

Florida Panther Field Note

July 2003

Mortalities

- **FP73_{F1}**. *Wednesday July 2. Died of unknown causes. Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation (BCSIR).* FP73 was in the same spot for the past couple of telemetry flights. Although the radio-collar was not emitting a mortality signal, we became suspicious. Upon investigation, her carcass was found completely scavenged. The vultures had apparently prevented the collar from going into the mortality mode. Unfortunately, due to the heavy scavenging, there was nothing left to necropsy. FP73 was just shy of 8-years-old and was documented having 3 dens in her lifetime. She was healthy at her last recollar on February 27, 2003.
- **FP77**. *Monday July 14. Died of unknown causes. BCSIR.* FP77's radio-collar prematurely failed back in October 2001. Employees working at Big Cypress Hunting Adventures (on the Reservation) investigated some vulture activity and discovered them feeding on FP77. FP77 was 6 years old and was documented having 2 dens while being monitored.

Other Panther News

- **FP93**. FP93 began denning about mid-month in Big Cypress National Preserve. The "biologist-in-a-box" was set up but so far (at months end) the Big Cypress crew has not yet handled the kittens.
- **FP110**. FP110 left her den in Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest (OSSF) by July 21 when the kittens were nearly 2-months old. She has since crossed north Keri Rd. (CR832), which bisects OSSF. An infrared-triggered camera set by FWC biologist Mark Lotz captured FP110 and 2 kittens on July 26.



FP110 and her kittens just a few days after they left the den. The kittens are 52-56 days old.