

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
SBI Tactical Infrastructure, Suite 7.2C
1300 Pennsylvania, Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20229

Sent on June 30, 2008 via email to
http://www.borderfenceplanning.com/usbp_tucson_sector/

Subject: Protecting the movement of jaguar and other wildlife between the United States and Mexico

Dear US Customs and Border Protection:

Please avoid extensive construction of pedestrian fencing along the Arizona/New Mexico border with Mexico because of harm to the jaguar and other endangered wildlife. The recovery of the jaguar population in the American Southwest is contingent upon the continued movement of jaguars between the United States and Mexico.

Barrier fencing should be especially avoided near the following areas of primary jaguar habitat:

In Arizona –

The Baboquivari Mountains;

Cumero Mountain (San Luis Mtns) to the Pajarito Mountains (all national forest lands);

The Pajarito Mountains to the Huachuca Mountains (all national forest lands);

The San Pedro River area;

Perilla Mountain/Chiricahua Mountains to the Peloncillo Mountains

In New Mexico –

The Peloncillo Mountains to the Alamo Hueco Mountains (the “Boot Heel” area)

Our concern about extensive pedestrian fencing in other areas, such as that already built in Altar Valley and between Naco and Douglas, Arizona, will force illegal border crossings and related border patrol activity into more rugged and remote country that includes primary habitat for jaguar.

We urge that vehicle barriers, electronic surveillance, and other measures and policies be applied in lieu of barriers such as pedestrian fences that block the movement of wildlife along our southern border.

We would appreciate your kind response to this request, particularly in terms of the extent to which you will limit pedestrian fencing and other absolute barriers along the border in deference to the jaguar and other wildlife.

Sincerely,
Tony Povilitis, Ph.D.
Jaguar Habitat Campaign