

Jaguars

once ranged from southern Argentina, up along the coasts of Central America and Mexico and into the southwestern United States as far north as the Grand Canyon. In



Arizona and New Mexico, these majestic cats were found in virtually every type of habitat, from desert grasslands to montane-conifer forests. But by the 1900s, jaguars had largely disappeared from the United States, driven south of the border by development and hunting.

Loss of habitat and illegal killing continue to threaten jaguars throughout their entire range. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed jaguars outside the United States as an endangered species in 1972. The species was protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in 1973. In 1997, with enough solid biological evidence to indicate that the Arizona and New Mexico borderlands are a legitimate part of the jaguar's range, FWS listed jaguars as endangered in the United States. This status guarantees protection for jaguars that cross into the United States from northern Mexico.

A Jaguar Conservation Team made up of land-owners, ranchers, citizen groups, scientists and state and federal agency representatives from New Mexico, Arizona and Mexico is working to develop a jaguar conservation plan. But they need your help to identify suitable habitat and cross-border migratory routes.

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www.fs.fed.us



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WANTED:

Information

leading to the protection and conservation of jaguars along the Arizona-New Mexico borderlands



Jaguar (*Panthera onca*)

Have you seen this animal?



J. CHILDS, JAGUAR CONSERVATION TEAM

Jaguars are found in habitats ranging from mountainous spruce-fir forests to lowland thornscrub deserts.

Throughout the past 100 years, jaguars have been consistently documented in the borderlands of Arizona and New Mexico. To develop a sound plan for protecting and conserving jaguars in the United States, the Jaguar Conservation Team needs more information about jaguars in the borderlands — information you can help provide.

If you see a wild jaguar, please note as many details as possible and promptly call the appropriate state agency. Your observations may prove to be a valuable contribution to jaguar conservation and help to preserve a precious part of America's wildlife heritage.

Jaguar Spotting: What to Look For





Jaguars are large, muscular cats with relatively short, powerful limbs and deep-chested bodies. Adults measure six to eight feet from head to tip of tail. Average weights are 200 pounds for adult males, 150 pounds for adult females and 80 to 100 pounds for juveniles. Stunningly beautiful, jaguars are cinnamon-buff in color with many black spots often in the form of broken circles or rosettes. An all-black, or melanistic, phase also occurs.

Jaguars are easily distinguished from mountain lions (pumas), the only other big cats found in the borderlands, by their pronounced spots.

Jaguars are shy and elusive animals and generally travel at night. They are at home in a variety of habitats, from high spruce-fir forests of the mountainous "sky-islands" to the lowland thornscrub deserts. Their habitat preferences in the United States are not well-documented and may be determined as much by the availability of food and water as by habitat type.



Jaguar vs. Puma Tracks

	FRONT	HIND
Jaguar: Foot pads broad, not indented at top, toe pads rounded.		
Puma: Top of foot pad indented, toe pads tapered, almost pointed.		

To Report a Jaguar Sighting

If you see a jaguar or signs of jaguar activity:

1. Note the exact location. Be as specific as possible.
2. Note the coloration, size, posture and behavior of the animal.
3. Look for tracks, scat, hair and other sign. Make a tracing of a track, if you can do so without destroying it. Collect hair and scat samples for analysis by wildlife officials.

4. Report the sighting immediately to:

Arizona Game and Fish Department
602-789-3573
or
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
505-522-9796.