



Miranda, Leopoldo &lt;leopoldo\_miranda@fws.gov&gt;

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**Re: Positive Outcomes: Prescribed fire successes immediately following shutdown**

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**Margaret Everson** <margaret\_e\_everson@fws.gov>

Mon, Feb 11, 2019 at 11:57 PM

To: "Miranda, Leopoldo" &lt;leopoldo\_miranda@fws.gov&gt;

Cc: Jim Kurth &lt;jim\_kurth@fws.gov&gt;, Stephen Guertin &lt;stephen\_guertin@fws.gov&gt;, Mike Oetker &lt;michael\_oetker@fws.gov&gt;, Barbara Wainman &lt;barbara\_wainman@fws.gov&gt;, Cynthia Martinez &lt;cynthia\_martinez@fws.gov&gt;, Jeffrey Fleming &lt;jeffrey\_m\_fleming@fws.gov&gt;, David Viker &lt;David\_Viker@fws.gov&gt;

Thank you for the update and information. Great news.

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 11, 2019, at 9:09 AM, Miranda, Leopoldo <leopoldo\_miranda@fws.gov> wrote:

**Margaret/Jim/Steve,**

**A quick note sharing some of the good outcomes that resulted from having fire management staff on board during the shutdown in either excepted status (e.g. maintaining equipment, fire lines, etc.) or several folks for several days in exempt status (e.g. planning), we were able to start back up more quickly with prescribed fire**

**We were able to conduct Rx burns on eight NWRs in four states: Carolina Sandhills and ACE Basin NWRs (SC); Mackay Island NWR (NC), Okefenokee NWR and Piedmont NWRs (GA); and St. Marks, Lower Suwannee and Florida Panther NWRs (FL). Total acreage burned exceeded 6,300 acres. These burns are better protecting private and government property and improving wildlife habitat.**

**Leo**

Leopoldo "Leo" Miranda  
Regional Director  
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***NOTE: This email correspondence and any attachments to and from this sender is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.***

## FYI - Letter from Sen. Nelson on FL Panther

Peters, Kristen E <kristen\_peters@fws.gov>

Tue 8/29/2017 4:15 PM

**To:** Miranda, Leopoldo <Leopoldo\_Miranda@fws.gov>; Arnold, Jack <jack\_arnold@fws.gov>; Williams, Larry O <larry\_williams@fws.gov>; Hinzman, Roxanna <roxanna\_hinzman@fws.gov>; Shindle, David B <david\_shindle@fws.gov>; Taylor, Katherine A <katherine\_taylor@fws.gov>; Valenta, Aaron <aaron\_valenta@fws.gov>; Dekar, Matthew P <matthew\_dekar@fws.gov>; Fleming, Jeffrey M <jeffrey\_m\_fleming@fws.gov>; Kloer, Philip B <philip\_kloer@fws.gov>

 1 attachments (346 KB)

201708290951.pdf;

Hi all,

Attached is a letter from Sen. Nelson regarding the status of the Florida panther. I'm sure this might be routed our way for response but for now no action is needed. Sharing for awareness...

kristen

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Kristen Peters  
Congressional and Legislative Affairs Specialist  
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[kristen\\_peters@fws.gov](mailto:kristen_peters@fws.gov)



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON  
FLORIDA

August 29, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I'm writing to update you on the current threats facing the endangered Florida panther, particularly habitat loss and vehicle collisions. As the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducts its review of the Florida panther's Endangered Species Act listing, I strongly urge you to maintain the endangered classification and intensify efforts to preserve the Florida panther.

Four decades ago, there were only about twenty panthers left in existence. Conservationists, federal researchers, and community leaders came together to develop a recovery plan that determines the panther population will be considered recovered when there are three established populations each consisting of at least 240 individuals.

Some good progress has been made. In March of this year, we celebrated a new milestone in the panther's recovery when a female panther and her kittens were spotted north of the Caloosahatchee River for the first time since the species was listed in 1973.

Unfortunately, many of the original threats to the panther's survival continue to pose a threat today.

