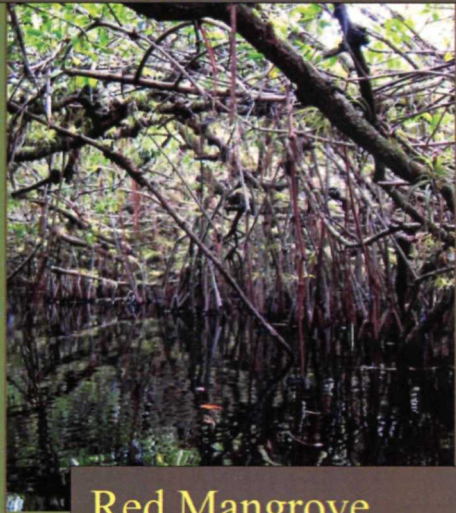




# Big Cypress National Preserve



Red Mangrove

# American Alligator

*(Alligator mississippiensis)*

Often called ecosystem engineers, alligators dig water holes known as “gator holes” in which freshwater fish and wading birds take refuge to survive the dry season. Highly nocturnal, alligators bask lazily in the sun during the day and retreat to the warm water at night. Alligators are often seen in open water such as canals and marshes in Big Cypress National Preserve.

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