



Prey:

A potential criteria for panther recovery

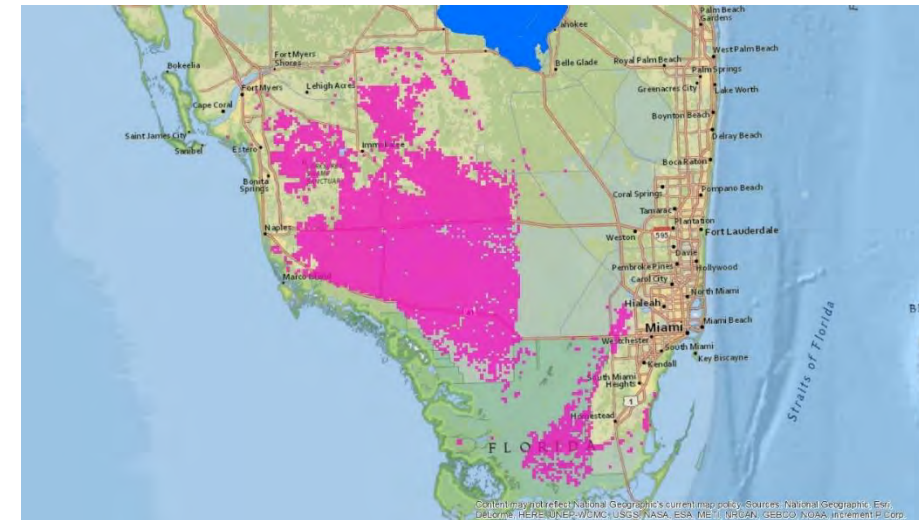
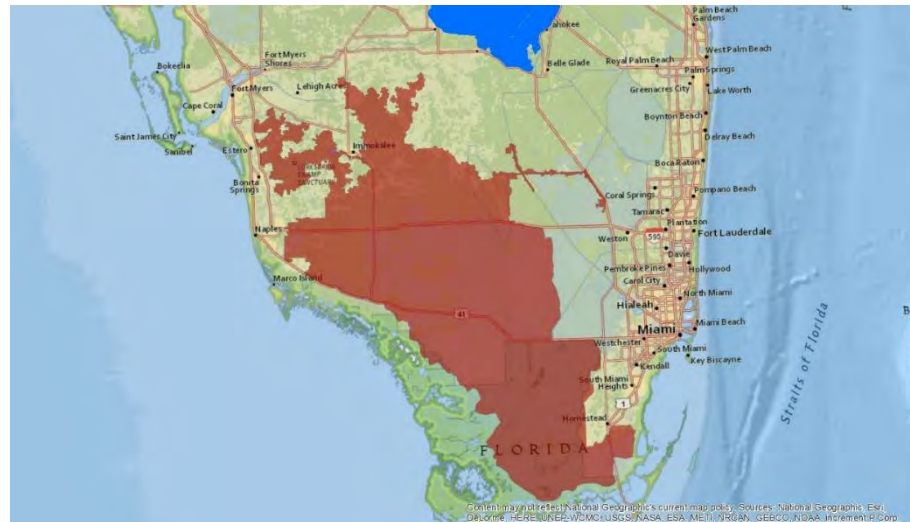
Why monitor prey/deer?

- White-tailed deer are panther's primary food source in FL accounting for up to 30% of the diet.
- Prey density can impact home range size, panther density, and productivity.
- Prey availability/abundance could impact panther use of alternative prey items including livestock.
- Without a robust white-tailed deer population does essential habitat provide the necessary components to support a down-listed panther population?



Typical habitat models look at.....

- Plant communities
 - Type (deciduous, coniferous, marsh, scrub, swamp)
 - % cover
 - Patchiness/ corridors
- Hydrology
- Road/traffic



Potential criteria:

- **Panther prey bases are adequate to support a stable or growing panther population, and important prey species such as white-tailed deer are monitored and managed for long-term sustainability.**



Prey:

a threat reduction rather than recovery criteria

- Prey abundance alone not sufficient to reclassify
- But without secure prey numbers reclassified not advised