

# Florida panther conservation challenges



**Darrell Land, Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission**



Figure 1. Distribution of subspecies of *Felis concolor* in North and Middle America

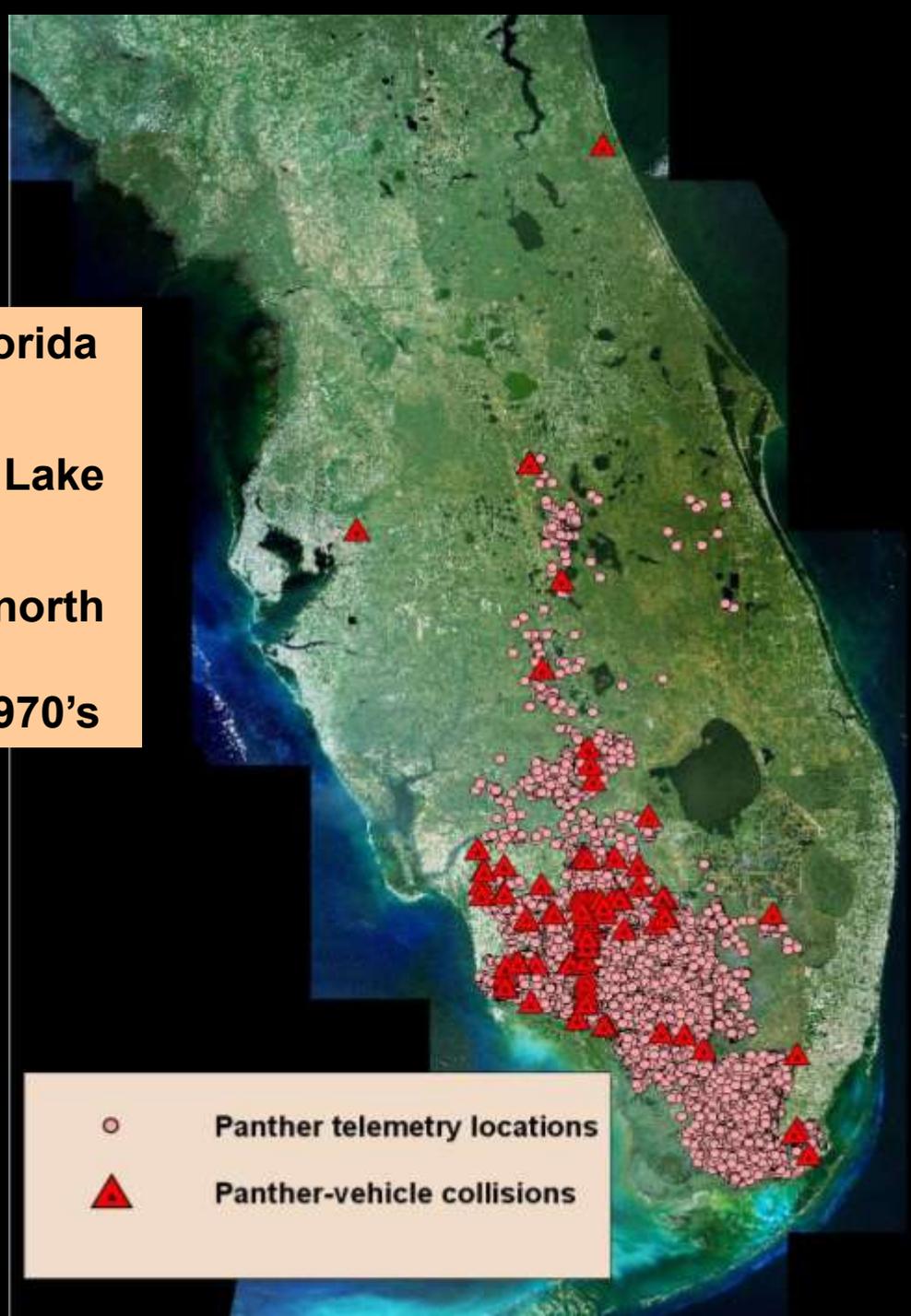
- |                                  |                                |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Felis concolor couguar</i> | 9. <i>F. c. browni</i>         |
| 2. <i>F. c. missoulensis</i>     | 10. <i>F. c. improcera</i>     |
| 3. <i>F. c. hippolestes</i>      | 11. <i>F. c. azteca</i>        |
| 4. <i>F. c. oregonensis</i>      | 12. <i>F. c. stanleyana</i>    |
| 5. <i>F. c. vancouverensis</i>   | 13. <i>F. c. coryi</i>         |
| 6. <i>F. c. olympus</i>          | 14. <i>F. c. mayensis</i>      |
| 7. <i>F. c. californica</i>      | 15. <i>F. c. costaricensis</i> |
| 8. <i>F. c. kaibabensis</i>      |                                |

Map from Young and Goldman 1946 depicting *Puma* distribution in North and Central America

