

# Cougar Rewilding Update



Newsletter of the Cougar Rewilding Foundation  
Formerly the Eastern Cougar Foundation

*Bringing Back a Legend*

September 2011

2011: Number 2



***The Long Walker captured by a trail camera in Clark County, Wisconsin on January 18, 2010. (We cannot be absolutely certain it is him because no DNA sample was collected, but it's likely.)***

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# The Long Walker

## A Young Cougar's Trek Across Two Thirds of North America

An amazing sequence of confirmations began in early December 2009 in Minnesota. A cougar born in the Black Hills apparently walked the longest distance ever recorded for a land mammal. We will call him The Long Walker.

**Minnesota:**<sup>1</sup> We first saw The Walker's image, captured by a police dashboard camera on December 5, 2009, trotting through the trees in the dark in Champlin, a northern suburb of Minneapolis<sup>2</sup>. Heading east, he managed to cross two freeways, I-35W and I-35E. On the 10th, tracks showed he was in Willow Lake Preserve northeast of Minneapolis. MN Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist Dan Stark collected hair, scat and urine samples and followed his tracks east for more than a mile, noting that the cat had crossed US Hwy 61. On the 12th, he was in the town of Stillwater, which is along the St. Croix River, the boundary between Minnesota and Wisconsin. He was allegedly seen once and tracks noted three times.

We were concerned he might suffer the fate of the Chicago cougar, which had been shot down by police on April 16, 2008. Chris Spatz wrote a letter to the editor, published in the Pioneer Press on December 18th.<sup>3</sup>

**Wisconsin:**<sup>4</sup> Presumably The Walker crossed the frozen St. Croix River. He was not noted for four days. Then, on December 16th, tracks and scat were found; hair was collected for future DNA analysis. Through news reports we followed him as he headed southeast, leaving tracks and more scats. He killed a buck fawn in a corn field, covering it with corn leaves in typical cougar fashion. In mid January, two trail cameras captured a young cougar further southeast. The one taken on January 18th is on the cover of this newsletter. (We cannot be absolutely certain it was the same cougar because at least two others were documented in Wisconsin in 2009.)

The next tracks and sightings were to the north. We were relieved that he had apparently turned away from the fatal route that the Chicago cougar had followed. He was last recorded by scat and tracks in Wisconsin on February 15 & 27. He had continued north and was apparently swinging back west.

The USDA Forest Service lab at Missoula, Montana was able to determine that DNA derived from the samples collected along the route came from a single individual.

### ***Track at Lake George, December 17, 2010. Photo by NY DEC.***

**New York:** On December 16, 2010, Cindy Eggleston told her husband she'd seen a cougar in the backyard Lake George. Her husband David happened to be a retired NY Department of Environmental

Conservation officer. He and another DEC employee backtracked the animal in the snow the next day to an apparent bedding site. They photographed 36 undoubted cougar tracks and collected 15 fine hairs at the bedding site. The hairs were submitted to the USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain lab at Missoula, Montana. They confirmed that the hairs were from a cougar, and later determined that they were from The Walker.<sup>5</sup>



in

The DEC has been criticized for failing to announce the track confirmation until August 16, 2011, **but if they'd reported it, The Walker probably would have been shot.** Tracking conditions were excellent in the snow, and the media would have whipped up fear.



**Connecticut:** In early June, a number of people reported seeing a cougar in the upscale community of Greenwich in the southwest corner of the state, only about 12 miles from New York City. We would have ignored the reports because nothing can be done with sightings without evidence. But evidence turned up—a fuzzy photo taken through a window on June 5th. It looked like a rear view of a cougar with its tail held down, but some thought it was a bobcat with an outstretched hind leg.

Soon enough, we learned it definitely was a cougar. On June 11th about 1:00 am, a SUV killed him on Rt. 15 in Milford, about 34 miles to the east. **Chris Spatz says, "That's as ugly an industrialized urban corridor as you'll find anywhere, and it crossed a pretty big river to reach Milford."**

**Credit: Connecticut State Police**

The cougar was a male weighing 140 lbs. **Unlike many "pet" cougars, he had not been declawed or neutered.** He was trim, not fat like many captives. He was estimated to be 2 to 4 years old.



By coincidence, Spatz had been invited to give a talk in East Hartland, Connecticut on the night the Walker was hit. Jason Hawley, furbearer biologist for the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) attended. This contact enabled us to have early input on the necropsy. Spatz urged the DEEP to do a thorough job to address all questions, especially the assumption that the dead cougar was proof wild cougars inhabit Connecticut. Spatz suggested the USDA Genetics Lab in Missoula for the DNA analysis.

Employees of the DEEP and the US Fish & Wildlife Service did the necropsy. We have not learned about the contents of the stomach, but porcupine quills were found under his skin. Muscle tissue samples were sent to two different labs for DNA analysis. Hair samples were submitted for isotope analysis. The results could help determine if the cat had been fed commercial pet food at one time in his life.

**The Power of DNA Analysis:** Early in the week of July 22nd, wildlife offices in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Connecticut were buzzing with news yet to be announced to the public. The cougar killed in Milford was the cat last documented in Wisconsin in February 27, 2010!

**Michael Schwartz at the US Forest Service's Wildlife Genetics Laboratory in Missoula, MT** announced that DNA of the dead cat killed in Milford matched DNA from scats collected in Wisconsin with 99.8 percent certainty. The lab has accumulated DNA from approximately 800 cougars, enabling ancestry to be determined with considerable precision. Precision was possible because the scats in Wisconsin had been collected and preserved in such a way that the lab could extract both mitochondrial and microsatellite DNA. Mitochondrial DNA showed that The Walker

was of North American descent; not South American, as are many captive cougars. Microsatellite DNA enabled the lab to match it to the Wisconsin cougar, and also to conclude that he was probably born in the Black Hills.<sup>6</sup>

**The Route:** Most news releases suggest that The Walker went through the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and into Ontario south of Sault Ste. Marie, based on two remote camera photographs, one taken in Lena, WI on May 20, 2010 and another near Wallace, MI on May 26th, about 25 miles to the northeast. But since we know that as many as two other cougars were in Wisconsin in 2009, we cannot be sure if these photos are of The Walker. Another, taken on September 20, 2010, north of Two Harbors, Minnesota could also record The Walker. The last definite records from late February 2010 suggest he was swinging west, so it's possible he went around the end of Lake Superior and turned east.

He must have crossed the St. Lawrence River into New York. The likely connecting area is known as the 1000 Islands. In 2001 a female moose was found dead in Algonquin Park in Ontario. She had been radio-collared in western New York in 1998 and transported to the Adirondacks. Later, she was seen swimming across the St. Lawrence back to Ontario.<sup>7</sup> Coyote-eastern wolf hybrids and probably a few full-blooded wolves have also made the St. Lawrence crossing from Ontario and Quebec.



**— Known route** ● **Remote camera photos—Lena WI 5/20/10, Wallace MI 5/26/10, Two Harbors MN 9/20/10** ● **Lake George NY confirmation 12/16/10**

**Implications:** Two kinds of speculation have cropped up: that the confirmation demonstrates wild cougars already exist in Connecticut, or/and that cougars are going to recolonize the Northeast in the near future. As for wild cougar recolonization, previous last agreed upon confirmation in the Northeast was in September 2000 in Maine. Despite many reported sightings in Connecticut, none was confirmed until this past June. The obvious conclusion: only one cougar was present in Connecticut, and he didn't live long.



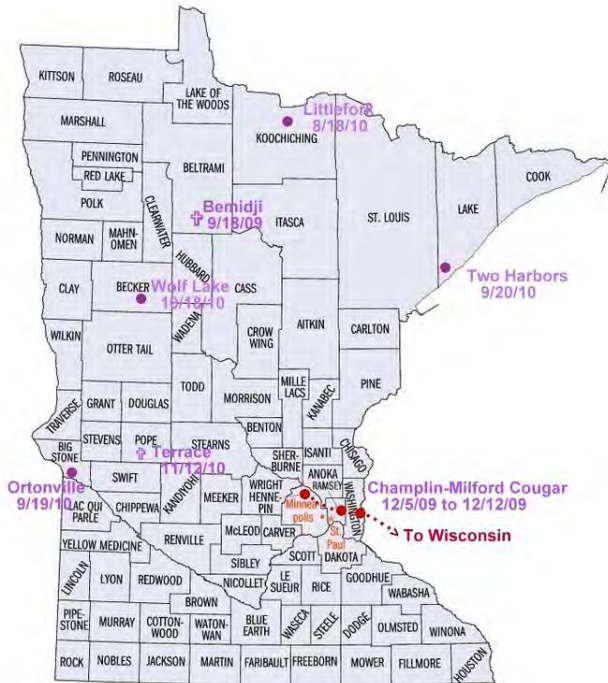
Are cougars likely to recolonize the Northeast on their own in the near future? No. This journey by an extraordinary animal (and a very lucky one!) is hardly typical. Females are much less likely to disperse long distances. The cougar population of Black Hills, source of many but not all of the dispersing males, is under intense hunting pressure. Further drastic "slashing" proposed by the South Dakota wildlife commissioners may provide enough room for the young males that survive that they won't need to disperse.

