



Jaguar Conservation and Partnerships

One Goal, Many Roads

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<http://www.jaguarbridges.net/>



Iconic Wildlife Species Plights: Conundrums in Partnerships in Politicized Landscapes - Outline

- Background on Iconic Global Species that Cross Borders
- In the Eye of the Jaguar: Species Needs and It's Challenges
- And Then One Day...
- Working with Diverse Agencies and Authorities on Land and Species Management
- Partnership Needs to Communicate & Collaborate over Jaguar Conservation and Political Adequacy
- The “Slow” Road is the only Road

Background on Iconic Global Species that Cross Borders

- **Border Migratory Species**
 - Unique conservation challenges
 - Ecological, Political, Managerial
- **Iconic species**
 - African elephant - in public eye as charismatic mega-vertebrates differently than iconic
 - Migratory Birds - Aquatic & Seabirds, Birds-of Prey, & Passerines
 - Monarch Butterflies.....AND
 - Jaguar!
- **What are unique challenges for Cross-border globally and federally listed species?**
 - Chat Box....



Share in the Chat Box:

What cross-border species/issues are you working on (or have you worked on)?

In the Eye of the Jaguar: Species Needs and It's Challenges



- Species global status: IUCN Near Threatened
- Species predator ecology
 - Home range/territories: 9 - 311 sq miles
 - Prey base: Variety of species from turtles to deer to crocodiles! Favorite: armadillos & peccaries (following herds in Tropical rainforests; habitat dependent)
 - Other ecological needs (e.g., water, 'caminos', ridgelines, stream beds)
- Conflicts/challenges: livestock & grazing, fencing & ranchlands, water supplementation

