

07/24/2017
South Florida Ecological Services
Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S.
Immokalee, FL 34142

SunSentinel op.ed. page 07/24/2017. Article written by Kate MacFall

Regarding the current plight of the Florida Panther.

We are appealing to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue to review and continue the endangered species protections for the Florida Panther.

Hildy & Barry Berger Ft. Lauderdale Fl. 33308
Robert & Jackie Glass Pompano Beach Fl.33060
Jake Glass Delray FL. 33445
Cameron Glass Miami Fl.33140
Lita Moffa Ft. Lauderdale FL 33308



Dr. Judith Klykken
2561 58th St. N.
St Petersburg, FL 33710

Note: Address required for effort to reply messages

REQUEST: Save Florida Panther
Dear Senator David Shindle —

I'm part of the #WomensMarch movement. As your constituent, I am writing to ask you to:

protect the Florida

panther from extinction.

Please let us know

how we can help.

I look forward to your response on what actions you are taking to address this matter.

Sincerely,
Dr. Judith Klykken



Rec'd
7/10/2017

David Shindle
South Fl. Ecological
Services Field Office
U.S. Fish + Wildlife
12085 State Rd 295

Amnokaala, FL
34142





Dear sir or madam:

The idea that we should drop the protection of the Florida panther because of a short term rebound of the population to an estimated 200 is crazy!

The human population of Florida is growing by leaps and bounds. Every day we lose more open space and wildlife habitat to development in all its forms. There is literally no room for the panther unless we make some. Their genetic integrity is not secure with a statewide population so small!

We can't even get a solid plan to recover the Everglade with a constitutional amendment and lots of federal funding! How can we keep them safe with such narrow margin of error?

They need a lot more time and we need a lot more understanding. I cannot even imagine what the other side of the argument is; I suspect it is muted because they are ashamed of the values it exposes.

Save the panther! From us!

Yours truly,

Robert Larson

235 Courtyard Blvd, #203

Sun City Center, FL 33573

4 July, 2017

Mr. Shindle,

I implore you not
to take the Florida
Panther off the En-
dangered species list.

Thank you

James M. Loveland

Jim Loveland
Pinellas County
1410 Fremont St. S.
Gulfport, FL 33707
727-365-9903
jimloveland52 @
yahoo.com

Step David Shindle

July 9, 2017

First of all I would like to tell you that I am 73 years old born and raised in Largo Fla. I now live on 5 acres in Brooksville. Every since we bought our property forty four years ago, I have wished to see a black bear or Florida panther walk across it. The closest I have come to that is I have a panther picture on my wall taken by my daughter who is a professional photographer. It sits between a tiger and Koin, done by Boone. What a beautiful cat.

They tried to take our black bear away by allowing the kill a year back and decided that was wrong. They have taken the history of the Confederate flag and all the statues that reminds us of that war, now they want to take the one animal they still reminds us of past times.

Step David Shindle

July 9, 2017

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Margaret Wilgus
5365 Dover St NE
St Petersburg, FL 33703

TAMPA FL 335

7-10-17.

Road
7/13/17



Dear Sir,

Please leave the wild
life alone. This is
what Florida is all
about. The panthers are
not hurting anything so
just leave them alone.

Sincerely,
Margaret Wilgus

July 24. 2017

Mr. David Shindle
South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, Florida 34142

Do not remove the Florida panther from the Endangered Species listing because:

- 1) an increase from 20 to 30 in 1990 to around 200 now is hardly a baby boom
- 2) it matters not whether the panther is a Florida panther or not - there are still only a few of them
- 3) panthers are constantly being killed by cars as well as shot
- 4) hunting is no way to manage panthers

To think that any species of 200 or so could be considered anything but endangered is ludicrous. There is no reason to remove this poor struggling animal from the endangered list.

beautiful

Barbara Dye

Barbara Dye

2607 Beach Boulevard South

Gulfport, Florida 33707

July 10, 2017

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S.
Immokalee, FL 34142

Re: Status of FLORIDA panther

Please hear my cry:

For years reporters keep saying that there are 100 to 180 Florida panthers in south Florida. However 2016 was the worst year on record for Florida panther deaths. A total of 42 panthers died in the wild last year. More than 80 percent of the deaths involved panthers killed by vehicles. In 2015 30 panthers died. According to the FWC there were 14 panthers born in 2016 and in 2015 there were 15 kits born. To date for 2017 there has been a total of 16 panther deaths and 15 kits born. So that leaves 136 Florida Panthers left in the wild.

The Florida panther is a carnivore whose diet consists of other small animals. Due to human encroachment this has made the Florida panther very vulnerable. The primary threats to our Florida panther include habitat loss, habitat degradation and fragmentation.

It is too soon to reclassify these animals. It should be our primary purpose to protect our Florida panther who is our chosen state animal.

Please consider my letter and protect our FLORIDA panthers!

Thank you,

Margo Leiser

Margo Leiser
903 Shay Drive
Bartow, FL 33830



Martha Post
 1095 E. George St.
 Bartow, FL 33830

TAMPA FL 335
 SAINT PETERSBURG FL
 20 JUL 2007 1144 1



Rec'd
 7/17/07

DAVID SHINDLE
 SOUTH FLORIDA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES
 FIELD OFFICE
 US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
 12085 STACERD, 29 S.
 IMMOKALEE, FL 34142

34142-570385



Dear David,

I notice in the news that our Florida panther is getting a change in status possibly. I would like to add my voice to the debate.

As you can see from my artwork here that I have a deep love for the Florida panther. This painting was done after a visit to a wildlife exhibit in Lake Wales many years ago with a Florida panther present. I took some photos and put two of them together to create the painting. At that time the Florida panther was in decline and I named my painting "Cry for the Panther" to promote that which was occurring in the state. Soon afterward the license plate came out to help raise funds for the saving of the panther from extinction.

I remember seeing in the photo archives of our state a whole wall hanging with many slain panthers which had a lot to do with their decline.

I do hope that the panther will continue to be protected. We are losing many species and it would be



tragic for our panther to go back into decline,. especially after so many have been killed on the highways lately.

So I vote for keeping them as protected as possible and I pray that will be the decision of those responsible for this.

Yours truly,

Martha Post

Martha Post

Bartow, FL (mpst37@gmail.com)

07 AUG 2017



Ms. Lin Holland
3151 N.E. 56th Ave., Lot L12
Silver Spgs, FL 34488-1890

8-10-17

Dear Mr. Shindle,

I was astounded when I read that Florida wants to take the panther off of the Endangered Species Act. Why is our state always trying to get rid of animals? Florida is the worst in the nation for animal protection. Does some wealthy person want to kill a panther, to add to their collection on their wall? Is this why Florida wants to take the panther off the list? It's not because there are too many. I've lived in Florida since 1986 and have seen only one panther and it had been hit by a car and was dead.

We never seem to consider that perhaps there are too many humans. When there are too many of us and we begin to run out of food and water, will we be ridding some humans as we do with the animals? The panther helps to reduce the wild hog population so they won't take over as they've done in states like Texas. Don't take them off the list.

All life is precious or the Lord wouldn't have given all creatures this gift. Let nature be as the Lord intended with all of his creatures sharing the earth. Please save our animals.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lin Holland

3151 NE 56th Ave. L12

Silver Springs, FL 34488

Protect

The Florida panther
State's official animal
South Florida's history
featured on tens of thou
the Panther state licens
U.S. Fish and Wildlife S
ing the big cat's endange
The Florida panther des
ection, and without it
most iconic animals wou
ly endangered.



Florida Fish and Wildlife

Panther status in dispute | July 9
...tion over profits



5: US Fish + Wildlife Service
Dear Sir/Madam,

Rachel Cashon
175 2nd St. S. Ph. 14
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

As a 60 Florida resident and as a taxpayer,
I appeal to you to continue present protection
of the Florida panther under the Endangered
Species Act. I have lived in FL 60 years and
personally witnessed the severe decline of our
wild places and our wild life ... what a shame
for future generations. Please help in continuing
this small step in continuing protection for this
small population of big cats.

The two enclosed cuttings: an editorial from
the Tampa Bay Times + letter to the editor from the
... opinion better than I can write it.
Rachel

Karlee Holzheimer
4213 Imperial Palm Ct
Largo, FL 33771-1647

TAMPA FL 335
SAINT PETERSBURG FL
17 JUL 2017 PM 5 L



ATTN: David Shindle

July 16, 2017

David Shindle,

I have lived in Pinellas County for the past 64 years (I am 74 years old). I am a graduate of U. of F. and taught public school in this county for 30 years. The future of our majestic panthers has always been dear to my heart, and I worked with and supported the Save the Panther group in the late 80's and 90's (I believe that was the "era"). I felt elated when we began to see some success as the Texas cross-breeding program took hold. And now, to think that because we have increased numbers from a scant 30 cats to the whopping great current total of 200 with one sighting of one female North of the Caloosahatchee River means we have reached the point to consider removal from the Endangered List and even possible hunting of them is mind boggling. Ho our greedy politician, wealthy cattle barons, ruthless land developers, and oil fracing (sp?) companies ^{disagree} ~~agree~~ that any of this won't effect and eventually totally decimate the panther population? Of course not!! — they don't give a damn!! Well, both my husband and I do give a damn. We

David Shindle with Name Croves

rivers and springs clear as crystal, beaches that didn't wash away every few years because the sea oats, sea grapes and other shore plants held the sand in place, bays and estuaries unpolluted by fertilizer run-off and sewage plant overflows and now the black bears are hunted, the manatees are no longer endangered (says who??), and the panthers are no longer endangered. We don't think so. Please count us a two environmentally conscious elders who say No! to removing panthers from the endangered list. If you read all of this, thank you!

Sincerely,
Karlee Holzheim &
Jack Landers Jr.



TAMPA FL
SAINT PETERSBURG
17 JUL 2017 PM

From:

Maryann ENDANGERED
STAT US FOR
Florida PANTHERS

ffw

wch

'12



July 17, 2017

Please keep the Floridapanther
on the endangered species list.

Even if it is not its own
species it is a rare subset
of the Puma in this region.

Thank you.

Jennie Usherghi

4145 Wood Trail Blvd.

New Port Richey, Fl.

34653



MARCIA S. COHEN, P.A.

Attorney and Mediator

Plaza Tower
111 Second Avenue N.E.
Suite 706
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Phone (727) 894-4446
Fax (727) 894-6251
msc@marciascohen.com
www.marciascohen.com

July 19, 2017

David Shindle
South Florida Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

Re: The Florida Panther

Dear Mr. Shindle:

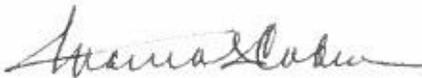
This letter is to urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to retain protected status for the endangered Florida Panther.

This distinctive animal is indigenous to Florida and indeed has been designated the Florida State Animal. Many Floridians have purchased a special license plate urging the protection of the Florida Panther.

The Florida Panther has been on the endangered species list since it was created in 1967. Due to these protections, we have seen the Panther population grow from 20-30 in the 1990s to about 100-200 currently. A Panther population of this size is still insufficient to sustain the breed. Yearly, careless drivers have killed roughly 15 of our precious Panthers.

I urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep the Florida Panther on the endangered species list.

Sincerely,



Marcia S. Cohen

Whom & May Crown:

In a time when our Country
 is disappearing little by little.
 You for little other than mud and
 water do not seem to exist.

Protection for our natural resources,
 and our animals, especially the
 endangered species. The gamester
 will be hunted and used to
 boost and ego that has no pride.

Please do not allow this!

Donations are asked for continuously
 to save and restore our natural
 resources, you have a responsibility
 to protect and defend.

Sincerely
 [Signature]

LIVE AND LEARN AND PASS IT ON.

H. JACKSON BROWN, JR.



Lyn Tebrugge TAMPA FL 335
 2102 Ketch Ct PETERSBURG FL
 Tarpon Springs, FL 34689
 20 JUL 2017 PM 7:1



Rec'd
 7/24/17

Mr David Shindle
 South Florida Ecological
 Services Field Office
 US Fish & Wildlife Service
 12085 State Rd. 294.
 Immokalee FL 34142



July 20

Dear Mr Shindle,

As a life long Resident of
 Florida and a lover of our
 native wild life, I implore
 you to keep the Florida
 Panther on the Endangered
 list. Yet another died this
 week in Naples as you know.

