Ocala NATIONAL FOREST

In the Ocala National Forest, located in central Florida, covers approximately 139,000 acres and is one of the most visited forests in the eastern United States. The pristine, sparsely wooded land is rich in aquatic resources with more than 600 lakes, streams, and springs. More than a dozen springs of crystal clear water are located in the popular recreation areas of Juniper Springs, Salt Springs, and Silver Glen Springs. In contrast, the abundant water resources, the combination of the Ocala's dry climate. This time, known as the Big Sleep, is the largest contiguous block of sand pine scrub in the world.

The Ocala National Forest provides a variety of activities for visitors including white-water rafting, canoeing, kayaking, swimming in crystal-clear waters, picnicking, hiking, and wildlife watching. The forest offers a wide range of trails suitable for hikers of all skill levels, from short, easy walks to longer, more challenging adventures. The forest is a haven for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts, with a diverse array of flora and fauna found nowhere else in the world.

Due to the forest's rich biodiversity, the Big Sleep area, known as the Big Scrub, is the largest contiguous block of sand pine scrub in the world. In order to protect the Florida black bear, bears must be contained in allowed enclosures. Bears are attracted to the area for food, water, and shelter, so it is important to keep them from getting too close to humans.

The Ocala National Forest is a beautiful and diverse place that offers something for everyone. Whether you're interested in hiking, wildlife watching, or simply enjoying the beauty of nature, the forest has something to offer. It is a place where visitors can connect with nature, learn about the environment, and appreciate the beauty of the natural world. The Ocala National Forest is a must-visit destination for anyone who loves the outdoors.

Special Regulations and Other Information: The Ocala National Forest offers a variety of special regulations and other information for visitors to be aware of. These include rules for camping, hunting, and wildlife watching. The forest also offers a variety of educational programs and activities for visitors of all ages. To learn more about the special regulations and other information for visitors, please visit the website of the Ocala National Forest.