

FLORIDA PANTHER GENETIC RESTORATION PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1998

TX 101 -- TX 101 spent a large part of this period north of the L-28 Interceptor Feeder Canal on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation (BCSIR). Her time was spent in hardwood hammocks amongst various groves and other agriculture fields.

Florida Panther #73_{F1} -- On 12 November, 2 panthers were treed on the BCSIR just south of the L-28 Interceptor Feeder Canal. The adult female who became #73_{F1} had a transponder and it was thus known that this panther was TX 101's first female offspring who was born in September 1995. It's likely that this is the same panther we saw tracks of last year traveling with 3 kittens. In the short time we have followed her movements, she has spent equal amounts of time both in and out of the BCSIR Game Pen.

The other panther treed and radio-collared on 12 November was a young male now known as #74. It's possible he is the offspring of #73_{F1}; his age and movements after being collared seem to indicate this relationship. However, shortly after being collared, he made a 9 day excursion from the BCSIR game pen to the Bear Island campground and then returned. Since that time he has not been located with #73_{F1}. In the near future we hope to have genetic tests performed which will provide conclusive evidence of their relationship.

Florida Panther #65_{F1} -- Number 65_{F1} traveled a little less this period, generally remaining in Okaloacoochee Slough. He did, however, cover most of the OK Slough property and some of the bounding land in his wanderings. Most of his activity seemed to be concentrated around the old rail road grade on the north end of this property. He did not cross any major highways until the end of December when he crossed north of Keri Rd. At the end of the month he was still just north of this road.

Florida Panther #66_{F1} -- As mentioned in last quarters report, #66_{F1} denned in an undeveloped area just north of I-75 surrounded by the north Golden Gate Estates. Her den site was visited on 2 October and we found 2 males and 1 female kitten. These represent the first F2's handled. Her movement pattern thus far suggests she still has her kittens. She has moved a couple miles to the east of the den location and of late has been east of Everglades Blvd. in the North Golden Gate Estates. An attempt will be made to capture these kittens when they are old enough to support a radio collar.

TX 103 -- TX103 inhabited the Loop Unit in BCNP with only two excursions into the Stairsteps Unit. Her collar began malfunctioning in October, necessitating capture. When she was treed on December 3, her size indicated that she might be pregnant so the capture was called off to err on the side of safety. She

will be recollared at a later date.

TX 105 -- TX 105 spent the bulk of this quarter on Long Pine Key in Everglades National Park (ENP) travelling from Pine Glades Lake to the campground. She also ventured north to 1 mile south of the "Tomato Patch."

TX 106 -- Change the dates but keep the same locations as previous reports and that's where you'll find TX 106. She did not do anything unusual nor was she located with another panther. Her range includes everything from south of Jane's Scenic Drive in Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve north to the Catherine Island area of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, west to the Ford Test Track and the Northeast portion of the Picayune Strand State Forest.

TX 107 -- TX107's core use area in BCNP is the western Corn Dance and Turner River Units, with brief excursions east to Raccoon Point and west to Austins old camp. Her two offspring dispersed in September.

Florida Panther #70_{F1} -- This 20-month-old female offspring of TX107 has inhabited the southwestern portion of the Turner River Unit since her dispersal in September. She has crossed two minor roads, Turner River and Birdon, and has been located repeatedly near Highway 41 in the Ochopee area panther crossing zone.

Florida Panther #71_{F1} -- This 20-month-old female offspring of TX107 and sibling of #70 has inhabited the northeastern portion of the Turner River Unit and Mullet Slough in the Addition lands since her dispersal in September. She has journeyed as far northeast as the interceptor canal on the south side of Interstate-75.

TX 108 -- TX 108 was generally located on Long Pine Key in ENP from Pine Glades Lake to Hidden Lake. She ventured north to within 2 miles of the Homestead Airport. One kitten was seen travelling with her from the air on 3 separate occasions in December.

Florida Panther #61_{F1} -- During most of October, #61 was on Long Pine Key in ENP southeast of the campground. During most of November she stayed near the Homestead Airport but late in the month she ventured outside of ENP boundaries meandering through agricultural areas. She returned to ENP 2 miles west of the airport and then made a move 6 miles north near a recently burned plot 1 mile southeast of Chekika State Park.