

# Interagency Florida Panther Response Team

## Annual Report: 2014-2015

(July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015)



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Park Service

## INTRODUCTION

An Interagency Florida Panther Response Team (Response Team) was established by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), National Park Service (NPS), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in 2004 to respond to human-panther interactions. The Response Team developed the Interagency Florida Panther Response Plan (Response Plan) to provide guidelines for responding to human-panther interactions and conflicts. Also included in the plan is an outreach strategy that provides goals and objectives for educating the public. The Response Plan has been the guiding document for the Response Team since February 2005. An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Response Plan was finalized in October 2008. The Environmental Assessment and Response Plan (Appendix C of EA) is available for download at

<http://www.fws.gov/verobeach/MammalsPDFs/R4FWSPantherEAFinal.pdf?spcode=A008>.

The Response Plan requires that the Response Team meet at least once a year to review the past year's activities and suggest revisions to the Response Plan, if needed. The results of the annual meeting are provided in a comprehensive report to the **Oversight Committee** consisting of the:

- FWS Southeast Regional Director
- FWS Project Leader of the Southwest Florida Gulf Coast Refuges
- NPS Southeast Regional Director
- NPS Superintendent of Everglades National Park (ENP)
- NPS Superintendent of Big Cypress National Preserve (BCNP)
- FWC Executive Director.

The Oversight Committee will review and approve revisions to the Response Plan, review actions by the Response Team and provide guidance if warranted.

The Annual Interagency Response Team Meeting was held on December 3rd, 2015 to review significant human-panther interactions that occurred during the reporting period and discuss/recommend potential Response Plan revisions for consideration by the Oversight Committee.

## RESPONSE PLAN REVISIONS

The Response Team is in consensus on some minor revisions that clarify some sections of the Response Plan. These proposed edits do not substantially change any actions and still need to be reviewed and approved by the Oversight Committee. Improvements were made to the field investigation data sheet to simplify recording relevant data necessary for analysis (Appendix II).

## HUMAN-PANTHER INTERACTIONS AND DEPREDATIONS

The Response Plan identifies five human-panther interaction classifications: Sighting(s), Encounter, Incident, Threat, and Attack. Panther depredation (preying on domestic animals) is addressed separately because it does not involve direct interaction with a human. Definitions, associated panther behaviors, risk factor, and Team response of each interaction type are detailed in the Response Plan (available through the link provided in the Introduction). **Only those interactions and/or depredations where**

**physical evidence of panther activity was found and that occurred within the fiscal year of this report will be summarized below.** All interactions and depredations investigated by the Response Team during the reporting period are listed in Appendix I.

An interaction or depredation is tallied when physical evidence, examined by experienced personnel knowledgeable in interpreting panther sign, supports that a panther was involved. Three encounters and 27 panther depredations contained physical evidence to support a panther was involved during this reporting period (Fig. 1). There were no incidents, threats or human attacks. Nine additional depredations were investigated but no physical evidence of panther activity was found. Bobcats, coyotes and a dog were responsible for five depredations (Table 1).

## **Encounters**

An encounter is an unexpected direct meeting between a human and a panther. Encounters pose a low to moderate risk factor and vary depending on proximity and behavior of both the panther and the person involved. Reported encounters were investigated within 24 hours, an attempt was made to determine the cause of the encounter, and an assessment was submitted to the Response Team. Three encounters occurred during the reporting period (Table 2, Fig. 2).

## **Depredations**

A depredation is classified as domestic livestock or pets being preyed upon by a panther. Because depredations do not involve direct contact with humans they pose a low risk to human safety. Physical evidence of panther presence or activity was found at twenty-seven depredation events (some events involved multiple prey animals) in Collier, Hendry, and Lee Counties (Table 3). The majority of these involved hobby farm livestock (“backyard” animals such as goats, sheep, etc) or pets in the Golden Gate Estates subdivision east of Naples but depredations also occurred in rural areas near Clewiston, LaBelle, and Immokalee (Fig. 3). Goats accounted for the majority of hobby livestock losses but other animals included sheep, calves, miniature horses, cats, and a miniature donkey (Table 4). Additionally, two depredations were caused by bobcats, two by coyotes, and one by a dog (Table 1).

Greater emphasis was placed on minimizing hobby-livestock panther depredations this fiscal year by educating citizens on proper husbandry practices and resources available for assistance. After a depredation event, packets of information were delivered door-to-door to residents within 1-mile of the event location alerting them of the recent activity. Packets contained a notice about recent wildlife activity in the neighborhood, the *A Guide to Living With Florida Panthers* brochure, information on reporting panther sightings to the panther sightings web site, the Defenders of Wildlife safety pen assistance program, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida pen assistance and cattle compensation programs, and a handout on obtaining the Defenders of Wildlife booklet *Florida Panther: A Guide to Recognizing the Florida Panther, It's Tracks and Sign*. Additionally, because bears are active in many of the same areas, the *A Guide to Living in Bear Country* brochure and tips on avoiding attracting bears were also included. Efforts began in November and 300 packets were delivered among five areas. Packets were not redelivered in areas recently canvassed.

## MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

Some interactions require the Response Team to take action to resolve a situation for the benefit of human or panther safety. The responding Response Team members will evaluate the situation and submit an assessment to the Response Team via email. If necessary, the Response Team shall coordinate resources among all affected agencies and develop an action plan. Certain situations warrant immediate action, before the Response Team can formally be apprised, for a prudent and successful outcome.

Three events required management action. Two panthers were captured and placed in captive management facilities and one was relocated.

