

Jaguar Conservation Team (JAGCT)- Habitat Subcommittee Summary Notes
Animas, New Mexico
July 20, 2000

Meeting Opened – ca. 11:00 a.m. MST; after completion of the JAGCT Meeting

Introduction - Bill Van Pelt went over the purpose, agenda, and ground rules for the meeting. Personal introductions were conducted during the JAGCT meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to review Action Items from the June 22 Meeting.

Action Items for June 22 Meeting

- 1. Letter to the Scientific Advisory Group** – The subcommittee is asking for guidance in determining if habitat exists in the United States. We are seeking answers from the SAG, as whole and not individual responses. The request will have a defined response date/timeline. The SAG is comprised of Raul Valdez, Carlos Lopez-Gonzales, Alan Rabinowitz, Brian Miller, Mike Tewes, and Howard Quigley.

Judy Keeler sent a draft letter to Bill Van Pelt and Tony Povilitis. Unfortunately, Tony was unable to receive his copy due to a lightning strike to his computer.

The subcommittee discussed some of the questions being asked including: Does potential for a jaguar conservation unit exist north of Mexico?; Should point locations include historical sightings greater than 10 years of age?; Is prior to 10 years worth including?; Is research currently being conducted in Mexico and other parts of the jaguar's range essential in understanding the historical and potential distribution patterns of jaguars in the United States? Is suitable habitat adequate to sustain populations in the U.S.? What data/information should be considered in determining suitable habitat in the U.S.? Is potential habitat in the U.S. necessary for the long-term existence of the species? What additional threats, besides illegal killing, exist for jaguars in the U.S.?

Tony recommended that we add a work draft of what we have accomplished so far and invite the SAG to participate in a list-server or similar discussion. **Action Item: Sarah Rinkevich will distribute a list-server participant list to the subcommittee.**

- 2. Prey Density and GAP information** - Ben Brown will post a draft of the habitat change data on the list-server for everyone to copy. Bill Van Pelt has contacted NM (Chuck Hayes) regarding prey data from NM. Additional coordination needs to be made. GAP analysis is available for NM; however, AZ is not completed. Bill is checking to see if the southeastern portion of AZ is complete. GIS overlays, etc. were provided to Tony and his students. Prey density overlays tend to be out-dated and very subjective. The available information we have may need to be adjusted through our current wildlife managers for their specific districts. Unfortunately, this information remains subjective, but it is the best that we have available. Anytime we use a high, medium, and low ranking, the information will be subjective. More discussions on this subject will occur at future meetings.

3. **UCSC extension presentation** - Tony Povolitis and the various UCSC students gave a presentation on their jaguar mapping exercise entitled *Jaguar habitat in southern Arizona and New Mexico: A report to the Habitat Committee of the Jaguar Conservation Team*. Unfortunately, not enough copies were made available to the Committee. If you wish a copy of their report, please contact Tony. This report/presentation was part of a class project, submitted to the Habitat Committee, and should be used by the Committee for whatever purpose the Committee sees fit. The students are seeking constructive feedback regarding the report and their presentation. Please send these comments to Tony.
4. **NM sightings information** - Michael Robinson sent information to Tim Snow regarding the 1990 Jacobi and the 1998 Duffy sightings. Tim and Bill will attempt to contact these individuals and formally conduct an evaluation based on the criteria identified in the Conservation Agreement. Please keep in mind that the NMDGF and AGFD must work cooperatively within our jurisdictional boundaries. Neither Department will, nor should they, step outside these jurisdictional boundaries during jaguar investigations. Use of the CA ranking criteria is subjective and up to the investigator. The JAGCT, specifically the NMDGF and AGFD, will be working closer to develop standard protocols for using the ranking criteria. To accurately rank sightings between the two states, we must have a standard system in place that is being used by both parties.

Pending TASKS/ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **Letter to SAG to be completed by August 25 (Judy Keeler, Bill Van Pelt, and Tony Povilitis)**
2. **Prey Density Information gathering by August 11 (Bill Van Pelt and Chuck Hayes).**
3. **Habitat Change Information posted on the list-server by August 25 (Ben Brown).**
4. **Sightings review by August 11 (Tim Snow and Bill Van Pelt).**
5. **List-server participants list by next meeting (Sarah Rinkevich).**
6. **Threats list to Habitat Subcommittee members September 15 (Bill Van Pelt and Sarah Rinkevich) for discussion at the next Subcommittee meeting.**

Other Business - The next meeting will occur during the later half of October. Time, place, and date will be posted on the list-server.

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

Attendance List

Tim Snow	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Bill Van Pelt	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Sarah Rinkevich	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dominic DiPaolo	University of California - Extension
Dave Rios	University of California - Extension
Adrienne McCrumb	University of California - Extension
Josh Miller	University of California - Extension
Tom Witzgell	University of California - Extension
Carrie Johnson	University of California - Extension
Tony Povilitis	Willcox
Judy Keeler	Boothill Heritage Association
Ben Brown	Animas Foundation/Malpai Borderlands Group
Sue Krentz	Education Subcommittee
Shelly Ryan	University of California - Extension
Lee Benson	National Park Service
Chuck Hayes	New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Craig Miller	Defenders of Wildlife
Wally Murphy	U.S. Forest Service
Don Cullum	NM Cattle Growers Association