



Panther Update

December 2008

Big Cat Field Stories

FP165 – Who's Your Momma?

By Mark Lotz, Panther Biologist

We started our 2008/2009 capture season at Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest (OK Slough) on *November 24th*. That same day a new young male, FP165, was captured, weighing in at 100 pounds. As a yearling, he was still traveling with a brother and mother. We suspect his mother is FP110 because his estimated birth date matches the timeframe of FP110's last known denning activity and he was captured within her home range. But without a radio collar we cannot be 100% certain. She did wear a collar for years, but it dropped-off, as programmed, over the summer. She was passed over for her new collar scheduled last capture season because of the age of her kittens (as a safety precaution, females will not be recaptured if they have kittens less than one-year-old). A transponder chip could have also given us verification, but in this case, her kittens were not marked at the den.

Panthers Verses Vehicles: 0-3

Three uncollared panthers (UCFPs) died on Florida roads in November bringing this year's road-kill total to ten and deaths from all causes to twenty as of the 30th. Two of these occurred over the Thanksgiving holiday. This should serve as a reminder to everyone to drive conservatively, particularly at dawn and dusk, not only for your own safety but that of the Florida panther.



FP165 Monitoring His Captors, Courtesy FWC

UCFP112: This male, between two and three-years-old, was road-killed *November 4th* on SR80, one-half mile east of CR833 in Hendry County. He was found alive after being hit but died before panther biologists arrived. After striking the panther, the car spun out and rear-ended into a guardrail several-hundred feet down the road. The driver was not injured.

UCFP113: FWC Law Enforcement recovered this male Florida panther after he was struck and killed by a car on Alico Road near Devore Lane in Lee County. The accident occurred shortly after sunset on *Thanksgiving Eve*. UCFP113 was approximately four to five-years-of-age.

UCFP114: Female panther, UCFP114, was struck by a vehicle at about 4:50 in the evening on *November 29th* in Collier County on CR858 (Oil Well Rd) approximately one mile east of Camp Keais Road. She was found alive and not able to use her rear legs. She was transported to the Emergency Vet Hospital in Naples. The panther was stabilized there pending further transport for surgery but did not survive the night. UCFP114 was estimated to be four-years-old.

What You Can Do This Month

Get your Holiday Shopping Done, and Support the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge at the Same Time!

- ✓ **Gift Memberships to Friends of the Florida Panther NW Refuge.** Go to the following link for a list of membership benefits and online registration:
http://www.floridapanther.org/support_membership.html
- ✓ **Gift Donations:** Your generous donation to the Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge will go directly towards funding field research, biologists, education and other conservation programs. Go the following link to make an online donation for yourself or someone on your Holiday list: http://www.floridapanther.org/support_donate.html
- ✓ **FUN! Join Us for "Friends and Family" Night at The Florida Everblades Game!!** **Tickets Make Great Hanukkah or Christmas Stocking Stuffers!** For Tickets and further information, please email: tomjmurray@floridapanther.org.



When: Saturday, January 3, 2009
Time: 7:30 pm
Where: Germain Arena, I-75 exit 123
Cost: Seats are only \$15 each

Special Thanks To:

Layne Hamilton, [Florida Panther and Ten Thousand Islands NWR](#)
Mark Lotz (FWC), [Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission](#)

Updates Are Compiled By Roxann Hanson

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