

Florida Panther Field Note

January – March 2003

Births

- **FP87**. March 25. Big Cypress National Preserve. 1 male, 2 females.

Captures

- **FP116?**. January 20. Private ranch, Hendry County. Orphaned kitten of FP67 (see FP67 under "Mortalities" below). Since FP116 is only 6 months old and not able to survive on her own, she was taken to a private facility where she will be raised and given the opportunity to learn to capture her own prey. She is expected to be released sometime during the summer months in 2003.
- **FP109?**. January 24. Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest. First captured last season and fitted with a GPS radio-collar. The GPS collar failed prematurely and after several days of hunting for him, FP109 was recaptured and fitted with a standard VHF radio-collar. He weighed 160 pounds.



FWC researchers would give the shirts off their backs to save the panther. This is obvious at FP109's capture where heat isn't always a problem in south Florida.

- **FP94_{F1}**. January 30. Southern Glades Wildlife Management Area (just east of Everglades National Park). Routine capture to replace radio-collar. 3.5 years old, 87 pounds.
- **FP85_{B-FL?}**. February 18. East Everglades Wildlife Management Area. Captured for routine radio-collar replacement and electroejaculated for reproductive exam. 99 pounds, appeared

somewhat thin, weighed less than previous capture. Missing lower left canine.



A reproductive exam is performed on FP85 with the assistance of Dr. Linda Penfold, reproductive specialist at White Oak Plantation and Lori Oberhofer, biologist at Everglades National Park.

- **FP117?** . February 25. Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation. Initial capture. Approximately 10-month old kitten. Adult canines in with one deciduous canine still present. 70 pounds. One other sibling treed but not captured due to unsafe water conditions at tree.
- **FP73_{F1}?** . February 27. Big Cypress National Preserve, "Addition Lands." Captured for routine radio-collar replacement. 6 years old, 112 pounds.
- **FP118?** . March 5. Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation. Initial capture. Approximately 11 months old, 66 pounds. Near same area where FP117 was captured but age and subsequent locations indicate they are not siblings.
- **FP70?** . March 10. Big Cypress National Preserve. Recaptured to replace failed radio-collar. 6 years old, 97 pounds.
- **FP91?** . March 18. Big Cypress National Preserve. Captured for routine radio-collar replacement. 3.5 years old, 66 pounds.
- **FP95_{F1}?** . March 24. Everglades National Park. Captured for routine radio-collar replacement. 5 years old, 90 pounds.

Mortalities

- **FP67?** . January 15. Private ranch, Hendry County. Detected in mortality during routine telemetry flight. Intraspecific aggression by FP65? _{F1}. FP67 had given birth to 3 kittens in early June, they would now be about 6 months old. Tracks and remote cameras verified that 1 kitten was still alive. That kitten,

FP116? , was captured a few days later and taken to a facility where she will gain the experience needed to secure prey and survive on her own. FP67 was first radio-collared in January 1998 when 8 months old. She was documented giving birth 3 times producing 9 kittens.

- **UCFP50?** . January 26. Road-killed, CR846 (Immokalee Rd.), 3.5 miles east of Everglades Blvd., Collier County. Although uncollared, a transponder indicated this panther was handled at the den as a kitten. He turned out to be "K33" born in 1996 to FP48. His brother, FP62, was previously radio-collared.
- **FP106?** . February 20. Road-killed, SR29 near Sunniland, Collier County. FP106 gave birth to 3 kittens in May 2002, they would now be about 9 months old. FP106 was first radio-collared in April 2001.
- **FP109?** . February 26. Intraspecific aggression by uncollared panther. Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest, Hendry County.
- **UCFP51?** . March 10. Road-killed, I-4 approximately 1/4 mile east of I-75 junction, Hillsborough County. Approximate 2 years old, 112 pounds. Age consistent with dispersing sub-adult individual.
- **UCFP52?** . March 22. Road-killed, CR833, Hendry County. Estimated to be 3-5 years old.

Texas Cougar Removals

The Texas cougars (*Puma concolor stanleyana*), introduced for genetic restoration of the Florida panther in 1995, have met their intended quota of offspring assimilated into the panther population. Genetic restoration efforts are on track with an intended 20% introgression level. Only 3 of the original 8 remain (TX108 was removed November 2002) and they are all slated for removal to permanent captivity during the 2002-2003 capture season.

- **TX106**. January 8. Picayune Strand State Forest. TX106 had 4 litters totaling 6 kittens. Not all survived but FP83? _{F1} from her June 1999 litter was collared in February 2000. She has since produced kittens of her own.
- **TX105**. January 27. Everglades National Park. This is the last Texas cougar to be removed. There are no other Texas cougars remaining in the wild population. TX105 produced 2 litters and one female, FP94_{F1}, was radio-collared in 2000.



TX105, the last Texas cougar removed from the free-ranging panther population, has her vital signs checked one final time before being loaded for transport to a permanent captive facility.