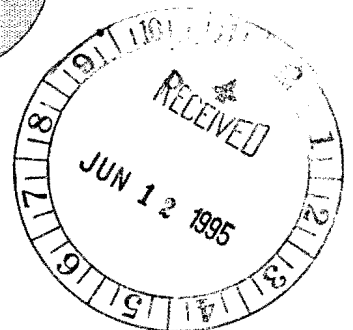


Florida Panther Genetic Restoration

Release



Monthly Update

FLORIDA PANTHER GENETIC RESTORATION PROGRESS REPORT

MAY 1995

Two more female Texas cougars were released this month, raising the total to 6 Texas females being used for genetic restoration of Florida panthers. These two cats were held in quarantine at the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Wildlife Research Laboratory in Gainesville and transported to south Florida for release on 4 May. TX103 was released directly near the end of 11 Mile Road in the heart of the Corn Dance Unit of the Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP), an area referred to as Raccoon Point. TX107 was released directly into the Stairsteps Unit of BCNP in Lostmans Pines after a short trip via helicopter (see map).

TX101 -- This female began the month near the release site in the Bear Island Unit of BCNP. She began westward movements by the end of the first week in May and was photographed using a Highway 29 wildlife underpass on 6 May. TX101 continued westward movements until reaching the fringes of eastern Naples. She travelled southward in forested corridors adjacent to County Road 951 into Rookery Bay National Marine Estuarine Reserve on 19-20 May. She swam to a small mangrove island, and apparently after finding mangroves undesirable, retraced her route northward. She eventually reached County Road 846 in north-central Collier County, two miles south of the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW area). Her movements were through areas where dispersing panthers have been located previously.

TX102 -- TX102 had moved east of the Bear Island Unit of BCNP into the Addition Lands in late April. She travelled northward through the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation during the first week of May and began moving westward into private ranch lands of Hendry County by 8 May. She returned south toward the Bear Island release site on 12 May. TX102 remained in Bear Island for a week before heading back northeast into an area east of the Hendry Correctional Institute on 17 May where she has remained through the end of the month.

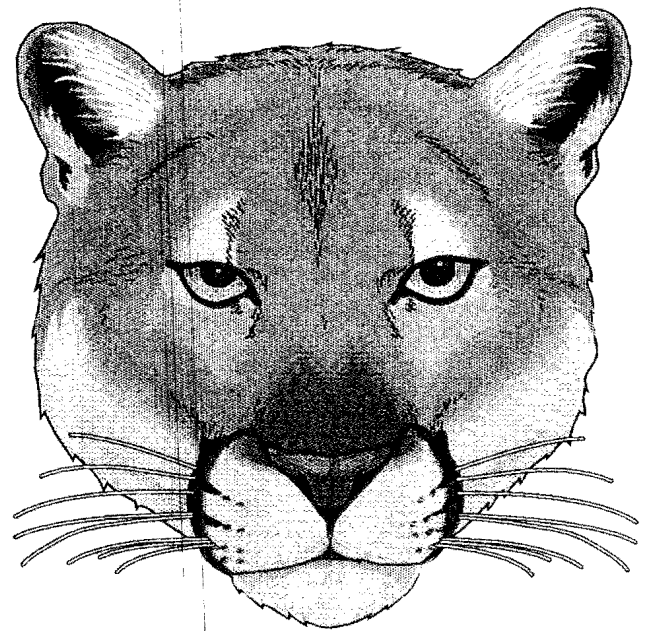
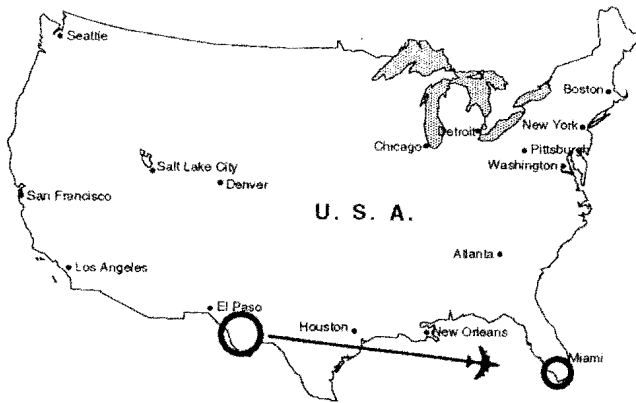
TX103 -- TX103 moved 6 miles south into mangroves bordering the Ten Thousand Islands for the first two weeks after her release into Lostmans Pines on 4 May. She turned back north after reaching open water and returned to Lostmans Pines. She then began movements to the northwest, remaining south of Loop Road and Highway 41. Her last location in May was 1.5 miles south of Monument Lake, and about ten miles north of the release site.

TX104 -- This female was in the company of Florida panther female #09 in the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve on 1-3 May. These cats separated by 5 May and TX104 began westward movements into the Belle Meade area west of the southern Golden Gate Estates. TX104 frequented this area through the end of May, travelling to within 1 mile of County Road 951 to the west, north of Sabal Palm Road, and east to the southern Estates.

TX106 -- This female was in the company of male panther #54 in April and since that time has used the northern half of the Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve and adjacent private lands to the west. TX106 has travelled north to Interstate 75 but has yet to cross.

TX107 -- TX107 moved 9 miles to the northwest in the first three days after her release at Raccoon Point. This northwest movement continued another 10 miles until she reached Interstate 75. TX107 then turned west paralleling the south side of the Interstate to within one mile of Turner River Road. She returned southeasterly back to Raccoon Point travelling about 20 miles in six days. She then ventured north into Mullet Slough for five days and returned west into the center of Big Cypress. TX107 was within one mile of male panther #42 on one occasion.

Prepared by Darrell Land, Mark Lotz, Ken Johnson, Deborah Jansen (6/5/95).



Release Sites for Female Texas Cougars