**Panthers occur throughout the Florida peninsula**

**Most panthers are found south of Lake Okeechobee**

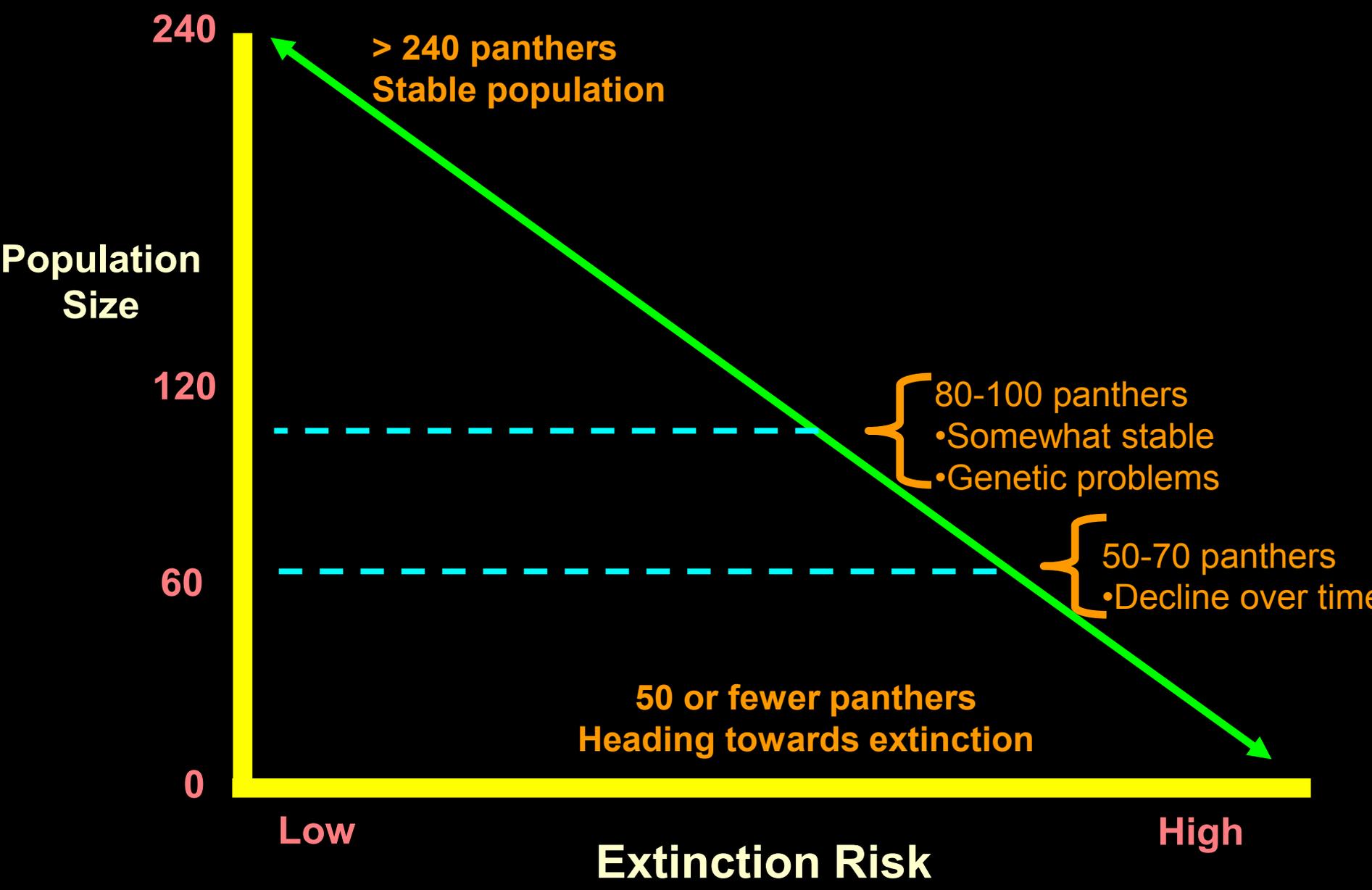
**No females have been confirmed north of Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee River since the 1970's**



