

Florida Panther Field Note December 2004

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission panther capture team divided their time this month between the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge (FPNWR) and the "Addition Lands" of Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP) north of I-75. One panther (FP107) was recollared, two new panthers (FP's 134, 135) were captured, and two other panthers (FP's 119, 107) received feline leukemia (FeLV) boosters. FeLV boosters are administered by remote injection eliminating the need to first anesthetize the panther. The panther is treed as usual but then darted with the vaccine. Additionally, two panthers (UCFP70, K128) were struck and killed by vehicles.

Just a reminder on the jargon we use to identify panthers; "FP" denotes a Florida Panther captured and wearing a radio-collar, "UCFP" denotes an UnCollared Florida Panther never handled before, and "K" denotes a panther marked with a transponder chip at the den (kitten) but which was never radio-collared. All "categories" (i.e., FP, UCFP, K) of panthers are numbered sequentially as they are encountered.

Recollars

- **FP107** - 12/6/04, FPNWR, 70 pound female, 4.5-years-old.



FP107 was hiding behind some bromeliads making it very difficult to get a clean shot. She only received a partial dose of anesthesia.



With the help of the dogs and FWC panther biologist David Shindle she was bayed on the ground and hand-injected with a supplemental dose of anesthesia.

New captures

- **FP134** – 12/14/04, BCNP, 110 pound male, 2.5 years old. Discovered with female FP71 at time she received FeLV booster.
- **FP135** – 12/17/04, FPNWR, 95 pound male, 1-year 8-months old. This cat is the offspring of FP101, handled at the den on April 19, 2003 when approximately 2-weeks old. He was captured 18 miles from where he was born.

FeLV Boosters

- **FP119** – 12/8/04, male, FPNWR
- **FP71** – 12/14/04, BCNP, this female was with male FP134.

Mortality

- **UCFP70** – This approximate one-year-old, 62-pound female was discovered "roadkilled" on 12/1/04 on SR29 in Collier County about 5.5 miles south of Immokalee.
- **K128** – This 2.5-year-old, 134-pound male panther was roadkilled on 12/7/04 on CR832 in Hendry County in Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest. He was identified from the transponder chip that was inserted under his skin when he was handled at the den on June 6, 2002. He was the offspring of FP75 who resides in the Bear Island unit of BCNP 30 miles away.