
*WHAT ARE THE STANDARD
PROTECTION MEASURES THAT ARE
REQUIRED?*

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is required by the Federal Endangered Species Act to abide by standard measures adopted to protect this endangered mammal:

1. A Florida panther protection/education plan has been developed which requires training for all construction crews.
2. A qualified observer/biologist will be on-site for notification by construction personnel if a potential Florida panther is sighted.
3. If a Florida panther is seen on the construction site, all activity must cease immediately, the qualified observer must be notified, and the cat allowed to move away from any dangerous area on its own.



WHO DO YOU CONTACT IF YOU
SEE A PANTHER ON THE
RESERVATION?

Contact your direct supervisor

You may also contact::

Seminole Tribe of Florida's
Wildlife Biologist
Phone: 863-902-3249 x13411
Cell: 954-410-7073



*Seminole Tribe of Florida
Environmental Resource
Management Department*

*Florida Panther
Puma concolor coryi*



Protecting Tribal Resources

WHAT IS A FLORIDA PANTHER?



Panthers are known by many names throughout the country including mountain lions, pumas, and cougars.

The Florida panther is one of the most imperiled mammals in the United States. It has been federally listed as endangered since 1973 under the Endangered Species Act. It is also protected under the Wildlife Code of FL, and the FL Panther Act of 1978. Habitat loss and fragmentation are severe threats to the panther in Florida.

WHAT SIGNS CAN HELP YOU IDENTIFY A FLORIDA PANTHER ?

Tracks —The typical panther track is the imprint of four un-clawed toes around a 3-lobed heel pad.



Scratches — Panthers hone their claws by scratching on logs or trees. These scratches are probably not a form of territory marking or communication to other panthers, but they do alert humans to the presence of panthers.

Scrapes — piles of soil, leaves, or pine needles with urine or feces on top. The panther makes a scrape by flicking its hind legs backward, leaving two parallel streaks on the ground surface. Scrapes are between 10 and 20 cm long and within them you can often track near the scrapes.

HOW CAN YOU IDENTIFY A FLORIDA PANTHER?



Adults are a uniform tawny color with lighter fur on their lower chests, belly, and inner legs. Shades of individual may vary from grayish to reddish to yellowish. This uniform color conceals them effectively in a variety of habitats.

Kittens are spotted, which helps to camouflage them in the shadows of their den. These spots fade as they approach maturity at the end of their first year.

WHERE DO FLORIDA PANTHERS OCCUR?

Once the panther ranged throughout Florida as well as throughout much of the southeastern United States from Louisiana north and east to Tennessee and the Atlantic. Today only about 80-100 adult panthers remain in national and state parks and nearby private lands in southwest Florida. They occur locally throughout the Big Cypress area including the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE A FLORIDA PANTHER?

Panthers are solitary, elusive animals and are rarely observed in the wild. Encounters are unlikely, however, if you do encounter a panther avoid all contact with it. If you are driving a vehicle or heavy equipment, stop, cease operation and allow the cat to pass. Do not harm or harass it in any way. Please contact your supervisor or the number at the back of this pamphlet and report the location and circumstances.