**Panther telemetry locations**



**Panther-vehicle collisions**



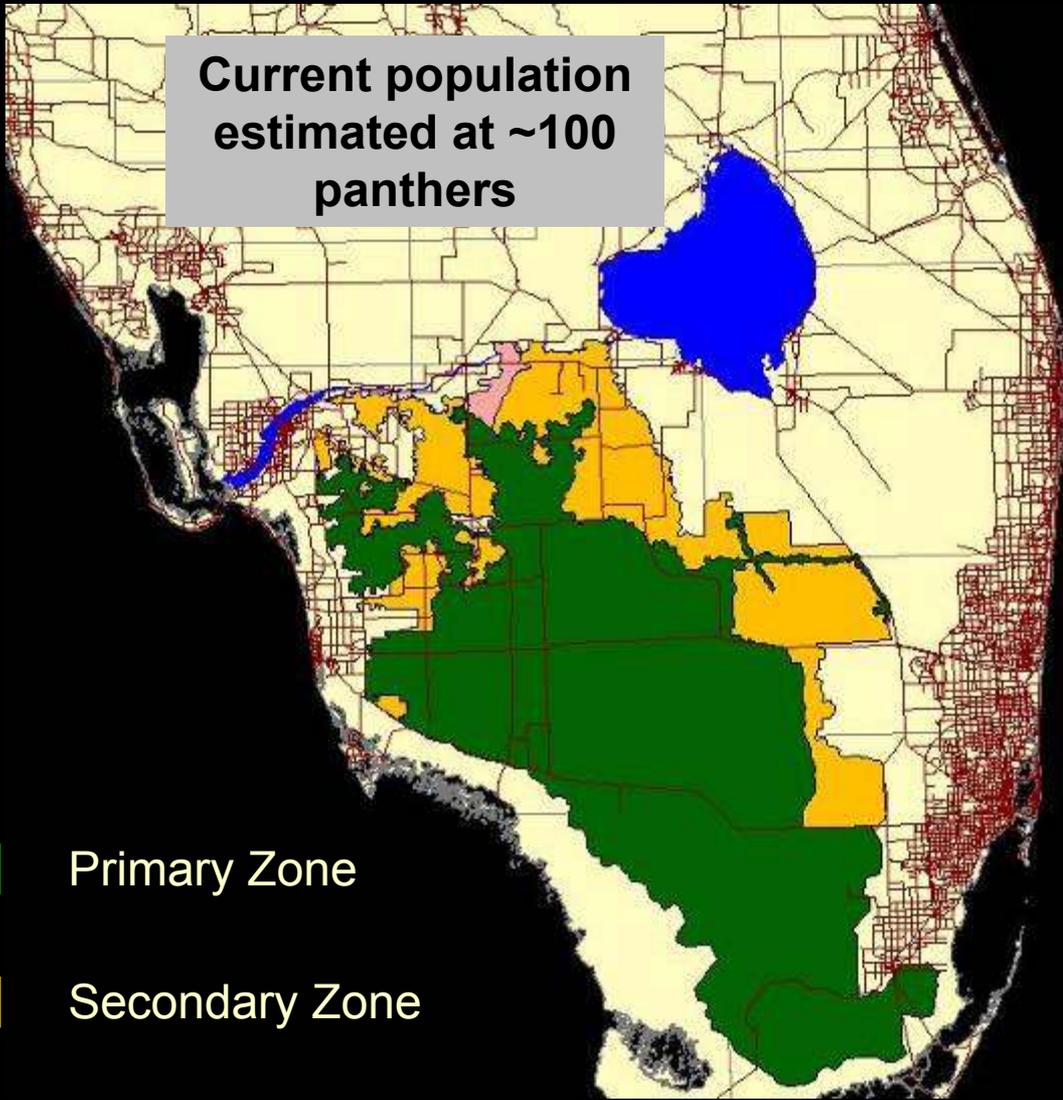


PANTHER  
X-ING



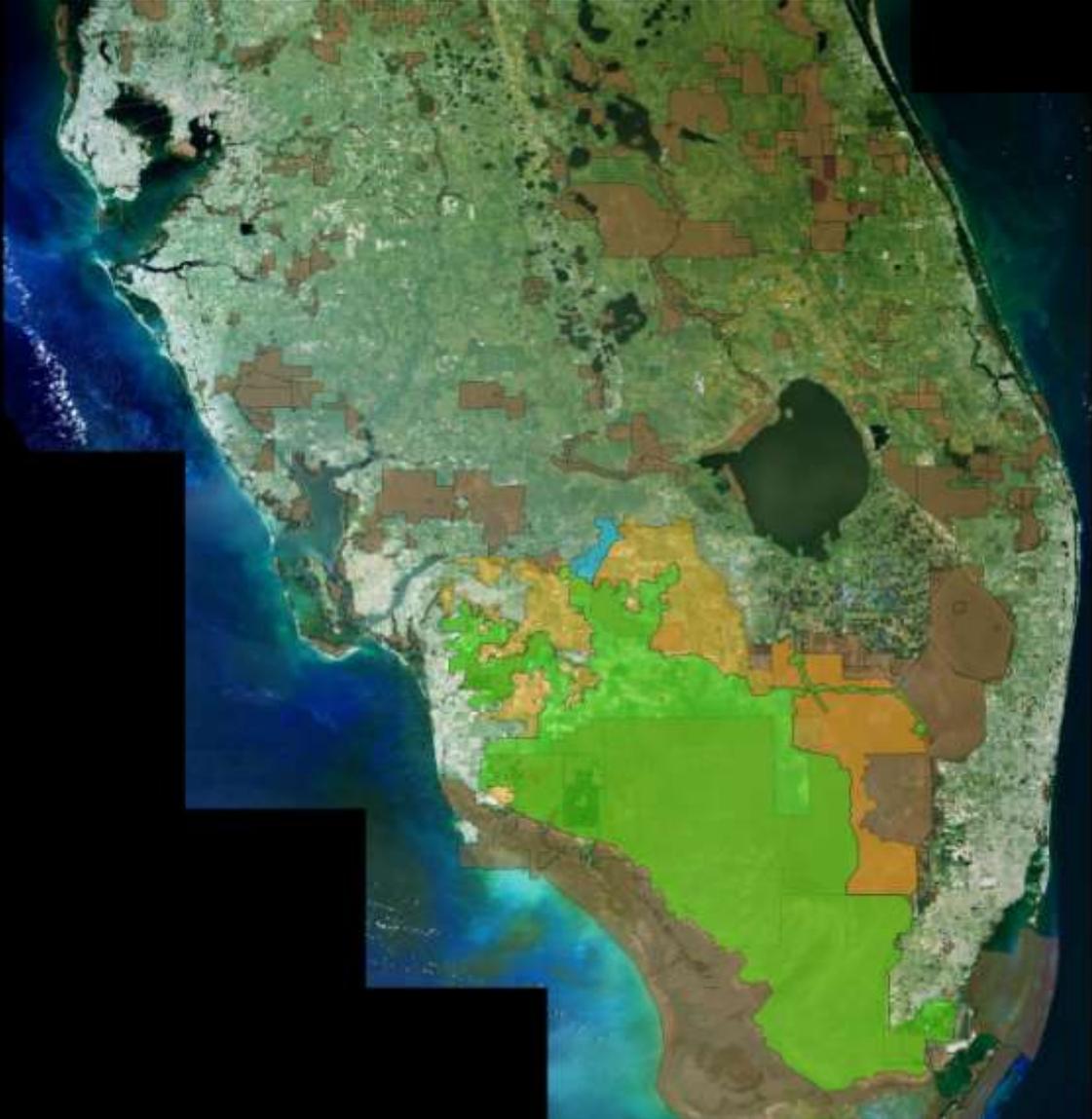