- On October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 FWC received a call about an injured panther along the side of Immokalee Rd. in Collier County approximately 1.4 miles east of Oil Well Grade Rd. On-lookers were involved in a minor rear end collision but the panther was not struck by any vehicles. However, the panther was reported to be moving slowly and not vacating the area despite the gathering crowd of motorists and emergency personnel that responded to the vehicle accident. The panther, UCFP221, was anesthetized and noted to be severely emaciated and apparently blind in both eyes. He was initially examined by the Animal Specialty Hospital of Florida and radiographs revealed bird shot in the head, neck, thorax, pelvis, and legs. Based on the clustering of pellets it appeared the panther was shot once in the face and then again in the right rear flank, likely as he turned to run away. He was estimated to be 2 years old and weighed 64 lbs., approximately 2/3 of the weight expected for a male panther his age. UCFP221 was transferred to Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo where he received additional rehabilitative care. The right eyeball was completely collapsed and the left eye was damaged and had a cloudy appearance. The amount or type of vision in the remaining eye is unknown. Because he was the first patient in the zoo's new hospital facility he was nicknamed "Uno." UCFP221 was not suitable for release due to his injuries but his calm demeanor made him an excellent candidate for captive management. After recovery, he was transferred to the Naples Zoo in December and is scheduled to be placed on public display in a newly constructed exhibit in July 2015. This case is unsolved and still an open law enforcement investigation.
- On November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014, FWC received a report of a panther kitten in a bougainvillea (shrub) on the tennis court of a private residence on Parkers Hammock Rd. north of Rattlesnake Hammock Rd. in Naples. Based on the kitten's age and location it was presumed that it was one of FP219's kittens that were handled at the den on 22 September 2014. Upon arriving on scene, it was reported that an adult panther was observed getting hit by a vehicle on Rattlesnake Hammock Rd. a few days earlier just south of the kitten's location. This panther continued to move off the road into an adjacent woodlot, so its condition was unknown. Presuming that panther to be FP219, not knowing her condition, and the fact that she had been on the south side of Rattlesnake Hammock Rd. for the past week, the decision was made to capture the kitten while the opportunity was present. The kitten was verified to be K434, one of FP219's offspring, by the PIT tag inserted during the den site examination. Subsequently, an attempt was made to determine the status of FP219 in the woodlot south of where K434 was captured. During the search for her, she continually moved away indicating her injuries, if any, were not sufficient to warrant capture. Logistical constraints of the urbanized setting precluded successfully reuniting the kitten with its family and her young age posed challenges to being raised for eventual release. Therefore, the decision was made to place K434 into captive management. She was initially taken to Tampa's

Lowry Park Zoo before being transferred to her permanent home at Zoo Miami on 23 January, 2015. She is expected to be viewable by the public in early 2016.

- On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 FWC was notified of a panther in the Port Royal neighborhood on Admiralty Parade in Naples at a residence that fronted Gordon's Pass. The panther was hiding in some landscaping in an alcove next to the house. The Naples Police were first to respond and managed a small crowd of onlookers until FWC panther biologists arrived. They also had a water patrol unit idling in the pass in the event the panther ran into the water after being darted. Fortunately, the panther remained in place. The male panther was designated as FP238, estimated to be 1.5-2-yr-old, fitted with a GPS radiocollar, and relocated approximately 14 miles away to Picayune Strand State Forest. Within 5 days of his capture and release he had returned to Rookery Bay where he spent the majority of his time through the end of the reporting period.

## OUTREACH

The Florida Panther Outreach Working Group, comprised of state and federal government agencies and non-government organizations, was created in 2006 to develop and promote various types of outreach materials based on the Response Plan's Outreach Strategy. Teleconference meetings were held monthly. Outreach efforts accomplished in the past fiscal year are summarized below.

- The Florida Panther Subsection within the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Division of Habitat and Species Conservation (HSC) created an in-reach program in 2013, dubbed the Panther Road Show, to inform FWC employees statewide about the increasing presence of panthers in central portions of the state so that they are better able to relay accurate information to constituents. Several people from other state, federal, and county agencies attended these as well. Two FWC HSC panther biologists continued giving these presentations during this FY. The Panther Road Show consists of five main sections and covers an historical overview and current status, identifying Florida panther sign, investigating depredations, the Florida Panther Response Plan, and living with Florida panthers.
- In September 2014, Defenders of Wildlife, along with over 10 volunteers and conservation group representatives, circulated 1,800 packets of information on living with panthers and black bears to the northeast region of the Golden Gate Estates community (8<sup>th</sup> St. NE & 16<sup>th</sup> St. NE south of Randall Blvd.). This distribution site was targeted due to a series of conflicts that emerged in these local neighborhoods.
- Defenders of Wildlife, with the help of volunteers and other agency personnel, supports the Response Team's outreach efforts by attending many events throughout the year and distributing information on living with wildlife. A portable *livestock safety pen* exhibit demonstrating the concepts of a predator safe enclosure is frequently displayed at many of these events. Defenders of Wildlife spearheaded events at the following venues:
  - Earth Day event at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Naples, April 2015. Approximately 1,000 people attended.
  - Max Hasse County Park Community Yard Sale, Golden Gate Estates, May 2015. Attended by approximately 100 people and 25 packets of information on living with panthers were distributed.

