

Jaguar Conservation Team (JAGCT)- Habitat Subcommittee Summary Notes
Willcox, Arizona
June 22, 2000

Meeting Opened – ca. 9:00 a.m.

Introduction - Bill Van Pelt, Arizona Game and Fish Department, went over the purpose, agenda, and ground rules for the meeting. 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. Please allow each person to be heard and keep the meeting moving through the agenda. Break times were established at this time.

In addition, Bill announced that because of personnel changes within the Department, particularly Mike Pruss' leaving, Bill will take over the duties of Chair of the Habitat Subcommittee, effective immediately.

Review Subcommittee Tasks – Tasks and responsibilities identified in the *Conservation assessment and strategy for the jaguar in Arizona and New Mexico* were reviewed.

Task 1. After some discussion, it was agreed that Task 1., a review of scientific literature, was completed.

Most of the remainder of the meeting involved discussion of Task 2 regarding habitat criteria. Habitat criteria had been sent to the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG). SAG recommended removing the 3500' elevation criteria and adding water sources.

Bill Van Pelt presented what transpired at the Mexico workshop, whereby the participants identified approximate jaguar range using rated, point observations overlaid onto habitat-type maps. The resulting map covered all of jaguar range from the southern United States to South America. He suggested that the committee use a similar process, although more refined to allow for the smaller area to be covered (jaguar range in AZ and NM). A discussion followed on such points as:

- Should distribution be based on historical versus modern sightings ? (& review of observation criteria)
- Should we use the 10 or 50 mile radius around jaguar observations to identify habitat?
- Have the Brown, Lowe & Pase maps been ground-truthed in the areas of concern in AZ and NM?
- What to do with potential versus current versus historical habitats?
- How have habitats changed? (a new version of Ray Turner's book "The Changing Mile" may be helpful)

- If we develop these maps, how are they going to be used? Can we dictate that?
- Why are jaguars in the US not in numbers they were historically? Is that a habitat problem?

Then the discussion changed to questions regarding prey density and availability:

- What information do we have regarding prey numbers in AZ and NM? (It seems some of this may have been done by Mike Pruss and others, and we need to review what has been done.)
- How about mapping prey habitats versus prey density?
- Are other factors influencing prey besides habitat quality and climate, such as hunting, harassment, access, etcetera?
- What is happening in Mexico versus U.S. regarding prey?
- What management factors can be controlled versus what cannot?

Action Items – The following action items evolved from the discussion:

1. Judy Keeler and Tony Povilitis will draft a letter to the SAG requesting their further assistance with this process, including meeting with us if possible.
2. Bill Van Pelt will coordinate with NM for habitat and prey data, including investigating availability of GAP data for habitat mapping.
3. Bill Van Pelt will check on the availability of Arizona Game and Fish Department's GIS-based road information and will provide it to Tony Povilitis, if available.
4. Lisa Haynes and Tim Snow will check on what has been done by Mike Pruss regarding AZ's prey data and see if anything more is available in Arizona Game and Fish records.
5. Tony Povilitis and students will map habitat using Brown, Lowe and Pase and possibly GAP maps.
6. Mike Robinson will provide information on the Jacoby sighting to Tim Snow.

Other Business – The next meeting of the Habitat Subcommittee will be at the Jaguar Conservation Team meeting on July 20, 2000. A question arose regarding defining the membership of the Habitat Subcommittee. Bill Van Pelt said that those people who have attended 2 or more meetings are members of the subcommittee. Establishing a timeframe for accomplishing tasks was also suggested.

Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm.

Attendance List

Tim Snow	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Bill Van Pelt	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Lisa Haynes	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Nina King	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Paul Barrett	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dominic DiPaolo	University of California – Extension
Dave Rios	University of California – Extension
Adrienne McCrumb	University of California – Extension
Josh Miller	University of California – Extension
Tom Witzgell	University of California – Extension
Carrie Johnson	University of California – Extension
Tony Povilitis	
Judy Keeler	Boothill Heritage Association
Larry Rutherford	Hidalgo County
Ben Brown	Gray Ranch
Michael Robinson	Center for Biological Diversity
Sue Krentz	