

# Florida Panther Recovery Implementation Team Meeting Summary

June 3, 2014  
Teleconference

The primary purpose of this teleconference was to discuss the outcome of the Panther Public Forum on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, needed stakeholder post-Forum follow up and appointment of a member from the sportsmen community to the Recovery Implementation Team.

## Stakeholder Forum Outcome

In general, Team members felt that the Panther Public Forum went reasonably well and were pleased with the diversity of attendees. They acknowledged that these types of public meetings should be held more frequently than one time per year, at least initially. They felt that the following issues needed further discussion and follow up with stakeholders: research on private lands, including citizen science; clarification on how the Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) concept would work for landowners enrolled in NRCS programs (particularly EQIP); how panther population numbers, home range sizes and densities are determined; how a PES project could work with cattle producers/lessees; how to determine baseline for a panther Safe Harbor Agreement (SHA) and details associated with incidental take authorized in a panther SHA.

## Next Steps for PES Concept in SW FL and Alternative Options Matrix

Kevin will revise the draft PES document by incorporating some of the pertinent stakeholder comments that don't require further discussion. The revised draft will be available for the Team's review on June 13<sup>th</sup>. A final draft PES document will be completed once we meet with additional stakeholders and cooperating agencies (FWC, NRCS, etc). The Team will also be further engaged in discussions about seeking funding opportunities.

Dawn will revise the Alternative Options Matrix based on written comments received from stakeholders and will share it with the Team for discussion at our next meeting.

## Consideration of Additional Recovery Team Member from the Sportsmen Community

Team members wanted to better understand the desire for the sportsmen community to be represented on the Team. Most members felt that appointment to a subteam would be best because the new member would be more engaged in process and discussion of specific issues, and because they felt we would be inviting many other requests for appointment to the Team. Whether a member is appointed to the Team or one or more subteams, we want someone who could look at all the issues, and not just hunting.

The Team suggested possible appointment of a member of the sportsmen's community to the following subteams – either one or all of them:

- Habitat/Management Subteam – because of deer and hog management, hunting access and ORV usage in SW FL. Members felt this subteam would be the most appropriate, however, appointment would be delayed. We will be discussing this subteam at our July meeting.
- Range Expansion Subteam – because of access to public lands and hunting areas north of the Caloosahatchee River. Appointment would be delayed because we will be discussing this subteam at our July meeting.
- Transportation Subteam – because of their interest in road access to hunting areas and the placement of wildlife passage areas. Advantage - we could appoint them immediately to this subteam.

**Next meeting:** The Team will meet at the South Florida Ecological Services Office in Vero Beach on July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>.