**A tribute** to this remarkable cat and his ability to survive so long! It was a courageous journey to a most unlikely home—the crowded, traffic-snarled, suburban landscape of Connecticut.

# Western Great Lake States Update

We have not updated readers on confirmations and other issues in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for at least two years. During 2009 and 2010, cougars were confirmed in several locations.

## Minnesota:



9-18-09: Young male killed by vehicle near Bemidji.

8/18/10: DNA confirms remote cam photo near Littlefork (Borderland SW of International Falls). Photo can't be passed on to the public.

12-06 to 12-12-09: Cougar documented by police video camera at Champlin, a suburb north of Minneapolis, continues east to Stillwater, presumably crossing the St. Croix River into Wisconsin. (See separate article on *The Long Walker*.)

9-19-10: Remote camera photo east of Ortonville, Big Stone County.

9-20-10: Remote camera photo

north of Two Harbors, Lake County.

10-18-10: Remote camera photo near Wolf Lake, Becker County.

11-12-10: Dead male cougar found in Pope County near Terrace. Probably dead for about a week.

The Cougar Network recognizes only five confirmations of possible wild cougars between 1991 and 2007.<sup>8</sup> Many more were recognized in 2009 and 2010. How many actually were present during that time is impossible to say. The only evidence that almost certainly pertains to a single individual were the video, remote camera photographs and tracks left by the Champlin-Milford cougar (*The Long Walker*).

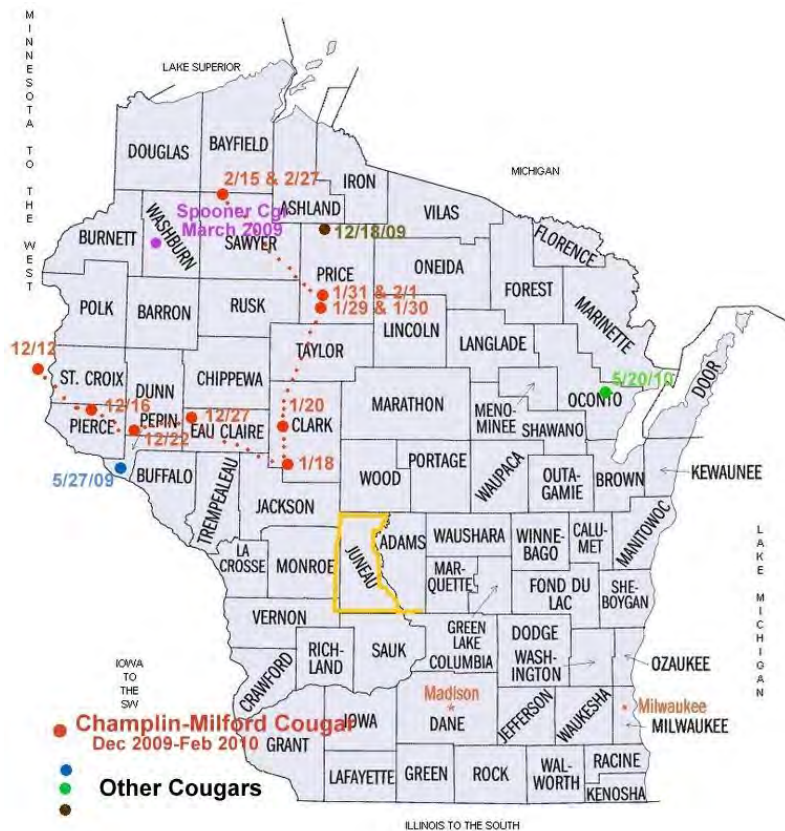
**The Bemidji Cougar:** A male estimated to be 2 to 2 ½ years old and weighing 114 lbs. was hit by a car south of Bemidji on September 18, 2009. Tissue samples were sent to the Wildlife Genetics Laboratory in Missoula MT for DNA analysis. It took a long time for geneticists to determine the cat's origin because they were assembling a large collection of samples of DNA from cougars throughout the US for comparison. In May, Minnesota DNR biologist John Erb announced that it probably came from the Badlands of western North Dakota, not from the Black Hills of South Dakota.

**The Terrace Cougar:** The DNR learned about a carcass of a dead cougar in Polk County on November 12, 2010. It was a young male weighing about 100 lbs. It had been dead for about a week. According to Erb, it was in poor physical condition, but a veterinarian who examined it did not think it had died of starvation. The cause of death could not be determined; it had not been shot or roadkilled. It was negative for rabies. Its DNA was deemed to be most similar to Wyoming/Montana, not the Dakotas.

Erb said, "Given many of the circumstances surrounding this cat ..., I remain HIGHLY skeptical that [it] died where it was reportedly first found, and while there were no signs of captivity, I wouldn't rule that out in this case. There is something very fishy about this one, though it's doubtful we'll ever be able to prove anything either way."<sup>9</sup>

**Current Status:** Cougars are protected in Minnesota.

## Wisconsin:



*3-04-09: Spooner Cougar. Dogs chase young male from Trego to eastern Burnett County. Photographed and tracks documented. Tread by DNR. Hair, blood and urine samples obtained for DNA analysis. Last seen 3-04-09 near Washburn County line.*

*5-27-09: Cougar tracks in mud at large dairy farm near Durand & the Town of Lima, Pepin County.*

*12-16-09 to 2-27-10: Possible route of the Champlin-Milford cougar (The Long Walker).*

*12-18-09: Bus driver sees cougar crossing road. Tracks confirmed*

*in the snow, and blood sample collected.*

*5-20-10: Remote camera captures cougar near child's swing set at Lena. This could have been the Champlin-Milford cougar.*

Many people believe they've seen cougars in Wisconsin. Anderson et al (2006) collected and analyzed

sightings between 1994 and 2003. The most credible sightings came from the northern half of the state.<sup>10</sup> But

actual evidence was lacking until January 2008, when a male cougar, possibly the first documented in Minnesota since October 2007, journeyed across the southern part of the state. Hitting the shore of Lake Michigan, he turned south and ended up dead in Chicago on April 14, 2008.

Excitement broke out in early March 2009 when cougar was spotted in Trego, northeast of Spooner in Washburn County. He was chased and treed three times, and shot with a tranquilizer dart. The tranquilizer failed to dislodge him from the tree, and the DNR decided to let him be. More significant, hair and urine samples were obtained for DNA analysis.<sup>11</sup>

The most significant series of events began when the cougar videotaped in Champlin north of Minneapolis evidently crossed the frozen St. Croix **River into Wisconsin. That's the** subject of The Long Walker article in this newsletter.

DNA analyses reveal at least four males in Wisconsin between January 2008 and February 2010.<sup>12</sup>

(1) The Chicago cougar, which passed through the southern part of the state in January 2008. It was shot down by police in North Chicago on April 16, 2008

(2) The Spooner cougar, treed in Washburn County.

(3) The Champlin-Milford cougar (The Long Walker), killed by a vehicle at Milford, Connecticut on June 11, 2011.

(4) The Price County cougar, spotted crossing a road in on December 18, 2009. Tracks were located in the snow, and tiny blood spots were collected.

Unsubstantiated reports of cougar attacks on livestock in Juneau County led to a setback in public acceptance of cougars. It all started May 15, 2010 when a turkey hunter reported seeing a cougar pulling down a heifer in the **Town of Wonewoc. The heifer's face** was badly shredded, and it had to be put down. Wildlife Services, the branch of the USDA responsible for killing animals preying on livestock, became involved. An animal, presumed to be the same cougar, allegedly attacked and killed several sheep.

When cougars are reported in the Midwest, worried horse owners often start to report injured horses presumably attacked by cougars. In actuality, cougars in the West almost never attack full-sized adult horses; they are just too big and the possibility of injury too great. At least three horse owners reported injuries. Reports of assumed cougar attacks on horses in the region continued at least into September.

