

**Jaguar Conservation Team (JAGCT) Final Summary Notes**  
Animas Community Center, Animas, New Mexico  
July 30, 1998

Introduction

Meeting called to order by Bill Van Pelt, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) at 10:10 a.m. (New Mexico time). All in attendance 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. One person speaking at a time, with no side conversations. This allows each person to be heard and keeps the meeting moving through the agenda. 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

Don Cullum replaced Sue Krentz on the agenda for the Education Subcommittee report.

Dr. Raul Valdez, and his student Billy Taylor, provided updates on their ongoing identification/evaluation activities for potential jaguar habitat in Mexico and New Mexico/Arizona.

Billy Taylor has begun to evaluate habitat in the Peloncillo, Animas, and Chiricahua mountains focusing on prey populations and possible corridor linkages to Mexico. He has initiated twenty-eight 3.1 mile predator/prey transects covering 176 miles and collected a number of scats. He has created a database, and is preparing a report for Dr. Valdez. The report will be completed by August 18, 1998.

Dr. Valdez also has a Mexican national graduate student, Alejandro Martinez, collecting information on possible jaguar occurrences from the area of Huachinera, Mexico north to the Arizona border. A report on his work will be completed at the end of the summer.

Karen Husted of the Education Subcommittee, requested more input about the education material from both Game and Fish Departments. Bill mentioned that Kerry Baldwin, Arizona Game and Fish Department, had provided recent comment on the latest education subcommittee products and gave Karen a copy of his comments. Bill asked if the Education Subcommittee had received the *Project Wild* information sent to them from Kerry and she thought they had received it.

C. Discussion of summary notes from JAGCT meeting on April 23, 1998

No comments on the April 23, 1998 summary notes were provided.

D. Presentation on Brazil depredation investigation trip

Jack Childs, Depredation Subcommittee, reported on the depredation trip that he and Matt Colvin took to Brazil. The trip was funded by the Malpai Borderlands Group, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and The Phoenix Zoo, for the purpose of gathering data on jaguar depredations.

Jack and Matt flew to Brazil on May 1, 1998 and met with Dr. Peter Crawshaw, head of large carnivore studies for the Brazilian Forest Service. Dr. Crawshaw hosted them for three weeks, housing them at various ranches in the Pantanal region of Brazil.

Jack and Matt investigated four jaguar depredations. They made detailed observations on the jaguar's killing method and took measurements of tracks. Tracks were traced onto plastic, and were measured and analyzed when they returned to Arizona. Eighteen to 20 different sized and aged jaguar tracks were collected, in addition to mountain lion, ocelot, and jaguarundi tracks. Jack and Matt will be compiling the track information into a booklet. Bobcat and Mexican gray wolf track information will be added to the book.

A kill on a collared anteater was evaluated. It was eaten in the same manner that a mountain lion eats a porcupine, leaving a hollowed out empty shell, with everything eaten out of the inside. A caiman was reported to be killed by a jaguar, but it was not investigated because no similar species occurs in Arizona.

In addition to track and killing information, six hours of video were recorded. Over two hours were pertinent to the JAGCT, and were summarized onto one video of 35 minutes in length. This was the video shown at the meeting. A 45-minute video of just jaguar kills and 35 minutes of just tracks will be used by the Depredation Subcommittee in evaluating potential jaguar kills.

Jack and Matt will be summarizing their trip and will provide a report to The Phoenix Zoo.

Lunch Break - Breaking for lunch was discussed, and the group agreed to take a ten minute break and come back to finish the meeting. The break was taken at 11:30 and the meeting restarted at 11:40.

E. Task Reports:

1. Election of chairman

Bill Van Pelt discussed the election of the chairman. Terry Johnson was reelected as JAGCT Chair. JAGCT members' responses to the mail-in vote were variable. Bill proposed a by-hand election for the January meeting and no one opposed this suggestion. The group was reminded that the JAGCT meetings are now bi-annual, but subcommittees can meet as often as they wish.

