

THE PANTHER HERO

PUBLIC LANDS

As panthers are wide-ranging animals, large tracts of land need to be preserved for their survival. These lands are important for recreation, aesthetic, and cultural reasons, and are the soul of our ecology in Southwest Florida.

AGRICULTURAL AREAS

Certain agricultural lands are very important for the panther. When these lands are retained for agricultural use, this benefits the panther and helps our community with food independence, especially as South Florida is one of the main winter breadbaskets for our country.

WETLANDS

Panthers utilize a mosaic of habitat types, including wetlands. When these lands are preserved for the panther, they also provide additional benefits for our community, such as improving water quality and providing flood water storage. Learn more at conservancy.org/liquidgold.

TRAFFIC

Proposed developments and mines in panther habitat typically come with large amounts of traffic, which is deadly for the panther, and adds tens of thousands more cars on already congested roadways. The Endangered Species Act requires that the agencies look at the effects of traffic, new or expanded roadways, and other similar related impacts in their reviews.

SPRAWL

Sprawl is costly to taxpayers and impacts quality of life. Sprawl continues to march eastward, with tens of thousands of additional homes in the pipeline. Fortunately, when development could impact listed species such as the panther, the Endangered Species Act can be a powerful tool regarding the impacts of these proposals.



THE "HERO" OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S HISTORY

The endangered Florida panther has helped save critical lands in Southwest Florida from premature development, including wetlands, agricultural fields, and environmentally sensitive areas. If it weren't for the protected status of the Florida panther, development may have already been approved in eastern Collier and eastern Lee counties. As the "hero" of Southwest Florida's history, the protection of this charismatic animal is key to our future.



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

With between 120-320 Florida panthers remaining in the wild, the population is considered at risk for extinction. While they are protected under the Endangered Species Act, their habitat is not fully protected, which puts the panther in danger. The Conservancy's policy team advocates for the measures necessary to one day see the panther population secure and recovered. Learn more at conservancy.org/policy.