But while all this was going on, no evidence of cougars turned up—no tracks, no scats, and no remote camera photos. Eventually, the Cougar Network was asked to evaluate the alleged evidence. Their Board of Directors asked four cougar experts to evaluate the evidence. They concluded it was not consistent with a cougar attack. A DNR biologist interviewed the hunter who reported the initial attack on the heifer and **learned that he didn't see the** attacking animal clearly enough to identify it. The predator was covered with mud and apparently less than half the size and length of a young adult cougar. (No photos of the evidence have been made available to the public.)<sup>13</sup>

**Current Status of the Cougar in Wisconsin:** Cougars are Protected Wild Animals. On April 11, 2010, the

Wisconsin DNR held Fish and Wildlife Rule Hearings in every county. Among the proposals was a rule change that would allow landowners, lessees or occupants of private land or any other person with the permission of those people to shoot a cougar caught in the act of killing, wounding or biting a domestic animal with the requirement that the carcass be turned over to the DNR. The proposal was put to a vote in each county, and the total votes tallied. Statewide, 4,247 people voted yes, and 712 voted no.

Adrian Wydeven of the DNR says, "[This] is the same [designation] we will use for gray wolves once delisted. I believe the above [proposal] was accepted, but this only applies to private land when depredations are occurring, and is the same for wolves. When we applied [the designation] to wolves in 2007-2008 with 500-600 wolves in the state, it resulted in 5 wolves being killed. I think it provides a lot of peace of mind to rural landowners, and I would rarely expect this to result in any dead cougars."<sup>14</sup>

### Upper Peninsula of Michigan:



*10-10-09: Remote camera photo in Barbeau, Bruce Twp., Chippewa County on the Upper Peninsula*

*10-26-09: Remote camera photo and tracks in DeTour, Chippewa County*

*11-02-09: Remote camera photo and tracks in Gulliver, Schoolcraft County*

*5-26-10: Remote camera photo near Wallace in Menominee County on the Upper Peninsula. Could be the Champlin-Milford cougar (The Long Walker).*

*Besides the 2008 track from Delta County, there have been a few other controversial confirmations in Delta and Menominee counties.*

**Current Status:** Despite all of the hullabaloo about cougars in Michigan that began with a report issued by the Michigan Wildlife Conservancy in 2001, no scientifically acceptable confirmations have come from the Lower Peninsula. The Lower Peninsula is in the assumed former range of the "eastern cougar," even though all of the few known historic specimens come from Pennsylvania, New York, and West Virginia. We expect this subspecies, which probably never existed, will be formally delisted in the near future.

Native cougars in the Upper Peninsula were in the presumed former range of the Wisconsin Puma, *Puma concolor schorgeri*. This subspecies of doubtful validity was based on a three specimens from Wisconsin, Kansas and Minnesota.<sup>15</sup>

Fortunately, cougars will continue to be protected in Michigan. "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report [recommending delisting of the eastern cougar] has little effect on cougar conservation in Michigan because the entire species is listed, regardless of subspecies," [Christopher Hoving, DNRE endangered species coordinator] said. "All wild cougars in Michigan will remain state endangered until the population is viable and self-sustaining."<sup>16</sup>

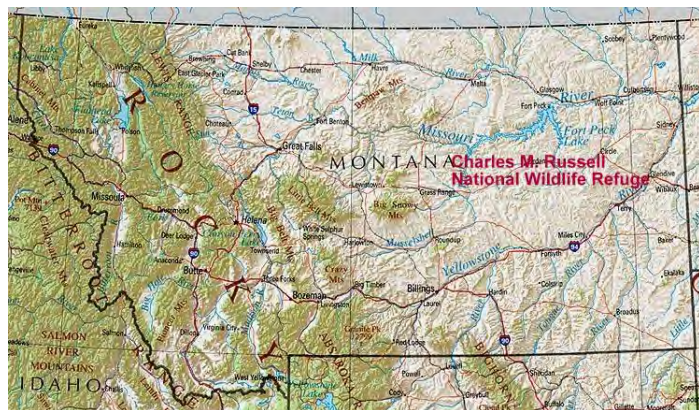


**The locations on this map are approximations but give the gist of the story.**

**Breaking News--Another Long Walker?** Remote cameras in northern Douglas and Iron counties in Wisconsin and Ontonagon County on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan have recorded the route of another male, wearing a radio-collar and a yellow ear tag. Wildlife biologists are trying to determine where it was collared.

## Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge Another Breeding Population on the Prairies

With little notice, cougars have recolonized another region on the Great Plains. The first confirmation was in 1996, when a bow hunter shot one near Irish Bottom along the Missouri River. Since 2000, there have several sightings and confirmations on the refuge, which is managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS). Hunting is permitted on the refuge, but cougars are protected.<sup>17</sup>



In the winter of 2010, FWS biologist Randy Matchett launched a study in the refuge using conventional radio collars and GPS collars. They treed eight independent cats and found a roadkill, all in the western part circled on the map. Five cougars have been outfitted with GPS collars scheduled to drop off in a year. Matchett's team also documented three litters with a total of at least six kittens.<sup>18</sup> Matchett also reports sightings and/or tracks in the central and eastern parts of the refuge. He does not know if breeding is occurring there.<sup>19</sup>

Over the past 10 to 15 years, the FWS has also received many reports of cougars in the Missouri Breaks National Monument, which is contiguous with the western end of the refuge. No one knows how many cougars live there.



**The documented breeding population is within the oval. Dots show other documented occurrences. Map from Randy Matchett, Sept. 15, 2011.**

### **At Least Five Recolonized Areas on the Great Plains**

We now know of at least five “islands” of excellent habitat that have been recolonized on the Great Plains. Breeding populations also apparently inhabit south-central Alberta and Saskatchewan. Mark Boyce in the Department of Biological Sciences in the University of Alberta said, “I know that there are good populations of cougars upstream from Edmonton along the North Saskatchewan River. Kyle Knopff ...has been studying these cats.”<sup>20</sup>

Also, wildlife biologist John Pogorzelec has shared a map of reported sightings for 2004-08 in Saskatchewan, based on information felt to be legitimate sightings.<sup>21</sup> Dots denoting sightings cluster thickly near Prince Albert. A future issue of this newsletter will include an update on cougar confirmations in central and eastern Canada.



## Missouri: Third Killing This Year

Between July 29 and September 4, 2011 the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) confirmed four remote camera photographs in south-central Missouri. Another had been documented on March 9th in the area by DNA analysis of a hair sample. Then, on September 5th, a landowner shot a subadult male in adjacent Texas County. It was not the individual(s) in the pictures because it was missing the end of its tail. The cougar(s) in the other photos had normal, black-tipped tails.



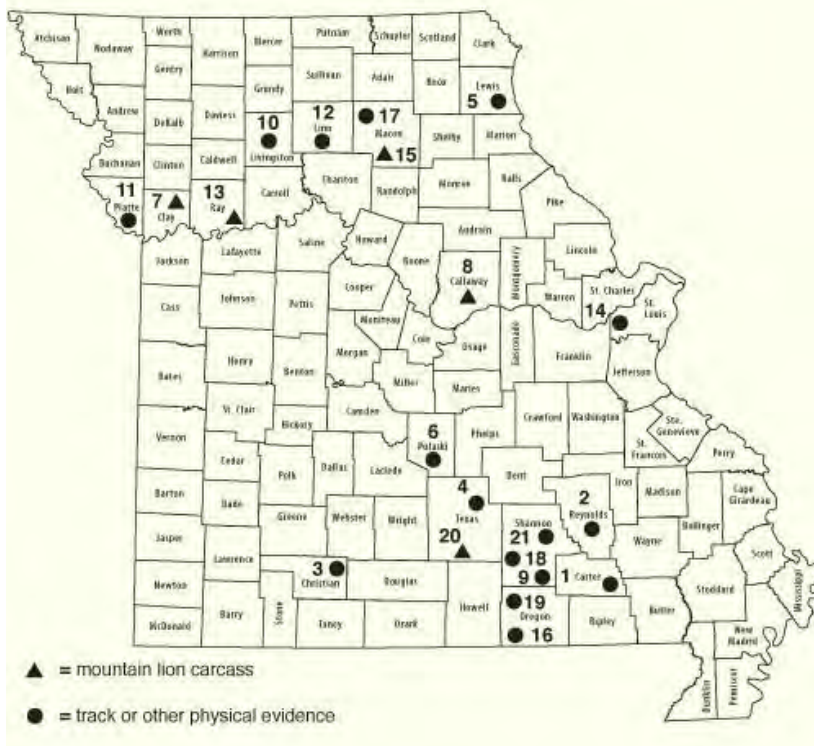
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### ***The young male killed in Texas County on Sept. 6.***

The three killings this year are the direct result of a decision made in 2006, when MDC Commissioners, under pressure from

cattlemen and the Farm Bureau, removed cougars from the state's endangered species list and declared it would be undesirable for a breeding population to become established. At the same time, cougars were still allegedly protected. MDC law enforcement has interpreted these decisions to mean that anyone who sees a cougar and claims s/he feels threatened can kill it without fear of reprisal. The ultimate solution is for the Commission to revoke their declaration regarding breeding populations. In the meantime, a huge amount of public education is needed. Based on recent statements from the MDC and revisions on their website, the agency is making a good start in that direction.

