

MEMORANDUM
TBJ CONSULTING

TO: Eric Gardner, AGFD Nongame Branch Chief

FROM: Terry B. Johnson, TBJ Consulting 

SUBJECT: Public Records Request from CBD for Jaguar Records

DATE: August 13, 2012

The accompanying packet is my response to the public records request that the Arizona Game and Fish Department received on July 24, 2012 from Michael J. Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity, New Mexico, regarding *Jaguar Conservation Assessment for Arizona, New Mexico and Northern Mexico*, co-authored by me, AGFD's William E. Vanpelt and James N. Stuart of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. With regard to the specific components of the request, my response summary is as follows:

1. The "B. Van Pelt personal communication" referenced in the first paragraph of p. 5 of the aforementioned conservation assessment, pertaining to a photograph of a melanistic jaguar from northwestern Mexico whose validity unnamed jaguar experts in Mexico were said to question. **Response:** Bill Van Pelt has separately provided the requested material(s). I have nothing to add.
2. "R. Kohls personal communication; R. Thompson personal communication" referenced on p. 9, footnote 11, regarding AGFD's investigation of and/or speculation over hunting guide C.J. Prock having engaged in canned hunts of wildlife. Please also provide the records of that investigation. **Response:** The referenced communications consisted of the following:
 - a. R. Kohls personal communication. This communication consisted of telephonic conversation(s) between R. Kohls (retired AGFD Game Ranger) and T.B. Johnson in January 2011. The discussions were not extensive and I made no written or other record of them.
 - b. R. Thompson personal communication. This communication consisted of telephonic and/or verbal conversation(s) between R. Thompson (AGFD Game Ranger) and T.B. Johnson between 1998 and 2008. The discussions were of a general nature and I made no written or other record of them.
 - c. Records of investigation. I do not have, and never have had, possession of or access to law enforcement or other investigative case files pertaining to C.J. Prock.
3. Brown & Thompson (2010) referenced on p 9, footnote 11, regarding a quotation attributed to the aforementioned Prock. (Brown and Thompson are not in the conservation assessment's bibliography.) **Response:** This copyrighted publication is available to the public as follows: Brown DE and R Thompson. 2010. Lions, tigers and bears, oh my! The legacy of Curtis J. Prock. In Glinski RL, DJ Aubuchon and B Keebler,

- editors. 2010. Arizona wildlife trophies (ninth edition). Arizona Wildlife Federation, Mesa, Arizona.
4. "Dean 1974; Jones 1974; W. Swank personal communication" referenced on p. 9, footnote 11, regarding Prock's 1964 fine for violating the Lacey Act; and as referenced on p. 9 footnote 13, specific to Jones 1974, regarding nine jaguars that Prock is said to have released near Apache Creek, NM and the federal court case that is said to have ensued. (Neither Jones nor Dean are listed in the conservation assessment's bibliography.) **Response:** The referenced materials are available as follows:
 - a. Dean 1974. Dean P. 1974. Great hunter-guide had certain faults. Arizona Republic 1974: February 24 (Sunday edition). This copyrighted article is available from: articlefinder@arizonarepublic.com or Article Finder, The Arizona Republic, 200 E. Van Buren St., Mail Code LI-18, Phoenix, AZ 85004.
 - b. Jones 1974. Jones RF. 1974. The man who loved cat killing. Sports Illustrated 1974: January 14. This copyrighted publication is available online from CNN/Sports Illustrated at:
<http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/vault/article/magazine/MAG1088195/index.htm>
 - c. W. Swank personal communication. This communication consisted of telephonic and/or verbal conversation(s) between W. Swank (retired AGFD Director) and T.B. Johnson between 1998 and early 2007. The discussions were of a general nature and I made no written or other record of them.
 5. The entire January 2008 email chain between D. Robertson and Terry B. Johnson that includes the email from Robertson referenced on p. 9, footnote 12, regarding hunter Dale Lee. **Response:** See enclosed January 23, 2008 email from D. Robertson addressed to Jaguar (Arizona Game and Fish Department).
 6. The comment letter submitted by D. Parker to USFWS on proposed designation of critical habitat for the jaguar that is referenced on p. 9, footnote 13. **Response:** The referenced comment letter and the attachments thereto are available to the public at:
<http://www.sacpaaz.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/jaguar-final-comments-without-attachments.pdf>
<http://www.sacpaaz.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Jaguar-Attachments.pdf>
 7. All additional records pertaining to the female jaguar killed in 1963 and the male jaguar killed in 1964, both in the White Mountains of Arizona. **Response:** See enclosed draft AGFD document (Jaguar AGFD Records for AZ-NM 1900-2009. Draft 03.) and January 2011 email chain between T.B. Johnson and D.E. Brown (retired AGFD employee). See also response to #6, above, which includes information germane to #7.

TBJ:tj

Bill Vanpelt

From: Zolcoate [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2007 10:33 AM
To: Bill Vanpelt; 'Cuauhtemoc Chavez Tovar'; 'melissa Lopez Barreto'; 'Alonso Aguirre'; 'Alonso Aguirre'; 'Carlos Alcérreca Aguirre'; 'Miguel Amin'; 'Alfonso Aquino'; 'Marcelo Aranda'; 'Joaquín Arrollo'; 'Sergio Ávila'; 'Sergio Ávila'; 'Danae Azuara'; 'Horacio Bárcenas'; 'José Bernal Stoopen'; 'José Bernal Stoopen'; 'Dulce Brousset'; 'Luis Carrillo'; 'Arturo Caso'; 'Arturo Caso'; 'Gerardo Ceballos'; 'Marta Collignon'; 'Épigmenio Cruz Aldán'; 'Antonio De la Torre'; 'Fernando Durand'; 'Fernando Durand'; 'Eduardo Espinosa Medinilla'; 'Juan Carlos Faller'; 'Juan Carlos Faller'; 'Carlos Galindo Leal'; 'Osiris Gaona Pineda'; 'Alejandro González Terrazas'; 'Fernando Guadarrama'; 'Carlos Guichard'; 'Rosa E. Jiménez Maldonado'; 'Rubén A. Lazos Valencia'; 'Ricardo Legaria'; 'Iván Lira Torres'; 'Iván Lira Torres'; 'Rurik List'; 'Carlos López González'; 'maalarmx@yahoo.com'; 'Leonardo Maffei'; 'Leonardo Maffei'; 'Carlos Manterola'; 'Martin Martinez'; 'Osvaldo Martínez González'; 'Rodrigo Medellín'; 'Craig Miller'; 'Oscar Moctezuma'; 'Oscar Moctezuma'; 'Rodrigo Núñez'; 'Manelik Olivera'; 'Patricia Oropeza'; 'María Gabriela Palacios Mendoza'; 'Oscar Ramírez'; 'Gabriel Ramos Fern'; 'Antonio Rivera'; 'Antonio Rivera'; 'Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva'; 'Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva'; 'Octavio Rosas Rosas'; 'Octavio Rosas Rosas'; 'Georgita Ruiz'; 'Erik Saracho'; 'uni2@infosel.net.mx'; 'Manuel Valdés'; 'Jorge Vallejo'; 'Jorge Vallejo'; 'Francisco Verástegui'; 'Diego Woolrich'; 'Heliot Zarza'
Subject: RE: jaguar negro-real or not
Attachments: bjaguarmexl.jpg



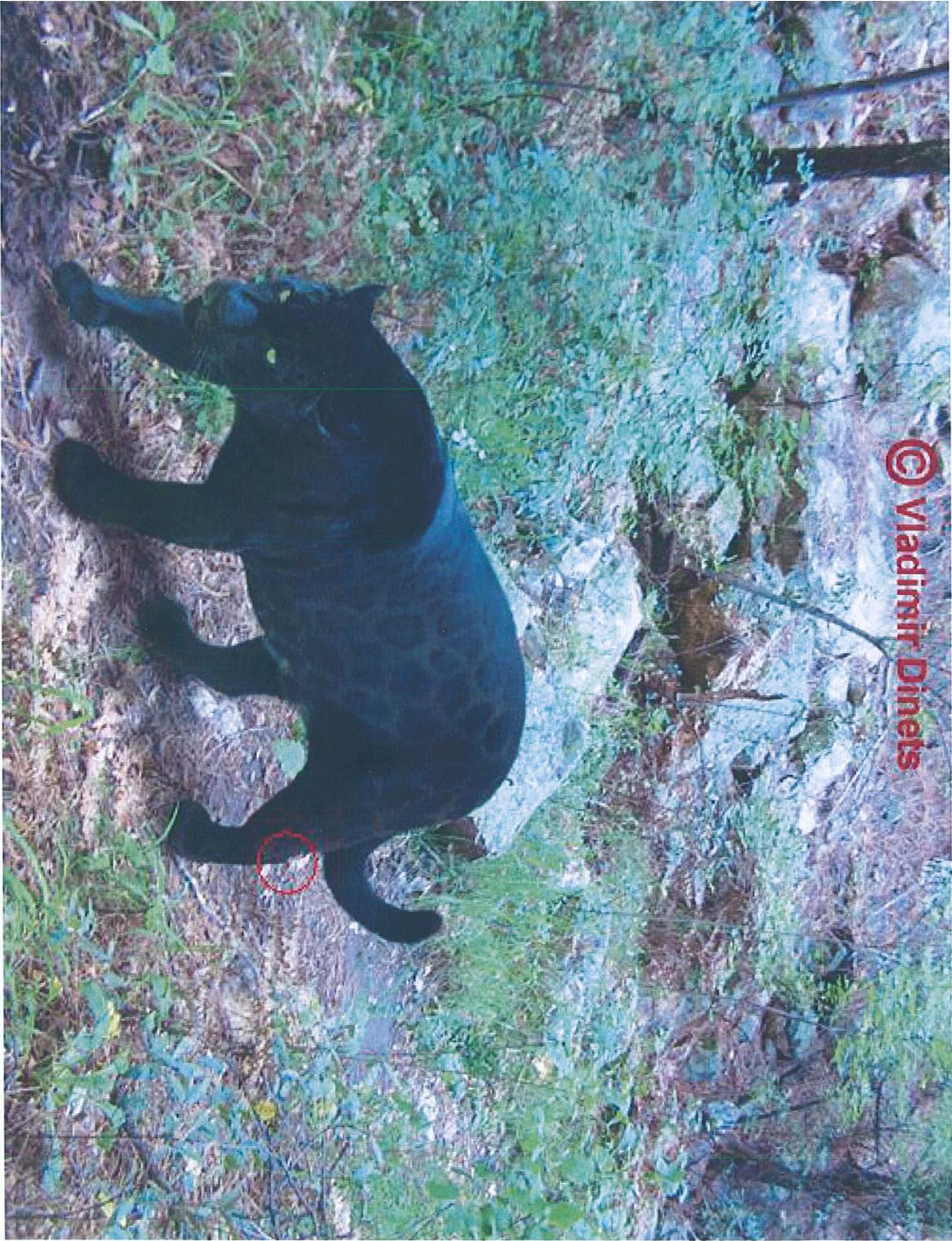
bjaguarmexl.jpg
(117 KB)

Hi Bill.

I reviewed the picture and I found a detail (red circle) in the picture where you can see an error. I think the jaguar was pictured on a dark background.