- Swamp Cabbage Festival, LaBelle, February 2015. Two day event with thousands in attendance. Cost sharing opportunities with Defenders of Wildlife and the Conservancy of Southwest FL for building safety pens was provided to 40 people.
  - Collier County Fair, March 2015. The exhibit was visited by approximately 300 people and 75 people took home various information literature.
- The fourth annual Florida Panther Festival was held on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at the North Collier Regional Park in Collier County. This event featured a variety of family fun and learning activities including music, food, outdoor walks featuring panther field work, over 45 environmental exhibitors, a number of panther biologists at exhibits, and various oral presentations on panther related topics. Additionally, a demonstration site with props was on display and illustrated varied characteristics of a rural backyard that can lead to negative human-wildlife interactions. This demonstration featured a livestock pen that promoted safe co-existence of people, pets, livestock and panthers. The Florida Panther Festival was successful in attracting approximately 2,300 attendees that reflected strong community appreciation of the Florida panther and Florida's unique ecosystems that serve as panther habitat. A more detailed review of the Festival and photographs of event activities can be found at [www.floridapantherfestival.com](http://www.floridapantherfestival.com).
- Each year the governor issues a proclamation declaring the third Saturday in March as Save the Panther Day. Various state, federal, and environmental organizations celebrated the 10th annual Florida Panther Week in March 2015 and over 4,500 people participated in a multitude of events at several venues throughout southwest Florida. This celebration started with the Save the Panther event at Naples Zoo on March 7<sup>th</sup> (4,300 attendees) and culminated on Save the Panther Day at the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 200 people attended the refuge event and were treated to refuge tours focusing on the panther, listened to talks about panther field work and visited various exhibits by panther support groups.
- The Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, in cooperation with its support group the Friends of Florida Panther Refuge, continued the *Panther Update* newsletter. This electronic communication features stories from the field by panther biologists from FWC and the National Park Service. Four newsletters were published within the reporting period and disseminated to over 400 email recipients and were posted on several websites.
- Big Cypress National Preserves' (BCNP) environmental education program, SWAMP (Swamp Water And Me Program), is a hands-on, curriculum-based program provided to 6th grade students at public and private schools in Collier County. Students are visited by a ranger in the schools and then take a field trip to Big Cypress National Preserve where they can develop an appreciation and awareness of Florida panthers and the habitat they depend on. Over 189 programs were conducted that reached over 4,890 participants (children and parents). Additionally, BCNP staff conducted 140 programs with panthers as a program emphasis reaching 6,458 people that included Preserve visitors, 4H participants, and off-site audiences.
- Florida Gulf Coast University's "Wings of Hope" continued its environmental education program to local schools and is an integral part of the environmental humanities curriculum at FGCU. University students share their knowledge with 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade students, known as the "Florida Panther Posse," in Collier and Lee Counties. Through the Florida Panther Posse, elementary students develop reading, writing, science, geography, math, and research skills while working through "challenges" focused on Florida panther life history information and water conservation

issues. The program reaches over 450 university students and 4500 elementary students yearly. Additionally, elementary students educate at least two other people, and not necessarily their parents, about panthers and their habitat thus spreading awareness to an additional 9,000-10,000 people per year.

- The Conservancy of Southwest Florida reached 482 Naples area students during 13 Living with Wildlife programs.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Florida panther depredation management issues also are being mitigated by other means. Although the Response Team is not directly involved with these efforts, they are mentioned for an awareness of activities on this topic.

### **Assistance Programs**

#### ***The Conservancy of Southwest Florida***

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida launched two programs in June 2011. More details about these programs can be found by visiting <http://www.conservancy.org/panther-pilot-program>.

The *Pen Building Assistance Program* provides funds to assist landowners who have experienced a depredation from a Florida panther to build a predator-resistant pen to protect their livestock and pets from further potential depredation. Assistance was provided to six residences, in partnership with Defenders of Wildlife, totaling a contribution of \$2,915 from the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

The *Free-Ranging Cattle Compensation Program* is designed to help compensate small farm operations (300 head of cattle or fewer) that have suffered documented calf losses to panthers. Four owners were compensated for 4 calves totaling \$2,400 by the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

#### ***Defenders of Wildlife***

The Florida office of Defenders of Wildlife manages a *Predator-Resistant Enclosure Program* to assist residents wishing to protect their pets or hobby livestock by housing them in predator-resistant enclosures at night when predators are typically most active. The cost-share program provides construction and retrofitting instructions, labor assistance, guidance on making one's property less attractive to predators, and financial assistance to eligible participants. Applications and more information are available by contacting [defendersofwildlifeflorida@defenders.org](mailto:defendersofwildlifeflorida@defenders.org) or searching "Defenders Panther Citizen Assistance Taskforce" on facebook. Funds and assistance totaling \$4,204.10 were provided for 7 new safety pens and retrofitting of one existing enclosure.

### **Livestock Indemnity Program**

The Agricultural Act of 2014 (2014 Farm Bill) authorized the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to provide benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. In addition, LIP covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock as determined by the Secretary. One cattle producer was paid \$6,130.00 for 15 calves lost to

Florida panthers that occurred from 2011-2014. In the future, producers will only be compensated for losses incurred over one annual cycle.

## **SUMMARY**

There were no incidents, threats or human attacks during the reporting period. Three encounters were reported but they did not warrant an action plan. The first involved a panther that followed a dog onto a lanai (screened in porch). When the resident opened the door to let the dog in the panther immediately retreated. The second involved a juvenile panther that was preoccupied with stalking cattle egrets and inadvertently got to within 10 feet of a person sitting on a tractor. The third encounter involved a panther that was attracted to the calls being imitated by a turkey hunter. Twenty-seven depredation events contained physical evidence of panther involvement. Goats made up the majority of depredations. Outreach efforts, an important aspect of the Response Plan, were stepped up by notifying nearby residents surrounding a depredation event and a multitude of personnel, agencies, and organizations were actively engaged in bringing awareness to living with panthers.



Table 1. Number of human-panther interactions and depredations investigated during fiscal year 1 July 2014-30 June 2015.

<b>Interaction Classification</b>	<b>Panther<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Lacking Evidence<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>Other Predator<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Depredation	27	9	5	41
Encounter	3	0	0	3
Incident	0	0	0	0
Threat	0	0	0	0
Attack	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>

- a. Physical evidence that a panther was involved.
- b. No physical evidence was found to clearly determine the type of animal involved. Reasons evidence may be lacking include delays in reporting, evidence being destroyed by other animal or human activity, or environmental conditions or factors.
- c. Physical evidence that another specific animal was involved. Other depredations were caused by bobcat (2), coyote (2) and domestic dog (1).

Table 2. Human-panther encounters in Collier and Hendry Counties, Florida during fiscal year 1 July 2014–30 June 2015. Corresponding locations for the event numbers are represented in Figure 2.

<b>Event Number</b>	<b>Interaction Date</b>	<b>Address / Location</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	9/3/2014	820 15th St NW	Naples	Panther approached dog onto lanai through open door, retreated when homeowner opened sliding glass door.
2	1/28/2015	JB Ranch	Sunniland	Juvenile panther got within 10 feet of person sitting on non-running tractor while it stalked cattle egrets.
3	4/7/2015	BCNP Add Lands Unit	Naples	Panther approached within 15 feet of turkey hunter while actively calling turkeys.

