



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

August 28, 2009

Bureau of Land Management
New Mexico State Office

Submitted via email: NMSunZiaProject@blm.gov

Subject: Proposed SunZia Southwest Transmission Project

In your forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), please include thorough analyses of the impacts or potential impacts of the proposed project on recovery of the endangered jaguar (*Panthera onca*) and Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*). Also, provide analyses of impacts on populations of mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*), and deer (*Odocoileus* spp.)

These evaluations should address impacts on long-term population viability and on habitat areas needed for species conservation or recovery, including core habitat areas, habitat linkages, and corridors. Your analysis should reference cumulative impacts of this project along with other land development and human activities in this rapidly growing region, and address climate change and related habitat change factors.

Please also include specific plans to work with other federal agencies, state agencies, county officials, local municipalities, private land owners, and conservation organizations to conserve habitat for these species should this project become a reality.

Please contact us if you would like help with information for your analysis pertinent to jaguar.

To be frank, the proposed project is highly problematic from a wildlife conservation and recovery standpoint, given other stressors on wildlife from rapid human population growth, land development in general, and global heating. For jaguar, particular concerns include project effects on the Gila-Yaqui habitat corridor located from the Peloncillo Mountains westward to the Chiricahua-Dos Cabezas-Pinalenos mountain chain. The

proposed project transects this corridor and includes a project substation within a major habitat linkage zone near Willcox, Arizona.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments as part of this EIS scoping process.

Sincerely,

Tony Povilitis

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