Rodrigo

© Vladimir Dinets



Bill Vanpelt

From: Sergio Avila [Sergio@skyislandalliance.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2007 10:56 AM
To: Zolcoate; Bill Vanpelt; Cuauhtemoc Chavez Tovar; melissa Lopez Barreto; Alonso Aguirre; Alonso Aguirre; Carlos Alcérreca Aguirre; Miguel Amin; Alfonso Aquino; Marcelo Aranda; Joaquín Arrollo; Sergio Ávila; Danae Azuara; Horacio Bárcenas; José Bernal Stoopen; José Bernal Stoopen; Dulce Brousset; Luis Carrillo; Arturo Caso; Arturo Caso; Gerardo Ceballos; Marta Collignon; Epigmenio Cruz Aldán; Antonio De la Torre; Fernando Durand; Fernando Durand; Eduardo Espinosa Medinilla; Juan Carlos Faller; Juan Carlos Faller; Carlos Galindo Leal; Osiris Gaona Pineda; Alejandro González Terrazas; Fernando Guadarrama; Carlos Guichard; Rosa E. Jiménez Maldonado; Rubén A. Lazos Valencia; Ricardo Legaria; Iván Lira Torres; Iván Lira Torres; Rurik List; Carlos López González; maalarmx@yahoo.com; Leonardo Maffei; Leonardo Maffei; Carlos Manterola; Martín Martínez; Osvaldo Martínez González; Rodrigo Medellín; Craig Miller; Oscar Moctezuma; Oscar Moctezuma; Rodrigo Núñez; Manelik Olivera; Patricia Oropeza; María Gabriela Palacios Mendoza; Oscar Ramírez; Gabriel Ramos Fern; Antonio Rivera; Antonio Rivera; Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva; Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva; Octavio Rosas Rosas; Octavio Rosas Rosas; Georgita Ruiz; Erik Saracho; uni2@infosel.net.mx; Manuel Valdés; Jorge Vallejo; Jorge Vallejo; Francisco Verástegui; Diego Woolrich; Heliot Zarza
Subject: jaguar negro-real or not - my suggestion

I suggest that we enlist all these details and observations to empower Bill Van Pelt to send a letter to CatNews (with the rest of interested people, signing it too).

Examples of observations:

- *fat animal
- *'Micheal Jackson's moonwalk'
- *black background (Rodrigo's red circle) *who sits inside of a tree waiting for a jaguar to pass by, just because tracks were found?
- *etc, etc

Regarding the suggestion to talk to the authors, I think it's a good one, however I think it's important someone with jaguar field-experience contact them (to my knowledge Michael Robinson doesn't have first hand experience with jaguars - I'd trust Rodrigo Nufez or Arturo Caso's opinion first).

In 2003-04 I had the opportunity to exchange some ideas with Dr. Paul Polechla on some jaguar lure-project and I wasn't very impressed with his proposed methodology and research framework. I lost my interest in working with him, and by then I didn't even know about this picture.

My suggestions.

Sergio Avila
Sky Island Alliance
Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-7080 x 16
sergio@skyislandalliance.org
www.skyislandalliance.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Zolcoate [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 24, 2007 10:33 AM
To: 'Bill Vanpelt'; 'Cuauhtemoc Chavez Tovar'; 'melissa Lopez Barreto'; 'Alonso Aguirre'; 'Alonso Aguirre'; 'Carlos Alcérreca Aguirre'; 'Miguel Amin'; 'Alfonso Aquino'; 'Marcelo Aranda'; 'Joaquín Arrollo'; 'Sergio Ávila'; Sergio Avila; 'Danae Azuara'; 'Horacio Bárcenas'; 'José Bernal Stoopen'; 'José Bernal Stoopen'; 'Dulce Brousset'; 'Luis Carrillo'; 'Arturo Caso'; 'Arturo Caso'; 'Gerardo Ceballos'; 'Marta Collignon'; 'Epigmenio Cruz Aldán'; 'Antonio De la Torre'; 'Fernando Durand'; 'Fernando Durand'; 'Eduardo Espinosa Medinilla'; 'Juan Carlos Faller'; 'Juan Carlos Faller'; 'Carlos Galindo Leal';

'Osiris Saona Pineda'; 'Alejandro González Terrazas'; 'Fernando Guadarrama'; 'Carlos Guichard'; 'Rosa E. Jiménez Maldonado'; 'Rubén A. Lazos Valencia'; 'Ricardo Legaría'; 'Iván Lira Torres'; 'Iván Lira Torres'; 'Kurik List'; 'Carlos López González'; 'maalarmx@yahoo.com'; 'Leonardo Maffei'; 'Leonardo Maffei'; 'Carlos Manterola'; 'Martín Martínez'; 'Osvaldo Martínez González'; 'Rodrigo Medellín'; 'Craig Miller'; 'Oscar Moctezuma'; 'Oscar Moctezuma'; 'Rodrigo Núñez'; 'Manelík Olivera'; 'Patricia Oropeza'; 'María Gabriela Palacios Mendoza'; 'Oscar Ramírez'; 'Gabriel Ramos Fern'; 'Antonio Rivera'; 'Antonio Rivera'; 'Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva'; 'Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva'; 'Octavio Rosas Rosas'; 'Octavio Rosas Rosas'; 'Georgita Ruiz'; 'Erik Saracho'; 'Manuel Valdés'; 'Jorge Vallejo'; 'Jorge Vallejo'; 'Francisco Verástegui'; 'Diego Woolrich'; 'Helict Zarza'

Subject: RE: jaguar negro-real or not

Hi Bill.

I reviewed the picture and I found a detail (red circle) in the picture where you can see an error. I think the jaguar was pictured on a dark background.

Rodrigo

Bill Vanpelt

From: Rodrigo A. Medellín [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2007 5:57 PM
To: Juan Carlos Faller
Cc: Bill Vanpelt; 'Cuauhtemoc Chavez Tovar'; 'melissa Lopez Barreto'; 'Alonso Aguirre'; 'Alonso Aguirre'; 'Carlos Alcérreca Aguirre'; 'Miguel Amín'; 'Alfonso Aquino'; 'Marcelo Aranda'; 'Joaquín Arrollo'; 'Sergio Ávila'; 'Sergio Ávila'; 'Danae Azuara'; 'Horacio Bárcenas'; 'José Bernal Stoopen'; 'José Bernal Stoopen'; 'Dulce Brousset'; 'Luis Carrillo'; 'Arturo Caso'; 'Arturo Caso'; 'Gerardo Ceballos'; 'Marta Collignon'; 'Epigmenio Cruz Aldán'; 'Antonio De la Torre'; 'Fernando Durand'; 'Fernando Durand'; 'Eduardo Espinosa Medinilla'; 'Juan Carlos Faller'; 'Carlos Galindo Leal'; 'Osiris Gaona Pineda'; 'Alejandro González Terrazas'; 'Fernando Guadarrama'; 'Carlos Guichard'; 'Rosa E. Jiménez Maldonado'; 'Rubén A. Lazos Valencia'; 'Ricardo Legaria'; 'Iván Lira Torres'; 'Iván Lira Torres'; 'Rurik List'; 'Carlos López González'; 'maalarmx@yahoo.com'; 'Leonardo Maffei'; 'Leonardo Maffei'; 'Carlos Manterola'; 'Martín Martínez'; 'Osvaldo Martínez González'; 'Craig Miller'; 'Oscar Moctezuma'; 'Oscar Moctezuma'; 'Rodrigo Núñez'; 'Rodrigo Núñez'; 'Manelik Olivera'; 'Patricia Oropeza'; 'María Gabriela Palacios Mendoza'; 'Oscar Ramírez'; 'Gabriel Ramos Fern'; 'Antonio Rivera'; 'Antonio Rivera'; 'Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva'; 'Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva'; 'Octavio Rosas Rosas'; 'Octavio Rosas Rosas'; 'Georgita Ruiz'; 'Erik Saracho'; [REDACTED]; 'Manuel Valdés'; 'Jorge Vallejo'; 'Jorge Vallejo'; 'Francisco Verástegui'; 'Diego Woolrich'; 'Heliot Zarza'
Subject: RE: jaguar negro-real or not

Hola Bill,

Good to see you recently. Juan Carlos is right. We all agree that it was a fake but there was never a response in writing to the newsletter. Would you like to spearhead it? Saludos,

--

Dr. Rodrigo A. Medellín
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<http://www.ecologia.unam.mx/Laboratorios/rmedellin/>

Bill Vanpelt

From: Zolcoate [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2007 10:28 AM
To: Bill Vanpelt; 'Cuauhtemoc Chavez Tovar'; 'melissa Lopez Barreto'; 'Alonso Aguirre'; 'Alonso Aguirre'; 'Carlos Alcérreca Aguirre'; 'Miguel Amin'; 'Alfonso Aquino'; 'Marcelo Aranda'; 'Joaquín Arrollo'; 'Sergio Ávila'; 'Sergio Ávila'; 'Danae Azuara'; 'Horacio Bárcenas'; 'José Bernal Stoopen'; 'José Bernal Stoopen'; 'Dulce Brousset'; 'Luis Carrillo'; 'Arturo Caso'; 'Arturo Caso'; 'Gerardo Ceballos'; 'Marta Collignon'; 'Epigmenio Cruz Aldán'; 'Antonio De la Torre'; 'Fernando Durand'; 'Fernando Durand'; 'Eduardo Espinosa Medinilla'; 'Juan Carlos Faller'; 'Juan Carlos Faller'; 'Carlos Galindo Leal'; 'Osiris Gaona Pineda'; 'Alejandro González Terrazas'; 'Fernando Guadarrama'; 'Carlos Guichard'; 'Rosa E. Jiménez Maldonado'; 'Rubén A. Lazos Valencia'; 'Ricardo Legaria'; 'Iván Lira Torres'; 'Iván Lira Torres'; 'Rurik List'; 'Carlos López González'; 'maalarmx@yahoo.com'; 'Leonardo Maffei'; 'Leonardo Maffei'; 'Carlos Manterola'; 'Martín Martínez'; 'Oswaldo Martínez González'; 'Rodrigo Medellín'; 'Craig Miller'; 'Oscar Moctezuma'; 'Oscar Moctezuma'; 'Rodrigo Núñez'; 'Manelik Olivera'; 'Patricia Oropeza'; 'María Gabriela Palacios Mendoza'; 'Oscar Ramírez'; 'Gabriel Ramos Fern'; 'Antonio Rivera'; 'Antonio Rivera'; 'Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva'; 'Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva'; 'Octavio Rosas Rosas'; 'Octavio Rosas Rosas'; 'Georgita Ruiz'; 'Erik Saracho'; 'uni2@infosel.net.mx'; 'Manuel Valdés'; 'Jorge Vallejo'; 'Jorge Vallejo'; 'Francisco Verástegui'; 'Diego Woolrich'; 'Heliot Zarza'
Subject: RE: jaguar negro-real or not

Hi Bill,

That black jaguar picture its a fake. The cat is magic, is like Michael Jackson doing the "moon walker"...its floating. Two years ago in Cuernavaca we were talking with Arturo Caso about this black jaguar in Sinaloa, and we were agree that the pic is a fake. The lights and shadows are not real for a natural situation, besides that jaguar is fat..very fat, like a zoo jaguar.

I sent an email to the author of the picture saying that the picture is a fake, he just said.. "I will send you the original picture"..and I received the same picture from the webpage. These guys have an ecotourism and bird watching company and the site of the Black Jaguar is one of the visited sites. I think they are trying to "increase" the attractiveness of the site saying that black jaguars are present. In resume, for me, the picture is not real, a big fake, a very nice publicity campaign, another proof of a FLAG SPECIHS.

