

Lake Wales Ridge State Forest WJW Big Bay Loop

The Lake Wales Ridge State Forest consists of four separate tracts which contain outstanding examples of naturally-functioning ecosystems. Since 1984 portions of the forest have been purchased with Florida's Conservation and Recreation Lands (CARL) Program funds. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service, utilizes a multiple use management system which allows outdoor recreation pursuits while managing the forest resources. Also considered are protection and enhancement of endangered and threatened species, and the maintenance of the natural communities found in the forest. Lake Wales Ridge State Forest is a unique, beautiful place where many of Florida's rare and endangered plants and animals flourish.

Please do not search for this cache on hunting dates. Check Schedule!

PARKING COORDINATES:

N 27°45.601 W 081° 27.921

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

Traveling on U.S. 27 turn east on to County Road 630. Take County Road 630 approximately 8.1 miles thru Frostproof (past McDonald's) to the Big Bay Loop Trailhead on the left (north) side of the road.



TREK TEN CACHE COORDINATES:

N 27°45.789 W 081° 28.147



PUBLIC ACCESS:

Pay day use fee of \$2.00 per person, children under 6 are free. Deposit fee in Iron Ranger in envelopes provided; display the tear-away tab on the vehicle dashboard or rear-view mirror.

Contact the Florida Forest Service for information and location of burn areas, 863-589-0545.

FIND THE CACHE WITHOUT GPS:

From parking, hike past the Big Bay Trail sign. Turn left at the wooden signs for campsites and Big Bay Loop Trail. Follow the yellow blazes across the power line easement and continue on the yellow blazed trail until you reach a trail junction. Turn left at the Big Bay Loop Trail sign. Continue following the yellow trail until it makes a sharp right turn. Look for a large pine tree on the right side of the trail about 25 yards past the turn and before the next yellow trail marker. The cache is at the base of the group of oaks before you reach the pine tree. Continue following the yellow trail back across the power line easement, back to the parking area. **(HIKE: 1.4 mile loop)**

PLEASE NOTE: Lake Wales Ridge State Forest is closed to recreational users during the hunting seasons EXCEPT for hikers on the Florida Trail. It is recommended that you wear 500 square inches of daylight fluorescent orange material above the waistline during hunting season. Visitors should be aware of seasonal hunting and must abide by all area regulations while on the area. For more information please visit <https://myfwc.com/hunting/wma-brochures/southwest/walk-in-the-water/>



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