, Please

*Paul
7/24/2017*

W F S N

*Absolutely YES!
Protect Florida
Panthers!!!*



Mr Thomas Yenik
14951 Little Ranch Rd
Spring Hill, FL 34610

Thomas Yenik



Thomas Yenik
14951 Little Ranch Rd
Brooksville, FL 34610-3311

** Spring Hill*



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
1-800-910-3173
www.stjude.org

TAMPA FL 335
SAINT PETERSBURG FL
20 JUL 2017 PM 6 L



KEILY DAVIDSON
1681 SE ST. LUCIE BL
STUART, FL 34996

W PALM BCH
FL 334
28 JUL '17
PM 1 L



7-25-17

I'M OPPOSED TO ANY LOOSENING
OF PROTECTION PROVIDED TO THE
FLORIDA PANTHER POPULATION.

THANK YOU FOR READING
THIS!

KEILY DAVIDSON

7/25/17

DAVID SHINDLE

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FC
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

I AM ASKING YOU FOR HELP
IN PRESERVING THE FLORIDA
PANTHER. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE
THEM OFF OF THE ENDANGERED
LIST.

WE WANT AND NEED TO
PROTECT OUR PANTHERS!!!

Thank you,

Deanna HELMS

5906 Pine Ridge Cir

VERO Beach, FL. 32967

11111111

FIELD OFFICE



2730 Lakemont Rd.
Melbourne, FL 32934

2017

Shindle, Biologist
FL Ecological Services Field Office
Fish and Wildlife Services
State Road 29 S
Melbourne, FL 34142

Shindle:

I am writing in response to Kate MacFall's article that appeared in the Sunday
of Florida Today on 23 July 2017. She stated that a federal government review
of the endangered status of the Florida panther is imminent. I would certainly hope that
this endangered native animal would be retained on the list of endangered species.
The protection provided this beautiful animal should be continued. Apparently the
population is slowly increasing, but is far from stable.

I would urge you to do all that you can to ensure the continued protection for
the panther. It would be a great shame and another black mark against humanity if we
let this species dwindle away to extinction.

Thanks in advance for your efforts to protect the Florida panther.

Sincerely,



Joe Allen
Educator
USAR

Member Florida Trail Assoc.

Joe Allen
2730 Lakemont Rd.
Melbourne, FL 32934

ORLANDO FL 328

24 JUL 2017 PM 5 L



David Shindle, Biologist
South FL Ecological Services Field Office

Michael Armstrong
19151 Winding Way
Fort Myers, FL 33908

July 22, 2017

Mr. David Shindle
S. Florida Ecological Services
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

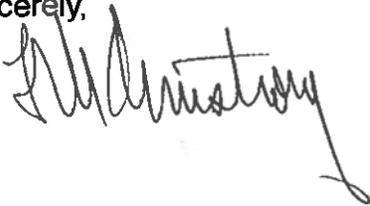
Dear Mr. Shindle,

I am writing to urge retaining the greatest possible protection for the Florida panther.

I am astounded that removing endangered species protection for the panther is even under consideration. At least to the casual observer, it appears that road kills alone may drive the panther to extinction.

The panther population may have increased modestly in the past 20 years, but it remains painfully small. Everything possible must be done to improve the panther's long term chances for survival. I am sure I do not have to remind you to err on the side of caution. There is no Plan B in the case of extinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Armstrong", written in a cursive style.

Dear Mr. Shindle,

We retired to Florida seven years ago after planning our move for many years. I was gardening in my side yard and looked up to see the most beautiful animal outside of a zoo I've ever seen. A honey-colored animal was gliding along the rear perimeter of our yard. At first, I thought a female lion had escaped from the zoo, later new friends informed me Florida panthers roamed in SW Florida. What a thrill it was for me to experience such a gorgeous cat in the wild. I've never seen another panther, but this once in a lifetime experience will never leave me. Please don't take this panther off the endangered species list. Let's save this beautiful animal from extinction.

Charlene C. Butler

July 24, 2017

Dear Mr. David Shindle:

This morning I read in the Sun Sentinel newspaper, an article by Kate MacHall, who is the Florida state director of the Humane Society of the United States. She writes:

"Ideas up citizens: the federal government is about to review the endangered status of one of our state's rarest species - the Florida panther - ..."

She also said that "biologists estimate that, at most, only 230 or fewer Florida panthers exist on earth." Also, "this U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service review comes at a time when panther deaths on Florida roads are outpacing the number of documented panther births." Also, "these highway deaths come on top of other causes of mortality..."

Actually, "the panthers need the protection the Endangered Species Act provides, more than ever." How is it that it could even be considered to not protect them? Most people would not know how to go about helping in ^{this} situation. I just ~~happened~~ ^{happened} to see Kate MacHall's article in the newspaper and she encouraged citizens to



Ms. Peggy Christie
8247 Weatherford Ave.
Brooksville, FL 34613

TAMPA FL 335
SAINT PETERSBURG FL
21 JUL 2017 PM 7.1



Rec'd
7/20/17

David Shindle
South Florida Ecological Services
Field Office, US Fish &
Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee FL 34142

7-20-17

Dear MR. Shindle,
Please keep the Florida
panther on the Federal
Endangered species list.
Also, please try to get
designated wildlife crossings
on southwest Florida roads.
Thank you! Peggy Christie

July 23, 2017

Dear Mr. Shindle,

I am writing, what I hope is one of many, a plea to keep "safe" our state animal, the Florida Panther.

You have the task of deciding the fate of this fragile species whose existence is under siege by the growth of the population, sprawl, traffic, big agriculture, poaching...in one word MAN. As I sat down to write this I see that another panther has been struck and killed by a car in the Naples area. The 13th fatal collision out of 17 panther deaths in that area alone, this year. It is not going to get any better, as time goes on.

It truly defies logic, that there would be ANY discussion of removing this animal from the Endangered Species List. I cannot think of a species – more endangered. Can you? It's obvious that this action is completely unwarranted.

It is my hope that you can put a stop to this irresponsible action. An action that would result in the extinction of an Icon of the wonderful wildlife that Florida is known, and as a Florida native, loved for.

About 20 years ago I was given the amazing honor of holding a baby "panther kitten" that had been rescued after his mother had been killed. I still remember that moment, all these years later, as a very special day in my life. I often wonder if that baby was able to go on and live his life happily and "safely".

You have the ability to make sure that his offspring is protected so that our offspring will have the ability to see one, know of one, and love one, in the wild. Not just on license plates, or, god forbid, pictures...pictures of extinct animals.

I hope as a Biologist, you will use this as an opportunity to make sure this does not happen. Please Mr. Shindle, Please save the Florida Panther.

Sincerely, Belinda Collins



420 Buttonwood Lane

Largo, Florida 33770

Dear Mr. Shundele.

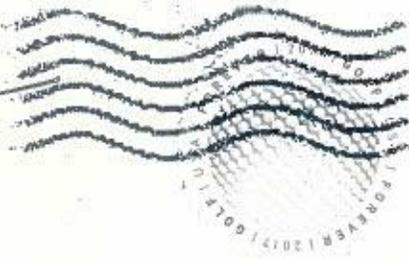
I was born in this state and I don't think that we've done a very good job maintaining our natural resources.

230 panthers vs. 20.6 million humans does not seem a fair balance.

It's time that we step up and protect a very threatened symbol of Florida's heritage although it seems an inconvenience to developers. Please use your influence to maintain Florida's endangered status for

TALLAHASSEE FL 323

21 JUL 2017 - PM 3 L



Rec'd
7/21/17

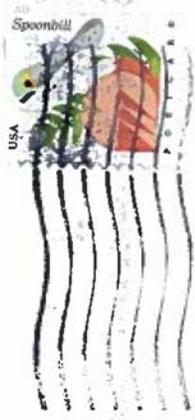
David Shindle
So. Fla. Ecological Services
Field Office
US Fish & Wildlife
12085 State Rd. 295
Immokalee Fl. 34142

7/21/17
Dear Mr. Shindle,

Our Florida Panther is still so
vulnerable to human encroachment
on it's habitat we must strive to
protect it in every way.

George F. Patton

Maine Wildlife Park
56 Game Farm Rd.
Gray, ME 04530
(207) 657-4977
07-21-2017



KEEP the
Florida panther
on the endangered
list.

2017/7/21

MS. K. KOSUDA
350 ORION RD
TAMMARA MO FL

To: David Shindle
So. Fl. Ecological Servs
Field Office
12075 SR 295a
Tammara Mo FL

07/21 11:11 AM

Kathy Lazaredes
2990 Rocky Point Rd.
Malabar, FL 32950

ORLANDO FL 328

SEP 23 2017 0421



South Fl. Ecological Services
Field Office

Paul
7/26/17

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 State Rd 295
Immokalee, FL
34142



7-23-17

Dear Sir,

I am writing you today to
please keep the Florida panther
on the endangered list.

They are such beautiful
animals & we must protect
them.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Pete & Kathy
Lazaredes

Dear Sirs,

As a native Floridian
I love Florida's
Wild Heritage and
I want our panthers
protected.

Sincerely,
Catherine F. Sinton
6951 Abbeyside Rd



South Florida Ecological
Services Field Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 State Rd. 295.
Dunnellon, Fla
34142

Postage and fees paid by addressee

July 21, 2017

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Attention: David Shindle
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

Re: Protect Florida Panthers

Dear Mr. Shindle:

I understand your agency is accepting public input for consideration in review of the endangered status of Florida panthers.

The enclosed article, *Make Your Voice Heard*, written by Manley Fuller, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, appeared in the Tampa Bay Times on July 20, 2017.

The case for working to nurture these magnificent cats rather than losing their federal endangered protection could not be better stated than Mr. Fuller did in this article. Also included here is a piece which appeared in the Tampa Bay Times on the same day as Mr. Fuller's article about losing still another female panther. I believe that the facts illustrated by Mr. Fuller clearly reinforce the case for keeping our Florida panthers on the endangered list.

I appreciate the opportunity to have a voice in this matter to protect the panther, our Florida state animal.

Sincerely,



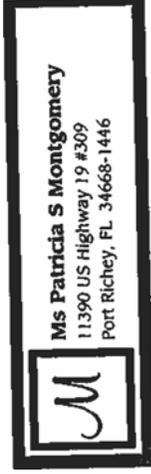
Diane Miller
10650 Village Dr., #201A
Seminole, FL 33772

Enclosures

7/24/17

Please keep the endangered
species status on the
Panthers.

Patricia S. Montgomery

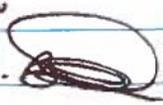


July 22, 2017

To David Shindle

Please do all you can to protect
the Florida Panther. Just rec'd that a
female was killed on the road again.
We need to keep the big cat on the
endangered species list.

It's bad enough that they took
the manatee off the list.
Save Florida's state animal.

Thank you,
Carol Grant
June Snipes / June Snipes
Cherry Bowen / Cherry Co. 
Tami 
BS / Brittany Snipes
Melba Adkeman
Berlisa Hughes

David Shindle

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Please keep the Florida Panther on the endangered species list. Unless you want to be the one who personally changes that number from 200 to 201.

I am an old lady, and if the panther is removed from being protected, it will become extinct before I do. Do the right thing.

Hopefully,
Carol Ann Scott
Oldsmar, Florida

200
is the number of species that scientists conservatively estimate have gone extinct in the past 100 years. Over the past 2 million years, the "normal" rate has been only two species every century — a mere 1 percent of the most recent century — and that's due to evolution and other factors.

Ms Carol A Scott
2032 Sheffield Ct
Oldsmar, FL 34677

TANPA FL 335
SAINT PETERSBURG FL
21 JUL 2017 PM 7 L

Rec'd 7/24/17

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

Attn: David Shindle

7-22-17

Dear David,

NO to any change
in the Endangered Status of
our Florida Panther!

Habitat loss and
human persecution is only going
to continue to worsen with the
raging development our state
is experiencing.

NO!

Linda J. Wilson
6205 MARCOM ST.
Englewood FL 34224
941-475-7210
ljayewilson@juno.com



7/21/17

Mr. David Shindle
South Fl. Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Rd. 29
Immokalee, FL 34142

Dear Sir:

I am totally against the Federal Government looking into the endangered status of the Florida Panther.

17 DEATHS THIS YEAR

2 PANTHERS DYING ON THE HIGHWAY PER MONTH

220 (ONLY) LIVING

It makes no sense to take OUR state animal OFF of the endangered list.

I simply do NOT understand why the Federal government would even question this!

If there is money available, my suggestion would be to track the areas of death, to find out WHERE the animals are crossing the highway. Tunnels, or even bridges, could be built. Nothing elaborate! This has been proven to save animals in other states.

I say JUST DO IT.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Allen Chew
505 Olive Court
Brandon FL 33510 3526

phone: 813 689 5181

1300 WHITE HERON LN.
VERO BEACH, FL. 32963

My wife and I enjoyed the article in the Vero
each press journal about the Florida panthers.
ate Mac Fall wrote the article. My wife and
want to help save the species from extinction,
therefore we wish to vote yes on keeping the
status of the endangered species protection list
permanent.

