



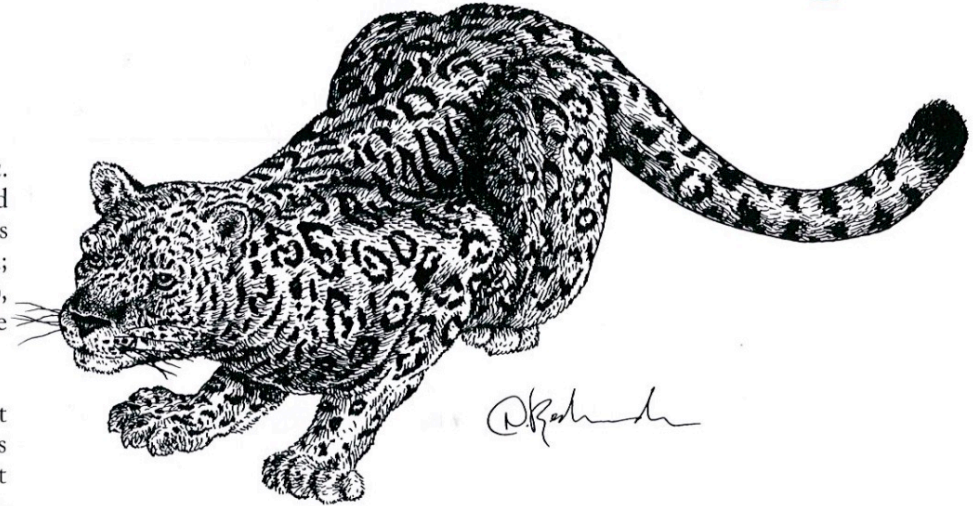
# JAGUAR

**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Panthera onca*. *Panthera* from the Greek for all and hunter, a reference to this animal's position at the top of the food chain; *onca* from the Greek for hook or barb, a reference to the jaguar's formidable set of claws.

**DESCRIPTION:** Member of cat family; allied with "roaring" cats (African lion, tiger, leopards). Largest cat native to Western Hemisphere. Adult males average 200 pounds; may exceed 300 pounds. Adult females average 150 pounds. Juveniles average 80 to 100 pounds. Muscular, with relatively short, massive limbs and deep-chested body. Adult lengths range from about 6 to 8 feet (body and tail). Cinnamon-buff in color, with many black spots. A black or melanistic color phase occurs primarily in southern parts of range.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Historically, as far north as Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Perhaps Louisiana, too. Historical California reports disputed. In Arizona, records extend from the Baboquivaris north to the Grand Canyon, and east to the White Mountains. Post 1950s records all from Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties. Present range extends from Arizona-New Mexico-Mexico borderlands through Central America to northern Argentina.

**HABITAT:** Known from a variety of habitats. Toward center of range, shows high affinity for lowland wet habitats, typically swampy savannas or tropical rain forests. In the northern and southern periphery, may occur in warmer, more arid habitat types, including oak-pine woodland.



**BIOLOGY:** Jaguars breed year-round rangewide, but at the southern and northern ends of the range there is evidence of a spring breeding season. Gestation is about 100 days; litters range from one to four cubs (usually two). The cubs remain with the mother for nearly two years. Females mature at 3 years of age, males at 4. Studies have documented few wild jaguars more than 11 years old.

The list of prey taken by jaguars rangewide includes more than 85 species, such as peccaries (javelina), armadillos, caimans, turtles, birds, fish, and various species of livestock. In the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, javelina and deer are presumably dietary mainstays, as they are in Jalisco, Mexico, the nearest area in which jaguars are being studied. Dietary overlap of jaguars and mountain lions in Jalisco is about 70 percent, with jaguars tending to prefer slightly larger prey.

Jaguars are known to be far ranging. Movements of 500 miles have been recorded. However, if food is abundant, they may become sedentary and range over only a few square miles. Like most cats, jaguars are territorial and mark their territories with scents. They roar to announce their presence to other jaguars.

