

# **Panther Recovery Plan Implementation Team**

## **Transportation Subteam**

### **Meeting Summary**

March 12, 2015

Archbold Biological Station, Venus, FL

#### Attendees:

Amber Crooks  
Elizabeth Fleming  
Terry Gilbert (via phone)  
Darrell Land  
Laurie MacDonald, PRIT Liaison  
Nancy Payton  
Gwen Pipkin  
Brent Setchell  
Dan Smith  
John Wrublick

One member of the public attended (Lisa Kreiger, FDOT).

- Hillary Swain of Archbold Biological Station welcomed us and discussed SR-70.
- Approval of last meeting minutes.
- Update from PRIT Liaison
  - The PRIT is beginning to look for funding for the Payment for Ecological Services program, and is continuing to work on Safe Harbor Agreement. An additional member representing ranchers has been added. Taxonomic status may become a higher priority.
- Upcoming FWS and FWC meetings with FDOT Secretary Jim Boxold
  - The subteam will prepare talking points and maps to utilize during these meetings that will communicate the missions and objectives of the group, as well as information about roadkills.
- FDOT Wildlife Crossings Guidelines
  - The group went through suggested revisions of the current FDOT Guidelines.
- Cost-Surface Mapping Project
  - The group reviewed land cover categories and their relative value to panthers. The GIS modeling would be fine enough (10 meter squared pixel) to see the difference in land cover between buildings and adjacent native vegetation areas.

- The group discussed changing value to panthers for certain land covers for this exercise and also wanted more information about a few of the land covers. The group decided to reduce the value of “Other Agriculture” which depicts buildings and other intensive areas, as well as “Unconsolidated Substrate”. The group will review mapping of these categories to continue to this discussion and will also review maps of land covers for select geographical areas.
- The group then discussed what the source and destination points should be for the modeling, which included areas south of the river and north of river, including reintroduction lands.
- The model may have to be adjusted to modify cost values for areas that have crossings/fencing, particularly in southwest Florida.
  
- Pending Items
  - Bridge Replacement Priority and Location Information
    - The group will assess locations of proposed bridge replacements.
  - Panther Speed Zones
    - The group would like to see these areas mapped.
  - Belle Meade/GGE stretch of I-75
  - Rumble strips
  - Use of toll monies for crossings
    - Tolls can be used to fund water-related projects and safety issues related to operating and maintaining the highway.
  
- Next meeting
  - 05/08/15, 10am-3pm, FDOT Offices in Bartow