Albert W. Gackowski
Colleen B. Gackowski

"v. wava #mudde,

The upcoming review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service re. the Florida panther is very important to the future of this unique animal, a part of Florida's heritage.

Much of the special places that make our state so special, and this great "cat" may be right up there high

on the list, are fading away as our "growth" pushes on. Please consider the strides that have been made to increase the numbers of these wonderful creatures, and help insure that positive measures in their survival continue.

Thanks for your consideration

Mrs. Mary Lynn Poggio
640 A.W.G.I. Avenue
Plantation, FL 33317

Postage
640 S.W. 61 Avenue
Plantation

FLORIDA
25 JUL 2017 PM 3 L
33317



8/2/17

Mr. David Ahindle
A. Fla. Ecological Services Field Office
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 State Rd. 29 A
Immokalee, Florida

34142



Save the Florida Panther
Save Florida Ecological Service

Barbara Stengel

Stengel
3985 Mainlands Blvd N
Pinellas Park, FL 33782

7

1201 River Reach Drive
Apt. 409
Fc. Lauderdale 33315
July 25, 2017

David Skindle
South Florida Ecological
Services Field office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 295
Immokalee, FL 34142

Dear Mr. Skindle:

Please! Our Florida panthers
must be protected as an endangered
species!

My husband and I value our
beautiful state for its' scenery and
wild life. Let's see to it that our
panthers are protected and allowed
to live and increase in population.

The panther is the official state
animal - please protect it as an
endangered species!

Thank you for your consideration
on this matter.

Sincerely,
Vicky + Brian
Stevenson

3095 YUKON DRIVE
PORT CHARLOTTE, FLORIDA
33948
JULY 25, 2017

MR DAVID SHINDLE
SOUTH FLORIDA ECOLOGICAL SERVICES FIELD OFFICE
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
12085 STATE ROAD 295
LIMMOKALEE, FLORIDA 34142

RE: FLORIDA PANTHER

DEAR MR. SHINDLE:

THIS IS TO LEND MY SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION AND FURTHER REPOPULATION OF OUR FLORIDA PANTHERS.

THE SMALL NUMBER OF WILD PANTHERS IN YOUR ARTICLE IS BARELY SUSTAINABLE FOR A SPECIES THAT FORMERLY NUMBERED IN TENS OF THOUSANDS. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT THEIR CURRENT POPULATION (ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THEIR NATURAL RANGE) QUALIFIES FOR CONTINUED PROTECTION UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO ASK ME TO DO ANYTHING ELSE TO ASSIST YOUR EFFORTS. THANK YOU.

ECOLOGICALLY YOURS,
Robert D. Swan
ROBERT D. SWAN, RACV

7/29/2017

Dear Mr. Shindle,

We are asking you to please not remove the Fl. panther from the endangered list.

Instead we need to have more designated wildlife crossings put in place as we are losing on average of 2 a month on Fl. roads

Also, we need to make sure they have more sufficient habitat.

To take them off of the endangered list would be devastating to them.

We cannot afford to lose anymore of these beautiful animals.

Our state animal deserves better. Our future generations need to know we care & will be doing our very best to preserve our panthers.

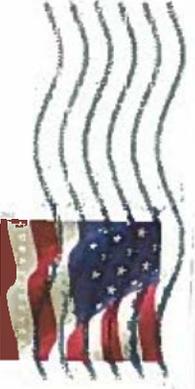
Sincerely,

Alan & Lois Krasemann



Alan & Lois Krasemann
3389 Rackley Rd
Brooksville FL 34604-7020

TAMPA FL 335
PETERSBURG FL
31 JUL 2017 1447 L



NAPLES
Female panther killed by vehicle

An endangered Florida panther was struck and killed by a vehicle this week. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission says the female panther's remains were found Tuesday near Naples in Collier County. Officials said it was about 2½ years old. It's the 13th fatal collision this year out of 17 total panther deaths.



GREENPEACE

Mary Babineau
1055 43rd Ave. N.
Saint Petersburg, FL 33703

TAMPA FL 335
SAINT PETERSBURG FL
26 JUL 2017 PM 5 L



July 26, 2017

Dear Mr. Shindle,

I hope you will not remove the FL. panther from the endangered list. Their population is critically low. This year alone 17 panthers of a meager population of barely 200 have been killed, 13 through vehicle accidents. The remaining animals must be protected.

Thank you for your consideration. No reply necessary.

— Mary Babineau

Heaven & Nature

Leonard Buck
11740 SW Apple Blossom Trail
Port St. Lucie, FL 34987

July 27, 2017

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

Attn: Mr. David Shindle

Dear Sir,

I write today to request the **Florida Panther remain under the endangered species protection.** We need to keep these beautiful animals saved from extinction. Please add to the successes that have happened since they were first put on the endangered species list in 1967. Despite that protection, the 1990's led to almost a complete loss of these cats in Florida. I'm not sure how their numbers could have dwindled so much at that time. More extensive rescue efforts should be made now -- and if there is anything else that can be done to prolong the lives of these cats as they roam south Florida, we should certainly spend the time and money to do so. It saddens me to hear of them being hit by vehicles on our roads as they look for food and mates. We need to take care of all inhabitants of our planet and so should extend greater protections to our Florida panthers.

Sincerely,



Leonard Buck

Marcia Buck
11740 SW Apple Blossom Trail
Port St. Lucie, FL 34987

July 27, 2017

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

Attn: Mr. David Shindle

Dear Sir,

As a native Floridian, I have always loved and enjoyed the beauty of our state and so I write today to request the **Florida Panther remain under the endangered species protection**. We need to keep these beautiful animals saved from extinction. Please add to the successes that have happened since they were first put on the endangered species list in 1967. Despite that protection, the 1990's led to almost a complete loss of these cats in Florida. I'm not sure how their numbers could have dwindled so much at that time. More extensive rescue efforts should be made now -- and if there is anything else that can be done to prolong the lives of these cats as they roam south Florida, we should certainly spend the time and money to do so. It saddens me to hear of them being hit by vehicles on our roads as they look for food and mates. We need to take care of all inhabitants of our planet and so should extend greater protections to our Florida panthers.

Sincerely,

Marcia Buck

Dorius H. Desmarais
395 8th Ter.
Vero Beach, FL 32962



GUEST COLUMNIST
KATE MACFALL

Hears up, citizens.
The federal government
is about to review the
endangered status of one

7/25/17

Mr. Shindler,

We value our
Florida's wild
heritage to protect
our beautiful
panthers.

Florida panthers
need our protection
they are endangered
to becoming
extinct.

We cannot allow
this to happen.

Mr. & Mrs. D. Desmarais
Vero Beach
FLORIDA



require large ranges. Biologists know
the leading cause of species extinction
around the world is habitat loss and
human persecution. With developers
encroaching more dramatically in
southwest Florida, the panthers need
the protection the Endangered Species
Act provides more than ever.
We know too well how fragile our
panther population is; the cats
on the Endangered Species
57. In the 1990s, the population
1 to just 20 to 30 cats before
rescue efforts began to save
es from extinction. The pro-
ide in reviving their population
t be prematurely dismantled
like all other mountain lion
es, Florida panthers are spe-
apted to their Big Cypress
nd Everglades habitats.
. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is
iblic comment about reviewing
la panthers' endangered spe-
ctions until Aug. 29. We must
deral government know we
riders wild heritage and we
panthers protected.
should be sent to biologist
ndle through one of the fol-
ethods:
lar mail: South Florida Eco-
rvices Field Office, U.S. Fish
ife Service, 12085 State Road
okalee, FL 34142
ll: david_shindler@fws.gov
772-562-4288

ned for the

eady-low numbers and because they

ed States.

Fall is the Florida state direc-
tor for the Humane Society of the Unit-

7.28-17

David Shindle

Please do all in your
power to protect our
panthers. I love our
wild life - am 80 years old
and upset over every
panther that is lost.

Mary P Jepp
5740 S Hwy A1A
Mel Beh (73295)

July 25, 2017

Mr David Skindler
So. Florida Ecological Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Subj: Florida Panther



Dear Mr. Skindler,
your current level of protection
under the Endangered Species
Act appears, statistically, to
be working. Please keep
that protection in place.

We have so few Florida
panthers and so many are dying,
probably ^{MORE} than recorded in reports.
We need pass-throughs under roads
and limits on development. We still
need intensive rescue efforts.

I urge you to continue the
highest level of protection for our
magnificent Florida panthers.

You have been successful,
so far. Please keep going.

Hopefully,
Gail E. Landen



Gail Landen
563 SW Sanctuary Dr
Port St Lucie, FL 34986

SIL GARDENIA LAND
VERO BEACH, FL 32963
July 26, 2017

DEAR MR. SHINDLE,

PLEASE DO EVERYTHING IN YOUR POWER TO
PROTECT OUR FLORIDA PANTHERS AND KEEP
THEM ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST.

Thank you,

Cora Markford

I am in favor
of keeping Fla panthers
from being dropped
off the endangered
list. They are
beautiful creatures
& do not deserve
to be hunted &
killed for sport of
a few. As long as
they don't endanger
our citizens we
should protect them.
My family & I saw



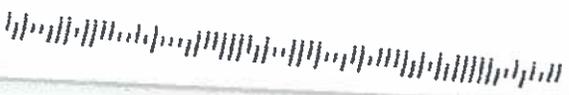
Andrea Rakes
19173 Lake Audubon Dr
Tampa FL 33647

TAMPA FL 336
PETERSBURG FL
PN 91



Rec'd
7/13/07

David Shindle
South Fl. Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 St Rd 295. Amnokalae
Fla.
34142

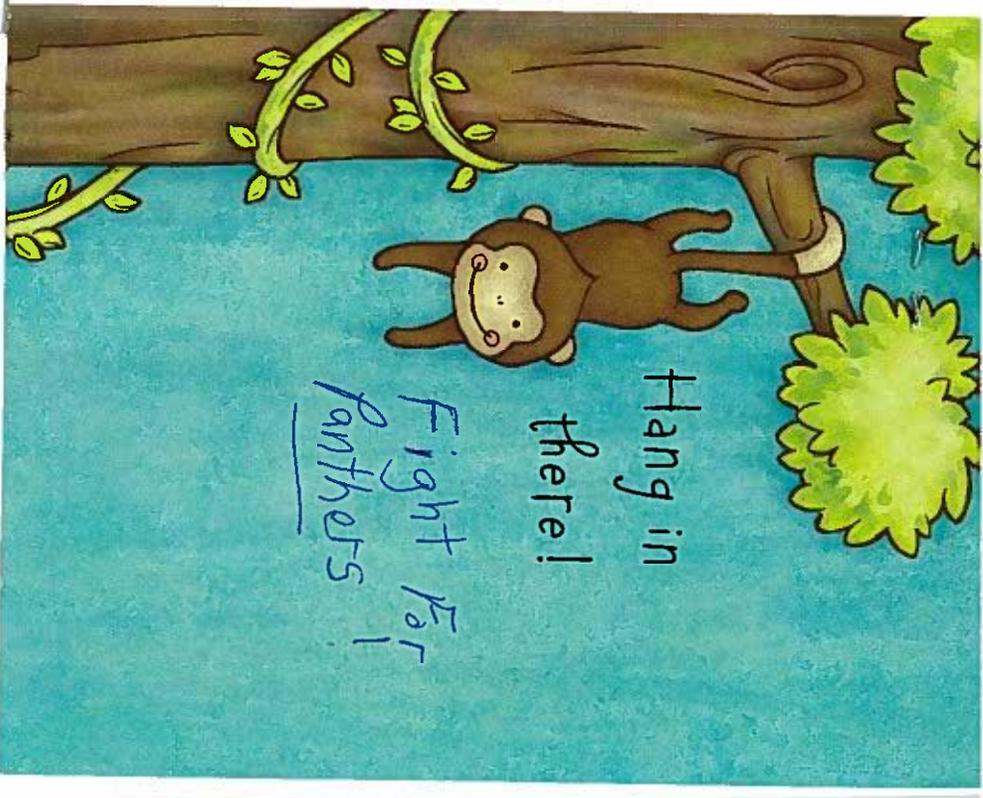


One in the wild
in our neighborhood
conservation area
about 4 years ago,
with a thrill!

Sincerely,
Andrea Foster

Tender Thoughts

17947230
TEC121962300F
©MTC, LLC



Rec'd 7/31/12

ORLANDO FL 328

Please Protect

our Fragyle

Florida Panther

Population. Keep

their endangered

Status.

