

With the approval of the Florida Panther Interagency Committee (FPIC), the USFWS announced in the Feb. 15, 1990 *Federal Register* their intent to prepare an environmental assessment on the proposed capture of Florida panthers for captive breeding purposes. This was the culmination of a series of technical meetings and workshops held in 1989 and 1990 to address recovery efforts for the panther. Recommendations for a captive breeding program were formalized in the Species Survival Plan prepared for the FPIC by the Captive Breeding Specialist Group of the IUCN.

The *Federal Register* notice stimulated an unanticipated level of negative responses from the public, especially from certain animal rights and environmental groups. This prompted the USFWS to schedule a series of public meetings in Florida in July to present additional information on panther status and the captive breeding program in an effort to increase public understanding and acceptance of recovery efforts. Southeast Regional Chief Scientist Dominic Dottavio will represent NPS at the meetings.

An article by Dennis Jordan, Florida Panther Coordinator, Florida Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, will appear in the Fall issue of *Park Science*.