

## Victoria Boyne

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**Subject:** FW: Report of possible jaguar in Santa Ritas

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**From:** Jones, Larry [<mailto:ljones02@fs.fed.us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2011 8:17 AM  
**To:** Gerhart, Richard; Geoff Soroka; Barrera, Bobbi; Angela Barclay  
**Cc:** Melissa Reichard  
**Subject:** FW: Report of possible jaguar in Santa Ritas

Here is the personal communication of the Jaguar sighting. While it is unconfirmed, I think it shows there is a very real possibility of a Jaguar in the Santa Rita Mountains. I am not at liberty to discuss the details of the sighting, but it sounds, in my opinion, that it is more likely to be valid than not. The exact location is not disclosed, but is within within easy reach of the proposed Rosemont project area by a resident or dispersing Jaguar.

### Larry Jones

#### Biologist

Climate Change Coordinator  
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**From:** Eric Gardner [<mailto:EGardner@azgfd.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 06, 2011 2:07 PM  
**To:** Jones, Larry  
**Cc:** Tim Snow  
**Subject:** Report of possible jaguar in Santa Ritas

Larry,  
The report was for an animal seen near Mansfield Canyon in the Santa Ritas.

### Eric Gardner

**Nongame Branch Chief**  
**Arizona Game and Fish Department**  
**5000 W. Carefree Highway**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85086-5000**  
**Work: (623) 236-7507**



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**From:** Jones, Larry [<mailto:ljones02@fs.fed.us>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 04, 2011 4:00 PM  
**To:** Eric Gardner  
**Subject:** RE: jaguar sighting in Santa Ritas

Thanks Eric, that is what I need (Terry's email was rejected...didn't know he retired). For the location of this II-7, is it "fuzzed" in the Santa Ritas or is there a more precise locality that could be mentioned in a record subject to FOIA? Fuzzed is fine, actually, but I never turn away info.

**Larry Jones**  
Biologist  
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**From:** Eric Gardner [<mailto:EGardner@azgfd.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 04, 2011 3:34 PM  
**To:** Jones, Larry  
**Cc:** Larry Riley  
**Subject:** RE: jaguar sighting in Santa Ritas

Larry,  
Sorry for the delay as I am just now catching up on several emails from two weeks ago. I don't see anything indicating that Terry Johnson got back to you before he retired last week. Not surprising as he had several time consuming tasks to wrap up prior to his retirement date, so wanted to make sure I get back to you.

Regarding the report you asked about, the AGFD has assigned it a ranking of II-7 (possible jaguar), under our current system.

**CLASS II** -- Detailed information of the observation is provided but does not include any physical evidence of a jaguar. Class II observations are considered "probable" or "possible" as evidence for a jaguar occurrence. Field investigations will be attempted, to the extent possible, by the respective state wildlife agency to gather verifiable evidence of a jaguar's presence.

- 7 An experienced observer who is familiar with wildlife (especially large mammals) in the area, and spends many hours in the field, provides a detailed report of a jaguar sighting. No physical evidence is provided. Examples of an experienced observer include: biologist, trapper, hunting guide, naturalist, or resident rancher/ranch hand.

No additional information or evidence was gathered to further corroborate the information provided in the initial report, therefore the sighting is considered "possible". Physical evidence is required to classify the sighting as Class I.

**CLASS I** -- Some sort of physical evidence is provided for verification. Class I reports are considered "verified" or "highly probable" as evidence for a jaguar occurrence.

Regarding the following: *By the by, and pardon my ignorance, are there any likely extant Jaguars in SE AZ or Peloncillos area (the aforementioned record notwithstanding) that you are aware of?*

AGFD has no current, confirmed records of a jaguar or jaguars currently (or recently) occupying SW AZ or the Peloncillos.

Finally, I am not sure how to respond to your request for personal communication to be used within a biological assessment. We take reports of wildlife sightings and, in the case of things like jaguars and ocelots, attempt to classify them. However, without physical evidence, it is impossible to truly verify if a sighting is real or not. We are aware of multiple instances when a credible, educated person has reported a wildlife sighting that turns out to not be accurate. Evaluating and ranking sightings without physical evidence may indicate a trend or cause us to investigate an area further, but it does not prove presence of an animal. You can certainly indicate AGFD took such a report and that our classification system ranked it as a Class II-7, or possible jaguar, sighting. I will be curious to see what weight that type of data can carry in a B.A.

Thanks. Give me a call if you have any questions.

**Eric Gardner**  
**Nongame Branch Chief**  
**Arizona Game and Fish Department**  
**5000 W. Carefree Highway**  
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**From: Jones, Larry [<mailto:ljones02@fs.fed.us>]**  
**Sent: Thursday, September 22, 2011 1:48 PM**  
**To: Eric Gardner**  
**Cc: [terry\\_johnson@azgfd.gov](mailto:terry_johnson@azgfd.gov)**  
**Subject: jaguar sighting in Santa Ritas**

**Eric and Terry--**

**A couple months ago I saw an email about an unconfirmed sighting of a Jaguar in the Santa Ritas (a fly-over during the fire season). I haven't shared this with anyone, but I was wondering if there is some sort of personal communication for a follow-up. If there is some validity to the report, even if unconfirmed, it may be worthy of a pers. comm. in a Biological Assessment of a project in the Santa Ritas. Thanks! By the by, and pardon my ignorance, are there any likely extant Jaguars in SE AZ or Peloncillos area (the aforementioned record notwithstanding) that you are aware of?**

**Larry Jones**

**Biologist**

**Climate Change Coordinator**

**SW PARC Senior Chair**

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