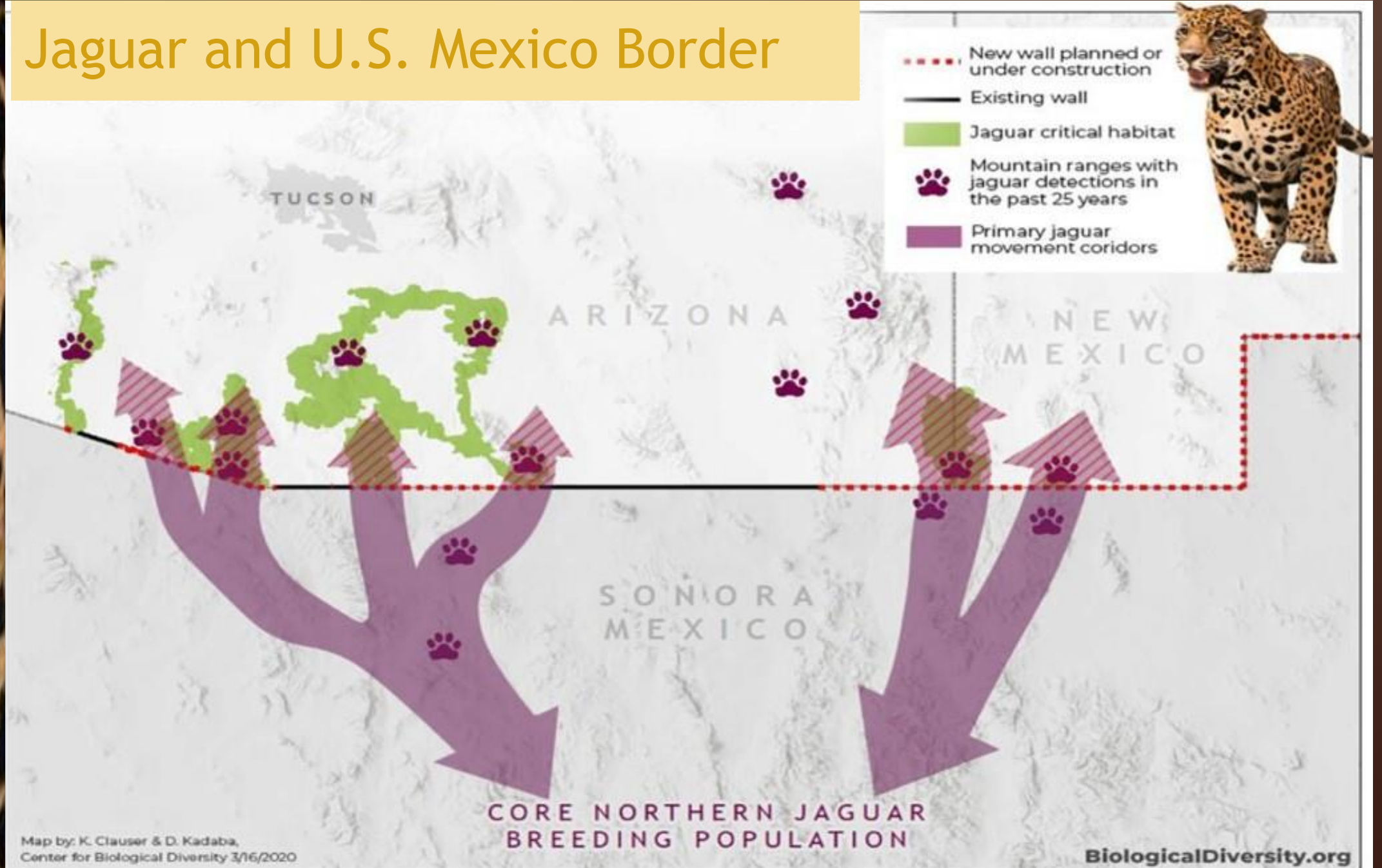


Jaguar - Some of It's Unique & Interesting Facts



- Jaguars are the largest cat in the Americas, 3rd largest cat in the world (after lions & tigers).
- They exist in 18 countries, from Mexico to Argentina.
- Jaguar is most aquatic of the 7 big cat species. They thrive in wet habitats including flooded forests and the Brazilian Pantanal wetlands.
- Jaguars have a special spiritual or symbolic significance to many indigenous cultures in the Americas. In Ecuador, Waoranis believe Jaguars have a paternal role watching out for other species. In the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Colombia, indigenous communities believe that jaguars can travel both in the physical and spiritual world, using sacred mountains as portals.
- Jaguars are solitary animals. They typically travel alone, with males and females coming together only to mate. Female jaguars will have one or two cubs at a time but can have up to four.
- Jaguars may look similar to leopards, but only jaguars roam Latin America. They are distinguished by rosettes on coats. Jaguar rosettes have spots inside of them (leopard rosettes don't).
- “Black panther” is not a separate species of big cat. It is a term for cats that have dark coloring (melanism). Jaguars, leopards & many other cat species show melanism.

Jaguar and U.S. Mexico Border



“The Border”

- Species and Political issues
 - Border complications
 - Border management



Navigating the Maze of Different Authorities on Land and Species Protection & Management

