

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Edited By
Cindy Coping, Pima NRC

“The native mammals of a State are one of its valuable assets; they figure largely in aiding pioneer settlement and development and, if wisely used and guarded, form a no less valuable source of revenue and recreation for the most highly developed sections of the country. On the other hand, predatory and crop-destroying species have caused a constant struggle on the part of residents from the time of the early settlers up to the present for the protection of their flocks, herds, and crops. Only recently, with the knowledge gained by years of study of the relationships of the species of mammals, of their characteristics, distribution, and habits, and of the methods of effectively protecting them or of controlling their abundance, has it been possible to solve many of the problems that will mean the greatest good to the greatest number of people in the State. Even with the necessary knowledge at hand nothing can be effectively done toward the protection, utilization, or control of the wild life without a full understanding of the facts and the full cooperation of those most vitally concerned—the resident population.”
—Merriam Bailey, 1931, *The Mammals of New Mexico*

The historic record of jaguar sightings and kills in New Mexico and Arizona has not been fully reviewed for accuracy and reliability as of this writing by this author or any other. However, it is important to document for the administrative record the many discrepancies, inconsistencies, omissions and inaccuracies we have identified thus far in the literature cited in the 2012 Jaguar Recovery Plan.

In our initial research, we found many inconsistencies and inaccuracies in the jaguar literature cited in the 2012 Jaguar Recovery Plan. We then attempted to obtain and examine the primary, *original* record for each jaguar killed in New Mexico and Arizona, and compare it to citations in the literature for accuracy. Our attempts to obtain this information were successful in most cases but stymied in others by information gatekeepers within the USFWS, the AZGFD and JSTOR.

Some of the literature cited in the Jaguar Recovery Plan, and the earlier literature cited within those documents, has simply been unavailable to the PNRCD’s researchers at any reasonable price. Moreover, that information is available only through JSTOR and available exclusively to government employees, students and employees of large universities, and wealthy NGOs. The PNRCD looked into the cost of a JSTOR subscription and found it economically prohibitive.

Nonetheless, in the process of our research we came upon new information, not mentioned in the published literature, which has enabled us to identify many errors in the jaguar occurrence records cited in the published literature and to provide correction and clarification there of herein. Our research also turned up *new* records of jaguars killed in Arizona and New Mexico that are not mentioned in any of the literature we were able to obtain. Since the USFWS was unwilling to cooperate with PNRCD, however, and failed to fulfill our proper FOIA request for original information on jaguar occurrences, we will partially withhold these new records from the USFWS until the USFWS fully complies with its legal obligation to cooperate with PNRCD regarding the development of critical habitat for jaguars.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Nevertheless, the USFWS proposes to impose new regulatory restrictions on the livelihoods of our cooperators based on this unavailable, purportedly “scientific” information that the PNRCD has been prohibited from seeing and therefore reviewing herein. Moreover, because our proper FOIA request of the USFWS and our proper Public Records request of AZGFD did not result in our obtaining all of the information and jaguar records requested, our review of the historic record of jaguar kills and sightings in Arizona and New Mexico is incomplete for this additional reason as well. In regard to the latter, neither the USFWS nor the AGFD offered any explanation for their respective failures to fulfill our proper FOIA and Public Records requests. Instead, we were not told by either that the highly relevant records and information we later learned of even existed and was, in fact, in their possession when these proper public information requests were made.

FINDINGS

We examined the records mentioned in the literature that we were able to access. In the discussion that follows, we mention “sightings” of jaguars that were not killed, photographed or seen in conjunction with identified jaguars only in the historical (pre-1900) context because of the dearth of verified records of jaguars from that time period, and at the end of this treatment to offer contrast between what is and is not reliable scientific information. Sightings of jaguars unaccompanied by photographs or other physical evidence (such as a hide or skull) that can conclusively identify a specific jaguar are scientifically unreliable (see previous September 23, 2010, comments, provided in separate attachment). Sightings of jaguar scat or tracks and plaster casts made of tracks are also unreliable. Such evidence lends itself to the error of counting a single jaguar more than once. Moreover, a recent peer-reviewed study showed that experienced observers, given three types of tracks, mistook more than 20% of tracks of mountain lions and large canids for jaguar tracks.¹

Photographs without automatic GPS and time/date stamps are likewise unreliable because dishonest persons seeking to achieve other agendas, for example, someone who opposes border security and/or commercial activity can too easily seed misleading photographs into the Administrative Record. In addition, McCain and Childs (2008), without stating so in their methodology, seeded scat from female zoo jaguars in heat as bait to manipulate the behavior and movements of jaguars they then photographed in southern Arizona,² thereby rendering all use of scat by themselves or anyone else, all their photographs and potentially those of others, and ultimately their entire report, unreliable as scientific evidence of naturally occurring jaguars in either Arizona or New Mexico.

In general, we find that Brown (1983) and Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) have been widely cited, their information has been incorporated into numerous models of jaguar presence and habitat, and their datasets form the primary foundation for planned future environmental

¹ Traditional vs. Multivariate Methods of Identifying Jaguar, Puma and Large Canid Tracks. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 2010; 74 (5): 1141-1153

² Comments made under oath made by Terry Johnson; Transcript of Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Internal Investigation into death of jaguar named “Macho B”

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

regulation on behalf of the jaguar in Arizona and New Mexico. Additional records, contributed by other authors, augment those datasets. Our examination of those datasets reveals that many questions, inconsistencies, omissions, inaccuracies and discrepancies exist among them which fatally compromise their reliability of use for either scientifically credible modeling or foundation purposes.

Nonetheless, these datasets form the core basis of “scientific” input for modeling of alleged jaguar decline and suitable habitat purposes. Jaguar presence and decline in the United States since 1900 has been modeled by Brown (1983) and McCain and Childs (2008). Habitat models have been developed by Mencke and Hayes (2003), Hatten et al. (2002, 2005), Boydston and Lopez-Gonzales (2005), Robinson et al. (2006), McCain and Childs (2008), and Grigione et al. (2007, 2009). Additionally, Sanderson and Fisher (2011 database) and McCain and Childs (2008, entire and unpublished data) were used by the USFWS to identify distance to water for jaguars allegedly based on the compilation of 130 “undisputed” Class I reports of jaguar locations in the United States since the time the species was listed. (77 FR 161 at p. 50221). All rely on these fatally compromised datasets for alleged scientific support.

Record-By-Record Examination of Jaguar Presence in the Southwest

As stated above and shown below, many questions, inconsistencies, omissions, inaccuracies and discrepancies exist among these core datasets, fatally compromising the reliability of their use for either scientifically valid modeling or foundation purposes.

Our main sources of information are personal contacts and reports cited in the scientific literature, not all of which is peer reviewed. We have additionally researched historic newspapers dating back to 1850, but this research has by no means been exhaustive.

We found one particularly prevalent error in the scientific literature we reviewed –

Much of the modern literature demonstrates reliance on an unfounded presumption that all recorded natural history of jaguars in the United States began in the year 1900, despite the presence of European settlers in the southwest dating back to the 16th century, and despite the existence of a flourishing press well-established long before 1900 that was eager to print sensational news.

The sighting or killing of a jaguar in the United States, even during the peak of jaguar activity during the first two decades of the 20th century, was sensational news. Dozens of newspapers were in full daily or weekly production in Arizona and New Mexico at that time and just as eager to print the unusual as would any good periodical today.

Looking back through those newspapers, in addition to the published scientific literature written by the many biologists who explored the region, however, reveals a paucity of jaguar records in the Southwest prior to 1900.

While all previous authors and editors agree that jaguar occurrences in the Southwest have

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

declined in number since 1900, none has provided any evidence indicating that jaguars occurred other than rarely and transiently in the Southwest *prior to* 1900.

We found no newspaper articles or scientific literature before 1900 mentioning jaguar sightings in New Mexico.

This fact, combined with a similar dearth of documented Arizona jaguar kills before 1900 and the sudden flood of jaguar data beginning in 1900 for Arizona and New Mexico, is consistent with the following statement made by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001)³:

“Hunting deer and other big game as an avocation rather than to fulfill a need did not really take hold in the United States until after the turn of the [20th] century. But by the time Congress approved statehood for Arizona and New Mexico in 1912, a substantial number of citizens were enjoying enough leisure time to consider themselves sportsmen. Accordingly, the first jaguar known to have been shot by a sports hunter was in November 1913 north of the mining town of Clifton, Arizona.”

Several authors cite the famous journey in 1540 by Francisco Vasquez de Coronado as somehow providing scientific evidence that jaguars were then abundant residents of New Mexico. An examination of his exact words, however, shows that the use of Coronado in such manner is unfounded.

August 1540, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado⁴

Seton (1929)⁵ reported Coronado saw jaguars and leopards at Cibola, citing George P. Winship’s translation.

Bailey (1931) wrote,

“Probably the first record of jaguars for New Mexico was made by Coronado, in 1540, when on his way north to Zuni he reported both “tigres” and “onces” among the mammals of that region, probably intending one name for the jaguar and the other for the cougar. (Whipple, et al., 1856, p. 110.)

³ David E Brown and Carlos Lopez-Gonzales, 2001, *Borderland Jaguars Tigres de la Frontera*, University of Utah Press, p.96s

⁴ Coronado, Francisco Vasquez de. *The Journey of Coronado, 1540-1542, from the City of Mexico to the Grand Canon of the Colorado and the Buffalo Plains of Texas, Kansas and Nebraska, As Told by Himself and His Followers*. Winship, George Parker (editor and translator). New York: A.S. Barnes & Company, 1904. Pages i-xxxiv, 1-251.

⁵ Seton, Ernest Thompson. 1929. *Lives Of Game Animals: An account of those land animals in America, north of the Mexican border, which are considered “game”, either because they have held the attention of sportsmen, or received the protection of law*. Volume 1. Part 1. Doubleday, Doran, and Company, Garden City, New York, USA.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Bailey (1931) is unreliable in stating that Coronado saw these animals “on his way north to Zuni” because Coronado wrote his letter to Mendoza after he had reached Cibola and did not mention where these animals were seen. Even *had* Coronado mentioned seeing jaguars “on the way north to Zuni,” it would be safe to assume he saw them closer to present day Sinaloa, where the journey began, 600 miles south of Cibola, and where a breeding population of jaguars exists.

Francisco Vasquez de Coronado wrote in 1540, in a letter to Mendoza, his financial partner back in Culiacan,

“They have very good salt in crystals, which they bring from a lake a day’s journey distant from here. No information can be obtained among them about the North sea or that on the west, nor do I know how to tell Your Lordship which we are nearest to. I should judge that it is nearer to the western, and 150 leagues is the nearest that it seems to me it can be thither. The North sea ought to be much farther away. Your Lordship may thus see how very wide the country is. They have many animals—bears, tigers, lions, porcupines, and some sheep as big as a horse, with very large horns and little tails . . . For game they have deer, leopards, and very large deer. . .” Coronado (1904)

The problem with citations to this account of Coronado’s journey as evidence of historic jaguar occupation in Arizona and New Mexico is that they are unreliable. The paragraph quoted above contains the *one and only* mention made by Coronado of possible jaguar sightings, and the same was quoted in Seton (1929). The quotation above, translated by G.P. Winship (Coronado, 1904),⁶ is taken from a letter written on August 3, 1540 from Coronado to his financial partner Mendoza, telling of the events and observations experienced since April 22 when the party left Culiacan in present day Sinaloa. Historians believe the distances Coronado reported covering were surprisingly accurate, and that he had traveled about 600 miles north from Culiacan (Castañeda 2002).

In his letter, Coronado does not state that anyone in his party saw all of these animals first hand. Nor does Coronado state where, within the very wide country he describes, these animals may have occurred. Later in the letter he writes that he had the people of Totonteac paint on two pieces of cloth all the animals that were in the area. They painted birds on one cloth and mammals on the other. He wrote,

“And I also send two cloths painted of the animals of this country, although, as I said, the painting is very poorly done, because the artist did not spend more than one day painting it. I have seen paintings on the walls of these houses which have much better proportion and are done much better.”

It is possible that Coronado’s mention of “tigres” and “onces” resulted not from first hand observation, but second hand information supplied by these poorly proportioned paintings on cloth where animals may or may not have been “tigres” or “onces” but were proportioned by an

⁶ We were unable to obtain an original Spanish version of the letter.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

unskilled painter to give that appearance. The expedition had not been in the “Cibola kingdom” long and although they had a novice interpreter, there was a serious language barrier.

Coronado also wrote,

“I do not believe that they tell me the truth, because they think that I shall soon have to depart from them and return home.”

The narrative of the journey by Pedro de Castañeda, which was penned 23 years later and became the only surviving account of the journey, makes no mention of “tigres” but does mention abundant lions (Castañeda, 2002)⁷. Unfortunately, Castañeda (2002), which is based on a far more reliable English translation than Winship’s,⁸ does not include the August 3, 1540 letter from Coronado to Mendoza. We were unable to find an accurate and reliable English translation of the letter but, based on the editorial commentary in Castañeda (2002), we do not consider the Winship translation reliable. While Castañeda (2002) does mention animals seen and notes an abundance of mountain lions found in present day Arizona, no specific mention is made of jaguars.

Robinson et al. (2006) states:

⁷ Castañeda, Pedro de. 1563. *Narrative of the Coronado Expedition*. Edited by Hammond, George P. Translated by Morris, John M. RR Donnelly & Sons. 2002.

⁸ In the “Historical Introduction” to the Donnelly & Sons 2002 translation and publication of Castañeda (1563), editor John Miller Morris indicates the editors chose not to use the Winship (1896) translation based on its unreliability. He writes, “The present bilingual presentation of Pedro de Castañeda’s *Narrative of the Coronado Expedition* arises from the marriage of two classic Coronado texts, one a faithful translation of the original into English, and the second the first printing of the narrator’s Spanish text. The English translation of Castañeda is the collaborative work of two mid-century history professors, George P. Hammond of the University of New Mexico and Agapito Rey of Indiana University. In 1940, Hammond and Rey published their translation, “Castañeda’s History of the Expedition, as the centerpiece of Volume II of the *Coronado Cuarto Centennial Publications*, a scholarly initiative to celebrate the four-hundredth anniversary of the expedition. With a print run of only 750 copies, however, finding a copy of this handsome red-cloth University of New Mexico Press volume can be challenging.

In selecting the Hammond and Rey translation, the editor chose to go against the grain of traditional reprints, which entirely rely on an earlier English translation done by George Parker Winship. G.P. Winship published this English version in 1896, and it has been reprinted almost continuously since 1901. Winship’s translation is wonderfully elegant and refined, but therein lies a dilemma. In its added rhetorical polish and Victorian gloss, it is *much* less faithful to the original Spanish text. Contemporary American scholars often quote from the 1940 Hammond and Rey English translation because of its greater textual fidelity. To be sure, Hammond and Rey made a few mistakes in their translation, and they did not print a Spanish version of the text for comparison. But as a more literal presentation of Castañeda’s mind and writing, the Hammond and Rey translation is superior.”

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“Pedro de Castañeda, who recorded the 1540-1542 expedition of conquistador Francisco Vasquez de Coronado, of which he was a part, mentions that “Gray lions and leopards were seen” somewhere in the vicinity of the upper Gila River.”

Robinson et al. (2006) cites Dover (1990) as the publisher of the Castañeda report they used. We have not seen that version but the quotation matches the Winship (Coronado 1904) translation. Winship’s translation includes a footnote immediately following the “Gray lions and Leopards were seen” quote. Winship’s footnote states:

“These were evidently the mountain lion and the wild-cat.”

The “wild-cat” could mean any kind of spotted cat such as a bobcat or lynx, and not necessarily a jaguar. Considering this dearth of information in addition to the fact that Castañeda’s version was not penned until some 23 years after the journey, the quotation regarding gray lions and leopards is unreliable as evidence of early jaguar presence in the United States.

Further, Coronado’s expedition produced no jaguar skin or skull, nor did any drawings or maps produced by the expedition survive to this day (Castañeda, 2002). Even more importantly, Coronado admittedly did not know where he was, nor did he make any comment about specifically where his party was, when they either saw or learned of the “tigres” and “onces” he mentions. Nor did he mention how he distinguished “tigres” from “onces” or why he considered “onces,” but not “tigres,” to be game animals.

Also, Coronado’s choice of the words, “seems to me,” confirms he was speculating as to his location at the time he was writing. We have no information on how far “a day’s journey” was in terms of a small party commuting for salt, where the specific lake was to which he referred, or if that lake and area is relevant to Coronado’s mention of “tigres” at all. Finally, even the actual path of Coronado’s journey is, in fact, a matter of vigorous debate among historians to this very day. In short, Coronado (1904) provides no reliable evidence supportive of the claim that jaguars were abundant residents, or even present, in either Arizona or New Mexico in 1540.

Even if Coronado’s party had, in fact, seen jaguars north of the present US/Mexico border, these predators may have crossed into the present day United States only because they were following the vast herds of domestic prey animals that accompanied the expedition, and any herds that may have been sent from Culiacan for replenishment. When they reached the Great Plains in 1542, Coronado’s party *still* had 1,000 horses, 500 head of cattle and 5,000 “rams and ewes” with them (Coronado, 1904).

The evidence by which Coronado came to the conclusion that jaguars inhabited the very wide country he visited, and the evidence on which current-day advocates claim that the kingdom of Cibola, specifically, was populated by jaguars at that time by use of citation to Coronado, is not presented by Coronado. Therefore, the available evidence simply does not support the speculation that jaguars were residents of either Arizona or New Mexico in 1540 based on citation to Coronado.

Instead, what evidence does exist strongly suggests an opposite conclusion from that reached by those misusing Coronado for faux support -- that jaguar presence in the Southwest is much more recent than it is historical (i.e., during the 1540 – 1900 time period). This conclusion is supported by the lack of mention of “tigres” or jaguars in both the journals of Padre Kino and Juan Mateo Manje (late 1600s and early 1700s) and evidence in the form of the important and highly relevant fact that there is little to no mention of jaguars in Arizona and New Mexico in

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

the scientific literature published prior to 1900, as is documented by the following credible sources (bold added):

- Elliot Coues (1867) wrote in an article, “The Quadrupeds of Arizona,”⁹ “Two other species of true long-tailed cats may possibly exist, particularly in the south-eastern portions. These are the Ocelot (*F. pardalis* Linn.), and the Jaguar (*F. onzaliinn.*). **Within the limits of the United States, however, they have as yet only been found in the valley of the Rio Grande of Texas.**”
- John Duncan Quackenbos et al. (1887)¹⁰ wrote, “It is true that the Jaguar, the largest of American Cats, has been taken along our southern border, but **it can be regarded only as a very rare straggler from the tropics.**”
- An article in the July 18, 1901 issue of the Arizona Silver Belt, p.2 states, “The jaguar is a beautifully spotted black and yellow creature and **is exceedingly rare in Arizona,** though quite plentiful in some portions of Mexico.”
- C.M. Barber (1902)¹¹ in recording his findings on the presence of jaguars in New Mexico stated: “The present paper is intended to record certain species **of mammals not previously known to occur in New Mexico.**”
- Vernon Bailey (1931)¹² wrote, “Distribution and habitat. — A few large spotted cats (pl. 16, A) have been found over southern New Mexico, where they seem to be native, although **generally supposed to be wanderers from over the Mexican border.**”

⁹ E. Coues, “The Quadrupeds of Arizona” P. 285-286, *The American Naturalist*, Volume 1. University of Chicago Press, 1867

¹⁰ Quackenbos, J.D., Newberry, J.S., Hitchcock, C.H., Stevens, W. Le Conte, Gannett, H., Dall, W., Merriam, C.H., Britton, N.L., Kunz, G.F., Stoney, Lt. G.M.; *Physical Geography Prepared on a New and Original Plan*, Appleton’s American Standard Geographies Based on the Principles of the Science of Education. D. Appleton and Co., NY. 1887

¹¹ Barber, C.M. 1902. Notes on little-known New Mexican mammals and species apparently not recorded from the territory. *Biological Society of Washington Proceedings*. 15:191-193.

¹² Bailey V, 1931. *Mammals of New Mexico*. *North American Fauna* 53:283-285.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Despite these credible conclusions to the contrary, the modern literature after about 1930 conforms to the scientifically unsupported viewpoint that, prior to 1900, jaguars were just as or more abundant in Arizona and New Mexico than they were during the first two decades of the 20th century. As shown above, that view is simply not supported by the facts. Instead, the best science available shows that the presence of jaguars in Arizona and New Mexico appears to have sharply increased between 1900 and 1920.

The aforementioned, unsupported assumption of historic residency is a near universally accepted error beginning with Carmony and Brown (1982), perpetuated by Brown (1983), nourished by Robinson et al. (2006), further propagated through the use of egregiously incorrect arithmetic by McCain and Childs (2008), and embraced without question by both the USFWS and the mainstream media.

Because of this error, Brown's (1983) model is highly misleading. For example, if the Y-axis of his frequency plot of jaguar occurrences was moved back from 1900 to 1825 or 1850, the plot would better mimic the appearance of a normal heartbeat on an EKG than the Olympic downhill ski slope presented in the absence of such baseline comparison. Moreover, correction of the inaccurate dates and locations of records cited by Brown (1983) (discussed below) that were likely included in his data set,¹³ would, alone, also reduce the slope of Brown's (1983) plot significantly.

A second, common fatal error in the recent scientific literature concerning jaguar conservation is reliance on inaccurate and/or unreliable data to reach published results and conclusions. In addition, authors and editors appear to have "rubber stamped" the works of previous writers without either taking a hard look at or challenging their data and findings. This has led to even greater reliance on unreliable data and inaccurate findings.

We therefore examined every record referenced in the modern literature, compared and contrasted information presented by the various sources for each record, and identified discrepancies, inaccuracies and omissions where they occur. As shown below, some of these discrepancies, inaccuracies and omissions are substantial and fatally compromise the basic scientific integrity of all of the computer models that have been used to identify suitable and critical habitat for jaguars in Arizona and New Mexico to date.

A Review Of Jaguar Occurrence Records Presented In The Scientific Literature And In The Press

The following classifications are employed by various authors:

¹³ We cannot say with absolute certainty if it would, because he also failed to present the data set from which Figure 2 in his analysis was constructed.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Records used by Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) or by Mencke and Hayes (2002) or by Robinson et al. (2006) in habitat modeling are identified with *.

Arizona records are ranked by Girmendonk (1994)¹⁴ as follows:

- Class I reports are considered credible observations and require the recorder or observer to have the animal in hand, therefore, they are confirmed reports.
- Class II reports represent reliable sightings without supporting evidence, therefore, a Class II score does not necessarily validate the cat sighting, but does place a greater weight on the possibility than Class III scores.
- Class III reports are considered unreliable as account details are vague, observer reliability questionable and/or the animal described is something other than an ocelot, jaguar or jaguarundi.

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) also ranked Arizona records as Class 1: physical evidence, Class 2: firsthand account from a reliable source and Class 3: secondhand, questionable accounts are considered unreliable.

Grigione et al. (2007) included in Table 3 a list of records they considered to be Class 1 or Class II and claims these classes are defined using the system developed by Girmendonk (1994). As shown below, however, class determinations used by Grigione et al. (2007) for many specific jaguar occurrence records differ significantly from Girmendonk's.

A case-by-case analysis of known jaguar kills and other records comparing sources for inconsistencies, omissions, and/or inaccuracies follows, with highlighting added:

NEW MEXICO Jaguar Occurrences Reported in the Literature

April 10, 1825, Convent of San Francisco in Santa Fe, ARGENTINA- an egregious 151-year-old inaccuracy soundly refuted decades ago yet still promulgated by USFWS as occurring in New Mexico.

Baird (1859),¹⁵ quoting Kennerly, wrote a long and highly detailed story of a jaguar that got inside the sacristy of the Convent of San Francisco at Santa Fe and killed four friars.

Bailey (1931) considered the account implausible only because he refused to imagine a jaguar trapped inside a confined space would attack a man that is blocking the only exit, despite numerous records of bayed jaguars killing hounds. Bailey did not challenge the statement that

¹⁴ Girmendonk, Adele L. Ocelot, Jaguar And Jaguarundi Sighting Reports:

Arizona and Sonora, Mexico. Arizona Game and Fish Department Technical Report 35. 1994

¹⁵ Baird, 1859. Mammals of the Boundary. United States and Mexican Boundary Survey, under the Order Of Lieut. Col. W. H. Emory. Vol 2, pt. 2, 62 pp, illust.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Santa Fe is on the bank of the Rio Grande, which is actually 16 miles away at its closest point to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Nonetheless, Schmitt (NMDFG 1998), likewise having failed to closely examine the facts, reported this jaguar as having been killed in Santa Fe, NM, citing Bailey (1931), while omitting mention of the clear explanation in Bailey (1931) that Bailey considered this an unreliable record.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) omitted this record from their tables, correctly pointing out that this convent is in Argentina and also citing the corrections to this record by earlier writers.

Despite the clear refutation of the Santa Fe, New Mexico jaguar myth, the USFWS continues to perpetuate this proven falsehood – most recently in its August 17, 2012 online publication of questions and answers regarding its then yet-to-be published August 20, 2012, proposed rule to designate critical habitat in Arizona and New Mexico. Our examination, aided by Google Earth, has confirmed this record is from Argentina and the river is not the Rio Bravo, it is the Paraná.

In fact, this convent is still in operation in Santa Fe, Argentina and a tomb on the site houses the remains of Padre Magallanes, one of the padres killed by that jaguar in 1825.

Reliable evidence has proven this record is neither from New Mexico nor the North American Continent. Instead, it is from Argentina, in South America.

Baird, Spencer F. (1859) Report of the Mammals of the Mexican Boundary Survey, Vol. 2, Part 2

Baird (1859) quotes Kennerly as stating,

“This cat, so common in southwestern Texas, especially along the lower Rio Grande, is rarely seen so far north as El Paso del Norte. The only individual observed by our party west of the latter place was seen in the Sierra Madre, near the Guadalupe cañon. However, we were assured by many persons of Santa Cruz, that it was very common near that village, in the valley of the river of the same name.”

“Jaguar, tiger, leopard of the Texans; tutinquillé of the Apaches ; tigre, of the Mexicans. . . The habits of both [jaguar and puma] coincide almost entirely, with the exception that the jaguar confines itself to the more covered regions, preferring the impenetrable thickets in the river bottoms. Here he lies in wait for his prey, especially on the watering places of mustangs, wild cattle, and deer. Its less geographical distribution, however, gives the jaguar a minor importance compared with the puma.

As far as my knowledge extends, the head of the Rio Bravo, with the surrounding country, is the northern limit of the jaguar. The westernmost specimen of the genus was seen in the Guadalupe cañon (Sierra Madre) by Mr. J. Weyss, one of the assistants of this commission.”

Kennerly then retells the story, translated from Spanish, of the jaguar attack in an Argentinian convent, prefacing it with a comment that there is no record of an *unprovoked* jaguar attack on a

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

man. Kennerly erred grossly in stating that the convent was on the banks of the Rio Bravo rather than the Rio Paraná. He never stated, however, that the convent in Santa Fe is in New Mexico, although readers are naturally led to mistakenly infer that it is.

Baird's report finishes with the comment,

“The largest jaguar skin which I saw was taken from a specimen killed near the mouth of the little stream Las Moras, above Eagle Pass, and measured nearly five feet to the insertion of the tail.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) quotes from Baird (1859) *fide* C.B.R. Kennerly, the claims about jaguars being common at the town of Santa Cruz, although edited with an added insertion between parenthetical marks, the style of which matches the parenthetical style used by Baird in his clarification of the location of Guadalupe canyon:

“However, we were assured by many persons of Santa Cruz (a Sonoran border village just south of Lochiel, Arizona) that it was very common near that village, in the valley of the river of the same name.”

The use by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) of the same style parenthetical marks as used in Baird (1859) misleads the reader to mistakenly infer that Kennerly made the parenthetical clarification of the location of the village of Santa Cruz when, in fact, this was added editorially by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales.

Hamilton (1881)¹⁶ confirms the fact that a village named Santa Cruz already existed near the Santa Cruz River south of Lochiel, AZ, in 1859. What should be noted, however, is the fact that Baird (1859) *fide* Kennerly discusses the westernmost jaguar sighting as having been near *Guadalupe canyon* in the Sierra Madre -- not more than 70 miles to the west near Santa Cruz, where a dearth of records of jaguars actually exists.

What further should be noted is that Baird (1859) *fide* Kennerly, in the next paragraph, states the very foundation of the egregiously inaccurate account of a jaguar killed in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1825. This is due an inaccurate location reference to the Rio Bravo and failure to clarify that the location of the town called Santa Fe was in Argentina. Kennerly's recordkeeping is therefore suspect. By association, it also makes the Santa Cruz hearsay even more questionable. Moreover, any claim of jaguars being common at Santa Cruz near Lochiel, Arizona in 1859 was unverified and therefore unsupported by Coues (1867), although surely Elliot Coues was familiar with Baird (1859) and may have attempted to verify the information. Further, the claim of commonality is also contradicted by the overall paucity of jaguar records from that area at and subsequent to that time.

