

Fewer than 200 Florida panthers now inhabit the Sunshine State’s remote cypress swamps and hardwood hammocks, mostly south of Lake Okeechobee.

Florida panthers are long-tailed cats that weigh between 70 and 160 pounds and measure up to six-feet long. Males average up to 150 pounds; females usually weigh less than 100 pounds.

These skilled hunters prefer to eat white-tailed deer and wild hogs. Instead of chasing their prey for long distances, Florida panthers use their stealth as hunters to single out and ambush their prey.

Before the 1800s, Florida panthers roamed throughout the southeastern U.S. from Arkansas to Florida. As more people settled in the Southeast, panther numbers decreased through hunting and habitat loss. Today, the pale, brown cat is much more likely to be seen on specialty license plates or sports memorabilia than in the wild.

Automobile collisions and territorial aggression between panthers are the two most important causes of panther mortality. Habitat loss is also a concern for the large cats, since they require large home ranges in which they live and hunt.

Breeding and raising kittens

On average, female panthers will start breeding when they are a little over two years old, while males mature at age 3. After mating, females give birth to a litter of up to four kittens. The kittens are born in simple, secluded dens, usually in dense vegetation to protect them from sun and rain. Mothers raise their kittens for up to two years, teaching them to hunt and survive on their own.

How can we help?

- » Drive carefully in panther territory
- » *Purchase a “Protect the Panther” Florida license plate



*Every year, \$25 from the registration fees from every Florida panther license plate goes to the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund to protect the Florida panther

Resources

Florida Power & Light Company
www.FPL.com/panthers

Florida Panther Net:
www.floridapanthernet.org

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service:
www.fws.gov



Kittens are light brown or tawny, with spots to help them hide in vegetation.

Our environmental promise

At FPL, we understand that caring for the environment is just as important as providing customers with affordable, reliable power, now and in the future.

This is reflected in our efforts to protect the air we breathe, the water and land we use and the plants and animals that share our planet. As a clean-energy company, we’re committed and dedicated to minimizing our impact on the environment and the place we all call home.

FPL and the NextEra Energy family of companies embrace an environmental policy that is part of a company-wide Code of Business Conduct & Ethics. Every year, company officers and managers reaffirm this pledge in writing.

Our promise in action

Our passion for protecting the environment is very personal. After all, we live here too. That’s why we work closely with federal, state and community organizations to help minimize impacts on natural resources and protect the Sunshine State’s wild treasures.

In addition, we’re constantly working to improve our standards by building cleaner power plants.

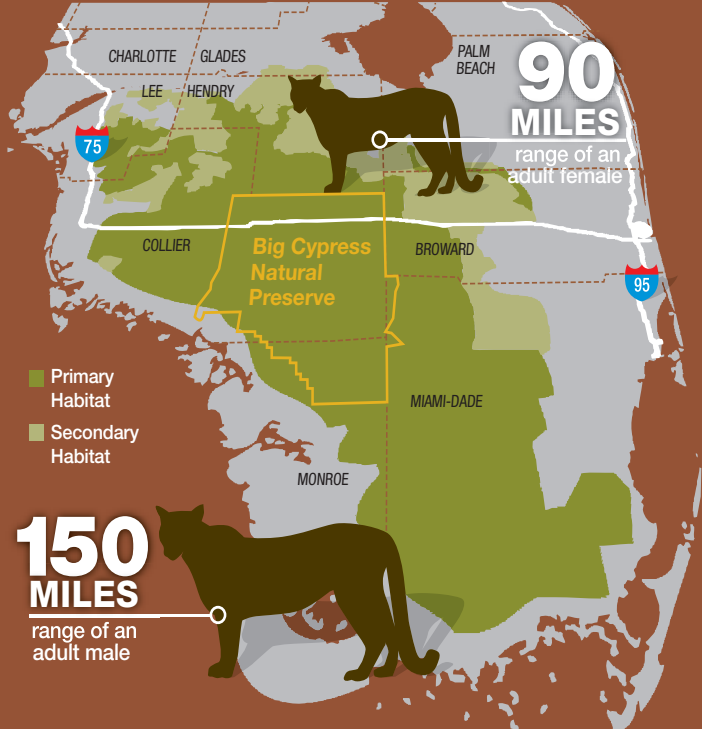
Through our environmental programs, we’re helping to minimize habitat loss from construction and reduce water use. We work every day to make Florida a better place for all of us, including our wild treasures like the Florida panther.

For more information on the Florida panther and other Florida wildlife, please visit www.FPL.com/panthers



Florida Panther

Changing the way we can all help protect Florida’s wild treasures



Habitat

R. Kautz, et. al. 2006. How Much Is Enough? Landscape-scale Conservation for the Florida Panther. Biological Conservation 130:118-133

Florida Panther Facts

- ✱ The Florida panther is a unique subspecies of cougar known as *Puma concolor coryi*
- ✱ Panthers hunt at dusk and dawn
- ✱ Panther habitat includes cypress swamps and hardwood hammocks

www.FPL.com/panthers

Timeline

1800
Early 1900s
500 Panthers

1837
John Lee Williams, an associate of Audubon, reported panthers were numerous in many parts of Florida

1950
Early 1970s
LESS THAN 20 Panthers

1941
About 10,000 white-tailed deer, one of the panthers' main sources of food, were killed by state-contracted hunters because of possible infestation by Texas cattle fever ticks

1975
Early 1990s
30-70 Panthers

1973
Endangered Species Act became law

1982
Florida panther named state animal

2000
2007-Today
100-160 Panthers

1995
Florida imported eight female Texas cougars to breed with panthers

1907 Systematic drainage south of Lake Okeechobee begins, opening the area to agricultural and residential development	1950 Florida panther declared a game species to be taken only during deer season or as a nuisance	1958 Florida panther listed under state law as an endangered species	1967 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the Florida panther on the original endangered species list	1981 Scientists began capturing panthers and attaching radio collars	1989 Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge established in Collier County	1991 "Protect the Panther" Florida license plates went on sale
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