Table 3. Panther depredations in Collier, Hendry and Lee Counties, Florida investigated during fiscal year 1 July 2014-30 June 2015. Corresponding locations for the event numbers are represented in Figure 3.

<b>Event Number</b>	<b>Interaction Date</b>	<b>Address / Location</b>	<b>City / Area</b>	<b>Animals Depredated</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	7/13/2014	2970 2nd Ave. SE	Naples	Goat	1 goat fatal. Evidence: tracks, attack method.
2	7/17/2014	4935 20th St. NE	Naples	Goat	1 goat fatal. Evidence: tracks, feeding method. GPS data places FP231 at location of goat cache during night of event.
3	7/19/2014	1881 17th St. SW	Naples	Cat	1 cat fatal. Evidence: tracks.
4	7/23/2014	14570 Fritchey Rd.	Naples	Horse	3 miniature horses fatal, 2 miniature horses injured. Evidence: tracks.
5	8/1/2014	1121 16th St. NE	Naples	Cow	1 calf fatal. Evidence: attack method, panther hair in bed site.
6	8/19/2014	1471 12th Ave. NE	Naples	Cow	1 calf fatal. Evidence: tracks.
7	8/19/2014	441 6th St. SE	Naples	Goats, sheep	2 goats fatal, 1 sheep fatal. Evidence: scat, feeding method.
8	8/21/2014	441 6th St. SE	Naples	Goat	1 goat fatal. Evidence: feeding method, panther hair in bed sites.
9	8/25/2014	441 6th St. SE	Naples	Goat, sheep	1 goat fatal, 1 sheep fatal. Evidence: attack and feeding method, trail camera photos (uncollared male).
10	9/23/2014	2010 Shady Ln.	Naples	Goat	5 goats fatal, 1 goat missing. Evidence: feeding method.
11	9/25/2014	4670 43rd Ave. NE	Naples	Horse	1 Shetland pony fatal. Evidence: feeding method, tracks, trail camera photos (uncollared male).
12	9/28/2014	1610 Rock Rd.	Naples	Goat	1 goat fatal. Evidence: feeding method.
13	10/20/2014	2470 18th Ave. NE	Naples	Cat	1 domestic cat fatal. Evidence: bite characteristics.
14	11/12/2014	254 Griffin Rd.	Naples	Miniature horse, sheep	2 miniature horses fatal, 2 sheep fatal. Evidence: tracks, scat, feeding method.
15	11/14/2014	3615 48th Ave. NE	Naples	Sheep	2 sheep fatal. Evidence: tracks, feeding method.
16	12/4/2014	511 23rd St. NW	Naples	Goat	1 goat injured. Evidence: bite characteristics. Owners dog interrupted attack, chased panther up tree.
17	12/29/2014	27425 Smith Ranch Rd.	Clewiston	Cow	1 calf fatal. Evidence: feeding method.
18	1/10/2015	14603 CR858	Immokalee	Goat	1 goat fatal. Evidence: feeding method, tracks, scat.
19	1/22/2015	14603 CR858	Immokalee	Goat	1 goat fatal, 1 goat missing. Evidence: feeding method, tracks.
20	1/23/2015	14603 CR858	Immokalee	Goat	2 goats fatal, 1 goat missing. Evidence: attack, feeding method.

<b>Event Number</b>	<b>Interaction Date</b>	<b>Address / Location</b>	<b>City / Area</b>	<b>Animals Depredated</b>	<b>Comments</b>
21	2/24/2015	J-Seven Ranch	LaBelle	Cow	1 calf fatal. Evidence: attack method, tracks, drag mark.
22	3/2/2015	7007 SR29	Immokalee	Cow	1 calf fatal. Evidence: feeding method.
23	4/3/2015	890 21st St. SW	Naples	Sheep	1 sheep fatal. Evidence: bite characteristics.
24	4/13/2015	890 21st St. SW	Naples	Sheep	1 sheep fatal. Evidence: tracks.
25	5/11/2015	18130 Misty Morning Ln.	Immokalee	Cow	1 calf fatal. Evidence: cached rumen.
26	5/23/2015	2631 Goggin Rd.	Alva	Miniature Donkey	1 miniature donkey fatal. Evidence: feeding method.
27	5/29/2015	21001 Immokalee Rd.	Naples	Cow	1 calf fatal. Evidence: feeding method.

Table 4. Number of animal fatalities and injuries caused by Florida panthers during fiscal year 1 July 2014–30 June 2015.

<b>Animals</b>	<b># Animals Killed</b>	<b># Animals Injured</b>	<b>Total</b>
Goats	16	1	17
Sheep	8	0	8
Miniature Donkey	1	0	1
Miniature Horse	6	2	8
Cow-calf	7	0	7
House cat	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>43</b>

Figure 1. Number of human-panther conflicts per fiscal year. The FY11-12 and FY12-13 depredation tallies include radio ear-tagged calf mortalities documented during the UF-IFAS Calf Mortality Study.