Audubon of St. Louis and the Mountain Lion Foundation have produced a brochure that can be downloaded from [http://www.mountainlion.org/states/state\\_Missouri.asp](http://www.mountainlion.org/states/state_Missouri.asp). We are hopeful that



Jay Tischendorf and John Laundré will be able to hold a Mountain Lion Incident Management course in St. Louis. It would be a great start in educating government agencies such as police and sheriffs' departments.

*Numbers 1 through 10 on the map date from 1994 through December 2006. 11 through 21 date from late November 2010 and to September 8, 2011. For information on each confirmation and much more on cougars in Missouri, visit the Mountain Lion section of the Missouri Department of Conservation's website - <http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/wildlife-sightings/mountain-lions>*

# US Fish & Wildlife Service Denies Petition to Reintroduce Florida Panthers to Okefenokee Ecosystem

On May 18, 2011, the US Fish and Wildlife Service rejected a petition to reintroduce panthers to the Osceola National Forest, Pinhook Swamp and Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in northern Florida and southeastern Georgia.<sup>22</sup> The petition had been submitted on February 9, 2011, by the Center for Biological Diversity with the support of the Cougar Rewilding Foundation, Florida Panther Society and One More Generation.<sup>23,24</sup>

Along with several other conservation groups, the Center had earlier filed a petition to designate existing panther range in southern Florida as Critical Habitat. The Service also rejected that petition. A federal judge rejected the groups' appeal on April 6th. On April 20th, the groups--now a coalition--announced they had appealed the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit.

The latest revision of the Florida Panther Recovery Plan states that panthers cannot be delisted as endangered species until at least three breeding populations of at least 240 individuals each are established.<sup>25</sup> The only existing population in southern Florida, estimated to be between 100 and 160 individuals in December 2010, is approaching carrying capacity.<sup>26</sup> It is not large enough to maintain the genetic diversity needed to prevent abnormalities brought on by inbreeding.<sup>27</sup> Introduction of Texas pumas has reinvigorated the panther population but diluted the unique characteristics of the Florida panther, which include short, stiff, rather dark colored fur and inflated nasal bones that give panthers a Roman-nosed profile.<sup>28</sup> Most likely there are other physiological adaptations that cannot be readily measured. The only way to maintain the viability of the population in southern Florida will be to import more cougars from elsewhere, further diluting the characters of the Florida population.

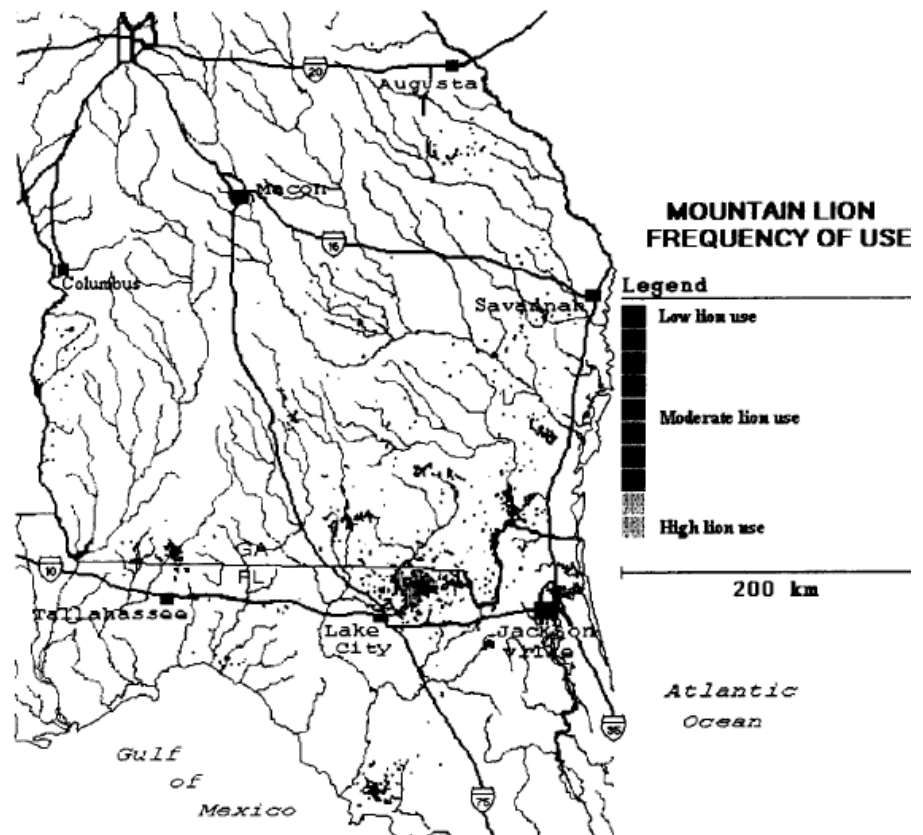
In its rejection of the reintroduction petition, the Service agreed that establishment of an experimental population is subject to petitions under the Administrative Procedures Act of 1946, but chose to reject it. Instead, they chose to maintain the only existing population in southern Florida. Unfortunately, the Service has a dismal record in protecting panther habitat in its existing range. It has not rejected a single development proposal since 1993. Two major proposals further threaten the survival of the southern Florida population. Both undoubtedly are designed to accommodate more development.

- A proposed power plant will occupy up to 3,127 acres of ranch land in southern Hendry County. It passed an important hurdle on May 24th when the County Commission voted unanimously to rezone land for the project.
- Another threat is a proposed interchange with I-75 in Golden Gate Estates in eastern Collier County. This plan has not been approved but has garnered a lot of local support, along with the objections of panther advocates who predict more panther deaths from vehicle strikes.

The reintroduction petition asked the Service to reintroduce panthers to the same area that was used for two test reintroductions in the 1990s.<sup>29</sup> The researchers concluded that reintroduction is biologically feasible but that much public education was needed. If panthers are reintroduced to the Greater Okefenokee Ecosystem, they almost certainly will disperse out of it and possibly recolonize the Carolina Coastal Plain and eventually, the Appalachians. Below is a map showing where the radio-collared cougars were released and where they were subsequently located. Note that one male ranged almost as far north as Augusta, Georgia, and another took up residence along the Chattahoochee River, which forms the border

between southern Georgia and Alabama. Any reintroductions would have to be preceded by education campaigns well outside the proposed reintroduction area.

*The dots on this map show locations of radiocollared cougars during the two test reintroductions in the 1990s. The cougars were released northeast of Lake City in the Pinhook Swamp. From Belden and McCown, 1996, Fig. 2, p. 28.<sup>30</sup>*



**PANTHERS NORTH OF THE CALOOSAATCHEE RIVER**  
**An Email Dialogue with Mark Lotz, Panther Biologist,**  
**Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission,**  
**Naples Field Office**  
**June 23, 2011**

**Editor:** An article in the latest issue of the Nature Conservancy's magazine describes plans to restore watershed quality of the upper Everglades drainage.<sup>31</sup> In the interactive map at the site is a photo of a male panther taken on the Hendrie Ranch east of Lake Wales Ridge. This site is north of the Caloosahatchee River. Do you know when it was taken?

**Lotz:** That panther picture was taken on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2010. We were notified when the photo was taken but it obviously wasn't a collared individual.

**Editor:** If the male panther camera-trapped on Hendrie Ranch in 2010 was never reported by the media as such, does that mean other panthers are being documented north of the Caloosahatchee River but are not announced by the media? If so, have any females or possible females been documented?

**Lotz:** Yes, there are other panthers north of the river that go unreported by the media. No females have been documented north of the river, though. That *would* be news.

**Editor:** I notice that the panther in the Hendrie Ranch photo has a prominent white spot (tick bite?) on its shoulder. Do you all use these characteristics to identify dead and tranquilized panthers? Could the Hendrie Ranch panther be the one that was killed in Seminole County this past March?

