

Jaguar Conservation Team (JAGCT) Final Summary Notes
Cowbelle's Hall, Douglas, Arizona
April 23, 1998

Introduction

Meeting called to order by Terry Johnson, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) at 9:10 a.m. New participants introduced themselves and the organizations they represent.

A. Opening comments and ground rules

Ground rules were the same as previous meetings. Participants were asked to raise their hand to ask a question or state an opinion. This allows each person to be heard and keeps the meeting moving through the agenda. When votes are taken, only signatories to the Conservation Agreement may vote. Participants in the Jaguar Working Group (JAGWG) (i.e. everyone present at JAGCT meetings) may comment and are encouraged to do so on any issue being discussed at the JAGCT meeting.

B. Agenda Review/Additional Discussion Points

Mike Pruss (AGFD) asked to include a discussion on how the Habitat subcommittee's recommendations for habitat guidelines will be coordinated with Section 7 consultations conducted by USFWS. Terry Johnson recommended covering this topic with the discussion of habitat identification.

Steve Spangle (USFWS) informed participants that there would be a separate meeting about the potential listing of Chiricahua leopard frogs after the jaguar meeting is concluded and anyone wishing to participate is welcomed.

C. Discussion of summary notes from JAGCT meeting on January 22

A question was asked about the discussion of conservation easements at the January 22 meeting. Participants wanted to know if the JAGCT has habitat guidelines in place to determine areas for conservation easements. Terry Johnson replied that we do not yet have habitat guidelines in place, but he had wanted to inform people about the availability of Heritage funds for conservation easements.

D. Further discussion on the proposed amendment to the Conservation Agreement

Terry Johnson explained that the vote taken at the January 22 JAGCT meeting on the proposed amendments to the Conservation Agreement was not valid. Votes on amendments to the Conservation Agreement must be in writing. A letter explaining the procedural error was sent to all signatories and participants at the January 22 meeting. To date, five cooperators have replied in writing (NMDGF, USFWS, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, ASLD, and NPS). Responses are due in 30 days (actually on May 25 because of the weekend). Amendments to the Conservation

Agreement will depend upon the responses received regarding this issue.

Participants then discussed potential consequences of not having all the original cooperators sign the amended agreement.

E. Task Reports:

1. Election of chairman

Terry Johnson and Steve Spangle were nominated for chairman. However, Steve Spangle declined his nomination. Therefore, Terry Johnson is the only candidate at this time. Participants were asked to include their concurrence for chairman in their response for the proposed amendments to the conservation agreement.

2. Compilation of Jaguar Bibliography

Mike Pruss handed out a list of approximately 135 new references compiled since the last JAGCT meeting. Dr. Raul Valdez, New Mexico State University, had supplied most of these references, which were then sorted and compiled by AGFD.

3. Jaguar occurrence map and updates on AZ-NM sightings

Mike Pruss reported his findings about the jaguar sighting mentioned at the January 22 meeting. This sighting was of a black animal, which resembled a jaguar in its conformation. The sighting was rated as a Class II (i.e. no physical evidence was obtained). Unfortunately the sighting was reported to AGFD several months after the animal was observed and searches in the area for physical evidence was not possible.

4. Kill verification activities

Warner Glenn (rancher) reported that no kills by jaguars have occurred in Arizona or New Mexico since the January 22 JAGCT meeting. He commented about Jack Childs and Matt Colvin trip to Brazil. Matt and Jack will be working with Peter Crawshaw collecting information and photographing jaguar kills. They will report their findings at the July 30 JAGCT meeting.

5. Habitat Identification

References possessed by AGFD have been reviewed. Those with original research data on jaguar habitat have been assembled and summarized (11 references).

Collecting habitat data in Arizona is being evaluated. Only those sightings where the jaguar was apparently not chased will be used to try to minimize bias associated with hiding cover. Bias associated with detectability may still remain. Only general habitat data, such as elevation and vegetation type will be analyzed.

Terry Johnson mentioned that Ray Turner might have some historical photos of sites where jaguars were observed historically, and asked Mike Pruss to contact him.

Mike Pruss asked the need for the Habitat Subcommittee to provide habitat guidelines since Section 7 consultations are now being conducted without the input from the JAGCT. Steve Spangle suggested that Tricia Roller participate in the Habitat Subcommittee so that the efforts of the committee can be used by the USFWS in Section 7 consultations, and vice versa.

6. Educational material activities

The education subcommittee has received several comments. They decided that the guidelines sent to them by AGFD would be the outline they would follow and asked for the AGFD comment to be sent out with the final summary notes. Some educational materials have been reviewed, but the committee would appreciate more material. Sue Krentz provided a summarization of the materials reviewed by the subcommittee.