**STATUS:** The jaguar is federally listed as endangered throughout its historic range. Until recently, Arizona had considered the jaguar extirpated from within its borders. Recent records (1996 and 1997) now indicate that it is at least occasionally present. Whether these animals are resident or transient, and whether they have been absent from the state or just overlooked for the past decade or more, is unknown. The jaguar is on the Department's draft list of *Wildlife of Special Concern in Arizona* (AGFD in prep.), and was included on its previous list of *Threatened Native Wildlife in Arizona* as endangered.

**MANAGEMENT NEEDS:** For jaguars to persist in Arizona, they must be protected from being killed and they must have an adequate prey base and movement corridors from source populations in Mexico. Abundance of prey and suitable resting sites are probably more important than a particular vegetation type. The core population in western Mexico must also be sufficient to provide for dispersal into the U.S.-Mexico borderlands. Field research, especially on habitat use and movement patterns, in Arizona, New Mexico, and Mexico is needed to provide a sound basis for management decisions. 🐾



## TEOTIHUACAN

(the city of the gods)

Teotihuacan is an ancient pre-Aztec civilization in what is now central Mexico. Teotihuacan rulers demanded huge projects, ancient building date back to 400 BCE. Teotihuacan has three pyramids; the Pyramid of the Sun is the third-largest ancient pyramid in the world. Archaeologists know very little about the people who built Teotihuacan, it remains a mystery.

The pyramids and surviving structures have art painted on the walls that tell stories of mythological gods. *Physical evidence such as jaguar skeletons exists in one particular pyramid.* Jaguars were part of the culture of Teotihuacan. Ancient people believed that jaguars could move between the earth and the spirit realm. Jaguars are mysterious creatures that are part of ancient legends. For your clue scan the code and listen to an ASU archaeologist on site at Teotihuacan.

ASU: Jaguar Tablero at  
Teotihuacan

<https://tinyurl.com/y5cozynu>



Do you want to see pyramids? Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y46lr47c>



# Jaguars

once ranged from southern

Argentina, up along

the coasts of

Central America

and Mexico and

into the south-

western 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 landowners, 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.



This pamphlet was produced with the support of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Defenders of Wildlife and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service.



[www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)

[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)



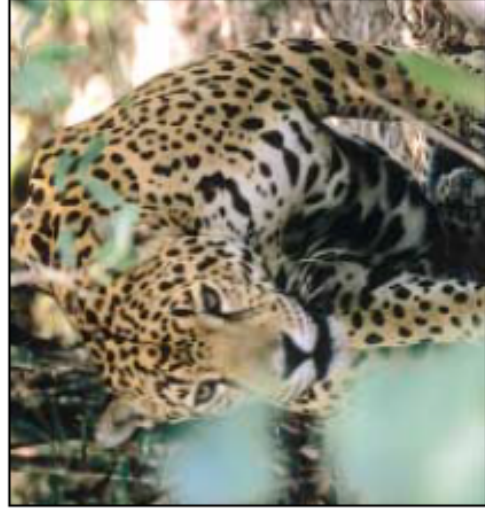
Arizona Game and Fish Department  
2221 W. Greenway Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85023  
602-942-3000  
[www.azgfd.com](http://www.azgfd.com)

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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?



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

CHILD, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TEAM

# Jaguar Spotting: What to Look For

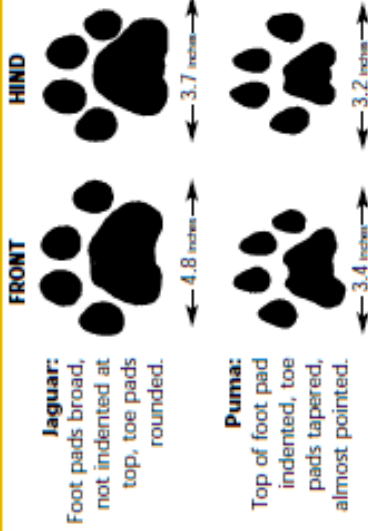
Jaguars are large, muscular cats with relatively short, powerful limbs and deep-chested bodies. Adults measure six to eight feet from head to tip of tail. Average weights are 200 pounds for adult males, 150 pounds for adult females and 80 to 100 pounds for juveniles. Stunningly beautiful, jaguars are 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



