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PRIORITY MAIL

June 27, 2008

Secretary Michael Chertoff  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)  
Washington, DC 20528

**Request to ensure the movement of jaguar and other wildlife between the United States and Mexico**

Dear Mr. Chertoff:

We ask that DHS avoid construction of pedestrian fencing along the Arizona/New Mexico border with Mexico because of harm to the jaguar and other endangered wildlife. Federal agencies have an obligation to safeguard our nation's wildlife legacy, and restore America's imperiled wildlife, including the 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. The recovery of the jaguar population in the American Southwest is contingent upon the free 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

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border crossings and related border patrol activity into more rugged and remote country that includes primary jaguar habitat.

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

Sincerely,

Tony Povilitis, Ph.D.

Cc.

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