

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 23, 2020



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Border Wildlife Study Documents Animal Species In Threatened Region

Study in borderlands region of southern Arizona highlights border wall threats

TUCSON, Arizona—Sky Island Alliance is announcing initial findings of its Border Wildlife Study documenting critical habitat threatened by imminent construction of President Trump’s border wall. In the first 90 days of the study, Sky Island Alliance has documented 71 species living in areas threatened by construction of the border wall. A barrier in this region of southern Arizona would seal off wildlife corridors used by dozens of species of mammals, birds, and reptiles.

“We have clear photo evidence of how vital this land is for a multitude of species that depend on connected habitat between the U.S. and Mexico. We must do everything we can to protect wildlife pathways across the border,” said Emily Burns, Ph.D., who leads the study.

Sky Island Alliance’s Border Wildlife Study has collected thousands of wildlife photographs from dozens of trail cameras installed across 34 miles along the border between the U.S. and Mexico. In the first months of this project, Sky Island Alliance, and its partners Patagonia Area Resource Alliance and Naturalia, have identified black bear, mountain lion, pronghorn, gray fox, coatimundi, elf owls, Montezuma quail and many other species within this threatened area. The extraordinary diversity of animals documented in the study areas in this short time shows an array of mammals, birds, reptiles, and invertebrates rely on this threatened habitat as their home range, as well as for migration.

Sky Island Alliance is a regional nonprofit conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the diversity of life and lands in the Sky Island region of the U.S. and Mexico.

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