

South Florida Deer Research Project Quarterly Update October – December 2016

Capture Activities

- Ground capture efforts began in early December at the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge. Five male deer were captured and collared.

Survival Monitoring

- During this quarter, we investigated 7 (4 males and 3 females) mortalities.
- The 7 mortalities were categorized as follows: 4 panther predation events, 2 hunter harvested 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.
- We currently have 98 deer radio-collared.

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 319,039 images have been processed and catalogued by species and other characteristics (e.g. age, sex, and individual identification).
- We also continue to compile and process GPS collar data. To date, 393,293 deer locations have been acquired via GPS-telemetry.
- The South Florida Deer Team gave 5 presentations and 1 poster at the 23rd Annual Meeting of Wildlife Society.
- We are preparing for our final helicopter captures in January 2017.