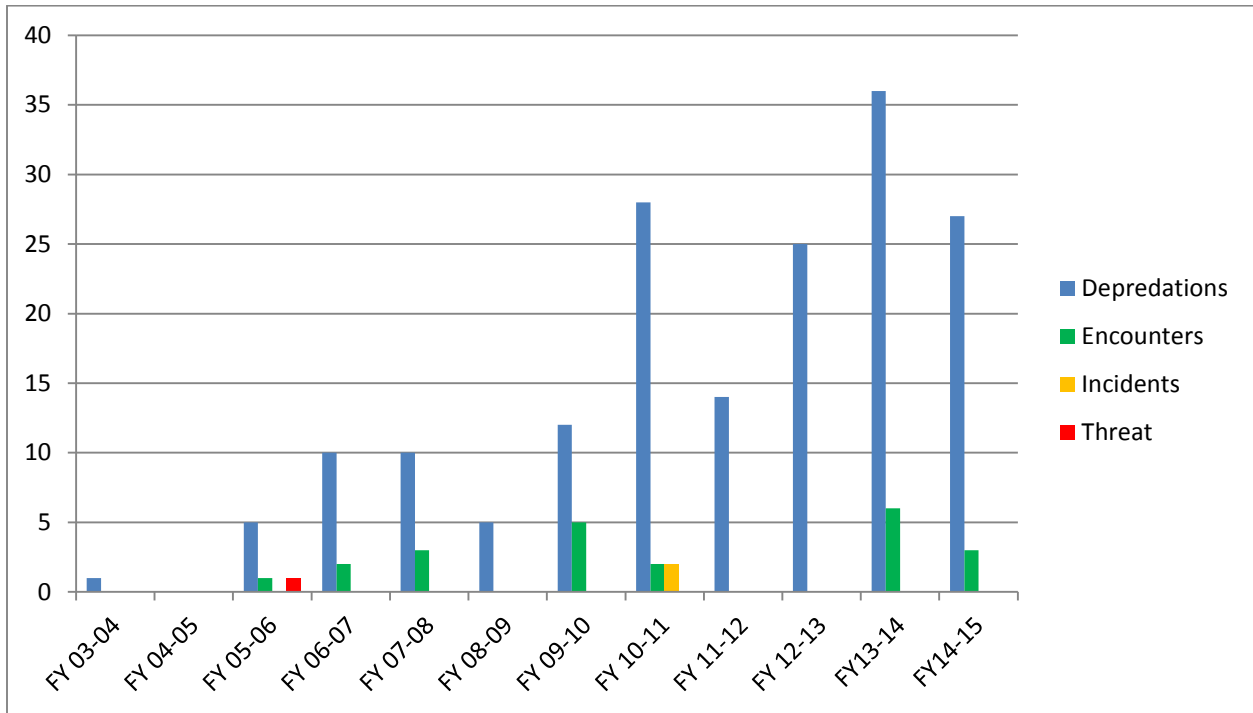


Figure 2. Panther encounters (event numbers corresponds with Table 2) in Collier and Hendry Counties, Florida during FY 2014-2015.

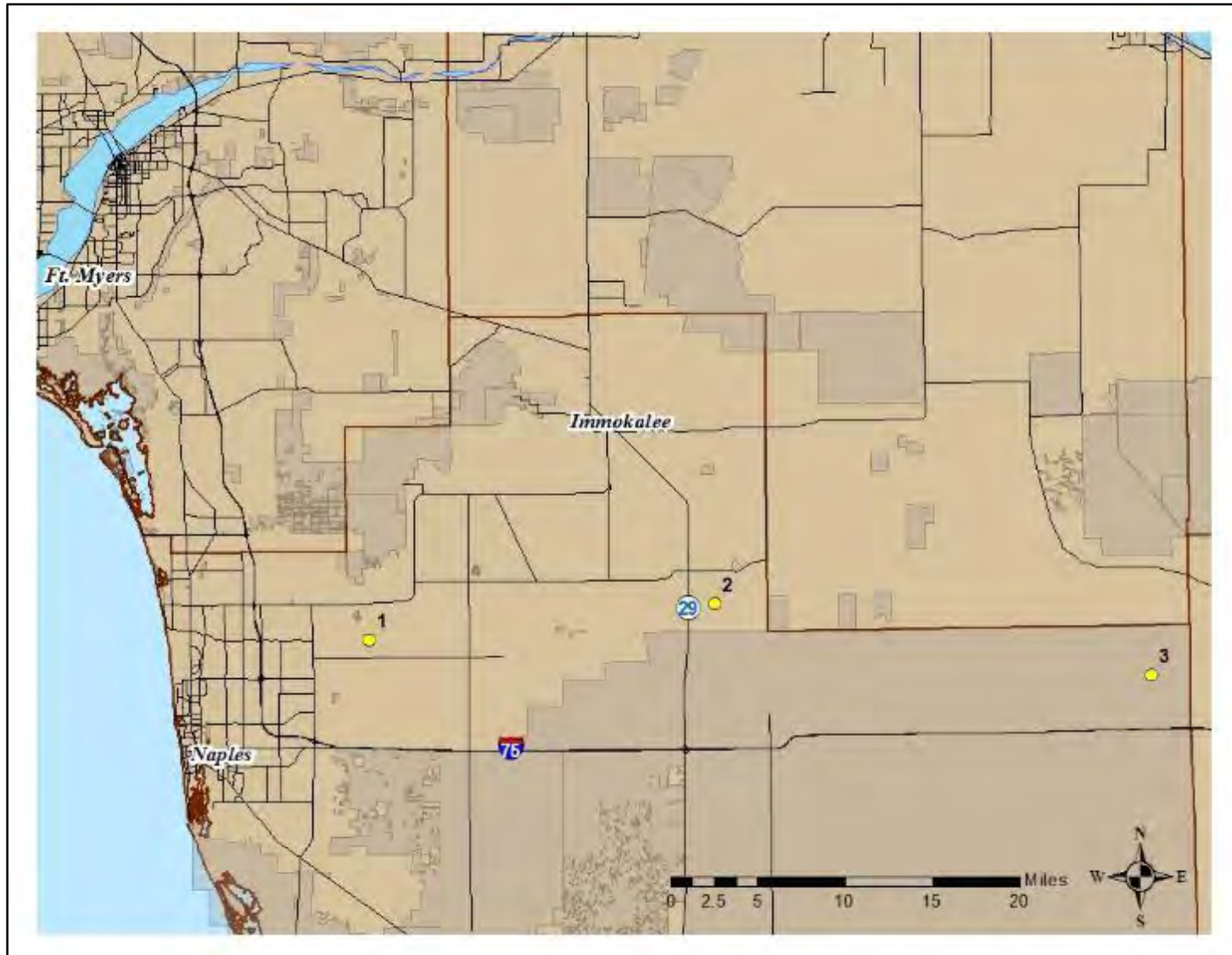
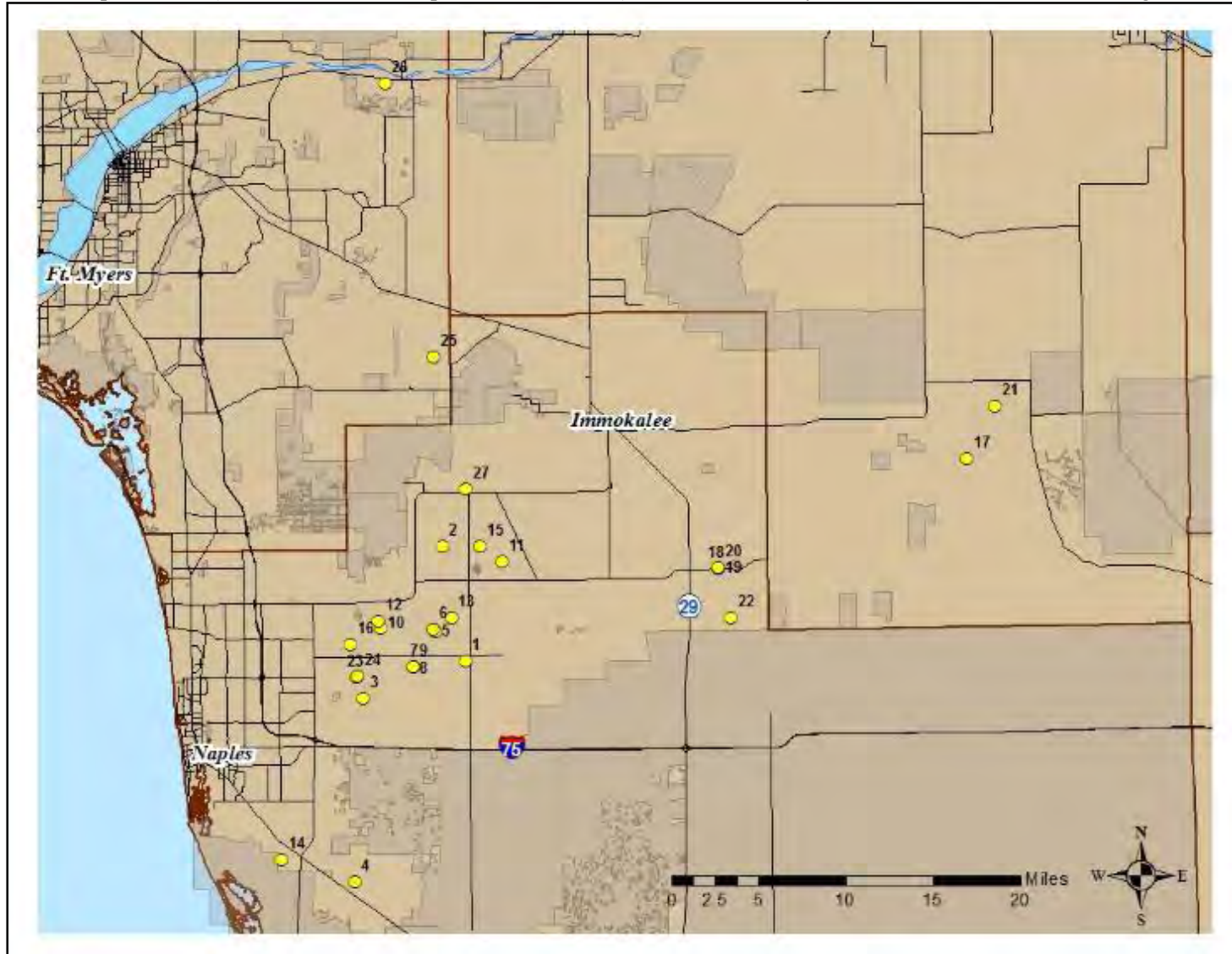


