



THE 2,000-MILE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER PASSES

through several conservation hotspots, including two in Arizona, the Sonoran Desert and the Sky Islands. These are areas important to endangered and threatened species and other wildlife and in which the United States and Mexico have significant investments in conservation lands and collaborative projects.

Extending the border wall in Arizona would have devastating consequences:

- Further imperil already rare, endangered and threatened species and wildlife habitat in the United States and Mexico.
- Make it impossible to maintain the habitat connectivity necessary for healthy cross-border populations of Mexican wolves, jaguars, bighorn sheep, ocelots and other species.
- Waste billions of taxpayer dollars that could otherwise be spent on conservation or other worthwhile endeavors.
- Hurt local economies dependent on ecotourism and outdoor recreation.
- Stymie bilateral efforts essential for successful borderlands conservation.

Conservation lands and collaborations on the line

In the Sonoran Desert...

The Sonoran Desert and its forested mountains support 60 species of mammals, 350 birds, 20 amphibians, 100 reptiles and 30 native fish. Protected public lands on the U.S. side of the desert include Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge in the Altar Valley, and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge—home of a captive-breeding program for the rare and endangered Sonoran pronghorn. On the Mexico side of the border, El Pinacate Biosphere Reserve protects a mosaic of intact desert habitats, including large caves crucial for endangered lesser long-nosed bats.

Examples of collaborative conservation

- The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, formed by landowners in south-central Pima County has directed



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Jaguars from Mexico recently started venturing into Arizona, This cross-border movement is essential to the recovery of a U.S. population.

“If the wall is built, it’s all over for the jaguar in the United States.”

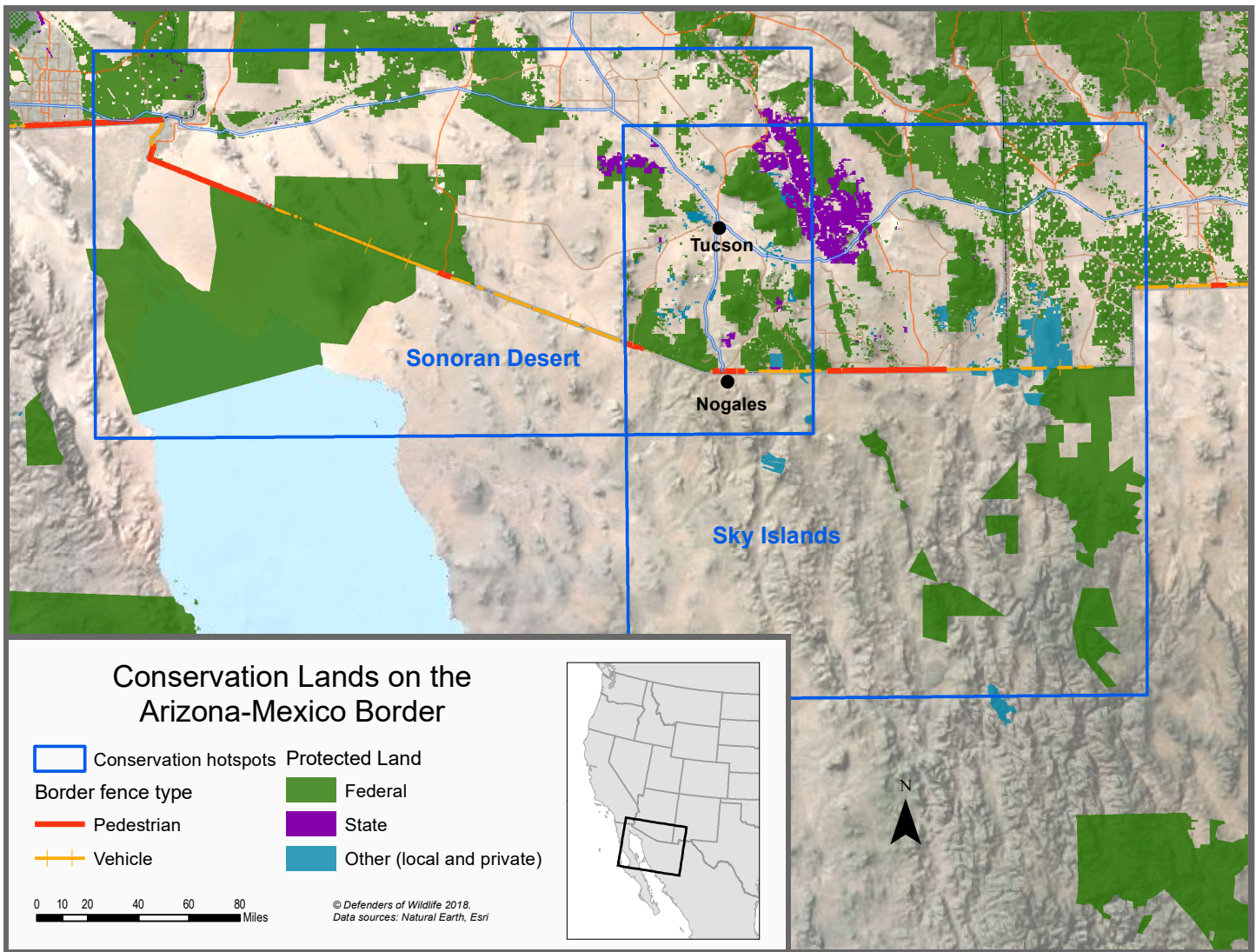
—Gooch Goodwin, *Patagonia Area Resource Alliance*

more than \$4 million to improving grazing lands to the benefit the watershed and native species.

- The Mexico Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife works with Mexico’s Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources and other partners on both sides of the border to monitor, protect and recover at-risk species like the Chiricahua leopard frog, flat-tailed horned lizard, Sonoyta mud turtle, lesser long-nosed bat, cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl and Sonoran pronghorn.
- The Sonoran Joint Venture administers a competitive grant program that supports 19 U.S. and Mexican organizations conducting projects like bird surveys, habitat monitoring and public education and outreach.

In the Sky Islands...

Temperate and tropic conditions meet in the Sky Islands, making it one of the most biologically diverse regions in the world. Named for the scattered mountains rising from its desert flatlands, the Sky Islands region spans Arizona, the southwestern corner of New Mexico and two Mexican states. The Lower San Pedro—the last undammed river and most important bird migration flyway in the U.S. Southwest—flows north from Mexico through the region.



Conservation lands on the U.S. side include the private Diamond A Ranch, the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge and several designated wildernesses and wilderness study areas. Mexican borderlands reserves include the huge Janos Biosphere Reserve, the Northern Jaguar Reserve and lands set aside by Cuenca Los Ojos, a private foundation.

Examples of collaborative conservation

- Numerous partnership projects address specific conservations goals. A multi-million-dollar project run by the University of Arizona monitors jaguars and other border cats with trail cameras. Agencies and groups on both sides of the border jointly work on efforts to recover endangered Mexican wolves, Sonoran pronghorn and longfin dace, and

to restore grasslands and streamside habitat.

- Cuenca Los Ojos restores grasslands and wetlands on damaged tracts it acquires and works closely with adjacent San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge.
- The Arizona Malpai Borderlands Group holds conservation easements on 78,000 acres of border ranchlands and has restored habitat for jaguars, leopard frogs, long-nosed bats and other species.

The Trump administration's border wall would jeopardize wildlife, habitat and years of conservation progress and collaboration between the United States and Mexico. We cannot allow that to happen. There are far better uses for taxpayer dollars than walling off our southern border. Nothing less than our nation's natural heritage is at risk.



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