



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

October 20, 2009

Larry D. Voyles, Director
Arizona Game and Fish Department
5000 W. Carefree Highway
Phoenix, AZ 85086-5000
Via E-mail: LVoyles@azgfd.gov

Dear Mr. Voyles:

In a newspaper article last Sunday (Arizona Daily Star, Oct. 18), Mr. Terry Johnson of your Department perpetuates a false dichotomy between federal protection of endangered species and collaborative conservation in characterizing federal listing as a “regulatory burden of bureaucracy and all of the stuff that comes with it.”

Worse still, was his quote: "There’s an immediate negative reaction on the part of any freedom-loving American who does not want to be constrained by government and dictated to by government. Regulatory approaches tend to feed existing hostilities and keep them alive forever.”

Such ideologically divisive rhetoric, especially by one who presides over endangered species conservation for AGFD, serves to polarize people rather than bring them together to advance the cause of wildlife conservation. It appeals to fear and ignorance, rather than objectivity and good judgment.

As Mr. Johnson well knows, federal recovery programs have greatly helped endangered species in Arizona and throughout the United States. If he cannot refrain from bad-mouthing these efforts in public, Mr. Johnson should step aside from his position at AGFD. Our state wildlife agency is not Fox News.

Sincerely,

Tony Povilitis

Tony Povilitis, PhD