

**§ 698m-3. Status of Big Cypress National Preserve and Addition; report to Congress; plan**

Not later than two years after April 29, 1988, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a detailed report on, and further plan for, the preserve and Addition including—

- (1) the status of the existing preserve, the effectiveness of past regulation and management of the preserve, and recommendations for future management of the preserve and the Addition;
- (2) a summary of the public's use of the preserve and the status of the access points developed pursuant to section 698m-2 of this title;
- (3) the need for involvement of other State and Federal agencies in the management and expansion of the preserve and Addition;
- (4) the status of land acquisition; and
- (5) a determination, made in conjunction with the State of Florida, of the adequacy of the number, location, and design of the recreational access points on I-75/Alligator Alley for access to the Big Cypress National Preserve, including the Addition.

The determination required by paragraph (5) shall incorporate the results of any related studies of the State of Florida Department of Transportation and other Florida State agencies. Any recommendation for significant changes in the approved recreational access points, including any proposed additions, shall be accompanied by an assessment of the environmental impact of such changes.

(Pub. L. 93-440, §11, as added Pub. L. 100-301, §6, Apr. 29, 1988, 102 Stat. 446.)

**§ 698m-4. Oil and gas exploration, development, and production in Big Cypress National Preserve and Addition**

**(a) Promulgation of rules and regulations**

Within nine months from April 29, 1988, the Secretary shall promulgate, subject to the requirements of subsections (b)–(e) of this section, such rules and regulations governing the exploration for and development and production of non-Federal interests in oil and gas located within the boundaries of the Big Cypress National Preserve and the Addition, including but not limited to access on, across, or through all lands within the boundaries of the Big Cypress National Preserve and the Addition for the purpose of conducting such exploration or development and production, as are necessary and appropriate to provide reasonable use and enjoyment of privately owned oil and gas interests, and consistent with the purposes for which the Big Cypress National Preserve and the Addition were established. Rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the authority of this section may be made by appropriate amendment to or in substitution of the rules and regulations respecting non-Federal oil and gas rights (currently codified at 36 CFR 9.30, et seq. (1986)).

**(b) Contents of rule or regulation; permit from National Park Service**

Any rule or regulation promulgated by the Secretary under subsection (a) of this section shall provide that—

(1) exploration or development and production activities may not be undertaken, except pursuant to a permit issued by the National Park Service authorizing such activities or access; and

(2) final action by the National Park Service with respect to any application for a permit authorizing such activities shall occur within 90 days from the date such an application is submitted unless—

(A) the National Park Service and the applicant agree that such final action shall occur within a shorter or longer period of time; or

(B) the National Park Service determines that an additional period of time is required to ensure that the National Park Service has, in reviewing the application, complied with other applicable law, Executive orders and regulations; or

(C) the National Park Service, within 30 days from the date of submission of such application, notifies the applicant that such application does not contain all information reasonably necessary to allow the National Park Service to consider such application and requests that such additional information be provided. After receipt of such notification to the applicant, the applicant shall supply any reasonably necessary additional information and shall advise the National Park Service that the applicant believes that the application contains all reasonably necessary information and is therefore complete, whereupon the National Park Service may—

(i) within 30 days of receipt of such notice from the applicant to the National Park Service determine that the application does not contain all reasonably necessary additional information and, on that basis, deny the application; or

(ii) review the application and take final action within 60 days from the date that the applicant provides notification to the National Park Service that its application is complete.

**(c) Activities to conform to requirements of National Park Service**

Such activities shall be permitted to occur if such activities conform to requirements established by the National Park Service under authority of law.

**(d) Consideration of practices used in similar habitats or ecosystems**

In establishing standards governing the conduct of exploration or development and production activities within the boundaries of the Big Cypress National Preserve or the Addition, the Secretary shall take into consideration oil and gas exploration and development and production practices used in similar habitats or ecosystems within the Big Cypress National Preserve or the Addition at the time of promulgation of the rules and regulations under subsection (a) or at the time of the submission of the application seeking authorization for such activities, as appropriate.