



For Immediate Release
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Donalds Relaunches Bipartisan Initiative To Save Big Cypress National Preserve Alongside Sunshine State Colleagues

WASHINGTON – Congressman Byron Donalds (R-FL) has relaunched a [bipartisan initiative](#) alongside Congressman Scott Franklin (R-FL) and twelve additional colleagues from the Sunshine State to ensure that Big Cypress National Preserve is not designated as "wilderness" or as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Federally-designated wilderness areas are defined as areas "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor and does not remain." Any wilderness designation of Big Cypress would not only restrict the free movement of the local Miccosukee and Seminole Tribes, but it would supercharge the spread of invasive species, destroy local small businesses, and restrict wildfire response capabilities.

Last Congress, Congressman Donalds (R-FL) led a [bipartisan letter](#) alongside Representatives Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Scott Franklin (R-FL) and fifteen additional colleagues from the Sunshine State demanding that the Biden administration not proceed with any proposed wilderness designation at Big Cypress National Preserve. This initiative was followed by a hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee, the introduction of concurrent legislation in both the [U.S. House of Representatives](#) and [U.S. Senate](#), the passage of an [additional bill](#) in the U.S. House of Representatives that was blocked from Senate consideration, and an [announcement](#) from the National Park Service that they would not proceed with a wilderness designation of the Preserve.

This Congress, "The Big Cypress National Preserve Protection Act" has been reintroduced in both the [U.S. House of Representatives](#) and [U.S. Senate](#). Congressman Donalds (R-FL) released following statement:

"Big Cypress National Preserve is an iconic fixture of our Southwest Florida community that must be protected from debilitating federal overreach," *said Congressman Donalds (R-FL)*. "I proudly stand with my constituents, local stakeholders, and environmental officials from across the Sunshine State in working to ensure that Big Cypress National Preserve is not designated as 'wilderness' or as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System. It is imperative that we block this disastrous and completely unnecessary potential action by out-of-touch bureaucrats in Washington and I look forward to the successful passage of this proposal in the 119th Congress."

More:

- Read Text of Donalds Big Cypress National Preserve Letter [HERE](#).
- Read Text of Current 119th Congress House Version of the Bill [HERE](#).
- Read Text of 118th Congress House Version of the Bill [HERE](#).
- Read Text of Current 119th Congress Senate Version of the Bill [HERE](#).
- Read Text of 118th Congress Senate Version of the Bill [HERE](#).

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