

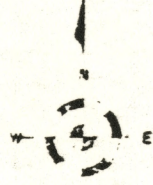
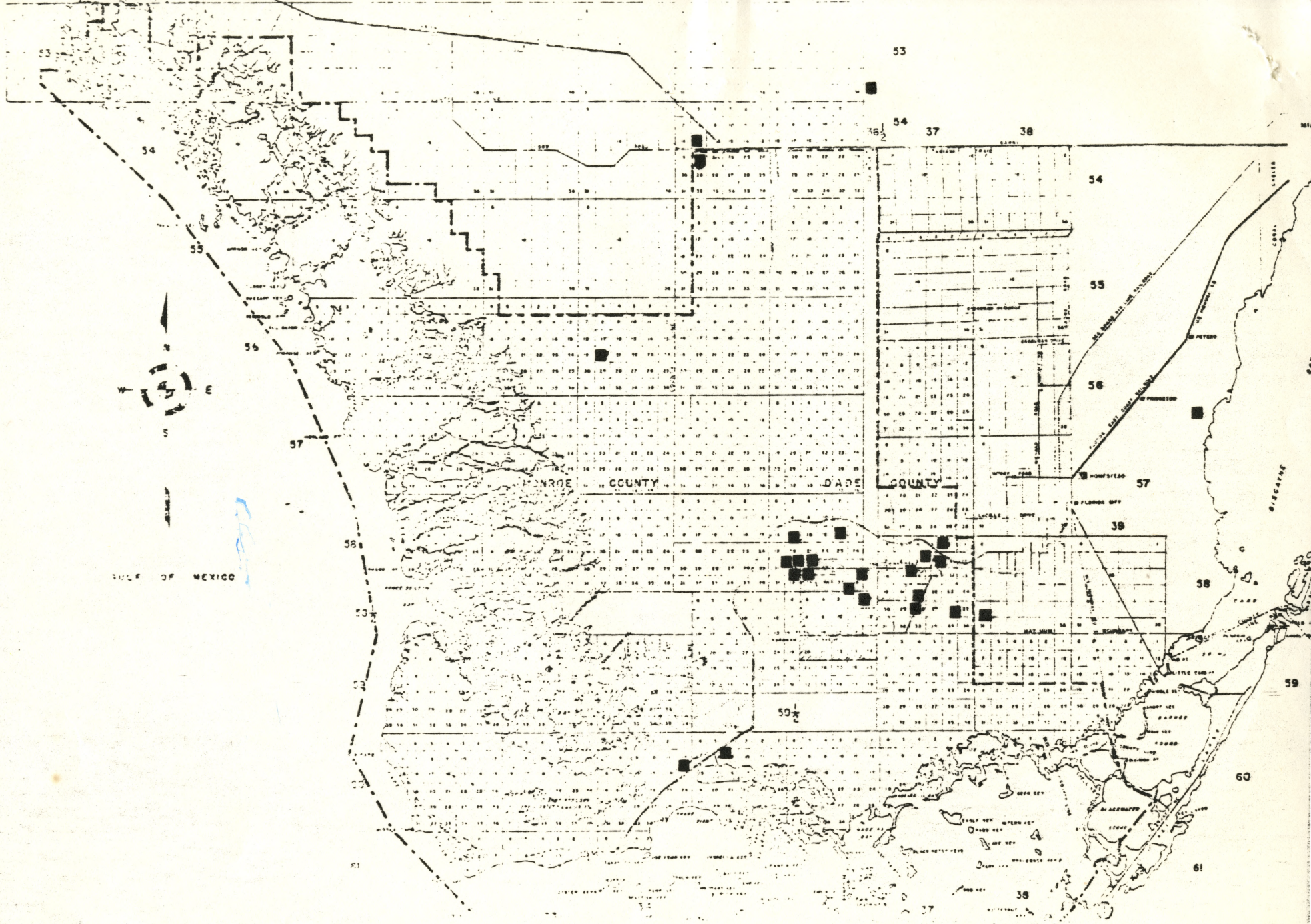
Possible Park Panthers

Twenty-five reasonably creditable observations of panthers have been reported in and near Everglades National Park from January through October 1977. Most of these are from park personnel and other qualified people. These are generally type II and III observations under Layne and McCauley's classification and are unconfirmed by Game Commission standards. Despite efforts by the Commission Panther Swat team, no confirmed evidence is available for this period.

The sightings cluster near Long Pine Key (Fig. 1) as is to be expected based on past records and the greater effort expended in this area by park personnel. Two records near Flamingo are near the other historic concentration of sightings. Outlying sightings occurred near Homestead Airforce Base. This record was by a very creditable observer under good conditions. One sighting west of the Everglades near Mangrove swamp occurred during the dry season when the marsh between there and higher ground was passable. Two sightings were near 40-mile bend. They occurred several months apart and were made by different observers. The first was of an adult and two small kittens. Another sighting occurred on a levee in the Conservation Area. This is both an unusual place and near a round-the-clock construction project.

I interpret these records, all recent although unconfirmed, to suggest the continual presence of panthers in the Park. Additional effort to obtain panther records is planned for the current fiscal year.

Jim
James Kushlan



GULF OF MEXICO

DADE COUNTY

DADE COUNTY

61

59

60

38

57

54

38

37

54

53

51

50

56

57

55

55

54