

Florida Panther

The famous Florida panther was chosen as Florida state animal in 1982. It is also known as Florida cougar and Florida puma. They are a subspecies of the Mountain Lion. In many states, it is illegal to kill Florida panthers.

The Florida panthers are solitary animals with a territorial attitude. According to Sea World, “[T]he Florida panther is the only mountain lion subspecies found east of the Mississippi River. The few remaining wild individuals live in remote wilderness areas” (1). They can leap more than fifteen feet and run thirty-five miles per hour! The Florida panther is extremely agile; however, it is incapable to roar.

Wikipedia states, “The Florida panthers are spotted at birth and generally have blue eyes. As it grows, the spots disappear. Adult female Florida panthers weigh 64–100 lb, whereas the larger males weigh 100–159 lb” (2).

The Florida panthers dwell in pinelands, tropical hardwood hammocks, and mixed freshwater swamp forests from Florida to Louisiana.

Wikipedia notes, “Florida panther is vulnerable to many things such as habitat fragmentation, feline leukemia virus, mercury poisoning, vehicle collisions, and chemicals” (2). These dangers are fatal to the Florida panther.

Its impacts on the environment are keeping deers, raccoons, and other preys’ numbers in check for a healthy and balanced ecosystem.

If the Florida panther went extinct, the population of other animals will skyrocket and get out of control. It could also cause other species to go extinct, because the herbivorous animals will eat all the plants in the world.

We are helping them survive . Our policy is to deliberately restore its natural habitat and

magnify their hunting grounds. We also constructed signs for panthers crossing the road. Our influences are slowly regaining their population. We will keep working on recovering the population of Florida panthers and eventually obtaining a sturdy ecosystem.

Reference:

1. <https://seaworld.org/animals/facts/mammals/florida-panther/#:~:text=The%20Florida%20panther%20is%20the,when%20pouncing%20on%20their%20prey>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florida_panther