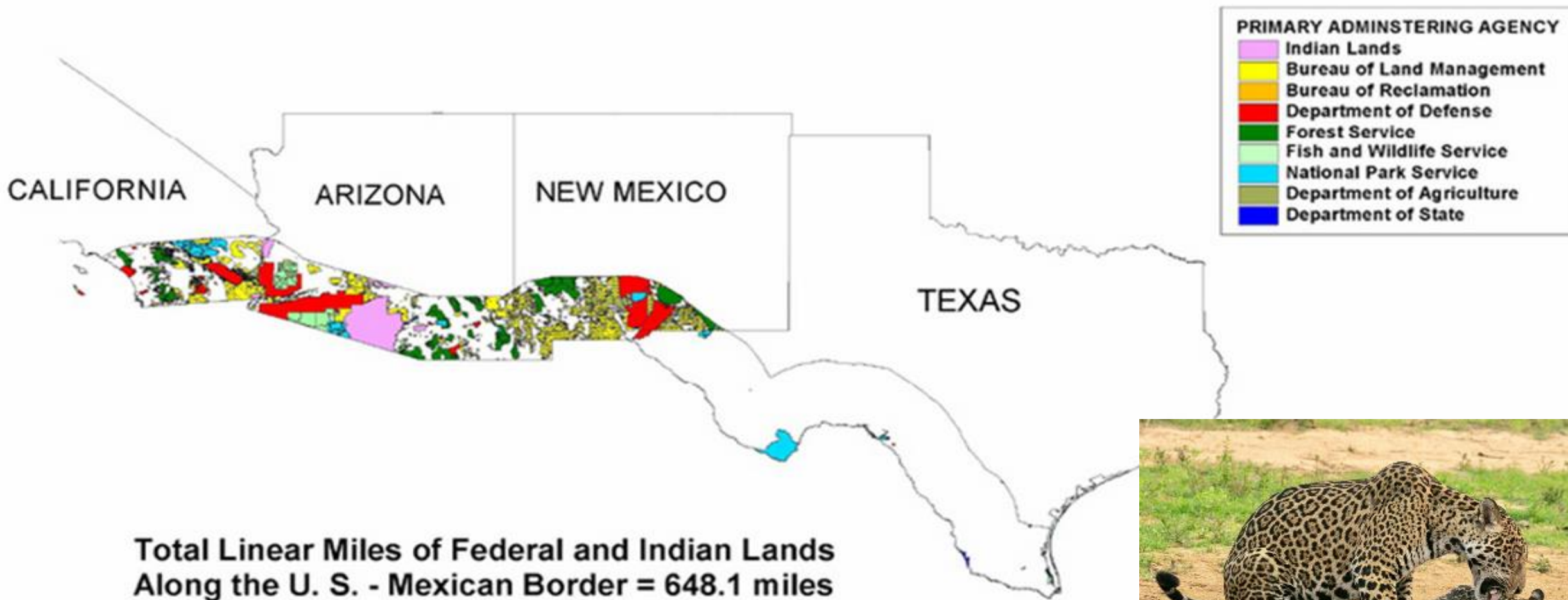
- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Current range of jaguars is ~51% of historic range. Jaguars once ranged from New Mexico and Arizona to Argentina.

Issues:

- Agency jurisdictions overlapping
- Jaguar traversing through the “borders” with a cloud of dust everywhere it steps
- International trafficking causing highest level of threat: “The New Tiger”
- Authorities, policies and laws
 - ESA (U.S.)
 - IUCN/Red list (International)
 - State Lists/ Laws
 - Agency Sensitive Species Categories (TES, Candidate Species, RFSS, SCC, Vital Signs List, etc...)



