-government consultations but did not receive any responses. When the environmental assessment is released to the public, the National Park Service will send letters to the tribes, formally asking for their review and comment.

LIST OF PREPARERS

People identified in Table 12 were primarily responsible for preparing this environmental assessment.

Table 12: Preparers

National Park Service, Everglades National Park	
Dan Kimball	Former Superintendent
Carol L. Mitchell	Deputy Director for Science, South Florida Natural Resources Center
Rick Anderson	Fire Management Officer
Mayavati Tupaj	Fire Ecologist
Jennifer Adams	Prescribed Fire Specialist
Tylan Dean	Biological Resources Branch Chief
Jimi Sadle	Botanist
Melissa Memory	Former Chief of Cultural Resources
Brien Culhane	Chief, Planning and Compliance
Abby Porter Sadle	Environmental Protection Specialist
Chuck Lawson	Acting Chief of Cultural Resources
Ben West	Chief of Planning, Southeast Regional Office (SERO)
Mark Kinzer	Environmental Protection Specialist, SERO
Liz Struhar	Southeast Region Fire Planner
Jeff Manley	Former NPS National Fire Planning Specialist
Parsons	
Colleen Conklin	Project Manager
Timberley Belish	Project Manager
Drew Getty	Environmental Planner
John Hoesterey	Technical Director
Alexa Miles	Environmental Scientist
Jill Noel	Environmental Scientist
Jan Snyder	Environmental Scientist
Seth Wilcher	Environmental Scientist
Don Kellett	Environmental Scientist

RECIPIENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The following officials, agencies, American Indian tribes, and organizations received a copy of this environmental assessment or a letter announcing its availability and its location on the Internet. Individuals who received a copy or announcement are not listed.

Elected Officials

U.S. Senator Bill Nelson
U.S. Senator Marco Rubio
Congressman Joe Garcia
Congressman Mario Diaz-Ballart
State Senator Dwight Bullard
State Senator Garrett Richter
State Representative Holly Merrill Raschein
State Representative Carlos Trujillo
State Representative Kathleen Passidomo
Miami-Dade County Commissioner Dennis C. Moss
Miami-Dade County Commissioner Juan Zapata
Miami-Dade County Commissioner Lynda Bell
Miami-Dade County Commissioner Jose “Pepe” Diaz
Monroe County Commission Mayor Sylvia Murphy
Monroe County Commissioner David Rice
Collier County Commissioner Donna Fiala
Jeff Porter, Mayor of Homestead
Otis T. Wallace, Mayor of Florida City
Sammy Hamilton Jr., Mayor of Everglades City

Federal Agencies

National Park Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

Traditionally Associated Indian Tribes

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
William McKinley Osceola Camp

State Agencies

Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida State Historic Preservation Office
Florida Forest Service
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida Department of Transportation
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
South Florida Water Management District

Local Agencies

Miami-Dade County Dept. of Regulatory and Economic Resources;
Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces
Monroe County Administrator
Collier County Manager

Organizations

North American Butterfly Association
Imperiled Butterfly Working Group
Pine Rockland Working Group
Prescribed Fire Council
The Nature Conservancy
National Parks Conservation Association
The Everglades Coalition
Florida Native Plant Society
Institute for Regional Conservation
Fairchild Tropical Garden
Florida Power & Light Company
Coopertown Airboats, Inc.
Gator Park Airboat Tours
Everglades Safari Park
Airboat USA, Inc.
Airboat Association of Florida
Lincoln Financial Media
Salem Communications
Boy Scouts of America