

Capture Season Plan for Big Cypress National Preserve—2003 - 2004

Prepared by Deborah Jansen, Wildlife Biologist, NPS
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Goals

Achieve and maintain a sample of 20 radio-collared panthers distributed throughout the 295,142-ha area of Big Cypress south of I-75.

Recollars

Three panthers, #79, 102, and 103 are due for recollaring (see attached table). They will be handled when aerial monitoring indicates that they are in an area conducive for an efficient and safe capture.

Sampling

Capture efforts will target 5 of the 12 survey blocks, #1, 9, 10, 11, and 12, where no panthers are currently monitored (see attached figure). Three female panthers with established home ranges, #71, 88, and 93 have failed collars; they will also be targeted for recollaring. Survey work for the presence of panthers will be done in the 12 survey blocks when soil conditions provide good tracking medium.

Timeframe

The Big Cypress capture season is slated for an 8-week period between February and April of 2004. However, any malfunctioning collars will be replaced as soon as possible.

Team Members

The team will consist of the same personnel as in 2003 with the exception of NPS employee Guy Almerico who has replaced Bob Thomas as biological technician.

Collar Specifications

Three GPS collars will be deployed in order to determine movements and habitat use other than daytime resting sites. The specifications and configurations of the units have not yet been determined. Two males, #79 and the uncollared male south of Hwy 41, are potential candidates for GPS collar attachment.

Status of Radio-collared Panthers in SBICY--September 30, 2003

Pan# (collared)	Kit#	Sex	Birth Date	Age as of June 30, 2003	Last collaring	2004 Recollar	Comments
55	.	F	Dec-92	10.5	4-Apr-03	no	
60	.	M	Oct-95	7.5	6-Mar-02	no	
70	K39	F	May-97	6	10-Mar-03	no	
71	K38	F	May-97	6			collar failed in July 2000
79	K19	M	Sep-95	8	15-Nov-00	yes	
86	K68	F	Jun-99	4	1-Apr-03	no	
88	K64	F	Jun-99	4	2-Mar-00		collar failed in October 2002
91	K66	F	Jun-99	4	18-Mar-03	no	
93	K58	F	Feb-99	4	28-Feb-02		collar failed in August 2003
102	K48	F	Feb-98	5	20-Feb-01	yes	
103	.	F	Aug-00	3	13-Mar-01	yes	
104	.	M	~ Oct. 00	~3	13-Dec-02	no	
119	K115	M	Apr-02	1	2-Apr-03	no	
120	.	F	?	~3	8-Apr-03	no	

Figure 1. Panther Survey Blocks in the NPS Study Area.

