

Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park

Fak-Facts

- The largest unit in the Florida Park Service with an optimum boundary including 85,000 acres. About 79,000 acres have been acquired by the State of Florida, with ongoing land acquisition efforts.
- The Fakahatchee Strand is the "largest Strand Swamp in the world"-19miles long, 3 to 5 miles wide and about 3 to 4 feet deep ("Grand Canyon of the Everglades"). It is part of the Big Cypress Swamp physiographic region of the Western Everglades.
- One of only two Bald Cypress/Royal Palm Forests in the world.
(The other is Deep Lake Strand in the Big Cypress National Preserve)
- Largest population of native Royal Palms in the U.S. - (5,000 to 7,000 trees).
- Orchid capitol of the United States; historically 45 native species - (35 species observed by the biologist in 15 years).
- Bromeliad capitol of the United States with 14 native species.
- Fern capitol of Florida with 39 native species.
- Peperomia capitol of the United States with 5 native species.
Peperomias once existed in abundance in South Florida's forested areas, but now they are on Florida's list of endangered species.
- 26 vertebrate species are Endangered, Threatened or Species of Special Concern

6 species of Mammals:

3 Endangered-Florida panther, West Indian manatee, Florida 'bonneted' bat
3 Threatened- Florida Black bear, Everglades mink, Big Cypress fox squirrel

3 species of Reptile:

1 Endangered-American crocodile
1 Threatened -E. indigo snake
1 SSC-American alligator

17 species of birds:

2 Endangered- Wood Stork, Everglades Snail Kite
6 Threatened- American bald eagle, Peregrine falcon, Florida Sandhill crane,
White-crowned pigeon, Piping plover, American kestrel
9 SSC- Limpkin, Brown Pelican, Black skimmer, Roseate spoonbill, White ibis,
Tri-colored heron, Snowy egret, Little Blue heron, Reddish egret