

South Florida Deer Research Project Quarterly Update April - June 2016

Capture Activities

- During this quarter, we collared 3 white-tailed deer (1 male and 2 females) using rocket-nets and darting on the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. Capture efforts were limited by high water levels.

Survival Monitoring

- We investigated 11 (4 males and 7 females) mortalities. One of the 11 mortality events occurred within 14 days of capture and is not included in the cause-specific categories.
- The remaining 10 mortalities were categorized as follows: 8 panther predation events, 1 bobcat predation event and 1 unknown. In some instances we cannot definitively eliminate the possibility of scavenging, and the causes of all mortality data should be considered preliminary until all reviews are completed.
- One additional collar was recovered (collar was torn, no deer remains found). The deer was later photographed and confirmed to be alive.
- We are currently monitoring 111 radio-collared deer

Camera Trapping

- We continued to monitor the 180 cameras in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and Big Cypress National Preserve.
- Each camera trap was visited at least three times during the quarter to download data and to maintain the trap site (i.e., clear vegetation, replace batteries, and exchange any malfunctioning cameras).

Other Activities

- We continued to compile and process photo data, to date 195,000 images have been processed and catalogued by species.
- We also continue to compile and process GPS collar data. To date, approximately 310,000 deer locations have been acquired via GPS-telemetry.
- We hired two new technicians to the project, they will assist in all aspects of the field work.
- Our outreach activities this quarter included a research symposium at the Everglades Coordinating Council meeting in Davie, FL. In addition, Dr. Richard Chandler provided an update to an interagency group of partners at the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge and Dr. Michael Cherry and Dr. Chandler provided a project update to USFWS Vero Beach Office.

May provided a brief break from flooding in the study area, but the wet season officially started with heavy rains in June.



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