

ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES (ALTERNATIVES 2, 3, 4)

- **Develop a mandatory education program/permit system** to promote shared stewardship for marine resources, including shallow bottomlands, seagrasses, and wildlife. Operators of motorboats and paddled boats would complete a mandatory education program to obtain a permit to operate vessels in the park.
  - **Manage boat transit within Florida Bay** based on a new system of marked channels and identified routes.
  - **Enhance backcountry wilderness opportunities** by providing additional backcountry camping platforms or “chickees” (Florida Bay and Gulf Coast).
  - **Develop an “alternative wilderness waterway”** for improved wilderness experiences (Gulf Coast).
  - **Work cooperatively with other agencies and partners** to improve access for motorized and nonmotorized watercraft.
  - **Establish improved/new launch sites** (main park road and 18-mile stretch).
  - **Improve canoe trail accessibility**, including opportunities for persons with disabilities.
  - **Increase law enforcement presence** to enhance visitor
- understanding of, and compliance with, marine management zones.

  - **Provide enhanced educational and recreational opportunities** in Florida Bay and Gulf Coast waters related to the park's natural and cultural history.
  - **Plan and construct the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Visitor Center** in Everglades City.
  - **Provide additional multi-agency visitor services**, including information and education services, in the Upper Keys and Gulf Coast gateways to the park.
  - **Develop and implement a formal adaptive management process** designed to (a) evaluate the success of management actions in achieving desired resource and visitor use conditions, and (b) modify management strategies as needed to improve success at achieving desired conditions.
  - **Establish an Everglades National Park Advisory Committee** comprised of diverse stakeholders to help park managers consider various perspectives on issues such as management of fisheries, access and visitor use, and protection of endangered species during adaptive implementation of the general management plan.

ALTERNATIVE 2 =				
ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES	+	ELEMENTS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES	+	ELEMENTS LISTED BELOW

ALTERNATIVE 2 CONCEPT

Alternative 2 would rely on a mandatory education and permit system to educate visitors about: park resources and how their behavior can help protect them, visitor and wildlife safety, navigation challenges, the spectrum of desired visitor experiences, and visitor/boating etiquette. This alternative relies primarily on well-educated park users to protect the park’s natural and cultural resources.

FLORIDA BAY AND THE KEYS

- Maintain existing idle speed-no wake zones.
- Manage Little Madeira Bay as a pole/troll zone, with fishing allowed.
- Manage Joe Bay and adjacent smaller water bodies as a backcountry zone (paddle only), with fishing allowed.

GULF COAST

- Continue to manage most marine areas of the Gulf Coast as they are now, including the existing wilderness waterway.
- Establish alternative wilderness waterway route.
  - Identify a new, alternative route between Everglades City/Chokoloskee and the Flamingo area that provides boaters the opportunity to have a truer wilderness experience. This new route would be available to both paddlers and motorboaters, and would be highlighted in the mandatory education program, in marine navigational charts and GPS systems, and in other products that highlight park recreational opportunities.





