

Program Name: Big Cypress National Preserve Long-term Maintenance and Control of Invasive Exotic Plants
Project Name: BICY Long-term Exotic Plant Maintenance and Control
Project ID: 2825
Lead Agency: Big Cypress National Preserve

Strategy and Biennial Report Objective Addressed: 2-B.4
Invasive Species Strategic Action Framework Goal: 4

Measurable Output(s): All major, exotic plant species' population levels within Big Cypress National Preserve are perpetually maintained and controlled. Measureable output will be acres of the Preserve that remain free from infestation of exotic plants, and no new species become established.

Project Synopsis: Big Cypress National Preserve will continue to treat known areas containing invasive exotic plants and, upon detection of new areas conduct treatments using guidance within the South Florida and Caribbean Parks Exotic Plant Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Terrestrial invasive exotic plant treatment is primarily focused on Australian pine (*Casuarina*), old world climbing fern (*Lygodium*), melaleuca (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*), and Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*).

Following achieving a management level of exotic plant control, and in order to prevent re-occurrence of exotic plant invasion into previously treated areas, the Preserve will conduct systematic reconnaissance to detect and eradicate exotic plant species throughout the Preserve, in accordance with the South Florida and Caribbean Parks Exotic Plant Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and newer guidance as it is developed.

Current Status: Efforts to control invasive plant species in the Preserve began 1984. Currently, Australian pine is at maintenance level; *Lygodium* is the Preserve's highest priority exotic; melaleuca is at or near maintenance level; and Brazilian pepper while being addressed in all existing exotic plant treatment contracts, is far from a maintenance level. About 20% of the Preserve acreage remains infested with invasive exotic plants. New threats from exotic plant invasion are eminent. Untreated areas outside the Preserve boundary provide a seed source for new infestations to become established. Two major highways bisect the Preserve, providing opportunity for exotic species to find their way into the Preserve, requiring constant, perpetual vigilance.

Project Schedule:

Start Date: 2014
 Finish Date: 2018

Detailed Project Budget Information

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Balance to Complete	Total
Federal	\$380,000	\$380,000	\$380,000	\$380,000	\$380,000		
DEP	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000		
Total							TBD

Contact: Ron Clark, Ron.Clark@nps.gov, 239-695-1106

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Pictures: **Map of Big Cypress National Preserve Current and Past Treatment Areas**