The preferred teaching model would be like an umbrella; the jaguar would be the center, and standard teaching subjects, such as English, math, and social studies, would radiate out from this center.

Don MacCarter, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, would like to see more Project Wild involvement.

The Education Committee will meet in June to further develop the education material. Don Cullum will work with Sue Krentz to set up the meeting. Wendy Glenn offered to host the meeting, but Sue and Don will need to run it.

Bill Van Pelt is working on a Share with Wildlife proposal. Bill will work with Sue and Karen to generate a list of needed materials for the education program.

7. Increasing legal protection in Arizona

At the January 22, 1998 JAGCT meeting, the draft of Senate Bill 1106 instituting increased penalties for take of a jaguar was presented. This bill has passed the Arizona State Senate, gone to the Arizona State House of Representatives, and has passed the Natural Resources and Agriculture committees in the House. This bill would impose \$2,500 criminal penalties (Class 2 Misdemeanor) and up to \$72,500 in civil penalties for take of a jaguar. The fines associated with this bill are commensurate to the federal penalties. As currently written, Senate Bill 1106 would only be enacted if the jaguar were removed from the endangered species list (ESA).

A question was asked if taking of a jaguar in self-defense would be prosecutable under this law. Terry Johnson replied that protection of human life is allowed under state law and the ESA.

A web site, www.ALIS.com provides updates on Arizona state bills.

8. End of the Year report

Bill Van Pelt (AGFD) provided an outline and reviewed conservation activities implemented by the JAGCT (Appendix 1). Participants were asked to comment on the outline within 30 days. A request to include a list of the subcommittees and their members in the final report was made at the meeting.

F. World Wide Web Page

The Arizona jaguar web page is up and running. Final summary notes from the January 22, JAGCT meeting have been posted on this page.

G. Other Business

Participants were asked how often they would like to meet. Participants voted to meet twice per year in January and July.

Dr. Raul Valdez introduced the two students that will be conducting fieldwork on jaguars in Mexico and New Mexico. Work will include identification of prey densities and mapping of potential travel corridors.

The next meeting will be held July 30, 1998 at 10:00 a.m, New Mexico time, in Animas, New Mexico.

H. Close Meeting

The April 23, 1998 JAGCT meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:35 a.m.

Attendance Roster

Bill Merhege	Bureau of Land Management-New Mexico
Jack Childs	Depredation Subcommittee
Gabriel Paz	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Mike Pruss	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Gary Helbing	U.S. Forest Service
Warner Glenn	Rancher/Hunter/Malpai Borderlands Group
Wendy Glenn	Rancher/Malpai Borderlands Group
Terry Frederick	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Don Cullum	Rancher
Sue Krentz	Rancher/AZ State Cowbelles
Judy Keeler	Bootheel Heritage Association
Walt Saenger	Chiricahua National Monument
Diego Villalba	New Mexico State Land Office
Lee A. Benson	National Park Service
Meira Gault	Rancher
Bill Grossi	Bureau of Land Management
Bill Moore	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Stephen Williams	Arizona State Land Department
Karen Kay Husted	Rancher/educator
Brandon Jones	New Mexico Wildlife Services
Dan Fischer	Citizen
Steve Pavlik	Native American Historical Researcher
Raul Valdez	Jaguar Scientific Advisory Group
Jerry Pratt	Arizona Wildlife Federation
Harry Woodward	Arizona Wildlife Federation
Gilbert Reeves	People for USA
Jane Susan MacCarter	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Don MacCarter	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Anna Magoffin	Rancher
Matt Magoffin	Rancher/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Steve Spangle	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Billy Taylor	New Mexico State University
Alejandro Martinez	New Mexico State University
Dennis Manning	Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Bill Berlat	Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Ben Brown	Gray Ranch
Cynthia Westfall	White Mountain Apache Tribe
Douglas Hardy	U.S. Forest Service
Terry Johnson	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Bill Van Pelt	Arizona Game and Fish Department

Appendix 1. Conservation activities implemented in 1997 by the Jaguar Conservation Team.

