

# Florida **Panther** Compensation Program

Pen build in Valley Springs, California.  
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Pen build at Verdant Vistas Farm in  
Salem, Oregon. Pen design is from the  
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## P E N   B U I L D I N G   A S S I S T A N C E   P R O G R A M

### What is being proposed?

- Intensified development outside urbanized areas has increased the potential for interactions between humans and panthers. One outcome is that hobby livestock and some pets may be preyed upon by Florida panthers.
- Building a pen for domestic animals is one of the best ways to safeguard them from future depredation.
- The Pen Building Assistance program offered by the Conservancy of Southwest Florida may provide financial assistance for homeowners who build protective pens.
- A typical protective pen is composed of chain-link fencing, a roof and is 20 feet by 10 feet and about six feet tall.

### Who is eligible?

- This program offers financial assistance to property owners to construct panther-resistant pens.
- Priority is given to those who have had a verified loss of a pet or hobby livestock by a Florida panther.
- To qualify, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission must have investigated the depredation and determined the loss occurred from a Florida panther.



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Pen build in Felton, California. Pen design is from the Mountain Lion Foundation.

### What is the compensation?

- Materials to construct a typical protection pen are estimated at \$750 - \$1,500 depending on the size and materials used.
- The Conservancy Panther Compensation Program would provide up to 75% reimbursement of the cost of the materials required for construction of an enclosure, not to exceed \$599. *Amount subject to change.*







Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission



Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

## FREE-RANGING CATTLE COMPENSATION PROGRAM

### What is being proposed?

- Florida panthers require a matrix of habitat types that provide sufficient quantities of large prey such as deer and hogs. This habitat matrix may include agricultural lands.
- Although panthers prefer deer and hogs, they do occasionally prey on calves in free-ranging cattle operations. This may cause a financial hardship for ranchers and livestock owners.
- The Free-Range Cattle Compensation Program may provide financial compensation to those who have lost free-ranging cattle due to a verified Florida panther depredation.

### Who is eligible?

- Due to limited resources, small, family-owned and operated farms – typically with less than 300 head of cattle – will receive top priority for compensation.
- Depredation losses verified subsequent to October 2010 will be considered through the program, provided that the loss was investigated and verified by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- Securing livestock in a fully enclosed structure can protect animals vulnerable to predation. If that is not an option for the ranching operation, other practices could be implemented to further protect livestock such as keeping smaller animals in fields closer to human activity.

### What is the compensation?

- The Conservancy of Southwest Florida Panther Depredation program may compensate each owner for up to \$599 per animal. *Amount subject to change.*
- Compensation may be adjusted under certain conditions, at the discretion of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

### How do I apply?

**Submit an application to begin the process to participate in the Conservancy of Southwest Florida Panther Compensation Program.**

- Submit a copy of the “Florida Panther Response Plan Investigation Report” and any other relevant written communication you have received about the depredation from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- Please be advised that in some areas, authorization or permitting from a local government may be necessary before constructing a pen enclosure.
- Application forms are available at [www.conservancy.org/panther-compensation-program](http://www.conservancy.org/panther-compensation-program)
- Mail application to:  
**Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
 Florida Panther Compensation Program  
 1495 Smith Preserve Way,  
 Naples, FL 34102  
 239.262.0304, ext. 286**

Please call us at the above phone number within ten business days after submitting your request to ensure we have received your information.



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 of Southwest Florida  
 OUR WATER, LAND, WILDLIFE, FUTURE.