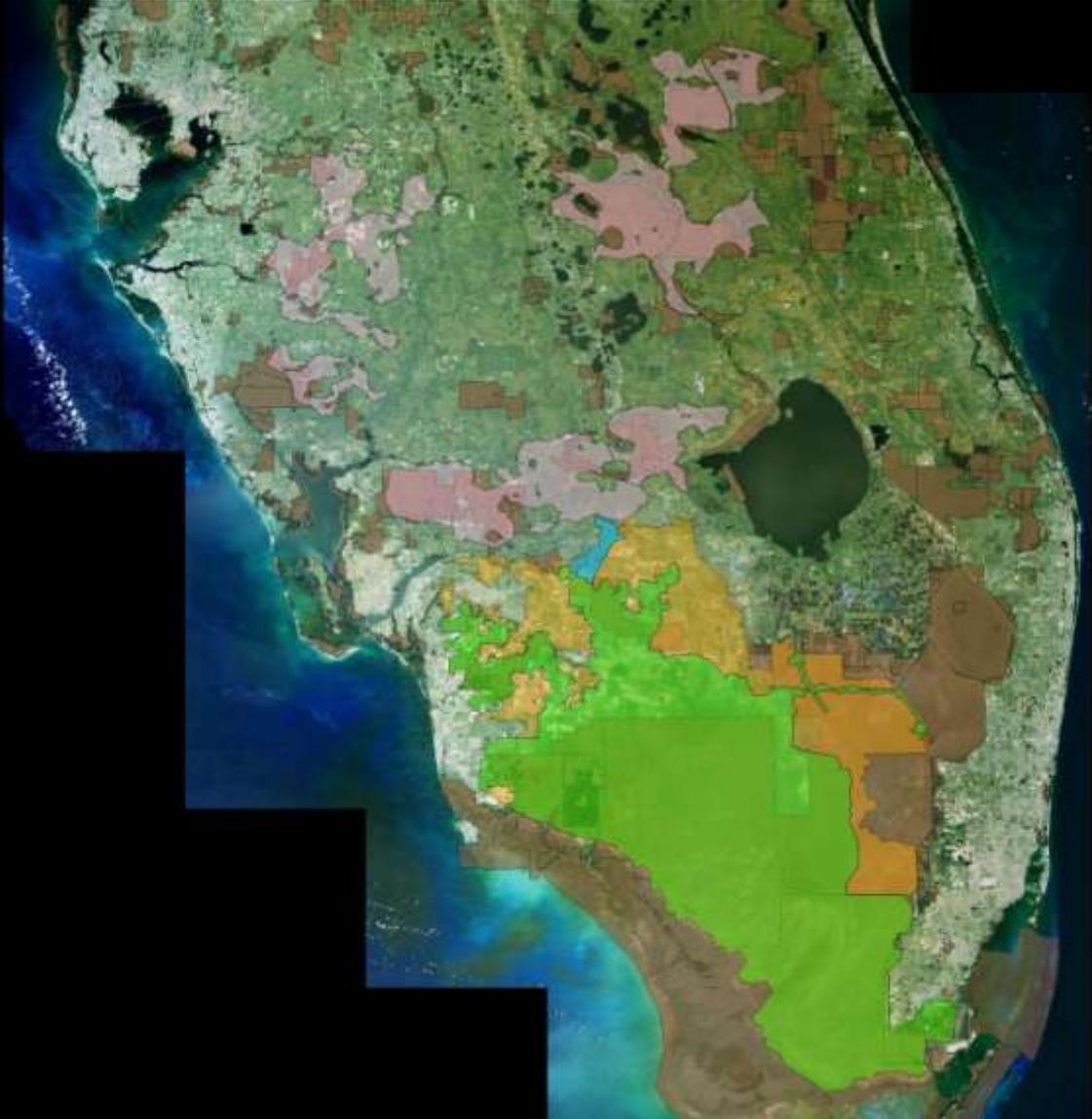
Kautz et al. 2006. How much is enough? Landscape scale conservation for the Florida panther. *Biological Conservation* 130: 118-133.

