

FLORIDA PANTHER GENETIC RESTORATION QUARTERLY REPORT

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1997

Panther #61- This F1 progeny of TX 108 and Panther #16 was fitted with a new radio collar on 10 JULY. On 17 AUGUST, she was transported from White Oak Conservation Center to the Everglades National Park and reintroduced at the Long Pine Key area to the North of the Beard Center. At the time of release she weighed 67 pounds.

For the first ten days after the release, this 15 month old panther was located in small hardwood hammocks in the "400 hammocks" area, North of the Main Park Road and in Long Pine Key. Since 28 AUGUST, she has predominantly been in the agricultural/disturbed (schinus) area South of Long Pine Key. Although her movements in the schinus have been minimal, sightings of Panther #61 on 4 and 19 SEPTEMBER have confirmed that she is healthy, shy, alert, and has a shiny coat of fur.

TX 108- TX 108 has utilized all of Long Pine Key in the Everglades National Park, extending her movements from just west of Royal Palm Road to the east side of Mud Road. All of her locations remain to the North of the Beard Center, reaching the "400 hammocks" area and inside Loop Road to the North of Main Park Road. This panther's kitten (#61) was reintroduced to the Everglades National Park on 17 AUGUST. #61 appears to be in adequate physical condition and her diet probably consists of marsh rabbits and raccoons that are living in the schinus fields.

TX 108 has been with or near panther #16 on several dates between 9 JULY and 21 JULY. Denning behavior will be monitored closely in mid-OCTOBER.

TX 105- TX 105 has been predominantly occupying the pinelands and hardwood hammocks to the West of the Beard Center in the Everglades National Park. She also visits the Long Pine Key area as far East as Long Pine Key campground. She was located within a half mile of the male panther #16 on 13 AUGUST and 12 SEPTEMBER. Denning behavior will be monitored in November and December. On 19 AUGUST there was a visual observation of TX 105, walking just outside a small hardwood hammock in a mixed prairie. Her kitten was not seen with her, although it is thought that she is still traveling with her mother. An attempt to capture and radio collar this kitten will be made in October.

Panther #16- Panther #16 has utilized a wide range of areas in the Everglades National Park. He has been as far Northwest as near the Pa-Hay-Okee Lookout Tower and as far Southeast as the Gumbo Limbo Trail at Royal Palm. He travels South into the schinus fields to the South of Long Pine Key and to the North of the Main Park Road in the "400

hammocks" area. Primarily, since the beginning of high water levels, this panther has been occupying the Lon Pine Key area. On several dates, he has been located with or near both of the female Texas cougars in the Everglades National Park. He was in the same hammock as TX108 on JULY 9, 14 and 16, and with TX 105 on 13 AUGUST and 12 SEPTEMBER.

Prepared by Jason Osborne (10/1/97)

Revised