Figure 3. Panther depredations (event numbers corresponds with Table 3) in Collier, Hendry and Lee Counties, Florida during FY 2014-2015.






Appendix I. List of depredations and human-panther interactions received by the Florida Panther Response Team during fiscal year 1 July 2014–30 June 2015.

<b>Interaction Date</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City / Area</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Interaction Type</b>	<b>Animals Depredated</b>	<b>Predator</b>
7/13/2014	2970 2nd Ave. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Goat	Panther
7/17/2014	4935 20th St. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Goat	Panther
7/19/2014	1881 17th St. NW	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Cat	Panther
7/23/2014	14570 Fritchey Rd.	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Horse	Panther
7/27/2014	24900 SR29	Copeland	Collier	Depredation	Cat	Undetermined
8/1/2014	1121 16th St. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Cow	Panther
8/10/2014	16th St NE	Naples	Collier	Sighting	NA	Undetermined
8/19/2014	1471 12th Ave. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Cow	Panther
8/19/2014	441 6th St. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Goats, sheep	Panther
8/21/2014	441 6th St. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Goat	Panther
8/25/2014	441 6th St. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Goat, sheep	Panther
9/3/2014	820 15th St. NW	Naples	Collier	Encounter	NA	Panther
9/12/2014	SR29 - No physical address	Immokalee	Collier	Depredation	Cow	Coyote
9/16/2014	23060 Tina's Ln.	Ft. Myers	Lee	Depredation	Dog	Dog
9/18/2014	1274 Keri Island Rd.	Naples	Collier	Depredation	White tailed deer	Undetermined
9/23/2014	2010 Shady Ln.	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Goat	Panther
9/25/2014	4670 43rd Ave. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Horse	Panther
9/28/2014	1610 Rock Rd.	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Goat	Panther
10/16/2014	1610 Rock Rd.	Naples	Collier	Unknown	Goat	Undetermined
10/20/2014	2470 18th Ave. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Cat	Panther
11/12/2014	254 Griffin Rd.	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Mini horse, sheep	Panther
11/14/2014	3615 48th Ave NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Sheep	Panther
11/19/2014	661 9th St. SW	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Dog	Undetermined
11/19/2014	CR833 - No physical address	Devil's Garden	Hendry	Depredation	Cow	Non predator

