

The status and distribution of neotropical cats in the U.S.-Mexico border region



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Bordercats Working Group

Grupo de Trabajo de Felinos de la Frontera

Bordercats Working Group

The bordercats working group, BWG, was founded in 1998 to achieve conservation for neotropical cats (ocelots, jaguars, jaguarundis) in the border region of the US/Mexico:

- evidence of few to no neotropical cats in this area.
- gap in knowledge about the species in this region.
- existing legal framework in place to protect these species.

BWG member of ICN/SSP Cat specialist Group

Mission:

- To conduct research on all three species in border regions.
- To demarcate important habitat for all species in border region.
- To educate local communities and organizations about the cats.
- To bring individuals, groups, and government agencies together.
- To share in a common mission.

Field research

- Evaluate the status of neotropical cats.
- Determine present and historical distribution of neotropical cats.
- Identification of critical areas for the conservation of neotropical cats.
- Involve people working with the species or habitats in our efforts.

Study areas

- Rio Grande survey, 1999.
- Arizona and New Mexico survey, 1988-1999.
- Sonora, ongoing.
- Tamaulipas, Coahuila and Nuevo Leon, ongoing.

GIS habitat mapping

Sighting since 1900's exported to GIS with the following variables:

- Vegetation type.
- Roads.
- Rivers.
- land ownership.



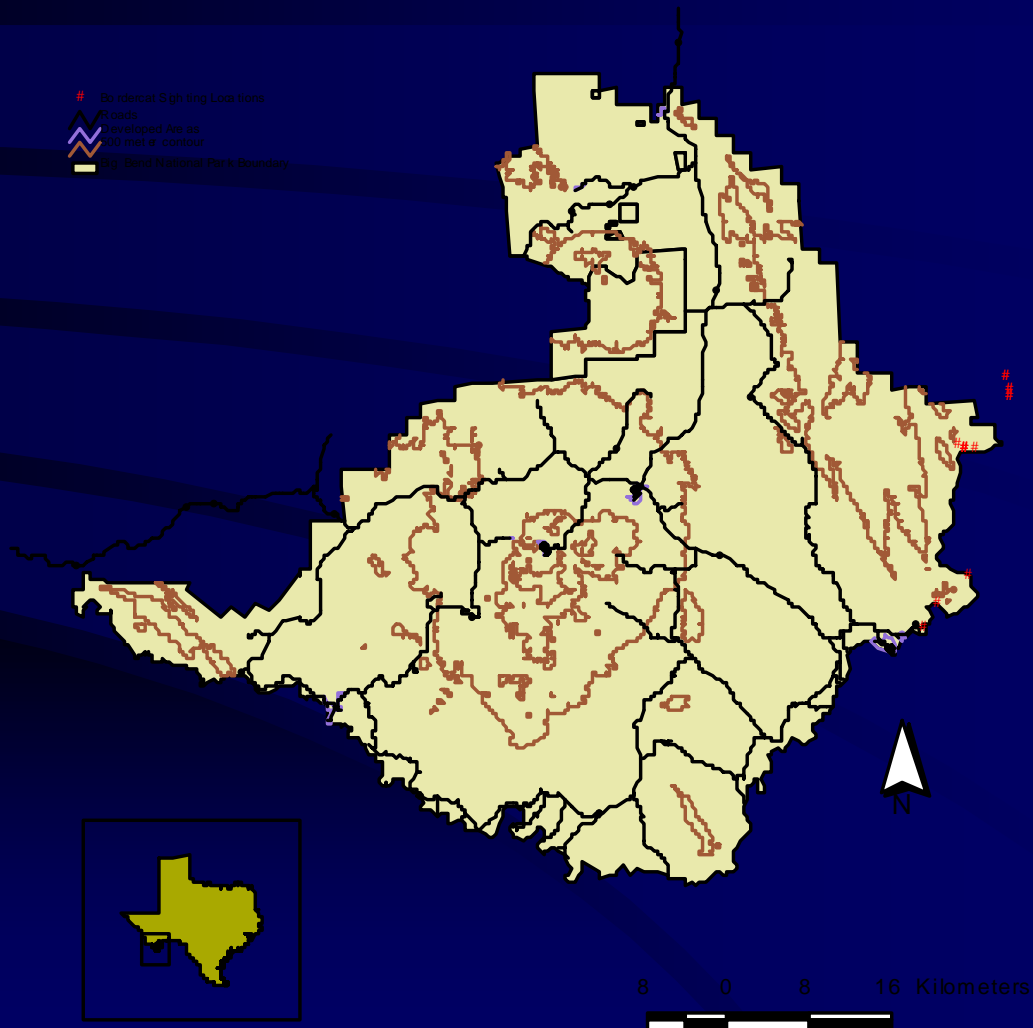
From interviews to SIG

- Species distribution.
- Major threats.
- Availability of habitat.
- Habitat restoration efforts under way.

Final product

- A map identifying the areas with priority or potential for conservation for each species in the short and long term.

LOCATIONS OF BORDERCATS ALONG THE RIO GRANDE RIVER, TEXAS



LOCATION OF BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

Records from Rio Grande Survey



Education

- Comic book about bordercats and their conservation for ranchers and local inhabitants.
- Workbook for students of the border region.

Ideas exchange with local groups

- Linking US and Mexico border reserves.
- Effect of customs and immigration control on bordercats (i.e. international bridges).
- Making recovery planning for each of the species more broad based, comprehensive and operational.

Land-owner cat conservation

- Incentives to land owners to promote cat conservation (i.e. tax exemption, rewards to owners that have border cats in their properties, added value to meat produced in cat friendly ranches).
- Cattle management to reduce predation.