



## Big Cypress Swamp: The Western Everglades



Today, more than a million acres of the richly diverse Everglades in southwest Florida is protected in a variety of public land holdings. But in the 1960's this land was slated to be drained and developed. WUSF is proud to present the national premiere of *Big Cypress Swamp: The Western Everglades*, a one-hour documentary that shares the history of the Western Everglades preservation and showcases Big Cypress Swamp as an ever-evolving, complex ecosystem. Hosted by famed fine art photographer Clyde Butcher, *Big Cypress Swamp* features the stunning beauty of sawgrass and sunsets in the swamp, highlights the wide variety of plants and wildlife and includes stories of tireless efforts to preserve and manage the Big Cypress Swamp region.

Elam Stoltzfus, the film's producer, cinematographer and director, has been filming in the Big Cypress Swamp with Clyde Butcher since 1990. "We always said that one day we would tell its story," says Stoltzfus. "My journey through Big Cypress always seemed like a gift to me. Every day, nature provides its gifts in sunrises, animal behaviors, changing weather patterns, landscapes and sunsets. This is our gift back. We hope that viewers will experience and enjoy a small taste of the beauty and fragility of the deep swamps of south Florida." Airs Thursday, September 3, at 8 p.m.