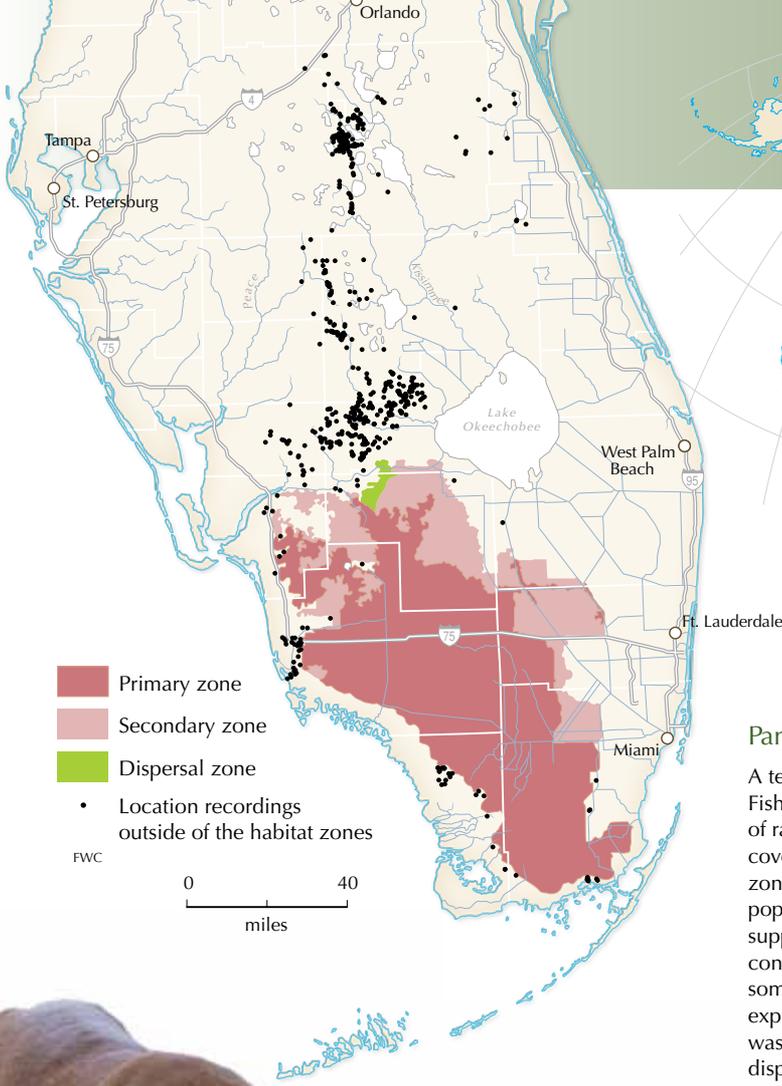


Florida Panther

HIGHLIGHTED SPECIES



Panther Habitat Zones

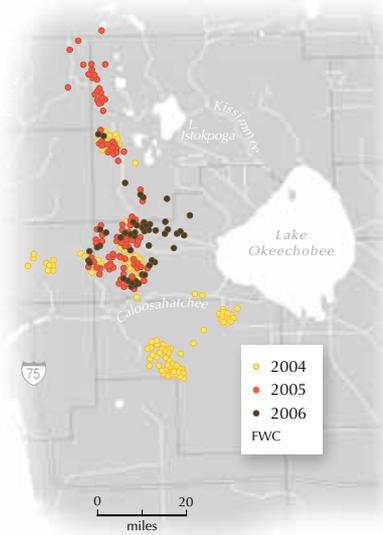
A team of panther experts assembled by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service used a combination of radiotelemetry records and land use/land cover data to delineate Primary and Secondary zones that support the current Florida panther population. The Primary Zone generally supports the present population and is of highest conservation value. The Secondary Zone requires some level of habitat restoration to accommodate expansion of the population. The Dispersal Zone was identified to accommodate future panther dispersal outside of South Florida.

The Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) is the last surviving subspecies of *Puma* in the eastern U.S. It once ranged throughout the southeastern U.S. from Arkansas and Louisiana eastward across Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and parts of South Carolina and Tennessee. As a result of extermination efforts and habitat loss, Florida panthers were eliminated from most of their former range and now are restricted to an isolated population in southern Florida. Two other eastern subspecies, *P. c. cougar* (Northeast) and *P. c. schorgeri* (Great Plains), are considered extinct. Several western subspecies of *Puma*, commonly referred to as cougar or mountain lion, range from Canada through Central America and down the Andes Mountains to Chile.

Though protected by state and federal listing as an endangered species, the Florida panther continues to face the threats of habitat loss, road mortality, and reduced genetic health. Recovery of the Florida panther is dependent upon protection of extensive areas of habitat in South Florida with safe connections between these areas.

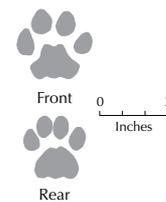


David Moynihan



Tracking Movement

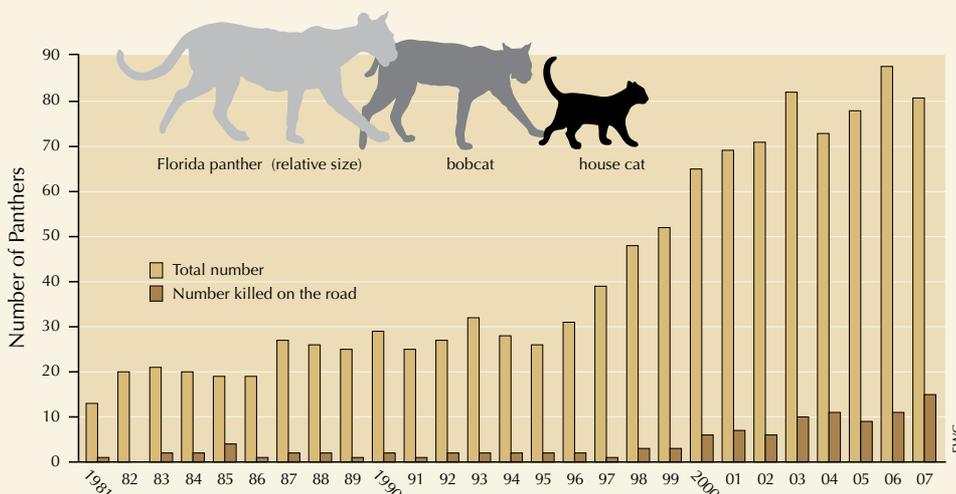
Young male panthers are known to move long distances in search of new territories and mates. This is illustrated by the series of positions recorded over a three-year period of panther #130, a young male. These data also show the use of a variety of habitats for hunting and that forested areas are important for daytime resting.



FWC

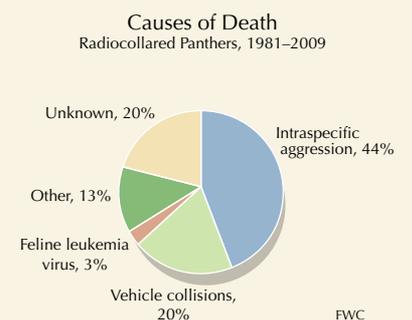
Baby Blues

Florida panther kitten eyes, like these from radiocollared panther FP158's litter, start out blue at birth and turn golden after a few months, about the same time they lose their camouflaging dark spots.



Panther Population

Because Florida panthers are secretive and wide ranging, estimating their total number is difficult. Panther biologists maintain data including approximate birth date for all individuals encountered to determine the known (minimum) number of panthers over time. These data show a notable increase in the population following the release of eight female Texas pumas (*Puma concolor stanleyana*) within South Florida during 1995, which was intended to increase the genetic health of the population.



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