## 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

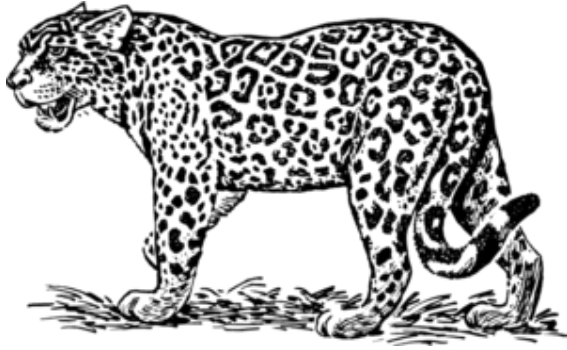
or

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
505-522-9796.

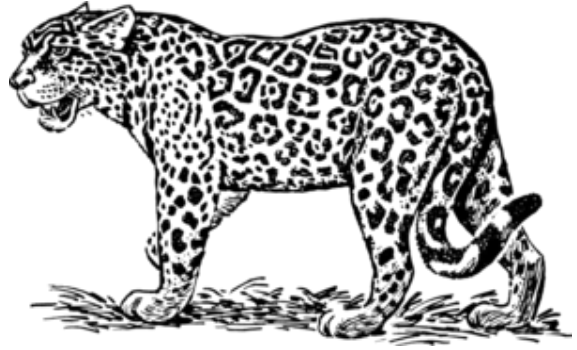
**T**hroughout the past 100 years, jaguars have been consistently documented in the borderlands of Arizona and New Mexico. To develop a sound plan for protecting and conserving jaguars in the United States, the Jaguar Conservation Team needs more information about jaguars in the borderlands — information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

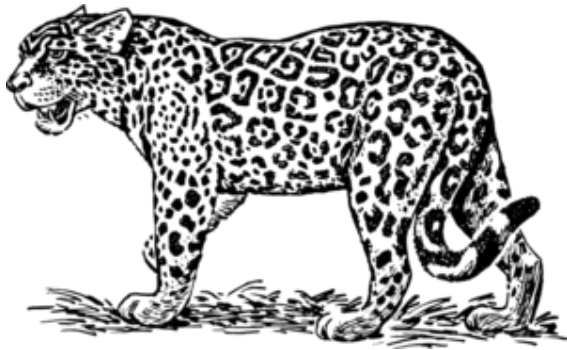
**Congratulations!**  
**Today you captured an image of a jaguar!**



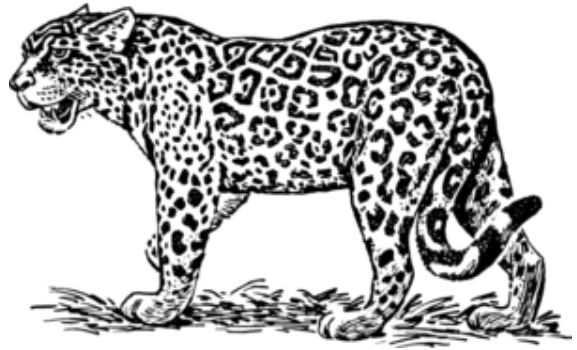
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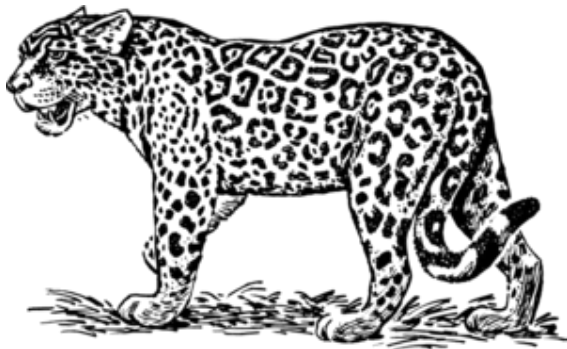
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