Grace Amore Savage

204 Hunt Ct

Sebastian, FL 32958

34142

saage99@comcast.net

772-388-3172



David Shindle
S. Florida Ecological
Services

12085 SR 29S

Immokalee, FL

26 JUL 17

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
12085 State Road 29S
Immokalee FL 34142
ATT: David Shindle

Dear Mr. Shindle:

I strongly urge you to consider all the implications should the Florida panther be taken off the endangered list here in our state. I am presently staff officer for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection for the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 56 in Vero Beach. As you know, the environment is getting smaller and smaller due to the increase of construction of homes in their habitat. The population of our panthers is still very small and taking them off the endangered list won't help their cause. Please keep them protected.

Our already low numbers in their population will only add more stress to their being able to find the habitat they need to survive.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Sandra J. Thiel

SANDRA J. THIEL

1070 SW 47th Avenue Vero Beach FL 32968 •

July 25, 2017

South Florida Ecological Services
Field Office, U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

To Whom it May Concern:

I understand the federal government is about to review the status of the Florida panther.

I value Florida's wild heritage and would like to request that we continue to protect the panthers. I am 75 years old and a native Floridian. I spent 28 years in Lakeland where I was born and have lived in Indian River County since January 1, 1970.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

R. Don Deeson



GUEST COLUMNIST
KATE MACFALL

require large ranges. Biologists know the leading cause of species extinction around the world is habitat loss and human persecution. With developers encroaching more dramatically in northwest Florida, the panthers need protection the Endangered Species Act provides more than ever. We know too well how fragile our Florida panther population is: the cats were put on the Endangered Species list in 1967. In the 1990s, the population dwindled to just 20 to 30 cats before intensive rescue efforts began to save the species from extinction. The progress made in reviving their population could not be prematurely dismantled. Unlike all other mountain lion species, Florida panthers are specially adapted to their Big Cypress ramp and Everglades habitats. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is doing public comment about reviewing Florida panthers' endangered species protections until Aug. 29. We must let the federal government know we value Florida's wild heritage and we need our panthers protected. Input should be sent to biologist David Shindle through one of the following methods:
Regular mail: South Florida Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 12085 State Road 29, Immokalee, FL 34142
Email: david_shindle@fws.gov
Fax: 772-562-4288

MacFall is the Florida state director of the Humane Society of the United States.

CITIZENS need to swim up for their puny

TO: BIOLOGIST DAVID SHINDLE
FROM: WILLIAM ANDERSON
RE: FLORIDA PANTHER ENDANGERED SPECIES
LIST STATUS REVIEW

Do all in your power to retain the Florida panther on the Endangered Species list, and maintain all regulations appertaining to said status in effect at beginning of current fiscal year.

Thank you, David for your service to the nation in the Service which has been responsible for protecting the Florida panther for a half-century.

I wish you well in the role of
PROTECTOR OF THE PANTHER,

Respectfully yours,
William Anderson

[P.S. Although not directly involved in the decision re this matter I was serving in the Executive Office of the President when the Florida Panther was placed on the Endangered Species list.]



WILLIAM ANDERSON
APT 103
377 VANDERBILT BEACH RD
NAPLES FL 34108-2377

FT MYERS FL 339

21 JUN 2017 PM 2:1



Rec'd
@ 8/2/2017

Biologist David Shindle
South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
12085 STATE ROAD 29 S.
IMMOKALEE, FL 34142

34142-570385



1410 Tradition Cir., #104
Melbourne, FL 32901

July 31, 2017

Mr. David Shindle, Biologist
South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

RE: Keep Florida Panther on Endangered Species List

Dear Mr. Shindle:

Please keep the Florida Panther on the Endangered Species List. It is the Florida State Animal. In the early 1990s, there were only 20 - 30 Florida Panthers in Florida. Thanks largely to the protection that the Endangered Species Designation has provided, there are now about 200 - 230 Florida Panthers. However, Florida's population of 20 million people continues to pose multiple threats to survival of the Florida Panther including habitat loss, poaching, disease, and highway traffic fatalities.

The Florida Panther should continue to be protected by its Federal Endangered Species designation as it struggles to survive in its natural habitat. Do not let its future result in the same fate as that of the now extinct Dusky Seaside Sparrow.

Thank you for your co

Sincerely,

Jane Beach

Jane Beach

1410 Tradition Cir., #104
Melbourne, FL 32901

Rec'd
8/3/2017

Mr. David Shindle, Biol
S. Florida Ecological S
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

7-27-17

David Shindle,

I read the recent article which gave me news of our Florida panthers.

They are rarer each day and I would urge you to do whatever is necessary to save these beautiful animals.

I would imagine only a very few people have been fortunate to actually see a panther in the wild. I have not, but would love the privilege.

Sincerely,

Laure Copson

7/30/2017

June Kooze

519 Loudon Ave

Dunedin, FL 34698

memsat2001@yahoo.com

Dr. Dr. Shindle,

I am writing you today to
express my emphatic plea to

Please keep the Florida Panthers
on the Wildlife Endangered List.

I personally cannot understand
how they could possibly be
removed. They should always
be a part of Florida's protected
heritage. The fact that I actually
took time to WRITE this plea
should show you how concerned I
am about this issue!

Sincerely,

June Kooze

July 28, 2011

Dear Mr. Davis Thudle,

Please save ^{and} protect
Our Panthers.

It saddens me to SEE/hear
animals savagely murdered
& abused.

They were here on "God's little
Green Acres" long before humans

Wildlife Matters!!

Sincerely,
a lover of all animals.

Corrie Skinner

1122 25th St

Unit # 5

Vero Beach, FL 32960



WILLIAM M. WARNER • 1510 VALLEY FORGE BLVD. • SUN CITY CENTER, FL 33570 • TEL. (813) 634-5239

Dear David,

My neighbors and myself believe that 42 of our beautiful "cats" is by itself too much. We enjoy them whenever we can see one so please protect them by "NO HUNTING THEM!"

They are one of the things that make Florida a "Wonderful" place to live. Lets not hurt it.

Thanks For your work...

William M. Warner.

Made's Jind

August 03. 2017

Maureen B. Peterson
1316 Pasadena Ave. S., #301
South Pasadena, FL 33707

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142
Attention: David Shindle, Biologist

Rec'd
8/17/2017

Subject: Florida Panther needs to remain an Endangered Species v. GREED

Dear Mr. Shindle:

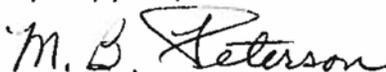
You have a handful of geneticists saying they are not a separate sub-species and Florida's Fish & Wildlife's DNA tests saying they are. **Both are irrelevant**. There are no more than 200 left and every year at least 10% of that miniscule population is killed, mostly on our highways. They have been protected since 1967 and at one point, their population was down to just 20-30 animals. I am aware of the 1995 history of bringing in eight female mountain lions from Texas, for mating purposes. It was the one thing that prevented complete extinction and should be considered again – especially in view of what we know of how crucial genetic diversity is to the survival of any species. Even the geneticist who says they are not a separate sub-species, agrees that 200 panthers are not enough to ensure their survival. And to that I add, *especially* if they are downgraded to merely threatened.

The people of Florida will be outraged if they are reduced to just "threatened". You are no doubt aware of the public's reaction to Florida's bear hunt. That will be *minimal* compared to our beloved panthers. They are the State Animal, chosen by school children who have grown up loving these magnificent creatures - with posters in their bedrooms and license plates on their cars, which say "Save the Panther".

The reduction to "threatened" will give the State of Florida more flexibility to ensure their extinction. Gov. Rick Scott and Rep. Vern Buchanan want this action taken so the protected conservation/panther habitat lands can be opened to fossil fuel extraction, real estate development, ad infinitum. It will keep their wealthy, special-interest donors writing those checks. The State of Florida will ensure they are killed off or moved to another state, of that you can be sure. Some facts you may not be aware of, are found in a study by Harvard Law School's Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, which found that Florida is among the most politically corrupt states in the entire nation. They rate **illegal corruption** in our state legislature as "very common", **illegal corruption** in the executive branch as "moderately common" and even **legal corruption** as "very common". In view of that, how can you consider turning over more control to the State of Florida?

The thought of Florida's natural resource management agencies being able to kill, wound, trap, or move panthers, as merely a threatened species, makes me physically ill and angry. You have a moral and legal duty to protect Endangered Species and I hope you will honor that duty, despite any and all political pressures.

Very truly yours,



Maureen B. Peterson
1316 Pasadena Ave S., #301
South Pasadena, FL 33707
727-345-1942
moepeterson14@gmail.com

8/3/17

Ecological Field Office

Gentlemen:

It has come to my attention that the status of the Florida panther is coming up for review.

The panther is a unique part of Florida's heritage and much loved by all.

Due to the high mortality rate (mostly by cars) it is in critical danger of becoming extinct.

It is imperative that they be protected by every means available. Therefore it is imperative that they remain on the endangered list as well as any other means of protecting them.

Your help in this matter
will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely

Lillian K. Lockwood

Registered voter in Martin County





E. R. JAHNA INDUSTRIES, INC.

P.O. Drawer 840 • Lake Wales, Florida 33859-0840

E.R. JAHNA INDUSTRIES, INC.
202 East Stuart Avenue
P.O. Drawer 840
Lake Wales, FL 33859-0840

July 28, 2017

Mr. David Shindle
Biologist
US Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 South
Immokalee, FL 34142



Your Sand Man

*copy
8/3/2017
SUBSISTIVE

Subject: 5-Year Review of Florida Panther Endangered Species Status

Dear Mr. Shindle:

E.R. Jahna Industries, Inc. (Jahna) is a producer of fine aggregate, and we supply commercial grade sand to the construction industry of Florida. Jahna is in full support of your current review of the endangered status of the Florida Panther with a detailed examination of current panther population, taxonomy, and habitat availability. We would encourage you to closely evaluate all the available science in the protection and management of this species. We feel that reducing the panther's classification to threatened status may be warranted based on current data. This action would benefit the citizens of Florida by potentially lessening restrictive regulations on development and mining while ensuring that affordable construction materials are available to our growing Florida economy.

Sincerely,

Sam Morrone

President



ISA Certified
Arborist
S0-1029



4231 46th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33714
Phone (727) 527-7443
Fax (727) 527-7676

AUGUST 2, 2017

DEAR SIR -

PLEASE help us protect the FLORIDA PANTHER. THESE ARE TRYING TIMES FOR NATURE BUT WE FEEL WE WILL GET THROUGH THEM + BE BETTER AND STRONGER FOR IT. A DISAPPEARING PANTHER IS JUST AS SAD AS A DISAPPEARING BUTTERFLY. WE WHO ARE OVER COME WITH DAY TO DAY life ARE COMFORTED AND DEPEND ON MOTHER NATURE. PLEASE FORWARD THIS LETTER AND OUR SINCERE WISHES FOR A GOOD OUTCOME.

THANK-YOU,

Jamy + Paulene

Greetings from the Sunshine State.
Photo by Rindy Nyberg

Kevin
8/8/00
Made in
USA



Please do all you
can to protect our
Panthers! This is
urgent!

Many thanks!

Nancy B. 

SCN-8812R

© Southern Card & Novelty, Ormond Beach, FL (386) 673-6745

DAVID SHINDLE
South Florida Ecological Service
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29S
Immokalee, FL

August 10, 2017

David Shindle
c/o South Florida Ecological
Services

Dear Mr Shindle,

I am very happy that I have a chance to express my deep concern for our precious Florida panthers. I am deeply upset to see our environment and our wildlife being endangered and ignored. Who is protecting and looking out for these important issues? Laws are not enforced, developers control what is happening to our beautiful state. What is going to be left - no trees, no animals, pollution, nothing but cement? How did things get this bad? My grandchildren wonder how much longer they'll be able to enjoy our panthers.

Shame on us. The numbers of wildlife and birds disappearing because we have taken their homes and land away should upset everyone and move all the action. Please protect our panthers. What have they done to deserve this abuse?

Thank You,

Nancy J. Marco
6522 River Run Drive
Sebastian, FL
32958



nail

Kris Hleuka <krishleuka@gmail.com>

nthers

krishleuka@gmail.com>
e@fws.gov

Tue, Aug 8, 2017 at 7:08 PM

→ Would not send

ndle,
nderstanding that you are taking public comment about reviewing the FL panthers' endangered species
l, and everyone I know here in Englewood, FL, want you to know that we deeply value Florida's wild heritage
why I moved here from California, for the water and wildlife -- and want our panthers protected!
ier was chosen as our official state animal yet only 230 or fewer exist on Earth. Since there are 20.6 million
orida, it is as essential as ever to PREVENT the panthers from extinction. Because of all these humans, the
avoidable and sad. It alone is too high to be sustainable. PLEASE continue to PROTECT OUR

FL
50



Mrs. Kristin Hleuka
65 Sand Dollar Ln
Englewood, FL 34223-5940

Rec'd
8/17/2017

South Florida Ec
U.S. Fish & Wildlif
12085 State Rc
Immokalee, Fl

34142-570385

1/11

August 8, 2017

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
Attn: David Shindle, Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee FL 34142

Dear Mr. Shindle,

This letter is sent in response to an article that appeared in the local newspaper concerning possible changes being made by the federal government to remove the Florida panther from the endangered species list. I'm not a biologist, a zoologist, or an ecologist, but I believe that removing the Florida panther from the endangered species list would be unwise.