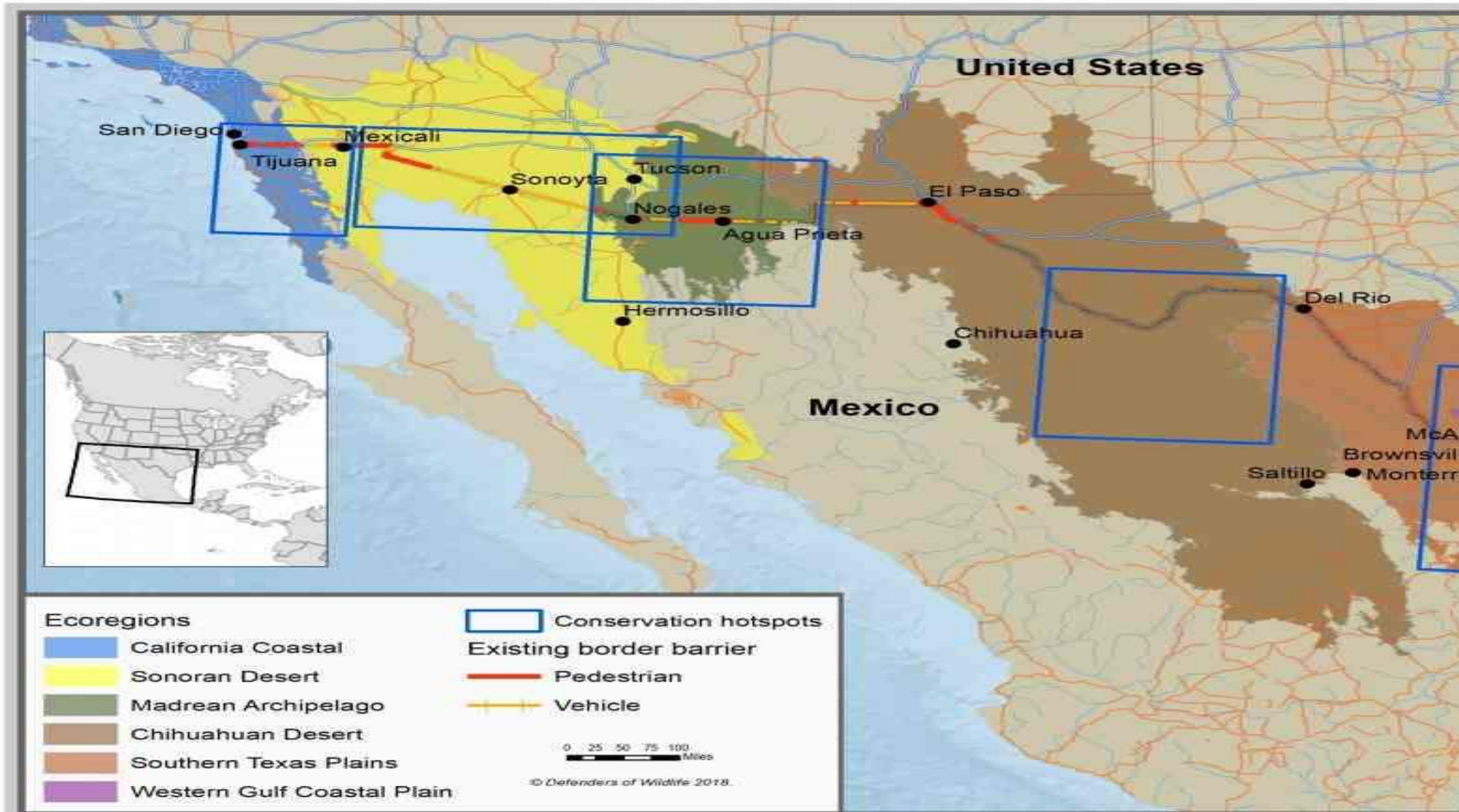
FEDERAL AND INDIAN LANDS WITHIN 100 MILES OF THE U.S. - MEXICAN BORDER



**Total Linear Miles of Federal and Indian Lands
Along the U. S. - Mexican Border = 648.1 miles**



Public Lands on U.S. & Mexico Border - 9 Authorities/Jurisdictions - add State & Private lands... 5 Ecoregions Prioritized for Conservation



Conservation Partnerships on the Border (selected; many more exist)



Wildlife Corridors LLC: Preserving and Restoring Critical Habitat Linkages in the US-Mexico Borderlands

And Then One Day...

- May 1 Article published in Conservation journal
- Shared by partners and stakeholders via Press Releases
- Picked up by AP and media...

The case for reintroduction: The jaguar (*Panthera onca*) in the United States as a model

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Abstract

Reintroduction—defined here as the return of a species to a part of its range where it has been extirpated—is a critical pathway to conservation in the 21st century. As late as the 1960s, jaguars (*Panthera onca*) inhabited an expansive region in the central mountain ranges of Arizona and New Mexico in the United States, a habitat unique in all of jaguar range. Here, we make the case for reintroduction, building a rhetorical bridge between conservation science and practice. First, we present a rationale rooted in the philosophy of wildlife conservation. Second, we show that the species once occupied this territory and was extirpated by human actions that should no longer pose a threat. Third, we demonstrate that the proposed recovery area provides suitable ecological conditions. Fourth, we discuss how return of the species could be a net benefit to people, explicitly recognizing a diversity of values and concerns. Fifth, we show that reintroduction is practical and feasible over a realistic time horizon. Returning the jaguar to this area will enhance the recovery of an endangered species in the United States, further its range-wide conservation, and restore an essential part of North America's cultural and natural heritage.

KEYWORDS

Endangered Species Act, human dimensions, human-wildlife coexistence, natural recolonization, predator, prey base, restoration, rewilding, species recovery

CSP2 392 article has been removed because it is under embargo and was published by mistake. The article will be published on 11th May.

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When News Goes Viral...