Rodrigo
<http://yaguare.tripod.com>
www.alianza-jaguar.tk
www.refugiojaguar.tk

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Vanpelt [mailto:BVanpelt@azgfd.gov]
Sent: Miércoles, 23 de Mayo de 2007 12:05 p.m.
To: Cuauhtemoc Chavez Tovar; melissa Lopez Barreto; Alonso Aguirre; Alonso Aguirre; Carlos Alcérreca Aguirre; Miguel Amin; Alfonso Aquino; Marcelo Aranda; Joaquín Arrollo; Sergio Ávila; Sergio Ávila; Danae Azuara; Horacio Bárcenas; José Bernal Stoopen; José Bernal Stoopen; Dulce Brousset; Luis Carrillo; Arturo Caso; Arturo Caso; Gerardo Ceballos; Marta Collignon; Epigmenio Cruz Aldán; Antonio De la Torre; Fernando Durand; Fernando Durand; Eduardo Espinosa Medinilla; Juan Carlos Faller; Juan Carlos Faller; Carlos Galindo Leal; Osiris Gaona Pineda; Alejandro González Terrazas; Fernando Guadarrama; Carlos Guichard; Rosa E. Jiménez Maldonado; Rubén A. Lazos Valencia; Ricardo Legaria; Iván Lira Torres; Iván Lira Torres; Rurik List; Carlos López González; maalarmx@yahoo.com; Leonardo Maffei; Leonardo Maffei; Carlos Manterola; Martín Martínez; Oswaldo Martínez González; Rodrigo Medellín; Craig Miller; Oscar Moctezuma; Oscar Moctezuma; Rodrigo Núñez; Rodrigo Núñez; Manelik Olivera; Patricia Oropeza; María Gabriela Palacios Mendoza; Oscar Ramírez; Gabriel Ramos Fern; Antonio Rivera; Antonio Rivera; Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva; Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva; Octavio Rosas Rosas; Octavio Rosas Rosas; Georgita Ruiz; Erik Saracho; uni2@infosel.net.mx; Manuel Valdés; Jorge Vallejo; Jorge Vallejo; Francisco Verástegui; Diego Woolrich; Heliot Zarza
Subject: jaguar negro-real or not

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----- Original Message -----

From: "Melissa López Barreto" <mlopez@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx>
To: "Alonso Aguirre" <aguirre@wildlifetrust.org>, "Alonso Aguirre"
<[REDACTED]>, "Carlos Alcérreca Aguirre"
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<[REDACTED]>, "Leonardo Maffei" <[REDACTED]>, "Leonardo Maffei"
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<[REDACTED]>, "Osvaldo Martínez González" <[REDACTED]>, "Rodrigo
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Moctezuma" <omoctezuma@naturalia.org.mx>, "Rodrigo Núñez"
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Palacios Mendoza" <[REDACTED]>, "Oscar Ramírez"
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<orosasro@nmsu.edu>, "Georgita Ruiz" <georgitarm@conanp.gob.mx>, "Erik Saracho"
<[REDACTED]>, "Manuel Valdés"
<manuelvaldes@unidosparalaconservacion.org>, "Jorge Vallejo"
<[REDACTED]>, "Jorge Vallejo" <[REDACTED]>, "Bill Van Pelt"
<bvanpelt@azgfd.gov>, "Francisco Verástegui" <[REDACTED]>, "Diego Woolrich"
<mundapipa@hotmail.com>, "Helict Zarza"
<hzarza@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx>

Sent: Fri, 21 Oct 2005 11:15:59 -0500
Subject: Urge

> Me pidio Erik Saracho que por favor envíen lo antes posible un resumen
> en menos de una cuartilla de su proyecto de jaguar, sus objetivos y
> alcances

> actuales de conservación así como sus datos generales y un breve
> currículo
en
> el que expliquen quienes son, los proyectos que han realizado y en los
> que

> actualmente trabajan, esto para el paquete que se entregará en la
> reunión
con
> los secretarios de SAGARPA Y SEMARNAT, es muy importante,
>
> Por favor envíenlo a las siguientes direcciones
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]

> Muchas gracias
>
> Saludos
>
> Melissa
>
> Melissa López Barreto
> Laboratorio de Ecología y Conservación de Fauna Silvestre Instituto de
> Ecología, UNAM
> Tel/fax: (55) 5622 90 04
> Circuito exterior s/n anexo al jardín Botánico ext.
> Ciudad Universitaria, Mexico D.F.
> Apdo. 70-275, C.P 04510
>
> --
> Open WebMail Project (<http://openwebmail.org>)
>
> --
> This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by
> OpenProtect(<http://www.openprotect.com>), and is believed to be clean.
----- End of Original Message -----

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This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by
OpenProtect(<http://www.openprotect.com>), and is believed to be clean.

Bill Vanpelt

From: Sergio Avila [Sergio@skyislandalliance.org]
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2007 10:34 AM
To: Bill Vanpelt; Cuauhtemoc Chavez Tovar; melissa Lopez Barreto; Alonso Aguirre; Alonso Aguirre; Carlos Alcérreca Aguirre; Miguel Amin; Alfonso Aquino; Marcelo Aranda; Joaquin Arrollo; Sergio Ávila; Danae Azuara; Horacio Bárcenas; José Bernal Stoopen; José Bernal Stoopen; Dulce Brousset; Luis Carrillo; Arturo Caso; Arturo Caso; Gerardo Ceballos; Marta Collignon; Epigmenio Cruz Aldán; Antonio De la Torre; Fernando Durand; Fernando Durand; Eduardo Espinosa Medinilla; Juan Carlos Faller; Juan Carlos Faller; Carlos Galindo Leal; Osiris Gaona Pineda; Alejandro González Terrazas; Fernando Guadarrama; Carlos Guichard; Rosa E. Jiménez Maldonado; Rubén A. Lazos Valencia; Ricardo Legaria; Iván Lira Torres; Iván Lira Torres; Rurik List; Carlos López González; maalarmx@yahoo.com; Leonardo Maffei; Leonardo Maffei; Carlos Manterola; Martín Martínez; Osvaldo Martínez González; Rodrigo Medellín; Craig Miller; Oscar Moctezuma; Oscar Moctezuma; Rodrigo Núñez; Rodrigo Núñez; Manelik Olivera; Patricia Oropeza; María Gabriela Palacios Mendoza; Oscar Ramírez; Gabriel Ramos Fern'; Antonio Rivera; Antonio Rivera; Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva; Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva; Octavio Rosas Rosas; Octavio Rosas Rosas; Georgita Ruiz; Erik Saracho; uni2@infosel.net.mx; Manuel Valdés; Jorge Vallejo; Jorge Vallejo; Francisco Verástegui; Diego Woolrich; Heliot Zarza
Subject: FW: jaguar melanístico

Hola, Bill and all -

We have discussed this before and the very last thing was Rodrigo M. suggesting to write a short note to CatNews (see below).

Should we write a note and send it? What's your idea/plan for this, Bill?

Sergio Avila
Sky Island Alliance
Tucson, AZ

(520) 624-7080 x 16
sergio@skyislandalliance.org
www.skyislandalliance.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Rodrigo Medellín Legorreta
[mailto:rodbellin@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx]
Sent: Wednesday, November 02, 2005 4:23 PM
To: Juan Carlos Faller
Co: Alonso Aguirre; Alonso Aguirre; Carlos Alcérreca Aguirre; Miguel Amin; Alfonso Aquino; Marcelo Aranda; Joaquín Arrollo; Sergio Ávila; Sergio Avila; Danae Azuara; Horacio Bárcenas; José Bernal Stoopen; José Bernal Stoopen; Dulce Brousset; Luis Carrillo; Arturo Caso; Arturo Caso; Gerardo Ceballos; Marta Collignon; Epigmenio Cruz Aldán; Cuauhtémoc Chavez; Antonio De la Torre; Fernando Durand; Fernando Durand; Eduardo Espinosa Medinilla; Juan Carlos Faller; Carlos Galindo Leal; Osiris Gaona Pineda; Alejandro González Terrazas; Fernando Guadarrama; Carlos Guichard; Rosa E. Jiménez Maldonado; Rubén A. Lazos Valencia; Ricardo Legaria; Iván Lira Torres; Iván Lira Torres; Rurik List; Rurik List; Melissa López; Carlos López González; maalarmx@yahoo.com; Leonardo Maffei; Leonardo Maffei; Carlos Manterola; Martín Martínez; Craig Miller; Oscar Moctezuma; Oscar Moctezuma; Rodrigo Núñez; Rodrigo Núñez; Manelik Olivera; Patricia Oropeza; María Gabriela Palacios Mendoza; Oscar Ramírez; Gabriel Ramos Fern'; Antonio Rivera; Antonio Rivera; Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva; Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva; Octavio Rosas Rosas; Octavio Rosas Rosas; Georgita Ruiz; Erik Saracho; [REDACTED]; Manuel Valdés; Jorge Vallejo; Jorge Vallejo; Bill Van Pelt; Francisco Verástegui; Heliot Zarza
Subject: Re: jaguar melanístico

Hola a todos,

Coincidió con lo que ya se dijo del jaguar negro. No hay manera en que este animal haya sido fotografiado en el medio silvestre. Sugiero que Arturo, Rodrigo N., Juan Carlos, Epigmenio y los que se quieran sumar, preparen una notita muy breve y la manden a Catnews a la brevedad posible para poner las cosas en la realidad. Es super importante que se expresen y es super importante que los autores de la nota sean mexicanos y sean de varias regiones de México. Saludos y un abrazo,

--

Dr. Rodrigo A. Medellín
Instituto de Ecología, UNAM
Ap. Postal 70-275
04510 Ciudad Universitaria, D. F.
MEXICO

Ph: 52-55-5622-9042
Fax: 52-55-5622-8995

DIRECCIÓN FÍSICA (STREET ADDRESS):

Dr. Rodrigo A. Medellín
Instituto de Ecología, UNAM
Circuito Exterior s/n junto al Jardín Botánico Exterior 04510 Ciudad Universitaria, D. F.
MEXICO

Bill Vanpelt

From: Juan Carlos Faller [jcfaller@pronatura-ppy.org.mx]
Sent: Wednesday, May 23, 2007 10:31 AM
To: Bill Vanpelt; 'Cuauhtemoc Chavez Tovar'; 'melissa Lopez Barreto'; 'Alonso Aguirre'; 'Alonso Aguirre'; 'Carlos Alcérreca Aguirre'; 'Miguel Amín'; 'Alfonso Aquino'; 'Marcelo Aranda'; 'Joaquín Arrollo'; 'Sergio Ávila'; 'Sergio Ávila'; 'Danae Azuara'; 'Horacio Bárcenas'; 'José Bernal Stoopen'; 'José Bernal Stoopen'; 'Dulce Brousset'; 'Luis Carrillo'; 'Arturo Caso'; 'Arturo Caso'; 'Gerardo Ceballos'; 'Marta Collignon'; 'Epigmenio Cruz Aldán'; 'Antonio De la Torre'; 'Fernando Durand'; 'Fernando Durand'; 'Eduardo Espinosa Medinilla'; 'Juan Carlos Faller'; 'Carlos Galindo Leal'; 'Osiris Gaona Pineda'; 'Alejandro González Terrazas'; 'Fernando Guadarrama'; 'Carlos Guichard'; 'Rosa E. Jiménez Maldonado'; 'Rubén A. Lazos Valencia'; 'Ricardo Legaria'; 'Iván Lira Torres'; 'Iván Lira Torres'; 'Rurik List'; 'Carlos López González'; 'maalarmx@yahoo.com'; 'Leonardo Maffei'; 'Leonardo Maffei'; 'Carlos Manterola'; 'Martín Martínez'; 'Oswaldo Martínez González'; 'Rodrigo Medellín'; 'Craig Miller'; 'Oscar Moctezuma'; 'Oscar Moctezuma'; 'Rodrigo Núñez'; 'Rodrigo Núñez'; 'Manelík Olivera'; 'Patricia Oropeza'; 'María Gabriela Palacios Mendoza'; 'Oscar Ramírez'; 'Gabriel Ramos Fern'; 'Antonio Rivera'; 'Antonio Rivera'; 'Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva'; 'Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva'; 'Octavio Rosas Rosas'; 'Octavio Rosas Rosas'; 'Georgita Ruiz'; 'Erik Saracho'; 'Manuel Valdés'; 'Jorge Vallejo'; 'Jorge Vallejo'; 'Francisco Verástegui'; 'Diego Woolrich'; 'Heliot Zarza'
Subject: RE: jaguar negro-real or not

Hola Bill:

Some of us talk about the issue months ago and, as far as I know, there was a plan to write and send a letter to IUCN, exposing serious doubts about that report of a "mexican black jaguar". But I think the letter was never sent (or at least, I never heard about it anymore).