Objective 1-IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSERVATION AGREEMENT: **Completed**

The Conservation Agreement was implemented through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on March 26, 1997. Signatures or letters of intent were received from 16 different entities representing state and federal agencies and local governments with land management responsibilities. The 16 signatories to the MOA are:

Arizona Game and Fish Department	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Arizona Department of Agriculture	New Mexico Department of Agriculture
Arizona State Land Department	New Mexico State Land Office
Cochise County, Arizona	Hidalgo Soil and Conservation District
Pima County, Arizona	Otero County, New Mexico
Santa Cruz County, Arizona	U.S. Department Of Agriculture, Wildlife Services
U.S. Forest Service, Southwestern Region	National Park Service, Intermountain Region
Bureau of Land Management, Arizona	Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico

Hidalgo County, New Mexico initially signed the Conservation Agreement but sent in notification that they were withdrawing from the agreement on December 9, 1997. Before signing on as a cooperator, the USFWS requested that the agreement be amended to recognize the federal status of the jaguar. A verbal vote was taken at the January 22 JAGCT meeting to accept the proposed amendments. However, concurrence must be in written form and only five letters were sent the JAGCT Chair. Further discussion on the amendments is scheduled for the April 23, 1998 meeting.

Objective 2-ESTABLISHMENT OF JAGCT AND JAGWG: **Completed**

On April 30, 1997 the first meeting establishing the JAGCT and JAGWG was held in Douglas, Arizona. Terry Johnson was elected Chairman. Additional JAGCT/JAGWG meetings were held in Lordsburg and Animas, New Mexico and again in Douglas on July 30 and October 15, 1997 and January 22, 1998.

Activities at the JAGCT/JAGWG meetings included subcommittee reports, discussions on action items, and task assignments. Summary notes to all meetings were distributed to the Jaguar Mailing List, which is now over 450 entries.

Objective 3-SPECIES DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS: **Initiated**

Task A: Collect and compile jaguar distribution and occurrence information by the second JAGCT meeting. Results to be submitted to three experts in the field (JAGSAG). **Partially completed**

The AGFD and NMDGF compiled occurrence records and distributed the information at the July JAGCT meeting for comment. Corrections were made and the information was redistributed at the October meeting. The

information is now ready to send to the Jaguar Scientific Advisory Group.

Task B: Within 60 days establish a protocol for handling jaguars. **Completed**

At the July meeting a committee headed by Mike Pruss of AGFD was established to draft a handling protocol. At the October meeting, a protocol was distributed. This protocol was in place when members of the JAGCT and JAGWG pursued a jaguar on October 18.

Task C: Within 90 days establish a sighting report procedure. **Completed**

At the July meeting a rating system for jaguar sightings was distributed for comment. Corrections were made and the rating system and report form was redistributed. Additional suggestions were received in January for modifications. Three sightings were directed toward AGFD during 1997 for ranking. Presently the sightings are classified as two class IIs and one class I.

Task D: Within one year (**April 1998**) the JAGCT will draft a report on the current status of the jaguar in Arizona-New Mexico. **Not Completed**

The drafting of the report has not yet begun.

Objective 4-COOPERATE WITH MEXICO: **Initiated**

Task A: Coordination of jaguar activities will occur at the annual Trilateral Commission meeting. **Completed**

The Trilateral meeting was held in Toronto, Canada in 1997. Information was exchanged about jaguar management activities occurring in the different countries. The Mexican Conservation Fund is soliciting proposals for endangered species of which jaguars is one of the species on the list.

Task B: Mexico will be encouraged to determine the present distribution of jaguars and identify travel corridors. **Initiated**

Dr. Raul Valdez is initiating jaguar surveys in May 1998 along the international border and has initiated work in southern Sonora, Mexico. Carlos Lopez continues work on ocelot and jaguars in Jalisco, Mexico.

Objective 5- IDENTIFY, MAINTAIN, AND PROMOTE EXISTING AND OTHER SUITABLE JAGUAR HABITATS: **Initiated**

Task A: Staff a technical committee to review relevant scientific literature to identify habitat use patterns and develop range-wide habitat suitability criteria applicable to habitats in Mexico, Arizona, and New Mexico. Review of

literature is to begin 30 days of establishment of JAGCT and be completed in 90 days (**July 1997**). **Not completed**

Literature review began after the first JAGCT meeting. Bibliographies were presented at all the meetings. However, additional pieces were added to the bibliography after each meeting. It was decided to assemble the technical committee at the October meeting to begin reviewing the 278 articles for habitat information. At the April 1998 meeting the committee will provide an update.

Task B: Cooperators reviews to determine impacts of proposed projects and activities on jaguars and jaguar habitats. **Not completed**

1. In 30 days of accepting the review of scientific literature and recommendations, JAGCT will provide guidelines to land management agencies for conducting assessments on the impacts of current and planned activities on jaguar habitat. **Not completed**

The JAGCT has not received information from the committee.