- Watch the video: <https://www.kob.com/new-mexico-news/conservationists-make-case-to-reintroduce-jaguar-in-new-mexico/6108451/>
 - Click link in chat box or copy-paste to a browser.
 - Mute your audio line to Webex, turn up computer volume

Local, National and International Interest

NM Political Report: [New study looks at jaguar reintroduction possibilities](#)

Arizona Daily Star: [New paper makes case for releasing jaguars across Arizona, New Mexico](#)

CNN-News18: [Scientists Plan to Reintroduce Jaguars that Went Extinct in America 50 Years Ago](#)

Washingon Post: [Groups Call for Reintroduction of Jaguars in the Southwest](#)

NPR [TVEyes Media Monitoring Suite - \[Transcript\]](#)

Fast Company: [Should we bring jaguars back to the U.S.?](#)

Smithsonian: [It's Time to Reintroduce Jaguars in the U.S. Southwest, Scientists and Conservation Groups Say](#)

UK Daily Mail: [Jaguars reintroduced to NM, AZ, Disappeared 50 years ago](#)

Earther: [Scientists Want to Bring Jaguars Back to America's Mountains](#)

The Independent: [Rewilding: After 60-year absence it is time to reintroduce wild jaguars to US, say scientists](#)

Gizmodo Australia: [Scientists Want to Bring Jaguars Back to America's Mountains](#)

Webindia123: [Driven to extinction in US, scientists favour reintroduction of jaguars](#)

Yahoo India: [Scientists Plan to Reintroduce Jaguars that Went Extinct in America 50 Years Ago](#)

The Daily Prothom Alo: [Driven to extinction in US, scientists favour reintroduction of jaguars](#)

wildlandsnetwork.org: [Now is the Time to Think about Reintroducing Jaguars into the U.S.](#)

Endangered Earth: [Scientists Build Case for Reintroducing Jaguars in Arizona, New Mexico](#)

Cultural Awareness:

“Ahora es el momento de pensar en la reintroducción de jaguares en EE. UU.”

- *Posted on May 18, 2021 by Juan Carlos Bravo*
- Llevado a la extinción en EE. UU. hace 50 años, la reintroducción es clave para la recuperación del “Gran gato de América”.
- NUEVA YORK (11 de mayo de 2021) - Un grupo de científicos dice que el momento de hablar sobre la reintroducción de jaguares (*Panthera onca*) en los EE. UU. es ahora.
- En un estudio publicad en el diario Conservation Science and Practice, los autores proporcionan un marco prospectivo para este esfuerzo y describen lo que sería reparar un daño hecho al “Gran gato de América” en el suroeste de EE. UU. desde hace más de 50 años. Los grandes felinos vivieron durante cientos de años en las montañas centrales de Arizona y Nuevo México pero fueron llevados a la extinción local a mediados del siglo XX, en parte debido a la matanza de los cazadores del gobierno.



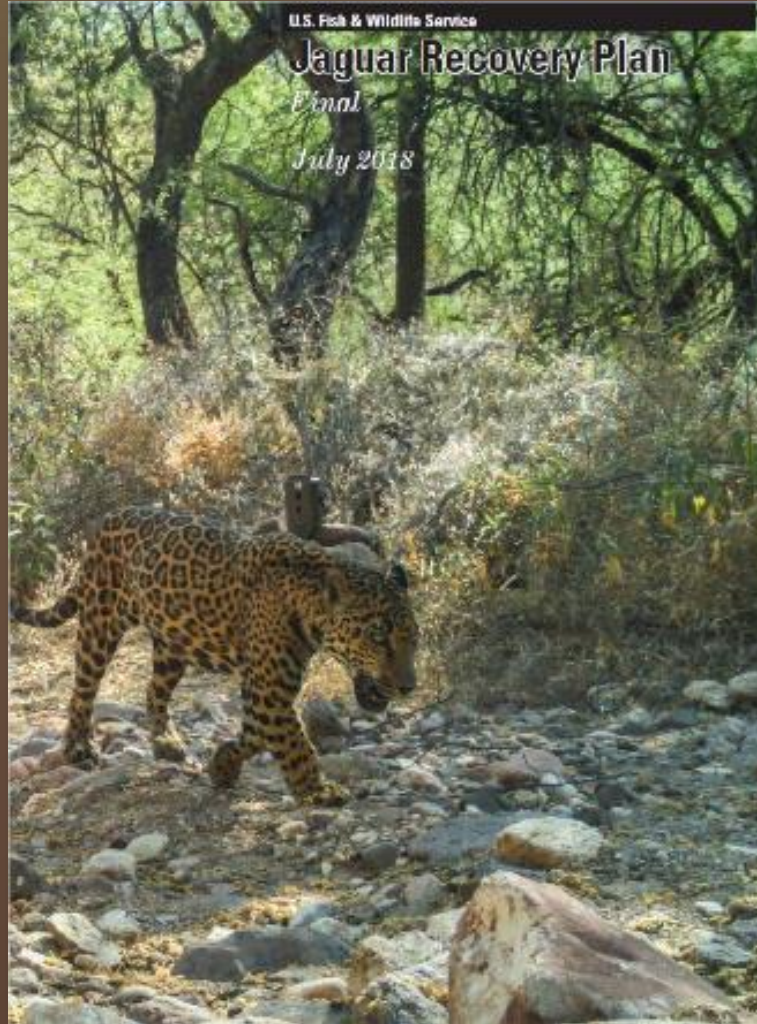
Imagen de un jaguar captada por una cámara-trampa en el sur de Arizona. Foto: USFWS UA