The Florida panther's natural habitat - the Big Cypress Swamp and Everglades - is exclusive, unlike it's cousin's, the Puma, whose habitat and range is quite extensive. The Florida panther is most commonly found to survive in these particular areas.

Again, I'm not an expert, but if this current population, that was created from 20 to 30 panthers that survived in the 1990s, were culled again, what effect would that have on the health of the future gene pool?

Also, how would the reduction of a natural apex predator affect other species?

Sometimes the reason behind unwise changes (such as the current abuse of our natural springs, wetlands and other protected areas) reveals a not-so-hidden agenda, and that agenda usually involves money. If lucrative gain is behind any of these decisions, then we can be assured that nature and natural resources will suffer. Are there any plans to develop any of those areas mentioned? If so, then say goodbye to the Florida panther and other species that exist in our incredibly unique eco systems of southern Florida.

It would be a great relief to see our representatives (local, state and federal) make decisions that support the environment and not abuse it. We are to be good stewards of what's been given to us by God. Money, people and the eternal struggle for power will always be present and survive, but living creatures and natural resources, which don't have a voice, won't always be there if they're not properly cared for and preserved.

Sincerely,

L, Richardson



Mr. & Mrs. C.R. Richardson
P.O. Box 4886
Ocala, FL 34478-4886

*Rec'd
8/14/2017*

August 8, 2017

Dear David Shindle,

Do not take the endangered Florida Panther off of the Endangered list. I'm trusting you to do the right thing. They need our protection more than ever.

Thanking you in advance,
Pat Rinaldi

Pat Rinaldi



Ms. Patricia Rinaldi
418 Shore Dr. E.
Oldsmar, FL 34677

TAMPA FL :
SAINT PETERSBURG
08 AUG 2017 PM

*Rec'd
8/14/2017*

David Shindle
South Fl. Ecological Services Field
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 State Rd, 295,
Dunelake Fl. 34142

34142-570385





Ms Lois Schlichter
4457 51st St N
St Petersburg, FL 33709

TAMPA FL
SAINT PETERSBURG

To -

Manley Fuller OR DAVID SHINDLE

Please keep our Florida panthers
on the endangered species list!

Removing federal protection
is clearly unwarranted.

Thank you in Advance,

74

e

S.

2

|||||

Why? Why? Why? Why would you
be the panther off endangered
st??? What would that
accomplish?? How many species of
animals are you trying to wipe
out?? First the black bears and
now the panthers?? These cats
need to be protected before
It's too late.

You need to start showing
some compassion for animals
instead of trying to wipe them
out... Isn't that your job???

Kathy Giersch
Belleview
FL

Kathy Giersch
0132 SE 122nd St
Belleview, FL 34420

JACKSONVILLE FL 320

11 AUG 2017 PM 3 L



cvl
8/15/2017

10366 110th Ave
Seminole, FL 33773

August 8, 2017

Attn: US fish and Wildlife Service

We are writing this on behalf of all the creatures on land and in the sea.

Because of the greediness of people who just can't wait to make a dollar by purchasing land and developing it. never caring about the consequences. The bears are pushed further and further away from the area they were born in. Returning only to find it has been developed and they are pushed away. The Florida panther should be kept on the endangered species list or they are gone forever. Endangered Key deer is also in trouble, because humans just can't leave things alone. Once they are gone its over. People are shooting sharks, dragging them through the water until they die, then laughing at their actions.

Roosevelt set aside acres of land in Yellowstone to preserve the animals -mountains - waterfalls etc. Author Beatrix Potter bought up many farms to stop development. Angering many greedy people. She was a women ahead of her time. On her death she left 4,000 acres to the National Trust. What has Florida done? Even the everglades are a mess, Sugar industry took care of that.

Saving species shouldn't be a matter of discussion. It should be a matter of automatic response because, you can't reproduce a specie once it is gone.

Hopefully this letter will speak for the endangered animals of Florida.

Submitted by the following supporters

Samantha Harrington

R. Miller
Genie Duss

Jan Johnson

John Hall
[Signature]

[Signature]
Conrad Stottly

Anna Sma

[Signature]
Debbie Kuhn

Naples, Aug 12/17

Dear Mr Shindle,

I read with great interest the article of July 30 in The Naples Daily News by Kate MacFall. I believe that the Florida Panther deserves the Federal protection. As a matter of fact, not enough is done for that beautiful animal. There should be plenty of space reserved for it and fences where there is danger -

Too many panthers are killed on the road, it should not happen -

Too many developments reduce their space. Everything is linked with money. Politicians make money with developments, that's all that matters.



Rec'd
8/14/2017

Mr David Shindle
South Florida Ecological Services, Inc
US Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29
S. Immokalee 34142
FL.





The dwindling of the panther population in the 1990's should serve as a reminder. The panthers need all the protection they deserve. I hope there will be enough people caring -

I admire the people who work to help the panthers.

Thank you for your good work,

Sincerely,

Micheline Johnson
Naples FL


Micheline Johnson
3403 Cayman Ln
Naples, FL 34119-1610

FT MYERS FL 339

AUG 2017 PM 6 L



Rec'd
8/14/2017

Mr David Shindle
South Florida Ecological Services Fund
US Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29
S. Immokalee 34142
FL.



7/27/17

Mr. Shindle

The Florida Panther status needs to stay as is - Endangered.

We may have ~200 cats but at a 30-40 per year kill rate - how long is 200 going to last - even with kittens being born.

You say - they now, with being found north of the river, have POTENTIAL habitat. Have you got plans to safe-guard that habitat? If they are building in that area - like Sarasota is east of I 75 - it won't last long.

Interstates and major Roads are busier & busier - almost year round - any plans to handle that ??

Without some thought & plans for their future - as they wander north - Taking them off the endangered list isn't an option -



Sandy Coover
2275 37th St. N.
St Petersburg, FL 33713

TANPA FL 335
SAINT PETERSBURG FL
02 AUG 2017 PM 7 L

Rec'd
8/17/2017

David Shindle

Ecological Services

Fish & Wildlife Service: July 29, 2017

PLEASE re-consider your plan to remove the "Florida panther" from the "Endangered status" listing. We are still losing too many of these beautiful creatures from road killing & continued development of their natural habitat in S. Florida. Unnecessary home & road development into their habitat needed to protect them is being ~~forced upon~~ ~~by~~ greedy ~~development~~. Please help our beautiful Florida cats & do not remove them from their Endangered Status.

A friend of the
Panther —

Brenda Edwards

HT
CK!

Brenda Edwards
1867 Pine Cone Cir
Clearwater, FL 33760-5351



Daniel Hartshorne
511 Osceola Rd.
Belleair, FL 33756

July 24, 2017
511 Osceola Rd.
Belleair, FL 33756

NAPLES

**Female panther
killed by vehicle**

An endangered Florida panther was struck and killed by a vehicle this week. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission says the female panther's remains were found Tuesday near Naples in Collier County. Officials said it was about 2½ years old. It's the 13th fatal collision this year out of 17 total panther deaths.

Thursday, July 20, 2017 | 1B

Tampa Bay Times

**Talk of
the bay**

TO: David Schindle,

This is the first thing I saw last Thursday as I opened my morning paper... another dead panther!

That anyone in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Comm. could even consider taking away their endangered species protection due to some genetic purity test is just a travesty... and while there would be no protection while re-classifying was going on...

is just plain horrifying! And coming at a time that they're actually starting to expand their territory... really?! They need even more protection now... not less.

PLEASE SAVE OUR PANTHERS !!!

Nancy and Dan Hartshorne

142
S. McCrary
PO Box 2403
1116 FL 32902

25 August 2017

Dear Mr. Furdle -

Save the Florida Panthers.
They must NOT be removed
from the Endangered Species
list, and more must
be done to protect them.
Human beings and our
careless encroachment of
their domain has seriously
reduced their population.

Please help less loss of
habitat, stiffer penalties for
harm, more Fish & Wildlife officers -
whatever it takes.

These animals are an integral
part of our ecosystem and a
true representation of Wild Florida.
Saving them is most likely inconvenient
and costly, but more than a
little worthwhile. Take some of the
(or all of) budget for tourism from
those idiots in Tallahassee who
paid Pitbull to lure tourists, the
money's better spent on these cats than on
solid so.

Mr. David Shindle
S. Florida Ecological Field Office
USFWS
12085 State Rd 29S
Immokalee, FL 34142

Mr. Shindle,

I am asking your agency to reconsider its objective of delisting the Florida panther. While it may be similar to the species out west, the Florida panther is unique to our state. Reckless development, rollbacks of environmental protections of habitat, and the number of panthers killed annually by cars are already decimating the population. Delisting it will accelerate its demise. The people of Florida have fought long and hard to keep this species viable in our state. Please do not undo decades of hard work and succumb to the wishes of some developers, politicians, and others who would hasten the destruction of this creature's habitat and its very existence.

Please do not delist the Florida panther from its endangered status.

Sincerely,

Scarlett Robinson
Largo, Florida

P. Temple
pper Ln
FL 33956

FT MYERS FL 339

04 AUG 2017 PM 2 L



David Shindle.
SO. Florida Ecological Services
Field Office
U. S. Fish + Wildlife Service
12085 state Rd. 29S.

Immokalee, FL 34142

NOTES

Aug. 4 '17

Is upon it may concern—

Please let the Federal
Govt. know there are many
of us who value our Florida
Partners. We are concerned
and heart-broken to read
almost weekly of their deaths
on our highways.

Surely more barriers or
tunnels could be built to
guide them under or around
their customary routes as
they seek that little land

notes

August 2, 2017

Dear Mr. Skindle,

I can not believe
this note is necessary.

As a scientist you
know there is no scientific
justification to strip panthers
of their endangered species
protection. Just the opposite is
true. More must be done to
protect them. If you are
working for them and us
please do everything in
your power to protect the
endangered Florida Panther.

R17-ESPA-LNP

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Peggy K. White

DEAR SIR:

MILWAUKEE WI 530

Florida panthers have been protected since 1975. Due to roadkills, poaching, loss of habitat, there are only hundreds left. I used to live in South Florida.

Please do not let this species go extinct.

Extinction is forever.

They deserve to live on the Earth as we do. Each one is important and precious.

S. Dragieff

460 W. ...

AUG 20 1977



Recvd 8/21/2017



DAVID SHINDLE

SOUTH FLORIDA ECOLOG. SERV. FIELD

US FISH + WILDLIFE SERVICE

12085 ST. RD. 295

IMMOBILEE, FL 34142

570385



The manatee, or sea cow, was once abundant in Florida coastal waters, but now only about 1,000 remain. These gentlest of all animals, once hunted to near extinction are now protected from hunters but face a new enemy - the cutting blades of powerboats that ply Florida waterways. As vegetarians, with healthy appetites, they help control the growth of water plants that clog Florida's waterways. Boaters, please obey the signs on the waterways about the manatee.



Rec'd 9/21/2017

Dear Mr./Dr. Shindle,
I am writing in support of keeping our beloved Panther as an endangered animal.

I appreciate this opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,
Pat Ekdahl



Patricia Ekdahl
8595 Charter Club Cir Unit 10
Fort Myers, FL 33919-6844

Manufactured and Published by Lawson Mardon Post Card, Sparks, NV 89434
Distributed by True Views, Inc., Indian Rocks Beach, FL (813) 593-2698

Mr. David Shindle

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services

South Florida Ecological Service Field Office

12085 State Road 29 South
Immokalee, FL

239-892-6967



A Special Note...

Aug. 16, 2017

Dear Sir,

Please do not change / lift
endangered species designation
for Florida panthers. They are
unique!

