

FLORIDA PANTHER GENETIC RESTORATION PROGRESS REPORT OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 1999

TX101 (FWC) - TX 101 remained in the game pen on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation (BCSIR) throughout October. Then in November she was located north of the L-28 Interceptor Feeder Canal. At the end of November she returned to the game pen for one flight before crossing the Feeder Canal to the east. She primarily remained east of the canal until mid-December when she returned to the game pen. Following are accounts of her offspring.

Panther #65_{F1} (FWC) - Panther #65_{F1} crossed CR846 east of Immokalee a minimum of nine times this period. Much of October was spent south of CR 846. Approximately equal portions of time were spent on both sides of the highway through November and December.

Panther #66_{F1} (FWC) - Panther #66_{F1} spent the majority of October in the northern Belle Meade area. In November she ventured to private lands north of the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge (FPNWR) where she frequently crossed CR 858 just west of SR 29. She dened early in December just North of CR 858 choosing a small three-acre patch of woods surrounded by tomato fields. The biologist in a box was set up on 19 December and three healthy kittens (1 male, 2 females) were examined on 24 December. For more details see the Field Note titled *Christmas Eve Kittens*.

Panther #73_{F1} (FWC) - Panther #73_{F1} was located on Cow Bone Island on the BCSIR early in October then moved east into the game pen. There her collar came off, presumably the result of insufficiently tightened nuts at her last recollaring. The collar managed to stay on for 11 months despite the fact that the nuts were not cinched down adequately.

Panther #79_{F1} (BCNP) - Panther #79_{F1} has traversed the entire Turner River and Corn Dance Units from Turner River Road east to the Jetport and from Hwy 41 north to I-75.

TX105 (ENP) - TX 105 generally occupied the western portion of Long Pine Key (LPK) and frequented areas to the southwest of LPK in Everglades National Park (ENP). During this quarter, she concentrated most of her movements near areas to the east and southeast of Sisal Pond. TX 105 dened in mid July. There was a visual observation of TX 105 from the air on 29 November 1999, but no kittens were observed traveling with her at that moment.

TX106 (FWC) - TX 106 spent all of this period in an "unblocked" portion of the Picayune Strand State Forest until the last couple of weeks of December. She traveled northeast onto the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve to an area about two miles east of her last den site.

TX107 (BCNP) - TX 107 had been raising her 10-month old kittens in the eastern Turner River and western Corn Dance units when her collar failed on 27 October. Following are accounts of her previous offspring.

Panther #70_{F1} (BCNP) - Panther #70_{F1} is raising her 7-month old kittens in the southern Turner River Unit between Turner River Road and the Oasis Visitor Center. She was observed on two separate occasions with three kittens, the number documented at the den.

Panther #71_{F1} (BCNP) - Panther #71_{F1} is raising her 6-month old kittens in the Addition Lands south of I-75 between Bamboo Strand and the Interceptor canal. She has been observed on three separate occasions with three of the four kittens that were documented at the den.

TX108 (ENP) - TX 108 utilized all of LPK in ENP. Due to a malfunction in TX 108's radio collar, she

was not located between 13 November and 13 December 1999. Prior to the radio collar malfunction, she utilized areas such as the western and northern portions of LPK. She also frequented areas to the southwest of LPK near Sisal Pond. We captured and re-collared TX 108 on 14 December 1999, in a hardwood hammock in the western portion of LPK. Following is an account of her offspring.

Panther #61_{F1} (ENP) - Initial attempts were made to catch Panther #61_{F1} in December. Female panther sign was found in #61_{F1}'s old home range and it is assumed to be hers. Despite our efforts she has so far managed to elude capture.

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