



ALABAMA WILDLIFE

VOLUME FOUR

Conservation and Management Recommendations for Imperiled Wildlife

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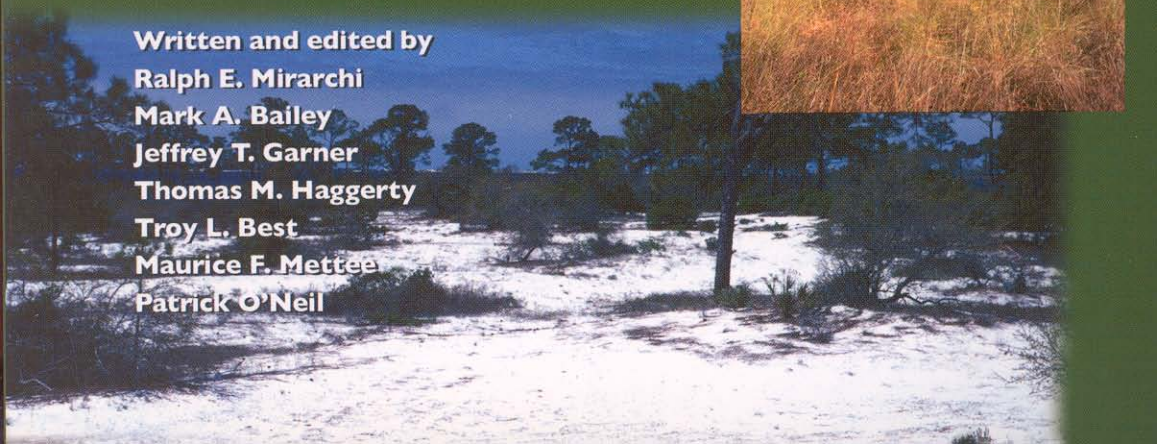
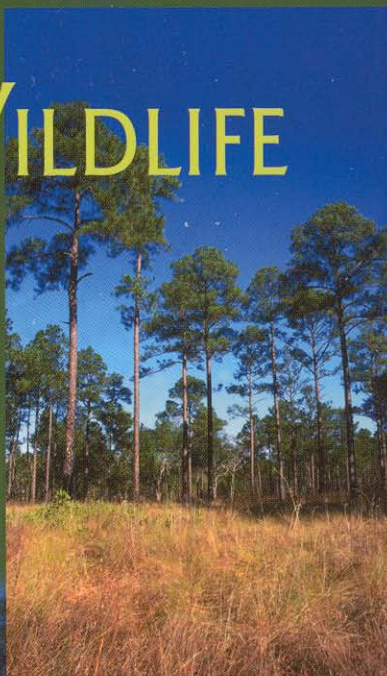
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PUMA

Puma concolor (Linnaeus)

At present, there seems to be no need to initiate a program to reintroduce the puma into Alabama. Currently, the few surviving individuals of *P. c. coryi* occur in Florida and their population is not large enough to remove animals for a reintroduction program. Because of their secretive nature and long distance dispersal capabilities, pumas may be able to establish a viable population on their own in the foreseeable future. The public should be informed of the potential presence of pumas in Alabama and the need to document any encounters with photographs and data on where and when sightings occurred. Clarification of the protected status of the species is essential and should be made known to the public. If populations of *P. c. coryi* become large enough to allow individuals to be removed from the Florida population and, if it is decided that these individuals can be reintroduced into Alabama, an extensive public education program and animal damage control and compensation program, as outlined for the red wolf, should be conducted prior to any attempts at reintroduction. Suitable locations for reintroduction would be in the wilderness areas of our national forests, or large tracts of state and private lands in Baldwin and Escambia Counties.

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