### **Hendrie Ranch panther.**

**Lotz:** We do use characteristics like that to ID panthers we might catch later. One case that comes to mind was a panther with a white tipped tail. We had gotten several pictures of that cat, and then one day he was killed by a car. That white tip was obvious and distinct.



**There is no way to tell if the “Hendrie panther” is the one that was killed. Tracks were documented closer to where that panther was killed not long before it turned up dead so there’s a fair chance those tracks belonged to the now-deceased panther. But again, there is no way to know that for sure. We can be fairly certain that there is more than one panther roaming around portions of central Florida right now. I doubt it’s more than a handful though because with all the trail cameras and roads out there we usually find out about them one way or the other. Here’s a link that mentions those tracks I referred to if you haven’t seen it.**<sup>32</sup>

**Editor:** Have the US Fish & Wildlife Service or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission ever seriously considered building a wildlife bridge across the Caloosahatchee River to facilitate dispersal of female panthers northward?

**Lotz:** To my knowledge there hasn’t been any serious consideration to build a wildlife bridge across the Caloosahatchee. Even if a bridge were built, there is no habitat for a female to follow to even venture up to the river. There is essentially a vast wasteland (from a panther’s perspective) for miles from

the river to the closest piece of panther habitat. Males obviously have little issue covering great distances in that type of country (probably under the cover of darkness), but females are far more reluctant to do so. In my opinion, to encourage females, we first need the habitat. A bridge may or may not be necessary then. The section where we believe the males have crossed is nothing more than a dredged canal really and is 250-300 ft wide. I’d guess that’s within a female’s capability, but it seems they’re not even getting to the river.

**Editor:** Chris Belden told me that owners of the JB Ranch practice good cattle husbandry, but still they are losing some calves to panthers. A few years ago, Harley Shaw told me that cougar depredation on cattle is not usually a problem except in states such as Arizona where cattle give birth on the open range. Is this the case for cattle in Florida also? If so, are Florida cattle particularly vulnerable to panther depredation?

**Lotz:** Cattle depredation by panthers has never been a huge issue in “modern” times but we’ve documented calves being taken very occasionally. However, I’m sure that’s

part of the reason why Florida panthers are endangered in the first place; they were killed by cattle ranchers. Cattle down here do give birth in the open range (out in the woods, really) so ranchers infrequently know **what's happening with their herd. They just know what they round up at the end of the year. Just recently we've been hearing complaints from ranchers about less calf production, and they're blaming the increased panther population.** Certainly that could be happening but to what extent is unknown. There has been very little actual documentation (3 calves last year). But we

recognize the potential and whether it is real **or perceived, we need to have the ranchers' cooperation** if panthers are to expand into central Florida and beyond. We hope to get a handle on what the actual threat or take of **calves by panthers may be.** Panthers' survival is dependent on private property and the willingness of land owners to have panthers on their land.

For current information on Florida panthers, including monthly bulletins, visit the Florida Panther Net - <http://www.floridapanther.net/org/>

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## Hunter Fined \$2000 for Killing Florida Panther in Georgia in 2008

A federal judge has sentenced the hunter who killed a Florida panther in Troup County, Georgia in November 2008. David Adams, age 60 and formerly of Newnan, Georgia, was fined \$2000 and his hunting privileges throughout United States were suspended for two years.

Adams was in a tree stand at West Point Lake near the Alabama line in the west-central of the state on November 15, 2008 when he saw a cougar beneath his stand. He told the judge it looked up at him, and he feared it would attack him, so he shot it. He did not hide the fact, and posed with the dead cat.

### ***A hunter, presumably David Adams, poses with the dead panther.***

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was certain that the young male was a former captive. It weighed about 140 lbs, and was almost fat. Its paw pads were scuffed, which the DNR interpreted as evidence it had been pacing in a concrete-floored pen. Its stomach was empty, again interpreted, that as a former captive, it had not been able to catch prey, and the parasite level was low, suggesting it had not been feeding on wild animals. For all these reasons and because its of past experiences, in which the DNR stated that Adams faced no charges.



But it was not declawed, tagged or tattooed, and the DNR could not find any accounts of recently escaped or released captives. Just to be certain, tissue samples were submitted for DNA analysis to the National Institute, Laboratory of Genomic Diversity. The results, announced in early August 2009, astonished everyone. The cougar was a Florida panther! Even more amazing was the fact that geneticists could identify his father, a wild panther whose range is (or was) on the

northern fringe of the breeding population in South Florida. He had dispersed a minimum of 510 miles from his birthplace to the site of his death.

Adams was sentenced by a federal judge in Atlanta. He was not prosecuted by the DNR because the Florida panther is a listed Endangered Species protected by federal law. Among people commenting on the various articles about the sentence, many thought that Adams had gotten off far too lightly, while another praised him for killing a dangerous animal.

Since the determination, the DNR has added a Florida panther section to its website.<sup>33</sup> It concludes: "Public support must be unanimous before a restoration project such as this can be successful. The intentional killing of the Troup County panther in 2008,

and the subsequent lack of enforcement of laws that prohibit such activity, indicate that the public is under-informed regarding the conservation of this species. Conservation agencies and organizations need to increase efforts to ensure that valid information regarding panther biology and conservation is available. Georgia does not yet contain occupied panther habitat, but additional dispersals from Florida are certainly possible."

We agree with all but the first statement. It is impossible to get unanimous support for almost any proposal, especially for the restoration of an animal which far too many people perceive as dangerous and detrimental to game populations.

For past articles on the Georgia panther in this newsletter, visit:

November 2008, p 13. [http://www.easterncougar.org/newltr\\_pdf/ecfnew\\_nov08.pdf](http://www.easterncougar.org/newltr_pdf/ecfnew_nov08.pdf)

March 2009, p 6. [http://www.easterncougar.org/newltr\\_pdf/ecfnew\\_march09.pdf](http://www.easterncougar.org/newltr_pdf/ecfnew_march09.pdf)

July 2010, p. 4-5. [http://www.easterncougar.org/newltr\\_pdf/crfnew\\_July10.pdf](http://www.easterncougar.org/newltr_pdf/crfnew_July10.pdf)

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## Oklahoma: DNA of female captured in Tulsa in April indicates Black Hills origin; another confirmation near Tulsa

**The Tulsa Female:** The May issue of this newsletter reported that a female had been captured alive in a residential area of northern Tulsa on April 23rd.<sup>34</sup> She was discovered in a 20-foot tree and tranquilized by officials from Animal Control and the Tulsa Zoo. Judged to be an adult



weighing 70 lbs, she was in overall good health, although somewhat anemic and with intestinal parasites. No sign of previous captivity was found, and she was stressed and fearful of people. The Tulsa Zoo says they don't have room to keep her indefinitely.

***Jacquelyn Burns, a DVM who is an active member of Cougar Rewilding, observes, "Facial expression in the photo = very, very anxious, fearful stressed cat."***

On July 25th, Erik Bartholomew, Biologist with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, told us, "DNA samples were sent to two separate labs, and both have identified

the cat as coming from the Rocky Mountains and more specifically the region around the Black

Hills of South Dakota. It is not possible to determine if the cat came here on its own or was brought here illegally. The mountain lion will remain at the Tulsa Zoo until arrangements can be made to find the mountain lion a home at another accredited zoo or wildlife sanctuary. The ODWC is working with the Tulsa Zoo to find a suitable facility to permanently house the mountain lion.”<sup>35</sup>

### **Recent Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana confirmations and national forests.**

Two days later in a phone conversation, Bartholomew told Helen McGinnis that the possibility that the cougar was a former captive that escaped or was released **can't be ruled out.** He said the Department of Wildlife knows some cougars are being held illegally in the state. Since the female was found in suburban Tulsa, he said it is more likely that she is a former captive, and it would not be appropriate to release her.

Readers who are keeping track of confirmations in the Midwest—and now Connecticut--know that if she was wild, she would not be the first young cougar to blunder into a developed area. This could be a record distance for a female disperser—700 miles.

