

September 25, 2018

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary, Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I would appreciate any information you might be able to provide concerning existing seismic activities in the Big Cypress National Preserve. The Conservancy of Southwest Florida brought concerns regarding compliance with permits issued to conduct this work to my attention, and I am writing to verify that Minimization and Mitigation Measures are being followed.

Seismic testing has already caused damage to the Preserve and our Southwest Florida environment. As such, we are very concerned that these activities are carefully monitored and that all remediation and surface repair covenants are fully and expeditiously complied with.

The economic livelihood of 19 counties and 164 municipalities in South Florida is tied to the health of the Everglades ecosystem, which includes the Big Cypress National Preserve, and failure to protect the ecosystem could cost Southwest Florida billions of dollars.

I have the following specific questions regarding seismic activities in Big Cypress National Preserve:

- Have all required Minimization and Mitigation Measures been followed by those conducting seismic activities within Preserve boundaries, and if there are deficiencies, what can the National Park Service do to cure them expeditiously?
- Have any of the Minimization and Mitigation Measures been modified, and, if so, which ones and how?
- What type of transparency and public comment has been made available regarding seismic activities in the Preserve since the damage occurred?

Thank you for your consideration of this matter which is of great concern to the communities of Southwest Florida.

Sincerely,

Francis Rooney
Member of Congress