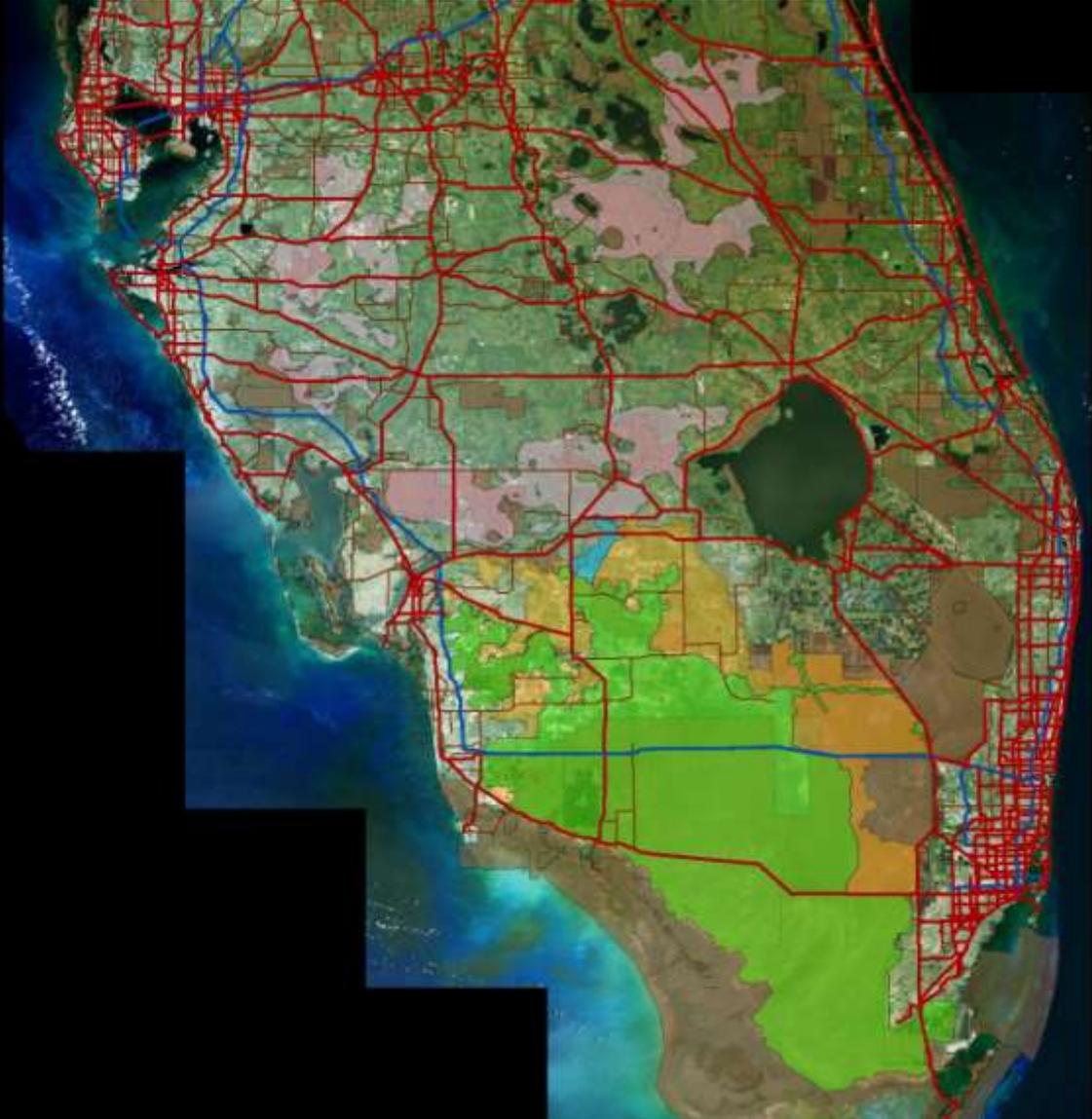


-  Primary Zone
-  Secondary Zone
-  Dispersal Zone











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**FISH AND WILDLIFE RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
TECHNICAL REPORTS**

**Use of Least-Cost Pathways  
to Identify Key Road Segments for  
Florida Panther Conservation**

Kathleen Swanson, Darrell Land, Randy Kautz, and Robert Kawula



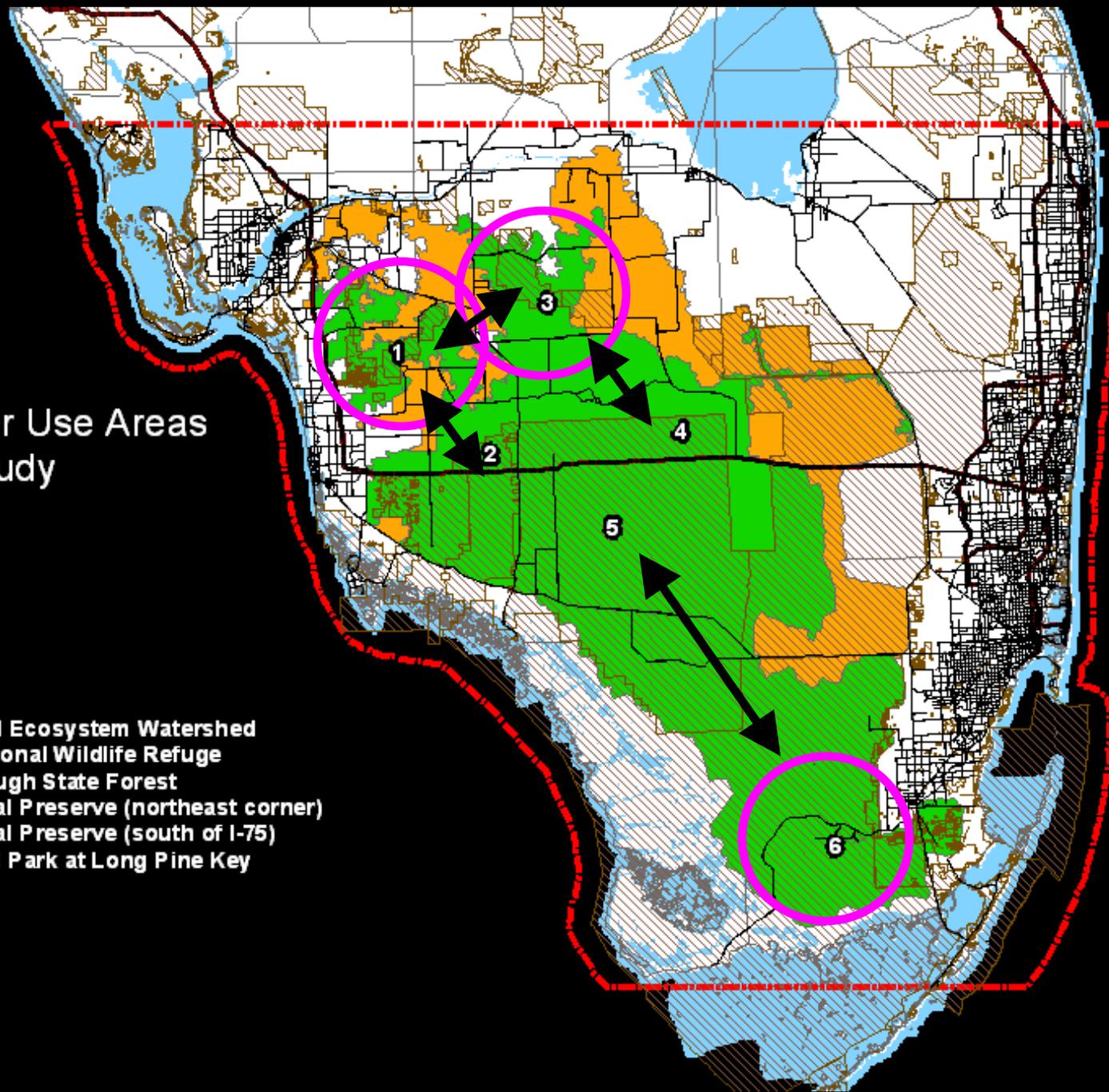
Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission

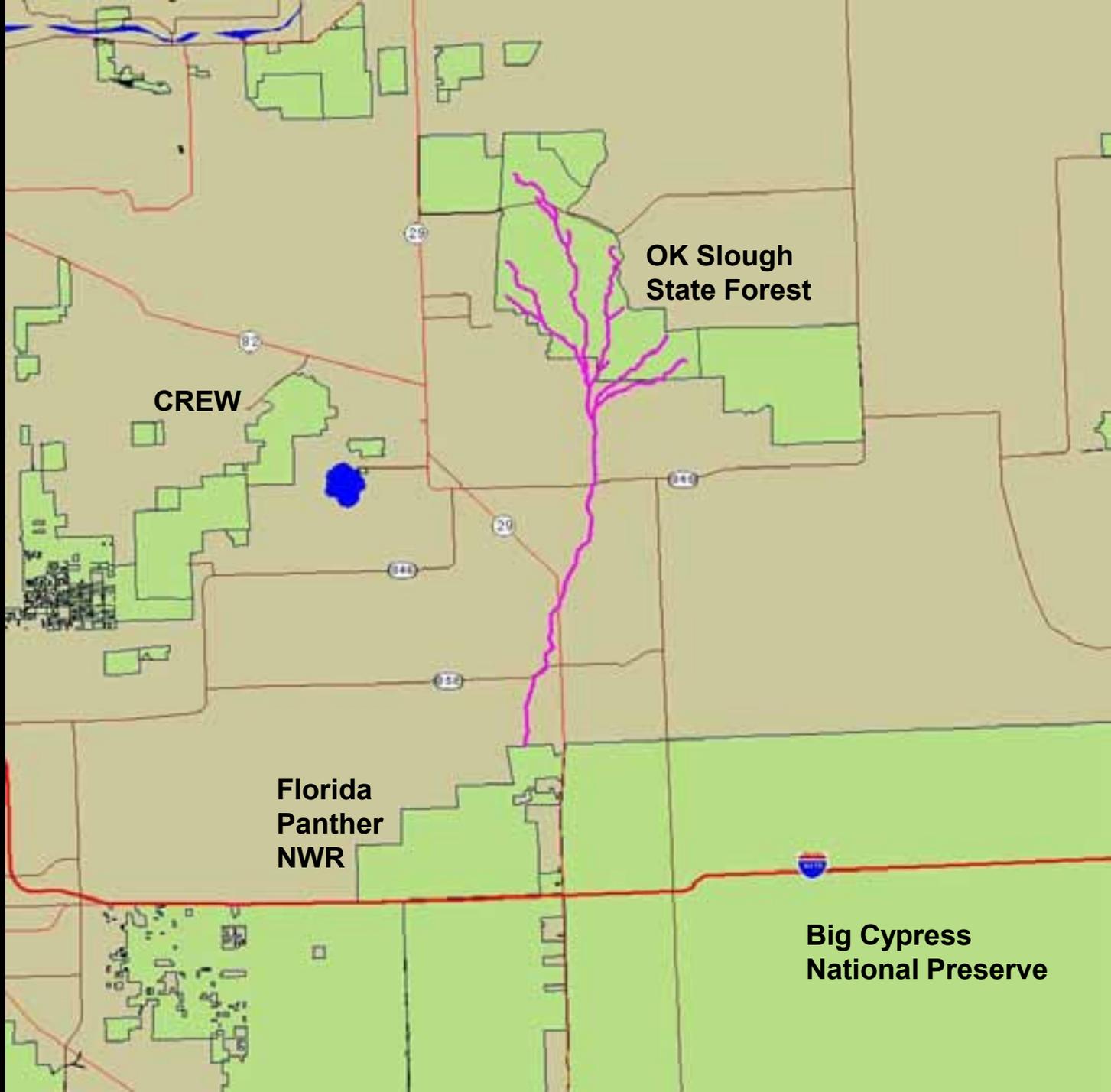


## Six Major Florida Panther Use Areas Selected for Study

-  Study Area
-  Conservation Lands
-  Water
-  Primary Zone
-  Secondary Zone

1. Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed
2. Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge
3. Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest
4. Big Cypress National Preserve (northeast corner)
5. Big Cypress National Preserve (south of I-75)
6. Everglades National Park at Long Pine Key



