

MEETING Jaguar Habitat Subcommittee for Jaguar Conservation Team

PLACE James H. Baxter Civic Center, 313 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Lordsburg, NM

TIME Scheduled 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

ATTENDANCE David Bergman, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services; Mark Crites, US Fish and Wildlife Service-Arizona; Sue Krentz, Arizona Cattle Growers; Judy Keeler, Coalition of Counties; Gary Helbing, USDA, Coronado National Forest; Bud Starnes, New Mexico Department of Agriculture; Jennifer Sprague, Citizen; Michael Robinson, Center for Biological Diversity; Riuda Metz, Citizen; Dave Parsons, The Rewilding Trust; Eva Sargent, Defenders of Wildlife; David Hodges, Sky Island Alliance; Curt Bradley, Center for Biological Diversity; Tim Goodman, Bureau of Land Management

NOTES:

The meeting was opened by David Bergman acting Chair for Bill Van Pelt at 9:06 am. Mr. Van Pelt and Terry Johnson from the Arizona Game and Fish Department as well as Lisa Kirkpatrick, Chuck Hayes and Jim Stuart from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish were unable to attend due to previous commitments and illnesses. In addition, Alan Rabinowitz, Chuck Hayes, Brian Miller, Anthony Provolitis, and Richard Searle provided email comments prior to the meeting. The email comments were reviewed during the morning session.

The Jaguar Habitat Subcommittee was tasked with reviewing and finalizing the draft document “Potential jaguar habitat in Arizona and New Mexico: Summary of work and recommendations of the Jaguar Habitat Subcommittee for the Jaguar Conservation Team” sent out by Bill Van Pelt by email on February 10, 2006. The discussion focused on a step-wise progression through the document beginning with the INTRODUCTION.

Notes on changes or issues identified in the INTRODUCTION, pages 1 – 2

- Judy Keeler – using the term “conserve” in the first sentence is misleading since we do not know where the jaguars are located.
- Michael Robinson – a number of grammatical errors are in the document. The Chair requested and the committee concurred that Michael send the grammatical errors he has previously identified directly to Bill Van Pelt.

Notes on changes or issues identified in the BACKGROUND, pages 2 – 3

- Michael Robinson – wants more specificity in the number of “jaguar-related articles”.
- Literature Cited is missing
- Third paragraph – 4 criteria were identified by the JAGSAG, yet 5 criteria are spelled out
- Third paragraph – the criteria identified by JAGSAG for determining potential jaguar habitat need to be written verbatim or a direct quote as they were originally agreed upon.

Notes on changes or issues identified in the MAPPING EFFORTS, pages 3 - 7

- The title needs further clarification. It was suggested that this title be dropped and the Mapping Efforts section become part of the background as it is background information.
- Judy Keeler – Definitions for habitat and niche are not clear. They need to be defined. Michael Robinson – The JAGSAG memo from November 14, 2000, needs to be re-reviewed to ensure that this report is consistent with the memo and we are using the definitions outlined in the memo.
- Page 5, paragraph 4, Michael Robinson stated that while the last sentence is true, NMGFD did not use all Class II sightings reviewed in previous JAGCT meetings by the AZGFD. Missing from this analysis are the 1999 Trewern Class II sighting and the Duffy Class II sighting. The paragraph needs to include this clarification.
- Curt Bradley – the language used to describe the mapping process is not technically correct. The Chair requested that Curt or Michael email Bill with the proper language on February 17, 2006.
- Page 7 paragraph 1 – A consensus was reached that the language “Concerns were raised at the meeting that the CBD would be biased in their analysis.” be struck as it was not germane to the topic.
- Page 7 paragraph 3 – Michael Robinson requested the same credence as given to other mapping projects in the draft. Bud Starnes – simplify the language.
- Page 7 Last paragraph – “The challenge identified in the paper...” What paper, i.e., citation, does this refer to?

Lunch break taken from 11:36 am to 1:00 pm

Notes on changes or issues identified in the RECOMMENDATIONS

- By consensus it was determined that the current recommendations as written would be dropped.
- By consensus the following 2 statements were accepted as substitutes for the aforementioned dropped recommendations in the document.
- “A. The Jaguar Habitat Subcommittee is forwarding the four maps and their underlying documentation to the Jaguar Conservation Team. The maps meet Objective 5 of the Conservation Agreement and are the following:
  - The Arizona map produced by the CBD, which strictly apply to the habitat criteria approved by the JAGCT,
  - The New Mexico map produced by the CBD, which strictly apply to the habitat criteria approved by the JAGCT,
  - The maps from the July 2003 NMDGF as an alternative analysis not based on the habitat criteria approved by the JAGCT; and
  - The maps in the AGFD and Sierra Institute reports as an alternative analysis not based on the habitat criteria approved by the JAGCT.”
- “B. The Jaguar Habitat Subcommittee recommends that the JAGCT use the completed maps to prioritize conservation efforts for potential habitat. Prioritization would begin with areas where the maps are in agreement.”

#### Notes on changes or issues identified in the DISCLAIMER

- By consensus, move the disclaimer to follow the recommendations.
- The title “DISCLAIMER” should be in the same format and font as the other sub headings.
- By consensus the Disclaimer was reworded to read as follows:
  - “The findings, opinions, and recommendations in the attached reports are those of the investigators who have received partial or full funding from members of the Jaguar Conservation Team. The findings, opinions, and recommendations do not necessarily reflect those of the individual members of the Jaguar Habitat Subcommittee of the Jaguar Conservation Team.”

#### Other issues brought to the table:

- The term “cultural” in the second paragraph of the introduction needs to be defined in the new conservation strategy.
- Several information layers were missing from the map. Information that was lacking was identified as; a prey layer, livestock layer, and landownership layer. In addition, information on habitat in Mexico was missing.
- Maps may need to be modified due to current vs. historical jaguar information.
- Due to the drought the available water has changed. This needs to be reanalyzed.
- The prey issue was also identified by Rabinowitz and Miller in emails.
- The current use of sighting criteria needs to be revisited.
- The minutes of November 18 need to be revisited to ensure that all products that were to be delivered have been received.
- Michael Robinson gave an overview of his new book “Predatory Bureaucracy”.
- David Hodges stated that Sky Island Alliance has completed a feasibility study on jaguars in Sonora. Electronic copies can be received by contacting him at his email at: [dhodges@skyislandalliance.org](mailto:dhodges@skyislandalliance.org)

#### ACTION ITEM:

- The Jaguar Habitat Subcommittee will reconvene at a future date selected by Bill Van Pelt. Once reconvened the Subcommittee will focus on identifying additional data layers that need to be added to the product of recommendation B.

Meeting closed at 3:06 pm.