

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Big Cypress National Preserve

Nobles Grade 3-D Seismic Survey
Public Meeting - December 8, 2015



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Project Proposal



- Burnett Oil Co. submitted a Plan of Operations to the NPS in accordance with 36 CFR Subpart 9B to conduct a seismic survey of 110 sq. mi. of the Preserve
- NPS released the plan for public comment on June 17, 2015
- Purpose of survey is to determine location of any oil and gas deposits in privately owned mineral estate
- Proposal is to use Vibroseis vehicles in lieu of traditionally used explosive charges
- As part of the Plan evaluation process, the NPS must analyze the environmental impacts in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Based on analysis of environmental impacts, the NPS may approve, request modification to, or reject the Plan

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



Requires federal agencies to fully consider the impacts of proposals that would affect the human environment prior to deciding to take an action. NEPA also requires federal agencies to involve the interested and affected public in decision-making processes (NPS NEPA Handbook 1.2)

Environmental Assessment (EA)

A concise public document, prepared in compliance with NEPA, that briefly provides sufficient evidence and analysis of impacts to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (40 CFR 1508.9)

Purpose of the Action

To allow Burnett Oil Company (BOCI) to conduct a geophysical exploration that would provide sufficiently detailed information on whether and where oil and gas deposits possibly exist within the privately owned mineral estate beneath the surface of the Preserve

Need for the Action

To determine whether and where potentially producing geological structures might be located so that the owners of those oil and gas interests may have reasonable use and enjoyment of them



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Impact Topics

- Vegetation
- Habitat
- Soils
- Wetlands
- Protected Plants
- Protected Wildlife
- Major Game Species
- Other Wildlife
- Water Quality
- Hydrology
- Subsurface Geological Resources
- Air Quality
- Cultural/Archeological Resources
- Noise/Soundscapes
- Visitor Use and Perceptions
- Wilderness



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Alternatives



Alternative 1 (No Action): No survey by BOCI

Alternative 2 (Proposed Action): Seismic survey using Vibroseis buggies

Alternative 3 Seismic survey using explosive charges



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NEPA Process



We are
here



Prepare
Draft EA



Publication
of EA



30-Day
Public
Review of
EA



Analysis of
Public
Comments



Decision
Document

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Substantive Comments (NPS NEPA Handbook 4.6)



- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of the information in the EA;
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental analysis;
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EA; or
- Cause changes or revisions in the proposal.

Soliciting Your Comments



In Person: Attendees can leave a comment form at the sign-in table

Online:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=352&projectID=53498&documentID=69396>

Mail: Superintendent
Big Cypress National Preserve
33100 Tamiami Trail East
Ochopee, Florida 34141-1000

Deadline: December 20, 2015

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