

PHYSIOGRAPHIC MAP OF THE OKALOACOOCHEE SLOUGH IN COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

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PREPARED BY THE
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APRIL 1974
MILES

0 1 2 3 4 5
0 2 4 6 8
KILOMETRES



This map shows the physiographic boundaries of the Okaloacoochee Slough within the Big Cypress Area of Critical State Concern, Collier County, Florida. It also shows the major wetland extensions of the slough and the direction of flow from the slough into these areas. The map is based on aerial photographs (1:30,000) taken in December 1969, and on a helicopter-ground survey in April 1974. Marshes and swampy areas near the slough, but not directly connected as indicated on the aerial photography, are not included within the slough boundaries. The drainage area of the slough extends well beyond the physiographic boundaries shown on this map.

The Okaloacoochee Slough is an elongate depression of seasonally flooded land that extends from north of the Collier County boundary over 20 miles, (32.4 kilometres) south to the vicinity of Alligator Alley. Islands of higher land occur in the slough, and diking and other agricultural development are evident in places. The width of the slough varies from less than half to more than 4 miles (to more than 6.5 kilometres). At its southern extremity it stretches from the vicinity of State Road 29 to State Road 840A. Historically water flowed from the slough into the Fakahatchee and East Hinson Strands. Now most water is diverted by the Barron River and Turner River Canals. To the north a drainage divide occurs near the northernmost boundary of Collier County; north of this area water flows northward.

Vegetation in the slough is predominately marshy, with such plants as arrowhead (*Sagittaria lancifolia*), pickerelweed (*Pontederia lanceolata*), saw grass (*Cladium jamaicense*), cattail (*Typha* sp.), and other aquatic grasses, rushes, and sedges. Swamp trees and shrubs (shown as stipple on the map) such as cypress (*Taxodium* sp.), willow (*Salix caroliniana*), pond apple (*Annona glabra*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), and pop ash (*Fraxinus caroliniana*) also occur over smaller areas within the slough, particularly near its boundaries. On the higher islands within the slough cabbage palms, pines, and oaks predominate.



The Fakahatchee Strand is the major wetland extension of the Okaloacoochee Slough. The strand extends south from the slough about 20 miles (32.4 kilometres) to estuaries of the Gulf of Mexico. The northern part of the Fakahatchee and its adjacent swamps are delineated on the map, based on vegetation as shown on 1969 photography. The northern and western boundaries of the strand are not as well defined as the eastern boundary. Pine land and prairie form a sharp line with the strand's swamp forest in the east. Vegetative lines are less distinct to the north and west.

Vegetation in the Fakahatchee Strand, in contrast to the slough, is predominately swamp forest. Cypress is dominant at the north end of the strand, but a mixed swamp forest occurs throughout most of the strand to the south. Common trees include red maple, red bay (*Persea borbonia*), cypress, willow, pop ash, and pond apple. On slightly higher land laurel oak (*Quercus laurifolia*), dahoon (*Ilex cassine*), myrsine (*Myrsine guianensis*), and cabbage palm (*Sabal palmetto*) are common. Large cypress trees dominated much of the strand prior to logging in the late 1940's and early 1950's, but now virtually all the large trees have been removed.

- Okaloacoochee Slough boundary
- Fakahatchee Strand and its wetland extensions (other than the Okaloacoochee Slough)
- ← Historic water flow
- ← Present day water flow (locally impeded by logging trams in parts of the Fakahatchee Strand)
- Swamp forests within the boundaries
- Marshes within the boundaries
- Water flow passage

AERIAL PHOTOMAP BY
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
from aerial photographs
taken December 1969

81°30'

Florida (Okaloacoochee Slough). Physio. Diag. 1:63,360, 1974.
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