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**CONTACT:**

Emily Burns, Program Director, Sky Island Alliance

[emily@skyislandalliance.org](mailto:emily@skyislandalliance.org)

415-342-3200

[www.skyislandalliance.org](http://www.skyislandalliance.org)



**Border Wildlife Study Detects Over 100 Species in Threatened U.S.–Mexico Borderlands**

*Meanwhile, wall construction continues to bisect a region known for its high biodiversity*

**TUCSON, Arizona**—Sky Island Alliance today announces the latest findings from its Border Wildlife Study that documents the wildlife threatened by active border wall construction. Since the launch of the study in March, Sky Island Alliance and its partner Naturalia, A.C. have detected more than 100 species—including 30 species of mammals, 38 species of birds, and 23 species of insects and reptiles—that live in or migrate through the highly biodiverse Sky Island region. This region is at risk of losing transboundary wildlife corridors from the wide-scale construction that now disrupts local ecosystems.

“It’s been so amazing seeing each of the different animals that live here. This diversity is exactly what we expect to find in the Sky Islands, a globally renowned hotspot for wildlife,” said Program Director Emily Burns, Ph.D. “Despite the wall construction that has destroyed habitat on the eastern side of our project, wildlife remains resilient and connected to these landscapes. Detecting over 100 species in just six months is an incredible milestone and demonstrates how important these lands are for wildlife.”

Located in one of the last remaining open corridors in the Sky Island region of southern Arizona and northern Sonora, Mexico, Sky Island Alliance’s Border Wildlife Study has analyzed over two million photos since March. Over 12,000 wildlife sightings have been detected from the dozens of trail cameras installed across 34 miles of border wall, including black bear, mountain lion, white-nosed coati, pronghorn, elf owl, four skunk species (spotted, striped, hooded, and hog-nosed), porcupine, and a Mexican subspecies of Virginia opossum that reaches its northern distribution limit in the borderlands.

The biodiversity found in the Border Wildlife Study area highlights the great threat posed by continued border wall construction. Active construction of the wall in the Sky Island region will disrupt wildlife corridors used by many of the species observed in the Border Wildlife Study. Apart from the loss of connectivity, border wall construction is destroying vital habitat and water sources like perennial springs, which are crucial to maintaining a balanced ecosystem in this fragile region.

“It’s up to us to protect these landscapes and heal the Sky Islands,” said Burns. “Please join our call to stop construction, tear down the wall, and reconnect wildlife with our incredible borderlands.”

**Sky Island Alliance** is a regional conservation nonprofit dedicated to protecting and restoring the diversity of life and lands in the Sky Island region of the U.S. and Mexico. Sky Islands are mountain ranges primarily in Arizona and Sonora that rise out of arid grasslands and desert seas and provide vibrant habitat for plants and wildlife.

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