2. Within 90 days of receiving guidelines, land management agencies will provide results to JAGCT for review. Evaluations could also occur in conjunction with Section 7 consultations with other species or as a separate document. **Not completed**

Land management agencies have not received guidelines from JAGCT.

3. JAGCT will respond with recommendations on how to address any impacts or concerns identified in 60 days. **Not completed**

No evaluations have been completed by land management agencies because guideline have not been completed and forwarded.

Task C: Beginning 12 month after the establishment of JAGCT (**April 1998**), AGFD and NMDGF will coordinate with land management agencies, state lands, and private landowners to inventory jaguar habitat. Inventories will occur on private lands only after receiving permission from the landowner. **Need to initiate**

To initiate, information from the Habitat Committee is needed. However, this activities could occur in conjunction with the evaluation of projects.

Task D: In 24 months (**April 1999**), AGFD and NMDGF will produce maps delineating jaguar habitat and land ownership patterns. **Not applicable**

Task E: JAGCT will encourage protection and enhancement of jaguar habitat and travel corridors. **Not applicable**

Task F: AGFD and NMDGF will pursue protection and enhancement agreements for suitable jaguar habitat. **Initiated**

At the January meeting, Terry reminded participants of easements through the Heritage Program but individuals needed to contact the AGFD. Thus far no one has come forward.

Task G: JAGCT will monitor and identify new, continued, and diminishing threats to jaguar population expansion. **Initiated**

No new threats have been identified.

Task H: Livestock depredation and control measures. **Initiated**

1. Procedures for confirmation of losses and recommendations for compensation will be established. **Completed**

A depredation committee was established at the April 1997 meeting. The committee distributed kill verification procedures and compensation values at the July and October meetings.

2. The USDA APHIS Wildlife Services is to complete and submit a risk assessment of M-44s over the past five years. **Completed**

Steve Fairaizl provided the assessment at the July meeting. Results indicated that no felids were killed using M-44s.

3. For purposes of predator control, Wildlife Services will not use traps with jaws spread larger than #3 Victor. **Not completed**

JAGCT has not received indication from Wildlife Services that this has been implemented.

4. In the event of killing or injuring a jaguar, the incident will be reported to AGFD and NMDGF. **Initiated**

No jaguars were reported killed or injured by Wildlife Services.

5. Each wildlife agency will coordinate with the State Departments of Agriculture to review depredation control measures. **Not completed**

AGFD and NMDGF has not initiated reviews.

Objective 6-PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC JAGUAR MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION: **Initiated**

Task A: The JAGCT will establish a Jaguar Scientific Advisory Group. **Completed**

At the January meeting, Terry informed the JAGCT that everyone invited to participate on the JAGSAG.

Task B: JAGCT will promote public support through the development and distribution of informational and educational material. **Initiated**

1. All educational material will be reviewed by professional educators. **Initiated**

A committee was formed to develop an education program. An outline for the program was distributed at the January meeting.

2. Private donations will be sought to supplement rewards offered by state wildlife agencies. **Initiated**

The Arizona Houndsmen have posted a \$5000 reward for the illegal killing of a jaguar.

3. JAGCT and cooperators will produce a slide show. **Not completed**

This has not been initiated.

4. AGFD and NMDGF will produce and distribute: a jaguar conservation brochure, jaguar fact sheet, a no-open season advisory in hunt regulations, and a periodic newsletter on activities. A World-wide Website will be established and a segment on jaguar conservation efforts will be proposed for the *Arizona Wildlife Views* television show. **Initiated**

The AGFD has put an advisory in the 1998 hunt regulations booklet and has established a Jaguar page on the Department Website.

Objective 7-INCREASE LEGAL PROTECTION: **Initiated**

Task A: Within one year (**April 1998**), AGFD and NMDGF will attempt to increase state legal disincentives for unlawful take of jaguars. **Initiated**

NMDGF could not introduce legislation during this cycle. Arizona introduced Senate Bill 1106. The Bill has gone through the Senate and House

Committee. It still has to go through the Rules Committee, go to the floor of the House for vote, go to the Senate for concurrence, and to the Governor for signature.

Task B: Within 60 days the AGFD will consider if A.R.S. 17.239 to preclude legal killing of jaguars as stock-killers. **Completed**

It was decided that A.R.S. 17.239 did not need to be opened.

Task C: The Service will consider whether listing the jaguar under the "similarity of appearance" clause is appropriate. **Completed**

The Service decided it was not appropriate.

Objective 8-EVALUATION OF PROGRESS: **Initiated**

Task A: In January of each year the AGFD and NMDGF will submit a report to the Service. **Not completed**

The report has not been drafted. However, a table was produced for the April 1998 meeting.