2. Updates on AZ-NM sightings

Bill Van Pelt, Warner Glenn, Mike Pruss, and Greg Schmitt had heard of no new sightings in AZ or NM. The last jaguar sighting in Arizona was in October in the

Cerro Colorado Mountains. Hairs collected from the resting location of the cat proved not to be of a cat species.

Wendy Glenn reported that someone reported a jaguar running across the road in Elfrida three weeks after it was seen. The same person reported that a UPS driver saw one as well. Wendy has been unable to find anyone that can confirm this information. This type of report is a Class III report - an unsubstantiated report of a cat-like creature.

Jack Childs investigated a reported jaguar track on May 21, 1998 in the Cienega Creek area. The track was a black bear track.

3. Kill verification activities

Warner has had no reports of jaguar kills. Warner commended Jack Childs and Matt Colvin for the great job they did in Brazil at gathering jaguar depredation information. Craig Miller expressed his admiration as well.

4. Habitat Identification

Mike Pruss presented the results of the first meeting of Habitat Subcommittee, which was held on June 29, 1998, in Willcox, Arizona. The subcommittee discussed all habitat issues identified in the Conservation Assessment and Strategy, except those involving Section 7 consultations. It was recognized that there was very little to no information available on jaguar habitat needs in Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico. It was hopeful that current studies being conducted in Mexico will help fill in the information gaps.

Current and potential threats to jaguar occurrence and expansion were also discussed by the subcommittee. The primary threat to that was identified by the subcommittee was the loss of travel corridors for jaguars.

The subcommittee worked on identifying possible habitat criteria for evaluating potential jaguar habitat. Based habitat criteria identified by the subcommittee, a map at the 1:250,000 scale for New Mexico and Arizona was evaluated for potential jaguar habitat. A preliminary line was drawn around areas that could be possible habitat.

The line identifying potential habitat is primarily south of Interstate 10, and includes mountain ranges in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona as far west as the Baboquivari Mountains. A few areas north of Interstate 10 were included. The northern part of the Peloncillo Mountains were included because of their continuous nature, with only I-10 to separate them. The Rincon Mountains were included because they are a historic location for jaguars, there is a natural funnel effect created by the Santa Rita, Empire and Whetstone mountains, and they have good connecting

corridors to the Empire Mountains that are currently used by other large predators.

Habitat subcommittee notes, draft Habitat Criteria, and a copy of the map will be included with the final summary notes from this meeting. The Habitat subcommittee is looking for constructive comments and criticism on their work, particularly on the habitat criteria.

The recurring theme of the Habitat Subcommittee meeting was the lack of good habitat information for jaguars in the United States and Mexico. The lack of available funds to collect the data that is needed to begin to answer some of those questions was also a big issue. Potential funding sources for jaguar research were discussed, including Arizona's Heritage grants, Turner Foundation, and Safari Club International.

The next Jaguar Habitat Committee meeting will be at the Gray Ranch on September 22, 1998 at 10 am, New Mexico time. If you are planning to attend, please contact Mike Pruss at (520) 628-5376, ext.143 by September 10, 1998, so he can make the necessary arrangements with the Gray Ranch.

5. Educational material activities

Don Cullum distributed and presented the current status of the Education subcommittee efforts, including work at their last meeting in June. The committee presented a model and verbal comments on the direction of the subcommittee were solicited. With slight modifications to the model, the JAGCT agreed with the direction of the subcommittee.

A sign-up sheet was passed around for people to commit to working on or providing information for a lesson plan. Another Education committee meeting is planned before the next JAGCT meeting but the date is unknown.

6. Increasing legal protection in Arizona

Bill Van Pelt updated the group on the Arizona legislation that proposed increasing the penalties for killing an jaguar in Arizona. The proposed Senate Bill 1108 passed and was signed by the Governor of Arizona on May 7, 1998. The penalties will not become effective until the jaguar is de-listed or down-listed from the Endangered Species Act.

Greg Schmitt, New Mexico Game and Fish, informed the group that New Mexico has no changes in legislation in regards to jaguar.