Best regards,

Juan Carlos Faller Menéndez

Pronatura Península de Yucatán, A.C.

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Mérida, Yucatán, México
C.P. 97207
Tels. (52) (999) 968-44-36 y 37, Ext. 103

www.pronatura-ppy.org.mx

-----Mensaje original-----

De: Bill Vanpelt [mailto:BVanpelt@azgfd.gov] Enviado el: Miércoles, 23 de Mayo de 2007 12:25 p.m.

Para: Cuauhtemoc Chavez Tovar; melissa Lopez Barreto; Alonso Aguirre; Alonso Aguirre; Carlos Alcérreca Aguirre; Miguel Amín; Alfonso Aquino; Marcelo Aranda; Joaquín Arrollo; Sergio Ávila; Sergio Ávila; Danae Azuara; Horacio Bárcenas; José Bernal Stoopen; José Bernal Stoopen; Dulce Brousset; Luis Carrillo; Arturo Caso; Arturo Caso; Gerardo Ceballos; Marta Collignon; Epigmenio Cruz Aldán; Antonio De la Torre; Fernando Durand; Fernando Durand; Eduardo Espinosa Medinilla; Juan Carlos Faller; Juan Carlos Faller; Carlos Galindo Leal; Osiris Gaona Pineda; Alejandro González Terrazas; Fernando Guadarrama; Carlos Guichard; Rosa E. Jiménez Maldonado; Rubén A. Lazos Valencia; Ricardo Legaria; Iván Lira Torres; Iván Lira Torres; Rurik List; Carlos López González; maalarmx@yahoo.com; Leonardo Maffei; Leonardo Maffei; Carlos Manterola; Martín Martínez; Oswaldo Martínez González; Rodrigo Medellín; Craig Miller; Oscar Moctezuma; Oscar Moctezuma; Rodrigo Núñez; Rodrigo Núñez; Manelík Olivera; Patricia Oropeza; María Gabriela Palacios Mendoza; Oscar Ramírez; Gabriel Ramos Fern; Antonio Rivera; Antonio Rivera; Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva; Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva; Octavio Rosas Rosas; Octavio Rosas Rosas; Georgita

* (E.B.D./C.S.I.C.) *
* Pabellón del Perú *
* Avda. María Luisa, s/n *
* 41013 Sevilla *
* Tel. 954 232 340 (ext.215) *
* Fax. 954 621 125 *

----- Original Message -----

From: "melissa Lopez Barreto" <mlopez@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx>
To: "Alonso Aguirre" <aguirre@wildlifetrust.org>, "Alonso Aguirre"
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<amin@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx>, "Alfonso Aquino" <[REDACTED]>, "Marcelo Aranda"
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<[REDACTED]>, "Leonardo Maffei" <[REDACTED]>, "Leonardo Maffei"
<lmaffei@wcs.org>, "Carlos Manterola" <cmanterola@conservation.org>, "Martín Martínez"
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<ramosfer@psych.upenn.edu>, "Antonio Rivera"
<[REDACTED]>, "Antonio Rivera" <[REDACTED]>, "Dino
Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva"
<[REDACTED]>, "Dino Rolando Rodríguez Villanueva"
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<manuelvaldes@unidosparalaconservacion.org>, "Jorge Vallejo"
<[REDACTED]>, "Jorge Vallejo" <mv[REDACTED]>, "Bill Van Pelt"
<bvanpelt@azgfd.gov>, "Francisco Verástegui" <[REDACTED]>, "Diego Woolrich"

<[REDACTED]>, "Heliot Zarza"
<hzarza@miranda.ecologia.unam.mx>
Sent: Fri, 21 Oct 2005 11:13:58 -0500
Subject: Urge

> Me pidio Erik Saracho que por favor envíen lo antes posible un resumen
> en
> menos de una cuartilla de su proyecto de jaguar, sus objetivos y
> alcances
> actuales de conservación así como sus datos generales y un breve
> currículo en
> el que expliquen quienes son, los proyectos que han realizado y en los
> que
> actualmente trabajan, esto para el paquete que se entregará en la
> reunión con
> los secretarios de SAGARPA Y SEMARNAT, es muy importante,
>
> Por favor envío a las siguientes direcciones
>
> [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
>
> Muchas gracias
>
> Saludos
>
> Melissa
>
> Melissa López Barreto
> Laboratorio de Ecología y Conservación de Fauna Silvestre Instituto de
> Ecología, UNAM
> Tel/fax: (55) 5622 90 04
> Circuito exterior s/n anexo al Jardín Botánico ext.
> Ciudad Universitaria, México D.F.
> Apdo.70-275, C.P 04510
>
> --
> Open WebMail Project (<http://openwebmail.org>)
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> --
> This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by
> OpenProtect(<http://www.openprotect.com>), and is believed to be clean.
----- End of Original Message -----

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This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by
OpenProtect(<http://www.openprotect.com>), and is believed to be clean.

Terry Johnson

From: CAPTAIN DALE [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2008 3:38 AM
To: Jaguar
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: DALE & CLELL LEE'S JAGUAR "PRANK"
Attachments: faint_grain.jpg; wave1W.gif; imstp_pets_cat1_en.gif

I HUNTED AND RELOCATED SEVERAL LIONS & BEARS WITH DALE LEE BACK IN THE 60'S/70'S, WHEN DALE WAS WORKING WITH THE FT HUACHUCUA WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT, AND CONTRACTING (I BELIEVE) TO THE STATE, RELOCATING PROBLEM ANIMALS.

ONE NIGHT, SITTING AROUND THE CAMPFIRE IN THE CHIRACAHUAS (SP?) DALE MADE ME TAKE A SOLEMN OATH TO NOT DISCLOSE WHAT HE WAS "FIXIN" TO TELL ME UNTIL AFTER HE PASSED, BUT, WHEN HE AND CLELL HAD GONE DOWN TO GUATAMAULA FOR THE GUATAMAULAN GOVERNMENT TO CAPTURE AND RELOCATE SOME NUSIANCE ANIMALS, DALE BROUGHT BACK A LITTER OF JUNGLE CATS, NURTURED THEM TO A SURVIVABLE STATE, AND TURNED THEM LOOSE IN THAT AREA. (BETWIXT WILCOX AND THE CHIRACAHUAS.) NOW, I'M SORRY I DON'T RECALL THE NUMBERS IN THAT LITTER, BUT TO MY RECOLLECTION, IT WAS AN UNUSUALLY LARGE LITTER. I DO REMEMBER HIM KEEPING THE LITTER OF JAGUAR KITTENS AT THE FT HUACHUCUA WILDLIFE AREA, BUT I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER HOW MANY?

DALE THOUGHT THAT WAS FUNNY AS HELL! AND, THAT WAS GOING TO BE HIS JOKE ON THE AREA HUNTERS.

IF YOU'LL CHECK YOUR HISTORY, YOU'LL FIND THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HIRED THE "LEE BROTHERS" WHEN (BACK IN THE 1950'S) THAT COUNTRY WAS HAVING PROBLEMS WITH MAN-EATING BENGALS. DALE AND CLELL WENT TO INDIA AND CAPTURED/KILLED SEVERAL CATS, OR RELOCATED THEM.

DALE AND CLELL HAD AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AS THE BEST "CAT TRAPPERS" OF THEIR TIME.

(I'VE OFTEN WONDERED IF THE NOTORIOUS "ONZA" WAS A PART OF DALE'S "JOKE ON ARIZONA"?)

I KEPT MY OATH TO DALE, AS HE PASSED IN THE 1980'S, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE MADE THIS PUBLIC STATEMENT. NOW, THAT I'M IN MY TWILIGHT YEARS, I FELT IT WAS TIME TO SAY SOMETHING.

DALE ROBERTSON
SEDONA
[REDACTED]



Terry Johnson

From: Terry Johnson
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 4:26 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Jaguar: Conservation Assessment

First, I can't thank you enough for looking at the whole damned thing at all, let alone under this timeline. Damn my hide is right! I owe you a day.

Second, the black jaguar: I only drone on about it because we have probably spent 300 hours (days?) in JAGCT meetings covering that same ground repeatedly because Michael Robinson butts heads with Judy Keeler and Sue Krentz on that issue damned near every meeting. I am sick of hearing about that issue so I figured put in writing and tell them all to read that passage if they are interested.

Conservation strategies would be a good discussion. I will look forward to it, but definitely NOT in this magnum opus or in a Recovery Team meeting.

Great comment on the John Russo historical action. I will integrate that. And I will drop all the Prock records when the final version of that table is cut loose. I am keeping there right now so I don't lose track of them in working with the Assessment and the ongoing investigation documents.

Thanks for the comment on the Culbreath and Penrod jaguars. When the Assessment goes out, I know I will be blasted by Dennis Snarker and Jim Chilton for not tossing them.

I will go back through and re-flag any record in my table that is not in Brown and Lopez 2001. Sounds like I might have kept something that might not belong. I knew your interviews cut a lot deeper than our files. Talk about a mess: just look at our raw files for jaguar, ocelot and jaguarundi. Oh, I guess you have. By the end of February I will have "cleansed" them all and will have completed a report to USFWS arguing they drop the jaguarundi for AZ. I have done that twice before since the Levy petition. Now having re-examined every record we have, including the errors we created, I know for sure I should have killed the listing when Seymour gave me the opening.

I am interested in the Texas jaguars. USFWS did let TX skate, no doubt about. All those African ungulates would make good jaguar chow. On the other hand, my contention is that neither TX nor AZ-NM should have to screw around with a "recovery plan." I had to miss the first recovery team meeting because of head issues but Van Pelt attended and he said Paul Baier finally saw the light on day three. He said something to the effect that "Wow, I guess you really can recover that northern population without even considering Arizona or New Mexico." Sounds like progress, given that on Day One he was arguing from that "Delphi Black Magic" that the recovery area should extend all the way to the Grand Canyon.

Thanks again, Dave. I will make the edits along with whatever I need to do if Randy gets back to me. I don't expect to get anything from Tim Snow, which is what I got from Bill and Jim.

Thx, Terry B. Johnson
Endangered Species Coordinator

Tel 623-236-7707; Fax 623-236-7366
Email teebeej@azgfd.gov
Website <http://azgfd.gov/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 4:03 PM
To: Terry Johnson
Subject: Re: Jaguar: Conservation Assessment

Wow, Terry, I never knew you were so involved with jaguar records and jaguar conservation! It took me all day to read these 82 pages and the table! Damn your hide!!!

I don't know about a lot of the contents as much of it involves meetings and goings on outside of my involvement. As for what I do know, I saw nothing that gave me any major heartburn. When you came to a contentious statement you carefully presented both viewpoints and you put the various observations et al in good context.

We could discuss conservation strategies until the cows come home and that would be a fun exercise. That, however, would result in an ever greater length to an already too lengthy report (e.g. the black jaguar discussion). My only suggested changes therefore are to modify the statement that Arizona conservation actions began in 1996 with the Glenn episode and mention that John Russo actually began the conservation process when he recommended and succeeded in getting the jaguar a protected species in Arizona in 1969. I would also drop ALL Prock assisted records from the table as the animals taken were bogus by his own admission. These are recorded in blue on your table and should be just dropped.

