

**ANIMALS IN
DANGER**

FLORIDA PANTHERS

Kevin Cunningham

Mitchell Lane

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CHAPTER
ONE

**BIG
CAT,
BIG
DANGER**



Nature photographer Carlton Ward, Jr. journeyed to south Florida in 2016. His job: to take images of the Florida panther. Ward set up camera traps in the swampy Everglades. These cameras automatically snapped pictures of anything that moved.

CHAPTER ONE

Ward's traps captured parts of cats at first. One image showed a tail. Another caught the back of a Florida panther stepping over a log. Then a group of black bears destroyed the trap. Ward had placed the cameras in hard-to-reach places. He could not reset the traps for months.

It took Ward two years to get the photos. His images became part of a magazine story about Florida panthers. Ward became an **advocate** for the species' survival.

The Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*) once roamed a large area. Its range stretched from Florida to Arkansas to South Carolina. Hunting reduced the cat's numbers. Only around 20 animals survived in the 1970s.

BIG CAT, BIG DANGER



Even professional photographers have trouble taking pictures of the Florida panther.

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