**A Second Confirmation near Tulsa:** Kyle Ingram's remote camera had a big surprise for him. On July 8th, it recorded an adult cougar. Sand Springs is just west of Tulsa. You can see the photo here - [http://sandspringsleader.com/news/wild-returning-to-sand-springs-photographs-suggest/article\\_8fd314e4-ad5f-11e0-98e5-001cc4c002e0.html](http://sandspringsleader.com/news/wild-returning-to-sand-springs-photographs-suggest/article_8fd314e4-ad5f-11e0-98e5-001cc4c002e0.html)



Erik Bartholomew said, “I investigated the location of the trail cam photo near Sand Springs. After visiting with the landowner and observing the location where the photo was taken, I believe that it is a legitimate photo. It is most likely a disperser of unknown origin.”<sup>35</sup>

## **Confirmations in Arkansas and Louisiana**

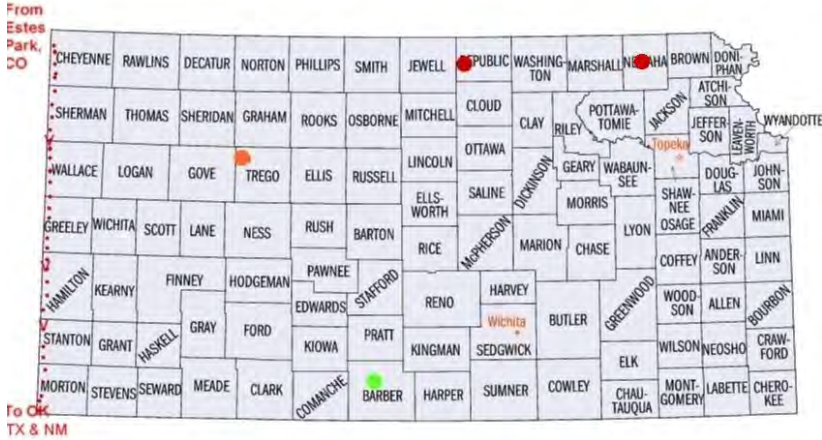
**Arkansas:** A cougar was captured by a remote camera on August 22, 2010 in the southwestern part of the state just northeast of Athens, on the southern edge of the Ouachita Mountains. **Mason Greene, a resident of Athens, told Helen McGinnis that he'd had the camera set up at the site for three years.** This was the first and only time he recorded a cougar. The camera was set on a time delay. Previously, it had captured three bucks all looking at the same direction, perhaps at the cougar. John Mitchell of the Arkansas Game Commission visited the site and is satisfied that the photo had been taken where Greene said it had been taken—the brush and trees matched. To see this excellent photo, visit <http://easterncougar.org/CougarNews/?p=4038>

*Thanks to Tom Trigg for his invaluable help in getting this picture confirmed.*

**Louisiana:** A camera in rural Vernon Parish in western Louisiana recorded the rear end of a cougar on August 13th, the first confirmation since 2008. During that year, remote cameras in two different locations about 100 miles apart documented a cougar. Then, on November 30, 2008, a young male was discovered in a tree in suburban Bossier City. Police officers and officials from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries attempted to subdue it with tranquilizer darts, but when it started coming out of the tree, they killed it. The Vernon Parish picture is on our website at <http://easterncougar.org/CougarNews/?p=4335>.

# Kansas

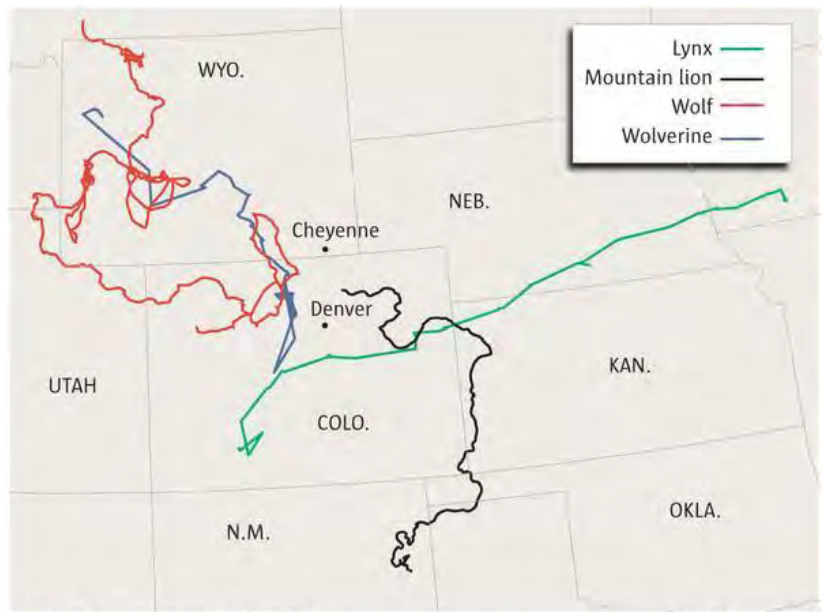
**Fifth confirmation in modern times:** Biologists with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks announced that they'd verified a fifth cougar—a remote camera photo taken on December 7, 2010 in Nemaha County in the northeast corner of the state. Prior to 2007, the last individual in the state was shot in 1904. The landowner does not want the photo to be viewed by the public.



**Confirmations in Kansas since 1904: Green dot: 2007; Orange dot: 2009; red dotted line, approximate route of young male released in Estes Park, Colorado; red dots: 2010**

## GPS collar provides detailed picture of dispersal:

The November 2010 issue of this newsletter<sup>36</sup> outlined the travels of a young male kitten rescued from a window well in Firestone, Colorado and released near Estes Park in October 2009 when he was 11 months old. He was wearing a GPS collar and was followed until at least late March of the following year. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has released a detailed picture of his 700-mile route, and those of three other large carnivores.<sup>37</sup>



Source: Colorado Division of Wildlife

The Denver Post

### WILD EARTH FOCUS

#### Paradise Lost

Deer, Cougars and the Decline of the Eastern Forest



BY JOHN LAUNDRE AND CHRISTOPHER SPATZ

HOW MANY OF YOU have walked through forested areas in the Park, visited protected places such as Adirondack Park in New York, or Great Smoky National Park in the southern Appalachians? In our walk we often admired the beauty of the trees, the clear dancing green, and the rich undergrowth. Such sights are truly a comforting view to the eyes. And if we know anything about the history of the

## Paradise Lost: Deer, cougars and the decline of eastern forests. A call for a national cougar recovery plan.

The Wildlands Connection invited Cougar Rewilding to submit the lead article for their fall newsletter. John Laundré and Chris Spatz responded. Click here and go to Page 5 to read the article - [http://www.twp.org/sites/default/files/wc\\_fall2011.pdf](http://www.twp.org/sites/default/files/wc_fall2011.pdf)

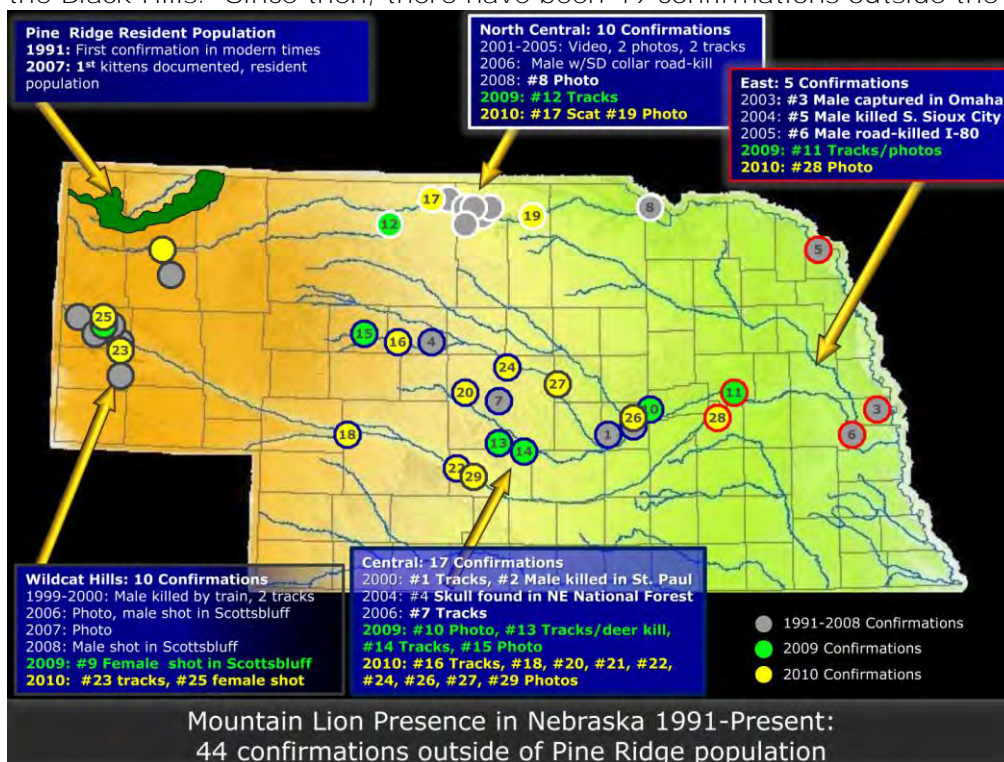
## Nebraska: DNA analysis of scats collected by trained dogs provides accurate estimate of Pine Ridge population; 49 confirmations outside Pine Ridge since 1991

Last year, two retrievers trained to detect cougar scats worked 15 days in the Pine Ridge area in the northwestern part of the state. They found 60 cougar droppings, 33 of which were suitable for high-quality DNA analysis. Thirteen individuals were identified—eight males and five females. The actual Pine Ridge population in 2010 could have been as few as 13 or as many as 28.