I agree that other animals may not be valid. You have handled the Culbreath and Penrod jaguars well in this regard as these records CANNOT be discounted based solely on suspicion. There are several other jaguar records from the White Mountains and the Indians have a Tiger Mountain and report these animals as "formerly present." There are other questionables--the cubs in the Chiricahuas may have been lions as kittens of both species are spotted. The point, however, is that I only included records that were documented in writing and published in Brown and Lopez 2001. And, unlike other recorders we personally interviewed all those folk that killed jaguar, who were still available (Farley, McGee, Penrod, Culbreath, etc.). The records in Brown and Lopez 2001 are therefore all vetted in as far as possible even though the possibility remains that there are some "iffy" contributors. Neither Culbreath nor Penrod nor any one included was guided by Prock or anyone else, however. I also agree with you completely that the jaguars taken in Arizona do not represent a known resident, breeding population. The answer to that is *quien sabe?*

Someday I would like to work up a list with you of Texas jaguars (I have 5 in front of me). My thinking is that state has got off the hook unfairly because their jaguars disappeared first. They actually had a more substantial population and should be mired down in jaguar recovery to a greater degree than Arizona. Heck, they have more habitat and more game to feed them.

David

-----Original Message-----

From: Terry Johnson <TJohnson@azgfd.gov>
To: Dave Brown <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thu, Jan 27, 2011 8:56 am
Subject: RE: Jaguar: Conservation Assessment

These should work. If not, I have exhausted my technical expertise.

Thx, Terry B. Johnson
Endangered Species Coordinator

Tel 623-236-7707; Fax 623-236-7366
Email teebeej@azgfd.gov
Website <http://azgfd.gov/>

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 8:12 AM

To: Terry Johnson
Subject: Re: Jaguar: Conservation Assessment

One problem, Terry--the documents you sent open in gibberish. Both of my computers are programmed with an older version of microsoft. Could you send the two documents in an earlier format like Julie does?

Thanks David

In a message dated 1/26/2011 11:22:24 P.M. US Mountain Standard Time, TJohnson@azgfd.gov writes:

Thanks Dave

This message sent by Blackberry. Will amplify later (if necessary), when I land at a computer. Thx, Terry B. Johnson, AGFD ES Coordinator

From: [REDACTED]
To: Terry Johnson
Sent: Wed Jan 26 18:30:47 2011
Subject: Re: Jaguar: Conservation Assessment

Sure, Terry--I will review and get my comments to you before Sunday.

David

In a message dated 1/25/2011 1:25:03 P.M. US Mountain Standard Time, TJohnson@azgfd.gov writes:

Hi!

On or very soon after January 31, I plan to release the attached document. I have been through the thing so many times in December and January that I am not sure I even think while I read through it again and again to find errors of omission or commission. Bill Van Pelt and Jim Stuart just ran through it and found no problems but experience tells me neither one has as careful an eye for such things as is needed. Thus, I am sending it to you in hopes that you might make time between now and Sunday to read all or part of it critically and return comment to me. I do consider the draft confidential so please don't share it with anyone. If you don't want to comment on it, please let me know ASAP so I don't waste time waiting to hear from you later.

The second attachment is my current and near-final version of the "definitive" tally of jaguar occurrences in AZ and NM from 1900 on. Comment on that would also be appreciated.

If I can put these two things to bed, I can finally return Randy's jaguar material!

Thx, Terry

Terry B. Johnson
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Email teebeej@azgfd.gov

1971: 10/16	R Farley and T Cartier, pers. comm.; Santa Cruz Co. court records; photographs	M	AZ, SACO: S of Hwy 82 and N of Nogales along Santa Cruz River	Killed by boys duck hunting with shotguns	Semidesert Grassland and Madrean Evergreen Woodland	Brown 2001
1965: 11/15-16	Laurence Medicine, Pers. Comm., photographs, skull at U of A	M	AZ, SACO: Patagonia Mts	Shot while deer hunting	Madrean Evergreen Woodland	Brown 2001
1964: 1/16, validity questioned	PARC (USFWS) agent Russel Culbreath, Pers. Comm. AGFD game wardens speculate animal might have been released in "canned hunt" before Culbreath trapped it. R Babb and R Thompson pers. comm.	M	AZ, SW of HD Ranch on breaks above Black River FAIR	Trapped and killed	Semidesert Grassland and Great Basin conifer woodland	Brown 2001
1963: 9/28, validity questioned	Terry Perrod, pers. comm., photographs. AGFD game wardens speculate animal might have been released in "canned hunt" before Perrod shot it. R Babb and R Thompson pers. comm.	F	AZ: at 9000 ft at S of Big Lake, White Mts	Shot while predator calling	Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest and Subalpine Conifer Forest	Brown 2001; R Kohls pers. comm.
1961: 7/25-26	El Barnett, El Hilton, T. Ferguson, S Goodwin, pers. comm. from Barnett, photographs	M	AZ, Chienega Creek Ranch, Total Wreck Mine, Empire Mts	Bayed with dogs and shot (7 times at 15 ft) as stock killer	Semidesert Grassland/Riparian	Brown 2001
1958-1959	Three jaguars taken in AZ on C.J. Brock-led mule hunts (considered invalid due to inappropriateness and release of captive animals. DE Brown pers. comm)	399	AZ, SACO, Nevada Area	Shot by emerald shrews		[B] Brown pers. comm.; Brown and Thompson 2010
1957: Oct-Nov	Mr. Ferguson fide Sewell Goodwin and P. Cosper	M	AZ, Red Mt near Clifton	Shot while deer hunting	Chaparral and Madrean Evergreen Woodland	Brown 2001
1956-57: Winter	Jimmy Gilbert, skull at U of A	M	AZ, White River, FAIR		Riparian and Great Basin Conifer Woodland	Brown 2001
1949: 11/13	Walter Neom, AZ Dads Star, Heald, Hock, Housholder, Photographs	F	AZ, PIC/O, Cerro Colorado	Shot while deer hunting	Semidesert Grassland	Brown 2001
1948: Spg	Ray Larshman Housholder	M	AZ, SACO, South of Patagonia	Bayed with hounds and shot by predator trapper	Madrean Evergreen Woodland	Brown 2001
1947	Jim (Converse?) Housholder fide AGFD O, Peterson	Unknown	AZ, PIC/O, Anasosa or Tamacouri Mts?	Killed beaver	Madrean Evergreen Woodland	Brown and Lopez Gonzalez 2000 or Brown 2001
1940 (ca.)	Lavern West fide Steve Smith, Brown interview	Unknown	AZ, Trout Creek, FAIR	Taken with dogs	Riparian in Rocky Mountain Montane	Brown 2001

ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Sunday, Feb. 24, 1974

(Section B) Page 1

Paul Dean

*Great hunter-guide
had certain faults*

High on the Rim, when the campfire is red-hot mesquite, when there's a gun-oil smell in the smoke and the Wild Turkey has started to stink, the old boys wonder what anyone hears from Curtis Jackson Prock.



A grand hunter and a better guide whose talents came from eye and instinct. That was Prock or C.J.

A former constable who cleaned up Eloy's murderous Joe Louis Heights in the '40s and said he shot seven men in the line of duty and was believed because he was a man who spoke facts, not brags. That was Prock.

Ah, such stories about Prock.

He used to say that he was fast enough to outdraw himself in a mirror and there were some who swear they saw it happen.

Others remember that Prock's voice carried the same frightening threat of his pickle-barrel build and he once talked a suspect out of a loaded, cocked, 12-gauge shotgun.

As a hunter of wildlife, not men, Prock built similar light legends.

His hunting hounds were considered the best in the world and his pack was worth \$40,000. Prock would pay up to \$1,000 for any Bluetick or Redbone or Walker who met his field standards.

He commuted by pickup between his home in south Phoenix and his ranch near Belize, British Honduras. He guided Joe Foss, Medal of Honor-winning fighter pilot, former governor of South Dakota, on jaguar hunts. He took former Texas Gov. John Connally to where the big cats preyed.

Prock trained Sally, a year-old mountain-lion which starred in Walt Disney's "Grand Canyon" and "Killer

But in 1959, Prock's name showed up in strange sequence with statistics filed by the U.S. National Museum in Washington.

A master sheet showed that in the 59 years between 1890 and 1949, only 30 jaguars, animals which had wandered from Mexico, were shot in Arizona. In the next decade between 1949 and 1958, no jaguars were killed in Arizona.

But in one 12-month period reaching into 1959, three jaguars were taken by hunters in the Nogales area. And Prock had been the guide for all three hunts.

Suspicious began stirring. A quiet investigation was started. Then wildlife enforcement officers found caged mountain lions at Prock's home.

And in 1964, a U.S. District Court Judge in Phoenix fined Prock \$300 and suspended a 90-day prison sentence after finding the chunky hunter guilty of violating the Lacey Act.

This conviction proved that Prock had been buying mountain lions throughout the Southwest, caging them on a refuge he owned in Utah, then turning them loose for canned hunts.

The court banned Prock from ever serving as a hunting guide in Arizona. Prock gave up our state. Arizona friends lost his tracks.

But Prock didn't lose his slaughtering ways, nor the attention of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The hunter became the hunted in New Mexico, Idaho, Washington and Massachusetts. Jaguar hides, prizes from Prock hunts, showed up in a taxidermy studio in Spokane but had been shipped from New Mexico, a state empty of wild jaguars.

A \$3,900 check signed by C. J. Prock bought a jaguar, an arctic wolf, two cougars and a grizzly bear from an animal farm in Blackstone, Mass.

Prock was finally treed in Apache Creek, N.M., where, for a maximum of \$3,500 a hunt, he was taking outdoors-

Continued from Page B-1

men after jaguars, cougars and bobcats. Again, they were "guaranteed hunts." Again, Procks' customers had animals in their sights within two hours of leaving camp.

In December, in Boise, Idaho, the locale of one "hunt" which bagged a black bear with cage scrapes, Prock pleaded nolo contendere to one of six counts developed by a New Mexico grand jury. The other counts were dismissed in plea-bargaining.

Investigators said Prock had trapped jaguars in Latin-America and smuggled them across the Mexican border to sell his instant-kill expeditions. Other animals, bear and cougar, had been purchased in one state and transported to

another for release before hunters' guns.

Prock was fined \$5,000, sentenced to a year in prison and placed on probation. But all of this was suspended. Prock ended up paying a \$2,000 fine.

Government investigators have screamed about a \$2,000 fine which is less than the sales tax Prock would have paid for such hunting. They are moaning about the bad bargain of collecting \$2,000 for a case which cost \$20,000 to prosecute.

They know that such leniency will not help an endangered species like the jaguar.

They know that such piddling penalties will not endanger men like Prock. Or make his primeval species extinct.

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The Man Who Loved Cat Killing

At \$3,500 a crack, Curtis Jackson Prock guided "guaranteed" jaguar hunts where no jaguars had been seen in 60 years

Robert F. Jones

In an era when hunting is under the gun, the last thing the sport needs is the sort of outdoors immorality revealed last month in Boise, Idaho. It was the final chapter of a tale of illegal, cold-blooded slaughter that would have made an Esau blush. The victims were a black leopard and four spotted jaguars, all of them caged and illegally smuggled into New Mexico, then released before the guns of hunters who had been told they were shooting "wild varmints."

Before Judge J. Blaine Anderson in the U.S. District Court in Boise, the perpetrator of the misdeeds, Curtis Jackson Prock, 60, of McCall, Idaho and Belize City, Belize, pleaded nolo contendere to conspiracy, one of six counts contained in an indictment issued by a New Mexico federal grand jury. The other five counts were dismissed on a motion by Assistant U.S. Attorney Wilbur Nelson.

Prock, one of the West's most renowned hunting guides, was an organizer of "guaranteed" hunts in which the price of a jaguar ran to \$3,500. Until recently Prock conducted what are assumed to be wholly legal jaguar hunting operations on his ranch in Belize. There he guided such well-known outdoorsmen as Joe Foss, former governor of North Dakota and commissioner of the old American Football League, and John Connally, former governor of Texas, on cat hunts that inevitably produced. Then, on March 30, 1972, the jaguar was declared an "endangered species" whose hunting was forbidden worldwide except under the most stringent of licensing procedures. That closed down Prock's Belize operation—at least temporarily.

