

Project Name: Restoration of Native Communities in Brazilian Pepper Dominated Areas in Big Cypress

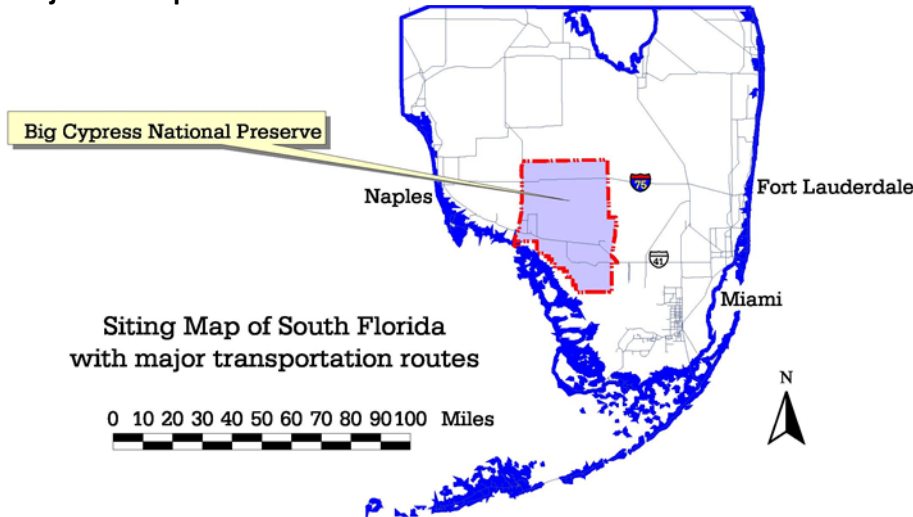
Contact Information:

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Project Location:

Big Cypress National Preserve, Collier County, Florida, Big Cypress Watershed

Project Description:



Habitat Description

The vegetation of the Preserve varies widely from mangrove tidal swamps on the coast to freshwater wetlands along the western edge of the Everglades, tropical hardwood hammocks and mesic flatwoods. The most dominant feature are the freshwater swamps and savannas dominated by pond cypress.

Prior to the establishment of Big Cypress National Preserve many areas of native habitat were physically altered for agricultural. These altered areas were later abandoned when Big Cypress National Preserve was established. These former agricultural areas (~700 acres) have become dominated by the non-native Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolius*).



1994 – Former agricultural sites with little or no shrub or tree growth.



2014 – Sites have transitioned into Brazilian pepper mono-cultures.

Restoration



Slash pine (*Pinus elliottii* var. *densa*) trees two years after planting;