



5589 Timken Trail, Willcox, AZ 85643
<http://jaguarhabitatusa.wordpress.com>

April 16, 2009

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

Subject: Jaguar Recovery Plan

Dear Secretary Salazar:

On March 30, 2009, the U.S. District Court of Arizona ruled that the US Fish & Wildlife Service must meet the requirements of the US Endangered Species Act by reconsidering its Bush-era decision not to prepare a formal Recovery Plan for the jaguar.

While recovery plans are standard for animals on the US list of endangered species, the Fish and Wildlife Service unsuccessfully argued in court that it need not restore the jaguar since most of the species occurs outside of the United States. But many endangered species in this same situation either have recovery plans or are being considered for one. For example, the northern Aplomado falcon, a bird mainly of Mexico and Central America, has long had an active recovery program with reintroductions to habitats here in the United States.

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 urgent need for a federal recovery program for this endangered species.

Please uphold the spirit of our Endangered Species Act, avoid further court action, and have the Fish and Wildlife Service undertake jaguar recover. This could be an innovative, shared effort with Mexico, as jaguars here and in nearby Sonora state belong to the same imperiled population.

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On March 6, 2009, we sent a previous appeal to you on this matter via regular mail but have not yet received a reply. Please advise us soon on your jaguar recovery plans.

Sincerely,

Tony Povilitis

Tony Povilitis, Ph.D.
Director
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Cc -
President Barack Obama
Representative Raul Grijalva, Arizona
Representative Gabrielle Giffords, Arizona
Representative Martin Heinrich, New Mexico