



JAGUAR NEWS

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New Web Resource: The Jaguar Conservation Network

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The Jaguar Conservation Network (www.jaguarnetwork.org)

is a portal for information and collaboration between jaguar researchers, conservationists, and people affected by jaguar predation on livestock. The website has been designed as an independent resource for researchers, conservationists and people affected by conflict, in order to enhance efforts to reduce conflict across the jaguar's range. It also has a wealth of information about jaguars and their conservation and a bibliography of scientific literature covering a wide range of topics from jaguar ecology to genetics.

Anyone can contribute information, images, documents, ideas, news, reports, or advertise their project, and, in future will be able to use this site to contact jaguar researchers.



Jaguar Conservation Network website home page. A Spanish version of the website will be available in the next few weeks; a Portuguese version will be available shortly.

The website contains:

- A Topics section with summary tables of jaguar abundance estimates and survey methods from the literature; information on human-jaguar conflict and depredation, and ex situ conservation of jaguars;
- A Projects section with information on many field and research projects and the organisations involved in these, a list of academic institutions associated with jaguar research, and funding opportunities specifically for jaguar conservation and research;
- A Jaguar Bibliography containing over 200 papers and articles, updated monthly, and containing many abstracts and downloadable PDF files;
- A Forum section, which is currently in preparation but will soon provide a messaging page where notices and questions and answers can be posted in English, Spanish and

- Portuguese;
- A News page, with jaguar-relevant news, opportunities and events.

We are also currently developing an interactive jaguar conservation and research project location map, and the website is currently being translated into Spanish and Portuguese versions, which will be online very soon.

Visit www.jaguarnetwork.org and contact us at jaguars@chesterzoo.org if you have any suggestions for improvements, would like to add publications, projects, or other information, or would like to collaborate in its further development.

[ARTICLE]

Jaguar Conservation in the U.S. Mexico Borderlands

By Craig Miller, Southwest Representative, Defenders of Wildlife, www.defenders.org; Vice-president, Northern Jaguar Project, www.northernjaguarproject.org



Jaguar picture taken by a motion-triggered camera in October '08 at Rancho Dubaral/Northern Jaguar Reserve (Photo by Northern Jaguar Project).

Since the mid-1990s Defenders of Wildlife has undertaken a variety of projects aimed at conserving jaguars in their northern range and guided by strategies to 1) protect and expand the northernmost jaguar breeding population in Sonora, Mexico, 2) identify and protect migratory corridors from northern Mexico into the United States and 3) protect habitat in the United States which is, or which may become, suitable for jaguar recovery.

Defenders is a key partner with Mexico's Naturalia (www.naturalia.org.mx) and the bi-national Northern Jaguar Project (NJP) on projects based at the newly-established 47,000-acre Northern Jaguar Reserve in Sonora, Mexico and surrounding private ranchlands. Earlier this year the reserve was completed to help protect the world's northernmost remaining population of the rare cats and to benefit other rare wildlife including the northernmost population of ocelots, military macaws, neotropical river otters, and the southernmost nesting bald eagles.

Two important projects taking place



Picture of the U.S. border wall taken at the Buenos Aires Wildlife Refuge; this structure depicts a significant impediment to large mammals, including jaguars known to be living in the area (Photo by Matt Clark/Defenders of Wildlife).

The other community program, the Feline Photo Project, involves the placement of motion-triggered cameras on private ranches surrounding the newly-established Northern Jaguar Reserve in a compensation/reward program that requires participating ranchers not kill any predators. This summer yielded two \$500 (USD) reward-winning photos of jaguars in addition to dozens of images of ocelots, pumas and bobcats, each which earned cash rewards for cooperating ranchers. After receiving \$1500 for 10 ocelot photos in one month, one of the cooperating ranchers confirmed the effectiveness of the project by sharing “I’d like to buy more ocelots for my land; they’re worth more than my cattle”.

In addition to community-based activities Defenders has asked the courts to assist with jaguar conservation. Earlier this year Defenders approached the Supreme Court to challenge the constitutionality of the Secretary of Homeland Security’s waiving of all federal laws, including those which protect endangered wildlife and sensitive habitats, to fast-track construction of the U.S./Mexico border wall. In August Defenders also filed in U.S. District Court challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (FWS) failure to create a much needed recovery plan for the jaguar as required under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This suit was filed in reaction to FWS’s recent formal decision not to prepare a recovery plan for the jaguar. FWS has concluded that the jaguar is a “foreign species,” and therefore claims that the jaguar will not benefit from a recovery plan. This decision reflects a troubling trend in which FWS has avoided its responsibilities under the ESA for listed species which have lost a significant portion of their U.S. range or which have relatively small domestic ranges in comparison to foreign distributions. The jaguar is not only a domestic species that requires a recovery plan, but is also in dire need of a one in the face of imminent threats to their habitat and key migratory passages along the U.S.-Mexico border. A jaguar recovery plan would help identify corridors essential to the species, as well as other necessary management actions to better integrate national security efforts with jaguar conservation.

Also, Defenders and the Wildlands Project are convening the third Border Ecological Symposium involving more than 40 conservationists, educators, scientists, and state and federal agency representatives to identify the most critical wildlife linkages crossing the border and develop consensus on necessary steps to abate the ecological consequences of current and proposed border security infrastructure on sensitive cross-border ecosystems and wildlife linkages.

at the Reserve are managed in partnership between Defenders, Naturalia and NJP. The Jaguar Guardian program provides valuable hands-on training for young Mexican biologists as they assist with jaguar ecology research and community outreach activities while deterring jaguar killing.



I and Miriam Perilli were working with Rodrigo Massara for Brandt Environment, contracted by the Rio do Norte Mining Company to do a medium to large sized mammal inventory and monitoring in an area of the Bauxite Mine of Porto Trombetas (within the National Forest Saracá-Taquera, Pará State, Brazil). In one of the study areas of approximately 100 km² (of which about 40% correspond to the cleared area of the mine) we installed 18 camera traps between February and July 2008. We obtained photographic records of at least 10 individual jaguars (like this on the picture) and a large number of pumas. Apart from that, 18 other mammal species were photographed, including giant armadillos and light-colored tayras.

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If you have a picture catching a glimpse of a jaguar's life in the wild and want to distribute it through our newsletter, please send it to jaguar@jaguar.org.br with a description of the location, date and credits of the picture.

If you don't want to receive this newsletter, please send a cancellation email to jaguar@jaguar.org.br

The Jaguar Conservation Fund is not responsible for the content of texts written by members of other institutions.

"Our mission is to promote the conservation of the jaguar, its natural prey and habitat throughout the species geographical range, as well as its peaceful coexistence with man through research, management and conservation strategies."

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