Soon afterward, wealthy hunters who contacted Prock began hearing strange and exciting yarns of wild jaguars on the loose in southern New Mexico. According to Dr. James S. Findley, curator of mammals at the University of New Mexico's Museum of Southwestern Biology, there have been only three authenticated sightings of jaguars in the state in this century—and the most recent of these took place before 1910. But Prock was right. There were jaguars in New Mexico simply because Prock was releasing them from cages virtually under the rifle sights of his enthusiastic hunters.

The locale where the cats were said to be pocketed was the high country around Apache Creek, about a day's drive southwest of Albuquerque. In early August 1972 Prock began bringing clients into the Apache Creek country, and jaguars began to die. On the 10th and 11th of that month, according to the indictment, one Rodolfo F. Barrera, a wealthy businessman of Monterrey, Mexico, paid Prock for the privilege of zapping two cats there. Over the next seven months seven more jags were taken, as well as three cougars and two

bobcats. Enforcement officers of both the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service uncovered evidence that some, if not all, of the cats were trapped and illegally imported.

Prock's clients have told investigators a chilling story of how all this occurred. The cats that finally appeared as targets for Prock's hunter were probably either trapped somewhere in Latin America and then smuggled across the Mexican border (in the case of the jag), or brought in across state lines (as with some of the cougars and certainly the leopard). In one case an agent in Spokane discovered that on Oct. 30, 1972 Denver Hammons (who was named one of Prock's co-conspirators) appeared at the Southwick Animal Farm in Blackstone, Mass. and picked up a jaguar, a grizzly bear, an arctic wolf and a black leopard, along with two cougars. He paid for the animals with a \$3,900 check signed by C.J. Prock.

To anyone who has ever hunted wild game, the ease with which Prock's "guaranteed hunts" went off should have been as suspiciously smelly as a week-old wolf carcass. Take the experience of Dr. Arthur Bator of East Lansing, Mich. Bator is an optometrist and an inveterate sheep hunter. He has had enough experience to know how challenging a big-game hunt can be. Yet on the morning of Feb. 17, 1973, within a few minutes of his arrival at the Apache Creek country, he had a jaguar in the sights of his rifle, and an instant later it was dead. "A bell should have rung right then," Bator said later, "but sometimes it will happen for you that way—only rarely, to be sure—but it can happen. Then, only about an hour later, by darn if we didn't have a bobcat bayed. I shot it. That afternoon we got a mountain lion. Three trophy cats in one day's hunting. When the agents began checking with me on the details of the hunt, and I became aware that it had probably been 'canned,' I was as sick at my soul as a hunter could ever be."

Bator has a photograph of himself and Prock posed beside the carcass of the jaguar. The two men have assumed the traditional mien of the successful hunter, though Dr. Bator looks a bit worried. Perhaps it is because his freshly slain tropical cat is lying in about four inches of fresh-fallen snow.

Another client of Prock's was Bill Bee-be, an outdoors writer from Santa Monica, Calif. Beebe hunted black bears with Prock last April in Idaho, near the guide's ranch. His partner on the hunt was Bill Poole, a big-game enthusiast who makes his living as the owner and highly efficient skipper of a long-range party boat.

The first day Beebe and Poole sat in Prock's truck while his dog pack howled vainly after a bear it could not tree. "Prock told us not to worry, there were plenty more bears around," Beebe recalled. "At four the next morning C.J.'s wife Dorothy came pounding at the door of our motel room. 'Come on,' she yelled, 'C.J.'s got a bear treed.'" According to Beebe, he was a little suspicious when Mrs. Prock told him that C.J. had the bear cornered about four or five miles down a dirt road on the outskirts of town and to look for his truck on the left-hand side of the road.

They found Prock, all right, and a bear cornered in a stand of lodgepole pine. Bill Poole killed it. An hour later the dogs bayed another bear, and it was up to Beebe to shoot it. "I did," Beebe recalls, "but I'm not a damned bit proud that I did. When it tumbled out of the tree I saw that its hide was badly rubbed. In April a bear should be fresh out of hibernation, with a hide as thick and glossy as an Afghan rug. I wondered then about the scrapes—that they might have been the result of caging. And just as I never had the guts to say no and let that bear go, I never had the guts to ask Prock if the bear had been a released animal."

One hunter who did have the guts to say no to a Prock setup was Roy L. Goulart, a real-estate magnate from El Cajon, Calif. On the morning of Feb. 19, 1973 Goulart was offered a shot at a jaguar cornered by Prock's dogs in the Apache Creek area. Goulart refused the

shot: the cat was too small for his taste. Prock was dismayed, but that night he brought another cat—this time a good-sized one—into Goulart's sights. Goulart took it. Like so many of the men who hunted with Prock, Goulart had been told that the matter of licenses and permits had already been taken care of out of their down payment. After all, with a \$3,500 price tag on a jaguar, one assumes that the nitty-gritty details of the hunt have been looked after by the guide. In point of fact, Goulart had no license, and thus his name appeared in the indictment, though not as one of those indicted.

Most of the detective work in the case was performed by Nando Mauldin, 46, formerly assistant chief of wildlife enforcement for the New Mexico Game and Fish Department and now an administrative staff officer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. During his nearly 19 years with the department Mauldin was the busiest buster of game-law violators in New Mexico's history. But the Prock case was probably the biggest—and surely the most scandalous—of his career. It came to his attention after a federal wildlife agent in Spokane, Dale Home, discovered some jaguar hides sent from New Mexico in the inventory of the Knopp Bros. Taxidermy Studio. Home knew there were no wild jaguars in New Mexico and the investigation came into Mauldin's hands.

Under the Lacey Act, which prohibits interstate transportation of unlawfully taken wild animals, Prock was liable to a \$10,000 fine and /or a year in prison for each of his alleged violations. On the conspiracy charge the penalties are the same. Moreover, courts usually look sternly at second offenders: Prock had been convicted of a Lacey Act violation in Arizona on June 19, 1964 when a U.S. District Court judge fined him \$300 and suspended a 90-day prison sentence, at the same time forbidding Prock any further guiding in Arizona.

Despite Prock's past performance, Judge Anderson was remarkably lenient. He fined Prock \$5,000 and sentenced him to a year in prison, plus two years probation, on the conspiracy charge—then suspended all of that sentence except for a \$2,000 fine.

"You bet your life I'm mad," exclaimed Rick Smith, the young Albuquerque-based Assistant U.S. Attorney who had prepared the original indictment and who had rather naively gone along with the plea-bargaining settlement by which Prock avoided trial on the five charges involving the cats themselves. "The \$2,000 fine works out to less than the sales taxes Prock would have paid for that amount of hunting. If I'd said no to the plea, and even if we had lost on all six counts, still we would have punished him financially—just in the legal costs—far more than this fine does. I feel terrible about it."

What makes not only Smith but everyone else involved in the investigation feel even worse is the fact that the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish spent between \$10,000 and \$20,000 on the case, not including Investigator Nando Mauldin's time. Citing the "extremely flagrant nature" of the crimes, the department's director, Ladd S. Gordon, said, "We recognize that the courts are under certain constraints, but we in the wildlife profession feel that the most effective way to minimize these serious types of violations lies in considerably greater penalties being assessed." Gordon left unstated the fear that every outdoorsman who respects game and the game laws must feel: If a man like C.J. Prock can get away with that kind of game law violation with a mere slap on the wrist, what incentive is there for investigative agencies and men like Mauldin and Home to continue their work? And what real hope is there left for endangered species like the jaguar?

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Arizona WILDLIFE 2010 TROPHIES

The ninth edition of Arizona big game hunting records compiled by the Arizona Wildlife Trophies Committee of the Arizona Wildlife Federation with the cooperation of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

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Bill Keebler

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THE

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has long sought to create a statewide wildlife trophy program. It is the result of the efforts to correct the damage to Arizona's magnificent wildlife resources by the Arizona Wildlife Federation.

AWF is a non-profit organization of individuals who are concerned about wildlife and natural resources.

AWF was founded in 1970 by such individuals as Dr. Robert M. Mittermeier, a scientific manager of the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

AWF consists of individuals who are ever vigilant in their efforts to own and be a part of the Arizona Wildlife Federation. AWF member, hunter, fisherman, biologist, and responsible for the protection of our natural resources.

AWF promotes the conservation of wildlife and natural resources as well as you. We encourage you to support their sound, scientific legislation and administration of sensible legislation and administration.

LIONS, TIGERS AND BEARS, OH MY!
The legacy of Curtis J. Prock

By David E. Brown and Ron Thompson

On April 21, 1958 a big game hunter who was the first "Big Ten" award recipient for killing all 10 of Arizona's big game animals killed a jaguar while being guided by C. J. Prock. Accompanied by a photographer from *Sports Afield*, this event took place just north of the Arizona border and within a half mile of the newly completed Peña Blanca Lake; near where other jaguars had been taken and where the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) would capture the infamous "Macho B" jaguar in 2009. The hunters had only gone a half mile when the jaguar crossed the road in front of Prock's pick-up truck, and the event was hailed as the first time that an Arizona jaguar had been killed "on purpose," which indeed it was (Housholder 1958).

On January 4, 1959, the 13 year-old son of one of America's foremost sporting goods companies shot a jaguar while quail hunting with C. J. Prock in the Patagonia Mountains northeast of Nogales, Arizona (Lange 1960).

On May 5, 1959, C. J. Prock guided a well-known big game hunter to a female jaguar just north of the Mexican border 30 miles east of Nogales (Lange 1960).

That C. J. Prock translocated big cats to Arizona and other states there can be no doubt. Animals shot by hunters guided by Curtis Prock and taken to Doyle's Taxidermy Studio in Tucson had urine stains on their feet and showed other signs of having been in captivity. Prock himself told us of some of his translocation adventures (Prock 1997a, b & c), and he was guilty of transporting jaguars, mountain lions, bears, and even leopards across international and state boundaries (Jones 1974). As a result, the origins of all of the jaguars taken by Prock's clients in Arizona came under suspicion, as did one taken on one of his hunts during that time near Marfa, Texas. But even though all of the jaguars taken on guided hunts were removed from the *Arizona Wildlife Trophies*, the fact remains that Prock was not only a *bona fide* houndsman and guide, he pioneered one of the most successful outfitting ventures of all time.

Curtis J. Prock was an international hunter—a houndsman and outfitter who guided clients on bear, lion, and jaguar hunting ventures



Figure 1. Curtis J. Prock. Photo by Dave Brown.

in Arizona, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah, Chihuahua, Veracruz, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Belize and Guatemala. He and his hounds also took "red tigers" (Central American lions), ocelots and jaguarondis, the later in Nayarit, Mexico, where he brought back captive kittens to raise in Phoenix. During his 70-year career he estimated that he has been in on the taking of more than 1000 bears, 1000 lions (pronounced *lyons*), and 1000 jaguars (pronounced *jagwars*). There are of course more than a few people who will attest that these figures are exaggerations. They probably are. Unfortunately, most of these exploits took place a long time ago, and are verified today only by a modest collection of mounted trophies, in a few photo albums, and in the memories of an ever dwindling few.

