

South Florida Deer Research Project Quarterly Update

January – March 2018

Survival Monitoring

- During this quarter, we investigated 4 (2 females, 2 males) deer mortalities.
- The mortalities were categorized as panther predation events. 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.
- Four collars were remotely dropped off and retrieved.
- We currently have 65 deer radio-collared.
- We continue to compile and process GPS collar data. To date, we have 620,444 locations of individual deer.

Camera Trapping

- At the beginning of January, trail cameras were removed from Bear Island and Addition Lands with the completion of the 3 years of surveying as outlined in the scope of the project.
- We continued to monitor 60 cameras in the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge with the assistance of FWS refuge staff.
- During this quarter, we have processed 18,718 images. To date, we have catalogued 480,749 images by species or group (Addition Lands 139,454; Bear Island 155,885; FPNWR 185,410).

Additional Notes

- The South Florida Deer Team gave 2 presentations at 41st Southeast Deer Study Group (SEDSG) meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

Although in South Florida deer may give birth just about any time of the year, peak of fawning occurs during February. This rather unusual fawning period is believed to be an adaptation to the distinct wet and dry seasons – with fawning occurring during the driest time of the year. It also means that the whole reproductive cycle is shifted earlier; from antler growth to breeding season.



Twinning is relatively common throughout the rest of Florida (with over 50% of adult female deer carrying twins), however, it is quite rare to see a female with two fawns in South Florida. These twins were capture on camera at the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge.