*Lions, and Tigers, and Jaguars,
OH MY!*



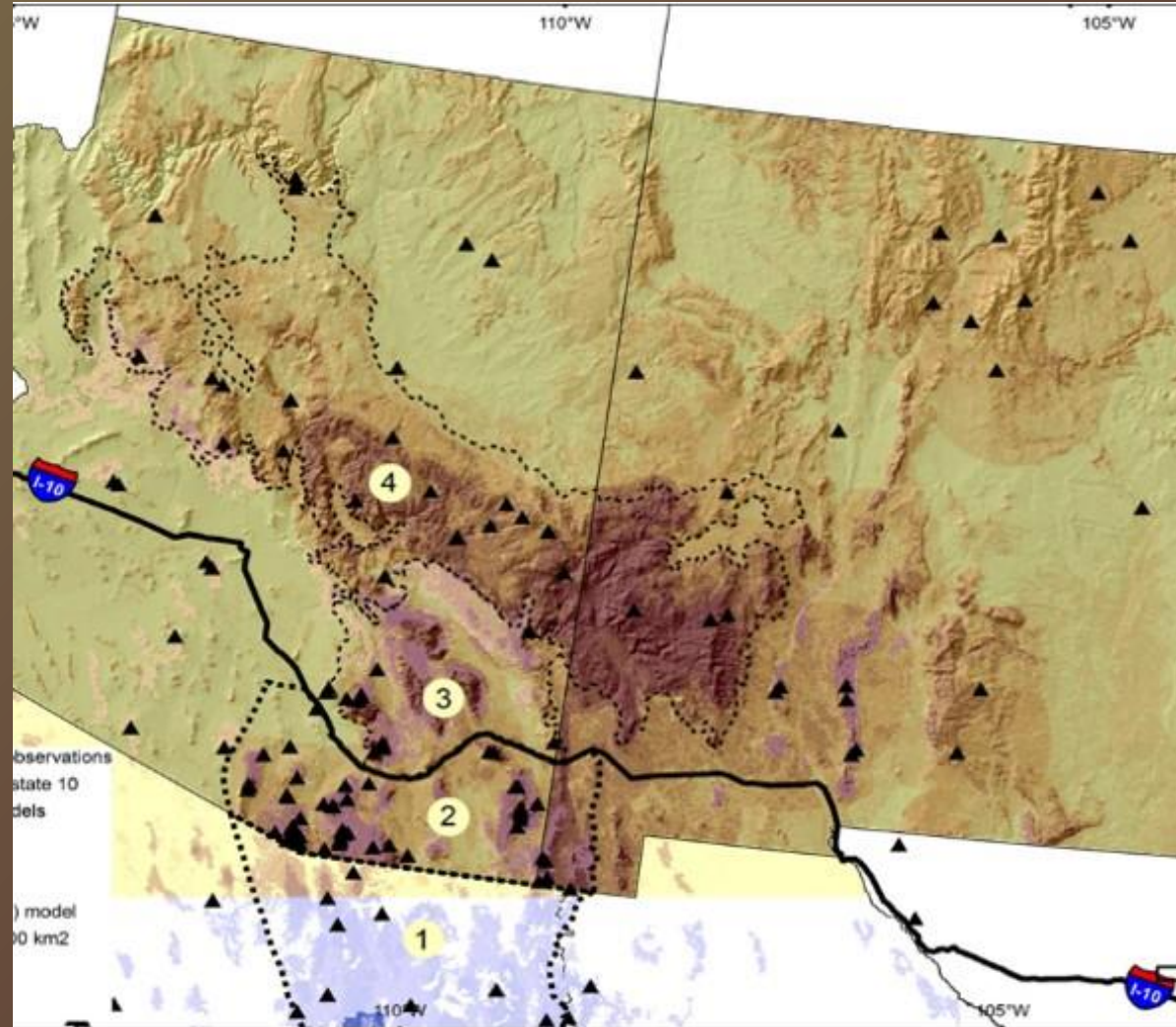
Working with Diverse Agencies and Authorities on Land and Species Management