In the last decade, at least 140 panthers were killed by cars. That's about the same number of panthers as the size of the entire adult population today. Clearly, there is a need for additional resources to protect the panther from vehicle collisions. Wildlife crossings and roadway fencing are a tried and true way to do this while also preventing habitat fragmentation. I encourage you to work with the U.S. Department of Transportation and state and local governments to recommend and pursue new crossings.

Additionally, the panther—like many endangered species in Florida—faces habitat loss from encroaching development. It is critical that future development effectively balances the panther's needs.

I look forward to discussing the panther's recovery with the nominee to be U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director. In the meantime, I hope you will continue to dedicate resources to ensuring the survival and further recovery of the Florida panther.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## FYI another Congressional Letter on Panthers

Farmer, Kristi <kristi\_farmer@fws.gov>

Tue 9/19/2017 2:34 PM

To: Miranda, Leopoldo <Leopoldo\_Miranda@fws.gov>; Peters, Kristen E <kristen\_peters@fws.gov>

 1 attachments (804 KB)

4707.pdf;

to Zinke from Rep Soto controlled today in DTS 066588. Attached here for RD signature by Oct 2. HQ clearance first.

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Kristi Watkins Farmer  
Chief of Staff  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Southeast Region - Atlanta, Georgia  
404-679-7275



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0909**

September 1, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

**Re - Letter of Support to Keep Florida Panther on Endangered Species List**

Dear Secretary Zinke,

I am writing you to ask for your full and fair consideration of keeping the Florida Panther on the Endangered Species List. This iconic and unique large cat is Florida's official state animal and has made great strides, but is still far from ready to be taken off the List.

The Florida Panther is a unique subspecies of the Puma and attempts to label it otherwise are inaccurate. According to Dave Onorato, a biologist with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's, the FWC deems the Florida Panther to be distinct and unique, and that other panther study program used only a small number of samples.

In addition, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, the 2017 updated population estimate is 120 to 230 adult and sub-adult Florida panthers. See February 22, 2017 FWC Report. The previous Florida panther population estimate was 100 to 180 adult and sub-adult panthers in 2014. See February 22, 2017 FWC Report. Thus, we are still at dangerously low numbers to ensure a healthy breeding population.

According to Larry Williams, the USFWS's Florida State Supervisor of Ecological Services, the "[c]ontinued recovery will require a long-term concerted effort by many partners committed to finding common-sense solutions that balance many different and competing interests, yet are grounded in a shared purpose of conserving the lands that support Florida's native wildlife and its ranching heritage."

Important Florida Panther conservation efforts coupled with a robust cattle reimbursement program for our ranchers is a win-win for Florida! I encourage you to give full and fair consideration to FWC's position and to reach out to them should you need additional information.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter!

Sincerely,



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

RECEIVED  
2017 SEP 1 PM 3:47  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

## Fwd: R4 Species in Approps Amendments

Peters, Kristen E <kristen\_peters@fws.gov>

Mon 7/16/2018 10:12 AM

To: Miranda, Leopoldo <Leopoldo\_Miranda@fws.gov>; Arnold, Jack <jack\_arnold@fws.gov>

FYI - Sharing for awareness. CLA and the Budget Office are tracking these amendments. We will have to wait and see how the Rules Committee structures the debate to determine if these amendments will get a vote or not.

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Kristen Peters  
Congressional and Legislative Affairs Specialist  
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hausman, Alyssa** <[alyssa\\_hausman@fws.gov](mailto:alyssa_hausman@fws.gov)>

Date: Mon, Jul 16, 2018 at 10:05 AM

Subject: R4 Species in Approps Amendments

To: Kristen Peters <[kristen\\_peters@fws.gov](mailto:kristen_peters@fws.gov)>

Hi Kristen,

There are some R4 species issues in the amendments to the House approps bill, which they may be considering tomorrow. I'll update you when I hear on the votes.

1. **Amendment #85:** Soto (D-FL)
  - a. Prohibits the removal of the Florida Panther from the endangered species list.
  
4. **Amendment #90:** Dunn (R-FL)
  - a. Prohibits use of funds made available by the Act to add the Panama City crawfish to the list of endangered and threatened wildlife published under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

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