***Around 1855, Sierra Madre Mtns., Weyss –Misrepresentation of source**

Baird (1859) quotes Kennerly as stating,

¹⁶ Hamilton, L. *Border States of Mexico: Sonora, Sinaloa, Chihuahua and Durango*. Bacon. 1881. 209pp.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“This cat, so common in southwestern Texas, especially along the lower Rio Grande, is rarely seen so far north as El Paso del Norte. The only individual observed by our party west of the latter place was seen in the Sierra Madre, **near** the Guadalupe cañon. . . . The westernmost specimen of the genus was seen **in** the Guadalupe cañon (Sierra Madre) by Mr. J. Weyss, one of the assistants of this commission.”

Bailey (1931) reports:

“In 1855 (?) one was reported as seen by J. Weiss, of the Mexican boundary survey party, in Guadalupe Canyon in or near the southwest corner of New Mexico. (Baird, 1859, p. 7)”

Baird (1859) reports not once, but twice that the jaguar was sighted in the Sierra Madre Mountains. Baird (1859) also confuses the reader as to the jaguar being killed *in* vs. *near* the Guadalupe cañon. Bailey (1931) highlights additional uncertainty as to whether the jaguar was killed in or near the tiny portion of Guadalupe cañon that extends into southwestern New Mexico, or was killed south of the border in Mexico.

Only a bare fraction of Guadalupe Canyon occurs in the U.S., with its vast majority found in Mexico. To the east and south lie the high mountains of the Sierra Madre (including the Sierra San Luis, the northern point of which extends barely into the U.S. south of the Animas). This is both huge and rugged country and, without more information, we simply do not know where in the Sierra Madre near Guadalupe Canyon this jaguar was actually seen.

It is much more likely that this jaguar was encountered in Mexico. As to the question of date, Bailey (1931) is probably on the mark because 1855 was the year the boundary survey party was in the field collecting data along the border in that area. Thus, it appears that Bailey's question mark should have come after the location information rather than the date.

These questions aside, even if this jaguar was taken on the border in New Mexico, what of it? That sighting would be consistent with a lone, transient jaguar entering the country through an unusually wet canyon in an otherwise very dry area surrounded by Chihuahuan desert grassland and scrubland.

Robinson et al. (2006)¹⁷ includes, in its list of data used for modeling habitat, record #1, which reads:

“Peloncillo Mts., Around 1855, Observed by J. Weyss, Source Baird (1859), Classification 2.”

Robinson et al. (2006) misrepresents both Baird (1859) and Bailey (1931) by moving the jaguar sighting out of the Sierra Madre and into the Peloncillo Mountains of New Mexico.

*Robinson et al. (2006) then uses its own misrepresentation of this jaguar's location as data for purpose of modeling suitable jaguar habitat in New Mexico. That approach is both unscientific and irresponsible.

¹⁷ Robinson, M. Bradley, C. and Boyd, J. 2006. “Potential Habitat for Jaguars in New Mexico,” prepared on behalf of Center for Biological Diversity in cooperation with AZGFD Jaguar Conservation Team Subcommittee

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

***Late 1800's, Caballo Mts., Burch**

Halloran (1946)¹⁸ reports:

“Felis onca arizonensis.—We have been unable to locate any jaguar specimens from the San Andres Ranges. . . . Watson E. Rich, told us of a jaguar killed many years ago by Bob Burch, a foreman in the late 1800's on the Goldberg Ranch (Jornada Experimental Range) in the Caballo Mountains between the San Andres Range and the Rio Grande.”

Halloran (1946) leaves significant room for error on the date and location of the jaguar kill. The report does not state when the jaguar was killed; it merely states the time frame – in the late 1800s -- that Burch was a foreman on the Goldberg Ranch. Moreover, through a sentence structure containing a dangling modifier, Halloran leaves the reader wondering if the location describes where a jaguar was allegedly killed, or if it merely describes the location of a ranch where Mr. Burch once was employed, thus leaving open the possibility that this jaguar could have been killed at a different time and a different location. Also, we know next to nothing about Watson E. Rich, and how accurate he was in reporting what is at best a second-hand story. Unfortunately, Halloran's report is at best a third-hand tale lacking sufficient details to be reliable.

Schmitt (1998) reports:

“Location: Sierra or Doña Ana Counties; Caballo Mtns. on the Goldberg Ranch, Jornada Experimental Range. Late 1800's. Observer: Bob Burch (foreman in the late 1800's on the Goldberg Ranch, Jornada Experimental Range). Details: Specimen killed: Watson E. Rich told A.F. Holloran et al. of a jaguar killed by Bob Burch in the Caballo Mtns. Evidence: location of specimen is unknown. Source: Holloran (1946)”

Robinson et al. (2006) reports:

“Caballo Mtns, late 1800's; killed by Bob Burch; source: Holloran; classification 2.”

Robinson et al. (2006) gives no indication what type of classification “2” is supposed to indicate. It can be inferred the author is assigning a classification to terrain ruggedness. If the classification is an indicator of the reliability of the report, then neither is this indicated in the text, nor would it be consistent with reliability classifications assigned by other published works.

*Robinson et al. (2006) used this record for habitat modeling despite both its vagueness and lack of reliability.

No physical evidence is available for verification. The first written report of this alleged jaguar kill is at least a third or fourth hand story told some 50 years after the alleged fact and severely lacking in critical details. The presumption that this is a record of a naturally occurring jaguar is likewise unreliable.

¹⁸ Halloran, A.F. 1946. The Carnivores of the San Andres Mountains. New Mexico. *Journal of Mammalogy*, 23:75-82

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Since the kill date is unknown within at least 5 years (and probably more than 20 years), this alleged jaguar, if it existed, may have actually been killed in the early 20th century. The location is within 30 miles of Engle, New Mexico, where Louis O. Morris killed a jaguar that attacked him without provocation in 1900. A second jaguar was shot at but escaped two days later less than a mile away from the kill site of the Morris jaguar. That account indicates that tracks of three jaguars were seen together and thought at the time to have escaped from a traveling circus. This may be one of those three jaguars. If the jaguar was naturally occurring, the lack of date and specific location make this account scientifically unsuitable for credible habitat modeling. In addition, the lack of date and specific location allow this record to possibly be a duplicate of another, counting two alleged jaguars where only one allegedly occurred.

This record is unreliable.

*** May 1900, Taylor Creek, Mogollon Mtns, Grafton, Socorro Co., NM, Robert Nelson "Nat Straw"**

Barber (1902)¹⁹ reports,

“*Felis hernandesii* (Gray)

Mr. Nat Straw, hunter and trapper, informed me that he trapped a jaguar near Grafton, on Taylor Creek, Socorro County, New Mexico, in May, 1900. He gave its length as 8 feet and 3 inches (2439 mm.) I saw the skin made up into a rug. I have heard of several others being seen or killed. It is probable that they find their way into the Mogollon Mountains by ascending the Gila River.”

Schmitt (1998)²⁰ reports that Barber examined “the trapped specimen.” This is somewhat misleading because Barber examined the skin later on, not while the animal was in a trap.

Bailey (1931) reported,

“In May, 1900, Nat Straw, a hunter and trapper in the Mogollon Mountains, is reported to have trapped a jaguar near Grafton on Taylor Creek, Socorro County, N. Mex. He gave the length of this animal as 8 feet, 3 inches, but C. M. Barber, who saw the skin and made the report, did not say whether the measurement was taken from the skin or from the animal in the flesh.”

A footnote states,

“Measurements of skins are very unsatisfactory, and it is greatly to be regretted that there are not on record more definite measurements and weights of these large cats.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) states,

¹⁹ Barber, C.M. 1902. Notes on little-known New Mexican mammals and species apparently not recorded from the territory. *Biological Society of Washington Proceedings*. 15:191-193.

²⁰ Schmitt, Gregory C. 1988 *Jaguar Records and Reports from New Mexico* NM Dept of Game and Fish Endangered Species Program

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“Nat Straw, Barber 1902, Bailey 1931. Sex “?” Taylor Creek, Mogollon Mts., NM. Trapped by predator hunter.”

*Mencke and Hayes (2003)²¹ used this account in their model of NM jaguar habitat.

*Robinson et al. (2006) used this account as data for modeling NM jaguar habitat.

December 9, 1900, Engle, New Mexico, Louis O. Morris attacked, 2nd jaguar sighted on the 11th; male, tracks of 3 jaguars sighted a mile away-

Conspicuously missing from the scientific literature is the story of a jaguar killed December 9, 1900 near what is today Truth or Consequences, New Mexico, and another sighted and fired upon in the same area two days later. It should be noted that there was a train depot at Engle.²² Engle is about 17 miles east of Truth or Consequences near the intersection of NM State Hwy 51 and County Rd a-13. Las Palomas was 7 miles south of Truth or Consequences. This is within 7 months and within about 50 miles from of the Taylor Creek account presented above. The following account of two kills and tracks of three jaguars states that the locals believed the three jaguars escaped from a traveling show. After considering the evidence, we agree. This conclusion is corroborated by the fact that the first jaguar demonstrated aggressive behavior typical of a jaguar habituated to human presence, but atypical of that of a wild jaguar. This account provides substantial evidence against acceptance of the false but widespread assumption that all jaguars killed in the southwestern USA were “naturally occurring”:

The *Albuquerque Daily Citizen* reported on Dec. 17, 1900,

“AN IMMENSE JAGUAR,
Killed in the Mountains Near Engle, New Mexico
TRACKS OF OTHERS SEEN.”²³

A special correspondent, writing for the El Paso Herald from Engle, N. M., under the date of Dec. 10, says: “Yesterday, Sunday, Dec. 9, Louis O. Morris, being camped in the hills doing some assessment work, was walking over the hills, near the camp, when he discovered an immense jaguar or American tiger coming straight toward him. He opened fire on him with a 30-30 rifle, and after firing eleven shots, the monster lay dead, with three mortal wounds in his head and body, not more than fifteen feet from where young Morris was standing.

²¹ Evaluation Of The Relative Suitability Of Potential Jaguar Habitat In New Mexico

Kurt A. Menke, Earth Data Analysis Center, MSC01 1110 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Charles L. Hayes, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507.

²² <http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/nm/engle.html>

²³ Albuquerque Daily Citizen, Dec. 17, 1900, p.3

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

The measurements are as follows: length from tip to tip, seven feet, nine inches; height, thirty-four inches; length of tusk, two inches; around fore foot, nine inches; length of foot, eight inches; length of hind foot, ten inches. The hide was taken to Engle to be shipped immediately to a taxidermist in Kansas City to be dressed, and while there will be exhibited at the Manual Training high school, and will then be returned to New Mexico.

While such ferocious animals are roaming around these mountains, it will be well for prospectors, and visitors traveling through these parts to be well armed. The immense tracks that have been seen so often in these mountains, and attributed to mountain lions, have finally revealed their identity, as the killing of this animal will show.

The worst feature of this animal is that he did not wait to be attacked, but when he first saw young Morris, started after him with leaps from ten to fifteen feet at a time, and the slayer said he lost no time in working the lever of his gun.

Probably hereafter, no one will prowl round these hills without his gun and plenty of cartridges, and his eyes well opened.”

Dec. 11, 1900, W of Mtns. between Engle and Las Palomas, NM

The Albuquerque Daily Citizen²⁴ reported:

“Later, Dec. 11-Today Dan O'Shea while passing from Engle to Las Palomas, just west of the foot of the mountains, encountered a second tiger, about two and one half miles from where the one was killed last Sunday.

He fired two shots at the animal, but his horse and burro seeing it, took fright and ran away, jerking O'Shea over a steep bluff, badly bruising and skinning his left arm. The burro, going over the bluff, smashed his pack, so in the fray, O'Shea lost sight of the animal.

At first, the idea prevailed that the animal had escaped from a show that had passed through the country some months ago, but it now known that it was not alone.

During a light snow about two weeks ago, the tracks of three were seen in the snow within less than a mile of where the one was killed.

Undoubtedly cattlemen have suffered loss from these animals and have been charging it to the account of wolves and mountain lions.”

²⁴ *Albuquerque Daily Citizen*, Dec. 17, 1900, p.3

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Prior to May 25, 1901, Luna County, John Cravens-Disproves Bailey's "Otero County" jaguar kill

Bailey (1931) wrote,

“A skin belonging to Governor Otero measured from tip of nose to tip of tail, 71/2 feet: tail, 27 inches; width between tip of ears, 11 inches; spread across narrowest part of skin, 21 inches; across front legs; 6 feet.”

Bailey (1931) wrote,

“In 1903 Governor Otero in his house at Santa Fe showed the writer a beautiful skin of a jaguar, which had been killed the previous year in Otero County, made into a rug and presented to him.”

This error in kill location arising from at best a third-hand report repeated 28 years later in Bailey (1931) survived nearly another century without being subjected to proper scientific scrutiny.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000)²⁵ reported the following:

“1902, Otero Co. Hide presented to Governor Otero; seen by V. Bailey (Bailey, 1931)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“1902. Unknown. Bailey. Hide observed by Bailey. [sex] ? Otero County, NM. Hide given to Governor Otero. [habitat] ?”

Detailed stories in two 1902 newspaper articles in the *Deming Headlight* and the *Albuquerque Daily News*, however, indicate that Otero County, NM is neither the location of this jaguar's killing nor the location of its natural habitat. ***Instead, as shown below, the best evidence available indicates that this jaguar was not killed in Otero County, but hundreds of miles to the south in Luna County, along the Mexican border south of Deming.*** This is a substantial error rendering use of this record both inaccurate and unreliable.

A. The *Deming Headlight*²⁶ on May 25, 1901 reported,

“John Cravens, a prominent cattleman south of Deming, recently killed a jaguar on the line of Mexico. Mr. Cravens preserved the skin, and the citizens of Deming will buy the same, send it to Denver and have it mounted in first class style, after which it will be presented to a lady in the northern part of this territory.”

B. The *Albuquerque Daily News* on May 7, 1902, reported the following:²⁷

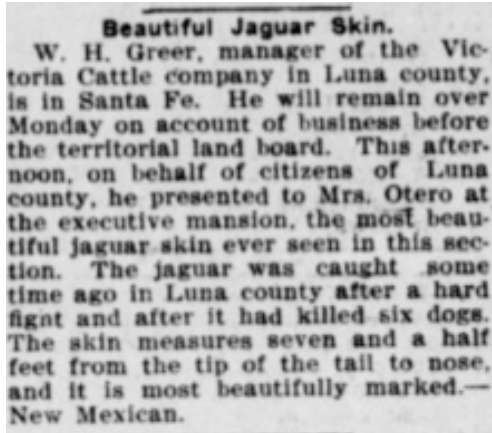
²⁵ “Notes on the Occurrences of Jaguars in Arizona and New Mexico”

David E. Brown; Carlos A. López González. *The Southwestern Naturalist*, Vol. 45, No. 4. (Dec., 2000), pp. 537-542.

²⁶ *Deming Headlight* May 25, 1901, p 5

²⁷ *Albuquerque Daily News*, May 7, 1902, p. 5 “Beautiful Jaguar Skin”

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona



NOTE: The article does not mention if the cat was originally seen in Mexico and chased by hunting hounds into Luna County, New Mexico. Nor does it state how far the six dogs chased it, whether Mr. Cravens was with a hunting guide, or any other important details that would indicate the exact location of this jaguar's whereabouts when it or its sign was first seen by Mr. Cravens or whoever it was that may have told him about such.

***August 1902, Datil Mtns., Mrs. Manning –third hand story repeated decades after the fact, regarding jaguar with highly unusual behavior, very close temporally to the human-habituated jaguars seen in Engle**

Bailey (1931) reports,

“In 1905 Hollister saw and photographed a skin that had been mounted as a rug and was in the possession of O. Reddeman, at Magdalena. The original skull was mounted in the skin and showed the animal to be an adult with well-worn teeth. Reddeman had purchased the skin from a Mr. Manning, whose wife poisoned the animal in the Datil Mountains in August, 1902. A little later, when in the Datil Mountains, Hollister visited Manning and obtained an account of the killing of the animal. Mrs. Manning had been in the habit of putting out poison to kill the predatory animals about their ranch, in the mountains 12 miles northwest of Datil, and among the victims of the poisoned baits was this jaguar, which had been killing stock on the ranch for some time. It had killed 17 calves near the house during a short period before it was secured. The ranch was located at about 9,000 feet altitude in the pine and spruce timber of this exceedingly rough range of mountains. At the time Hollister was there another jaguar was supposed to be at large in the general neighborhood.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports,

“August 1902, Datil Mountains, ca. 3,000 m elevation, Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest, [sex] unknown, poisoned by rancher's wife as a stock-killer, "adult" photographed, (Bailey, 1931).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports,

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“8/1902. Mrs. Manning. Bailey 1931. Photographed by Ned Hollister. Sex “?” Manning Ranch, Datil Mts., NM. Poisoned as a stock killer. “Adult.” Rocky Mtn Montane Conifer Forest.”

The chain of retelling this story goes from Manning to Reddeman to Hollister, three years later, and finally 26 years after Hollister, to Bailey. As such, significant details may be inaccurate or possibly embellished with fiction.

The assignment of lower elevation “Rocky Mtn Montane Conifer Forest” habitat to this jaguar by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) is inconsistent with Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) in assigning the 1963 Penrod jaguar kill at similar elevation to “Rocky Mtn Subalpine Conifer Forest” habitat. It is also inconsistent with Bailey (1931) who assigned the kill to pine and spruce timber habitat.

The question also remains why a “naturally occurring” jaguar and possibly another, which were allegedly representatives of a discrete, “resident population,” would suddenly move in next to humans, at 9,000 feet in elevation, kill 17 calves “near the house,” and then stay there until eliminated by poisoning. That this jaguar was obviously habituated to human presence is evidence indicating that it was very possibly neither “naturally occurring” nor representative of a discrete, “resident population.” As a result, use of this record for modeling of habitat purpose is unreliable.

*Mencke and Hayes used this account in their modeling of jaguar habitat in New Mexico.

*Robinson et al. (2006) use this account to model suitable jaguar habitat in New Mexico.

***Summer 1903, San Miguel County, S. of Fulton, Page Otero, 3rd hand report**

Bailey (1931) reports:

“[Governor Otero’s] brother, Page B. Otero, State game warden of New Mexico at that time, also reported . . . one seen in the region of Cow Springs a few miles southwest of Fulton in the summer of 1903. . . He had perfect confidence in these reports, as he knew the men who saw the animals.”

*Robinson et al. (2006) used this record to model suitable jaguar habitat in New Mexico.

This is an unverifiable, third-hand (at best) report lacking any physical evidence, which was documented for the first time 28 years after the alleged fact of its occurrence. Considering Bailey (1931) also reported jaguars from the Sierra Madre Mountains and Argentina as having occurred in New Mexico, in addition to a jaguar killed in Luna County as having been killed in Otero County, and a jaguar killed in 1900 as having been killed in 1904, this report in Bailey (1931) of a jaguar occurrence this improbable, vague and distant in time from when it allegedly occurred cannot be considered reliable for scientifically credible habitat modeling purposes.

This is an unreliable account.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

***San Andres and Sacramento Mountains, before, 1903, Page Otero 3rd hand reports**

Bailey (1931) reports:

“[Governor Otero’s] brother, Page B. Otero, State game warden of New Mexico at that time, . . . said that jaguars also had been reported from the Sacramento and San Andres Mountains in previous years [previous to 1903 is vaguely implied].”

*Robinson et al. (2006) used this information as two separate records for purposes of modeling suitable jaguar habitat in New Mexico.

This report may be a duplicate of any of the reports involving one of the two or three jaguars associated with the 1900 Morris jaguar kill. This record is an unverifiable third-hand (at best) report lacking any physical evidence that was documented in writing for the first time at least 28 years after the alleged facts of occurrence. Considering Bailey (1931) also reported jaguars from the Sierra Madre Mountains and Argentina as having occurred in New Mexico, in addition to a jaguar killed in Luna County as having been killed in Otero County, and a jaguar killed in 1900 as having been killed in 1904 or 1905, this report in Bailey (1931) of a jaguar occurrence this vague and distant in time from when it allegedly happened cannot be considered reliable.

This is an unreliable account.

***1903, Clanton Canyon, Peloncillo Mtns., Burchfield**

Bailey (1931) reports,

“In 1908, while in the Animas Valley in extreme southwestern New Mexico the ranchmen told the writer of a jaguar killed in 1903 in Clanton Creek Canyon **about 6 miles** west of the Gray ranch. It had killed a bull that had wandered back in the canyon and was shot while feeding on him. W. P. Burchfield told the circumstances of its capture and where the skin had been sent for mounting.”

Calahane (1939) reports,

“Another jaguar killed a steer at the Long Ranch and was shot by Walter Birchfield, formerly of the Lower Diamond A Ranch, and a cowboy.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports,

“1903, Clanton Canyon, **10 km** W of Gray Ranch, Peloncillo Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, unknown, shot while feeding on bull by rancher (Bailey, 1931)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports,

“1903 Unknown rancher. Bailey 1931. Clanton Canyon, **6 mi** W of Gray Ranch, Peloncillo Mtns., NM Shot while feeding on a bull. Madrean Evergreen Woodland.”

In converting “about 6 miles,” which could be interpreted as a range of 5-7 miles (8-11) km or greater, and transposing it as *exactly* 10 km, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) imparted a false increase of precision to the location of this kill without presenting any supporting or corroborating evidence.

*Mencke and Hayes (2003) assigned the location of this kill to the Hidalgo/Peloncillo Mtns.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

and used it in their model of jaguar habitat.

*Robinson et al. (2006) used this account in their model of suitable jaguar habitat as well.

***1904-1905, Sierra de los Caballos, NM, Morris -Unreliable account proven inaccurate**

The Sierra de los Caballos Mountains straddle the Sierra/Dona Ana county boundary line.

Bailey (1931) reports,

“E. A. Goldman also secured a record of one that had been killed by a hunter named Morris on the west slope of Sierra de los Caballos about 1904 or 1905.”

Unfortunately, Bailey’s cited references to Goldman do not include the aforementioned letter, making this an unverifiable and thus unreliable account. At any rate, Goldman speculated on the year and, as shown below, was wrong – by four to five years. So were Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001). This is a primary example of the unreliability of third hand accounts, regardless of the credentials of the second or third person to report them.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports,

“1904-1905, Western slopes of Sierra de los Caballos, Semidesert Grassland/Great Basin Conifer Woodland, unknown, killed by a hunter named Morris (Bailey, 1931).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports,

“1904-1905. Hunter named Morris. [sex]? W slopes of Sierra de los Caballos, NM. Semidesert grassland/Great Basin conifer woodland.”

Lacking any details informing us of the circumstances surrounding this jaguar kill or how it was killed, the assignment of “habitat” to it by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales is obvious speculation. As shown below, that information, while both existent and highly relevant, was omitted by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001).

*Mencke and Hayes (2003) used this inaccurate account for habitat modeling, assigning the kill to the “Sierra/Black Range.”

*Robinson et al. (2006) used this inaccurate account to model suitable habitat for jaguars in New Mexico.

The details of this account, which have passed from biologist to venerated biologist without verification for more than 81 years, and now lay as the foundation of a proposed federal regulation designating critical habitat, are almost entirely inaccurate. Bailey’s failure to cite his source of information regarding the record E.A. Goldman “secured” has prevented subsequent researchers from validating the information, which, it turns out, was unreliable and should have been discarded as such by every biologist that nonetheless irresponsibly repeated it, incorporated it into habitat modeling, and incorporated it into proposed federal regulation.

According to the news articles quoted in the 1900 Engle record above, Louis O. Morris was a surveyor or assessor, not a hunter. He killed the animal in self-defense when it attacked him on

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

first sight. The date was December 9, 1900. The jaguar was obviously habituated to humans and justifiably considered by the locals at the time to have escaped from a traveling show. Its tracks had been seen in the snow with tracks of two companions and this kill occurred in winter. This was no “naturally occurring” jaguar. Two days later, another jaguar was seen in the same area and tracks of 3 had been seen less than a mile away two weeks earlier. These are the first two jaguar accounts on record for New Mexico and they occurred within days of each other.

This account is a primary example of the academic damage that has been done by a century of biologists accepting the work of others on what is arguably faith alone, without proper scientific examination, and then adding their own errors.

***1909 Dog Springs, SE of Animas Mts., NM, male, per Ben Lilly**

At an unknown date when Ben Lilly was “up in years” as Carmony (1998) puts it, he wrote a discourse on lion hunting. In it Lilly declares:

“I hunted in the red mountain country in 1915 and 1916. Killed Several lions but found no trace of leopards. . . There had been a leopard Killed South east of the Anamas mountains. This I was told in 1909 and I was told they chased one that got away. It had been several years since these were Killed and chased. Any way one had been Killed at or near a place called Dog Springs in New Mexico. I hunted in the Animas Mountains and Old Mexico. I found and Killed 13 lions Some nice grizzlies and 12 bear. I found no leopards or Jaguars on either side.”

Carmony’s annotations indicate Ben Lilly was referring to the Animas Mountains and that Lilly was not told of this in 1909; rather, he was told that *this kill took place in 1909*. That makes sense because Lilly did not move to New Mexico until 1911.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports,

“1909, Dog Springs SE of Animas Mountains, Semi-desert Grassland, unknown, killed by hunter (Ben Lilly in Carmony, 1998).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports,

“1909 Unknown hunter. B.V. Lilly in Carmony 1998. [sex]? Dog Springs, SE of Animas Mts., NM Semidesert grassland.”

Lilly never mentioned who killed this jaguar. Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) erred in stating, “killed by hunter,” due to confusing this jaguar with a different jaguar kill that was also documented by Ben Lilly in Carmony (1998).

No specific circumstances of the kill are documented. The Lilly quote implies the jaguar may also have been chased for an unknown distance. The assignment by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) of Semi-desert grassland to describe the jaguar’s “natural habitat,” is therefore both speculative and unreliable.

Mencke and Hayes (2003) did not use this record for modeling jaguar habitat.

*Robinson et al. (2006) nonetheless used this account, with its unreliable location, to model suitable jaguar habitat in New Mexico.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

***“Around 1916,” “near” Little Hatchet Mountains, anonymous observation, unreliable**

Robinson et al. (2006) reports:

“near Little Hatchet Mtns.; around 1916; observed by soldier; source is McKenna,²⁸ classification 2”

Robinson et al. (2006) reports:

“During Mexico’s revolution and the accompanying border tensions, probably around 1916, U.S. troops were stationed near the Little Hatchet Mountains of New Mexico. One unnamed soldier, according to the account by itinerant prospector James A. McKenna, who was camping with the troops, “saw an animal which he thought was a black cougar.” McKenna noted that “It is known as the Mexican jaguar and is seldom seen that far north,” perhaps referring to the rarity of melanistic jaguars.”

We have yet to obtain McKenna (1991). What can be safely inferred from comparing the presentation of this record to others in Robinson et al. (2006) are that this is the first record of this alleged occurrence documented in the known literature, and that it comes 75 years after the alleged fact of its occurrence. Moreover, the name and credentials of the anonymous observer are unreported by McKenna; there is no physical evidence this occurred; the anonymous observer reported a black cougar, not a jaguar, and black or melanistic jaguars are unknown from the northern portion of the jaguar’s multi-continental range; McKenna never saw the animal and is therefore not a witness; and the actual date and location of the observation are imprecise because they are not known with certainty.

In short, this record is completely unreliable.

*Robinson et al. (2006) nonetheless misused this unreliable report to model suitable jaguar habitat in New Mexico.

***Springer, “Some years prior to 1938,” Phillips, unreliable**

Hill (1942) reports:

“*Felis onca hernandesii*.—A jaguar was killed some years ago near Springer. Its skin is now in the collection of Mr. Waite Phillips. None has been reported from this region since then.”

Robinson et al. (2006) reports:

“Near Springer; ‘some years’ prior to 1938; Hill saw skin; Source: Hill, classification 2”

²⁸ McKenna, James A. *Black Range Tales*. Glorieta [New Mexico]: Rio Grande Press. 1991.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Nowhere does Hill say that he saw the skin, but he does state that Mr. Waite Phillips, owner of the Philmont Ranch, enabled the study on which Hill (1942) is based. Moreover, nowhere does Hill (1942) state that this jaguar was taken “some year prior to 1938,” as also wrongly stated by Robinson et al. (2006).

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) omit this account from their tables.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) states:

“Springer is located in open plains grassland, and the nearby hills are clothed in junipers and piñons where not covered by shrub oaks and montane scrub. Adding to the unlikelihood of this account is that this location is more than 200 mi from the nearest other New Mexico kill—itsself, an extreme location in the Datil Mountains (Table 1, Map 4).

Mencke and Hayes did not use this account in modeling jaguar habitat.

*Robinson et al. (2006) nonetheless used this unreliable and unlikely account to model suitable jaguar habitat in New Mexico.

In addition to the reasons given by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales that this record is unreliable, Hill (1942) failed to indicate the decade in which this jaguar was killed or even who killed it. Hill (1942) makes no comment on how or when Mr. Waite obtained the skin. The lack of detail indicates Mr. Waite knew very little about this jaguar. Waite’s report that it had been killed near Springer is therefore unverifiable and unreliable.

