

**Florida Panther Recovery Implementation Team**  
**Panther Population Estimation Workshop – October 28, 2014**

**General Comments following Presentations – captured on flipchart:**

- Prey declines in Everglades National Park and Big Cypress (deer, hogs, small mammals)
- Need biodiversity and ecosystem balance
- Public land management issues; Private lands managed better
- More discussion about Big Cypress and deer decline: Stairstep Unit - hydrology?
- Don't use term "density" because we are extrapolating
- Need to count on private lands

**Comments from Managing Panther Population Discussion:**

- Need dispersed population N of Caloosahatchee (shared adversity)
- Open hunting season for panthers, like out west with wolves
- Private land owners don't want us on their land. How are we going to get an accurate count?
- Contraception for south FL population, because no other states want them
- Not every species can be recovered - we need to recognize that
- Sense of urgency from public
- Can't support resources to continue – are we going to be successful?
- Need immediate relief!
- Let public know of our success with panther population in south FL
- Let public know that it is time to deal with conflicts now
- Let people be prepared for agencies to make some changes

Summary from one attendee:

- Agencies need to recognize there are too many panthers. Need to say they are exceeded carrying capacity, let public know
- Stop wasting money in areas where panthers exist in southwest FL
- Identify where panthers exist north of the Caloosahatchee River
- Maintain lands we already have (i.e. Big Cypress). Burn 40-60% of Big Cypress
- Assess where we are going with this; with other states; other states don't want them

**Comment Cards**

- Reduce loss of panther habitat to development, intensified user, etc. as panthers need an adequate quality, quantity and aerial/spatial extent. As a component of this, identification and avoidance of wildlife-human conflict possibility should be a priority (e.g., siting of development, avoiding attractants, etc.)

- There were a lot of comments today about us being at the maximum acceptable level of panthers and everyone in the room agreeing. I'd just like to say that, that's not true. I didn't want to fight. I don't think that's productive – especially when that's not the purpose of this meeting. But, please know that I enjoy wildlife – including panthers. I think it's awesome to see a panther in the wild! I want their population to be strong and sustainable and fully support their recovery.
- Panthers on private lands are traveling to public lands as shown by Roy's telemetry maps. Those panthers on private lands are being counted by Roy when he surveys the public lands.