

PROJECT WILDCAT

OBJECTIVE: PROTECT PREDATORS, ESPECIALLY JAGUARS, BY WORKING WITH RANCHERS IN SONORA, MEXICO.

THE REGION

Project Wildcat works in the Río Bavispe lowlands, just north of the existing Northern Jaguar Reserve in Sonora, Mexico. Before Project Wildcat, there were no coordinated efforts to protect jaguars in this critical region.

THE JAGUAR

The majestic jaguar is the largest cat in the Americas. Once abundant across the continent, they are now listed as threatened or endangered nearly everywhere they call home. The situation on the US-Mexico borderlands is the most dire; there are only an estimated 80 jaguars left in Sonora. This endangered population is the last hope for the species' reintroduction into the US.

THE CATTLE DILEMMA

In the past three years, 8% of Sonora's jaguar population has been killed by ranchers in retaliation for these predators eating their livestock. These ranchers don't want to kill the jaguars, but have had to resort to desperate measures to save their cattle and feed their families. Without land for natural predators to roam, this situation will only get worse.

THE CATTLE SOLUTION

Project Wildcat is working with the ranchers of six contiguous ranches who have agreed to refrain from killing jaguars and other predators in exchange for training, supplies, and equipment to protect their cattle. This will create a 35,000 wildlife corridor for jaguars, ocelots, mountain lions, and more. In the past year alone, improved cattle management techniques reduced jaguar predation on calves by 75%!

WILDLIFE CAMERAS

Wildlife cameras have been installed on the six ranches, capturing an amazing diversity of species in the region. Four or five individual jaguars have been photographed.

THE FUTURE

With your help, we can prove that ranchers can coexist with jaguars. This model for cattle ranching and jaguar protection can then be expanded to a larger area and more ranches. Success is key to changing attitudes toward jaguars and other predators.