Although Curtis pursued bears as often as lions, he considers the latter pursuit more pleasurable as lions gave him more opportunity to watch his dogs at work. But even though lion hunting was pleasurable, and bear hunting exciting, his best times were spent in the dangerous game of chasing jaguars. The most memorable of these bunts took place more than 25 years ago in British Honduras (now Belize), where for over

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20 years he spent 6 months out of each year taking between 30 and 50 jaguars and "red tigers" annually. Curtis also hunted jaguars in Mexico, in both Veracruz and the Laguna Brava country out of Santiago, Nayarit. Other species and locations included searches for grizzlies in Mexico's Sierra del Nido and hunts for black bears in Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. When we taped our interviews with him in 1997, he was 79 years old and still hunting with hounds while maintaining residences in both Young and Eloy, Arizona.

Born in Sulphur Springs, Texas, about 1918, Curtis came to Arizona while still in his teens, and at various times had tried his hand at operating a trucking line, running a grocery store, and being a building contractor (Housholder 1958). Possessed of a life-long fascination with dogs, and being a natural huntsman, he took up lion hunting under the tutelage of a man named Jones in the late 1930s, and killed his first lion, a female, on what was then the San Carlos Indian Reservation—an area for which he would forever more have an attachment. Once addicted, it didn't take him long to begin running lions and other cats himself, training his dogs on raccoons and bobcats at Picacho Reservoir near Eloy, where he had served as a deputy sheriff during the turbulent cotton-farming years succeeding World War II.

As exciting and challenging as were his various positions, these jobs were work and only avenues to support his real occupation, which was hunting with hounds. It was also in this capacity that he took up bounty hunting for ranchers, getting from \$55 to \$200 for cattle-killing lions and bear. While so engaged, he earned the reputation as a man who would hunt for an individual animal for days on end. But such extended ventures were the exception; he once killed 27 bears in 30 days working on the Q Ranch, which abuts the White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation. Such livestock depredations by bears, he believed, occurred mostly in the spring when the animals come out of hibernation and require nutritious grasses and sources of protein.

In the late 1940s he took up guiding and hunting in Mexico. Although he visited a number of locations in that Republic, his favorite and most productive locale was the Rio Brava region near Santiago, Nayarit. It was here that he killed his first jaguar and learned how to hunt these cats with his dogs. Jaguars, he found out, were a lot harder to catch and a lot harder on dogs than lions unless the hunter knew what he was doing. The Rio Brava country had a lot of jaguars, however, and before long

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he was consistently achieving success by running jaguars with about 7 fresh dogs that were trained to hunt jaguars and only jaguars. Hunting with hounds, he concluded, was the best way to hunt this animal. He did some calling and he regarded baiting as mostly futile. Nor did he ever do much trapping, as the whole purpose of a successful hunt was seeing his dogs work. Prock was not the only outfitter chasing jaguars in the *Marismas Nacional*, however, as there was then some stiff competition from the Lee brothers and other outfitters. Unlike the Lees, who were hard hunters and who hunted tough country out of rough-hewn camps, Prock sought to protect his patrons from *injenes*, and other tropical pests by providing more comfortable quarters. This provision, coupled with a steady stream of successes, resulted in him cornering the market on well-heeled clients.

His interest in hounds and hunting honed to a science, Curtis became a professional guide in 1956. Hunting on foot and in vehicles, he forsook the use of horses and mules and relied on strong legs and physical strength to see him through to the baying near his quarry. Good hearing was the sense he valued most as it allowed him to follow the dogs and work out where they would come out of the woods or tree their quarry. Although other hunters had the reputation of being better and hunting harder, it took a robust hunter to keep up with him, and rarely would another get to the object of the chase before him. Now guiding on a full time basis, he would embark on an expedition in an instant, be it a planned trip in Arizona, another western state, or Mexico. By 1959 he and his dogs had supposedly accounted for more than 200 lions, many of which were captured alive for sale to zoos, movie studios, and menageries. During this time he claimed to have failed only once to obtain a cat for his client, and he became well known for his guaranteed hunts. "I will show you some great country, and I'll get you a lion," was his trademark.

It was during this 1958-1960 period that Prock's activities received scrutiny as well as fame, and he was increasingly suspected of participating in both feline and ursine translocations. His third Arizona jaguar kill, an animal taken by a future Big 10 client, had been preceded by Prock guiding him to a lion that weighed 154 pounds and which was then the largest specimen of this species ever recorded in Arizona. Other of Prock's clients had also taken a number of record bears with dressed weights up to 520 pounds. Other hunters were able to obtain multiple

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kills in one day—some of the animals again being of extraordinary size with more than one species being killed during a hunt. Other hunts came with even more extraordinary claims. In 1960 he took the client, who had taken the first jaguar in Arizona on a 30 day hunt for grizzlies in Chihuahua's Sierra del Nido. Having reportedly found several recently killed grizzly hides on this expedition, they returned to the del Nido where Prock and his client were photographed with a magnificent male grizzly—the last *oso plateado* purportedly killed in Mexico.

Not all jaguars that showed up in Arizona were taken on guided hunts, however. The next three jaguars killed in Arizona were all taken without Prock being in attendance, and not all of them were close to the border. Nonetheless, the questionable status of the jaguars taken in 1958 and 1959 was such that the animal's natural incursions into Arizona had come under suspicion. Although circumstances and subsequent investigations demonstrated that all of the jaguars taken in Arizona after 1959 were natural occurrences rather than translocations or escapees, the natural presence of jaguars in Arizona was now open to question. When queried on the subject, Curtis was ambivalent as to the source of the jaguars he transplanted to Arizona for hunts. As to the possibility that other jaguars killed in Arizona had been the result of one of his hunters not getting a released animal, he was adamant: "I never let a jaguar get away in Arizona and that is the whole truth."

Now an accomplished houndsmen with an international clientele, Curtis expanded his horizons in the early 1960s. A steel magnate named Al Woodford liked to sportfish in British Honduras, where he had noted a lot of jaguar sign, but had been unable to find anyone who could help him secure one of the animals through baiting. But after Prock had successfully guided him to a jaguar in the Laguna Brava country, Woodward was convinced that Prock and his dogs could successfully take jaguars in Central America just as they did in Mexico. Convinced that Prock was the man for the job, Woodward paid Curtis \$1000 plus all expenses to spend 30 days in British Honduras checking things out. The result was a partnership that became the most profitable and exciting venture of Prock's career, and one that would see him in Central America six months of the year for the next 20 years. Not one to stay at home, even for six months, Prock also opened a guiding school about that time at Donley, Idaho (100 miles north of Boise), where he taught his protégés all about hunting bears.

Finding himself the first professional jaguar hunter to use dogs in what is now Belize, Prock lost no time in getting educated to Central American conditions. He first found out that hunting jaguars east of Orangetown was not that easy. On his first trip to the northeast coast of Belize he lost 27 dogs in 6 months. He liked the country though, and got along well with the nation's officials as they were helpful and spoke English. Best of all there were jaguars aplenty. The animals being cattle killers Prock had no trouble finding jaguars by contacting people who told him where jaguars were causing damage - a technique he had used with similar success in Mexico. Soon livestock owners were coming to him, and in some places the big cats were so thick that it took no more than three days to get a jaguar or a red tiger. Monkeys and a variety of other prey supported more jaguars and lions than in most of Mexico. Neither animal was afraid of water, and he found the country's abundant moisture made hound-hunting easier. His biggest problem was running out of hounds. On his second trip he took 40 dogs with him.

Belize was indeed the "promised land." Prock bought a small farm and raised cows and a few pigs on the northeastern coast, and at one time had 20 men working for him out of four hunting camps. Woodward sent him a steady supply of Safari Club International clients, and he once had nine hunters booked for the same 10 days, and managed to get seven of them a jaguar. On another occasion he ran four jaguars in one day and "caught" three of them. When Woodward got tired of brokering hunts, Prock bought him out for \$10,000 and continued guiding by word of mouth contacts. He was said to be that good. When he first went to Belize he charged \$1,500 for a jaguar hunt; the going price when he quit in the 1970s was \$3,500.

By the early 1970s, Prock was in his 50s, and slowing down. Jaguars had become protected in Belize and he disbanded his guiding school in Idaho. More and more, Curtis kept to the Southwest, hunting around Eagle Nest, Luna, and Reserve in New Mexico, the Grahams (Pinalenos) and Mogollon Rim in Arizona. Civilization was closing in, and the rigmarole of regulations made obtaining permits ever more onerous. One of his hunting partners, C.J. Littlejohn, had been implicated in some antiquities violations in Belize, and conditions in Mexico had changed as well. Having earned a reputation as an innovative houndsman and outfitter that liked to pull the wool over the eyes of competitors and

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law enforcement officers, Prock was increasingly scrutinized by game rangers in Arizona, New Mexico, and Idaho looking for convictions. And, although they never shut him down, they definitely slowed him down. Busted for illegally transporting a mountain lion in Idaho and other transgressions in New Mexico during the 1970s, his circle of operations was becoming increasingly constricted even before his capture equipment was confiscated on the San Carlos Indian Nation in 1984. Forced to accept the inroads of civilization, he accepted changing conditions and his convictions without harboring any hard feelings or wanting to get even. In 1984 he settled down in Young, Arizona, where he got along pretty well with the local AGFD officers, most of whom respected him for his woods-wise ways. Chasing big cats and eluding officials had been great sport, and he sought neither forgiveness nor vengeance for his sins.

Curtis liked guiding but it was mostly a means to playing a game. Prock was known to maintain a comfortable, even pleasurable hunting camp, and his clients enjoyed a less stressful experience than those in the care of many of his competitors. Guiding jaguar hunts on level ground was his forte, and his usual *modus* of hunting in Belize was to lay back with his client and let the "local boys" do the thrashing around until the dogs howled "tread." One of the keys to his high level of success was that his careful observations of the behaviors of captive animals taught him all of the big cat's tricks. As for the states, he never liked hunting lions in the snow, not because it was less of a challenge to the dogs, but because chasing lions in such conditions can be dirty and messy. Nor did Prock ever like to kill a client's game, even though he did so on several occasions when the hunter was inept or could not keep up.

Most of Curtis's clients came to him through hunting contacts and reputation. Advertising was not necessary. The hunters he guided ranged in age from about 10 to over 90. Most of his clients he liked, and he valued the life-long friendships with men such as Bert Kleinberger, a Seattle taxidermist. In all the years that he spent guiding, he could count the "heels" he had met on only one hand. His best paying client was an African-American man from Chicago, who paid him \$23,000 after a highly successful hunt that extended from Idaho to Belize and ended satisfactorily for all concerned. Prock's hunts were guaranteed to please, and the draw for his canned hunts was based primarily on a lack

of time. He guided several women hunters over the years and liked them as they paid better attention to his instructions and were less likely to panic at critical times.

A calm and cool adventurer, Prock saw to it that neither he nor any of his clients ever really got hurt. Not that there were not some close calls. On one occasion while he was hunting jaguars in Belize for a movie company, they had bayed a jaguar in a dark place surrounded by trees and brush. When the photographers insisted that they needed more light, Prock attempted to accommodate the cameramen. Some of his "boys" were pretty handy with machetes, and Prock directed them to cut away as much vegetation as possible. Still wanting more light, the head cameraman requested some good size shade trees come down. Unbeknown to the men, one of these trees was supporting a liana that the jaguar was laying on. When the vine pulled away with a jerk, the jaguar was up and coming, growling at every jump. Instantly Prock's men and the camera crew evaporated into the jungle, leaving Prock alone on the trail facing the charging jaguar with a hand-held movie camera. Unarmed, and with no other choice, Prock dropped the camera and faced down the jaguar, which then returned to its lair. No photos had been taken by Prock or anyone else!

Miscues by clients presented the biggest danger—especially as Prock's "rules of the game" were not always followed. Hunters were told to chamber a round only when going in for the kill, and he once had to chastise a certain Colonel for attempting to shoot a bear out of a tree while circling around the trunk on slick ice with the hammer pulled back. Getting a hunter to stand his ground could be even more of a problem, and one client lost his composure and ran from a charging jaguar. But before Prock could shoot the animal with his pistol, the fleeing hunter threw the gun over his shoulder and fired backward while still running. Somehow the shot killed the jaguar dead without hitting anyone, and for 10 years afterwards Prock would get telephone requests when that client was in a drunken state asking him to relate once again the story of how he had dispatched the jaguar with a single shot.