In short, this account is also scientifically unreliable for purposes of jaguar habitat modeling.

***1937, San Andres Range, NM, Bannerman *sighting*, possible multiple counting of jaguars**

Halloran (1946, p 160)²⁹ wrote,

“*Felis onca arizonensis*—We have been unable to locate any specimens from the San Andres Range. Bailey (1931, p.284) received reports of jaguars from this range. In 1937 a Biological Survey hunter named Bannerman said his dogs “jumped” a jaguar. The animal was reported as sighted, but not captured **as it would not ‘tree’ as does a lion.** . . . During our stay we did not find any trace of jaguar. We should not be surprised, however, if a wandering ‘tigre’ is sometime seen in this area.”

Dogs were used in hunting this animal and no information is given on which direction or how far they chased this jaguar. Similarly, no information is given on where this jaguar was “jumped” or where the chase ended. Neither do we have any information on whether this cat

²⁹ Halloran, A. F. 1946. The carnivores of the San Andres Mountains, New Mexico. *Journal of Mammalogy* 27:154-161.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

was originally chased into the San Andres Range in the first place, or migrated there naturally. This account, therefore, is unreliable for habitat modeling purposes.

*Mencke and Hayes (2003) used this unreliable account in their habitat model, reporting the location as, “Sierra/San Andres Mtns.” This jaguar’s location within an entire mountain range is neither known nor documented, but nevertheless was somehow used in modeling habitat.

*Robinson et al. (2006) also used this unreliable account to model suitable habitat for jaguars in New Mexico, even though this jaguar’s location within an entire mountain range is unknown.

***1990, Observation, no physical evidence, Larry Link**

Robinson et al. (2006) states in its list of data on p.11:

“Shakespeare, North of I-10; 1990; Larry Link observed on property; source: Link; classification 2”

Robinson et al. (2006) states:

“Larry Link, proprietor of the Steins Ghost Town alongside Interstate 10 at the north end of the Peloncillos, reports having seen a jaguar north of the highway in 1990.”

Robinson et al. (2006) states in a footnote:

“Larry Link telephone interview with Michael Robinson, 9/13/2004. Link says that shortly after the sighting he notified a New Mexico Department of Game and Fish official, who he didn't identify; Robinson notified Chuck Hayes of NMDGF of Link’s account and phone number by email, 9/13/2004, but no follow-up assessment of the sighting has yet appeared.”

This record is not present in any other literature we have come across. No physical evidence is available to verify this account. This record does not have a reliable witness. Link was not a biologist by training or trade. Link has passed away and cannot be contacted for verification. Link’s credentials as a witness are unverifiable; therefore, in the absence of corroborating physical evidence, this record is unreliable.

*Robinson et al. (2006) nonetheless misused this unreliable sighting as a “record” to model suitable jaguar habitat in New Mexico.

***8/25/1990; Black Range; Observation; no physical evidence; Dr. Gerald Jacobi**

Schmitt (1998) reports in Table 3—Reports of jaguars for which no physical evidence exists:

“Sierra Co., ca. 2 mi S, 12 mi E Beaverhead, on USFS road 226 ca. 5 mi S New Mexico 59; 25 August 1990; 1700 h; Gerald Z. Jacobi, Dr. (Highlands University); and Mrs. Jacobi; Sighting. Described as a large cat (significantly larger than a bobcat), long tail, buffy or reddish-brown overall color, dark-patterned spots over entire body; cat was loping through trees 50-60 feet from Jacobi’s vehicle; when vehicle was stopped for a better look, the cat reversed its route, crossed the road 25-30 yards behind the observers; observation lasted about 30 seconds.; No physical evidence or photographs were

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

preserved; source: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish files (memo dated 29 August 1990); sighting no. 14 on map.”

Robinson et al. (2006) reports:

“Black Range; 8/25/1990; observed by Gerald and Donna Jacobi; source: JCT, NMDGF; classification 2”

Robinson et al. (2006) footnote 46 reports:

“Tim Snow, ‘Proposed Jaguar Sighting Report,’ 9/26/2000 (Jacobis)”

Tim Snow’s proposed jaguar sighting report was written a full decade after the alleged fact of this sighting.

Dr. Jacobi’s February 2012 curricula vitae, posted online,³⁰ states that in 1990, Dr. Jacobi was a fisheries biologist and taught environmental science at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, NM. Dr. Jacobi has made charitable contributions of at least \$250 in at least one year to the Wild Earth Guardians.³¹ In August 2010 Dr. Jacobi testified on behalf of Wild Earth Guardians in favor of extending “Outstanding Natural Resource Waters” regulations to dry washes in New Mexico.³² Dr. Jacobi is also on the board of the Santa Fe Watershed Association,³³ which lists environmental activist organizations including the Sierra Club and Wild Earth Guardians among its “partners.”³⁴ In short, absent corroborating physical evidence, this sighting without more is unreliable.

*Robinson et al. (2006) nonetheless misused this unreliable sighting as a “record” of jaguar occurrence for purpose of modeling suitable jaguar habitat in New Mexico.

³⁰<ftp://ftp.nmenv.state.nm.us/www/WQCC/Matters/11-06Pisc/WQCC11-06-GeraldJacobi-TechnicalTestimony-Ex24.pdf>

³¹Annual report of Wildearth Guardians, 2010.
http://www.wildearthguardians.org/site/DocServer/WG_AR_10_final_Hi.pdf?docID=1942

³² Technical Testimony By Dr. Gerald Z. Jacobi In Support Of Wildearth Guardians. August 13th, 2010 before the NM State Water Quality Control Commission in matter of Amended petition to nominate surface waters in Forest Service Wilderness as Outstanding Natural Resource Waters. WQCC 10-01(R)

ftp://ftp.nmenv.state.nm.us/www/HearingOfficer/ONRW/14_JacobiTechnicalTestimony08-13-10.pdf ;

³³ <http://www.zoominfo.com/-!search/profile/person?personId=14538549&targetid=profile>

³⁴ <http://www.santafewatershed.org/about/board/>

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

***April 19, 1995; Hidalgo County, Peloncillo Mtns., track photograph; Bryan Starret, questionable**

Schmitt (1998) reports in Table 4—Records of jaguars for which photographic evidence is available to verify the record:

“Hidalgo Co., Peloncillo Mountains, ca. 1 mi. E of the saddle between Clanton Draw and Cottonwood Canyon; 19 April 1995; Observer Bryan L. Starret; Photographic evidence of jaguar track; evidence is photographic evidence (slide) preserved; source Arizona Game and Fish Department memorandum of 6 March 1997 by Andy Holycross; Number on Map; Figure 1: 15”

The Holycross memo is dated two years after the date this photograph was taken.

Since jaguars are no longer being killed in New Mexico and only photographed or “observed,” it is possible this record might be from the same jaguar as one or more other reports.

Furthermore, a controlled study of traditional identification of jaguar, puma and canid tracks by supposedly reliable observers proved the observers were wrong in more than 20 percent of track identifications. (De Angelo, et al. 2010)³⁵

Bryan Starrett is a former long-time zoo employee who entertains people with snake shows. Andy Holycross is a Ph.D herpetologist who teaches Conservation Biology at Arizona State University.

Neither the alleged photograph nor the Holycross memorandum were released by AGFD in response to proper Public Records request by the PNRCD and are, therefore, unavailable for verification.

Robinson et al. (2006) nonetheless gives this track photograph a classification of “1.”

*Robinson et al. (2006) uses this track photograph to model suitable jaguar habitat in New Mexico.

***March 7, 1996, Peloncillo Mtns, male, Warner Glenn videotaped, not killed**

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class1 Location 1 (within 1.6 km accuracy)

Kahn (2007)³⁶ reports:

“Then, in 1996, something remarkable happened. In two separate incidents, mountain lion hunters stumbled upon jaguars in Arizona and New Mexico—and reached for cameras rather than rifles. Warner Glenn, whose hounds bayed a jaguar **on a cliff** in the Peloncillo Mountains of southern New Mexico in March of that year, says the thought of shooting the animal never crossed his mind. “I tell you, it would have had to be a terrible

³⁵ De Angelo, C., Paviolo, A. and Bitetti, M., “Traditional Versus Multivariate Methods for Identifying Jaguar, Puma, and Large Canid Tracks”. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 74(5):1141–1153; 2010; DOI: 10.2193/2009-293

³⁶ Kahn, J. “On the Prowl”. *Smithsonian Magazine* November 2007 online version

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

situation for me to kill one, because why would you? They are so doggone rare, and that's the first one I ever saw," says Glenn. So he snapped away with his camera, edging ever closer to the cat as he tried to retrieve his hounds. He got a little too close. The jaguar charged him. In a split second, Glenn's hounds leapt between him and the cat, thwarting its attack. The jaguar slunk away, and Glenn rode out of the canyon with the first photos ever taken of a living, wild jaguar in the United States.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports,

“7 March 1996, Peloncillo Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, male, bayed and photographed by hunters with dogs (Glenn, 1996).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports,

“3/07/1996. Warner Glenn. Pers. comm., Glenn 1996. Photographs. M? Peloncillo Mts., AZ. Bayed and photographed while lion hunting with dogs. Madrean evergreen woodland”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports further that this occurred just north of the Mexican Border and east of Malpai Ranch, and the chase went several miles after the hounds first spotted the cat, four days into the hunt. After Glenn got involved in attempting to pull his dogs off, while also snapping photos, the jaguar trotted back into Mexico.

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) incorporates this record into its models.

***Fall 1998, Tom and Boe Duffy, San Francisco River of Gila Forest, unreliable**

Robinson et al. (2006) reports:

“In fall 1998, Tom and Boe Duffy saw one cross a road near the San Francisco River of the Gila National Forest.”

Robinson et al. (2006) states in footnote 46:

“Tim Snow, ‘Proposed Jaguar Sighting Report’ 8/15/2000 (Duffys) . . . all Jaguar Conservation Team forms and correspondence.”

This report was written 12 years after the alleged sighting by the Duffys. The Duffys are not professional biologists or lion hunters. They have owned and operated an alternative energy business for the last four decades.³⁷ There is no physical evidence and the Duffys are not reliable witnesses. Thus, in the absence of corroborating physical evidence, this sighting is unreliable.

*Robinson et al. (2006) nonetheless misused this unreliable sighting as a “record” for the purpose of modeling suitable jaguar habitat in New Mexico.

³⁷ yourtwofeet.blogspot.com/2009/06/tom-and-boe-duffy-of-glenwood-new.html

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

***May 10, 1999, Burro Mtns s. of Silver City, plaster cast of track,**

Robinson et al. (2006) reports:

“On May 10, 1999, high school biology teacher John Trewern saw a large black cat cross the road in the Burro Mountains south of Silver City. The next morning he obtained a plaster cast of the animal’s paw.”

Robinson et al. (2006) reports in footnote 46:

“Bill Van Pelt to Michael Robinson, ‘Ranking for Burro mountain jaguar sighting,’ e-mail 8/8/2005 (Trewern) - all Jaguar Conservation Team forms and correspondence.

The cited source by Robinson et al. (2006) is an email dated six years after the alleged occurrence.

John Trewern is a “certified biologist,” a professional bow hunter, a published outdoor sports writer, and a high school teacher.³⁸

Since jaguars are no longer being killed in New Mexico and only photographed or “observed”, it is possible this record might be from the same jaguar as one or more other records. Moreover, black or melanistic jaguars are unknown from the vast northern portion of the jaguar’s overall, multi-continental range.

Furthermore, a controlled study of traditional identification of jaguar, puma and canid tracks by supposedly reliable observers proved the observers were wrong in more than 20% of track identifications. (De Angelo, et al. 2010)³⁹

This “record” is therefore scientifically unreliable for modeling use purpose.

February 20, 2006, Peloncillo Mtns., Warner and Wendy Glenn, “Border King,” photographed

Kahn (2007)⁴⁰ reports:

“One area where scientists have yet to look for jaguars is the Animas Mountains in New Mexico. On February 20, 2006, Warner Glenn and his daughter were leading a mountain lion hunt there when one of his dogs, Powder, went missing. Powder soon reappeared, but with a gaping hole in his neck and shoulder. "Something had whipped the dickens out of him," Glenn says. At the same time, the rest of Glenn's pack took off down the face of a bluff after something.

Glenn watched from the ridge as the dogs **surrounded a cedar tree** across the canyon. Worried that his pack had struck out after a feral hog, Glenn piloted his mule off the

³⁸ <http://www.myspace.com/backonthehunt>

³⁹ De Angelo, C., Paviolo, A. and Bitetti, M., “Traditional Versus Multivariate Methods for Identifying Jaguar, Puma, and Large Canid Tracks”. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 74(5):1141–1153; 2010; DOI: 10.2193/2009-293

⁴⁰ Kahn, J. “On the Prowl”. *Smithsonian Magazine* November 2007 online version

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

steep ridge, "sliding mostly," he says. "The boulders were rolling and the brush was popping." But when he got within 100 yards of the cedar, lo and behold, he saw a big cat sitting there. In the shade, it looked chocolate brown, and Glenn assumed it was a large male mountain lion. Suddenly, the cat charged out into the sun after the dogs, and Glenn saw it had dusky gold fur and spots. "I said, my gosh, it's a jaguar!" Glenn recalls. Hunters can spend a lifetime in the Southwest and never see a jaguar. Now Glenn had stumbled across his second cat in a decade. Glenn calls this one Border King. Based on the weathering of its teeth, seen in Glenn's photos, Border King is thought to be an 8- to 9-year-old male, weighing as much as 200 pounds. Border King was the fourth confirmed jaguar in the United States. Glenn has not seen him since but thinks he and others are probably out there, haunting the isolated mountain ranges that run south to the border and into Mexico's Sierra Madre."

ARIZONA Jaguar Kills

1829, Between December 12-17, about 50 miles south of junction of Gila and Colorado Rivers, James Ohio Pattie

On p. 141 of Flint (1831),⁴¹ Pattie's narrative indicates that on December 12, 1829, the trapping party he was with met the Yuma Indians at the juncture of the Gila and Colorado Rivers. The trappers then marched upstream for 16 miles to spend the night. That night the Indians stole their horses. The trapping party retaliated the next day by burning the suddenly abandoned Yuma village. On Dec. 3, the trapping party began building canoes in their camp. After completing 8 canoes, on Dec. 9th, they began floating downriver at a rate of 4 mph. On the evening of the 9th they passed the burned village at the juncture of the Gila and Colorado Rivers. They floated 30 miles downstream before again making camp to trap beavers. They then continued floating until Dec. 12 when they killed two horse thieves that had followed them. They floated and trapped their way 60-70 miles downstream from where they built the canoes, or 44-54 miles south of the juncture of the Gila and Colorado Rivers, and took in so many beavers they stopped to build another canoe, when Pattie's party killed an unusual cat that walked into their camp. On December 17 the canoe was finished. Flint (1831), fide Pattie, states:

"We thus travelled on prosperously, until we reached the junction of the Helay with Red river [the Gila with the Colorado]. Here we found the tribe of Umeas [Yumas], who had shown themselves very friendly to the company in which I had formerly passed them, which strongly inspired confidence in them at present. . . . It was now the 1st of December; and at mid-day we began to see the imprudence of spending the remainder of the day and the ensuing night with such numbers of Indians, however friendly in appearance. We . . . knew that caution is the parent of security. So we packed up, and separated from them. . . .

⁴¹ Flint, Timothy. *Personal narrative of James O. Pattie of Kentucky*, 1831. John H. Wood. Cincinnati, USA

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

To interpose as great a distance as possible between them and us, we marched that evening sixteen miles, and encamped on the banks of the river. The place of encampment was a prairie, and we drove stakes fast in the earth, to which we tied our horses in the midst of green grass, as high as a man's head, and within ten feet of our own fire. . . We were scarcely asleep before we were aroused by the snorting of our horses and mules. . . . But the Indians had crawled among our horses, and had cut or untied the rope by which each one was bound. The horses were then all loose. They then instantly raised in concert, their fiendish yell. . . . We pursued with the utmost of our speed to no purpose. . .

Accordingly, early in the morning of the 2d, we started on the trail in pursuit of the thieves. We soon arrived at a point where the Indians, departing from the plain, had driven them up a chasm of the mountains. Here they had . . . each taken a different route with his plundered horses. We saw in a moment that it was impossible to follow them farther to any purpose. . . . We then set fire to the village, burning every hut but that which contained the old man. . . . We then returned to our camp, re-swimming the river, and reaching the camp before dark.. .

On the morning of the 3d, the first business in which we engaged, was to build ourselves a little fort, sufficient for defence against the Indians. This finished, we cut down two trees suitable for canoes, and accomplished these important objects in one day.. .

On the morning of the fourth we commenced digging out our canoes, and finished and launched two. These were found insufficient to carry our furs. We continued to prepare, and launch them, until we had eight in the water. . .

We started on the 9th, floating with the current, which bore us downward at the rate of four miles an hour. In the evening we passed the burnt town, the ruins of which still threw up smouldering smoke.

We floated about 30 miles, and in the evening encamped in the midst of signs of beavers. We set 40 traps, and in the morning of the 10th caught 36 beavers, an excellent night's hunt. We concluded from this encouraging commencement, to travel slowly, and in hunters phrase, trap the river clear; that is, take all that could be allured to come to the bait.

The river, below its junction with the Helay, is from 2 to 300 yards wide, with high banks, that have dilapidated by falling in. Its course is west, and its timber chiefly cotton-wood, which in the bottoms is lofty and thick set. The bottoms are from six to ten miles wide. The soil is black, and mixed with sand, though the bottoms are subject to inundation in the flush waters of June. . . .

We now floated pleasantly downward But on the 12th, at mid- day, by mere accident, we happened, some way below us, to discover two Indians perched in a tree near the river bank, with their bows and arrows in readiness, waiting evidently until we should float close by them, to take off some of us with their arrows.. . .

. . . these two were alone, and we crossed over to their bodies. We discovered that they were of the number that had stolen our horses, by the fact, that they were bound round the waist with some of the hemp ropes with which our horses had been tied. We hung the bodies of the thieves from a tree, with the product of their own thefts. . . .

. . . We continued to float slowly downwards, trapping beavers on our way almost as fast as we could wish. We sometimes brought in 60 in a morning. The river at this point is remarkably circuitous, and has a great number of islands, on which we took beavers.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Such was the rapid increase of our furs, that our present crafts in a few days were insufficient to carry them, and we were compelled to stop and make another canoe.

We have advanced between 60 and 70 miles from the point where we built the other canoes. We find the timber larger, and not so thick. There are but few wild animals that belong to the country farther up, but some deer, panthers, foxes and wild-cats. Of birds there are great numbers, and many varieties, most of which I have never before seen. We killed some wild geese and pelicans, and likewise an animal not unlike the African leopard, which came into our camp, while we were at work upon the canoe. It was the first we had ever seen.

We finished our canoe on the 17th, and started on the 20th.”

Considering that the first canoes were built 16 miles above the junction of the Gila and Colorado Rivers, a conservative estimate of a 44 mile float trip downstream, combined with a Google Earth measurement of the downstream path, places Pattie’s kill of the cat 17 miles south, downstream, of the present Arizona/Mexico border. Moreover, to assume that what Pattie actually killed was indeed a jaguar, without better information, requires unscientific speculation.

Mr. Pattie’s personal credibility has also been called into question. Aker (2011)⁴² reports:

“Pattie didn’t keep a journal on his Arizona adventure but told his story to Timothy Flint, who edited it for publication. It was customary for the buckskin men to stretch their tales a bit and Pattie was no exception. However, there was basis for fact in much of what he recalled and his journal provides an important piece of history of the fur trade in Arizona.”

Ayleshire⁴³ wrote:

“Historians have rummaged about for nearly 200 years, trying to sort momentous fact from lurid exaggeration in Pattie’s tale. He was the first American to leave a record of his entrance to Arizona and lived a brief life of thrilling adventure. But 220 grizzlies in one day? Right. And he probably didn’t actually vaccinate 22,000 Californians and head off a smallpox epidemic – although the promise to do so may have sprung him from the Mexican prison in which his father died.”

What Pattie’s account does tell us, and obviously without any hint of exaggeration, is significant. Pattie’s party of eight men had trapped the Platte River and the San Pedro River, in addition to traveling from Santa Fe to Socorro, crossing the Black Range at Emory Pass and heading further almost to Silver City, descending Sapillo Creek into the Gila River, trapping all the way down the Gila River to Yuma and then trapping the Colorado River downstream to the southern boundary of the United States—without seeing a single jaguar, despite the fact that they

⁴² Aker, Andrea. 2011. “James Ohio Pattie, Arizona’s First Storyteller.” Arizonaoddities.com <http://arizonaoddities.com/2011/12/james-ohio-pattie-arizonas-first-storyteller/>

43

http://www.arizonascenicroads.com/north_central/coronado_trail_words_from_the_road_2.html

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

were skinning hundreds of beavers at their campsites. This account provides strong evidence that jaguars, if present at all in Arizona and New Mexico in 1829, were extremely rare.

Due to the second-hand account, the location of the alleged jaguar kill clearly being in Mexico, the fact that this would be the only known record of a jaguar from the lower Colorado River, the lack of a clear description including the size of the animal, and Pattie's reputation as a person who embellished his tales with fiction, this record is unreliable as evidence of early jaguar presence or residency in Arizona.

1858, Santa Rita Mtns., Phocion Way

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Girmendonk mentions this kill without citation to any specific source and without stating any details whatsoever.

Given Girmendonk's omission of detail, we can only speculate that this is the jaguar reported by Phocion Way. Our research shows that Phocion Way kept one of the best diaries of Tubac history. An annotated version of his diary was published in 1960 by Duffen. Duffen (1960) reports that on June 21st [1858], Phocion Way had left the Santa Rita Mining Camp, the site of Hacienda Santa Rita, on a 100 mile round trip to the Cerro Colorado and Arivaca Ranch to buy hardware.

Duffen (1960)⁴⁴, fide Way, wrote:

“June 25th [1858] . . . With the pack mule and the other articles I had purchased, about 3 o'clock I started for Camp Santa Rita and got there about 6. I found my party all well and in good spirits. Mr. Fuller had killed a tiger in my absence and he and Grosvenor had quite a chase after a bear that ventured near the camp . . . but they did not succeed in capturing him. Bears are very numerous here of these species, the black bear, the brown or as it is called here the Cinnamon bear, and the fierce and dreaded grizzly. The brown bear is the most common and is almost as dangerous as the grizzly. It will attack a man without provocation, but it is smaller and not so hard to kill as the grizzly. The grizzlies are not so numerous but there are a good many of them. The black bear here as everywhere is cowardly and will run from the hunter, and will not fight unless he is badly wounded or cornered and cannot help it. It was this last species that Grosvenor and Fuller chased from our camp yesterday morning.”

⁴⁴ Duffen, William A. “Overland by ‘Jackass Mail’” part 3 Arizona and the West, Vol. 2, No. 3 (Autumn, 1960), pp. 279-292, *Journal of the Southwest*

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Duffen (1960) includes a footnote stating that “Mr. Fuller” was George W. Fuller who was mentioned several times in various records as an associate of Poston with the Arivaca mine and a claimant to the Salero mine.

Duffen (1960) in a footnote regarding the Camp Santa Rita reports:

“The site was known later as Hacienda de Santa Rita. Here the headquarters of the Santa Rita Mining Company were established under the supervision of Horace C. Grosvenor and Phocion R. Way in the fall of 1858.”

Duffen (1960) includes a footnote after the word, “tiger.” The footnote reads,

“El tigre, a name commonly applied to the mountain lion, puma, or cougar by the Spanish-speaking people of the Americas. There is also a spotted cat, that comes into this area from Mexico, referred to as el tigre.”

What we can infer from Way’s description of the event is that the killing of whatever cat it was did not interest him greatly. He was much more interested in the bear, implying that the “tiger” may more likely have been a common mountain lion than the much rarer jaguar.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“Phocian [sic] Way, a young prospector, reported that his partner, Mr. Fuller, killed a “tiger” while they were deer hunting in the Santa Rita Mountains during the summer of 1858. (Davis 1982)” The citation is: “Davis, G.P., Jr. 1982. *Man and wildlife in Arizona: the American exploration period*. N.B. Carmony and D.E. Brown, eds. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) inaccurately reports that Fuller had killed the animal while deer hunting. Phocion Way’s diary stated nothing of the sort. It does state that on June 26, 1858, the day after Way returned to the Santa Rita Camp, Fuller and Way went deer and bear hunting, not for sport but for meat. The Way diary does not mention any “tiger” being killed on this hunt.

It is interesting that Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) would cite a secondary or possibly even a tertiary source of the information when the primary source, the original diary of Phocion Way, is housed in the Arizona State Library. The source cited by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) does not state the specific date on which this alleged jaguar kill occurred, thereby implying that the original diary was never consulted.

Without a better description of the specific animal killed by Fuller, it would be impossible to identify the animal as a jaguar without reliance on a great deal of unscientific speculation.

“Probably” 1885-1890? 1889-1900? Female with 2 cubs, Grand Canyon, AZ

Note: The Grand Canyon is 277 miles long, with a width ranging from 4-18 miles, and attains a depth of over a mile. The imprecise location of this alleged occurrence of a jaguar is unreliable for habitat modeling.

Girmendonk (1994): **Class III**

Hatten et al. 2002: NA

Grigione et al. (2007): **Class I or II observation** (while claiming to use Girmendonk’s

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

classification system)

Lange (1960)⁴⁵ reports,

“A memorandum of H. C. Lockett, in a letter of Lyndon L. Hargrave to E. A. Goldman, dated July 14, 1943, refers to a female and her two cubs being killed in the Grand Canyon, probably in the period, 1885-1890.”

Lange provided no citation pointing to where the letter can be located to verify the information he reported. The report is therefore unverifiable and unreliable.

Housholder (1966) states these alleged jaguars were killed in 1890 but fails to cite his source.

Hoffmeister (1986) states,

“**Supposedly** a female with two cubs were taken in the Grand Canyon area, and a female and a cub were taken at the head of Chevelon Creek, Coconino County.”

That is all Hoffmeister said about this record. It is important to note Hoffmeister’s choice of a preface-*supposedly*. It is also important to note that Hoffmeister made no citation to source, clearly signaling that this “record” may be a myth that could easily have originated around a campfire. It can be safely inferred that that Hoffmeister was unable to locate the alleged memorandum of H.C. Lockett for verification, and at least we know that a copy of it does not exist in the AZGFD files.

Despite citing Hoffmeister in their records, **Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) omitted this jaguar from their datasets**, which begin only in 1900. Their incomplete examination of data prior to 1900 deprives the reader of the knowledge that jaguars were extremely rare in Arizona before 1900, and misleads the reader to assume otherwise.

The Lockett memorandum or the Hargrave letter cited by Lange (1960) is not referenced to any repository or citation, so the information is unverifiable. Additionally, we were unable to locate any newspaper article mentioning or announcing this jaguar kill, despite the obvious newsworthiness of the unprecedented appearance of a lactating female jaguar in such a renowned tourist attraction as the Grand Canyon.

Grigione et al. (2007)⁴⁶ included this account in Table 1, which appears simply to be a combined list of reliable and unreliable jaguar sightings in Arizona and Sonora. **Grigione et al. (2007) misrepresents Hoffmeister** (1986) in the statement,

“In addition to reports in Arizona and New Mexico Game and Fish records, Hoffmeister (1986)⁴⁷ **cites reports of a female and two kittens in the Grand Canyon between 1889 and 1900**” . . . (Table 1).”

⁴⁵ “The Jaguar in Arizona,” Kenneth I. Lange; Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science (1903-), Vol. 63, No. 2. (Summer, 1960), pp. 96-101.

⁴⁶ Grigione, M., A. Scoville, G. Scoville, and K. Crooks. 2007. Neotropical cats in southeast Arizona and surrounding areas: past and present status of jaguars, ocelots and jaguarundis. *Mastozoología Neotropical*, 14:189-199.

⁴⁷ Hoffmeister, D.E. 1986. *Mammals of Arizona*. The University of Arizona Press and The Arizona Game and Fish, Tucson, Arizona.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

The Pima NRCDC was unable to verify this account in the AGFD's records by the Department's response to proper Public Records Request, as no reliable information on this record was included in that response.

This is an unreliable record.

1890, Greenback Valley, Phil Askins

The *Arizona Weekly Citizen* reports:

“Globe News, Globe, AZ July 22⁴⁸

A leopard's skin is on exhibition here, at the Silver Belt office. It was killed last week about 55 miles from here by Mr. Askins. The beast weighed 250 pounds and was eight feet long. **It is the first leopard ever known in Arizona**, and its mate, the female, is still at large.”

The *Arizona Silverbelt*, July 26, 1890 reported,

“The skin of the ferocious animal killed by Phil. Askins, in Greenback Valley, recently, was brought to Globe by his partner, Chas. Bouquot, and placed on exhibition in the post office, where it has been greatly admired. The animal was undoubtedly a jaguar, the largest and fiercest of the cat species, closely resembling a leopard, and a native of South and Central America.”