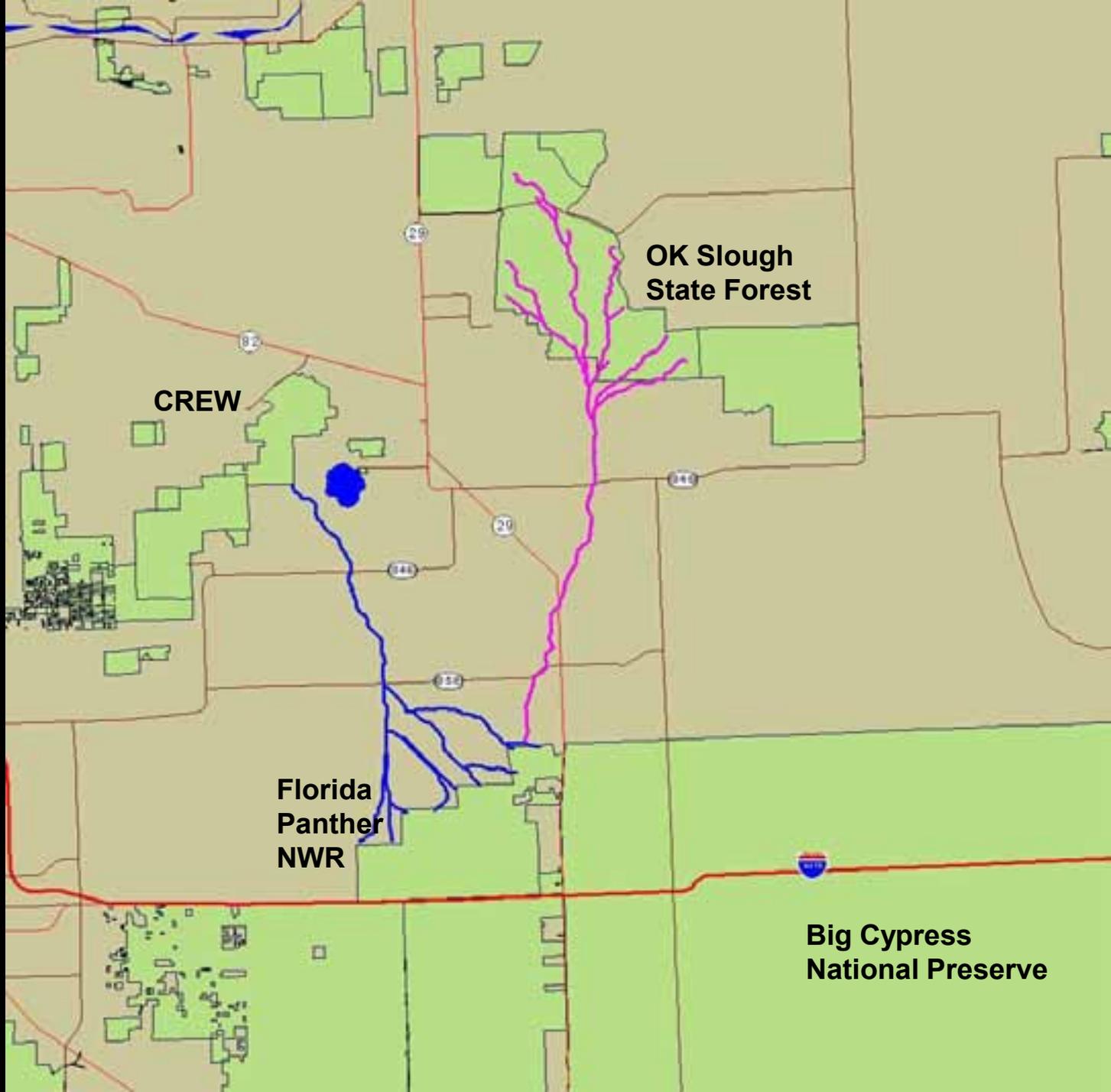


**OK Slough  
State Forest**

**CREW**

**Florida  
Panther  
NWR**

**Big Cypress  
National Preserve**



**OK Slough  
State Forest**

**CREW**

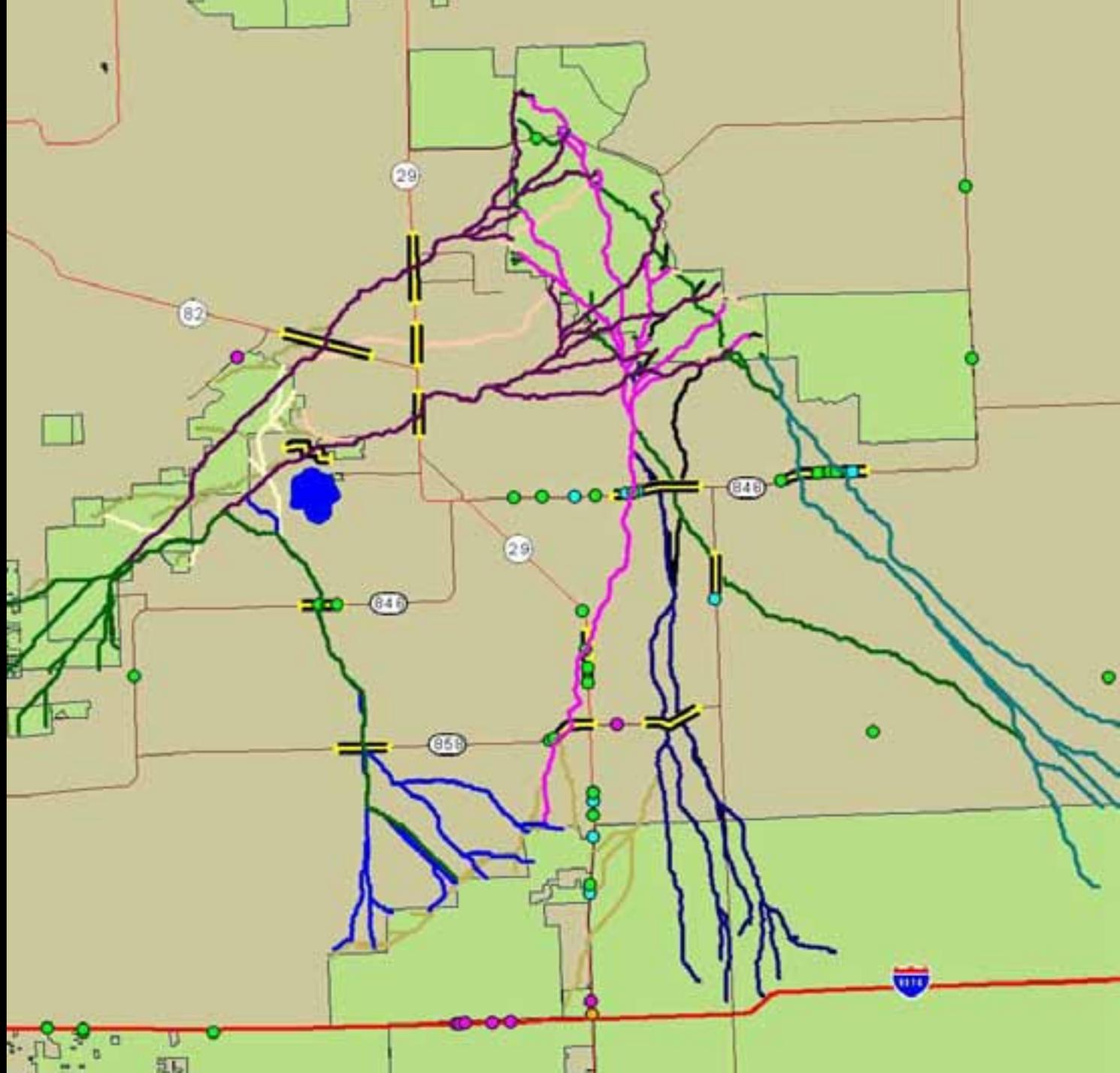
**Florida  
Panther  
NWR**

**Big Cypress  
National Preserve**

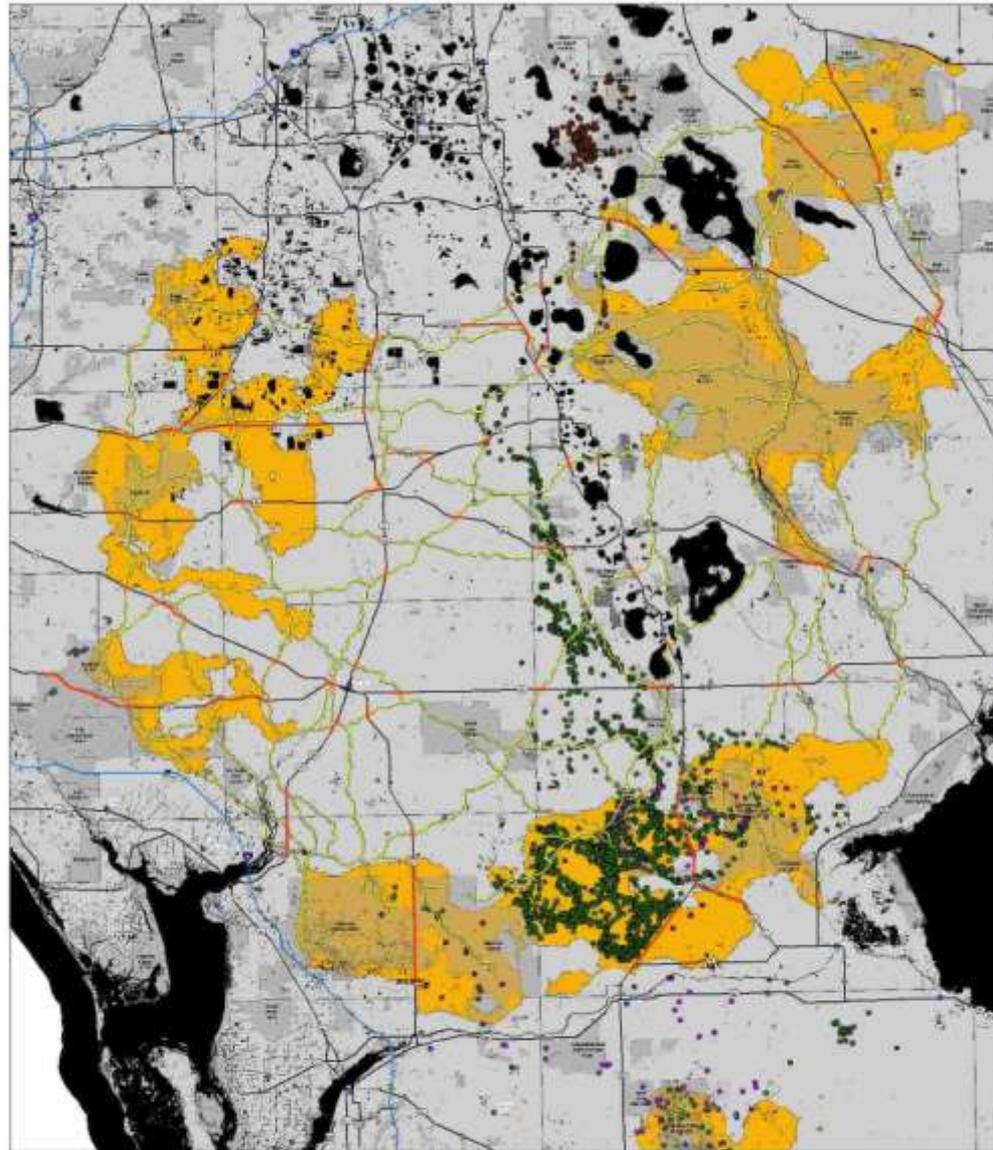
Panther Roadkills

- 1972-81
- 1982-90
- 1991-98
- 1999-05

Key Highway Segment



# Key Road Segments for Wildlife Crossings



### Legend

- ▲ Panther-Vehicle Collisions
- Bear-Vehicle Collisions (1997 - 2007)
- Panther VOTGPS Lesions
  - Panther OR12
  - Panther OR14
  - Panther OR94
  - Panther OR138
- Key Road Crossing Segment
- Least-cost Pathway
- Major Habitat Patch (Thatcher et al. 2008)
- Conservation Land (PMA 070007)
- US State Highway
- Interstate Highway
- Town/City

