

# HOW YOU CAN SAVE THE FLORIDA PANTHER!

## AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Florida Panther is one of the most resilient populations of animals you can find, unfortunately they face a lot of threats. There are believed to be only 120-130 individuals left in the wild, and their habitat range is confined to southern Florida, mainly the Everglades. The main cause of this sudden drop off is habitat loss due to human encroachment, but this population also struggles with occasional run ins with hunters, diseases such as feline leukemia, accidents along roads, and because their population size is so low there are concerns with lack of genetic diversity. (Much like in Cheetahs)

## Biology and history

Adults measure between 6 and 7 feet in length, and roughly 3.5-4.5 feet tall. Males tend to grow about 50-70 pounds bigger weighing in at approximately 160-180.

Florida Panthers are a top predator and an umbrella species in their habitat, meaning they play a vital role in the balancing of the food chain.

The Florida panther is ironically named, because it is actually a subspecies of mountain lions, meaning it belong to the Puma genus, not Panthera.

## A Call to Action!

Organizations such as The Nature Conservancy are a good place to donate to, they are currently headlining projects to expand protected ranges.

Furthermore, you can contact your local officials and write letters to the governor and make sure they are aware of this situation so that future laws can increase protection.



1. A detailed description of the audience you are targeting I am targeting those with conservation interests, residents of Florida, and zoology minded individuals (as this is supposed to appear in a pamphlet preferably handed out at science conventions or similar events)

2. An explanation of the specific purpose of your artifact The specific purpose here being to spread information on the troubles this species faces as well as a call to action to support a specific conservation organization

. 3. A bibliography for sources/images (in CSE format) Image was shared for reuse.

"Florida Panther". National Wildlife Refuge System. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Retrieved 5 April 2021. Melody E. Roelke, Janice S. Martenson, Stephen J. O'Brien, 1993 "The consequences of demographic reduction and genetic depletion in the endangered Florida panther," Current Biology, Volume 3, Issue 6,