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<http://jaguarhabitatusa.wordpress.com>

March 6, 2009

Kenneth L. Salazar
Secretary of Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Recovery Program urgently needed for Jaguar in Arizona/New Mexico

Dear Secretary Salazar:

Jaguars historically ranged in the US from southern California across much of Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, and eastward to at least Louisiana. The recent capture-related death of a wild jaguar in Arizona, the construction of a border fence now impeding jaguar movement between the US and Mexico, and the ongoing loss of vital habitat and wildlife linkages in the Southwest all underscore the urgency of a federal recovery program for this endangered species.

We ask that your agency expeditiously prepare a recovery plan for the highly endangered northern population of jaguar, whose natural range includes Arizona, New Mexico, and Sonora (Mexico).

Unfortunately, under the previous administration, requests for a federal jaguar recovery plan were denied by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. As you know, this has resulted in a lawsuit against your Department soon to be heard in a federal court. We urge that this issue be resolved administratively under a new conservation policy that recognizes the merits and benefits of a jaguar recovery program.

I trust that you and President Obama will strengthen America's legacy of wildlife conservation with bold actions that include recovery of the jaguar in the American Southwest.

Please advise if we can help you in any direct way to advance conservation under the Obama Administration.

Sincerely and with best wishes,

Tony Povilitis, Ph.D.

Director

cc.

President Barack Obama

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500