

FLORIDA PANTHER GENETIC RESTORATION PROGRESS REPORT

September 1996

TX105 -- On 4 October we confirmed that TX105 has one kitten. We waited until she left the denning area before going in to verify the number of kittens. We weighed the single female kitten and gave her a liquid worming medication. She is approximately one month old and appears to be healthy. TX105 continues to remain in the vicinity of the den site and surrounding pinelands. There are many deer in the area so she does not have to venture far to obtain prey.

*** Please see the attached file for a picture of the kitten!

TX108 -- This female Texas cougar continues to use the prairies, hammocks, and pinelands north of the main Park road. This may be an indication that she still has kitten(s). A previous attempt to locate her den site to confirm the existence of kittens was unsuccessful. During one of our telemetry flights we were able to watch her walking through open prairie but did not see any kittens with her. At that time she was north of an area where we suspect she may be keeping the kitten(s). We will continue to monitor her movements and will try to verify the existence of kitten(s) at a later date.

Male panther #16 continues to roam the pinelands of Long Pine Key as well as areas north of the main Park road. He recently moved into the area of pinelands that was recently burned--near the Long Pine Key campground. He may be hunting deer that have moved into the area to feed on the new plant growth.

Prepared by Lori Oberhofer (10/11/96)

R. Ober