Sincerely,
Susan F. Marino

M
Mrs. Susan F Marino
871 Symphony Isles Blvd
Apollo Beach, FL 33572-2765

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
SAN PETERSBURG, FL
17 AUG 2017 143 L

Rev'd
8/21/2017

Attn:
David
Shindle

South Florida
Ecological Services
Field Office
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

34142-570385



6766 Canwick Cove Circle
Naples, FL 34113-3199
August 17, 2017

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S.
Immokalee, FL 34142

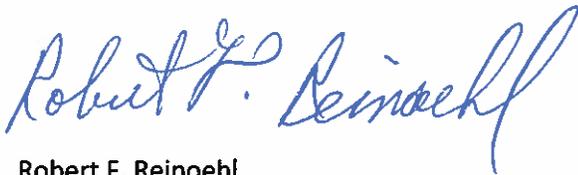
Att: Mr. David Shindle

Dear Mr. Shindle,

Our Florida Panthers need continued rescuing and preservation. It is indeed extremely unfortunate that we have not been able to adequately stem the continuing endangerment of our rare Panthers through human interference and questionable development policies.

I urge that the Federal endangered species protection of these panthers continue, and that in the upcoming review process this continuation will be approved.

Respectfully,



Robert F. Reinoehf



6766 Canwick Cove Circle
Naples, FL 34113-3199
August 17, 2017

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S.
Immokalee, FL 34142

Att: Mr. David Shindle

Dear Mr. Shindle,

Our Florida Panthers need continued rescuing and preservation. It is indeed extremely unfortunate that we have not been able to adequately stem the continuing endangerment of our rare Panthers through human interference and questionable development policies.

I urge that the Federal endangered species protection of these panthers continue, and that in the upcoming review process this continuation will be approved.

Respectfully,



Fredna E. Reinoehl

8/14/17

South Fl Ecological Services:

Please keep our
Florida Panther as
Endangered Species.

They belong here,
Floridians Care.

They need Protection.
Should human
endeavors be their
dennise?! Or should
human endeavors
keep this wonderful,
beautiful panther
alive.

I am hoping
for the latter!

Sincerely,
Mary Stevens

1622 W. Camino del Rio
Vero Beach, Fl.

32963.

To whom it may concern:

My name is Bryn Taylor, and I am writing to you to give my input on the potential removal of the Florida panther from the endangered species list. I am very much against this. As you probably well know, FWS recently reported an estimation of 120-230 panthers currently living in the wild. While this is an increase from previous years, it is incredibly unreasonable to call this a thriving population that no longer needs our help. There have been increases to the population because of the efforts humans have made to protect them, efforts that protect panthers from ourselves. Recently, Florida became the second most populous state in the country, and human sprawl has encroached further and further into panther territory. Florida's human population shows no signs of shrinkage anytime soon, and thus, protection of the Florida panther will only become more and more important as the years go on, particularly in fast-developing south Florida, the natural home to the panther. I firmly believe removing the Florida panther from the endangered species list is an unnecessary step backwards that would destroy all progress in any resurgence of their population, and is inconsiderate of the current and growing threat ^{of} cars, habitat loss, disease, and incestuous mating that plague the panthers. Adding in hunting rights, and taking away protections against development of their natural habitats will only ensure that we destroy one of Florida's most beautiful animals, and an irreplaceable part of our heritage and unique ecosystem.

Thank you for your consideration, Bryn Taylor

South Florida Ecological Services, US FWS
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

Bryn Taylor
3395 S Atlantic Ave
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931



Mr. Richard Davis
522 Crooked Lake Ln Apt D
Fort Pierce FL 34982-5129

Citizens need to stand up for Florida panther



GUEST COLUMNIST
KATE MACFALL

Heads up, citizens. The federal government is about to review the endangered status of one of our state's rarest species — the Florida panther — and now is the time for all of us to make our voices heard.

We Floridians clearly love our wild and mysterious panthers. In 1981, the state's schoolchildren chose the panther as our official state animal over other animal contenders such as alligators and manatees.

Biologists estimate that, at most, only 230 or fewer Florida panthers exist on Earth. Compare that to Florida's human population, which has reached 20.6 million. Federal protections for Florida panthers are as essential as ever to prevent the big cats from going extinct. No scientific justification exists to strip panthers of their endangered species protection, and there is simply no pressing need to do so.

This U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service review comes at a time when panther deaths on Florida roads are outpacing the number of documented panther births. The statistics are alarming: Last year alone, an average of three panthers a month died on our roadways as they traveled in search of food and mates.

So far this year, 13 panthers have been struck and killed on roads. These highway deaths come on top of other causes of mortality, including poaching,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
One Florida panther ranged 800 miles in five months after his release in January 2015, including a brief visit to Treasure Coast counties.

predation on kittens and disease. The road toll alone is too high to be sustainable. Every year since 2012, Florida has set a new record for the number of panthers killed by vehicles. Our panther population will face continual threats because massive new developments are planned for the

southwest Florida lands that are the panthers' last home. Strip malls, housing developments and new roads will greatly impair Florida panthers' prospects for survival. Panthers are particularly vulnerable to human threats because of their already-low numbers and because they

require large ranges. Biologists know the leading cause of species extinction around the world is habitat loss and human persecution. With developers encroaching more dramatically in southwest Florida, the panthers need the protection the Endangered Species Act provides more than ever.

We know too well how fragile our Florida panther population is; the cats were put on the Endangered Species list in 1967. In the 1990s, the population dwindled to just 20 to 30 cats before intensive rescue efforts began to save the species from extinction. The progress made in reviving their population should not be prematurely dismantled now. Unlike all other mountain lion subspecies, Florida panthers are specially adapted to their Big Cypress Swamp and Everglades habitats.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is taking public comment about reviewing the Florida panthers' endangered species protections until Aug. 29. We must let the federal government know we value Florida's wild heritage and we want our panthers protected.

Input should be sent to biologist David Shindle through one of the following methods:

- » **Regular mail:** South Florida Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 12085 State Road 29 S, Immokalee, FL 34142
- » **Email:** david_shindle@fws.gov
- » **Fax:** 772-562-4288

Kate MacFall is the Florida state director for the Humane Society of the United States.

1492 Aken Street
Port Charlotte, Florida 33952
August 21, 2017

Dear Mr. Shindler,

An article in our local newspaper, The Charlotte Sun, stated that on Friday August 18, 2017, the remains of yet another endangered Florida Panther that was struck and killed by a vehicle were discovered. This is the 16th fatal collision this year out of 21 total panther deaths.

The Florida Panther was put on the Endangered Species list in 1967. In the 1990's the population dwindled to just 20 to 30 cats before intensive rescue efforts to save the species from extinction were established. In 1981 the school children of Florida chose the Florida Panther as our official state mammal.

Though the efforts to protect the panther by its listing on the Endangered Species Act helped, the numbers remain low. Only about 230 remain in the wild. If the Endangered Species Act no longer protects the ones that remain, due to increased development and human encroachment of their natural habitat, they will once again risk extinction.

We are losing so many of our natural resources. Let's not ignore our Florida State Mammal, the Florida Panther.

Sincerely,

Martha B. Hoover
Greater Charlotte Harbor Sierra Club member

8-11-2017

RE: FLORIDA PANTHERS

AGAINST: DE-LISTING

FOR: Keeping the
rare, endangered
Florida panther on the
Endangered Species List,
no matter what!

B. Nuesse
116-85th Ave.
Treasure Island, FL

33706



Mr Shindle

As a native Floridian, I have witnessed the continuing destruction of the ranches, lakes, and swamps in the state. Once beautiful, cool and green habitat for Florida's unique wildlife they have become unappealing subdivisions and etc.

The Florida Panther is one of our iconic species we are so privileged to have here. But unfortunately the panther is under attack by the groups that wish to erode the environment of our state for their selfish interests. The manatee, black bear, gopher tortoise, panther, and recently the goliath grouper are all in the sights of those who wish to profit in some way. This is important only to themselves at the expense of other species.

Of course, the first step is to get them removed or downgraded from protection, so it is easier to loosen or destroy further regulations until they were placed on the Endangered Species list, we can

8-16-2017 

we do not take
Florida
utes off the
angered species
list. Hunters
do start killing
and we'll end up
in none.

Thank you,
Linda Payton
Petersburg, FL

Linda P. Payton
1403 46th Ave. N. Lot 111
Petersburg, FL 33709-2510

TAMPA FL 335
MINT PETERSBURG FL

24 AUG 2017 PM 8 L



USA FOREVER

Rec'd
8/25/17

So. Fla. Ecological Field Org
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 State Rd. 295
Immokalee, FL 34142





Aug 24, 2017

TO. WILD LIFE SERVICES

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE
FLORIDA PANTHERS FROM THE
"ENDANGERED" PROTECTED
STATUS.

WITH THE TOTAL ESTIMATED
POPULATION AT AROUND 230
THEY NEED TO BE PROTECTED.

Sincerely
Fran Arthur
1130 LEMONWOOD AVE
DELAND, FL 32724

142351

ORANGE COUNTY FLORIDA





To Whom it may concern,

August 21, 2017

I love all animals but felines are my favorite. I therefore feel we should do what ever we can to protect the Panthers. If the changes are going to help these cats I'm all for it.

When I see them clearing out a large area of woods I think of how many animals are losing their homes. Let's build more restaurants bars and developments which we do not need for so many are already standing empty. We need to give all our wild life space before we end up looking like New York City.

Sincerely,

Ruth Staber Bone

1409 Laurel Drive
North Fort Myers
Florida, # 33917-1828

(239) 997-0880

David Shiadle
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 ~~State~~ Road 29 South
Immokalee, FL 34142

81231171

Florida Panthers are ENDANGERED!! Nothing has changed that status. Just because ranchers and developers want panthers to be unprotected, so that they can destroy their territory and home range, doesn't make it so.

Florida Panthers need their territory to be expanded, not shrunk. They need more, not less, protection by federal and state agencies.

How can anyone with any brains and compassion think that a population of approximately 230 individuals (how is that number determined?) is a stable and thriving population? Panthers are one step away from extinction. Cars killed almost 100 panthers in the last year or two. They are under constant siege from an uncontrolled human population.

Maintain ENDANGERED status for Florida Panthers.

Increase and reinforce protections for panthers and their habitats. No exemptions to federal (and state) protections for developers/ranchers, etc.

Sincerely,
Ellen Bring

Ellen Bring
4020 NW 3rd Way
Pompano Beach, FL 33064



Rec'd
8/28/2017

South Florida Ecological Services, Field Offices
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 South, Immokalee, FL 34142
Mr. Dave Shindle:

I am writing to strongly support maintaining the Florida Panther's endangered status. I have lived at the edge of the Wekiva State Park since 1986. In 2016, I was lucky enough to see a Florida Panther walking from my back yard into the protected green belt of Wekiva State Park. I only hope that animal is alive and well today. The Panther's need space for breeding and feeding. Please do what you can to maintain the Florida Panther's endangered status.

For any questions or additional data,
Contact me at, telephone: 407 682-3588 or
Email: pfoxman467@gmail.com
address: ERIC FOXMAN, 211 Hickory Dr, Longwood, FL 32766

23 Aug 2017

DEAR SIR:

My paper the Ocala Star Banner ran an editorial about keeping the panther on the endangered species list. I wholeheartedly agree.

I grew up in Miami in the 50's and remember the panthers occasional kills on the Tamiami Trail (1947). I returned to the Miami area in 1995 and saw how the population had increased and heard how many of the panthers were being killed. I applaud the effort you made to bring in new cats from the Western US to improve the DNA a few years ago. You obviously care for the panthers too!

Please keep the Florida panthers on the endangered list. They need our help.

Sincerely, Ronald & Vivian Goodman
Ocala Florida



Mr. Ronald R. Goodman
7789 SW 80th Place Road
Ocala, FL 34476

JACKSONVILLE FL 320

23 AUG 2017 PM 2 L

Ronald
8/28/2017

U.S. Wildlife Service
12085 State Road
Immokalee, FL

3414





5509 SW 6th Ave.
Cape Coral, FL 33914
August 25, 2017

Biologist David Shindle
South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

Dear Biologist David Shindle,

I am writing to you today to plead with you to keep the Florida panther on the Endangered Species list. There is simply no scientific reason to take our Florida panther off of this list. From what I have read, I understand that there are only 230 or fewer Florida panthers that exist on our earth.

Since 2012, the record for the number of panthers killed on our roadways continues to rise. What is more alarming is that the number of documented panthers killed on roadways alone is higher than the number of documented panther births, not even counting deaths caused by predation on kittens, disease, or fires.

As a biologist, I am sure that you know that one of the major reasons for species extinction is habitat loss. Southwest Florida is the Florida panther's last home. This panther is specifically adapted to the Everglades habitats, and would most likely not survive elsewhere. As development of Southwest Florida continues, the panther is even more endangered of becoming extinct. As oil companies continue to seek to utilize fracking in SW Florida, the Florida panther's habitat will be disturbed to a point that will stress the panther population even more.

More than ever, the Florida panther needs the protection of the Endangered Species Act. Please do not let this majestic animal, our state animal, fade into extinction. As humans, we must do everything in our power to protect all life on this earth.