<b>Interaction Date</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City / Area</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Interaction Type</b>	<b>Animals Depredated</b>	<b>Predator</b>
12/4/2014	511 23rd St. NW	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Goat	Panther
12/29/2014	27425 Smith Ranch Rd.	Clewiston	Hendry	Depredation	Cow	Panther
1/10/2015	14603 CR858	Immokalee	Collier	Depredation	Goat	Panther
1/22/2015	14603 CR858	Immokalee	Collier	Depredation	Goat	Panther
1/23/2015	14603 CR858	Immokalee	Collier	Depredation	Goat	Panther
1/25/2015	1141 14th Ave. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Goat	Undetermined
1/28/2015	No physical address	Sunniland	Collier	Encounter	NA	Panther
2/2/2015	1041 20th Ave. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Sheep	Undetermined
2/24/2015	CR833 - No physical address	LaBelle	Hendry	Depredation	Cow	Panther
3/2/2015	7007 SR29	Immokalee	Collier	Depredation	Cow	Panther
3/4/2015	4743 Catfish Rd.	Lake Wales	Polk	Depredation	Cat	Undetermined
3/15/2015	5847 Co. Hwy 147 W.	Laurel Hill	Okaloosa	Depredation	Sheep	Undetermined
3/21/2015	2381 6th Ave NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Dog	Undetermined
4/3/2015	890 21st St. SW	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Sheep	Panther
4/7/2015	4325 34th Terr. NW	Cape Coral	Lee	Encounter	NA	Panther
4/9/2015	No physical address	Felda	Hendry	Depredation	Cow	Non predator
4/13/2015	890 21st St. NW	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Sheep	Panther
4/28/2015	741 8th St. NE	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Turkey, chicken	Bobcat
5/11/2015	18130 Misty Morning Ln.	Immokalee	Lee	Depredation	Cow	Panther
5/23/2015	2631 Goggin Rd.	Alva	Lee	Depredation	Donkey	Panther
5/29/2015	21001 Immokalee Rd.	Naples	Collier	Depredation	Cow	Panther
6/8/2015	1700 Tiger Lake Rd.	Lake Wales	Polk	Depredation	Cow, mini donkey	Coyote
6/14/2015	6185 Alturas Babson Park Cutoff Rd.	Bartow	Polk	Depredation	Goat	Bobcat

Appendix II. Florida Panther Response Plan Investigation Report reformatted and updated to facilitate data collection.

## Florida Panther Response Plan Investigation Report



**Instructions**

- 1) Complete information on first and last pages (p. 1 and p. 6).
- 2) For Human-Panther Interactions (includes sightings, encounters, incidents, threats, and attacks) fill out Part 1 and Part 3.
- 3) For Depredations fill out Part 2 and Part 3.

Event Date \_\_\_\_\_

Event Time \_\_\_\_\_

Investigation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Investigation Time \_\_\_\_\_

*Report Tracking Information*

Contact Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Event Date \_\_\_\_\_

Report/IE Incident # \_\_\_\_\_

*Response Team use only.* Interaction Type \_\_\_\_\_

Verified     Unverified

### CONTACT INFORMATION

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Other Contacts

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

### EVENT LOCATION INFORMATION

Event occurred at above address?     Yes     No

Event address (if different from above)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

UTM - E (longitude) \_\_\_\_\_ UTM - N (latitude) \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

General Location Description

<p><b>Private Property</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Urban <small>(city)</small></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <small>(residential town or village)</small></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exurban <small>(residential area outside city/town/village)</small></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rural <small>(agricultural, etc. county)</small></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>	<p><b>Public Land</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> City / County Park</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> State Park / Natural Area / Historic Site</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> State Wildlife Management Area</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Federal Park / Preserve / Refuge</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</p>
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**PART 1**

**HUMAN-PANTHER INTERACTION**

**Panther Observation**

How long was panther observed? \_\_\_\_\_ Distance from observer/other people \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Number Kittens \_\_\_\_\_ Radio collar observed?  Yes  No

Description (size, color, unique markings)

**Panther Behavior (check all that apply)**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retreated at sight of humans   | <input type="checkbox"/> Displayed lack of attention                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Displayed wariness                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Made eye contact then retreated  | <input type="checkbox"/> Various movements not directed at humans                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Curious, ears up, then retreated                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive posture the retreats   | <input type="checkbox"/> Shifting position, following                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiding   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Did not retreat when human took aggressive action                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Hissed, growled, snarled                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Body low to ground, head up                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Intense staring, tail twitching  | <input type="checkbox"/> Following, coupled with hiding or rapid start and stop walking | <input type="checkbox"/> Ears slightly flattened                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crouched, tail twitching   | <input type="checkbox"/> Body low to ground, rear legs pumping                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Physical contact not related to kittens or cached prey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Close approach that requires person to take action to avoid direct contact | <input type="checkbox"/> Unprovoked aggression toward human                             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____   |   |   |

**Physical Contact Between Human and Panther**

Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	Age _____
Type of Contact	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-injury	<input type="checkbox"/> Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> Fatality
Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	Age _____
Type of Contact	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-injury	<input type="checkbox"/> Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> Fatality
Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	Age _____
Type of Contact	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-injury	<input type="checkbox"/> Injury	<input type="checkbox"/> Fatality

NARRATIVE. Attach additional pages/reports if necessary.

Describe what person was doing when physical contact occurred and injuries sustained. Also note animals behavior/response, extenuating circumstances that may help explain behavior such as nearby young, prey item, mistaken identity (game calling, in camo).

