

Vital Sign: Florida Box Turtle
[shortened name: Box_Turtle] Deferred

Parks Where Vital Sign will be Implemented:
BICY, EVER – Deferred due to insufficient funds

Justification/Issues being addressed:

The Florida Box Turtle ranked 38th among the 44 SFCN vital signs. *Terrapene carolina bauri* is an abundant turtle in South Florida and in some cases is called the "common" box turtle. The species is long-lived and reflects long-term habitat conditions at a site and region. Box Turtles are susceptible to habitat loss and fragmentation, roadkill (cars, farm equipment, lawn-mowers), intense fires, collection as pets, dog and cat injury and predation. They utilize a diverse selection of upland and seasonally-flooded habitats throughout the year and play a key ecological role, serving as both predators and prey, contributing to nutrient cycles and dispersing seeds for many native plants.

General Monitoring Questions to be Addressed by the Vital Sign:

- What are the status and trends in the abundance and distribution of Florida Box Turtles?

Measures:

Population size & structure, mortality, recruitment, proportion of habitat occupied.

Basic Approach:

Deferred due to insufficient funds/staff time

Principal Investigators/Key Contacts and NPS Lead:

N/A

Development schedule, budget, and expected interim products:

N/A