Sincerely,

Deborah R. Jaros

11217 SW 79th Ter
Ocala FL 34476
Aug 22 2017

Dear Sirs:

I am a resident of Ocala and a registered voter. I am writing to express my great concern of some shortsighted idea to remove the panther off the endangered list. I know of no danger these beautiful animals are causing to the public. In fact I have only heard of many of them killed trying to get to a safer ground because of the great traffic growth. Removing them from the list will only cause open season on them who have no reason to kill them except for the thrill of the hunt. Please assist in any way to keep them on the endangered list. Thank you

Elizabeth Pettinicchi



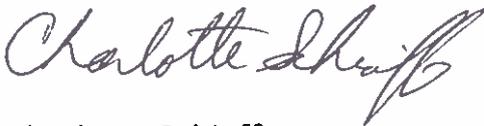
Mr. David Shindle
S. Florida Ecological Field Office
USFWS
12085 State Rd 29S
Immokalee, FL 34142

Mr. Shindle,

I am asking your agency to reconsider its objective of delisting the Florida panther. While it may be similar to the species out west, the Florida panther is unique to our state. Reckless development, rollbacks of environmental protections of habitat, and the number of panthers killed annually by cars are already decimating the population. Delisting it will accelerate its demise. The people of Florida have fought long and hard to keep this species viable in our state. Please do not undo decades of hard work and succumb to the wishes of some developers, politicians, and others who would hasten the destruction of this creature's habitat and its very existence.

Please do not delist the Florida panther from its endangered status.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Schiaffo
Tampa, Florida



*Rec'd
8/28/2017*

*Mr. Dai
S. Florida
USFW
12085
Immok
34142-5703*

Aug. 21, 2017

Dear Sir,

I am writing to let you know
how much I cherish our wildlife,
including our poethers.

I only hope that you will
protect all our wildlife.

Sincerely yours,

Myrta Snyder

S Mr. Leonard Snyder
2727 Yacht Club Blvd Apt 3E
Fort Lauderdale FL 33304-4511

A
b
o
c



331 East 29 Street – Apt. 6i
New York, NY 10016-8343
August 24, 2017

David Shindle
South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142-5703

Re: Keep the Florida Panther on the Endangered Species List & Protect Them

Dear Dave,

I urge you to keep the Florida panther on the Endangered Species List and protect them.

These magnificent animals must be protected from loss of habitat, encroaching development, oil and gas exploration, fracking and being hit by cars and trucks.

Please do everything you can to protect the State of Florida's state animal, the Florida panther.

We need for you to help enlarge the panthers' habitat and institute programs to protect them that will encourage these majestic creatures to flourish.

Sincerely,

Mel Wathen

cc: Larry Williams, South Florida Field Supervisor
South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32960-2559

Elizabeth Fleming
Defenders of Wildlife
3637 4th St. N - #230
St. Petersburg, FL 33701



MS: BPHCUS Fish & Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 South
Immokalee, FL 34142

Dear Wildlife Administrator:

I am writing to you about the change in status of the Florida Panther. I am opposed with this idea as they are being killed at a fast rate. The problem is that speed needs to be more address & people need to be made more aware that they need to look out in the areas they roam. They need to be more responsible to being in their territory. There is not enough public information given to the public about our Panthers & how they live in their habitant.

We need to stop building in these areas altogether or learn how to live with these animals. I have woods behind my house & I have left areas so the wild animals have their space to live, roam & for the last 20 years I & the animals are living together just fine.

Its' time we speak for the animals who do not have a voice before its' too late & these animals are run out of our beautiful state.

Thank you for your time & have a good day!

Sincerely;

Dorothy White

4134 Westbourne Circle
Sarasota, FL 34238

Aug. 27, 2017

Dear Mr. Shindle,

I am writing in response to the news that the Florida Panther is being considered for removal from endangered species status. I was very shocked to hear that. The Florida Panther population is around 200 animals; with 38 having been found dead, hit by cars, so far this year. Just last night on the news, 2 were found hit on the road in Southern Florida.

I really can't think of too many animals more deserving of federal endangered species protection than the Florida panther. Floridians love their wild life, but so many people are moving to Florida all the time, there is less and less room for wildlife to roam.

The Florida panthers have enough challenges to overcome for their survival, please help us protect them by keeping them on the endangered species list.

Sincerely,

a concerned Floridian,

Cynthia Adam



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
ATTN: David Shindle
12085 State Road 29 S.
Immokalee, FL
34142

TO: South Florida Ecological Services Field Office

RE: Florida's Panthers

From: Richard Arthur Appgar

Protect our Florida Panthers,

Leave them on the
Endangered Species list

August 24th
2017

I moved to Deerfield Beach in 1968. When I was 5 years old, there was 1 Florida Panther still living. On Capones Island the panther would growl late night 1:00 AM - 2:30 AM. I experienced much grief and as a result sometimes would be awake and the cat could feel my pain and its growls would ease my stress. I was near the island in 1971 or 1972 the cat left as the city began developing that cat I missed.

For the sake of Gods Creation let the remaining cats keep their lands if we don't respect them they will run until either they are struck by a vehicle or find another demise. We should be cutting back on developing to protect natural landscape.

Everything I loved about Deerfield was so drastically changed as a result of over development examples the Canals, and intercoastal, and Ocean were once overabundant with fish schools of mullet, Finger mullet ect. The light poles had huge Bird nests on each one all the way down the Keys. We had pink Flamingo's on the shores of our Beaches also in the Keys. Just a few examples. The Concrete Jungle has changed the city I lived in drastically.

* Please Leave the Florida Panther on the endangered species list.

Richard Appgar

Thank You!

Please Protect the Florida Big Cats
Leave the Panthers on the endangered
List.

Protect Florida's Panthers

Richard Appar Sc
Main Jail Bureau
P.O. Box 9356
Fort Lauderdale, F

Leave the Panthers on the
Endangered List Please

Sunday, Aug. 13, 2017

Dear Mr. Shindle,

I hardly know where to begin in condemning any move to downgrade or eliminate the protected status of the Florida panther. But I encourage you to read the back of this card, and hope that you may understand the value of preserving for future generations the chance to be filled with awe and wonder at the sight of a Florida panther.

We continue to be in the midst of a massive struggle to determine whether or not humans can learn to live on this earth without destroying

it. Sadly, it will be too late by the time we realize what we've lost in the name of "progress", because efforts to restore the land can never replicate what has evolved for eons.

In the current political situation, it is hard to know who we can rely upon to protect our natural heritage, but I will ~~sp~~ support those who do.

Thank you for your attention and for your service in protecting the ecology of Florida.

With hope for the future,
Andrea Burnap

Aug 28, 2017

To U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

My name is Pamela S. Cowley.
Concerning the Fla. Panthers. I
hope & pray that no matter
what Development is. We as
Human beings should know. That
Panthers are part of the Eco
system, As we are. And they
have the right as a living
Creature of the Earth, to be
respected. They have the
right to have Protection &
a place to continue living.
Out in Nature, to do their Job.
We are all here for a reason.

Yours truly

Pamela S. Cowley

Awley
& Reep Ct.
Orlando FLA.
32605

ORLANDO FL 326

28 AUG 2017 PM 11



South Florida Ecological Service Field Of
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 South
Immokalee, Fl.

John Cielukowski
9 Harbor Circle
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931-2414

27 August 2017

Dear Mr. Shindle,

Please do not change the endangered species status for the Florida panther.

The Florida panther is already under numerous threats that are reducing their numbers, namely: encroachment and overdevelopment of their habitat, vehicle strikes on the highways and poaching.

The FWC should be in the business of protecting our wildlife, not jeopardizing its future existence.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Cielukowski

Mr. David Shindle
So FL Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services
12085 State Road 29S
Immokalee, FL 34142

Mr. David Shindle
S. Florida Ecological Field Office
USFWS
12085 State Rd 29S
Immokalee, FL 34142

Mr. Shindle,

I am asking your agency to reconsider its objective of delisting the Florida panther. While it may be similar to the species out west, the Florida panther is unique to our state. Reckless development, rollbacks of environmental protections of habitat, and the number of panthers killed annually by cars are already decimating the population. Delisting it will accelerate its demise. The people of Florida have fought long and hard to keep this species viable in our state. Please do not undo decades of hard work and succumb to the wishes of some developers, politicians, and others who would hasten the destruction of this creature's habitat and its very existence.

Please do not delist the Florida panther from its endangered status.

Sincerely,

Jesse Glover
Tampa, Florida



J. Glover
8204 Harnwood Pl
Tampa FL 33615

Aug 8 '30

Mr. David
S. Florida
USFWS
12085
34142-57

8/26/17



Mona Mehdy
5004 Smokey Mountain Dr.
Austin, TX 78727

P.O. G
28.7

Dear USFW,

I am writing to strongly urge your agency to maintain and enhance Endangered Species Act protections for the Florida panthers, engaging citizens and state agencies to help you in these efforts. The Feb 2017 USFS estimate of ~~a drop to~~ 120-230

panthers shows a precarious population ^{facing} genetic diversity insufficiency, fragmented ~~and~~ insufficient habitat, and a frightening level of roadway fatalities. Please work to set up highway underpass wildlife corridors + expand protected habitat. →

Sincerely,

Mona Mebdy, PhD (professional
5004 Smokey Mtn Dr ^{biologist})
Austin TX 78727

PS - pls enter my letter in record
if you are compiling public input.
Thanks,



2327 Barkwood Pass

Clearwater, FL 33763

August 22, 2017

Mr. David Shindle

South Florida Ecological Services Field Office

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

12085 State Road 29 S.

Immokalee, FL 34142

KEEP THE FLORIDA PANTHER
ON THE ENDANGERED SPECIES
LIST!!
!!

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amelia M. Wallon', is written over a horizontal line.

Amelia M. Wallon

JUL 04 2017 772 562 4288

tami doll

South Florida ES Office *via Fax*
Vero Beach, FL

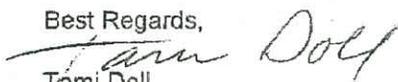
To: david_shindle@fws.gov
Subject: review of the Florida Panther status

Dear Mr. Shindle,

I am sickened that I even have to protest the potential downgrading of the Florida Panther. If you, at the US Fish and Wildlife Service, do not step up and protect our wildlife we will lose species across the board. Look what happened to the Manatee- this gentle giant was downgraded so that drunken boaters can race their way through the intracoastal and Florida rivers. The current administration is only concerned with big business. We need to be stewards of our natural riches which includes the Florida Panther. With only 200 in the state how can you consider allowing hunting and taking away what is left of their habitat. I guarantee the ranchers want to shoot them and big businesses want to build in the panther ranging area.

Please do the right thing and fight for the Florida Panther. Its status needs to remain as an Endangered Species. Thank you

Best Regards,



Tami Doll
2833 Pheasant Run
Clearwater, Fl.

cell

RECEIVED

JUL 08 2017 *max*

**South Florida ES Office
Vero Beach, FL**

July 8, 2018

Estelle and Max Austin
7306 Gulf Way
Hudson, FL 34667
Fax: [REDACTED]

David Shindle
South FL Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 Ste Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142
Fax: 772 562 4288

Dear Mr. David Shindle,

I am writing regarding the **FL State Panther**. The State Animal should still be on the endangered list.

Numbers are still being killed by cars.
Its habitat is being encroached on by people who want to build in its habitat.
It is a unique animal to Florida and was here before Florida was built.
Taking the animal off of the endangered list threatens its existence.
More people will want to kill the few we have left as trophies.

Please do not change the status of this unique animal to Florida by taking it off of the endangered list.

Thanks for your attention.

Sincerely yours,



Estelle Austin



Max Austin

RECEIVEDJUL 10 2017 

July 10, 2017

**South Florida ES Office
Vero Beach, FL**

David Shindle
South Florida Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
12085 State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142

RE: [FWS-R4-ES-2017-N024; FXES11130900000C2-178-FF09E32000] Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 5-Year Status Reviews of 23 Southeastern Species

Dear Mr. Shindle,

I am a twenty-six-year, year-round resident of Pinellas County, Florida. I am not a scientist but, nevertheless, wish to give my input to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's upcoming review of the Florida Panther's conservation status.

Please maintain the Florida Panther's current classification as "endangered" so it can continue to enjoy the protections covered under that status. No public good, and only harm to the biological diversity of our state and health of this population of animals, could come from any other decision by the Service.