Two of the females were known parents of other cougars. A male captured alive in Omaha in 2003, now in the zoo there, was the parent or offspring of a female living in the Pine Ridge. That female was the mother of a female shot by a rancher in Dawes County in September 2010.

The use of scat-sniffing dogs is an example of a non-invasive survey. The Pine Ridge study of cougars was the first of its kind for cougars. When cougars are treed and tranquilized or biopsied, they as well biologists and the hounds risk injury.

The first cougar in modern times in Nebraska was documented in 1991; it probably came from the Black Hills. Since then, there have been 49 confirmations outside the Pine Ridge. More



cougars have been documented on the "prairies" of Nebraska than in South or North Dakota since 2000. Perhaps the Nebraska Game & Parks Commission is more interested in confirming evidence. Sam Wilson, Commissioner believes that most of Nebraska is not suitable habitat for breeding populations of cougars. Outside of the Pine Ridge, the Wildcat Hills and the Niobrara River near Valentine are possibilities.

**Confirmation map for Nebraska. Tracks were found at Sutherland on July 20, 2010. That confirmation is not shown; the site is near No. 18 on the map. The Valentine area, with recolonization potential, is labeled as North Central. Map copied from [http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/wildlife\\_species\\_guide/pdf/Mountain%20Lion%20Map\\_PR.pdf](http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/wildlife_species_guide/pdf/Mountain%20Lion%20Map_PR.pdf)**

The Commission has an excellent cougar section on its website - [http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/wildlife\\_species\\_guide/mountainlion.asp](http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/wildlife/wildlife_species_guide/mountainlion.asp) . We particularly recommend the YouTube video - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBesasAx1DE>

# 100 Cougars to be Legally Killed in the Black Hills

On August 5th the South Dakota Department of Game, Fisheries and Parks (DGF&P) decided that the kill of cougars should be further increased in the 2012 season, which will start on January 1st and run until March 31st unless the quota is filled earlier. **Sixty are to be "harvested," including up to 40 females.** Last year a quota of 50 with up to 30 females was established amid great controversy. This year the DGF&P did not ask the public for their opinions.

Tony Leif, DGF&P Wildlife Division Director, explained that his agency recommended the increase because 13 out of 30 elk calves radio-collared in the vicinity of Custer State Park had been killed by cougars. Although the study is not yet complete, the preliminary results led the agency to increase the cougar kill. The Commissioners will meet on October 6th and almost certainly approve the higher quota.

The only public land in the South Dakota portion of the Black Hills closed to all hunting is Wind Cave National Park, which is contiguous with Custer State Park. Elk have overpopulated the national park despite the presence of cougars. This suggests that overhunting of elk by humans is the main problem, not cougar predation.

Meanwhile, the Wyoming Game & Fish Department continues to designate their portion of the Black Hills and contiguous Bear Lodge Mountains as a population sink, where mortality will exceed recruitment. **The sink is ringed by an "unlimited kill zone."** The cougar season began on September 1st with a quota of 40. When asked why the Black Hills were designated as a sink, Joe Sandrini, Senior Wildlife Biologist stated, **"Areas 1 & 30 were designated to be managed as 'sink' management in line with the state wide cougar management plan, after a variety of inputs from the public, and ultimately as a result of our public hearing process and decision by the Commission."**

Will the Black Hills cougar population remain viable under such an onslaught? Stay tuned!

**Southwest Florida compared to the Black Hills:** These two isolated areas of cougar habitat are similar in size. Primary and Secondary panther ranges in South Florida comprise 1.3 million acres. The Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota and Wyoming contains 1.5 million acres.

Florida panthers are a federal endangered species. The current population may be around 120 adults and subadults and is still considered at risk. (Kittens dependent on their mothers are not counted). The SD DGF&P aims to maintain a population of between 150-160 cats, including kittens. The adult-subadult population might be about 100.

Both populations are isolated from other cougars, which means they are vulnerable to inbreeding. The Florida population might be close to extinction by now if Texas pumas **hadn't been imported.** **The Black Hills population depends on young males dispersing from the Bighorn Mountains and the Snowy Range in Wyoming, 90 and 190 miles away, respectively.** Will the Black Hills population survive such a drastic reduction? Do the Commissioners care? There is some hope. A report presented by Brian Jansen, a graduate student at South Dakota State University, in October 2009 states, **"The dominant male mountains lions in the Black Hills are virtually all outsiders that moved here from elsewhere...But we don't know for sure where they're coming from."**<sup>38</sup>

**First Confirmation on South Dakota Prairies in 2011?** A remote camera captured a cougar in a sequence of three photos about 6 miles north of Estelline on September 12th, about 25 miles from Minnesota. Let's hope that he keeps going east and reaches that state, where cougars are protected. In South Dakota, he could be legally shot any time by a landowner or a person leasing the land.

# North Dakota Splits Cougar Hunting Season, Increases Quota, Cooperates with South Dakota State University in Study

For the first time since North Dakota held its first cougar hunting season in 2005-2006, the Game and Fish Department (GFD) will hold a split season in the Badlands. The GFD believes that the population is either stable or increasing. The first season began on September 2, 2011 and will run until November 20, unless the quota of ten is reached earlier. The second season will begin the next day. Hound hunting will be allowed in this season for the first time in the Dakotas. The quota is four. It will run until March 31, 2012, unless the quota is filled earlier.

Outside the Badlands (designated as cougar hunting Zone 1), the quota will remain unlimited. (Zone 2): Furbearer Biologist Stephanie Tucker explained that there is little suitable habitat in which a breeding

population could become established. (Of course, with an unlimited kill, the possibility of a breeding population becoming established on the prairies is even less likely.)

The Game and Fish Department is cooperating with Dr. Jonathan Jenks at South Dakota State University in a full-blown study of the Badlands population. They hope to capture and collar as many as 30 cougars but would be happy with ten. A SDSU graduate student will participate in the study.

Right now, the GFD has only one collared cougar. M-12 was captured accidentally in 2006, when he was 1 ½ years old. His collar stopped sending signals this past May. As far as they know, he is still alive.

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## Cougar Rewilding Foundation Update

Jay Tischendorf, John Laundré, and Minnesota Zoo Veterinarian Jim Rasmussen, on behalf of Cougar Rewilding and AERIE, conducted our first **Mountain Lion Incident and Immobilization Course** at the Minnesota Zoo southwest of Minneapolis on August 23-24th. Ten students participated—two wildlife biologists from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, two Minnesota law enforcement officers, and six people affiliated with the Pella Wildlife Company in Iowa. Jay reports, "Good interactions and dialogue. Also good lessons/ideas on how to make the class better." A grant from the Fund for Wild Nature made the course possible.

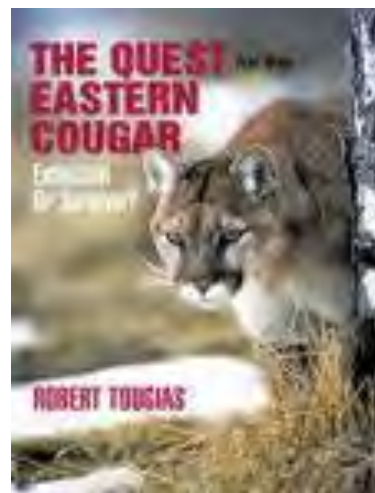
This summer Chris Spatz made two presentations on cougars in and adjacent to Connecticut. By chance, he had been scheduled to give a talk in East Hartland on the evening of June 10th, four hours before The Long Walker was killed on a Milford highway. He had his biggest turnout so far—125 people—and an engaged audience. He gave another talk at the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem, NY, on August 27th—a short distance from Greenwich, CT, where the cougar was photographed. The event had sold out, but Hurricane Irene greatly reduced attendance.



