



Dr. Benjamin Tuggle
Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region 2
rdtuggle@fws.gov

March 6, 2009

Dear Dr. Tuggle,

We are writing with regard to the capture and death of the jaguar Macho B in southern Arizona on Monday, March 2, 2009. The Center for Biological Diversity has been committed to the conservation of northern jaguars for fifteen years. We want to ensure the tragic death of Macho B will lead to information which will advance the conservation of jaguars, inform future jaguar handling decisions and procedures, and advance scientific knowledge of jaguar and large feline physiology.

We have been contacted by numerous veterinarians who are concerned that post-mortem medical investigations to date have not been carried out by scientists with expertise in large feline physiology, that there is a lack of independence between the investigators and wildlife managers, and that opportunities to advance scientific knowledge may be lost.

We request that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contract with an independent scientific laboratory with expertise in large feline physiology to determine the cause of death, contributing factors to the cause of death, likelihood of short-term mortality in absence of the capture, and other factors which may result in information useful to future decisions about the capture, handling and radio-tagging of jaguars.

The contractor should also investigate renal failure and other physiological aspects of Macho B which will contribute to veterinary science and wildlife science.

We further request that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service immediately ensure the preservation of all tissue necessary to conduct such an investigation. This includes both the storage of the tissue and intrusive techniques which may compromise future research.

Time is obviously of the essence in this matter, so we would appreciate an immediate written response.

Thank you for doing all that is necessary to protect jaguars and improve management of endangered species. Let's ensure we learn as much as possible from Macho B's tragic death.

Sincerely,

Kieran Suckling
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cc: Larry D. Voyles, Arizona Game and Fish Department