Other clients, such as an ailing fellow who mistakenly thought he was about to die, would face down jaguars with total aplomb, reserving the *coup de grace* until the last possible moment. Prock's foremost rescue occurred sometime in the 1970s when he shot a jaguar that was standing

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astride Bader Hassan with his mouth agape in preparation for biting off his head after the fleeing man had slipped in his attempt to dodge the charging beast. Bader went on to attend Prock's guiding school and become one of Prock's most popular hands before going on to supplant Prock as Belize's foremost jaguar hunter. Prock's own moment of truth came when he was charged by a wounded black bear in Utah after his client had run off with the only rifle. When the bear collapsed, bruin was so close that he bloodied Prock's shoes.

When interviewed on July 2, 1997, Prock had 28 dogs in his yard and the pandemonium broke out almost as soon as Nancy Lewis and I turned off of Highway 288. As with all houndsmen, Curtis lived for his dogs and vice versa. A lot of variety was involved over the years, but the overriding criteria was always that they be tough and the best available. At various times they consisted of registered blue ticks, red bones, and even some bloodhound crosses mixed in with a few Airedales--the latter being used especially for bears. In his heyday, the typical Prock pack consisted of from 10 to 20 hounds accompanied by a tried and true "boss dog." And, a "dog's life" under Prock was just that. Curtis was hard on his dogs, and he severely punished those that ran deer or cattle, fought, stole food, or urinated on a client's sleeping bag. And the mortality rate could be high as he expected to lose from 6 to 8 dogs a year from a variety of causes including being killed by bears or jaguars.

Loses to jaguars were especially severe. In addition to the early years in Belize, Prock's dogs experienced rough going in the jungles of Veracruz where the dense character of the tropical evergreen forest assisted jaguars in their escape. Cornered lions are prone to try and bluff a dog and slap at their closest pursuer; jaguars jump out at a dog, pull him in and bite him--sometimes fatally. Prock found out the hard way that aggressive dogs that stood their ground were at a disadvantage as opposed to nimble dogs that did not, and that three or four dogs were often better when it came to chasing jaguars than a large pack. But although jaguars killed their share, he never lost a dog to snake bite, crocodiles or a hunting accident. A lot depended on the leader, and a good strike dog was sure to earn Prock's favor. His best and most valued animal was a Walker hound named "Rooster," which he only used on cats. Rooster not only was always on target and never fooled, he was never killed. Prock once turned down a cash offer of \$10,000 for him from a lion hunter from Colorado, who had earlier purchased one of

Prock's dogs and lost it to a jaguar in Belize.

Like most houndsmen, Prock was a keen observer and highly knowledgeable when it came to the natural history of his subjects. Not content to confine his knowledge to after-the-fact observations, he captured and raised lions and jaguars that had been captured with their eyes still closed - both as semi-wild individuals and pets. Jaguar ecology was his special forte, as he found this species to be the most adventuresome and exciting to work with. And although he thought that trailing lions was the more pleasurable experience, he considered this species poorly proportioned and pin-headed compared to the magnificent physique of its more tropical cousin. He also liked jaguar country due to the more moist conditions there and the greater amount of prey available that ranged from Nayarit's various seafoods to the great numbers of birds, fish, turtles, crocodiles, raccoons, and monkeys found in Belize. He did not think that jaguars fed much on deer, but preferred to prey on cattle and pigs whenever these animals were available. An expert on the hunting habits of both the males and females of both cats, he found that there was no "average chase" for either species of cat, the length of time of the pursuit depending on circumstances and the condition of the individual animal. As for black jaguars, he killed two in Belize in 1970 but never saw or heard of any in Mexico.

Experience taught Prock that female jaguars had litters most anytime of year and that the young stay with their mother for over a year. Like lions, a jaguar litter may consist of two to four kittens, but usually only one or two are raised to maturity. And like some lions, jaguar mothers often let partially grown litters "finish off" a prey animal. The males of both species may make 100 mile long forays to find females, which are generally more sedentary than the males unless food is scarce. Females like to remain within a 2-3 mile radius of their "home range," especially when raising young. When making their rounds, the males may check up on the home ranges of up to a half-dozen females and he once followed a pair of lions for 200 miles.

Not all of his knowledge is limited to the cat family. Prock is also familiar with a variety of game animals and knows the habits of prey species. His favorite game animal is the Coues' white-tailed deer, and he is familiar with the various races of whitetail and brocket deer and how to hunt them. He also believes, as do many houndsmen, that lions take more buck deer than does, and that it is often the larger, healthier

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deer that are taken. Although he believes that there are as many lions and bears now as there were back in the 1940s, he considers the animals harder to track now due to there being so many paved roads and fewer sandy shoulders. Unlike the situation with the big predators, Prock is of the opinion that deer numbers are only a fraction of what was formerly the case, and he remembers antelope being in Pleasant Valley near the Young airport when the country was more open.

Prock can no longer remember all of the places he has hunted—the Grahams, the Sierra Madre, Guatemala, and west Texas are only vague recollections. Not that it matters. The biggest adventures were in getting there—and getting back! The 3000-mile trips on narrow roads towing a trailer full of dogs and God knows what else are with him yet. Choosing the best port of entry, whether it be Nogales, Laredo, or McAllen, and negotiating his way through road blocks with only a rudimentary knowledge of Spanish are experiences not easily forgotten. Nor will soon fade the memory of a customs inspector asking how many dogs were in a crate in the back of his truck while a jaguar paw was busily working its way out of the box's lid. Only a cool customer such as Curtis Prock could have calmly sat on the paw while assuring the officer that letting the dogs out of the box would not be a good idea and only result in an inordinate amount of time spent handling legal animals, each having the required rabies shots and other papers.

Although the glory days in British Honduras are long gone, and he has slowed considerably, Curtis Prock has more than the satisfaction of having had a good run. At age 92 he still wants in the game. When last interviewed, Prock was the oldest licensed guide in Arizona and offering clients "rig hunts" in which his strike dog stands on the hood of his pick-up while the remainder of the pack rides in the bed. Like a lot of houndsmen, he rides the roads, hoping to hit a hot track. And, like nearly all hound hunters, he uses radio collars to monitor his dogs and keep them from being stolen—a phenomenon unheard of 20 years ago. Although he had been busted for past practices, and fined for income tax infractions, his biggest complaint is a lack of customers. But his life is rich in memories, not dollars. The sight of a young lad feeding his 28 dogs in the yard outside reminds us that he need not worry about his legacy. To be followed and admired by a younger cadre of protégés is probably what it was all about anyway.

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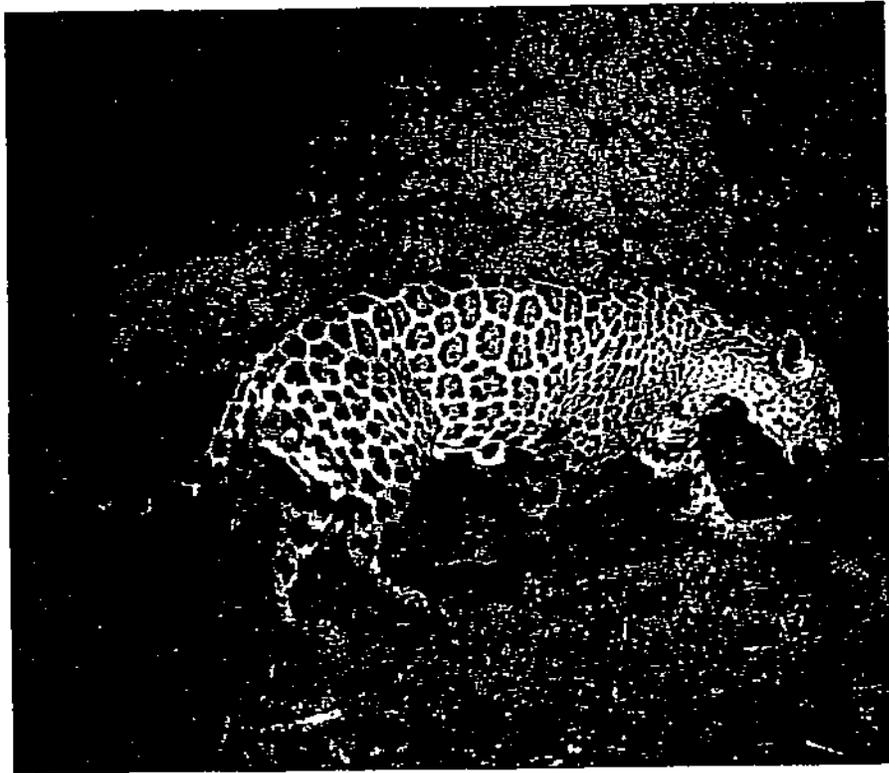
Ron Thompson is a graduate of the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology. He has worked as a wildlife biologist and range conservationist for the U.S. Forest Service and the Arizona Game and Fish department, and is currently the statewide coordinator for Arizona Habitat Partnership Committees, and the statewide biologist for managing mountain lions and black bears within the Game Branch of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. During a short hiatus from the Department, Ron worked as a contract biologist capturing and radio collaring mountain lions for research projects in the Tucson area and on the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. As a past biologist for the Turner Endangered Species Fund he assisted

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with a project to restore a subpopulation of desert bighorn sheep on a private ranch near Engle, NM through the application of an adaptive management strategy for mountain lions. For the past 5 years he has been working with private ranch owners in Sonora, Mexico within an established wildlife management area. His conservation efforts are directed at working with ranchers who live on working landscapes in the presence of livestock and sustainable wildlife resources to better manage large carnivores.



The second Arizona-New Mexico jaguar brought to bay by the dogs of Warner Glenn, this one on 20 February 2006 in the Animas Mountains of New Mexico. He was an 8-9 year old male weighing an estimated 200 pounds that Mr. Glenn named "Border King." Warner Glenn took the first photograph of a live jaguar in the United States on 7 March 1996 in the Peloncillo Mountains in Arizona (photo in the 2005 edition of Arizona Wildlife Trophies); it is believed this animal was killed in Mexico about 30 miles from the border a few months later by a federal police officer. - RLG



Treeing a jaguar with hounds in 1996 was a great thrill. I am very fortunate that God blessed me with the opportunity and the resources to follow the travels of this magnificent cat for the next 13 years. Although his life ended in 2009 at the ripe old age of 16, his legacy and contributions to science will live on forever. The above image is one of approximately 70 photos of this cat acquired by me and E. McCain with a trail camera. It was taken on July 29, 2005 at 1:38AM in Santa Cruz County, Arizona. ~ Jack Childs

JAGUAR
Felis onca

Score	Skull Length	Skull Width	Sex	Locality Killed	Year Killed	By Whom Killed	Owner	Rank
18 5/16	10 14/16	7 7/16	Male	Cibacue	1924	Jack Funk	U.S. National Museum	1
16 14/16	10 2/16	6 12/16	Male	Helvetia	1917	E. J. O'Conerty	U.S. National Museum	3
16 2/16	9 0/16	8 9/16	Male	Cienega Creek	1961	Harry Barnatt	Sewell Goodwin	5
15 1/16	9	6 1/16	Male	Big Lake	1953	Terry D. Penrod	Terry D. Penrod	7
14 9/16	8 8/16	5 3/16	Female	Novella	1919	R. Lee Parker	U.S. National Museum	9

*Taken on hunts guided by C. J. Prock; see article by Brown and Thompson in 2010 edition of *Arizona Wildlife Trophies*.

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