- USFS
- USFWS
- AZGFD
- CBP
- BLM, NPS
- Non-profits
- Universities
- Tribes



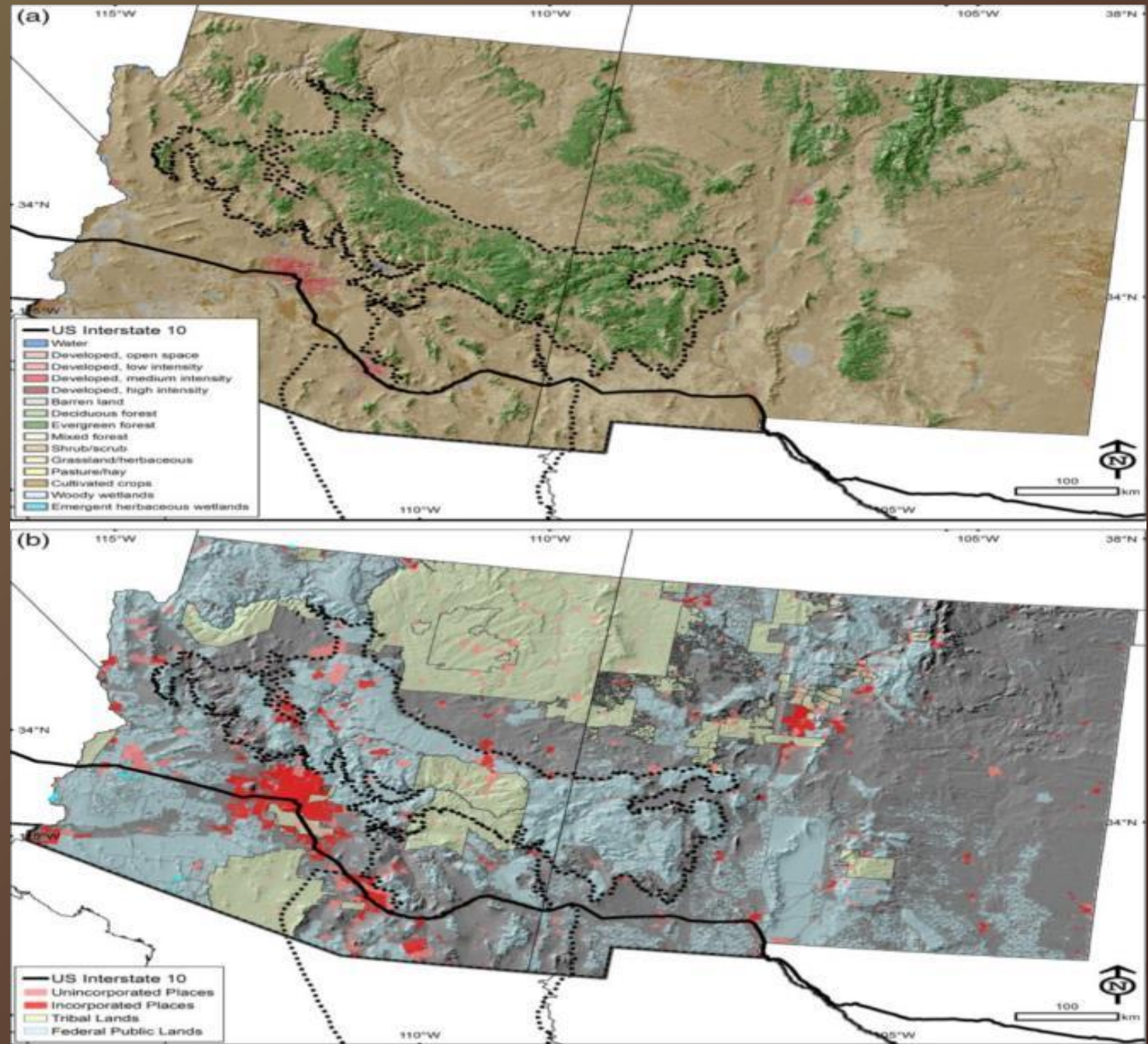
Jaguar Reintroductions: The CANRA

- Historic Range of the Jaguar in Arizona and New Mexico
- Observation Records over 150 years



**“CANRA”- Central
Arizona New
Mexico Recovery
Area for the
Jaguar**

*WCS Newsroom: “Just
Add Jaguars: Scientists
identify large swath of
potential habitat for
iconic big cat in
Arizona and New
Mexico.”*



U.S./Mexico Cross-Border Partnerships: Needs to Communicate & Collaborate over Jaguar Conservation and Political Effectiveness

- Increase collaboration towards multi-agency mission successes and addressing agency's needs
- Increase coordination towards enhanced land and resource protection
- Increase FS and Natural Resource Agency's ability to meet ESA, NEPA, and other federal laws and policies
- Achieve a “win-win” in a politicized cross-border environment focused on an iconic mammal, the jaguar, that is a magnet for conservation, media, conflict, etc..

Where do we go next?

- Research on multi-agency & Non-profits - common denominators
- MOU
- Charter
- Pase adelante...Very carefully, with flexibility, patience, walking/talking/treading lightly.... 😊



“The Slow & Diverse Road is the Only Road?”

One Goal, Many Roads

Importance of Conducting Research on Project - Species, Geographical areas, Agencies, Partnerships, & especially Non-Profits (there may be some surprises 😊)

HABITAT CONNECTIONS

Wildlife Corridors LLC: Preserving and Restoring Critical Habitat Linkages in the US-Mexico Borderlands

The Wildlife Corridors property at Three Canyons Ranch near Patagonia, AZ is at the heart of a swath of land identified by biologists as an essential migratory route for many wildlife species, including jaguars. It was once slated to be a 189-lot, high-density housing development. Following