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<http://jaguarhabitatusa.wordpress.com>

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**Earth Day Presentation of the Statement of Support for Recovering the Jaguar as a  
Native Species of the United States  
With  
Citizen Endorsements**

Gentlemen:

On this day when we especially celebrate the Earth and its wildlife, I respectfully present to the US Fish & Wildlife Service a statement in support of recovering the endangered jaguar in the United States. I include citizen endorsements of the statement that reflect public support for restoring this magnificent species.

The Citizens' Statement is being presented to the US Fish & Wildlife Service in Phoenix by a group of conservationists after a week of bicycling and talking with people in Arizona about the jaguar and the opportunity for its recovery.

It has been 18 years since I petitioned the Service to list the jaguar as endangered in the U.S., 13 years since actual listing, and 11 years since I first requested designation of its critical habitat. Ongoing loss and degradation of jaguar habitat and the death of “Macho B” in Arizona are among the tragic consequences of long delays in recovery planning for the species.

With announcements in January that the Service will prepare a jaguar recovery plan and work to protect jaguar habitat, the door is now open for an innovative jaguar recovery program that, if successful, would surely rank among the Nation’s finest conservation achievements of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The recommendations provided in the Citizens’ Statement are intended to be helpful in this regard.

America’s commitment to endangered wildlife under our Endangered Species Act warrants reestablishing the jaguar within all or a significant part of its historic range. Restoring the jaguar in the southwestern U.S. is needed to rebuild the world’s northernmost jaguar population. Historically, that population occupied a broad and unique combination of habitats principally in northern Mexico, southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. As you know, only a fraction of the northern jaguar population survives today, largely in nearby Sonora, Mexico.

We look forward to your reply to the Citizen’s Statement. Please clarify for us the Service’s forthcoming jaguar program in terms of its geographic scope, and target dates for recovery plan development, for assembling a jaguar recovery team, and for working with land managers and others to protect essential habitat.

Most sincerely,

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