Brown (1997)⁴⁹ includes this jaguar but provides only the date, the names of the collector and reporter, and “Greenback Valley” as a location.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001), quotes the same story as printed identically in the *Arizona Daily Star* on July 31, 1890, but prefaced it, editorializing with the speculation, “By the late 1880's the jaguar was beginning to feel the wrath of Anglo-Americans as well as Mexican settlers.” Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) follows the quoted news article with more editorial speculation:

“For years afterward, the spring near where his animal was killed was known as Leopard Springs. The spring later became known as Lion Springs, but is now labeled on the Tonto National Forest map as Mud Springs—each change indicating a decline in the area's special nature. Jaguars must have been scarce in central Arizona, however, as a later newspaper account noted that Phil Askins had trapped more than 100 lions during his career, but only one jaguar.”

⁴⁸ *Arizona Weekly Citizen* August 8 1890 p.4

⁴⁹ Brown, David E., 06/23/1997. Table and map, “Jaguars known and Reported Killed or Photographed since 1890; obtained from USFS files

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) does not cite the source of the latter referenced newspaper account.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) does not state the source of the information on the spring where they claim the jaguar was killed, nor the source of the historic names of the spring or how long the spring kept each alleged name. On the other hand, their final comment about the career of Phil Askins provides yet further indication that jaguars were never anything but extremely rare transients in Arizona prior to 1900.

Oddly, despite discussing this jaguar in the text on pages 86-87 (Brown and Lopez-Gonzales, 2001), Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) omit this jaguar from their tables, arbitrarily assigning the year 1900 as the beginning of all jaguar history in Arizona. If Brown was aware of this jaguar in 1983, then his plot of alleged jaguar “decline,” which begins arbitrarily in the year 1900, deliberately distorts and obfuscates the reality that there are almost no records of jaguars killed in Arizona before 1900.

1900, somewhere in Coconino County, jaguar killed

Girmendonk, NA

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): NA

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 using Girmendonk’s system.

This record is mentioned exclusively by Grigione et al. (2007) with no additional details or citation to source. The description is too vague to be verifiable or reliable and therefore lacks scientific credibility for use in modeling suitable jaguar habitat.

“Around” 1900, Baboquivari Mtns, Chiricahua Mtns, “near” Globe -3 jaguar kills

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): NA

Schufeldt (1921)⁵⁰ quoted from Herbert Brown’s letter,

“Within the last few years several have been killed in Southern Arizona. One was killed in the Chiricahuas, one in Baboquivaris, and one near Globe. Of the last there were two together, but only one was secured.”

Lange (1960) reported,

“Herbert Brown (*in* Schufeldt, *Amer. Forestry*, 27:629-636, 659, 1921; *in* Hock) refers to single kills in the Baboquivari Mountains, Pima County, and the Chiricahua Mountains, Cochise County, and to a kill near Globe, all around 1900.”

These jaguars are potentially duplicate records of jaguars mentioned elsewhere herein. For example, the jaguar mentioned as killed in the Chiricahua Mtns. could have been one of the numerous jaguars mentioned elsewhere as killed by Mexican bounty hunters, by the Hands

⁵⁰ Schufeldt, R.W. “The Mountain Lion, Ocelots, Lynxes And Their Kin.” *American Forests*. Vol 27: 629-632; 659

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

brothers, or by Riggs and Ross. Without a clear identification of each specific jaguar, these vague reports are entirely unreliable and wholly unsuitable for scientifically credible modeling purpose.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001), although citing Lange (1960) in references, omitted these records without mentioning them. The only explanation for omissions is to eliminate from their dataset any “guided hunts,” meaning hunts of imported jaguars released from cages. As a result, this record is also unreliable.

June 1901, “probably” Dos Cabezas Mtns? Chiricahua Mtns? Cochise County, Riggs & Ross

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3, Location 3

Calahane (1939) reported,

“Another jaguar was trapped **years ago on top of the Chiricahuas** according to information furnished by Frank H. Hands of Dos Cabezas. The hide had been in the possession of Mariana Soto of Wilcox but eventually outlived its usefulness and ended its days hanging on a fence in the town.”

Lange (1960) reported,

“A letter from E. J. Hands, dated February 20, 1912, refers to a jaguar ‘Caught in June **[1901]** . . . by J. C. Riggs and a man named Ross.’ The **locality is Dos Cabos**, Arizona, probably the Dos Cabezas Mountains in Cochise County.”

Lange does not state the source of the 1901 date he added.

Lange’s failure to state where the letter may be accessed makes it impossible to confirm the information or investigate it further. No information therefore exists about how it was caught or the circumstances leading up to its capture. The Dos Cabezas location is easily confused with the location of Frank Hands, making the accuracy of Lange’s report both questionable and unverifiable.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports,

“June 1901, Dos Cabezas Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, unknown, killed by J. C. Riggs and a man named Ross (Lange, 1960; *fide* E. J. Hands).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001), Table 1, state:

“6/1901, J.C. Riggs and a man named Ross, Lange 1960 *fide* E.J. Hands.” Sex “?” “**Dos Cabezas Mts.**, AZ, Madrean Evergreen Woodland”

The assignment by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) of Madrean Evergreen Woodland to the “habitat” of the jaguar, without any information regarding the circumstances under which it was caught, is purely speculative. Was it chased by hounds? If so, how far, and for how many days was it chased?

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) gave this jaguar account the lowest class ranking, “3,” for “less reliable, second hand account” and did not use this account in their modeling.

It should be noted that this jaguar was taken by Riggs and Ross and reported by E.J. Hands. Supposedly, another jaguar was taken to the Riggs ranch for skinning in 1912, and that jaguar was said to be killed by the Hands brothers. There may be important information that has been omitted from one or both of these accounts that ties them together.

***3/16/1902, Rincon Mountains, Redington Pass? Male-2 Mexican Bounty Hunters**

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 1 location 2

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system

Schufeldt (1921) wrote,

“Personally, I have never met with the jaguar in its native haunts, and there are but very few American naturalists or hunters who have. **The writer is the first to have published an account of its occurrence in Arizona.** It was based upon the perfectly reliable statement of the late Mr. Herbert Brown, of Yuma, Arizona, who wrote in regard to it in April, 1902. In his letter Mr. Brown said:

*‘I send you the photograph of a very interesting animal which was killed in the Rincon mountains, about twenty-five miles east of Tucson, on the 16th of March last; it was killed by **two Mexican scalp hunters**. They were in the Rincons, above the Cebadilla, when their dogs found the trail of what appeared to be a very large California lion. After a short run the animal was overtaken, and two dogs were killed in the mix-up that followed. It was finally **driven into a cave**, smoked out and killed. An examination of the photograph will show where a bullet entered the skull a little to the left of the right eye; another went through the shoulders, but that cannot well be seen. It measured six feet seven inches from the point of the nose to the base of the tail, and nearly ten feet from tip nose to tip of tail, nineteen inches around the forearm and twenty six and a half inches around the head. In the skull you will notice that the lower right canine tooth has been broken off, but otherwise the teeth are in perfect condition. The skin and skull are in possession of William C. Brown, of Tucson, to whom I am indebted for measurements and photograph. The animal was a male and **very fat.**’”*

Lange (1960)⁵¹ reported,

“... one was killed on March 16, 1902, in the Rincon Mountains, Pima County.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports,

“16 March 1902, Rincon Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland/Rocky Mountain Conifer Forest. Male, bayed with dogs and shot by bounty hunters, photographed (Schufeldt, 1921)”

⁵¹ “The Jaguar in Arizona,” Kenneth I. Lange; Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science (1903-), Vol. 63, No. 2. (Summer, 1960), pp. 96-101.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports,

“3/16/1902 ‘Mexican bounty hunters.’ Schufeldt 1921. Arizona Historical Society photograph. M[ale]. Rincon Mtns. AZ. Bayed with dogs and shot. Madrean Evergreen Woodland/ Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest.”

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) used this record in their models, gave the account a class rank of “1” for the physical evidence, and gave the site description, which they identify as Redington Pass, a rank of “2” for “good,” accuracy of 1.7km-5 km.

It is unclear, however, how Hatten et al. (2005) were able to determine the location with such precision based on the general description “above the Cebadilla.” Nonetheless, they used this account in that manner in their model, thereby compromising its scientific integrity.

Are these the same two Mexican bounty hunters that captured two alleged jaguar kittens for sale in the Chiricahua Mountains in 1906? Might one of these men have been the apprentice of another bounty hunter, Charley Montgomery? How did bounties in Mexico compare with bounties paid by ranchers in Arizona? Were jaguars being chased into Arizona for higher bounties? The answers to these questions are unfortunately unknown.

1902, Catalina Mts., “Circumstances unknown,” Coplen or Copelen

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 Location 2

Lange (1960) did not mention this jaguar.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) report,

“1902, Canada del Oro, Catalina Mountains, Riparian within Madrean Evergreen Woodland/Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest, unknown, killed by Monroe Coplen (USFS files, Tucson).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) report,

“1902. Monroe Coplen. USFS files. [Sex] “?” Canada del Oro, Catalina Mts., AZ Circumstances unknown. Riparian/Madrean Evergreen Woodland.”

Since Brown and Lopez-Gonzales state that the circumstances of the kill are unknown, they admittedly had no information regarding how the jaguar arrived at the kill site or where a possible chase or other circumstance leading to this jaguar’s death may have begun. Their assignment of “habitat,” therefore, is obviously wholly speculative and thus unreliable.

October 1903, Atascosa Mtns., Possible Guided Hunt

Girmendonk (1994): Class II

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 Location 3

Grigione et al. (2007): Class I or II while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system

Lange (1960) wrote,

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“A jaguar was killed in the Santa Atascosa Mountains, Santa Cruz Cruz County, in October, 1903 (originally reported in *Amer. Field*, 60: 340, 1903)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“October 1903, Atascosa Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, unknown (*America Field* 60:340); Lange, 1960.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports,

“10/1903 Unknown. *American Field* (60:340), Lange 1960. Atascosa Mtns AZ. [Sex]? Madrean Evergreen Woodland”

We have been unable to access *American Field* (60:340) to confirm this information.

Details presented for this account are scant enough that it appears Brown and Lopez-Gonzales speculated in assigning “habitat” to this jaguar as well.

We have discovered a highly detailed account from a source not cited in the literature, of a guided hunt in 1903 that resulted in the taking of a jaguar in the Atascosas. The PNRCD will share the details with USFWS only when the USFWS fulfills its legal obligation to cooperate with Pima NRC. Until then, we will treat this record as an unreliable account of an imported jaguar taken on a guided hunt. It is possible this record is related to other records, based on our information.

“ca.” 1904, Camp Verde, Mr. West

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. 2002: Class 3 location 2

Lange (1960) did not mention this jaguar.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

“Mr. West. Housholder 1977, pers. Comm. [sex] “?” Verde River near Camp Verde, AZ. Riparian within Semidesert Grassland”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“Ca. 1904, Verde River near Camp Verde, Riparian within Semidesert Grassland, unknown, killed by a Mr. West, (B. Housholder, pers. comm.)”

Brown and Lopez Gonzalez (2001) wrote,

“Another more-or-less professional hunter, Mr. Lavern West, formerly of Forestdale, Arizona, hunted lions and bears on the White River Apache Indian Reservation from 1916 until the mid-1970’s. West, an Apache tribal member, hunted at various times for clients, the Apache tribe, and the U.S. government. West killed at least one jaguar and possibly others. When interviewed on the evening of August 10, 2000, the 102-year-old man could only recall killing a lot of both species. *¿Quien sabe?* His daughter, Charyl Lynn Merino, claimed that West had brought home both lions and tigers but that all of the hides had been sold or given away. Unfortunately, we cannot verify their statements

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

because, any family photographs and memorabilia have been burned by his Apache wife's family as befits their cultural tradition.”

This account is unverifiable and therefore unreliable. Furthermore, some of the jaguars West allegedly killed later in life, if this story is factual, could have escaped from Curtis Prock or other importers. On the other hand, if Brown's and Lopez-Gonzales's (2001) statement that West did kill at least one jaguar between 1916 and the mid-1970s is factual, such would not be inconsistent with the record of transient jaguar occurrence in Arizona over time.

5/31/1906 or 6/1/1906, Chiricahua Mtns., 2 Mexican bounty hunters, Female w/ 2 cubs, NO positive evidence these were actually jaguars.

Girmendonk (1994): NA

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 3 Location 3

Lange (1960) did not mention this account.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“1 June 1906, Chiricahua Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, female and two young, female trapped by bounty hunters and kittens offered for sale (*Arizona Star*; Knipe Collection at Arizona Historical Society, Tucson)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

“5/31/1906. Unknown ‘Mexicans.’ *Arizona Daily Star* 6/1/1906. F+2 cubs Chiricahua Mts., AZ Female trapped and cubs offered for sale. Madrean evergreen woodland?”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) states,

“The only actual account of jaguar cubs being taken in the American Southwest, however, is limited to a June 1, 1906 *Arizona Daily Star* article in which a female jaguar was reportedly killed the Chiricahua Mountains and her two cubs are captured and offered for sale:

‘Snarling, fighting, and frantic to break through the wooden cage. . . two tigers were offered for sale by two Mexicans in Bisbee yesterday. Though only a few weeks old the little tigers are full of life. To capture the pups the Mexicans had to shoot the mother tiger who they discovered guarding her young in a lonely part of the Chiricahua Mountains. Asked what price they would take for the tigers the Mexicans stated that they would sell the two of them for \$150 or one for \$80.’”

It is possible that these are the same two Mexican bounty hunters who allegedly killed a fat male jaguar in the Rincon Mountains in 1902, but we have been unable to verify whether such is actually the case.

Since nobody saw this jaguar except the men who claimed to have killed it, and they surprisingly did not also offer the skin or skull of the mother for sale, it is possible these two spotted cubs were actually mountain lion cubs being offered for sale at a premium price as jaguars. What happened to the skin and skull of the mother? Is it described in another record as a separate jaguar? What happened to the cubs when they grew large enough and wild enough to become a threat to their owners? Were they mountain lions or jaguars? Were they released into

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

the wild? Unfortunately, sufficient information does not exist to our knowledge to answer any of these questions.

Without evidence of the skin or a photograph of the mother to prove these were actually jaguars and not lion cubs, this record is entirely unreliable.

1904-1907, Patagonia Mtns., “knew of” two jaguars, unverifiable second hand story

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3? Location 3?

Lange (1960) wrote,

“A memorandum of Vernon Bailey, dated January 20, 1921, states that R. Lee Parker knew of two jaguars killed in the Patagonia Mountains, Santa Cruz County, during the period, 1904-1907.”

Lange did not cite the specific location where Bailey’s memorandum can be obtained for verification or how Lee Parker knew of these jaguars.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports,

“1904-1907, Patagonia Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, unknown, two jaguars killed by predator hunters (Lange, 1960; *fide* V. Bailey and R. L. Parker).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports,

“Unknown. Lange 1960 *fide* V. Bailey and R.L. Parker. 2[sex] ?? Patagonia Mts. AZ. Two jaguars killed; circumstances unknown. Madrean Evergreen Woodland.”

Since the reports indicate a specific year in their datasets when the year is known only within a spread of years, Hatten et al. (2002) make it impossible to discern if #7 in their Appendix 1 is this account or another account. Assuming this is the same kill, Hatten et al. (2002) assign 1907 as the year and rank it as class 3 with a site description rank 3. They do not use this account in their model.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) speculate on “habitat” when circumstances of the kill are admittedly unknown.

This is yet another example of vague second hand descriptions of jaguars that could be duplicates of more specific records. The mere fact that Lee Parker “heard” about them does not prove these are unique jaguars unmentioned elsewhere. This record is entirely unreliable.

***Winter 1908, S. Rim Grand Canyon, Hopi Indians, male-possibly same jaguar as reported being taken between 1909-1918 “not far from the tourist hotel at Grand Canyon village”**

Girmendonk (1994): Class III (if record dated 1907 is the same as this record)

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 1 Location 1

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Lange (1960)⁵² reported:

“Two kills are reported sometime around 1907: about four miles south of the Rim of the Grand Canyon, and the Mogollon Mountains, near Fort Apache”

It is entirely possible these “two kills” are actually two different reports of one kill. Lange does not cite any specific source, making the claim unverifiable and therefore unreliable.

Hoffmeister (1971)⁵³ states, without citation to any verifiable documentation:

“*Distribution.* Known only in former times (1907 or 1908) from ‘near the railroad’ about 4 miles south of the canyon rim.”

Habits. A jaguar . . . reportedly was killed at the above locality by a group of Indians. The late Major E. A. Goldman, prominent mammalogist, secured the information from the Kolb brothers in 1913. Major Goldman seemed satisfied that the animal was a jaguar. No specimen of a jaguar has been secured from closer to this locality than Cibecue, Arizona, some 170 miles to the southeast. It is reported that the jaguar in the park was an old animal with much-worn teeth but in fine pelage. It was tracked on the snow to where it had killed a colt.”

That is all that Hoffmeister (1971) reports regarding this alleged jaguar kill. Hoffmeister (1971) lacks a bibliography, leaving Major Goldman’s reported claims as unverifiable and therefore unreliable.

Billingsley (1971)⁵⁴ includes a photograph with the caption,

“On my second visit to the Hopi land in 1908 the Hopi had just slain this leopard and were dressing out the skin at that time. There are no arrow marks on this pelt. The Hopis claimed they had slain it by hand. Denoting the bravery and skill of the hunters of the Second Mesa. It came into my possession upon the death of my tribal mother Joseanema.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“Winter 1907-1908, 6.4 km S of Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest, male, “old” animal tracked and killed by Hopi Indians; photograph in Billingsley, (1971); Arizona Historical Society Special Collection, Arizona State University, Tempe (Lange, 1960; Hoffmeister, 1971; *fide* E.A. Goldman and Kolb brothers).”

The photograph in Billingsley (1971) is the same photograph reproduced in Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001).

⁵² “The Jaguar in Arizona,” Kenneth I. Lange; Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science (1903-), Vol. 63, No. 2. (Summer, 1960), pp. 96-101.

⁵³ Hoffmeister, D. F. 1971. *Mammals of Grand Canyon*. University of Illinois Press, Urbana.

⁵⁴ Billingsley, M. W. 1971. *M. W. Billingsley’s 51 years with the Hopi people Behind the Scenes in Hopi Land*, self-published, p. 81 of 134 pp.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) states that this animal was tracked and **killed on snow in pine forest**. It also states,

“[t]his is almost certainly the animal photographed in Billingsley 1971.” They admit on p. 40 that, “the idea of jaguars in the Grand Canyon may seem extreme.”

The implied uncertainty about the latter is not expressed in, and therefore is inconsistent with, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000).

The distance of 6.4 km converts to almost exactly four miles whereas “about four miles” can be taken to mean 3-5 miles or 5-8 km. Or it could mean, “not far from the tourist hotel at the Grand Canyon Village,” as described in the vague 1909-1918 record from the Grand Canyon. If Lange (1960) is the sole source of the location, as appears to be the case here, then there is misuse of significant figures by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales resulting in a fictional increase in the preciseness of the location of this jaguar’s killing for modeling purpose.

*Hatten et al. (2002) ranked this account as Class 1 (physical evidence) and used this jaguar for modeling. They gave it a “1” ranking as a “good” location.

*Hatten et al. (2005) likewise ranked this account as Class 1 (physical evidence) and gave the site location description a “1,” meaning within 1.6 km precision. If Brown and Lopez-Gonzales misused significant figures, as appears to be the case here, then Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) carried that error into their models as well, thereby compromising the scientific integrity of those models.

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) does not say, however, whether they used the location of the kill or the location where the animal’s tracks were first encountered in arriving at this ranking, and we are left with the further question of which end of this jaguar’s trail the habitat description provided by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) actually represents.

Although the photograph and caption in Billingsley do appear to corroborate the alleged Goldman report that a jaguar was killed by the Hopis in 1908, it should be noted that Goldman reported the kill as very near the railroad track. There is no reliable evidence this jaguar was naturally occurring. The reference to the railroad track, the time of year, the distance from the nearest breeding population and the elevation, considered together, cast considerable doubt on any claim that this jaguar arrived there by natural means.

1907, Navajo County, Jaguar Killed-Possibly Same Jaguar as Reported by Nelson (1919) and also the jaguar killed by Hopi Indians in 1907 near Grand Canyon Village

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Girmendonk is the only writer we have found that mentions this kill, and does so without citation to source and without stating any useful details whatsoever. It is therefore impossible to verify whether this jaguar actually existed. Therefore, this report is unreliable on its face.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Autumn 1910, Chevelon Creek, George Winslow, female + young

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 Location 2

Lange (1960) reports:

“E. W. Nelson **heard that** George Winslow killed a female and her young at the head of Chevellon (Chevelon) Creek, southwest of Winslow, Coconino County, **in the fall of 1910.**”

Lange fails to cite or reveal the whereabouts of any document written by E.W. Nelson regarding this kill. He does not reveal who told Nelson about it. The necessary paper trail to verify this information runs into a dead end at Lange (1960).

Hoffmeister (1986) reports, with no citation to source:

“**Supposedly** a female with two cubs were taken in the Grand Canyon area, and a female and a cub were taken at the head of Chevelon Creek, Coconino County.”

That is all Hoffmeister (1986) says about this record. It is important to note Hoffmeister’s choice of a preface-*supposedly*. It is also important to note that Hoffmeister made no citation to source, clearly signaling that this record has no better reliability than any other urban legend.

It can be safely inferred, therefore, that Hoffmeister had never seen any documentation or other evidence that would corroborate Lange (1960).

Brown & Lopez-Gonzales (2000) report:

“**October 1910**, Head of Chevlon Canyon, Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest, female and one young, killed (Lange, 1960).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001), fail to cite the source from which they learned that October was the specific month of these jaguars’ killings and appear to have gotten all their information from Lange (1960). We also have no clue how these jaguars got there, whether they were killed on sight, escaped from a circus train, or how many days or how many miles they may have travelled from where they were first seen or chased by dogs. Not knowing any of this information makes the habitat reference provided by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales both speculative and unreliable.

Considering the recent placement of Carlos Lopez-Gonzales at the head of the Jaguar recovery team by USFWS, it is safe to assume he and Brown had full access to all USFWS and AGFD original documentation. Nevertheless, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales merely cite Lange (1960), indicating that no additional information lies within the government files.

Therefore, the entire account is unverifiable and unreliable.

1910, Chiricahua Mountains, Fly Peak

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 **Location 2**

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Housholder (1958) reports:

“A large female tigre was killed by an unknown cowboy who, while riding the range one spring day in 1910, came upon the jaguar in a canyon near Fly Peak in the Chiricahuas.”

Lange (1960) reports:

“Housholder refers to a 1910 kill in the Chiricahua Mountains, reported to him by Ranger Morrow.”

Lange also reports:

“I wish to thank Mr. Everett M. Mercer, district agent at the Phoenix office, Mr. Housholder, and Miss Viola S. Schantz and Mr. John L. Paradiso at the Washington office, for their help and assistance. Mr. Mercer and Mr. Housholder also reviewed the manuscript.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“1910, Fly Peak, Chiricahua Mountains, Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest, female, killed by “cowboy” (Housholder, 1958; Lange, 1960; *fide* AGFD Ranger R. Morrow”

Without explanation, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) moved the kill site from *a canyon near Fly Peak* to directly *onto Fly Peak*. The canyon could have been several miles away from Fly Peak. Accordingly, the “habitat” reference to Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest provided by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) for this jaguar is also both speculative and unreliable.

We can see herein, and in other accounts, that many of Housholder’s stories were inaccurate. No editor or author has produced any written documentation from Morrow himself. Apparently, the mere mention of a ranger’s name is enough to satisfy many authors that the story is reliable. Furthermore, without the name of the cowboy and no record of what happened to the jaguar’s remains, this story could be a duplicate of another record of the same jaguar.

This account is vague, unverifiable hearsay and therefore unreliable.

June 1910, Gadsden Hotel showing, EE Burden

The *Bisbee Daily Review*⁵⁵ for June 15, 1910 reported the following, which may explain the high number of occurrences of jaguars in southern Arizona at that time, but mention of it is curiously missing from the peer-reviewed literature:

“El Paso, June 13. – A special from Cananea, Mexico says the forest fires in the Ojo and Manzanal mountains have swept a section of twenty-five miles and are still spreading. Several small mining camps are destroyed and a number of others, including a number of larger towns are threatened.”

⁵⁵ Bisbee Daily Review, June 15, 1910, p.2

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

On the same page as the story of the wildfire is a short article about a jaguar kill not mentioned in the scientific literature:

“Shows Jaguar Skin

E. E. Burden, the Moctezuma hunter, is at the Gadsden displaying the handsomely mounted skin of a jaguar, eight feet long which he recently killed. Mr. Burden killed thirty two mountain lions last year and besides an income from the skins which he usually has mounted and offers for sale, he receives from ranch owners from \$10.00 to \$25.00 bounty for each lion, or other animal preying beast killed, the price varying from the size and wealth of the ranches. He has a pack of fox hounds and enjoys the life very much though it is often fraught with danger.”

Since it appears that EE Burden was a professional bounty hunter with trained dogs and not a “cowboy riding the range,” this must be a second kill for the year 1910, but we do not know whether the Burden kill took place in Arizona, New Mexico or Mexico. Nor do we know what is meant by, “the Moctezuma hunter.” We do know that Moctezuma is the name of a municipality in northern Sonora, Mexico, located roughly 100 miles due south of Douglas, Arizona. As a result, while it is likely that this jaguar was taken in Sonora, such cannot be stated with certainty.

***January 1-12, 1912, Chiricahua National Monument, Frank Hands, sex unknown, skin at Portal museum**

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 1

Hatten et al. (2002): Location 2

Hatten et al. (2005): Location 1

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system

Seton (1929) fide Percy Hands mentions that the tracks of this jaguar were first seen on the east side of the Chiricahua Mountains on January 6, 1912. The cat began eating stock owned by Tommy Stafford of Bonita, who set a trap. The chase of the snared cat went up to Bonita Peak and an hour later after that it was pinned in a small cave and shot.

Calahane (1939) reports, without citation to source,

“The Hands brothers, John, Frank, Hi and Percy, killed a jaguar near the present Chiricahua National Monument, some time between January 1 and 12, 1912. The skin of this animal is in the collections of the University of Arizona. According to F.H. Hands, the jaguar had killed a cow and a calf at the forks of Bonita Canyon above Faraway Ranch (North of Pinery Canyon, on the west slope of the mountains). A trap was set at the carcass and a week or ten days later the cat was caught. As the drag broke, the jaguar was able to retreat into the mountains where it was cornered in a small cave and killed. Its length was 7’9”. According to John Hands, it was in prime condition with 4 or more inches of fat on the abdomen.”

Lange (1960) reports:

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“The skin of the jaguar trapped and shot **near** the Chiricahua National Monument, Cochise County, on January 12, 1912, is in the collection of the Department of Zoology, University of Arizona.”

Housholder (1958) reports, without citation to source:

“Old-timers will remember Frank Hand and his hunting exploits in southeastern Arizona. It had been reported that a large cat had killed a cow near what is now the Chiricahua National Monument, in the fall of 1914. A man named Stafford was called in to trap the animal. He rigged a large steel trap with a log drag and waited. Two days later, he was astonished to discover both trap and drag gone. The trail led across a boulder field and Stafford eventually lost it. Hand came in with hounds and, living off the country, followed the trail four long days. Finally **toward evening that fourth day** Frank found the jaguar, **the drag had finally caught on two trees**. A single pistol shot dispatched the tigre. The immense strength and stamina of the jaguar is a known fact and should never be underestimated, for Frank’s tigre, with one foot in a trap, had dragged a 150-pound log for more than 30 miles!”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“January 1912, Bonita Canyon, Chiricahua Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, unknown, trapped and followed up with hounds, ca. 9.5 years old, photographs (Riggs family diary and photo album; Calahane, 1939; O’Connor, 1939; skull and hide at Portal.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

“Frank Hands. Calahane 1939. O’Conner 1939, Housholder 1958, Lange 1960. Hands diary and photographs by Riggs family; hide with skull in possession of Ted Troller, Portal, AZ. Sex M? Bonita Canyon, Chiricahua Mtns., AZ Trapped before being trailed and bayed with hounds during snowstorm. Described as “him” by Percy Hands *in* Seton (1929). TL=93.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports,

“The big cat proved to be elusive, however, and several days passed before Hands cut fresh sign, again in Bonita Canyon. This version of the story contains the most detail, taking up nearly two pages. They also mention that the hide was transferred from the Arizona State Museum to a small museum in Portal, and then state that it is in the custody of Ted Troller.”

Between the many editors and authors, however, each seems to embellish the story a little more than the previous writer and yet most fail to cite the physical location of the source where they acquired their unique details of the story. Brown and Lopez-Gonzales fail to mention where they acquired the Hands diary or where one might find it for verification.

In addition, some details of the various stories do not match, without explanation of the differences, rendering those details unreliable. One example is Housholder’s account that the log caught on the trees vs. the version told by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) that the jaguar was trapped and shot inside a cave. Another example is the statement by Housholder (1958) that the hunt took two days and covered 30 miles whereas other accounts indicate it took 4-6 days and ended up near the place where it began. Since Brown and Lopez-Gonzales did not actually

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

quote from the Hands diary, their account is a second-hand version.