the development's bankruptcy, the property was purchased by local conservation group Wildlife Corridors LLC and affiliated Borderlands Restoration with the intention of creating a single conservation easement covering the northern 80% of the property within the mainstay of the wildlife corridor.



KEY ISSUES

Linkages between undeveloped habitat are essential for genetic flow and biodiversity of wildlife species. These linkages—often called wildlife corridors—are becoming increasingly threatened as human populations expand. Urbanization, agriculture, highways and other human development have led to habitat fragmentation and the overall disruption of migratory paths used by animals. The Wildlife Corridors property preserves a critical corridor segment while managing for multiple uses and enjoyment by the surrounding communities. By involving local communities in learning from and tending to their local watershed, the property also serves to educate the public about the importance of undeveloped spaces for wildlife movement.

PROJECT GOALS

- Strategic acquisition of land identified as an important habitat linkage for several wildlife species
- Community engagement and education
- Manage for moderate recreational use, ecological restoration, and wildlife corridor integrity



[Large Landscape Connectivity:](https://lccnetwork.org/sites/default/files/Resources/Wildlife%20Corridors%20LLC_Preserving%20and%20Restoring%20Critical%20Habitat%20Linkages%20in%20the%20US-Mexico%20Borderlands.pdf)

https://lccnetwork.org/sites/default/files/Resources/Wildlife%20Corridors%20LLC_Preserving%20and%20Restoring%20Critical%20Habitat%20Linkages%20in%20the%20US-Mexico%20Borderlands.pdf

Discussion:

*How do we utilize the “allure” of
Iconic Species or Habitats to:*

*(1) Build Conservation
Partnerships?*

*(2) Make Partnerships more
Effective?*

