

A Corridor Biodiversity Study



1. Unique Biodiversity of Florida

Watch the video “Camera Trapping” (4:03) and listen for:

- In what ways might *other species* of a habitat affect (positively or negatively) panther survival, migration, and population growth?
- How might *abiotic elements* of a habitat affect panther survival, migration, and population growth?
- How might land development influence biodiversity?
- What makes Florida’s biodiversity so unique?



2. Unique Biodiversity of Florida

Patterns of biological diversity are formed by a complex combination of geologic, climatic, and geographic circumstances. The myriad environmental conditions produced over millennia, along with ecological and evolutionary influences have resulted in an astounding array of organisms in Florida.

What are your estimates?

- vertebrates
- invertebrates
- native plant species



2. Unique Biodiversity of Florida

What are the facts?

- about 700 vertebrates
- more than 30,000 invertebrates
- more than 4,000 native plant species

Florida hosts the greatest diversity of plant families of all U.S. states, and as many as 300 plants, 40 vertebrates, and 400 invertebrates are endemic—found nowhere else in the world.

Source: <http://www.landscape.org/florida/plants-animals/Hotspots%20and%20Diversity/>



4. The Florida Wildlife Corridor iNaturalist Project

Key:

- RG = Research Grade
- VU = vulnerable (may be threatened or endangered in the U.S.)
- IN = introduced
- EN = endemic



5. The Florida Wildlife Corridor iNaturalist Project

In the map (scroll down the page), each tag is one observation.

Click on the different colors:

- Green = Plants
- Red = Insects, Molluscs, Arachnids
- Blue = Ray finned fishes, Birds, Amphibians, Reptiles, Mammals, and “Other Animals”
- Pink/Magenta = Fungi Including Lichens
- Brown Red = Kelp, Diatoms, and Allies
- Purple = Protozoans
- Gray = Unknown, Prokaryotes, Bacteria, and Viruses



7. Opportunities for Protecting Biodiversity

Zoom in on where we live:

- How might land use nearby affect biodiversity in our local area?
- Are there obvious connections or corridors from the local area to larger areas of wildlands?
- How can habitats, ecosystems, and biodiversity be protected and supported?



8. Opportunities for Protecting Biodiversity

What would provide suitable habitat and improve connections with other wildlands? Write three ideas.