It has been suggested in the conclusions of the controversial, and many suggest flawed, Culver study that the Florida panther is merely a subspecies of the common puma. Even if this were an unquestionable scientific fact, it is irrelevant because of the following irrefutable facts about the Florida panther:

- It is an extremely small population that has only begun to recover. In the fifty years since its original classification as endangered, it has increased only a little over 11% -- a trend so insignificant that it could easily be reversed by the adverse trends of increasing deaths on roads and highways and the rapid reduction of the Florida panther's natural habitat. These two trends go hand-in-hand and will only increase over time.
- It is a unique population -- the only one of its kind in the entire United States east of the Mississippi River.

Finally, though the discovery for the first time of one family of a Florida panther mother and kittens north of the Caloosahatchee River is, indeed, a happy one, it can in no scientifically or statistically sound way be considered to be an upward "distribution trend."

Thank you for your attention

Sincerely,



Ruth L. Barrens
2634 69th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33712
rbarrens@gmail.com

JUL 23 2017 *HL***Diane Leahy****South Florida ES Office
Vero Beach, FL**

From: "Diane Leahy" <hleahy@tampabay.rr.com>
Date: Sunday, July 23, 2017 4:58 PM
To: <david_shingle@fws.gov>
Subject: Endangered Protection for Florida panthers

Mr. Shingle,

The same day (July 20, 2017) that I read the article written by Manley Fuller, president, Florida Wildlife Federation there was a small article noting the death of yet another panther killed in Naples, FL by a vehicle. This happens way too often besides other reason for their deaths. Please encourage the appropriate authorities to keep the Florida panther on the federal, state or whatever endangered list.

Thank you for your attention to his very important matter.

Sincerely,

H. D. Leahy
Oldsmar, FL 34677

*P.S. Email address for David
Shingle does not go through?*

7/23/2017

RECEIVED

JUL 24 2017 *[Signature]*

**South Florida ES Office
Vero Beach, FL**

FAX

DATE: 07/24/17

TO: David Shindle 
FROM: Judith Mulac

PAGES: 1

SUBJECT: SAVE THE FLORIDA PANTHERS

MSG:

Excellent article in the Sun Sentinel this morning regarding the issue of keeping Florida Panthers on the endangered list. I feel this is a MUST. Additional things must also be done to protect their environments and prevent the numerous "deaths by auto."

Judith Mulac, Plantation, FL



4231 46th Avenue North
St. Petersburg, FL 33714
Phone (727) 527-7443
Fax (727) 527-7676

AUGUST 2, 2017

DEAR SIR -

PLEASE HELP US PROTECT THE FLORIDA
PANTHER. THESE ARE TRYING TIMES FOR
NATURE BUT WE FEEL WE WILL GET THROUGH
THEM + BE BETTER AND STRONGER FOR IT.
A DISAPPEARING PANTHER IS JUST AS SAD
AS A DISAPPEARING BUTTERFLY. WE WHO
ARE OVER COME WITH DAY TO DAY LIFE ARE
COMFORTED AND DEPEND ON MOTHER NATURE
PLEASE FORWARD THIS LETTER AND OUR
SINCERE WISHES FOR A GOOD OUTCOME.

THANK-YOU,
Jamy + Raulene

RECEIVED

AUG 02 2017 *[Signature]*

South Florida ES Office
Vero Beach, FL

RECEIVED

AUG 14 2017

Recipient Information:

To: david shindle
Fax#: 17725624288
Subject:

South Florida ES Office FAX COVER SHEET
Vero Beach, FL

Sender Information:

From: jacqueline munera
Pages: 2
Date: Aug 12, 2017

Comments:

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Karen Armlin
Jackson, NJ 08527

August 14, 2017

Mr. David Shindle
South Florida Ecological Services
Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
State Road 29 S
Immokalee, FL 34142
Fax# [REDACTED]

Re: De-Listing Florida State Panther

Dear Mr. Shindle,

I am writing to you in a follow up to my email sent August 13, 2017.

I oppose the proposed de-listing of Florida's state animal the panther. Their last population center is the site of an aggressive development. Human encroachment and loss of habitat puts an extreme stress on the survival of this beautiful species. Why should these few panthers pay with their lives because we don't make every effort to find ways to co-in habitat? Panthers are particularly vulnerable to human threats due to their already low numbers and because they require large ranges. They were placed on the

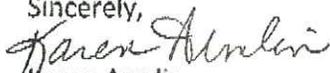
Endangered Species Act/ list to prevent this species from becoming extinct, they have yet to make full comeback. With developers encroaching more dramatically in southwest Florida, the panthers need the protection of the Endangered Species Act now more than ever.

There is no scientific basis for the proposed de-listing of Florida's official State animal. It is not ok to kill these beautiful animals.

I urge you to please vote and press to keep these panthers on the Endangered Species Act, Florida's official state animal.

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope you do the right thing for the panthers. All our wildlife play an important role in our ecosystem.

Sincerely,


Karen Armlin

Our task must be to widen our circle of love and compassion to embrace all living creatures."

Recipient Information

To: David Shindle
Company: U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Fax #: 17725624288



Sender Information

From: Mary Gama
Company: Florida Resident 32804
Email address: mary.gama@icloud.com (from 24.110.35.166)
Phone #: 4072840129
Sent on: Monday, August 14 2017 at 3:28 PM EDT

I urge you NOT to delist Florida Panther from Endangered Species list!

RECEIVED

AUG 15 2017

South Florida ES Office
Vero Beach, FL

This fax was sent using the FaxZero.com free fax service. FaxZero.com has a zero tolerance policy for abuse and junk faxes. If this fax is spam or abusive, please e-mail support@faxzero.com or send a fax to [REDACTED] or phone [REDACTED]. Specify fax #20097910. We will add your fax number to the block list.

Dear Mr. David Shindle,

My name is Mary Gama, and I'm a Florida resident, 32804. I urge you NOT to delist the Florida Panther from the Endangered Species list, because delisting now would be disastrous for the panther.[1]

Panthers are under critical pressure. Loss of habitat and increased human activity directly affects the future survival of the species.[1]

2016 was the deadliest year for Florida panthers. A total of 42 panthers died last year, matching the 2015 totals. More than 80 percent of the deaths involved panthers killed by vehicles. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, there are approximately 120-230 adult panthers in the population. However, these numbers are not enough to ensure its long-term viability as a species.[1] With so few breeding adults left in the wild, and 25% of their numbers susceptible to vehicular death or habitat loss, it is unconscionable to consider delisting them until their numbers are higher and more stable.

Since the listing of the Florida panther as endangered in 1967, panther habitat has significantly declined due to rapid urban sprawl and agricultural land conversions in the panther's habitat range. As a result of panther habitat destruction, changing the status of the panther from endangered to threatened does not meet the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service criteria for delisting.[1]

I urge you not to submit to pressure from developmental and agricultural interests lobbying for this reckless delisting, and to maintain the Florida Panther on the endangered species list. Floridians demand it!

Thank you for your time,

Mary Gama
mary.gama@icloud.com

1 – thebradentontimes.com/delisting-would-put-panthers-in-peril-p18872-158.htm

RECEIVED

AUG 22 2017

South Florida ES Office
Vero Beach, FL

SO. FLA. ECOLOGICAL & FIELD
OFC
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE
12085 SR 29 SE.
IMMOKALEE, FL 34142

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE
KEEP FLA PANTHER ON THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST
FLA PANTHERS ARE A NATIONAL
TREASURE!

(352) 470-5161

BARBARA MECHURA
POB 1501

SUMMERFIELD, FL
34492



LAW OFFICE OF
ALEIDA ORS WALDMAN, P.A.

OCT 16 2017

ALEIDA ORS WALDMAN, Esq.

440 SOUTH ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA 33301

TELEPHONE (954) 524-1100
TELEFAX (888) 760-2991

AOWPA@GSTA.NET

August 30, 2017

VIA US MAIL

Greg Sheehan
Acting Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Sheehan:

I, and many of my friends and family, are opposed to changing the designation of endangered species for the Florida panther. I have the privilege of spending a lot of my free time in the Big Cypress preserve on private land. Over the last 20 years I have seen four panthers with my own eyes. I see them more frequently on the game cameras that are placed throughout the property since they are nocturnal hunters.

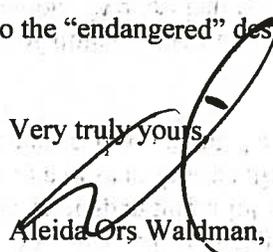
The State of Florida has spent millions of dollars since the 1970's in ensuring that the panther population would grow into a sustainable population. We are barely there almost 40 years later. Every year there are over 30 panthers killed, mostly due to collisions with cars. Many of us have advocated for more funding for underpasses to try to prevent the accidents that kill so many of these protected animals.

The State of Florida has millions of acres of public land to support a much larger panther population, in spite of the loss of land due to development. The panthers require large areas to roam and hunt, approximately 75 to 200 square miles. Between the roadkill and the loss of habitat to development, we still have approximately 230 panthers that have survived.

Panthers are iconic animals that are part of the fabric of this great State. To reduce the protections to the Florida panther from "endangered" to "threatened" is not in the best interest of the State. It is only in the best interest of the nine developers seeking permission to develop approximately 150,000 acres in Collier County. It is time to strengthen the protections, not weaken them.

Put Florida first, not developers. Stick to the "endangered" designation for the Florida panther.

Very truly yours,


Aleida Ors Waldman, Esq.

NOV 18 1901



THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

BY CHARLES A. BEAN

Published by the American Book Company, 110 N. 3rd St., New York, N.Y.

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Feds shouldn't change panther protections

Someone should tell the rest of Florida's panthers they can come home.

Even though there's just an estimated 230 Florida panthers still in existence, federal regulators are reconsidering their status as an endangered species.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is studying whether a slight uptick in panther population since 2014 is enough to change them from "endangered" to "threatened."

Changing panthers' endangered status could do away with some of their federal protections. It's a move supported by developers and ranchers who bristle at limits imposed on using panthers' ever-shrinking territory.

The Sun Sentinel opposes potentially weakening protections for the Florida panther. Instead of making things easier for big land owners, state and federal officials should boost efforts to protect open spaces and save Florida's big cats.

Supporters of changing the endangered species status argue that panthers — driven away by sprawling development, pollution and over hunting — could survive without the same level of protection that has kept them from drifting into extinction.

If that's the case, then surely there must be more than just 230 panthers prowling around out there somewhere.

Perhaps they are hiding in the subdivisions and shopping centers now spread over their bulldozed territory. Maybe we just can't see them as we speed over the roads and highways crisscrossing the hunting grounds panthers once roamed.

And if a revived population of Florida Panthers suddenly reappears, where exactly would we put them?

Central and South Florida was once their primary territory. Now suburbia reaching from Orlando to Miami isn't going anywhere.

Through the decades, half of the Everglades has been drained to make room for development as well as a sea of sugar cane.

North of Lake Okeechobee, a big mouse turned panther land into a world of theme parks, hotels and other attractions that keep mushrooming across the landscape.

That's the problem the panther has long faced. Its territory is disappearing. With every real estate sign heralding a new neighborhood under construction, the panther's chance for a comeback shrinks.

Panthers are left with less than 5 percent of the territory they used to claim in Florida, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Their need for breeding and feeding space clashes with developers' — and homebuyers' — hunger for Florida real estate.

Panthers could soon get squeezed off even more land in southwest Florida. Nine property owners are asking for exemptions to federal protections for panthers and other endangered species for a new development that could spread across 152,000 acres in eastern Collier County.

Roadkill is another way to gauge the consequences of panthers crossing paths with mankind.

From 2014 through 2016, the number of Florida panthers killed by drivers (88) outpaced the number of panthers that were born (61), according to state wildlife officials.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says that reconsidering the panther's endangered status is a standard practice that will result in a recommendation, not an immediate change to panther protections.

If a change from "endangered" to "threatened" is recommended, that would kick off more than a year of considerations for federal officials to decide what the new panther protection rules should be.

In the meantime, the public has until Aug. 29 to weigh in with comments on whether Florida panther protections should be changed.

The Florida panther's road to recovery has been slow and remains too risky to dial back protections.

After the number of Florida panthers dipped into the 20s in the 1970s, prohibitions on killing panthers along with protecting remaining habitat and even bringing in panthers from Texas to help boost breeding have helped them rebound.

Federal and state officials in February announced that the panther population had grown to as many 230, up from about 180 in 2014. That's welcome news, but not a reason to start changing the rules that helped panthers survive.

Development and other man-made pressures continue to squeeze out room for the panther. That makes it more important than ever to bolster, not diminish, protections for Florida's remaining panthers.

Editorials are the opinion of the Sun Sentinel Editorial Board and written by one of its members or a designee. The Editorial Board consists of Editorial Page Editor Rosemary O'Hara, Elana Simms, Gary Stein, Andy Reid and Editor-in-Chief Howard Saltz.

Faint, illegible text at the top of the page, possibly a header or title.