Chris reports that one of the biggest obstacles to getting cougars reintroduced to the East is that many people believe they are already here—despite an almost total lack of evidence! Another is the notion that they'll recolonize on their own, without any help from us.

Thanks to generous donations from Bill Everitt and Amelia Fusaro of Atlanta, John Laundré attended the 10th Mountain Lion Workshop in Bozeman, Montana, on May 2-5th. He gave a talk on the likelihood that the Adirondack Park could support a breeding population of cougars. John also has a book in press. We expect **PHANTOMS OF THE PRAIRIE: THE RETURN OF COUGARS TO THE MIDWEST** to be released late this year. John and Chris have been discussing the feasibility of returning cougars to the Adirondacks in a series of notes that are being published in **The Adirondack Explorer**.

Robert Tougias' book **THE QUEST FOR THE EASTERN COUGAR: EXTINCTION OR SURVIVAL?** is now available. Bob has been working on it for more than seven years. Look for a review in the next issue of this newsletter.



Judy Tipton reports that our new online "Store" is turning a modest profit. We offer T shirts, caps, and two books.

Julia Smith has taken over management of our Facebook page. A long-time member of Cougar Rewilding, Julia is now a graduate student working under Dr. Clay Nielsen at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. She's conducting a public opinion survey of attitudes toward large carnivores in Illinois and also doing a GIS survey of habitat in 18 states in the midwestern region of the United States.



Cougar Rewilding is now collaborating with the Wildlands Network. Their mission is to establish connectivity between blocks of wildlands across the United States. Until recently, their focus has been on the Rocky Mountain West, but they are now looking at the East. John Davis, co-founder of the Network, embarked on TrekEast in early February at the southern tip of Florida. Weaving back and forth across the East as far west as Lexington, Kentucky, John will have bicycled, hiked, paddled, and sailed more than 7,000 miles when he reaches the northern tip of the Gaspé Peninsula in Quebec in late October. A prime reason for protecting corridors in the West is to maintain dispersal opportunities for large carnivores such as wolves, grizzlies, cougars, and black bears. We have only black bears in the East at present, but John sees reintroduced cougars as the species that could tie our eastern wildways together. He visited Helen McGinnis at her home in northern West Virginia in late June and spent quality time with Chris Spatz in the Shawangunks in late July.<sup>39,40</sup>

### **John Davis and his bicycle at Helen's house.**

Carmel Severson, our enthusiastic Florida member, works with captive wildlife at a South Florida recreation park and does educational talks which include the Florida panther. She has been in contact with Ricky Pires of the "Wings of Hope" Environmental Education Program. The program has students at Florida Gulf Coast University working with elementary school children in hands-on learning experiences about panthers. Ricky's presentation at the 10th Mountain Lion Workshop this past May was singled out as outstanding.<sup>41</sup> Carmel has made contact with Ricky, who is enthusiastic about promoting reintroduction of panthers to northern Florida and southern Georgia. What is needed is a grant for funding. Carmel will participate in the Florida Panther Festival in Naples, Florida on Saturday, October 29th.<sup>42</sup>

## Footnotes

Much of the information in the articles is derived from news items. To access news for various states, click on "Cougar News" in the left column of our website - [www.cougarrewilding.org](http://www.cougarrewilding.org) - and then on "Categories" in the right column.

<sup>1</sup>For an annotated map of the Walker's route through eastern MN, visit

<http://easterncougar.org/CougarNews/?p=1250>

<sup>2</sup>[http://www.startribune.com/local/east/78744082.html?elr=KArksayE5D7UqyE5D7UiD3aPc:\\_Yyc:aU7DYaGEP7vDEh7P:DiUs](http://www.startribune.com/local/east/78744082.html?elr=KArksayE5D7UqyE5D7UiD3aPc:_Yyc:aU7DYaGEP7vDEh7P:DiUs)

<sup>3</sup><http://easterncougar.org/CougarNews/?p=1223>

<sup>4</sup>For an annotated map of the Walker's route through western Wisconsin, visit

<http://easterncougar.org/CougarNews/?p=2179>

<sup>5</sup>New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Wildlife Pathology Unit. Case Report WPU #100948. Examiner Kevin Hynes. Released August 16, 2011.

<http://www.cougarnet.org/northeast-desc/mt.lionhair100948rpt%5B1%5D.pdf>

<sup>6</sup>Drake, Nadia. A cougar in Connecticut: scientists piece together the wanderings of a young male cat. Science News, web edition, August 2nd, 2011.

[http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/332992/title/A\\_cougar\\_in\\_Connecticut](http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/332992/title/A_cougar_in_Connecticut)

<sup>7</sup>Masters, Ray. 2001. A moose tale: the sage of Alice. The Spruce Moose: a publication of Adirondack Ecological Center Newcomb Campus, Fall/Winter 2001.

<http://www.esf.edu/communications/spruce/2001-2.pdf>

<sup>8</sup>Cougar Network—Upper Midwest. <http://www.cougarnet.org/uppermidwest.html>

<sup>9</sup>Erb, John. Email to Helen McGinnis, July 20, 2011.

<sup>10</sup>Anderson, E.M., A.P. Wydeven and R Holsman. 2006. Distribution of cougar sightings in Wisconsin 1994-2003. *In* McGinnis, H.J., J.W. Tischendorf, and S.J. Ropski. Proceedings of the Eastern Cougar Conference 2004. Available from on CD from the Cougar Rewilding Foundation.

<sup>11</sup>Cougar treed in northwestern Wisconsin. The ECF Update, March 2009, pp. 5, 7-8.

[http://www.easterncougar.org/newltr\\_pdf/ecfnew\\_march09.pdf](http://www.easterncougar.org/newltr_pdf/ecfnew_march09.pdf)

<sup>12</sup>DNA analysis confirms 4 cougars in WI in last 2 yrs. Northlands News Center, Aug. 19, 2010.

<http://www.northlandsnewscenter.com/news/local/DNA-Analysis-Confirms-4-Cougars-In-WI-In-Last-2-Yrs-101077669.html>

<sup>13</sup>Cougar Network Board of Directors. Independent review determines cougar not responsible for Wisconsin depredations. August 23, 2010. [http://www.cougarnet.org/Wisc8-10/Wisconsin%20depredation%20review\\_Final%20%282%29.htm](http://www.cougarnet.org/Wisc8-10/Wisconsin%20depredation%20review_Final%20%282%29.htm)

<sup>14</sup>Wydeven, Adrian. Email to Helen McGinnis, Aug. 2, 2011.

<sup>15</sup>Jackson, H. H. T. 1955. The Wisconsin Puma. Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 68: 149-150.

<sup>16</sup>Recent Federal Recommendation on Status of Eastern Cougars as Extinct Has No Bearing on Michigan Cougars. AmmoLand, March 4, 2011. <http://www.ammoland.com/2011/03/04/status-of-eastern-cougars-as-extinct-has-no-bearing-on-michigan-cougars/>

- <sup>17</sup>Puckett, Karl. Study tracks mountain lions east of Divide. Great Falls Tribune, February 9, 2011.
- <sup>18</sup>Matchett, Randy. Email and supplementary information sent to Helen McGinnis, June 14, 2011.
- <sup>19</sup>Matchett, Randy. Email to Helen McGinnis, Sept. 15, 2011.
- <sup>20</sup>Boyce, Mark. Email to Helen McGinnis, July 6, 2011.
- <sup>21</sup>Pogorzelec, John. Email to Helen McGinnis, January 4, 2011.
- <sup>22</sup>US Fish & Wildlife Service. May 18, 2011. [Denial of petition to reintroduce Florida panthers to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and nearby suitable lands in south Georgia and north Florida.] Letter from Cynthia K. Dohner, Regional Director, to Michael J. Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity. <http://www.easterncougar.org/pdfs/Reintro.pdf>
- <sup>23</sup>Cougar Rewilding Update, May 2011, Pages 4-5.  
[http://www.easterncougar.org/newltr\\_pdf/crfnew\\_May11.pdf](http://www.easterncougar.org/newltr_pdf/crfnew_May11.pdf)
- <sup>24</sup>Center for Biological Diversity, Cougar Rewilding Foundation, Florida Panther Society and One more Generation. Feb. 10, 2011. Petition for Rule Making: Reintroduction of the Endangered Florida Panther. 42 pp. [http://www.easterncougar.org/pdfs/Reintro\\_petition--final\\_version\\_2-10-11.pdf](http://www.easterncougar.org/pdfs/Reintro_petition--final_version_2-10-11.pdf)
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