



Panther Update

October 2009

Big Cat Field Stories

Refuge Cats to Date

On *September 30*, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) published their "Annual Report on the Research and Management of Florida Panthers: 2008-2009". This report highlights information collected regarding the Florida panther by the FWC and Big Cypress National Preserve for their fiscal period, July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

<http://www.floridapanther.net.org/index.php/reports/issue/394/>

The comprehensive report is a valuable reference tool for anyone interested in the status of Florida panthers and the research and management activities surrounding them.

So, what can a review of the report tell us about panther activity on the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge? During the fiscal period, of the total 26 monitored panthers, five radio-collared cats included the Refuge as part of their home range: three females (FP113, 140, and 107) and two males (FP119 and 133). Home range maps can be found on page 22 and 23 of the report. Unfortunately, the FPNWR lost two of their females during this reporting period: FP107 from unknown causes and the other, FP140, suffered defeat in a battle with another panther.



Copywrited, FGCU "Wings of Hope" Florida Panther Posse
FP113 with Kitten
(Refuge Underpass South Camera 8/23-9/6)

In addition to the efforts of the FWC, trail cams managed by other agencies and independent volunteers often provide supplemental knowledge of panther activity. For example, FP113, the refuge's remaining collared female has been recently trail-cam-photographed with a kitten. (For further



Copywrited, FGCU "Wings of Hope" Florida Panther Posse
"Looks Male to Me, Has a Thick Neck", Commented FWC's Mark Lotz
(Refuge Underpass North Camera 8/23-9/6)

reading on the subject visit this site containing a recent article from the News-Press: <http://www.news-press.com/article/20091006/NEWS0125/91005080/1075&referrer=FRONTPAGECAROUSEL>

Mark Lotz, FWC panther biologist, commented, "We're hoping to investigate further to see if she has any more kittens. Only one has been captured on film but there could be more." The trail cam photos also remind us of the presence of unmonitored panthers with glimpses of uncollared panthers using the underpass gateways to the refuge (see photo above). At this point in time, known cats utilizing the Florida Panther NWR are FP113, her kitten, two collared males, and at least one uncollared panther. Wonder what changes the upcoming year will bring?

Panther Sighting Video

On *June 11* a panther sighting was posted to "YouTube" <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxO79138CQ>

The video was caught in the spring of 2007, shot while Adam Freedman was looking for invasive species with his friend Jeff Klugh, who was a ranger in the park (Collier Seminole) at the time. Jeff commented in an email, "Never saw a panther before; that was the first time I brought a video camera on one of my expeditions. I'll probably never see anything like that again."

Two Mortalities

September 6 - around three in the morning, a two-year-old female Florida panther was struck and killed by a vehicle at the 96.5 mm of I-75 (approximately 3.5 miles east of the toll booth) in Collier County. An officer from the Florida Highway Patrol discovered the panther during routine patrols; the motorist that struck the panther did not stop or

report the accident. UCFP125 did not have a kinked tail or a cowlick and did not have a transponder chip. **September 15** - an uncollared two-year-old male, UCFP126, was found in an orange grove east of Ave Maria. Cause of death is unknown. These fatalities bring the totals to 13 free-ranging panthers killed (through September 30) this year with 9 of those by vehicle.

What People are Doing

Celebrating National Wildlife Refuge Week

October 10 - The Public Is Invited To Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week At The Grand Opening Of The Marsh Trail At 10,000 Islands. 7AM - 1PM. Guided walks, kayaking, and dedication ceremony included. Go to: <http://web.naplesnews.com/landing/403W00301A-2/403W00301A-2.html> for more information.

A Month of Publications

September 30 - The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission published their “Annual Report on the Research and Management of Florida Panthers: 2008-2009”
<http://www.floridapanther.net.org/index.php/reports/issue/394/>

September 9 - National Geographic Magazine Blog Central posted “Where the Cougars Are”
http://blogs.ngm.com/blog_central/2009/09/where-the-cougars-are.html

September 17 - Eric Staats of Naples Daily News published “Lawsuit Coming if Panthers Aren’t Protected, Environmental Groups Say. Petition filed Thursday asks for 3.1 Million acres in South Florida to be designed as critical habitat for the endangered species.”
<http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2009/sep/17/petition-filed-protect-habitat-florida-panther/>

September 20 - ABC News posted Alex Halperin’s article for the Christian Science Monitor, “Pliht of Florida’s Panthers at Center of Development Debate, Conservationists Say Planned Development Will Threatened Already Endangered Big Cats.”
<http://abcnews.go.com/US/panthers- plight-highlights-conservation-debate-florida/story?id=8604693>

Autumn 2009 - Earth Island Journal published Alex Halperin’s “Cat Fight. The Foreclosure Crisis Has Walloped Florida’s Gulf Coast, But Sprawl Still Threatens the State’s Endangered Panther.” http://www.earthisland.org/journal/index.php/eij/article/cat_fight/

What You Can Do

Please Purchase or Renew Your Florida Panther Specialty License Plates

<http://www.buyaplate.com/panther.html>

The FWC’s Florida panther research and management programs depend entirely on monies from your purchase of the Florida panther specialty license plate. When you purchase a panther license plate, your donation is directly paying for costs such as monitoring collars, swamp buggy maintenance, telemetry flights, vaccines, etc; all the expenses required to support our beautiful cats. It is easy to do online anytime: https://www.pointandpay.com/smartcart/index.cfm?method=smartcart.home&entry_tagid=11 You can also help by reminding and encouraging your friends to do the same. The FWC forwards their sincere thanks to everyone who participates in this vital program.



Special Thanks To.....

Layne Hamilton FPNWR, [Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge](http://www.floridapanther.org/)

Mark Lotz FWC, [Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission](http://www.floridafishandwildlife.com/)

Ricky Pires, <http://www.fcu.edu/CAS/WingsofHope/index.html>

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Past Issues: <http://www.floridapanther.org/updates.html> E-mail: Panthereditor@gmail.com