**PART 2**

**DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION**

Species 1 \_\_\_\_\_  Fatal  Injured  Missing Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM-E \_\_\_\_\_ UTM-N \_\_\_\_\_ Date discovered \_\_\_\_\_ Time discovered \_\_\_\_\_

Injury details/  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Carcass found?  Yes  No Carcass fed on?  Yes  No Number of days deceased \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass cached?  Currently  Previously  No  
Carcass location  On property  Off property Distance from pen/yard \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass disposition  Left on site  Buried  Removed  
If carcass not found, any evidence to explain disappearance?  Yes  No If yes, check evidence in Part 3

Species 2 \_\_\_\_\_  Fatal  Injured  Missing Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM-E \_\_\_\_\_ UTM-N \_\_\_\_\_ Date discovered \_\_\_\_\_ Time discovered \_\_\_\_\_

Injury details/  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Carcass found?  Yes  No Carcass fed on?  Yes  No Number of days deceased \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass cached?  Currently  Previously  No  
Carcass location  On property  Off property Distance from pen/yard \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass disposition  Left on site  Buried  Removed  
If carcass not found, any evidence to explain disappearance?  Yes  No If yes, check evidence in Part 3

Species 3 \_\_\_\_\_  Fatal  Injured  Missing Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM-E \_\_\_\_\_ UTM-N \_\_\_\_\_ Date discovered \_\_\_\_\_ Time discovered \_\_\_\_\_

Injury details/  
Notes \_\_\_\_\_

Carcass found?  Yes  No Carcass fed on?  Yes  No Number of days deceased \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass cached?  Currently  Previously  No  
Carcass location  On property  Off property Distance from pen/yard \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass disposition  Left on site  Buried  Removed  
If carcass not found, any evidence to explain disappearance?  Yes  No If yes, check evidence in Part 3

**PART 2 (cont.)**

**DEPREDAATION INVESTIGATION (cont.)**

Species 4 \_\_\_\_\_  Fatal  Injured  Missing Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM-E \_\_\_\_\_ UTM-N \_\_\_\_\_ Date discovered \_\_\_\_\_ Time discovered \_\_\_\_\_

Injury details/  
Notes

Carcass found?  Yes  No Carcass fed on?  Yes  No Number of days deceased \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass cached?  Currently  Previously  No  
Carcass location  On property  Off property Distance from pen/yard \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass disposition  Left on site  Buried  Removed  
If carcass not found, any evidence to explain disappearance?  Yes  No If yes, check evidence in Part 3

Species 5 \_\_\_\_\_  Fatal  Injured  Missing Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM-E \_\_\_\_\_ UTM-N \_\_\_\_\_ Date discovered \_\_\_\_\_ Time discovered \_\_\_\_\_

Injury details/  
Notes

Carcass found?  Yes  No Carcass fed on?  Yes  No Number of days deceased \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass cached?  Currently  Previously  No  
Carcass location  On property  Off property Distance from pen/yard \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass disposition  Left on site  Buried  Removed  
If carcass not found, any evidence to explain disappearance?  Yes  No If yes, check evidence in Part 3

Species 6 \_\_\_\_\_  Fatal  Injured  Missing Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Weight \_\_\_\_\_  
UTM-E \_\_\_\_\_ UTM-N \_\_\_\_\_ Date discovered \_\_\_\_\_ Time discovered \_\_\_\_\_

Injury details/  
Notes

Carcass found?  Yes  No Carcass fed on?  Yes  No Number of days deceased \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass cached?  Currently  Previously  No  
Carcass location  On property  Off property Distance from pen/yard \_\_\_\_\_  
Carcass disposition  Left on site  Buried  Removed  
If carcass not found, any evidence to explain disappearance?  Yes  No If yes, check evidence in Part 3

**Part 3**

**EVIDENCE**

Area searched?  Yes  No

Physical evidence observed / obtained?  Yes  No

Evidence observed / obtained by investigator

Tracks  Scat  Scrape  Scratch  Predator Hair  Drag  Kill

Prey Hair  Fence breached  Photo  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Mitigating circumstances if no physical evidence obtained

Not notified  Elapsed time since event  Evidence removed/buried  Rain since event

Poor tracking substrate  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Predator Involved  Yes  No  Uncertain

Panther  Bobcat  Bear  Coyote  Domestic Dog  Unknown  Other \_\_\_\_\_

If panther:  Single  Male  Adult  Radio collared  Yes ID \_\_\_\_\_

Family  Female  Subadult  No

Unknown  Kitten # \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS / FOLLOW UP INFORMATION**

(site revisits, camera traps, landowner actions, husbandry improvements, etc)

### INVESTIGATING TEAM MEMBERS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position  Biologist  LE Officer  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency  FWC-Naples  FWC-Other \_\_\_\_\_  FWS-FPNWR  FWS-Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 NPS-BCNP  NPS-ENP  NPS-Other \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position  Biologist  LE Officer  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency  FWC-Naples  FWC-Other \_\_\_\_\_  FWS-FPNWR  FWS-Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 NPS-BCNP  NPS-ENP  NPS-Other \_\_\_\_\_  Other \_\_\_\_\_

### RESPONSE TEAM ACTIONS

- Advise on legal status, federal and state laws protecting the Florida panther
- Provide informational material
- Post area with precautions and contact information
- Offer recommendations to the affected landowner/residents regarding animal husbandry practices
- Offer recommendations to the affected landowner/residents on landscape modifications
- Recommend to remove any panther prey caches
- Recommend to stop feeding wildlife
- Inform local residents of the event
- Increase monitoring and/or law enforcement patrols of the area
- Initial law enforcement response ASAP
- Apply aversive conditioning techniques when appropriate
- Close the area where threat or attack has occurred until the panther has been removed or the situation resolved
- Immediate, permanent removal of the offending panther from the wild
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Response Team use only:*

### INTERACTION CLASSIFICATION

Verified  Unverified

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Sighting</b> (Visual observation of panther) (Not by Response Team or Florida sightings in high human areas or outside known animal control situations)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Encounter</b> (An unexpected, direct neutral meeting between a human(s) and panther(s)) (Investigate response within 24 hrs)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Incident</b> (An interaction between a human(s) and panther(s) in which the panther displays potentially threatening behavior: no immediate retreat, intent attention/staring) (Investigate within 11 hrs, response within 24 hrs)</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Threat</b> (An unprovoked aggressive/predatory behavior toward a human that requires the individual to take defensive action to avoid direct contact) (Investigate immediately, report to Term and Oversight Committee ASAP)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Attack</b> (Physical contact between a human and a panther involving aggressive panther behavior) (Investigate immediately, report and report to Term and Oversight Committee ASAP)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Depredation</b> (Panther preys upon domestic pets/livestock) (Investigate within 12 hrs, response within 24 hrs)</p> |
|--|--|