

Jaguar Conservation Team (JAGCT) Summary Notes
Douglas, Arizona
Meeting of April 27, 2006

Introduction

Terry Johnson, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. All in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliation.

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. Only one person was allowed to speak and side conversations were kept to a minimum. This allowed each person to be heard and kept 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. Participants were asked to turn cellular telephones and beepers off or set to vibrate. In the event of a phone call, the recipient was asked to leave the room before conversing with the caller.

B. Agenda Review/Additional Discussion Points

Copies of the agenda were provided during the meeting. The Agenda order was modified, no new/other business was introduced, and the content remained the same.

C. Discussion of summary notes from the January 2006 JAGCT meeting

The January 19-20, 2006 Summary Notes were discussed; no changes were required. Final notes will be posted on the AGFD web-site.

D. Discussion of possible additional signatories to the current and/or future Conservation Agreement under which the JAGCT operates

The JAGCT welcomes additional signatories and recognizes limits to increasing signatories. Clarification was provided that USFWS is not a signatory to the current agreement; however, they may consider signing an updated revision. The JAGCT is a State led effort.

It was clarified that civil penalties at the state level in Arizona would, in the event of federal delisting, now be commensurate with federal penalties under ESA.

E. Task Reports:

1. Update on AZ-NM sightings – Tim Snow and Jim Stuart

New Mexico – One Class 1 sighting was reported in New Mexico. Sighting photos were shared by Warren Glenn.

Arizona – Three Class III sightings have been reported since the last meeting¹.

¹Class I = Evidence such as a carcass, skin, hair, photo, or confirmed tracks. Class II = Report reliable and detailed; reporting party experienced in outdoor activities; multiple parties. Class III = Report vague; description not a jaguar. See Jaguar Conservation Strategy for full definition of Classes.

2. Kill Verification Activities/Camera Surveys (Section 5.H.2.) – Jack Childs
No kills occurred during this reporting period.

The Borderlands Jaguar Detection Project reported 49 data points; 30 photos, 10 scat, and 9 tracks were identified. There was a move to discuss the University of Arizona Scat DNA Analysis report.

3. Scat DNA Analysis Update – University of Arizona and Bill Van Pelt
Funding was provided by multiple sources to support analysis of 142 samples. 67 of the samples had DNA extracted, with all extractions completed by the end of May 2006.
4. Coordination with Mexico – Bill Van Pelt
Bill attended the Trilateral Committee (Trilateral) meeting in San Diego in June 2006. The Trilateral Committee was formed in 1996 via a Memorandum of Understanding between the federal wildlife conservation agencies of the United States, Mexico, and Canada (Canada/Mexico/US Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management). This agreement formally brought together for the first time the three nations of North America, consolidating a continental effort for wildlife and ecosystem conservation and management. The Trilateral Committee facilitates and enhances cooperation and coordination among the wildlife agencies of the three nations in projects and programs for the conservation and management of wildlife, plants, biological diversity, and ecosystems of mutual interest. More information regarding the Trilateral Committee can be found at the following web-site: <www.trilat.org>.

At the Trilateral meeting, Mexico announced it is initiating a Jaguar Conservation Program and will be hosting meetings to discuss development of a management plan for Mexico. The first meeting is likely to occur in August. The goal is to have a draft plan distributed by the end of the year that is the equivalent of a USFWS recovery plan.

Researchers from Mexico met to develop conservation strategies. A recommendation was sent to Mexico's federal government to identify priority areas in Mexico. The focus should be on maintaining existence throughout the country, not just in core areas (e.g. Yucatan).

5. Habitat Committee report and action items – Bill Van Pelt and Jim Stuart
Mr. Van Pelt and Mr. Stuart reviewed the following topics:

- Meeting in February in Lordsburg;
- Summary report handout; and
- Recommendations reviewed.