For this account, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) assigned the “habitat” to the location where the jaguar was first seen feeding on livestock.

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) used this record in their models, and ranked this jaguar as class 1. Hatten et al. (2002) assigned a “2” for a “fair” location. Accordingly, the assigning of a number 2 ranking for this jaguar record by Hatten et al. (2002) is both speculative and unreliable.

*Hatten et al. (2005), without explanation or citation to new information, **upgraded the ranking of the site description from “2” to “1”**— indicating that the location is somehow now known to be within 1.6 km. Failure to cite a source of information justifying the upgrade makes the location unverifiable and unreliable for modeling purposes.

February 1912, Winslow, Lon King, 2 jaguars poisoned, second hand story w/o citation

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 Location 2, citing location as **Sunset Pass**

Lange (1960) wrote,

“Nelson also heard that Lon King poisoned two jaguars **in the mountains west of Sunset Pass**, south and west of Winslow, Coconino County, in February, 1912”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

“February 1912, W of Sunset Pass, SW of Winslow, Great Basin Conifer Woodland/Rocky Mtn Montane Conifer Forest, unknown, 2 jaguars poisoned as stock killers, Lane [sic]1960, *fide* E.W. Nelson”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“Lon King, Lange 1960 *fide* E.W. Nelson. W of Sunset Pass SW of Winslow, AZ. Two jaguars poisoned as stock-killers. [sex]?? Great Basin Conifer Woodland/Rocky Mtn. Montane Conifer Forest”

Lange did not cite his specific source on this information. It is therefore unverifiable and unreliable.

1912, Bozarth Mesa, Bozarth and Contreras

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 Location 2

Housholder (1958) reports,

“The former sheriff of Prescott, Orville Bozarth, was in on the kill of a large tigre on the Bozarth Mesa, 65 miles northwest of Prescott, in 1912. He and some cowboys were rounding up cattle one afternoon when they noticed a jaguar standing over a colt it had just killed. Orville and Ed Contreras took after the cat on their horses. The jaguar would

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

easily outdistance the horses, then stop where it had protection from the rear, turn, and prepare to fight. Finally Bozarth succeeded in roping the cat!” Housholder continues the story that, being unarmed, the men dismounted their horses and heaved rocks at the enraged cat for thirty minutes until one hit the cat in the temple. ”

Lange (1960) reports,

“ . . .one was taken in 1912 by Bozarth and Contreras 65 miles northwest of Prescott”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

“1912, 100 km NW of Prescott on Bozarth Mesa, Semidesert Grassland/Chaparral, [sex] unknown "adult" animal roped and killed with rocks, (Housholder, 1958; Lange, 1960)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports,

“O. Bozarth and E. Contreras. Housholder 1958, Lange 1960. [sex] ? 65 mi NW of Prescott on Bozarth Mesa, AL "Adult" animal roped and killed with rocks. Semidesert grassland/ chaparral”

“Around” 1912, Rincon Mtns

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 Location 3

Seton (1929) quoted a letter from C.T. Vorhies wherein Vorhies reported numerous vague, poorly detailed alleged accounts of jaguar sightings and kills. Vorhies did not state whether he actually saw the remains of these kills.

Lange (1960) reports,

“C. T. Vorhies (*in* Seton) reported one taken . . . Pima County, around 1912, and one was killed in the adjacent Rincon Mountains in 1912.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales would have had access to all USFWS and AZGFD files and yet state nothing new regarding this jaguar. No indication was made whether this jaguar or its remains were actually seen by a reliable witness, and we are not given the date when Vorhies allegedly made this report.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports,

“1912, Rincon Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland? [sex]unknown, killed, (Lange, 1960; *fide* C. T. Vorhies).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“1912 Unknown Lange 1960 *fide* C.T. Vorhies. Rincon Mts, AZ, Madrean Evergreen Woodland?”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) cites no reference material that would provide useful details of the kill. Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) are therefore speculating about “habitat” and admit as much by their use of a question mark.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

This is yet another unreliable, sparsely detailed report that may be documented elsewhere in the scientific literature, in more detail, as a separate jaguar kill.

Around” 1912, Santa Catalina Mtns

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 Location 3

Lange (1960) reports,

“C. T. Vorhies (*in Seton*) reported one taken in the Santa Catalina Mountains, Pima County, around 1912”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

“ca. 1912, Catalina Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, unknown, killed, (Seton, 1929; Lange, 1960 *fide* C. T. Vorhies).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“Ca. 1912. Unknown. Lange 1960 *fide* C.T. Vorhies, Seton 1929. [sex]? Canyon del Oro Catalina Mts. Shot while feeding on prospector’s burro. Madrean Evergreen Woodland?”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) both speculate about “habitat” and admit so by use of a question mark.

This is yet another example of an unreliable, sparsely detailed report that may be documented elsewhere in the scientific literature, in more detail, as a separate jaguar kill.

1913, Tortolita Mtns, Durham

Girmendonk (1994): **Class II**

Hatten et al. (2002): **Class I** Location 3

Lange (1960) wrote,

“E. A. Goldman saw the skin of a jaguar taken in the Tortolita Mountains, about 30 miles northwest of Tucson, in 1913.”

Lange leaves his readers wondering whether the jaguar was killed in 1913 or the skin was seen by Goldman in 1913.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

“1913, Tortolita Mountains, Sonoran Desertscrub/ Semidesert Grassland, unknown, killed, (Seton, 1929; E. A. Goldman saw skin).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“1913. J.H. Durham. Lange 1960 *fide* E.A. Goldman and E.T. Seton (1929), who saw the skin. [sex]? Tortolita Mtns. (Durham Hills?) AZ. Killed by Rancher. Circumstances unknown. Sonoran desertscrub/semidesert grassland.”

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Since the circumstances of the kill are unknown, and no information is available to inform us whether hounds or some other force drove the jaguar into the kill zone from another location, the assignment by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales of “Sonoran desertscrub/Semidesert grassland” to the jaguar’s “habitat” is pure speculation.

1913, Red Mountains, N. of Clifton, old male, per Ben Lilly

Girmendonk (1994): NA

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 Location 2

As recounted in Carmony (1998)⁵⁶ – On April 21, 1916, Ben V. Lilly wrote a letter to Dr. Albert K. Fisher, a senior biologist at the Biological Survey in Washington, D.C. in which he declared,

“I am writing to you for fear Dr. C. Hart Merriam will be a way and the wart on the lion skin might be over looked or cut off not Knowing the intention of my Sending the hide.”

In the same letter he wrote,

“There was a jaguar killed about two years ago on the red hills about 5 miles south of Casper’s. It was a male. The hide made in a rug measures 96 inches from tip of tail to End of nose and was 32 inches across the bodeye from one Side to the other.”

“. . . Kindest regards to Dr. C. Hart Merriam and all the others. Regards to Mr. Ned Holister. I wish you could take a hunt with me. I have some Very good lion hounds now. . . I thank you very mutch for Sending Mr. Ligon around to See me. I will do all I can to assist your enterprise. Your best friend
B.V. Lilly”

The 1916 date on Lilly’s letter would have put the kill in 1914 but in his discourse written many years later he states that he saw the skin in 1913.

Carmony says he does not know the year when Lilly wrote his discourse on mountain lions, but he was “up in years” at the time. Lilly lived into his 70’s and died of dementia. In the discourse Lilly wrote,

“The Jaguar showed he was a real old fellow. . . The Second year there was reported that there was a man in Clifton Arizona who Killed a Leopard in the red mountains about 45 miles North of Clifton 30 miles west of Alma New Mexico. This man was hunting deer and Shot the Jaguar and wounded him badly and when he reached the place where he Saw it Struggling he was Frightened to find a full grown Jaguar Struggling trying to get away. The Jaguar had Killed a deer. Mr. Tol [Toles] Cosper who lived about 15 miles North on the Blue River Showed me the Skull. It was a male. Old one.”

⁵⁶ Carmony, Neil B. 1998. *Ben Lilly’s Tales of Bears, Lions and Hounds*, pp. 45, 46, 154, 155. High Lonesome Books, Silver City, NM.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Lilly goes on to describe in detail the growth of the sagittal crest, which is a ridge on the skull of male cats and other species, and that this part of the skull in males never stops growing, in contrast to females and young males. He also describes this jaguar's skin in detail, including the shade of yellow, the spots and the hide's measured dimensions. He then states, regarding the skin,

“ I looked over it closely. This was in 1913 I saw it and from the description the man [a man he stated earlier that he'd spoken with in 1911] gave me of the animal he saw on Dry creak in New Mexico it must have spent some time in the Dry creak country. They Said it had been Seen and its tracks were there up to 1911 any way but no one Saw his tracks after I offered \$10.00 for one track.”

Carmony's inserted annotations indicate that the red mountains Lilly referred to are actually 30 miles north of Clifton and 20 miles west of Alma. That is about the same location of Red Mountain. Lilly's description sounds more like the jaguar was killed down in the nearby foothills. Lilly stated in his discourse that he never worked more than ten miles west of the New Mexico border. He therefore probably had not visited this location personally previous to the time he saw the jaguar's skin. Lilly would have been able to accurately describe distances if he had.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

“1913, Red Mountain, N of Clifton, Chaparral/ Madrean Evergreen Woodland, male, killed by deer hunter (B. V. Lilly cited in Carmony, 1998).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“1913. Unknown deer hunter *fide* B.V. Lilly in Carmony. M. Red Mtn. N of Clifton, AZ. Madrean Evergreen Woodland”

Here, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales, with Carmony's help, speculatively pinpoint a location that originally was relayed with a poor second-hand description by a person who had never been there. With this as their foundation, they then speculate, as if it is a confirmed fact, that the “habitat” of this jaguar that they know nothing about, except that it died, is Madrean Evergreen Woodland.

Hatten et al. (2002) likewise had to have speculated in assigning a “2” to the location of this kill.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) also wrote,

“Hunting deer and other big game as an avocation rather than to fulfill a need did not really take hold in the United States until after the turn of the [20th] century. But by the time Congress approved statehood for Arizona and New Mexico in 1912, a substantial number of citizens were enjoying enough leisure time to consider themselves sportsmen. Accordingly, the first jaguar known to have been shot by a sports hunter was in November 1913 north of the mining town of Clifton, Arizona.”

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) consider this an unreliable second hand account and did not use it in their models.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

***1916, Upper Canyon del Oro, Catalina Mtns.**

Girmendonk (1994): NA

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 1 Location 3

Brown (1997)⁵⁷ included this record as No. 16 in a table entitled, “Jaguars Known And Reported Killed Or Photographed Since 1890.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

“1916, Upper Canon del Oro, Catalina Mountains, Riparian within Madrean Evergreen Woodland/Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest, male, possibly trapped; skin obtained by William F. Cody at Campo Bonito (Coronado National Forest files, Tucson).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“1916. Unknown ‘Mexican’ Skin obtained by W. F. Cody for his ranch at Campo Bonita. USFS files. Upper Canada del Oro, Catalina Mtns, AZ. Trapped? M. Riparian/Madrean Evergreen Woodland/Rocky Mtn Montane Conifer Forest”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales do not know how the animal was killed or whether it was trapped or chased by hounds for several days from an unknown starting location before it was killed. As such, their statement about this jaguar’s “habitat” is speculation.

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) used this record in their models and ranked it as a Class 1.

*Hatten et al. (2005) assigned a “3” for location description, meaning “fair” with 5.1-8 km precision.

Brown (1997) is the earliest author we have found to mention this jaguar. He cites USFS files for this information, but our FOIA request to the Coronado National Forest office in Tucson for all original documentation of jaguars yielded no such information. The FOIA respondent, Marc Kaplan, told us that some records are destroyed after a certain length of time. The entire record was absent from the response we received, and is therefore unverifiable and unreliable.

***May 11, 1917 Greaterville, AZ, E.J. O’Doherty, USNM 225613**

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 1 Location 1

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system

Note: Helvetia and Greaterville are about 10 miles apart on opposite sides of the Santa Rita mountain range.

Housholder (1958) reports:

⁵⁷ D.E. Brown. 6/23/1997 table and map obtained by us in response to FOIA request from Coronado National Forest files.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“E.J. O’Doherty trapped and killed a large tigre in the Santa Rita mountains near Helvetia in 1917. This jaguar ranks high in the record book.”

As of 1958, this jaguar’s skull ranked 11th largest of all measured jaguars worldwide.⁵⁸

Lange (1960) reports:

“The National Museum has the skin and skull of a male jaguar taken by E. J. O’Doherty on May 11, 1917, three miles west of Greaterville, Pima County; this is the large old male reported by Vernon Bailey in his memorandum of January 20, 1921.”

Lange (1960) gives no citation mentioning where the memorandum of Vernon Bailey might be obtained for verification, but does imply it may be in the USFWS files. The Pima NRCDC cannot verify this account because the USFWS failed to honor a proper FOIA request specifically asking for this information.

Records received from the National Museum of Natural History, which holds the skin and skull of this jaguar under catalog no. 225613, indicate this male jaguar was taken by E.J. O’Doherty on May 11, 1917, at Helvetia.[sic] Remarks indicate the location was edited in the Biological Survey X-Catalog to read: “10 mi south Helvetia, 3 mi W Greaterville P.O.” No date of the editing, or explanation for it, was given.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) state,

“5 November 1917, Helvetia [sic] (Santa Rita Mountains), Madrean Evergreen Woodland/Chaparral, male, trapped by federal predator control agent as a stock-killer (Nelson and Goldman, 1933; USFS files; USNM 225613)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) inaccurately state that this jaguar was taken November 5, 1917, transposing the date of 5/11 to 11/5.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) state,

“5/11/1917 E.J. O’Doherty (PARC). Nelson and Goldman 1933, Housholder 1958, Lange 1960, USFS files. Skull in USNM. M, Helvetia (Santa Rita Mtns.), AZ. Trapped as a stock killer. Madrean Evergreen Woodland.”

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) used this record in their models, gave this record a Class 1 ranking, and assigned a “1” for a “good” location description, meaning a precision within 1.6 km. Given the facts stated above, that conclusion is both unsupportable and unreliable.

⁵⁸ Records of North American Big Game, 1964, Compiled by the Records Committee of the Boone & Crockett Club. 1964, Holt, Rinehart and Winston pp355-357. This jaguar had a skull score of $16^{14/16}$, greatest length without lower jaw $10^{1/16}$ in. and greatest width $6^{12/16}$ in.

1909-1918? Grand Canyon tourist hotel, trapped-possibly same jaguar as the one reported killed by the Hopi Indians 4 mi. south of the South Rim

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 Location 2

Hatten et al. (2005): Class 2 Location 1

E.W. Nelson (1919)⁵⁹ wrote,

“They are so strictly nocturnal that their presence in our territory is usually not suspected until, after depredations on stock usually attributed to mountain lions, a trap or poison is put out and reveals a jaguar as the offender. Several have been killed in this way within our border during the last ten years, including one not far from the tourist hotel at the Grand Canyon of Arizona.”

This jaguar, *if it existed at all*, could have arrived by train for any number of reasons -- a circus, an unruly exotic pet being released into the wild, or for sport hunting, to name a few. The Grand Canyon Railway made its first journey to the Grand Canyon Village, carrying passengers, on September 17, 1901.⁶⁰ Nelson (1919) presents no skull, no skin, no reliable witness, no date, no details about how the animal might have arrived, no circumstances under which the animal was killed, no indication of how far the animal moved between first being spotted and killed, no indication whose stock it may have killed or how many, and no cause of death. In short, Nelson (1919) presents only unverifiable, unreliable hearsay.

How can this have happened in the Grand Canyon Game Preserve? It appears this might be the same jaguar that the Hopi Indians killed about four miles south of the South Rim in 1907. The date range is close enough that this possibility deserves consideration.

Lange (1960) wrote, without questioning the reliability of Nelson’s report:

“E. W. Nelson (Wild Animals of North America, 1918, cited in Seton) refers to a jaguar killed "not far from the tourist hotel at the Grand Canyon" within the period, 1909-1918.”

It is unclear whether Brown (1983)⁶¹ used this account. Brown (1983) fails to present the specific dataset used in his plotting of alleged declining jaguar presence in Arizona – but only did use data since 1900, when a sudden increase of jaguar kills began to occur. He does treat as credible those 19th century accounts of James Ohio Pattie, a reputed teller of tall tales, and Phocion Way, an untrained observer, both of which are as unverifiable and therefore as reliable

⁵⁹ E. W. Nelson, “Wild Animals of North America: Intimate Studies Of Big And Little Creatures

Of The Mammal Kingdom. 5 May 1919, The American Museum Of Natural History
Osborn Library Of Vertebrate Paleontology

⁶⁰ Official website of the Grand Canyon Railway.

⁶¹ Brown, David E., The Southwestern Naturalist, Vol. 28, No. 4 (Dec. 9, 1983), pp. 459-460

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

as many of the Lange (1960) accounts he probably did use. (See: Carmony and Brown, 1982, at pp. 184-185).

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

“1909-1918, Grand Canyon, Great Basin Conifer Woodland, unknown, killed, (Lange, 1960; *fide* E.W. Nelson)”

The assignment of “habitat” to this jaguar by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) is speculation.

In contrast to the tone of utter confidence set in their earlier work, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) this time expresses uncertainty, but again the authors speculate in reporting:

“1909-1918. Unknown. Lange *fide* E.W. Nelson. [sex]? Grand Canyon, AZ. Circumstances unknown. Great Basin Conifer Woodland?”

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) included this record in their appendix and speculated further, assigning 1918 as the date of the kill. Hatten et al. (2005) also, without explanation, upgraded the location from 2 to 1 and upgraded the class from 3 to 2. Nonetheless, they deemed the report unworthy for use in their models.

McCain and Childs (2008) uses this unreliable record as a key element in its thesis and model – one of numerous fatal errors in the analysis that render its conclusions unreliable.

Grigione et al. (2007)⁶² discarded this record as unreliable, excluding it from Table 1.

Grigione et al. (2009)⁶³ did not specifically list the data they used but stated they discarded unreliable records.

This record is yet another example of a vague description of a single jaguar that may be documented in multiple records as separate and distinct jaguars. This may be the same jaguar reported as killed in 1907 by the Hopi Indians.

This record is unreliable.

1918, Santa Rita Mountains

Girmendonk (1994): NA

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) Class 3

⁶² M. Grigione, A. Scoville, G. Scoville, and K. Crooks. “Neotropical Cats In Southeast Arizona And Surrounding Areas: Past And Present Status Of Jaguars, Ocelots And Jaguarundis. *Mastozoología Neotropical*, 14(2): 189-199, Mendoza, 2007

⁶³ M.M. Grigione, K. Menke, C. Lopez-Gonzalez, R. List, A. Banda J.Carrera, R. Carrera, A.J. Giordano, J. Morrison, M. Sternberg R. Thomas and B. Van Pelt. “Identifying Potential Conservation Areas For Felids In The USA And Mexico: Integrating Reliable Knowledge Across An International Border.” 2009 *Fauna & Flora International*, Oryx, 43(1), 78–86 doi: 10.1017/S0030605308002019

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Lange (1960) wrote,

“Stanley P. Young, in a letter to W. B. Bell, dated March 10, 1932...reports a jaguar that was trapped in the Santa Rita Mountains, Santa Cruz County in 1918. The locality was near the base of Old Baldy (Mt. Wrightson) **at about 7,000 feet.**”

Lange (1960) failed to cite the specific reference where this letter can be found for verification.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

“Winter 1917-1918, base of Mt. Baldy, Santa Rita Mountains, **2,134 m elevation**, Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest/Madreaan Evergreen Woodland, unknown, trapped by predator control agent as a stock-killer (Seton, 1929; *fide* S.P. Young; USFS files, Tucson.)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) does not cite Lange or Housholder but cites other sources and states the elevation as *exactly* 2,134 meters. The conversion of that figure to feet is 7,001 feet. It appears that somewhere along the way, someone converted exactly 7,000 feet to meters and in doing so, improperly and unscientifically increased the number of significant figures, thus falsely suggesting that the location and elevation of this kill is much more precisely known than it actually is. Such an approach is speculative, unreliable and unscientific.

Although Brown and Lopez-Gonzales cite USFS files in Tucson, the response to our FOIA request from the same office yielded no such information.

Instead, this sounds suspiciously like a duplicate record of the jaguar trapped by Lee Parker near the base of Old Baldy.

This record is unreliable.

***April 22, 1919, Greaterville, R. Lee Parker, NMNH 231961, female**

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 1 Location 1- (Note: the authors do not make it clear that this is the same 1919 record to which their classification refers)

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system

Housholder (1958) reports:

“Lee Parker, uncle of the well known big game hunter, George Parker of Amado, trapped and killed a jaguar **near Greaterville**, in the Santa Rita mountains **in 1918.**”

Lange (1960) reports:

“The National Museum has the skin and skull of a female taken on **April 22, 1919**, six miles northwest of Greaterville, Pima County, by Lee Parker. This is the old but not very large female reported by Bailey in his memorandum dated January 20, 1921: Bailey gives the locality as the ridge east of the Parker Ranch (the Old McBeth Ranch) at the North end of the Santa Rita Mountains, near Castle Dome; the date as June, 1919; and the collector as R. Lee Parker.”

Lange gives no citation to where the memorandum might be located for verification. If it is in the USFWS files, it was excluded from the agency’s response to PNRCD’s FOIA request for

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

historic jaguar documentation. The PNRCD is unable to verify this information and cannot, therefore, consider it reliable.

The National Museum of Natural History holds the skin and skull of this jaguar under catalog number 231961. The museum's records show this female jaguar was collected April 22, 1919, by Lee Parker **at** Greaterville.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“April 1919, Greaterville (Santa Rita Mountains) Madrean Evergreen Woodland, female, trapped by federal predator control agent as a stock-killer, “adult” (USFWS files, Phoenix; USNM 231961)”

The Pima NRCDC learned from this record in Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) that the USFWS has information in its files in Phoenix that it has failed to share with the Pima NRCDC even after this information was specifically and directly requested under FOIA from the Phoenix USFWS office by the PNRCD.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“4/22/1919. R.Lee Parker (PARC) USFS Files, Housholder 1958. Skin and skull in USNM. Greaterville, AZ trapped and killed as stock-killer. “Adult.” Madrean Evergreen Woodland.”

It is unclear from the information presented how Brown and Lopez-Gonzales obtained the information that this particular jaguar was being specifically targeted for killing stock. It is possible Mr. Parker set a trap for wolves, mountain lions or coyotes and happened to catch a jaguar. Without access to the primary documents held by the USFWS, the PNRCD cannot verify that this new information is reliable.

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) reference a jaguar killed in the Santa Rita Mountains in 1919 and incorporate it in their models. Since this record is far more detailed in describing the location than the other 1919 record their cited references include for the Santa Rita Mountains, we speculate that this is likely the jaguar they refer to in Appendix 1. They gave this record a class 1 ranking for physical evidence and a ranking of “1” for location description, meaning within 1.6 km precision.

Santa Rita Mountains, Winter 1919 -1920

Girmendonk (1994) Table 3 gives the reader the following multiple choices: Pima 1920 Class II, OR Pima or Santa Cruz 1920 Class III

Hatten et al. (2002) likewise give the reader a multiple choice: 1919 Class 1 Location 1 OR 1920, Class 2 Location 3.

Hatten et al. (2005) also gives the reader a multiple choice: 1919 Class 1 Location 1 OR 1920 Class 2 Location 4

Lange (1960) reports:

“Vernon Bailey, in his 1921 memorandum, stated that: "Another was killed west of the Santa Rita Mountains last year but I did not get the details or the exact locality.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“Winter 1919-1920, W of Santa Rita Mountains, Semidesert Grassland/Madrean Evergreen Woodland, killed by government hunters as a stock-killer (Seton, 1929, *fide* V. Bailey; Lange, 1960; USFS files, Tucson.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“1920. Unknown. Lange 1960 *fide* V. Bailey, USFS files. ‘Killed’ W. of Santa Rita Mtns, AZ. Semidesert grassland/Madrean Evergreen Woodland.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) Appendix 3 includes a copy of a 12/4/1920 report of big game killed on the Coronado National Forest during 1920. The report shows two jaguars killed, including one in the Santa Rita district per Ranger Scholefield.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) fail to state how they knew this occurred in winter, how they know the animal was taken by government predator control agents, or how they know whose stock this jaguar was allegedly killing. None of the cited sources provide this information. This account also lacks any details about the incident or whether the jaguar moved over a long distance during the hunt and before it was killed. The “habitat” determination by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) is therefore speculative.

On the timeline of jaguar kills in southern Arizona, this account is suspiciously close to the January, 1920, jaguar killed on a hunt guided by Billy Chester in the nearby Rincon Mountains. Additionally, we have found evidence that suggests Chester may have been seeding jaguars in Arizona for his high profile clients, as described later herein.

January 10, 1920, Rincon Mountains, Billy Chester & Stanley Graham, guided hunt

Girmendonk (1994): By omitting details from Table 3, Girmendonk (1994) gives the reader a multiple choice to guess how she assessed the record for this jaguar: Pima 1920 Class II OR Pima or Santa Cruz 1920 Class III.

Hatten et al. (2002) Class 2 Location 3

Hatten et al. (2005) Class 2 Location 4

Lange (1960) reports:

“The Holbrook *Observer* on January 20, 1920, reported a jaguar killed in the Rincon Mountains, Pima County, on Saturday.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“20 January 1920. Rincon Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland/Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest, killed by S. R. Graham and party; “large,” reported in *Holbrook Observer* (Seton, 1929; USFS files, Tucson).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“1/1920. Stanley Graham and party. Seton 1929, Lange 1960, Holbrook Observer, USFS files. ‘Killed’ in Rincon Mtns., AZ. Madrean Evergreen Woodland?”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) Appendix 3 shows a copy of a tabular report on big game killed in the Coronado National Forest in 1920. It shows one jaguar killed in the Rincon Mountains.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) state that the “habitat” of this jaguar is Madrean Evergreen Woodland, although they neither present nor cite information on how far the animal was chased to provide evidence supportive of that claim. It is therefore speculation.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) also state in the introduction to the records in the Appendix that “[t]hese accounts do not include guided hunts.” They also speculate – inaccurately – that this was not a guided hunt.

An article printed January 16, 1920 in the *Coconino Sun* indicates the information presented by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) is inaccurate. The correct date of this jaguar’s kill is January 10, 1920.

The *Coconino Sun*⁶⁴ reported the event as included below, giving plenty of evidence that, contrary to Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001), this was indeed a guided hunt. Not only was the hunt guided, but the first member of the party to see and shoot the jaguar was the guide, Billy Chester.

Personal communication with Chester’s grandson, Joe Dreyfuss, indicates Chester had recently moved to Arizona from Mexico, where he had already been famous as a jaguar hunting guide. He left Mexico in fear for his life at the end of the revolution, so Dreyfuss thinks he may have had friends bring up jaguars for him. Whether this particular hunt was a “canned” jaguar hunt, or a guided lion hunt that accidentally encountered a jaguar, remains unknown.

Chester, as Dreyfuss described him before the discovery of this article, had been well known for his dim view on canned hunting. Based on what Mr. Dreyfuss mentioned of his grandfather’s personal history, his character, and his economic circumstances, having had his ranches in Chihuahua confiscated by the new government in Mexico, we believe he did not engage in caged hunts but did introduce jaguars or had jaguars introduced into Arizona for his clientele. Mr. Chester’s viewpoint on canned hunting does indicate that canned hunting was practiced and known of at the time of this jaguar’s taking in 1920. Dreyfuss also told us that Billy Chester’s hunting guide activities in the US spanned from 1919 to 1940, and the Lee Brothers took over his accounts when he retired. According to Dreyfuss:

“Jim McDonald, the sheriff, was a friend of my grandfather and hunted with him in Mexico and his family. The Cooks have some photos. Now, keep in mind Billy Chester did not get out of old Mexico till about 1919 and his brand registration is in Pinal Co. in 1919, the same year the revolution ended. . . . The Chicago connection with McDonald makes some sense to me because Bill Cook was married to Jim McDonald's daughter June. Bill came from Chicago.”

Since the article states that the jaguar was shot and then chased by hounds for 18 miles from an unidentified starting location, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales’s (2000) assertion that its natural habitat was “Madrean Evergreen Woodland/Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest” is both speculative and unreliable.

⁶⁴ Coconino Sun

GIANT JAGUAR KILLED IN RINCON MOUNTAINS

One of the largest jaguars killed in this section of the country was killed in the Rincon mountains Saturday by a party consisting of Stanley R. Graham, of Chicago, wild animal hunter, and writer; George T. Baker, his uncle; J. W. McDonald, of Arizona, and W. P. Chester, well-known hunter of Tucson. The skin of the animal was brought to Tucson and measured nine feet from the nose to the tip of the tail. The hunters claimed it weighed about three hundred pounds.

The animal was first seen by Chester, who shot him in the leg. The hounds then trailed him for eighteen miles where he had sought shelter in a cave. At first it was thought it was a mountain lion. It was then getting dark, so a fire was built at the mouth of the cave and gradually fed back until it was five feet away from the animal. He was then shot by Mr. Graham.

It was found that his front leg had been broken by Chester's shot and caused him to make only a mild resistance when killed. He was skinned by the light of the fire and his hide and tusks were brought to town. The meat was allowed to remain in the cave because it was too late to do anything with it.

Mr. Graham will take the hide with him to Chicago on his return eastward and have it mounted. With the aid of the tusks, it is expected to make a splendid specimen. The tusks measure almost two inches.

Mr. Graham and Mr. Baker are going to Ventura county, California, in a few days on a mountain lion hunt. Mr. Chester is going along as guide and Mr. Graham has offered him a bonus of \$1000 to rope and tie a mountain lion alive.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

***1922, Rincon Valley**

Girmendonk (1994) NA

Hatten et al. (2002) Class 1 Location 2

Hatten et al. (2005) Class 1 Location 3

This record is not mentioned in the published literature prior to 2000.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“1922, Rincon Valley, Semidesert Grassland, unknown, taken by homesteaders, photographed, (*fide* R.M. Turner and R. Pinto)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

“Frederick O. Knipe et al. *fide* Henrietta Barassi (granddaughter). Photograph. Rincon Valley, AZ. Taken by rancher. Semidesert grassland?”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) does not include the photograph.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) fail to cite where the information *fide* RM Turner and R Pinto can be accessed for verification. This account is therefore unreliable.

This jaguar kill is not mentioned in Lange (1960). Brown and Lopez-Gonzales do not know who killed this jaguar, nor do they state how it was killed, whether it arrived at the kill location on its own, or whether it was chased by hounds or dropped off by a traveling circus. Nor do they indicate the exact kill location or the habitat it actually occupied as they so admit by use of a question mark (Brown and Lopez-Gonzales, 2001).

The claims in Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) that this jaguar’s “habitat” was “Semidesert Grassland” nonetheless, are therefore obviously speculative and thus unreliable.

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2004) used this record in their models, ranking it as class 1 for physical evidence. Hatten et al. (2005) ranked the site description as “3,” meaning 5.1- 8km precision.

With all circumstances leading to the kill unknown, any habitat modeling that depends on this record is wholly speculative and unreliable.

***April 12, 1924, “near”⁶⁵ Cibecue, Jack Funk, male, USNM 244507**

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) Class 1 Location 3 (within 5.1 – 8 km accuracy)

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system

Housholder (1958) reports:

⁶⁵ Nat. Museum of Natural History Collections record, Catalog Number: USNM 244507

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“The record jaguar killed near Cibecue, was run by hounds. The government hunter, Jack Funk, wasn’t necessarily looking for a tigre, however, as soon as the hounds got on the saucer-size tracks he knew what he was after. Seldom, in fact rarely, does a jaguar “tree.” The Cibecue cat was no exception and was killed by a single 30-30 shot in the neck while on the ground.

Most guides instruct their hunters to shoot a big cat in the head, eliminating the possibility of a wounded cat mauling valuable hounds. On the other hand a mushrooming bullet through the skull practically obviates any measurement for record book consideration. If the opportunity presents itself, a neck shot is just as good as a head shot. The skull of the Cibecue tigre is now in the United States National Museum.”

Lange (1960) reports:

“The type specimen of *F. o. arizonensis* was collected by Jack Funk on April 12, 1924, near Cibecue, Navajo County, and is now in the National Museum.”

E.A. Goldman (1932)⁶⁶ wrote,

“Multiplying records at different seasons indicate that the present form of jaguar, while never very abundant, is a regular resident in southeastern Arizona. It represents the extreme northern limit of the range of *F. onca*, and is a rather well-marked race as shown by comparison with its nearest geographic neighbor, *F. o. hernandesii* of the Pacific Coast of central Mexico. The specimens [sic] upon which this new jaguar is based were obtained largely through the active interest of Mr. M. E. Musgrave, who had long service in charge of predatory-animal control activities of the Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, in Arizona.”

Could it be that Goldman did not realize how much President Theodore Roosevelt influenced the popularity of sport hunting, potentially creating a market for sport hunting of imported jaguars? Goldman’s assumption as to jaguar residency in Arizona is inconsistent with the views of earlier first-hand observers such as Elliot Coues (1867)⁶⁷ and John Duncan Quackenbos et al. (1887). On the other hand, Goldman’s (1932) observation of “multiplying records at different seasons” is consistent with the record of increased transient presence of jaguars in Arizona after 1900.

E.A. Goldman (1932) wrote,

“ARIZONA JAGUAR.

Type. — From near Cibecue, Navajo County, Arizona. No. 244507, male adult, skin and skull, U. S. National Museum (Biological Survey collection), collected by Jack Funk, April 12, 1924. X catalogue No. 23633.”

It appears E.A. Goldman indulged the flawed assumption that this jaguar, and all others killed in the United States, arrived here naturally, meaning without human influence. Pocock (1939)

⁶⁶ E.A. Goldman, “Jaguars of North America,” Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, Vol. 45 pp 143-146, Sept. 9, 1932

⁶⁷ Coues, Elliot “The Quadripeds of Arizona” *American Naturalist* Vol. 1 No. 6 pp. 281-292

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

aply points out that Goldman and Nelson (1933) took too few measurements on too few of the many specimens they had available.

This particular specimen is the world's second largest on record for combined skull measurements, or score, of jaguars recorded in the Boone and Crockett trophy book, having been bested in 1965 by a jaguar taken from Veracruz.⁶⁸ The dimensions of the largest jaguar are larger by a mere 1/16 inch in both greatest skull length and greatest skull width. This type specimen for *arizonensis* is therefore not typical as Nelson and Goldman presumed it to be, and is anything but typical of the universe of jaguars that have been taken in Arizona. This may be somewhat confirmed by Pocock (1939)⁶⁹ who wrote that this type specimen is not significantly different than the type specimens of *veraecrucis*:

“The measurements also show that the claim that the skull of *veraecrucis* is bigger than that of *arizonensis* conveys very little, seeing that the length of the condylobase of the type skull of *arizonensis* is almost exactly the same as the average of the two [male] skulls of *veraecrucis*.”
The published evidence that these three races differ in the size of their skulls amounts to nothing.”

The so-called “*arizonensis*” type specimen taken by Jack Funk, and a similar jaguar taken in 1926, therefore, could well be representative of specimens of “*veraecrucis*” imported into Arizona by a world-class hunting guide, such as Mr. William P. (Billy) Chester, for hunting by his high-profile clients. Mr. Chester's clientele list included Cornelius Vanderbilt, President Theodore Roosevelt, the President's son Archibald (Archie) Roosevelt, and the President's friend, the famous and colorful nimrod hunter from Chicago, Stanley Graham. In fact, Stanley Graham shot a jaguar in the Rincon Mountains of Arizona in January 1920, on a hunt guided by Billy Chester.

Coincidentally, Graham had just finished three months of hunting with his pack of bloodhounds and Billy Chester in northern Mexico when the Funk jaguar was killed, returning to his home in Chicago on March 6, 1924.

On March 7, 1924 the *Chicago Daily Tribune* reported that Graham had returned to Chicago from his hunting trip on March 6.⁷⁰

On February 19, 1924 the *Prescott Evening Courier* reported,

⁶⁸ Records of North American Big Game, 1964, Compiled by the Records Committee of the Boone & Crockett Club. 1964, Holt, Rinehart and Winston pp355-357. The Funk jaguar total score was 18 5/16 with greatest skull length, without lower jaw, of 10 14/16 inches and greatest skull width of 7 7/16 inches.

⁶⁹ Pocock, R.I. “The Races of Jaguar (*Panthera onca*), Dept of Zoology, British Museum of Natural History. Novitates Zoologicae XLI. 1939

⁷⁰ “Stanley Graham Back from Lion Hunt; Killed 2.” *Chicago Daily Tribune*, March 7, 1924.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“Already two mountain lions have been bagged by Stanley R. Graham, Chicago sportsman who, with Billy Chester, is now in the mountains of northern Sonora hunting lions and jaguars with a pack of hounds.”⁷¹

While we do not know the exact details of these hunts, we do know from these news articles that Billy Chester and Stanley Graham were chasing jaguars with hounds in northern Sonora shortly before the Funk jaguar was killed. It is not inconceivable that some of these jaguars may have escaped into Arizona, had they not been deliberately seeded there at that time. We are also aware that Jack Funk, if not also other government hunters, chased *this particular jaguar* with hounds and may have caused it to move northward toward Cibecue.

It is also an improbable coincidence that this jaguar, the largest recorded in the 1964 Boone and Crockett record book, was taken at the same time that one of Chester’s famous clients was visiting Arizona for a hunting trip. A second improbable coincidence is that PARC agent Fred Ott collected the jaguar with the second biggest Boone and Crockett score a few days before the well-publicized arrival of Archibald Roosevelt, who came to hunt jaguars with Mr. Chester in Arizona and Sonora.

A third improbable coincidence is that Billy Chester’s client, Stanley Graham, killed a jaguar in the Rincon Mountains on a hunt guided by Billy Chester, and that Mr. Chester was the first in the party to see the jaguar and fired the first shot. The cat ran into a convenient cave nearby. The most improbable coincidence is the common factor of hunting guide Billy Chester in all three accounts.

Mr. Chester was well known for his dim view on “canned” hunting, which obviously existed as a practice during the same time frame of his US hunting guide career that spanned from 1919-1940. He severely chastised clients that demonstrated unsportsmanlike behavior, including one incident where he took his clients’ mounts and boots, and forced them to hike back to camp in stocking feet.⁷² It is more likely, given his personal history, his character, his skill and experience as a world-class jaguar hunting guide, and his close connections with ranchers all over Sonora and Chihuahua, that he had someone bringing up jaguars from Mexico, introducing them into the US, and letting them run free for his clients to track down and kill in a sportsmanlike manner.⁷³ It may have been Mr. Chester’s coincidental misfortune that the federal government had professional predator control agents working full time in all 15 counties of Arizona killing thousands of coyotes and mountain lions at the time, and that his “merchandise” was taken by these agents in the routine of doing their jobs, during the same time frame that his clients were in Arizona and Sonora to hunt with him.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“April 1924, near Cibecue, White Mountain Apache Reservation, Great Basin Conifer Woodland/Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest, male, taken with hounds by federal

⁷¹ “Mountain Lions Bagged,” *Prescott Evening Courier*, Feb 19, 1924

⁷² W.P. Chester’s grandson and historian Joe Dreyfuss, personal communication

⁷³ W.P. Chester’s grandson and historian Joe Dreyfuss, personal communication, August 17, 2012

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

predator control agent as stock-killer, “adult” (Nelson and Goldman, 1933; type specimen for *Panthera onca arizonensis*, USNM 289015”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) inaccurately reported the type identification number from both the US National Museum and from Nelson and Goldman (1933). The correct catalog number is 244507.

Moreover, since this jaguar was chased by dogs for an unreported amount of time over an unknown distance before being killed, and because the exact location of the livestock depredation is not mentioned, the habitat reference stated by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) is speculative and therefore unreliable.

*Hatten et al. (2002) uses this account in their model, ranking this jaguar record as Class 1 and the site description as “2” for “fair,” thus further compromising the scientific integrity of that model.

November 30, 1926, Cerro Colorado Mountains, Fred Ott, male, USNM 247337 + 2nd jaguar of unknown sex

For the jaguar in the USNM -

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 1 Location 4 (>8 km accuracy)

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system; location given as Nogales without citation to specific source

For the jaguar not collected-

Girmendonk (1994): NA

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 1 Location 4 (>8 km accuracy)

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) give the reader a multiple choice to guess which jaguar they think was taken in the Atascosa Mountains and which one was taken in the Patagonia Mountains. They also do not cite their specific source for the information that one of these jaguars was taken in the Atascosa range. That information is therefore unreliable.

Housholder (1958) reports:

“A government predator hunter, Fred Ott, holds the distinction of being the only man to take two jaguars in Arizona. In 1926, Fred was engaged in a poisoning program in the **Sonoita-Patagonia-Lochiel section**. One day, while afoot, Fred was out checking his stations and came upon two full-grown tigers dead near one of the poison sets. This happened during the warm part of the year, so Fred hurriedly skinned one jaguar, then dragged the other carcass into the shade and headed for camp with the skull and skin. It was hours before he was able to return to the second jaguar and he found the heat had caused the hair to “slip” and the skin was ruined.”

Housholder’s 1958 account differs substantially from other accounts by stating that the jaguars were both killed in the same place on the same date.

Lange (1960) states:

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“Fred Ott, a Fish and Wildlife Service hunter, killed two jaguars in 1926 about 18 miles south of the Cerro Colorado Mountains in the Ruby district. The skull of the animal killed on November 30, 1926, is in the National Museum.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“11 November 1926, S. of Patagonia, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, male, poisoned by federal predator control agent, “adult” (Nelson and Goldman, 1933, USNM 247337);”
and:

“1926, S. of Patagonia, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, unknown, taken with poison as a stock-killer, (USFWS files, Phoenix; Lange, 1960)

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) state:

“11/30/1926 Fred Ott (PARC). USFWS files, Housholder 1958, Lane 1960. Skull no. 247337 in USNM. S of Patagonia, AZ. Taken with poison as a stock killer. “Adult.”

And:

“1926 Fred Ott (PARC). USFWS files, Housholder 1958, Lange 1960. Skull in USNM. S of Patagonia, AZ. Taken with poison as a stock-killer. Madrean Evergreen Woodland”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) disagrees with Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) by stating that both skulls are in the US National Museum. All accounts disagree with Housholder’s claim that both jaguars were killed in the same place at the same time.

In contrast to Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001), the US National Museum of Natural History states that specimen 247337 was taken by “Off, F.” [sic] 20 miles W of Nogales on 11/30/1926. There is only one skull in the NMNH from these two jaguars.

Hatten et al. (2005) (Spatial Model of Jaguar Habitat in AZ) determined the location accuracy of the Ott kill(s) as >8 m and therefore chose not to use either of the Ott jaguars in their model. They put one record for 1926 in the Patagonia Mountains and the other in the Atascosa Mountains, both with location ratings of 4 for poor accuracy. Whether these are both the Ott jaguars is not stated and leaves ample confusion for future error.

The *Meridian Daily Journal* reported on December 3, 1926,⁷⁴

“Tucson, Ariz. Dec. 3 (AP):

Scarcely a year has passed since the lure of Asia and the Ovis Poli called the two Roosevelts to the far eastern steppes, and once more the urge of the “Red Gobs” has brought a member of the famous family to the edge of mountain country, this time bent on a jaguar and mountain lion hunt.

Archie Roosevelt today was cleaning saddles and assembling equipment for a trip into the mountains of southern Arizona and northern Mexico, seeking big cats. The party consists of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Roosevelt, their cousin, Mrs. Stuyvessant Fish and Fairman Dick of New York City. They will be accompanied by Billie Chester, noted mountain guide and lion hunter, who some time ago successfully piloted Stanley Graham, nationally known nimrod,

⁷⁴ *Meridian Daily Journal*, Dec. 3, 1926, p.5, “Archie Roosevelt Hunting in Asia”

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

[who in 1920 killed a jaguar in the Rincon Mtns.], in his search for mountain lion with bow and arrow.”

The Reading Eagle reported from Tucson on December 6, 1926:

“Looks like Archie Roosevelt will have to be a great shot or seek new hunting grounds. He came here to shoot jaguars. Government officials say there’s only one such animal left in the Arizona Mountains.” “Only One Jaguar Left-Tucson Ariz., Dec. 6 –Two jaguars, natives of hills farther south than the border, were reported in the Arizona ranges, but Fred Ott, government hunter, reduced the number by half. Roosevelt and his party came here recently.”

Perhaps it is just coincidence that two famous and wealthy hunters of the early 1920’s, both of whom were clients of the legendary jaguar hunting guide Billy Chester, arrived in Tucson, and more than once or twice, coincidentally at the same time that rare jaguars were roaming Arizona ranges nearby. And perhaps it is an even more improbable coincidence that Fred Ott’s jaguar, killed that same week, just happened to be the second largest ever killed in North America. Or perhaps it is also coincidence that this also happened when Jack Funk’s jaguar, the largest jaguar on record at that time, was taken. Or perhaps these are not coincidences at all. The Meridian article raises the very real possibility that these two jaguars were imported specifically for the Roosevelts to hunt, but for getting into poison put out by a predator control agent before that hunt could occur. That possibility precludes reliable conclusion relative to these jaguars’ origins.

This record was not used for habitat modeling.

***December 1926, Santa Maria Mountains, Yavapai County, male, Clyde Miller**

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class I Location 2

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system; specific location given as Cypress Mtn w/o citation to specific source

Housholder (1958) reports:

“Clyde Mille killed a wandering Mexican jaguar northwest of Prescott, near Camp Wood, in 1931.”

Lange (1960) reports:

“M. E. Musgrave, in a letter dated February 5, 1927, reported that Clyde Miller, a rancher, took a male in December, 1926, on the north-east slope of the Santa Maria Mountains, just south of the Luis Maria Baca Grant and 40 miles west of Prescott in Yavaipai [sic] County.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“December 1926, NE slopes of Santa Maria Mountains, N of Prescott, Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest, male, taken as a stock-killer by rancher with dogs. Photographed (Lange, 1960; *fide* M.E. Musgrave)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“12/1926. Clyde Miller. Lange 1960 *fide* M.E. Musgrave (PARC). Photograph. M. Santa Maria Mts., AZ (near Prescott). Taken by rancher. Rocky Mtn Conifer Forest/Great Basin Conifer Woodland.”

Housholder’s date differs from the reports of the other writers, and is obviously mistaken since Musgrave’s letter is dated 1927.

The obvious speculation about “habitat” by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001), considering hounds chased it for an unknown distance, is unreliable.

Nonetheless:

*Hatten et al. (2002) used this record in their model, ranking it as Class 1 and ranking the site description as “2” for “fair.”

*Hatten et al. (2005) used this record in their model, ranking it as Class 1 and ranking the site description as a “2” meaning 1.7-5 km precision.

1926-1930, Chiricahua Mtns.

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) Class 3 Location poor

Lange (1960) wrote,

“Lockett, in the 1943 letter of Hargrave to Goldman, refers to a jaguar-kill in the Chiricahua Mountains during the period, 1926-1930”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

“1926-1930, Chiricahua Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland/rocky Mountain Conifer Forest, "killed" (Lange, 1960; *fide* H. C. Lockett).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“1926-1930. Unknown. Lange1960 *fide* H.C. Lockett. [sex] ? Chiricahua Mts., AZ. Circumstances unknown. Madrean Evergreen Woodland?”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales, equipped with zero information regarding the circumstances of how the jaguar arrived at the location where it died, and not knowing where in the Chiricahua mountains it died, attempt to assign a “natural habitat” to this jaguar. This is obvious speculation and therefore unreliable.

Since the year cannot be pinpointed within half a decade and no other details are reported, it is possible the location is also wrong and duplicates another jaguar record. This record is therefore unreliable.

1928-1933 (Year unknown) Estrella Mountains? Sand Tank Mtns? 1 jaguar or 2?

Girmendonk (1994) treats this as two separate kills in Maricopa County, ranking the 1928-1929 kill Class III and the 1933 kill Class III I [sic]

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) treats the record as one jaguar taken in the Sand Tank Mountains in 1929 Class 3, and another taken in the Sierra Estrella in 1933, Class 3. They do not cite specifically where they found the exact 1929 date.

Housholder (1958) reports:

“A tigre was killed within 20 miles of downtown Phoenix in 1933. The Arizona Republic reported a rancher killed a big spotted jaguar in the low, desert foothills of the Estrella mountains southwest of Phoenix.”

Lange (1960) reports:

“Lockett, in the 1943 letter of Hargrave to Goldman, refers to . . . , and to a fresh skin taken in 1928 or 1929 from 15 miles east of Gila Bend in Maricopa County. This "fresh skin" probably is that of the jaguar taken by a rancher in 1933 in the Estrella Mountains, southwest of Phoenix (Housholder, *In lit.*).”

Since Lange did not indicate where this letter is located, verification may be impossible. If the letter is within AGFD or USFWS files, the PNRCD cannot verify it because of incomplete responses to proper Public Records and FOIA requests.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) speculated that Lange referred to two separate kills:

“1928-1929, Sand Tank Mountains, Sonoran Desertscrub, unknown, fresh hide seen (Lange, 1960, *fide* H.C. Lockett);

And:

“1933, foothills of Sierra Estrella, Sonoran Desert- scrub, unknown, killed by rancher (Housholder, 1958)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) likewise speculated that Lange referred to two separate kills:

“1928 or 1929. Unknown. Lange 1960 *fide* H.C. Lockett; fresh hide seen. [sex] ? Sand Tank Mts., AZ. Circumstances unknown. Sonoran desertscrub.”

And:

“1933. Unknown rancher. *Arizona Republic*, Housholder 1958. Sex [?] Sierra Estrella foothills, AZ. Circumstances unknown. Sonoran Desertscrub.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (200,2001) know almost nothing about this jaguar, or these jaguars, how it or they was/were killed, or how it/they arrived at the location/s where it/they was/were killed, but nevertheless confidently speculate that its/their “natural habitat” was “Sonoran desertscrub.” Such uninformed speculation is both wholly unreliable and clearly unscientific.

Lange thoroughly confuses his readers -- even with a question as simple as who wrote a letter. There is more confusion between Lockett, Lange, and Brown and Lopez-Gonzales here, probably beginning with Lockett attempting to remember the details of an event he obviously did not write down, 10-17 years after the fact, and Lange speculating about it. Lange appears not to trust Lockett’s memory.

The Estrella Mountains, however, are not the Sand Tank Mountains, and Gila Bend is more than 35 miles from downtown Phoenix. Moreover, no one among Lange, Lockett, Brown or Lopez-

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Gonzales seems to even know for sure where or when or how many jaguars were actually killed. If anyone is to be trusted it is Housholder, who obviously had a newspaper clipping from the day. As a result, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales' (2000) reporting of a record of a jaguar taken in 1928 or 1929 from the Sand Mountains is unreliable. Similarly, the Lockett/Lange report is also unreliable. In fact, this report casts suspicion on all other accounts by Lange *fide* Lockett.

If the Lockett letter is in the USFWS files, as Lange (1960) implies, it is unverifiable because the USFWS did not provide it to the PNRCD in response to the PNRCD's FOIA request for all such records.

This record is unreliable.

*1932, Grand Canyon Village, female

Girmendonk (1994): **Class III**

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): **Class 2** Location 1

Housholder (1958) wrote, without citation to source:

“The farthest point north a jaguar is known to have been taken was **near** the Grand Canyon Village in the summer of 1932. An unknown **predator hunter** took that specimen, a large female, and in timber country.”

Lange (1960) reports:

“One was killed in the Grand Canyon Village in 1932.”

In original context and format Lange (1960) states:

“M. E. Musgrave, in a letter dated February 5, 1927, reported that Clyde Miller, a rancher, took a male in December, 1926, on the north- east slope of the Santa Maria Mountains, just south of the Luis Maria Baca Grant and 40 miles west of Prescott in Yavaipai [sic]County. Lockett, in the 1943 letter of Hargrave to Goldman, refers to a jaguar-kill in the Chiricahua Mountains during the period, 1926-1930, and to a fresh skin taken in 1928 or 1929 from 15 miles east of Gila Bend in Maricopa County. This "fresh skin" probably is that of the jaguar taken by a rancher in 1933 in the Estrella Mountains, southwest of Phoenix (Housholder, *in litt.*). One was killed in the Grand Canyon Village in 1932, and Frank Colcord, a Fish and Wildlife Service hunter, killed one about 18 miles south of the Cerro Colorado Mountains in 1933. Frank Hibben, Professor of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, reported a 1934 kill in the Altar Mountains, northwest of Nogales, and Lockett reported that a trapper took one in Bloody Basin, Yavapai County, in 1939.”

Lange does not clearly identify the source of this information. Was it Musgrave, Lockett, Hargrave, or someone else? Lange also makes no citation to where the cited letters can be found for verification.

Furthermore, unless for some reason a predator control agent was needed, this kill would had to have taken place **illegally inside the Grand Canyon Game Reserve**. Another possibility is that something unusual happened that threatened public safety, such as a jaguar escaping from a

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

circus that stopped at the train depot there. President Harrison established the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve in 1893. Theodore Roosevelt created the Grand Canyon Game Preserve by proclamation in 1906 and Grand Canyon National Monument in 1908. The Grand Canyon National Park Act was finally signed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919.⁷⁵

We have found numerous archived news articles cumulatively indicating that in October, 1931, zoos and circuses around the globe went belly up and suddenly had no means to feed all of their animals. It is not unlikely that this jaguar was brought in by train and turned loose for that reason or for a tourist to shoot for money. While there is no evidence supporting the presumption that this jaguar was “naturally occurring” in the Grand Canyon, there is plenty of evidence suggesting the contrary.

A diligent search for corroborating evidence of this kill has turned up only that M.E. Musgrave was in charge of the PARC program.

If Lange was relying on government records, the PNRCD cannot verify the information due to failure by both AGFD and USFWS to turn over such records after receiving formal requests for public information. As a result, the PNRCD can only logically consider this record as unreliable.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) add some new information and inaccurately cite Lange as their sole source. They also appear to have a pattern of stating that specific jaguars were being taken as stock killers without citing any specific source for that information. While there were predator control agents working in all 15 Arizona counties to control mountain lion populations at the time, they were not necessarily targeting individual animals.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“1932, Grand Canyon Village, Rocky Mountain Montane Conifer Forest, female, taken by predator control agent as a stock-killer (Lange, 1960; *fide* H. C. Lockett).

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“Although the idea of jaguars in the Grand Canyon may seem extreme, . . . jaguars have been reported from northern New Mexico, California, Colorado, California and even Baja California.”

They then address each of these, all of which depend either on errors or imaginative speculation. They conclude, based entirely on their own speculation, that “jaguars may have an amazing propensity to wander.” None of those accounts are reliable and neither is their conclusion based on them.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) also wrote, without citation to the specific source, that “. . . freelance predator hunters continued to take the occasional jaguar in Arizona for another 50 years. Some of these were paid on a retainer basis, and others were paid on the basis of what they caught—one such hunter **supposedly** killed a female jaguar on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon in 1932.” From their choice of the word, “supposedly,” we infer that the source of this new information is unreliable hearsay. It also contradicts the claims in the tables included in

⁷⁵ Wikipedia, Grand Canyon Railway http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Canyon_Railway

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) that this jaguar was taken by a federal predator control agent. Brown and Lopez-Gonzales would have had full access to all USFWS files and yet they do not cite these files as a source of this unreliable new embellishment of unreliable, previously documented hearsay.

“1932. Unknown. Lange 1960 fide H.C. Lockett, Housholder 1958. Grand Canyon Village, AZ. Taken by predator control agent in pine forest. Rocky Mt. conifer forest.”

The assignment of “Rocky Mt Conifer Forest” by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) is unreliable because they have no information regarding the jaguar’s history prior to its death or the circumstances that led to its presence at the Grand Canyon Village. Nonetheless, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales speculate that this jaguar was “naturally occurring.”

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) used this record in their models, ranking it as Class 2 for a “reliable witness,” although the name of that witness is not provided and the identity of that “reliable witness” remains a mystery. Hatten et al. (2005) gave the site description a “1,” meaning a location precision within 1.6 km., based on its location “in the Grand Canyon Village.”

Both Hatten et al. and Brown and Lopez-Gonzales speculate that this unreliable, alleged occurrence of a jaguar in the Grand Canyon Village was “naturally occurring,” without corroborating evidence of that claim. This record, like that conclusion, is therefore unreliable.

1931, 1932, or 1933? Pajarito Mtns? Patagonia Mtns? Cerro Colorados? Atascosas? Huachucas? Frank Colcord

Girmendonk (1994): Class II

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 2 **Location 2** (fair) while placing the kill in the Atascosa Mtns. w/o citation to specific source

Hatten et al. (2005): Class 2 **Location 1** **[RED FLAG]** while uniquely placing the kill in the **Atascosa Mtns** w/o citation to specific source, meaning within 1.6 km (we had to speculate that this is the record to which they referred)

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system; notes that **exact location is unknown**, but nonetheless assign 1933 as the specific year of this kill without citation to specific source.

An article in *The Milwaukee Journal* Aug 18, 1934 stated:

“Of the 500 lions Frank Colcord has killed, one was no lion at all, but an even more dangerous animal, rarely found in the United States. It was a South American jaguar, larger than a lion, and much more likely to attack a man. This one had worked through Mexico into southern Arizona. Ranchers had seen it and found its cattle kills, but had never been able to run it down. There was a legend that a jaguar would not tree. So the ranchers sent for the ace lion hunter.

With the aid of a fine dog named Baldy, Frank took the trail. Not many hours afterward the hunter and dog were back in camp, and on dress occasions last winter Mrs. Colcord wore the finest spotted fur coat a girl could desire, one of the rarest animal trophies ever taken in the United States.”

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Hoffmeister and Goodpaster (1954)⁷⁶ reports:

“The jaguar, or tigre, as it is locally known, is not resident in the **Huachuca**s, but infrequently visits there. Frank Colcord, a government trapper, “ran” a “tigre” north of Sunnyside about 1933.” They describe the location of Sunnyside as a once thriving community, “west slope, 5800 feet, 2 ½ mi. W, 8 mi. S Fort.”

Housholder (1958) reports:

“The well known ex-lion hunter, Frank Colcord, killed a big tom near the Mexican border west of Nogales in 1931. **The chase started in the Pajaritos** range and ended two days later near the border. Frank now runs a string of racing horses in California and Arizona.”

Housholder’s account of a two-day chase differs from the 1934 news article in the *Milwaukee Journal*.

Lange (1960) wrote, without citation to source:

“Frank Colcord, a Fish and Wildlife Service hunter, killed one about **18 miles south of the Cerro Colorado Mountains in 1933.**”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“1931-1933, **Patagonia Mountains**, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, male, taken with dogs by predator control agent (USFWS files, Phoenix, Housholder, 1958)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

“1932 or 1933 Frank Colcord (PARC). USFWS files, Housholder 1974, John Windes, pers. Comm. M, Patagonia Mts., AZ. Taken with dogs as stock killer.”

This detailed and lengthy narrative begins by confusing the reader. A photograph caption identifies a man with a jaguar over his shoulders as John “Judge” Windes. The narrative states that Colcord invited Windes to go on this hunt with him and promised Windes the opportunity to take the first shot. The narrative states they were expecting to kill depredating lions but **tree’d a jaguar**. Windes shot the jaguar in the shoulder, knocking it out of the tree.

Jaguars rarely tree. Of all documented chases prior to 1996, this is the sole example where the jaguar tree’d.

Both Lange (1960) and Brown and Lopez Gonzalez (2000, 2001) omit the crucially important information provided by Housholder (1958) that this jaguar was first jumped in the Pajarito Mountains, the vast majority of which occur in Mexico, and then **chased by hounds for two days** before finally being killed near the border. Brown and Lopez-Gonzales also omit the important information provided by Lange (1960) that this jaguar was finally killed about 18 miles south of the Cerro Colorado Mountains. That information places this kill in the Atascosa Mountains, west of Nogales, near the Mexican border, and **not** in the Patagonia Mountains as reported by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales. Moreover, because no information is provided about the habitat in which this jaguar was initially encountered in the Pajaritos before being chased for

⁷⁶ Hoffmeister, Donald F. and Goodpaster, Woodrow W., “The Mammals of the Huachuca Mountains, Southeastern Arizona” 1954. Illinois Biological Monographs Volume 24 No. 1Su

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

many miles over two days into the Atascosa Mountains, the assignment of Madrean Evergreen Woodland “habitat” to this jaguar by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales is purely speculative and therefore unreliable.

Further, we cannot verify Brown & Lopez-Gonzales’s claim that the hunter, Frank Colcord, was acting in the capacity of a “predator control agent” at the time of this jaguar’s killing. This is because we know that, separate from his job as a predator control agent, Mr. Colcord also conducted private, guaranteed lion hunts during this time period (Arnold, 1936).⁷⁷

The fact that Dudley Windes, a former Maricopa Superior court judge who would later serve as an Arizona Supreme Court Justice, was promised the first shot suggests he was a paying client of Colcord’s on this hunt.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) confirm the hide, which Windes had mounted for himself, was never sent to the US National Museum as would have been expected if Colcord had been acting in the capacity of a predator control agent. Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001), however, claim that they do not know what happened to the hide although the article in the *Milwaukee Journal* claims the hide was made into a coat for Mrs. Colcord.

The three accounts between the *Milwaukee Journal*, Housholder, and Brown and Lopez-Gonzales differ on another important point— the length of time that the hunt lasted.

In contrast to the stonewalling that the USFWS has given the PNRCD on our requests for historic information on jaguars killed in Arizona, we believe that Brown and Lopez-Gonzales would have been granted full access to those records. If Brown and Lopez-Gonzales actually examined the original USFWS record of this kill, then why would they still be confused about whether this kill occurred in 1931, 1932, or 1933? Since the USFWS did not provide that record to the PNRCD in response to proper FOIA request, we can only conclude, based on what we do know, that the year of this jaguar’s taking was never actually recorded with certainty by the USFWS. As a result, this record is unreliable for modeling purposes.

***1933, Atascosa Mountains, male, no citation to source**

Girmendonk : NA

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) incorporate this record into their models as an alleged kill in the “Atascosa Mountains” in 1933, without sufficient information to reliably correlate it with any of the jaguars identified in Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001). By doing so, they further compromise the scientific integrity of their models.

This account is unreliable on its face.

1934, “Altar Mountains,” AZ

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 3 Location “poor”

⁷⁷ Arnold, Oren. *Wildlife in the Southwest*. 1936 Kessinger Publishing. Whitefish, MT USA 2007. P. 18

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Lange (1960) reports:

“Frank Hibben, Professor of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, reported a 1934 kill in the Altar Mountains, northwest of Nogales”

The Altar Mountain range does not exist. The ranges surrounding Altar Valley include the Atascosa Mountains, the Baboquivari Mountains and the Coyote Mountains, to name a few. Furthermore, there is no information as to how the jaguar arrived at the location where it was killed, or whether it was trapped, poisoned or chased into the area from how great a distance by hunting dogs. Therefore, the location of this reported kill is unreliable.

Since Lange (1960) implies this record is within USFWS files either in Phoenix or in Washington D.C., and because the USFWS did not provide this record to the PNRCD upon proper FOIA request, this information is unverifiable and therefore unreliable.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) speculated on the location as being the Atascosa Mountains. They also speculate on the “natural habitat” of this jaguar, reporting,

“1934, Atascosa Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland (Lange, 1960; fide F. Hibben).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) again speculated,

“1934. Unknown hunter. Atascosa mtns, AZ. Lange (1960) fide Frank Hibben. Atascosa Mts., circumstances unknown. Madrean Evergreen Woodland.”

This record is omitted without explanation from Hatten et al. (2002).

Hatten et al. (2005) speculate that the location of this kill was the Atascosa Mountains. They consider this a “less reliable” (second hand) account and did not use it in their model.

1939, Bloody Basin,

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 3

Lange (1960) wrote,

“Lockett reported that a trapper took one in Bloody Basin, Yavaipai [sic] County, in 1939.”

Since Lange (1960) implies this record is within USFWS files either in Phoenix or in Washington D.C., and because the USFWS did not provide that record to the PNRCD in response to proper FOIA request, this information is unverifiable and therefore unreliable.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reported,

“1939, Bloody Basin, Semidesert Grassland/Chaparral, unknown, unknown trapper (Lange, 1960;fide H. C. Lockett).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reported,

“1939. Unknown trapper. Lange fide H.C. Lockett. [Sex]? Bloody Basin, AZ. Trapped. Semidesert grassland/chaparral.”

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

1939? 1941? 1942? 1949? Atascosa Mtns? Cerro Colo. Mtns? Male, Lloyd "Red" Harris

Girmendonk (1994): Class II

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 1 Location 2 (fair)

Hatten et al. (2005): Class 1 Location 1 (good, within 1.6 km accuracy)

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk's classification system; they also identify the year specifically as 1941 w/o citation to specific source

Housholder (1958) reports:

"Red" Harris, ex-government trapper, killed a male adult in 1942 near Ruby, AZ."

Lange (1960) reports:

"Red" Harris, a Federal hunter, took one in 1941 in the Ruby district south of the Cerro Colorado Mountains."

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

"23 November 1939, Ramanote Canyon, Atascosa Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, male, bayed with dogs and shot as a stock-killer, photographed (L. Harris, pers. Comm.; AGFD files, Phoenix)."

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000 and 2001) mention that this jaguar had horse remains in its stomach, per personal communication with Mr. Harris. They speculate about the habitat occupied by this jaguar because, unmentioned by them, this cat was also subjected to chase by hounds before it was finally killed. Because Brown and Lopez-Gonzales do not document where or in what habitat the chase of this jaguar began, or how many days or miles it was chased before reaching the place where it was finally killed, the assignment of "Madrean Evergreen Woodland" habitat to this jaguar by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales is both speculative and unreliable at best.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

"11/23/1939 Red Harris. S. Goodwin, pers. Comm., Housholder 1974. Photograph. M. Ramanote Canyon, Atascosa Mts., AZ Bayed with dogs and shot as stock killer."

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001, at p. 91) imply that Harris was working not in the capacity of a federal predator control agent but instead as a freelance bounty hunter for a rancher. The rancher kept the hide as his own, further indicating Harris was not working on government time when this jaguar was killed.

*Hatten et al. (2002) include this record in their models as a Class 1 kill in the Atascosa Mountains in 1939 and assigns a site description ranking of "2" for "fair." Hatten et al. (2005) likewise include this record in their model as a Class 1 kill but, without explanation, *upgrade the site description rank to "1"* meaning within 1.6 km precision. This is unreliable speculation for habitat modeling because the cat was chased by hounds prior to its death, and the distance is undocumented.

Moreover, a photograph, with a caption apparently hand-written by Harris himself, indicates that this jaguar was not killed in 1939. Instead, on this photograph of Mr. Harris with this jaguar, given directly to Mr. George Proctor (USFS retired) by Mr. Harris (and provided herein), Mr. Harris states the date in caption as "Thanksgiving day 1949". This date differs by 10 years from that stated by Brown (1983), and if correct as appears to be the case, casts

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

substantial doubt on Brown's (1983) characterization of jaguar decline in Arizona. It also differs by 10 years from that stated by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000), and Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001). That difference puts the Red Harris kill within two weeks of Walter Noon's jaguar kill in the Cerro Colorado during November of 1949. Further investigation is necessary to determine with certainty when this jaguar was actually killed. Until such occurs, this record is unreliable for habitat modeling purpose.



Lloyd F. Harris (Red)
Thanksgiving day 1949
West of Big Rico AZ

Photo with caption hand-written by Lloyd "Red" Harris, indicating date is 11/24/1949.

"Circa" 1940, Trout Creek, Whiteriver Apache Reservation

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3, Location 3

Hatten et al. (2005): Class 3

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) introduced this account into the literature for the first time. It reports,

"Ca. 1940, Trout Creek, Whiteriver Apache Reservation, Riparian within Rocky Mountain **Subalpine conifer Forest**, unknown, bayed with dogs and killed as stock-killer fide W. West, S. Smith."

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) do not mention who “W. West” and “S. Smith” are, nor do they document any details that would enable verification of any part of this record. The account itself is unreliable and the attribution of “Riparian within Rocky Mountain Subalpine conifer Forest, considering the animal was chased for an unknown distance by hounds, is both wholly speculative and unreliable.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

“Ca. 1940. Lavern West fide Steve Smith, Payson, AZ. Personal interview 8/9/2000. [sex] ? Trout Creek, WMAIR. Taken with dogs? Riparian within **Rocky Mtn Montane conifer forest.**”

The account is third-hand hearsay repeated some sixty years after the fact of its alleged occurrence, and is therefore unreliable. Without a specific date attached, and some 60 years having passed between the “circa” date of 1940 and the personal interview with Steve Smith, it is even possible this account is the same jaguar whose skull is reported by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001) to be “UA 6408” taken in 1956-1957 on the Whiteriver Apache Indian Reservation, and of which almost no details are known.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001), inconsistent with Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000), reveals that nobody knows how the animal arrived at the location where it was killed or the circumstances surrounding the kill. Also inconsistent is the earlier (2000) speculation that the jaguar’s “natural habitat” was riparian within subalpine conifer forest vs. the latter (2001) speculation that it was riparian within the lower altitude “Rocky Mountain Montane conifer forest.”

This account is entirely unreliable and may represent a duplicate record of a single jaguar.

1947 Atascosa Mountains? Tumacacori Mountains? Duplicated jaguar. Peterson report

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 Location “poor”

Hatten et al. (2005): Class 3

Housholder (1958) reports:

“George Peterson, senior veteran game ranger for the Arizona Game and Fish Dept., reports a jaguar killed in 1947 in the Atascosa mountains west of Nogales. It was taken in Agua Fria Canyon, seven miles west of Atascosa Peak, by a hunter whose identity has been lost over the years.”

Lange (1960) reports:

“**Housholder (1958)** refers to a 1947 kill in the **Atascosa Mountains**, west of Nogales, reported to him by Ranger Peterson”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“1947, **Atascosa Mountains**, Madrean Evergreen Woodland (Housholder, 1958; *fide* AGFD Ranger G. Peterson)

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“1947. Jim Converse? Housholder 1974 fide AGFD Ranger G. Peterson.[sex] ? Tumacacori Mts., AZ. Killed a big heifer; other circumstances unknown. Madran Evergreen Woodland.”

If this cat was killed by a “hunter,” then it is also likely that it, too, was chased by hounds into the “habitat” that Brown and Lopez-Gonzales speculatively assign to it. What matters is where the heifer was killed, not where the jaguar was killed after a chase, and that information is unavailable. Housholder (1974) is unverifiable and therefore unreliable.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001, at p. 16), show a photograph of a jaguar killed by Walter Noon near Arivaca in 1949. Among the men photographed with the two dead bucks and a dead jaguar is Ranger Peterson himself. It appears Housholder or Peterson mistakenly reported 1947 when 1949 was the correct date, thereby duplicating one jaguar as two.

In contrast to the kill location reported by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) (Atascosa Mountains), Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) changed the location of the kill to the Tumacacori Mountains and speculated on the name of a hunter not mentioned in their citations.

This record appears to be a duplicate of the 1949 Walter Noon jaguar kill. The change of mountain range and hunter’s name are new, without citation to source, and are therefore entirely unverifiable.

This record is therefore unreliable.

1948, Canyon S. Of Patagonia, Ray Harshman

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3 Location “poor”

Hatten et al. (2005): Class 3

Housholder (1958) reports:

“Ray Harshman of Phoenix, hunting with George Bennet Sr. in the rough, canyon cut area south of Patagonia in the spring of 1948, killed a huge tigre, estimated to weigh more than 200 pounds. A rancher told Ray he’d seen a lion track the day before, west of his ranch. Early in the morning, Ray’s hounds got on the track . . . Later in the day the track led into country that a horse could not negotiate, so Ray tied his mare, and followed the hounds afoot. . . .

Twice the dogs went out of earshot. . . Near dusk, after 13 hours on the trail, the pack bawled “tree” and soon Harshman came upon the scene. Backed up against large boulders on a steep hillside, roaring defiance and sending 60 lb. hounds thru the air like leaves, was the big tigre. Twice as large as any lion Ray had ever seen, the jaguar had his rear protected and was open to frontal attack only. Each of the remaining six hounds was bleeding from the slashing, ripping blows of the cat’s huge forepaws. . . .”

Lange (1960) reports:

“...and Ray Harshman took one in 1948 south of Patagonia.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“Spring 1948, S of Patagonia, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, male, bayed and shot as stock-killer (Housholder, 1958).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

“Spring 1948. Ray Harshman. Housholder 1958, 1974. M. S of Patagonia, bayed with hounds and shot by predator trapper. Madrean Evergreen Woodland.”

Housholder’s account never mentioned where the hunt began, other than west of an unnamed person’s ranch. The hounds tracked the jaguar 13 hours, so Brown’s and Lopez-Gonzales’s assigning “Madrean Evergreen Woodland” as the “habitat” of this jaguar is, again, simply speculation absent any evidence that he was killed in the same habitat the hunt started in.

Hatten et al. (2005) classified this hunt as a "second hand story" and the location accuracy of the *kill*, not the starting location of the chase, as 5.1-8 km (rank of 3 out of 4).

It is unclear how Hatten et al. (2005) pinpointed the location of the kill to within 8 km., because none of the sources quoted above estimates how far south of Patagonia the kill took place.

Hatten et al. (2005) did not consider this record scientifically worthy of inclusion in their model.

***November 1949, Cerro Colorado Mountains, Walter Noon, female**

Girmendonk (1994): Class III

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 1 Location “fair”

Hatten et al. (2005): Class 1 Location 2

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system

Housholder (1958) reports:

“The late Walter Noon of Nogales killed a beautiful specimen in the Cerro Colorados while deer hunting with his son. Both Walter and his son were busy dressing a white-tail buck when the elder Noon heard a low growl. Slowly turning, he was startled to see a large jaguar crouched on a rock less than 50 feet away. Keeping his eye on the huge cat, Walter reached for his rifle, careful not to move quickly. The animal had its head slung low, so the hunter had no alternative to shoot at the head [Housholder had explained in the article that a head shot would destroy any skull measurements for the trophy records]. The bullet entered the lower jaw, head on, and killed the jaguar instantly.” The article includes a photo of Walter Noon with his jaguar, with the photo credited to Dave Karam.

Lange (1960) reports:

“Walter Noon, Sr., shot a jaguar while deer-hunting near Arivaca in the Cerro Colorado Mountains, Pima County, on November 13, 1949. Arivaca is some 15 miles from the Mexican border.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“13 November 1949, Cerro Colorado Mountains, N of Arivaca, Semidesert Grassland, female, shot and photographed by deer hunter, mass=50 kg (Heald, 1955; Hock, 1955; *Arizona Daily Star*, 15 November 1949).

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

“11/13/1949. Walter Noon. *Arizona Daily Star* 11/15/1949. Heald 1955, Hock 1955, Housholder 1958. Photographs. F. Cerro Colorado, AZ. Shot while deer hunting. Wt 110 lb. TL 74 in. semidesert grassland.”

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) used this record in their models as a Class 1 record, assigning the location description a “2” for 1.7-5km precision.

Curiously, none of the authors quoted above took notice of this cat’s unusually aggressive behavior -- behavior much more typical of jaguars habituated to humans than those that are not. No mention is made of this jaguar being injured at the time it was killed, which indicates that pre-existing injury was not the reason for the aggressive behavior displayed. Instead, this jaguar behaved like a hungry cat without fear of adult humans, which would be consistent with an animal released from captivity. These facts suggest that this jaguar may have been previously held in captivity before escaping or being released. Further indication that this jaguar may have been released is supported by the fact that Curtis Prock moved to Arizona in the late 1940’s.

Since Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) includes a photo of these hunters with Ranger Peterson and the two deer and jaguar they killed, it appears the record stating that Ranger Peterson reported a jaguar killed in 1947, in the Atascosas by a forgotten deer hunter, is actually a duplicate of this jaguar record.

***1956? 1957? Whiteriver Apache Reservation, J. Gilbert. Male? Skull at UA#6408
Girmendonk (1994): NA**

There is no mention of this record in the literature prior to 2000.
Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 1 Location 2

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“Winter 1956-1957, Whiteriver Apache Reservation near White River, Riparian within Great Basin and Rocky Mountain Conifer Woodlands, unknown, UA 6408.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

“Winter 1956-1957. Jimmy Gilbert. Skull at University of Arizona. M? White River, WMAIR, AZ. Riparian/Great Basin conifer Woodland.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) speculated that this jaguar might be a male.

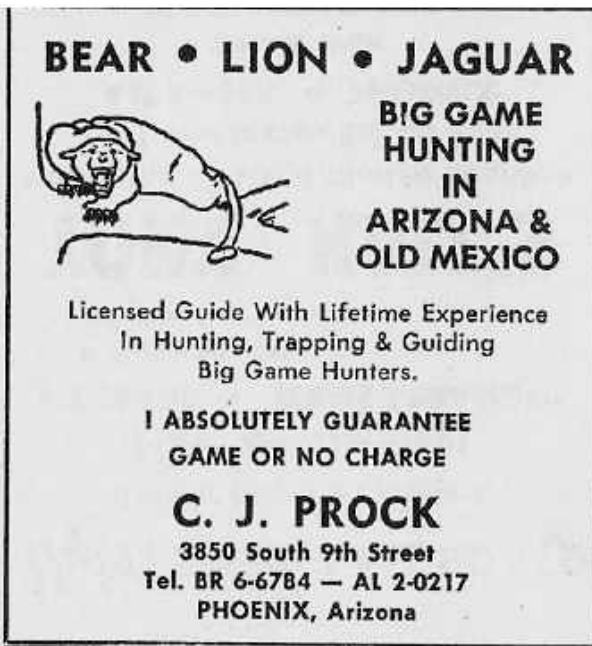
Without citation to a new source of information, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) move this kill from an unknown distance “near” White River to White River as compared to Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000). They also name the killer of this jaguar for the first time and speculate as to this specimen’s gender.

They further speculate, without knowing the details of how this specimen was taken, how it arrived at the location where it was first spotted, or how far it moved between being spotted and being killed, that this jaguar’s “habitat” was nonetheless “Riparian within Great Basin and Rocky Mountain Conifer Woodland.”

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) incorporated this record into their models, ranking it as Class 1 and assigning a rank of “2” to the location description meaning within 1.6-5 km precision. How they determined that location with such precision is unmentioned by them and remains a mystery.

The timing of this record is also very close to the dates when Curtis Prock became known for running some highly publicized hunts for jaguars that were secretly imported (from Mexico and/or the country then known as British Honduras) and released from cages for that purpose. As a jaguar would travel, White River is less than 80 miles from Curtis Prock’s favorite hunting grounds near Young, Arizona. When an animal Mr. Prock’s client was chasing moved onto the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, a sanctuary, the hunt ended.⁷⁸ Considering the close spatial and temporal proximity of Prock-guided hunting, this record is suspect.



Curtis Prock ad, January 1958 issue of *Arizona Wildlife Sportsman*

The habitat information concerning this jaguar is both speculative and unreliable.

Autumn 1957, Red Mtn. North of Clifton, AZ, Ferguson

Girmendonk (1994): NA

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 3

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“October or November 1957, Red Mountain, N of Clifton, Chaparral/Madrean Evergreen Woodland, male, shot by deer hunter fide S. Goodwin).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

⁷⁸ K. Toney, “Housholder’s Big Ten,” *Arizona Wildlife Sportsman*, Dec. 1959, pp.12-14, 55-58

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“10 or 11/1957 Mr. Ferguson fide Sewell Goodwin and P. Cosper. M. Red Mountain near Clifton. Shot while deer hunting. Chaparral/Madreaan Evergreen Woodland.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001, at p. 97) reports,

“Another male was shot by a deer hunter in 1957—ironically on the same mountain as the one killed by a deer hunter in 1913.”

Neither Lange (1960) nor Housholder (1958) mentions this jaguar. Since “S. Goodwin” is not listed in cited documents, and is now deceased, there is no way to validate the kill or habitat description provided by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000, 2001).

This record is dubious because it contains too many improbable coincidences with other records. First, this would be the first of *two* jaguar kills in Arizona within three years that involved “Mr.” Ferguson and Sewell Goodwin. Similar odd coincidences led another hunter, Curtis Prock, to a Lacey Act conviction and yet the similarities between this alleged record and the 1961 jaguar apparently went unnoticed by the authorities.

Second, the details of this kill are too coincidentally nearly identical to the 1913 jaguar kill reported by Ben Lilly, which also was attributed to a deer hunter and mentions the Cosper family and the exact same location. These coincidences are so odd that it appears Brown and Lopez-Gonzales allowed their recordkeeping to become disorganized and may have accidentally inserted the information from the 1913 kill into this record. This is quite possible because they made a similar mistake in confusing the information for the 1913 record from Clifton with another account reported by Ben Lilly. They also published conspicuously inaccurate information in Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001, at p. 92) in relaying the account of the 1961 jaguar kill involving Sewell Goodwin and Ted Ferguson.

Since Sewell Goodwin and Ted Ferguson have passed away and the Brown and Lopez-Gonzales report cites neither written documentation nor the location of any physical evidence, the reported information is unverifiable and therefore unreliable.

1958-1959 Curtis Prock’s allegedly imported jaguars, 3 females

April 21, 1958, John Nutt, female, score 14 14/16- Girmendonk (1994): Class III –Girmendonk notes that it was likely released

January 4, 1959, Jack Herter, female, un-scored– Girmendonk (1994): Class I- Girmendonk notes that it was likely released

May 5, 1959, Ed Scarla, 115 lb female, score 14 ^{9/16} - Girmendonk (1994): Class I- Girmendonk notes that it was likely released.

Housholder (1959) reported that Prock used a caller to attract the jaguar and 13-year old Jack Herter, son of the owner of the famous Herter Sporting Goods store, shot the 150-lb female. The cat’s remains went on display at the store. Very likely the other jaguars Mr. Prock allegedly imported and released were also taken with predator callers.

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) omit these 3 jaguars without mentioning they existed, much less any reason for their omission.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Grigione et al. (2007): **RED FLAG** All 3 jaguars -Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk's classification system. Further **RED FLAG** Grigione et al. (2007) failed to mention that these cats were likely imported and released from cages but did improperly mention them among the total number of supposedly naturally occurring females seen in Arizona. That methodology is both misleading and unscientific. Grigione et al. (2007) then speculated, based in part on their misrepresentation of this data, that the number of females taken in Arizona means there was an historic breeding population of jaguars in Arizona. That false speculation was eagerly repeated by McCain and Childs (2008), thereby further fatally compromising the scientific credibility of their conclusions as well.

Lange (1960) wrote, before the secret of Curtis Prock's "success" was discovered:

"April 21, 1958, John Nutt, a rancher from Eloy, Arizona, hunting with C. J. Prock, an Arizona licensed guide, shot a female by Pena Blanca Lake, Santa Cruz County. The skull of this animal is now in the Department of Zoology, University of Arizona. On January 4, 1959, Jack Herter, the 13-year-old son of George Herter, who owns the Herter Sporting Goods Store in Waseca, Minnesota, shot an animal while quail-hunting in the Patagonia Mountains northeast of Nogales. The guide, C. J. Prock, called this animal in with a "Mexican caller." This jaguar is destined for display in the Herter store.

The most recent kill is that of May 5, 1959, when Ed Scarla of Phoenix, guided by C. J. Prock, shot a female, "8 years old-115 lbs. dressed," 30 miles east of Nogales near the Mexican border. . . . three private hunters guided by C. J. Prock have accounted for the last three jaguars from Arizona."

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

"APPENDIX

Records of jaguars reported killed or photographed in Arizona and New Mexico from 1900 through 1999. . . These accounts do not include guided hunts."

While this mention of omitting guided hunts is honorable, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) did not give their reasons for omitting them. That omission of explanation could easily mislead an uninformed reader into forming the false impression that all jaguars in Arizona and New Mexico were "naturally occurring" and arrived without benefit of any human help. To their credit, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales do mention in their 2001 book, however briefly and vaguely, that canned hunts of jaguars did occur in the Southwest.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

"No guide or client ever intentionally set out to kill a jaguar in Arizona and did so—at least not until the 1950's.

Eyebrows were therefore rightfully raised when three jaguars were taken on guided hunts in Arizona and another near Marfa, Texas, in the 1950's. All of these fortunate hunters had employed the same guide, an experienced and wide-ranging lion and bear hunter who also had a hunting camp in what was then British Honduras. According to his onetime partner, the two of them smuggled more than one jaguar in and out of Mexico, having some incredible adventures in the process. Suspicions intensified, however, when the senior partner was convicted of transporting a mountain lion across the Idaho state line to be released for one of his clients. There were other suspicious

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

circumstances. At least one taxidermist noted that an Arizona “jaguar” that he was to mount had soiled itself. Only a cat kept in a cage, he said, did that. Enough said. No jaguar taken in the United States on a guided hunt specifically for jaguars can be considered legitimate.”

Here, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales appear to be writing to keep their readers entertained while inaccurately combining Curtis Prock’s 1964 and 1973 Lacey Act convictions into a single account and also omitting important information without explanation. Prock did not own a hunting ranch in British Honduras (today known as Belize) until after 1964.

Curtis Jackson Prock was convicted in 1964 on Lacey Act charges for transporting a mountain lion over the Utah/Arizona state line without a proper permit from the Arizona Game and Fish Department. A shipment of five lions was impounded after crossing the Utah border into Arizona at Fredonia, Arizona.⁷⁹

Prock was arrested on Lacey Act charges a second time in 1974 in New Mexico. At that time, he had 4 jaguars and a black leopard in his possession. In 1974 he was convicted in Boise, Idaho.⁸⁰ At least 9 jaguars, caught in Mexico and/or present day Belize, were released in western New Mexico near the Arizona line by Mr. Prock in 1972-73 alone. He had been releasing imported jaguars in the Apache Creek area southwest of Albuquerque (Jones 1974), just 45 miles from Big Lake, AZ, where a female jaguar was killed ten years earlier in 1963, and within 30 miles of Red Mountain north of Clifton, where a jaguar was killed in 1957. Both of those areas are improbable sites for naturally occurring jaguars. It appears probable therefore, that Mr. Prock may have been releasing imported jaguars for sport hunting in the Apache Creek area as early as the 1950’s and 1960’s, or during the same time period he was actively doing so in southern Arizona.

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005), like Brown and Lopez-Gonzales, omit mention of the *known* guided hunts. Unlike Brown and Lopez-Gonzales, however, Hatten et al. fail to mention that canned hunts ever happened. This critical omission further misleads an uninformed reader into believing that all records of jaguars in Arizona are of naturally occurring animals, when, in fact, a significant percentage of them are not.

***July 26, 1961, Total Wreck Mine, Empire Mtns., male, H. Barnett et al**

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 1 **Location 1**

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system; **states exact location is unknown (when it was specifically known) and places it in Cochise County.**

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

⁷⁹ Comments submitted by Dennis Parker to US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding their decision that critical habitat is “prudent” for the jaguar, Sept 2010.

⁸⁰ Jones, Robert F. “The Man Who Loved Cat Killing.” SI Vault, *Sports Illustrated* January 14, 1974.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“26 July 1961, Empire Mountains, Total Wreck Mine, Semidesert Grassland, male, bayed with dogs and killed and photographed, (S. Goodwin, pers. comm.; Barnett, 1961).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“7/26/1961 H. Barnett, Ed Hilton, T. Ferguson, S. M Goodwin. Pers. comm., Barnett 1961. Photographs. Total Wreck Mine, Empire Mts., AZ, Bayed with dogs and shot as stock-killer. TL=75 inches. Semidesert grassland/riparian”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote on p. 92,

“ . . . Ted Ferguson and Sewell Goodwin, who helped kill a jaguar on the Ciénega Ranch in Cochise County in 1960,”

This information is incorrect. The Empire Mountains, the Ciénega Ranch and Ciénega Creek are all in Pima County. This information shows that Brown and Lopez-Gonzales were careless in their recordkeeping. The fact that Grigione et al. (2007) repeated the error demonstrates their carelessness as well in accepting another’s inaccurate work without proper examination.

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) used this record in their models, ranking it as Class 1 and ranking the site description as within 1.6 km.

Furthermore, this record is suspect because it occurred during the hunting guide career of Curtis J. Prock in Arizona. Prock led “canned hunts” for jaguars both southwest of (Pena Blanca) and southeast of (Patagonia, Mountains and Lochiel, respectively) the Total Wreck Mine in Arizona prior to the killing of this jaguar. He conducted those three hunts in 1958 and 1959. This jaguar was also small like the ones Mr. Prock is known to have imported. Moreover, immediately after Mr. Prock’s departure from Arizona in 1964, the number of jaguar kills within the state dropped to nearly zero, with only two recorded over the next 22 years. As a result, the origin of this small female is suspect, thus making this record unreliable for modeling use purposes.

1963, Big Lake, AZ, T. Penrod, female

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 1 Location 2

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system

The November 1963 issue of *Arizona Wildlife Sportsman* pictured Terry Penrod with the jaguar he had shot several weeks earlier. The caption reads,

“Right, Terry Penrod of Lakeside kneels beside pelt of jaguar killed high in the White Mountains near Big Lake. Penrod and a friend were varmint calling when the 105-pound “cat” came within range, lured by the calls. Available records list fewer than 40 legitimate jaguar kills ever made in Arizona. He was dropped at a range of less than 100 yards with a .270 rifle. (Phoenix Gazette photo.)”⁸¹

⁸¹ “Arizona’s Got Great Huntin’,” *Arizona Wildlife & Travelogue*, Nov. 1963, p. 12

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Housholder (1966)⁸² wrote,

“This cat was probably released in front of a hunter and got away—teeth were worn.” He gives the location as Big Lake, (9000’).

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

“Kill locations ranged from as low as 500 m to >3,000 m.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001)⁸³ report:

“A captioned photo of this jaguar, states, “FIG.1-Female jaguar killed at an elevation of 3,025 m [9,925 feet] in the White Mountains of Arizona in 1963.”

“23 September 1963, S of Big Lake, ca. 3,000 m [9,843 ft] elevation. Rocky Mountain Subalpine Conifer Forest, shot and photographed by hunter, had fed on elk carrion, mass= 47.7 kg (T. Penrod, pers. Comm; AGFD files, Pinetop.)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001)⁸⁴ wrote, however, in Table 1 on page 57, that this same jaguar was killed at an elevation of 9,000 feet [2743 m].

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) also reported, at page 96:

“Probably the only Southwestern jaguar taken with a predator call was killed in September 1963 by Terry Penrod near Big Lake in Arizona’s White Mountains.”

This statement is incorrect. An imported jaguar released by Curtis Prock in Arizona was also taken with a predator caller on January 4, 1959 (Housholder (1959)⁸⁵).

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) also reports:

“Most unusual, however, was that the cat was killed in spruce-fir forest at an elevation of more than 9,500 feet [2,850 m].”

Thus, Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) present three separate elevations for the kill site of this jaguar.

In point of fact, this is the only record to our knowledge of a jaguar killed out of habitat at such high altitude – more than 9,500 feet in elevation and perhaps as high as 9,925 feet -- anywhere within the jaguar’s range. The fact that this record is nonetheless being used to model suitable habitat for jaguars in the American Southwest is therefore as unreliable as it is scientifically unprecedented.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) misstate the year of the kill as 1961 in Table 4 on page 23.

⁸² Housholder, Bob 1966 unpublished list of jaguar occurrences in Arizona, obtained from USFS files

⁸³ *Borderland Jaguars, Tigres de la Frontera*, 2001, University of Utah Press

⁸⁴ *Borderland Jaguars, Tigres de la Frontera*, 2001, University of Utah Press

⁸⁵ Housholder, Bob. “13 Year Old Sharpshooter!,” *Arizona Wildlife Sportsman*. February 1959. p 16

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

A tabular report entitled Arizona Game and Fish Department records for AZ-NM 1900-2009 Draft 03, submitted to the Center for Biological Diversity per public records request to AZGFD, reports:

“1963:9/28; validity questioned. Terry Penrod, pers. Comm. AGFD game wardens speculate animal might have been released in “canned hunt” before Penrod shot it. R.Babb and R. Thompson pers. Comm.; F; AZ: at 9,000 ft el S of Big Lake, White Mts; shot while predator calling; Rocky Mt Montane Conifer Forest and Subalpine Conifer Forest; Brown 2001; R. Kohls; pers. Comm.”

The Arizona Game and Fish tabular record arbitrarily and inaccurately presumes all natural history of jaguars in Arizona and NM began in the year 1900, further perpetuating the charade and public misperception of a pre-1900 abundance of jaguars.

The information that the game wardens thought these jaguars were imported was never released by AGFD prior to its publication in the January 2011 AZGFD Jaguar Assessment report despite proper Public Records request made of the AGFD by the Pima NRC.

Nonetheless, *Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) incorporate this record into their models, ranking it as Class I and assigning a site description to it of “2,” meaning 1.7-5 km accuracy.

Using a topographic map and elevation lines, we found it very difficult to estimate within several miles where this kill actually took place, given the self-contradictory information presented by Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) concerning elevation.

In 1974, Curtis Prock was arrested on a second set of Lacey Act violations involving the importation of jaguars into New Mexico for canned hunts. At that time, he had been releasing jaguars in the Apache Creek area near Reserve, about 40 miles as the crow flies, from Big Lake. It is entirely possible that Mr. Prock had been running canned hunts out of the same area as early as the 1950's and 1960's.

Moreover, AGFD law enforcement officers presumed at the time (1963-64) that this and the Culbreath jaguar, oddly killed in high elevation pine forest that subsequent winter, were not naturally occurring, but captive, imported animals released or caused to be released into Arizona by Mr. Curtis Prock (AGFD Jaguar Assessment, 2011). Mr. Prock was also of the expert opinion that neither of these jaguars was naturally occurring. According to Mr. Prock, these jaguars “had plenty of help getting to where they got to” in Arizona. (C.J. Prock, pers. comm., August 2010). As a result, use of the Penrod and/or Culbreath jaguar records for purpose of modeling suitable or critical habitat for naturally occurring jaguars in Arizona and New Mexico is both wholly speculative and unreliable.

1/16/1964, Fort Apache Indian Reservation, male, Russell Culbreath, NMNH 289015

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002): Class 1 Location 3

Hatten et al. (2005): Class 1 Location >8 km precision

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk's classification system

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“16 January 1964, Whiteriver Apache Reservation, SW of ID Ranch, N of Black River, Semidesert Grassland/Great Basin Conifer Woodland, male, trapped and photographed by predator control agent (R. Culbreath, pers. comm.; USFWS files, Phoenix).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“1/16/1964 PARC agent Russell Culbreath. Pers. comm., USFWS files. Photographs. M. SW of ID Ranch on breaks above Black River, WMAIR, AZ. Trapped by predator control agent. Semidesert grassland/ Great Basin Conifer Woodland.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) speculated that the kill of this jaguar somehow confirmed the “legitimacy” of the 1963 female jaguar taken by Terry Penrod at more than 9,500 feet in elevation as “naturally occurring.” That claim is based entirely on speculation without a review of the facts.

It is far more likely that Curtis Prock or his associate intentionally released both jaguars because his 1962-1963 guided hunts of lions were the focus of Lacey Act charges and he would have been seeking to avoid facing additional federal charges under the Lacey Act.

Mr. Prock had led numerous predator hunts on and around the area between Young and Heber, Arizona, for several years prior to the Culbreath jaguar kill, as we have already notified the USFWS in detailed comment. This jaguar was killed within ten miles of the starting points of at least two then recently guided predator hunts led by Mr. Prock.^{86 87}

In November and December 1962, authorities seized three shipments involving six caged mountain lions in transport from Utah into Arizona for Mr. Prock. He was charged with three counts of illegal transport of an animal.

In February of 1963, Mr. Prock was arrested for illegally transporting a mountain lion across the Utah/Arizona state line, apparently for the purpose of canned hunting. Curtis J. Prock was indicted on federal charges under the Lacey Act on March 4, 1963 for transporting mountain lions across state lines without the required permit from Arizona Game and Fish Department, violating a new regulation the Arizona Game and Fish Commission had passed the previous year.⁸⁸ At that time, Prock had been advertising guaranteed hunts for lion, jaguar and bear in Arizona and Mexico, as shown in the included advertisement.

On September 28 of that same year, Terry Penrod took a female jaguar at Big Lake, within about 60 miles of the Culbreth jaguar and about 75 miles from Young, AZ as the crow flies. The

⁸⁶ Housholder, R. “The Bear in Arizona,” *Arizona Wildlife Sportsman*, January 1960 pp. 20-21, 44-45

⁸⁷ Housholder, R. “Tony Stromei—10th to Take Big Ten,” *Arizona Wildlife Sportsman*, November 1962, pp. 10-11

⁸⁸ Case file, *United States v. Prock*

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

taxidermist for Mr. Penrod confirmed the animal had been out in the wild long enough to have tough pads.⁸⁹

On January 16, 1964, Russell Culbreath trapped a young male jaguar on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The AGFD later took tissue samples to determine whether the two jaguars might be related. It is unlikely that they were, because if they had been, it is reasonable to expect the DNA results would have been made public and the fact would have spread rapidly through activist literature.

Curtis Prock found new employment in British Honduras, where he had been called in to hunt down a jaguar that had killed a small child.⁹⁰

On October 23, 1963 he contacted the court on his letterhead, which advertised guaranteed hunts for bear, lion and jaguar in Arizona and Mexico. The court granted him permission to leave the country, requiring him to return for his trial date.

On June 10, 1964, Curtis Prock changed his plea to guilty.

On June 19, 1964 the court found Curtis J. Prock guilty under the Lacey Act on one count of illegal transport of mountain lions.

A tabular report entitled Arizona Game and Fish Department records for AZ-NM 1900-2009 Draft 03, submitted to the Center for Biological Diversity per public records request of AGFD, reports:

“1964:1/16; validity questioned. PARC (USFWS) agent Russell Culbreath, pers. Comm. AGFD game wardens speculate animal might have been released in “canned hunt” before Culbreath trapped it. R.Babb and R. Thompson pers. Comm.; M; AZ: SW of ID Ranch above breaks on Black River FAIR; trapped and killed; Semidesert grassland and Great Basin Conifer woodland; Brown 2001.”

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) did not use this record in their models although they ranked it as a Class 1 record for physical evidence. They ranked the location description as “poor,” meaning greater than 8 km.

***11/16/1965, Patagonia Lake, male, Laurence “Mickey” McGee, skull at UA**

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002): Class1 Location 2

Hatten et al. (2005): Class 1 Location 2 (5.1-8 km accuracy)

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system; states this kill is in Sta. Cruz County but exact location is unknown.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports:

⁸⁹ Woody Holloway, Pers. Communication May 2010

⁹⁰ Barbara Smith, Pers. Communication, May 2010

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

“16 November 1965, Patagonia Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, male, killed and photographed by deer hunters, eviscerated mass=39.9 kg (L. McGee, Pers. Comm.; UA 14141)”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports:

“11/16 1965, Laurence McGee, pers. comm., Photographs, skull at University of Arizona. Patagonia Mountains, Shot while deer hunting. Dressed wt.=88lb., TL=70 in. Madrean Evergreen Woodland”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports on page 96:

“The last Arizona jaguar killed by a sportsman, however, was a young male shot by Laurence “Mickey” McGee while deer hunting in the Patagonia Mountains in 1965. This animal, a small male, was the last jaguar legally killed in Arizona.”

This was just one year after Curtis Prock left the state. No jaguars would be sighted or killed in Arizona for another 5 years.

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005)⁹¹ incorporated this record into their models as a kill in the Patagonia Mtns. in 1965, Class I with physical evidence and a "fair" location precision of 5.1-8 km (3-5 miles).

***November 16, 1971, Santa Cruz River S. of State Hwy 82, 130 lb Male, R. Farley, skull at UA**

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 1, Location 1 (within 1.6 km accuracy)

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system; states this kill is in Sta. Cruz County but exact location is unknown.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) reports,

“16 November 1971, Santa Cruz River, S of State Highway 82, at stock tank, Semidesert Grassland/ Madrean Evergreen Woodland, male, killed and photographed by duck hunters, eviscerated mass = 59 kg, "stomach full of frogs," (R. Farley): pers. comm.; Santa Cruz Co. court transcript.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) reports,

“11/16/1971. R. Farley and T. Cartier. Pers. comm. M. Santa Cruz Co. court records. Photographs. S of Hwy 82, Santa Cruz River, AZ. Killed by boys duck hunting with shotguns. Stomach "full of frogs." Head, eviscerated carcass, and hide = 130 lb, TL = 12 in. M. semi-desert grassland/Madrean Evergreen Woodland.”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001, p 98) shows a photograph of Robert Farley with the remains of the jaguar. The head was mounted separately from the skin.

⁹¹ A Spatial Model Of Potential Jaguar Habitat In Arizona 2005, Hatten, J. R.; Averill-Murray, A.; Van Pelt, W. E. Journal of Wildlife Management, 69: 1024 - 1033

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) incorporate this record into their models.

According to an email sent from Dale Robertson to the AGFD, Dale Lee at some time between 1965 and 1979, released a “large litter” of hand-raised jaguars into the Chiricahua Mountains. Possibly this is one of those jaguars. On the other hand, it is more likely that this was a lone, transient male jaguar that wandered across the border from Mexico.

***December 1986, Dos Cabezas Mtns., male, Klump**

Girmendonk (1994): Class I

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 1, Location 1 (within 1.6 km accuracy)

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

“December 1986, Dos Cabezas Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, male, bayed, killed, and photographed by hunters with dogs, mass = 62.6 kg (S. Goodwin, pers. comm; AGFD and USFWS files, Phoenix).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“12/1986 J. Klump et al. AGFD files, USFWS files. M Photographs. Dos Cabezas Mtns., AZ. Bayed and killed while lion hunting with dogs. Wt. = 138 lb. Madrean evergreen woodland?”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001, p. 98) report that a local rancher was rumored to have killed a jaguar near Willcox. Several people said they had seen the carcass and there were supposedly photographs, one of which is shown on p. 99 with a caption alleging that this is a photo of this jaguar. A \$4000 reward was offered for information on the whereabouts of the skin, but nobody came forward with sufficient information to press charges. State and federal agents then set the rancher up for a sting for guiding game hunts out of season. John Klump and Tim Haas were convicted for taking a bighorn sheep out of season. That investigation netted as evidence a jaguar hide, a mounted jaguar and two ocelots. Diaries indicated a jaguar pelt had been from an animal taken illegally with dogs in the Dos Cabezas Mountains east of Willcox and the other animals had been taken illegally in Campeche, which led to charges under CITES. Due to the entrapment, the evidence was deemed inadmissible, however, and all charges were dropped.

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) incorporated this record into their models.

***1988, observation in San Luis Mtns, all other details unknown, unreliable**

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 2 Location 1

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system; states the kill is in Pima County but exact location is unknown.

We have found no other source of information confirming the existence this alleged jaguar occurrence and have been unable to verify it. Since jaguars are no longer being killed in Arizona and only photographed, it is possible this observation might be of the same jaguar as one or more other accounts.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

*Hatten et al. 2002, 2005 used this alleged jaguar observation in their models.

This is an unreliable sighting. Without physical evidence of the individual, a single individual can be included in multiple records. In the absence of corroborating physical evidence, use of this unverified observation as a “record” for modeling purpose is both unscientific and unreliable.

The importance of physical scientific evidence as necessary support for jaguar sightings used to model jaguar habitat in the Southwest is clearly and convincingly demonstrated by the experience of Jag Team over a long number of years. During the last decade alone, there have been dozens, if not hundreds, of jaguar sightings reported to the Arizona Game & Fish Department (AGFD) and the New Mexico Department of Fish & Game (NMDFG). None have ever led to any physical evidence of a jaguar. As the AGFD’s and the NMDFG’s experience clearly indicates, unverified jaguar reports are unreliable because people apparently see what they want to see and, thinking back on what they have seen, can and do transform that information. Thus, the use of unreliable jaguar sightings or observations, without more, to model jaguar habitat or to design conservation areas for them, is both unscientific and irresponsible.

1988, observation in Sierrita Mtns, all other details unknown, questionable

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): **Class 3** Location 1

Grigione et al. (2007): **Class 1 or 2** while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system; states the kill is in Pima County but exact location is unknown.

We have found no other source of information confirming the existence of this alleged jaguar occurrence and have been unable to verify it. Since jaguars are no longer being killed in Arizona and only photographed, it is possible this sighting might be of the same jaguar as one or more other sightings.

This observation or “sighting” is unreliable. Without physical evidence of the individual, a single individual can be included in multiple records. In the absence of corroborating physical evidence, representation and use of this unverified and unreliable sighting as a “record” for modeling purpose is both irresponsible and unscientific.

1989-1990, Tracks seen in snow at Rustler Park Campground, Chiricahua Mtns., L. Pope, no physical evidence, unreliable

Grigione et al. (2007): **Class 1 or 2** while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system; cites Louis Pope personal communication for the source of the record.

It is extremely unlikely that Girmendonk would have considered this a reliable record, considering she rated mortalities as Class III in all cases where the physical evidence has been lost.

If this is in fact a jaguar track, it could be a track of an individual jaguar documented by another, separate track, leading to a single individual being counted multiple times.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

This visual record of a track, absent physical evidence, lacks necessary reliability for scientifically credible modeling purpose use. A controlled study of identification of jaguar, puma and canid tracks by supposedly reliable observers proved the observers were wrong in more than 20 % of track identifications. (De Angelo, et al. 2010)⁹²

1991-1993, Mortality, Cochise County, all other details unknown, unreliable

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk's classification system

We found no corroboration of this alleged jaguar occurrence in any other documentation. Without better documentation, and a skin, or a skull or a unique photograph, this account appears fabricated because it was not documented anywhere else that we know of outside of Grigione et al. (2007). The exact year of this alleged jaguar's occurrence is obviously not known and the entire record gives a strong appearance of either unreliable hearsay or impropriety.

This record is therefore wholly unreliable and therefore unfit for scientifically credible modeling use.

1993, Observation, Cochise County, all other details unknown, unreliable

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk's classification system

We have found no other source of information, other than Grigione et al. (2007), confirming the existence of this alleged jaguar occurrence. We have been unable to verify it. Since jaguars are no longer being killed in Arizona and only photographed or "observed," it is possible this sighting might be of the same jaguar as one or more other sightings.

This record is unreliable and unfit for scientifically credible model development use.

***1993, Baboquivari Mtns., deer kill, all other details unknown, unreliable**

Hatten et al, (2002, 2005): Class 2 Location 1;

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk's classification system; identifies an associated deer kill

⁹² De Angelo, C., Paviolo, A. and Bitetti, M., "Traditional Versus Multivariate Methods for Identifying Jaguar, Puma, and Large Canid Tracks". *Journal of Wildlife Management* 74(5):1141–1153; 2010; DOI: 10.2193/2009-293

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

Neither Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) nor Grigione et al. (2007) provide sufficient details for the reader to know whether they are referring to the same alleged jaguar occurrence or separate alleged jaguar occurrences. None of these three reports has supplied reliable, replicable information and none has sufficiently presented its data.

*Hatten et al. 2002, 2005 nonetheless used this unreliable account as a “record” in their models, thereby fatally compromising those models’ scientific integrity.

This report is unreliable. It is also scientifically unfit for scientifically credible modeling use purpose.

***August 31, 1996, Baboquivari Mtns, male, treed, photographed, not killed, Jack Childs, Matt Colvin–“Macho B”**

Johnson et al. (2009)⁹³ reports:

“...Jack Childs, was in the Baboquivari Mountains of south central Arizona when, on August 31, 1996, he and colleague Matt Colvin photographed and videotaped a male jaguar treed by their hounds (Childs 1998; Childs and Childs 2008)

Note: This is only the second documented record we have found in the scientific literature of a jaguar being treed by hounds in Arizona or New Mexico. All other recorded documents of jaguars being chased by hounds, except the Colcord 1933 jaguar, indicated that they did not tree but ran until cornered in a cave or against a cliff.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2000) wrote,

“31 August 1996, Baboquivari Mountains, Madrean Evergreen Woodland, unknown, treed and photographed by hunters with dogs (Childs, 1998).”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) wrote,

“8/31/1996. Jack Childs. Pers. comm., Childs 1998, AGFD files. Photographs. M? Baboquivari Mts., AZ. Treed and photographed while lion hunting with dogs. Madrean evergreen woodland”

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) on p.108 reported that this jaguar sighting was 200 miles from the nearest known breeding population of jaguars, the Huasabas-Sahuaripa population.

Brown and Lopez-Gonzales (2001) further reported on p. 126 that in June, Childs had killed a larger than average mountain lion that had been bitten and scratched up. Childs was surprised that the jaguar stayed treed as long as it had. The jaguar had treed in a juniper. It remained calm because it apparently had eaten recently.

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) rank this record as Class 1 for a photograph, and assign a location

⁹³ Terry Johnson and William Van Pelt , AZ Game and Fish Dept and James Stuart, New Mexico Dept. of Fish 2009 Jaguar Conservation Assessment For Arizona, New Mexico, And Northern Mexico

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

description rank of ‘1’ meaning within 1.6 km.

***1997, Cerro Colorado Mtns., all other details unknown, unreliable**

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 2 Location 2

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system

We have found no other source of information confirming the existence of this alleged jaguar occurrence and have been unable to verify it. Since jaguars are no longer being killed in Arizona and only photographed, it is possible this sighting might be of the same jaguar as one or more other sightings. Additionally, Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) and Grigione et al. (2007) supply too few details for the reader to discern whether the three studies are referring to a single alleged jaguar occurrence or to multiple alleged jaguar occurrences.

*Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) used this unverified jaguar sighting in their models.

With jaguars no longer being killed, observations made after 1996 in the absence of corroborating physical evidence are unreliable per se as because single animals sighted more than once can be documented as multiple animals.

This sighting is unreliable. It is also unfit for use as a “record” for scientifically credible modeling purposes. Instead, the use of unverified sightings in this matter is both irresponsible and unscientific.

1997, Garden Canyon/ Huachuca Mtns., Cochise Co., observation, no other details known, unreliable

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system;

This alleged jaguar sighting is not documented in any other source we have found. Grigione et al. (2007) presents insufficient information to verify this sighting. Observations without physical evidence or a photo are unreliable because one jaguar can be observed and also counted many times. Moreover, the observation may not be of a jaguar at all.

Use of this sighting as a “record” for modeling purpose is unreliable and therefore unscientific. Thus, this sighting is unfit for use for scientifically credible modeling purposes.

1998, Hereford, Cochise County, observation, no other details known, unreliable

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk’s classification system

We have found no other source of information confirming the existence of this alleged jaguar occurrence and have been unable to verify it. Since jaguars are no longer being killed in Arizona and only photographed, it is possible this sighting might be of the same jaguar as in one or more other sightings.

This sighting is unverifiable, unreliable and therefore similarly unfit for use as a “record” for scientifically credible modeling purposes.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

1998, Pena Blanca Lake, Santa Cruz County, observation, no other details known, unreliable

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk's classification system

We have found no other source of information confirming the existence this alleged jaguar occurrence and have been unable to verify it. Since jaguars are no longer being killed in Arizona and only photographed, it is possible this sighting might be of the same jaguar as in one or more other sightings.

This sighting is unverifiable, unreliable, and therefore unfit for use as a "record" for scientifically credible modeling use purpose.

1998, Patagonia, Sta. Cruz County, observation, no other details known, unreliable

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk's classification system

We have found no other source of information confirming the existence this alleged jaguar occurrence and have been unable to verify it. Since jaguars are no longer being killed in Arizona and only photographed, it is possible this sighting might be of the same jaguar as reported in one or more other sightings.

This sighting is also unverifiable, unreliable, and wholly unfit for use as a "record" for scientifically credible modeling use purpose.

1998, Tumacacori Mtns, Sta. Cruz County, observation, no other details known, unreliable

Grigione et al. (2007): Class 1 or 2 while claiming to use Girmendonk's classification system

With a location being described as an entire group of mountain ranges, it is unlikely this sighting was made by a reliable observer.

We have found no other source of information confirming the existence this alleged jaguar occurrence and have been unable to verify it. Since jaguars are no longer being killed in Arizona and only photographed, it is possible this sighting might be of the same animal reported in one or more other sightings. It is also quite likely that this was not the sighting of a jaguar at all.

This sighting is unverifiable, unreliable, and therefore unfit for use as a "record" for scientifically credible modeling use purpose.

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

***December 2001, Pajarito Mtns. Jack Childs, male, Photographed, “Macho A”**

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005): Class 1 Location 1

Hatten et al. (2002, 2005) used this record in their model of jaguar habitat.

Rizzo (2005)⁹⁴ reports,

“In 1999, [Jack Childs] began placing remote cameras in Arizona where jaguars had been seen in the past. By December 2001, he had his first jaguar photograph: a male weighing between 130 and 150 pounds and later dubbed Macho A. The jaguar looked healthy, well fed and heavily built, with a broad, wide skull that flowed back to a torso shaped like a cylinder of muscle. Macho A turned up on film in August 2003, and again in September 2004.”

Not mentioned in the methodology of McCain and Childs (2008), the jaguars being photographed by this pair were being baited with scat from a female jaguar in heat obtained from the Phoenix zoo. Since these jaguars were secretly being lured to stay near the trail cameras set up by McCain and Childs, they cannot be considered naturally occurring. All data collected by McCain and Childs is therefore unreliable.

Nov. 19, 2011 Jaguar treed, videotaped, photographed, Cochise Co.

The *Arizona Daily Star*⁹⁵ reported on Nov. 22, 2011,

“An experienced mountain lion hunter spotted the jaguar Saturday morning about 15 feet up a mesquite tree and reported it to Game and Fish. The hunter was led to the large cat by his dogs, who were baying and starting to pursue the animal as if on the trail of a lion, said Mark Hart, a Game and Fish spokesman.

Officials said the hunter had not given permission to release his name, and the department declined to specify the location.

The hunter photographed and shot video of the jaguar, then left with his dogs and watched the animal from a distance. The jaguar stayed in the tree for 15 minutes before jumping down and heading south.

Based on the photos and video, Game and Fish officials described the jaguar as an adult male that appeared healthy and weighed about 200 pounds. Game and Fish biologists went to the sighting location to verify that the photos and videos were taken there, Hart said.

"It all checked out," Hart said. "We started at the exact same point where they (the photos and video) were shot. We saw tree branches where they were supposed to be, and they absolutely looked the same as in the photos. We counted about 10 marks of claws where a large animal had climbed the tree."

The biologists also collected hair samples from the area for possible DNA testing.

⁹⁴ Rizzo, Will. “Return of the Jaguar?” *Smithsonian Magazine* Dec. 2005 **Read more:** http://www.smithsonianmag.com/sciencenature/Return_of_the_Jaguar.html#ixzz25LsrYH32

⁹⁵ Davis, Tony, “Jaguar Seen in Area of Cochise,” *Arizona Daily Star* Nov. 22, 2011

Discrepancies and Inconsistencies Discovered as of August 12, 2012 in Peer-Reviewed Literature and Other Reports of Historic Records of Jaguar sightings in New Mexico and Arizona

The department hopes to compare the photos with those of other jaguars sighted in Arizona and of two jaguars photographed this year by remote cameras at a ranch in Sonora about 30 miles south of the border, Hart said.”

At this writing, this record cannot be considered a reliable account until the AGFD releases information proving this jaguar was not previously photographed and documented in Southern Arizona.

We have noticed that three jaguars reported in the last 15 years climbed trees when chased by hounds. Prior to 1996, we have found only one report of a jaguar climbing a tree when chased. Every report that included the details of the chase indicated the cat took cover in a cave or against a cliff.