

Memorandum

To: File
CC:
From: Chris Garrett, SWCA
Date: March 4 2015
Re: Use of Wildlife Photos for Ocelot/Jaguar Occurrence

The purpose of this memo is to summarize the research and use of wildlife photos with respect to occurrence of several species analyzed in the Supplemental Information Report and the Supplemental Biological Assessment, both currently being prepared for the Rosemont Copper Project.

Use of Photos in Analysis

A series of photos have been captured by wildlife cameras currently being operated in the Santa Rita mountains by University of Arizona researchers, including photos of jaguar, ocelot, and Mexican spotted owl. Given the sensitive nature of the information, the exact locations of these photographs are generally not made public. These photos were considered as part of the analysis of these species by the Forest Service. Specifically, the photos are pertinent to help define the presence of these species in or around the project area, as well as characteristics of their movement and habits.

Presentation of Photos to USFS by USFWS

Photos of jaguar and ocelot were disclosed to U.S. Forest Service specialists by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service specialists during several face-to-face meetings. Specific meetings include May 8, 2014 and May 19, 2014, which were convened to discuss possible reinitiation of Section 7 consultation. Additional information was shared during subsequent specialist meetings between May and November 2014. Photos of the Mexican spotted owl were brought to the attention of the U.S. Forest Service specialists by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service specialists in February 2015.

Citation of Photos in Forest Service Documents and Verification of Authenticity

The Supplemental Information Report and Supplemental Biological Assessment both describe this new information, including photos on public websites, such as https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfws_southwest/sets/72157632294203147/. This memo was written in an effort to provide public disclosure of information considered in the analysis. However, these public websites lack locational information and under normal circumstances also lack any verification of authenticity.

Further steps were taken by the Forest Service to verify the authenticity of these photos. Specifically:

- Mr. Jason Douglas, USFWS biologist, was contacted by Mr. Chris Garrett of SWCA on February 25, 2015. Mr. Douglas verified that the posted photos were official and had been vetted prior to posting.
- Mr. Chris Bugbee, University of Arizona biologist, was contacted by Ms. Angela Barclay of the Coronado National Forest on February 18, 2015, and provided further indications of the location and authenticity of the photographs.