7. End of the Year report

This report is being worked on now and will hopefully be distributed within the next

month. The report is a summarization of the progress outline distributed at the April 23 meeting and includes appendices of completed tasks such as the scoring sheet for jaguar sightings, depredation information, and current draft of the handling protocol.

F. World Wide Web Page

Bill Van Pelt mentioned that Summary Notes from JAGCT meetings are posted on the web page.

G. Other Business

There was a question about when draft summary notes are mailed out - Draft summary notes generally go out about 10 days after the meeting. We ask for comments back on the draft. Then final notes go out 30 days after the meeting. Final summary notes this time will include the summaries of the subcommittees work. Because of our new six-month meeting format, we will be sending out a reminder in the fall about the January meeting in addition to the reminder that comes out with agenda 30 days prior to the next meeting.

Craig Miller asked if there was an updated contact list for people interested in the participating in the group - Meeting participants sign a sign-up sheet at the meetings, and those people's names and affiliations are attached to the summary notes. The group agreed that we would not include individual phone numbers or addresses. Craig Miller asked if anyone thought a list of participants, addresses and phone numbers for people who didn't mind that information being distributed would be useful. Wendy Glenn suggested including the town of the person on the list. Bill Van Pelt agreed to do that and redistribute the list.

Judy Keeler asked what the JAGCT has done to educate agencies that are working on other issues, like the San Pedro water issues, about what we have accomplished and what we are working on with the jaguar - All of the agencies working on issues in the San Pedro area are part of the JAGCT or JAGWG, get summary notes, send representatives to the meetings, and those agencies have been educating themselves internally. Judy expressed her concern that there is a lack of on-the-ground communication on what information we have gathered.

Craig Miller suggested that we contact the Tohono O'odham Reservation and/or tribal leaders in light of the request for acquisition of a portion of the mountain range may be approved, and that acquisition may have significant implications for jaguar conservation. He suggested we make the effort to include them and encourage them to come on board as a signatory of the MOA. Bill Van Pelt added that we had contacted them earlier in the process, that we had gotten no official response, but that we could re-initiate that contact. The AGFD works with them on Sonoran pronghorn issues, and we may be able to use that contact for jaguar issues. Craig stated that he thought it was important that we stress the significance of the Baboquivari Mountain range.

The date of the next meeting was set. It will be in Douglas, Arizona on Thursday, January 21, 1999 at 9:00 am. Wendy Glenn is making arrangements to hold the meeting at the police station, which has good facilities and plenty room. It is the old Southern Pacific Depot and is a brown building with a wooden dome. It is north of the Cowbell's Hall, near the Dairy Queen. If the meeting location

changes it will be noted in the agenda mailed prior to the January meeting.

H. Close Meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 12:58 New Mexico time.

Attendance Roster

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
Ron Olding	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Don Cullum	Rancher
Judy Keeler	Bootheel Heritage Association
Walt Saenger	Chiricahua National Monument
Diego Villalba	New Mexico State Land Office
Meira Gault	Rancher
Stephen Williams	Arizona State Land Department
Karen Kay Husted	Rancher/educator
Brandon Jones	New Mexico Wildlife Services
Charles Jones	USDA Wildlife Services
Victor Garde	USDA Wildlife Services
Kenneth Stockton	Rancher
Steve Pavlik	Native American Historical Researcher
Raul Valdez	Jaguar Scientific Advisory Group
Gilbert Reeves	People for USA
Sarah Rinkevich	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Billy Taylor	New Mexico State University
Byron Wright	New Mexico State University
Dennis Manning	Arizona Game and Fish Commission
Ben Brown	Gray Ranch
Tim Gatewood	White Mountain Apache Tribe
Bill Van Pelt	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Cordy Cowan	Rancher
Larry Rutherford	Bootheel Heritage Association
Jon Boren	New Mexico State University
V.W. Howard Jr.	New Mexico State University
Paul Pirtle	Depredation Committee
Levi Klump	Rancher
Craig Miller	Defenders of Wildlife
Jay Dusard	Photographer
Nina King	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
Stephanie Coleman	Rancher
Brad Fulk	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Peggy Boss	Rancher