Discussion regarding meaning of “Potential.” Assignment to identify areas to focus conservation efforts. Concern regarding criteria used (specifically Prey-Based)

6. Research Committee report and action items – Jack Childs

Jack reviewed the objectives and recommendations of the research committee. Emil read the final recommendations. JAGSAG has participated in the research committee work. The following bullets synthesize actions:

- Motion to accept how would we be involved;
- The risk is too great to move forward with these recommendations;
- A risk assessment has been attached to research; and
- Vast emplacement over past proposal / Hot trans related too conservation.

G. Other Business

Jaguar Conservation Team Meetings (May 17 and 19 and June 29-30, 2006)

The state-led Jaguar Conservation Team (JAGCT) will hold two public meetings in May 2006 for discussion of a draft Conservation Assessment and Framework to guide its activities over the next several years.

The first meeting will be May 17, at the James H. Baxter Civic Center, 313 East 4th Street, Lordsburg, New Mexico. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will preside over this meeting, which will begin at 6 pm (NM Time) and end no later than 8 pm.

The second meeting will be May 19, at the International Wildlife Museum (<http://thewildlifemuseum.org/>), 4800 Gates Pass Road, Tucson, Arizona. The Arizona Game and Fish Department will preside over this meeting, which will begin at 6 pm (AZ Time) and end no later than 8 pm.

Downloadable copies of the draft Conservation Assessment and Framework are available from the JAGCT’s website, at http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/es/jaguar_management.shtml (file name: Jaguar Conservation Framework; an 88 kb pdf file).

At each meeting, cooperating agencies and members of the public will have the opportunity to make verbal comment and/or to submit written comment on the draft Framework. Members of the public that would prefer to submit written comment apart from the two meetings can send it via email or postal mail. The JAGCT’s email address is jaguar@azgfd.gov. Postal mail should be addressed to: Jaguar Conservation Team, c/o Arizona Game and Fish Department, 2221 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85023-4399.

All comment on the Framework must be received by 8 pm (AZ Time) on May 19, 2006.

Following the two May public meetings, the Arizona and New Mexico state wildlife agency members of the JAGCT will revise the draft Framework to address the agency and public comment received. By May 31, a revised draft of the Framework will be uploaded to the JAGCT website and available to all JAGCT members and to the public.

The revised draft Framework will then be discussed at a JAGCT public meeting on June 29-30, at the Douglas Visitor's Center, 345 16th Street, Douglas, Arizona. The June 29 session will begin at 10 am (AZ Time) and conclude no later than 5 pm. The June 30 session will be held only if work was not completed the previous day. If it is necessary, the June 30 session will begin at 8:30 am (AZ Time) and conclude no later than 3 pm.

In the June 29-30 meeting, open discussion of the revised Conservation Assessment and Framework will precede each JAGCT signatory agency indicating whether the document is acceptable in its then-present form.

The June 29-30 meeting will also afford government agencies an opportunity to discuss the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under which the JAGCT operates. The agencies will receive copies of a draft revised MOA at the May public meetings mentioned above. At the June 29-30 meeting, agencies present will discuss the MOA and indicate whether they wish to sign it and retain, or be granted, signatory status. Nongovernmental organizations and members of the public will also have an opportunity to comment on the MOA in the meeting, but will not be eligible to become signatories.

JAGCT meetings are open to the public, within the limits of available seating (first come, first served). These public meetings constitute the JAGCT's Working Group, thus providing for participation by any interested individual, organization, or agency. However, final decisions on significant issues are determined by consensus or vote among the governmental signatories to the MOA under which the JAGCT operates.

For further information on jaguar conservation in the Southwest, visit the JAGCT's webpage at http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/es/jaguar_management.shtml. To receive electronically distributed updates on jaguar issues, including these public notices of JAGCT meetings, please visit <http://www.azgfd.gov/signup> and subscribe to the newsletter, Endangered Species Updates.

H. Close Meeting

The next JAGCT meeting is June 29-30, 10:00 am MST, at the Douglas Visitor's Center, 345 16th Street, Douglas, Arizona. Subcommittee chairs: please contact Bill Van Pelt (602.789.3573) before June 16 regarding any photocopying needs.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM.