

Shape the Future

Canyon Chatter

Friends of Madera Canyon

January 2026



A Mexican Wolf that was monitored as part of a population survey in eastern Arizona. Photo. Arizona Game and Fish Department.

The Mexican wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*), also known as Lobo, is a critically endangered subspecies of gray wolf native to northern Mexico and the southwestern United States. Once widespread, its population declined drastically due to human persecution, leading to near extinction until a small group was captured for a captive breeding program. Through coordinated recovery efforts and reintroductions since 1998, the Mexican wolf population has grown, with several hundred now living in the wild and captivity, making it a conservation success story. Now, an Arizona congressman wants to reopen a hunting season on this apex predator. See page 13.

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Kristin Wisneski-Blum: Our New Executive Director

Kristin Wisneski-Blum has been appointed by the Board of Directors as the first Executive Director to serve the Friends of Madera Canyon. She began her work on January 1, 2026.

Wisneski-Blum, a Green Valley resident, brings to her role an impressive breadth of experience locally in environmental and education endeavors, community building and volunteer program development, and the use of technology to support effective operations.

She holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Arizona, where her thesis focused on “Reconnecting Youth with Community and Environment: Keys to Civic Engagement Education Program Success,” and a B.A. in International Studies and Geography from the University of Miami (FL).

In creating the position, the Board recognized that the range of activities in which various groups from the Friends are engaged in its stewardship role for the Canyon has grown to the point that having the support of a part-time professional will ensure our continuing success in fulfilling our mission. As members know from previous editions of the *Canyon Chatter*, outreach to the younger generations for whom the Friends work to “preserve, conserve, and restore” the Canyon is increasingly important. So is adapting to the changing ways to communicate our purposes effectively. Wisneski-Blum brings experience and expertise in these and many other ways.

Her background ranges from program direction, among other roles, at Earn to Learn, to school and community engagement partner for 4H and the Santa Rita Experimental Range to technology roles with Community Share, Earn to Learn, and the International Arid Lands Consortium. Consistent threads through her work have been working with volunteers and promoting environmental education, particularly focused on youth.

A story she shared with the Search Committee illustrates her personal connection to Madera Canyon. During the pandemic, when she was responsible for home-schooling her daughters, she regularly used Madera Canyon as a classroom.

The Board and Wisneski-Blum have agreed that the bulk of her time in the first weeks of her tenure will be spent getting to know the people and the history of the Friends. She will be at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 24 at the Desert Hills Green Valley Recreation Center.

Dan White

A Message from Your New Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year and Season's Greetings! It is an honor to introduce myself as the newly appointed Executive Director of the Friends of Madera Canyon. With a lifelong passion for conservation and environmental education, I have seen firsthand how time spent in nature can transform us—it grounds us, provides clarity, and fosters a unique kind of peace. My professional and personal purpose has always been helping people forge that deep, meaningful connection with the natural world.

I am stepping into this role with a heart full of excitement and a deep respect for the legacy of this organization. I am eager to meet and work with the people who make this canyon thrive. Over the coming weeks, I look forward to talking with our members and volunteers and learning more about your unique connections to Madera Canyon. Whether it's a specific trail that holds a memory or a favorite bird species you look for every year, your stories are at the heart of our mission.

Everything we achieve is a testament to the dedication of our community. I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our volunteers. Our stewardship efforts rely entirely on your dedication; the tireless work you contribute to our projects in the canyon and outreach initiatives is both essential and deeply inspiring. You go above and beyond every single day, and the canyon is a better place because of your presence.

To our members, thank you for providing the vital support that keeps our organization healthy and strong. Your contributions are the foundation that allows our conservation projects and educational initiatives to flourish. It is your commitment that ensures we have the resources to protect this sanctuary for generations to come.

Guided by the FoMC Strategic Plan, I am working closely with our Board committees to ensure our vision for the canyon is realized with excellence. As we move forward, I am dedicated to sharing our milestones and future initiatives more broadly, ensuring our supporters are kept informed and inspired by the progress we make together. My hope is to highlight the extraordinary efforts of the Friends of Madera Canyon, ensuring that our local community and the broader group of canyon visitors see just how much we do to exceed our goals. I am thrilled to be on this journey with you.

See you in the Canyon,

Kristin Wisneski-Blum

Executive Director, Friends of Madera Canyon

2026 January



From the President

January 2026

The beginning of a new year invites reflection. The world at large has been anything but serene in 2025. Thankfully, the serenity of Madera Canyon endures, as it has for countless generations, through continuity and change.

In the reflections I share with you monthly, I have touched on four themes—Nature, Education, Stewardship, and Gratitude. There has been no grand design for themes: I write what I am moved to write whenever the time comes. Yet neither do I think that the emergence of these themes is accidental.

We are joined together collaborating on the mission of preserving, conserving, and restoring a special place in nature close to home. For me to reflect on nature with respect to humility, resilience, caretaking, and reconnecting would follow from that collaboration.

A major part of our collaboration involves educating and informing, shaping the future, supporting scholarship, inviting people of all ages to walk with us in the Canyon, sharing information face-to-face, in printed materials, at events, on the web, and improving how we reach those we want to educate. That effort invites us to reach out to people whom we might not have reached previously and to attend to the interests and curiosities of those who know the Friends well.

In March, I wrote about the many forms of stewardship in which you and I are engaged—time, talent, and treasure—and how our gathering of financial resources to support the organization's activities necessarily follows the beliefs we share about the organization's value.

And I have written thank you notes. As I wrote last January, after the holidays, Mom required us to write thank you notes to the people who had given us presents. There were the usuals—Nana and Poppa Braem, Nana and Poppa White, and Mom's cousins Lillian and Catherine. Adopted aunts, Lorene and Marie, and Uncle Gene, also adopted, probably gave me gifts some years ago; that memory is less distinct. What is clear is that I was one lucky kid.

I was well-trained, too. Not writing a thank-you note or expressing gratitude in person for a gift or kindness is unthinkable. In that spirit, I ask you to think of what follows as a thank-you note from that blessing of nature which binds us together in the Friends of Madera Canyon.

Thank you to those who are members of the Friends. Thank you to the donors who made unrestricted, restricted, and memorial donations, and those who supported Music in the Canyon, the Friends' only fundraising event, with their ticket purchase.

Thank you to the more than 100 volunteers working in various capacities in the Canyon for giving their time an irreplaceable resource. These volunteers include those who:

- welcome visitors at the Visitor Information Station and on trails as Ambassadors;
- clean the picnic areas after every weekend;
- "brush" trails or work to restore blown-out trails and areas on the forest floor laid bare by excessive human traffic;
- serve as docents and subject experts assisting Doug Moore when school groups and others visit;
- restock brochure supplies regularly;
- staff tables at various events in the area to share the story of the Canyon;
- collect car counts for the Forest Service;
- produce information for the benefit of the public, through the FOMC website, Canyon Chatter, NABUR, and stories in the newspaper;
- serve the Friends as members of the Board of Directors or committee chairs;
- perform any act of kindness toward any part of the Canyon or any visitor.

Thanks to the Santa Rita Lodge for selling our books and for being a cheerleader for the Friends' work among those who visit their Gift Shop.

Thank you to the funders who have granted the Friends the dollars to complete the many specific projects we did in 2025: Vulcan Materials, Country Fair White Elephant, the Greater Green Val-



ley Community Foundation, the Burton Family Foundation, Summit Hut, Pima Cares, and anonymous donors.

Finally, thank you to those of you, the number of whom is unknown to me, who have stated your intention to include bequests to the Friends of Madera Canyon in your estate planning. I think we all hope the gifting in this instance happens later rather than sooner. But those of us of a certain age accept that, one day, we will all depart from this earthly existence. What the bequests say to those who will remain is that we wanted others to have the opportunity to find the same joy and peace we have in Madera Canyon.

My list of people to thank is long, as you have seen. I still think that I am one lucky kid.

The collaborations I have noted above, serving the mission, educating, and being good stewards, are all our work together.

The Friends enter 2026 with purpose and momentum. We have made this happen together.

Thank you.

Daniel E. White

January 2026

Green Valley Gardeners Goings On

FOMC member Debbie Gilliam suggested to Greg Hill of the Green Valley Gardeners and me that our organizations might consider sharing information bits in our respective newsletter since there is a significant overlap of our membership. We both thought the idea worth trying.

The seminars GVG will host in the next six weeks are listed below:

January 8 Gardening As We Age GVR West

February 5 Fireflies GVR West

February 12 Growing Citrus in Green Valley GVR East (seating limited)

All seminars are from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Doors open at 9:00 am

Transitions

David Linn, Vice President of the Board and Chair of the Canyon Preservation and Maintenance Committee, is rotating off of the FoMC Board as the second of his two three-year terms expires. David will continue as the chair of the committee.

Bob Pitcher, Secretary of the Board and our keeper of the data about birds, is rotating off of the FoMC Board as the second of his two three-year terms expires. Bob will continue as our collector of bird data. He is also in the process of re-writing the history of Madera Canyon in preparation for the celebration of our 40th anniversary in 2027.

Hilary Hamlin, the Chair of the Marketing Committee, is stepping down from the Board but remaining as the chair of the committee. She has been instrumental in breathing life into a Board Committee that had not existed for some time and re-establishing FoMC presence at area events.

Joining the Board is Tom Bailey. Tom has worked on the Mount Wrightson Wilderness trail crew - the Backsiders - for the past four years. He also co-leads the Tread Team for the Preservation and Maintenance Committee. He developed the USFS Nogales District Hours and Miles reporting system that Friends currently uses and is assisting our organization transition to Google Workspace to help enhance continuity and collaboration in the digital space.

Tom developed a deep appreciation for the wilderness growing up in the foothills of the Cascades. When not in school or on Scouting adventures, he worked as a fire crew and trail leader for Washington State in North Bend. Tom and his wife Cat moved from NC to Sahuarita in 2019 after a career as an Army officer and then a DoD civilian supporting organizational development and knowledge/information systems.

Lynett Westergard has joined with Anita Woodward as a co-chair of the Visitor Information Station Committee. She and her son, Michael, staff the VIS together and Lynette has also been working with the Marketing Committee, the morning clean-up crew, and the trail maintenance group.

Thanks for David, Bob, and Hilary for their Board service and their willingness to “not go away,” to continue service to FOMC. And welcome to Tom and Lynett!

Dan White



Announcements

The Tucson Bird Alliance

The Tucson Bird Alliance will be offering talks again in Green Valley on the 2nd Tuesday at 11am for the next 5 months. This year the talks will be held at Canoa Hills Center in the Saguaro Room. Here are the topics:

Tuesday January 13 @11am with Jake Thompson "Birding Patagonia"

Tuesday February 10 @11am with Olya Weekley "Reducing Hazards to Birds"

Tuesday March 10 @11am with Stephen Vaughan "Exploring Arizona's Pygmy-Owls"

The Annual Meeting

The Friends of Madera Canyon are celebrating with an annual meeting on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at the Desert Hills GVR location. Doug Moore, Education Director and Canyon Naturalist, is giving a talk on "Madera Canyon: Past, Present, & Future". This is your chance to win a special prize at our drawing! This meeting is open to everyone, so please bring your friends and family. Coffee and doughnuts will be served during social time, which begins at 9AM. The meeting agenda follows.

Opening Remarks – Dan White

Introduction of Executive Director

Memory and Honor Wall - Rusty Lombardo

Introduction - US Forest Service Personnel

Treasurer's Report – Pat Holmes

Stories from the Canyon

The address is 2980 S Camino Del Sol, Green Valley, AZ 85622

See you soon at this fun event.

Save these Dates

Advanced call for Volunteers for March 13, March 14, and March 15.

We will be sending out a call for volunteers for 2 events in March.

Hawk Watch in Tubac on March 13

and the Tucson Festival of Books on March 14 & 15.



BIG TROGON NEWS!!

THERE'S BEEN A NAME CHANGE

Bob Pitcher and John C. Murphy

The species of trogon found in Madera Canyon is now to be called the Coppery-tailed Trogon rather than the Elegant Trogon, as before. This is only a change in the name; the birds are not affected, and weren't, far as we know, asked their opinion.

The dedicated Friends volunteers at the Canyon Visitor Information Station say that the most frequent questions they get from visitors here have to do with Trogons: Is this the right season to see a Trogon? Where in the Canyon do I go to see a Trogon? Does that involve a lot of walking? And so on.

Among birdwatchers, Madera Canyon, one of the prime birding spots in the Nation, is known most of all for its Trogons. The name change is bound to confuse, especially since many of the sources birders rely on won't reflect it right away. Don't be caught out: What was the Elegant Trogon a bit ago is now to be called the Coppery-tailed Trogon. There's a new Latin name for it too: Where it had been the *Trogon elegans*, its now, perhaps fittingly, the *Trogon ambiguus*. While it's true that the Eared Quetzal -- also a Trogon, despite its name -- has been seen in the Canyon a handful of times or less, for any practical purpose, this is still the only Trogon to be found in Madera Canyon.

Why the change? It is often difficult to determine if birds -- or some other animals and plants -- are so closely related that they should be considered the same species. The taxonomists who decide these things famously fall into two groups -- the lumpers, who tend to aggregate doubtful types into a single species, and the splitters, who tend to see two species where a lumper may see only one. These days, partly because species status can better be determined through DNA evidence, the splitters seem fully in charge.

Ironically, decades ago, the *Trogon* here in the Canyon was also called the Coppery-tailed. Then it was found that the name of a very similar Central American Trogon, the Elegant, was prior and should apply to both types, which were at that time considered one species. (The lumpers were then in power.) Now, however, the tide has turned; differences in range, the calls of the two types, and the way the tail of the birds is barred -- and possibly some DNA analysis -- indicate two different species. So the Elegant Trogon is now only the Central American species, and the Trogon that appears in Arizona (and in appropriate habitat throughout much of Mexico) is again the Coppery-tailed Trogon. The technical notes below indicate that the Coppery-tailed Trogons seen in Arizona are a subspecies that should now be called, in full, *Trogon ambiguus canescens* Van Rossem. The following notes are adapted from the two cited articles by Mlodinov, et al. (2025a and 2025b).

Trogon ambiguus ambiguus Gould

Trogon ambiguus [Gould, 1835, Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London](#) 1835:30. Type locality—northern Mexico. (36).

Gould's original description was based on more than one specimen, but there is no indication as to precisely how many were involved or their provenance. To date, no types of this name have been identified in either the Natural History Museum, Tring, or the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University, Philadelphia. Meyer de Schauensee, both of which received type material belonging to Gould during his lifetime or posthumously. Van Rossem speculated that a specimen from Damiano Flores d'Areais (also known as Damiano Flores) taken at Bolaños, in Jalisco, might have been involved, but it bears mention that van Rossem seemed to be working under the erroneous belief that Gould had only a single specimen



Distribution. Resident in Mexico from Tamaulipas west to Nayarit and south to Oaxaca; rare north to southern Texas (USA).

Trogon ambiguus canescens van Rossem

Trogon elegans canescens [van Rossem, 1934, Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology](#) 77:441. Type Locality —San Javier, Sonora, Mexico.

The holotype, an adult female collected on 9 April 1929 by J. T. Wright, is held in the Donald R. Dickey Bird and Mammal Collection, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA 28145).

Distribution. Oak-pine woodlands of southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico south to northern Sinaloa, Mexico; those breeding in Arizona and New Mexico are largely migratory, whereas those to the south are residential.

Trogon ambiguus goldmani Nelson, 1898

Trogon ambiguus goldmani [Nelson, 1898, Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington](#) 12:8. Type locality —María Madre Island, Mexico.

The holotype, an adult male collected by [Edward William Nelson \(1855–1934\)](#) and [Edward Alphonso Goldman \(1873–1946\)](#) on 10 May 1897, is held in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC (USNM 156752).

Distribution. Type Locality. Tres Mariás Islands (off western Mexico).

Trogon elegans Gould

Trogon elegans [Gould, 1834, Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London](#) 1834:26.—“Guatemala in Mexico” [= Guatemala].

Gould’s original description was unambiguously based on more than one specimen, as he described both male and female plumages, and mentioned some variation within males, indicating that he must have had at least three specimens (two males and one female) at the time. To date, no types of this name have been identified in either the Natural History Museum, Tring, or the Academy of Natural Sciences at Drexel University, Philadelphia, both of which received type material belonging to Gould during his lifetime or posthumously.

Distribution. Guatemala (Motagua Valley), extending into El Salvador and southwestern and central Honduras.

Trogon elegans lubricus Peters

Trogon elegans lubricus [Peters, 1945, Check-list of Birds of the World, Volume 5](#), p. 154.

A nomen novum for *Trogon elegans australis* Griscom, 1930, *Proceedings of the New England Zoölogical Club* 12:3.—Bagaces, northwestern Costa Rica, due to the latter being a junior homonym of *Curucujus massena australis* Chapman, 1915.

Because Peters’ name was merely a replacement for that originally introduced by Griscom, the holotype of the latter name is also the type of Peters’, namely an adult female collected on 14 November 1895 by Cecil Frank Underwood (1867–1943), and held in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, MA (MCZ 116576), although either Bangs or Peters does not mention the specimen.

Distribution. A Central American subspecies. It ranges from Honduras to Costa Rica.



The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN)

Every animal has a distinct and well-recognized scientific name, as provided for by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) and its regulations, which establish a standardized system of zoological nomenclature.

The Commission's responsibility is to maintain international standards for animal nomenclature. Only when taxonomic difficulties have nomenclatural ramifications does the Commission address them.

In 1895, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) was founded. Its responsibility is to develop, publish, and update the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature regularly. In certain instances of nomenclatural ambiguity, the Commission also deliberates and renders decisions. The Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature publishes these decisions under the heading "Opinions."

There are now 27 members of the Commission from 16 different nations. The Commission's operations are supported by a modest Secretariat housed at Singapore's Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum.

The Commission functions primarily in two ways: It publishes the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, which contains the generally recognized guidelines for applying scientific names to all organisms classified as animals.

To attain stability and globally acceptable answers, the ICZN renders decisions on specific nomenclatural issues brought to its attention. The Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature (BNZ) publishes these decisions under the heading "Opinions."

Several million species of animals are recognized, and more than 2,000 new genera and 15,000 new species names are added to the zoological literature every year. The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature provides the standard framework by which these animals are named.

Thus, if there were a problem with this name change (we are not saying there is), it would be handled by the ICZN.

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Photo credits for page 10. *Trogon ambiguus ambiguus* photo by Roberto González and iNaturalist; *Trogon ambiguus canescens* photo by Carissa and iNaturalist; *Trogon ambiguus goldmani* photo by Anasaamano and iNaturalist; *Trogon elegans lubricus* photo by La Gabio and iNaturalist; *Trogon elegans elegans* no photo.

Mexican Wolves Make a Comeback But It May Not Last

The excerpt below is from **Reese A. 2025. Mexican wolves are rebounding, but are they ready for delisting? *High Country News*, December 18, 2025.**

For Mexican wolves, 2025 has been an event-filled year. The threatened gray wolf subspecies that was returned to the Southwest in 1998, seemed to be on the verge of recovery: About 286 wolves wander Arizona and New Mexico, according to the most recent census, which was published in March. This represents a nine-year increasing trend. Rep. Paul Gosar, a Republican from Arizona, responded by introducing a measure in July to take them off the list of federally endangered animals.

Gosar stated at a subcommittee hearing this fall that too many sheep and cattle, “even family pets,” were being lost to wolf predation and that federal protection is no longer required. (Mexican wolf attacks on pets are uncommon but do happen; data from the federal recovery program show that one dog was killed in 2023 and another was injured in 2024.)

However, some tribe representatives and wolf lovers argue that it would be premature to delist the creatures. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has established a threshold of 320 wolves averaged over eight years for delisting, and the wild population has yet to meet this number as well as other government standards.

According to Bryan Bird, director of Defenders of Wildlife in the Southwest, eliminating federal protection might undo decades of advancements. Arizona lacks state-level safeguards for wolves, unlike New Mexico, which has designated them as endangered.

Why do wolves not fare well in the presence of humans, while coyotes do? JCM

Wolves and coyotes last shared a common ancestor between 50,000 and 100,000 years ago; in geological time, this was very recently. Despite their recent ancestry, they have distinct dietary and reproductive habits shaped by their ecological roles and human pressures. Wolves are apex predators and typically hunt in packs, allowing them to bring down large prey such as elk, deer, and the occasional moose. Their reliance on large prey in areas shared with human populations often puts wolves into direct competition with humans for resources. This competition is heightened by the fact that wolves may also prey on livestock—sometimes a single wolf can represent the loss of a year’s income for rural farmers, leading to economically driven predator eradication efforts. Additionally, wolves are perceived as “thieves” of ungulates (elk, deer, moose) that humans wish to harvest for themselves, intensifying conflict.

Coyotes, by contrast, are highly adaptable omnivores. Their diet is much more varied and opportunistic, ranging from small mammals like rabbits and rodents to birds, fruits, insects, and even human refuse. Un-

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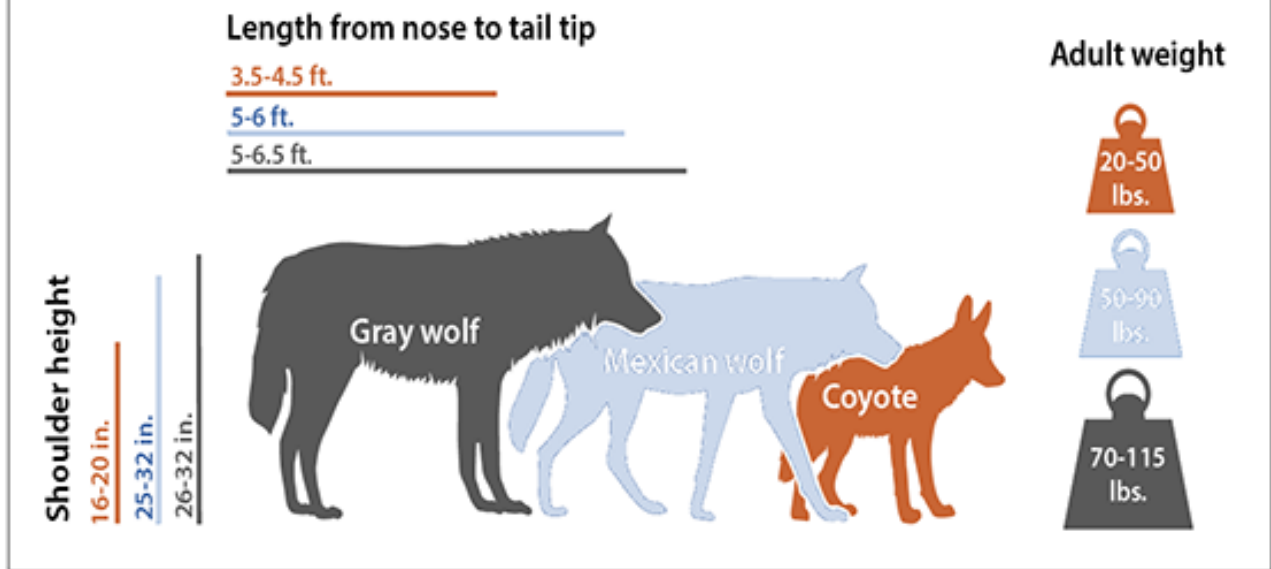
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SIZE COMPARISON OF WOLVES AND COYOTES



A comparison of size and weight in coyotes, and wolves. The facts illustrated in the image (body size and weight) are major influencing factors in their diet, reproduction, and relationship with humans. From US Fish and Wildlife.

like wolves, coyotes can thrive in both wild and urban landscapes, and their flexibility in food sources allows them to avoid direct competition with humans for large game. This dietary versatility enables coyotes to persist and expand their range, even in the face of human persecution and changing environments.

In summary, wolves' dependence on large prey and livestock brings them into frequent conflict with humans, as documented above. At the same time, coyotes' generalist diet allows them to exploit a broader ecological niche and often remain resilient in the presence of human populations.

A comparison of coyote and wolf reproduction also shows differences in the two species' reproductive strategies, which play a critical role in their ability to coexist with humans. Wolves typically form stable packs with a single breeding pair—the alpha male and alpha female. This pair produces one litter per year, usually consisting of 4-7 pups, and the entire pack helps care for the young. Because of this social structure, wolf populations grow slowly and are more vulnerable to disruptions caused by human persecution or habitat loss; if the breeding pair is lost, the pack may dissolve, and reproduction halts until a new pair forms.

Coyotes, on the other hand, have a far more flexible and resilient reproductive system. Coyote pairs are typically monogamous for the season and may produce a litter of 3-12 pups annually. In response to increased mortality, often due to human hunting or control measures, coyotes can increase their litter sizes and breed at younger ages. Dispersed individuals readily form new pairs and establish territories, allowing coyote populations to rebound and even expand quickly following eradication attempts. This reproductive adaptability is one of the main reasons why coyotes thrive in human-dominated landscapes, while wolf populations struggle to recover.





A comparison of head shapes between a Coyote (JCM) and a Mexican Wolf (USFW).

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Tom Wilstead Memorial Bike Round-Up

Have you...




STOPPED Riding?
Bought a NEW bike?



If you have a USED BIKE, give it a new home!

Donated Bikes Go To:

 BICAS - Tucson - <https://bicas.org>

 Continental School Mountain Bike Club

 OS3 Movement - Nogales - <https://www.os3movement.org/contact>

Round-Up Dates: January 31-February 1, 2026
9:00am - 2:00pm

Drop Off Location: La Posada Community Center
(Main Entrance, then First Left - There Will Be Signs)

Can't Drop It Off That Day -or- Questions??

Call: 269-569-5323 -or- Email: gvrccycling@gmail.com

-or- Use the QR code:



**Accepting bikes, bike parts and accessories*

Sponsored by:

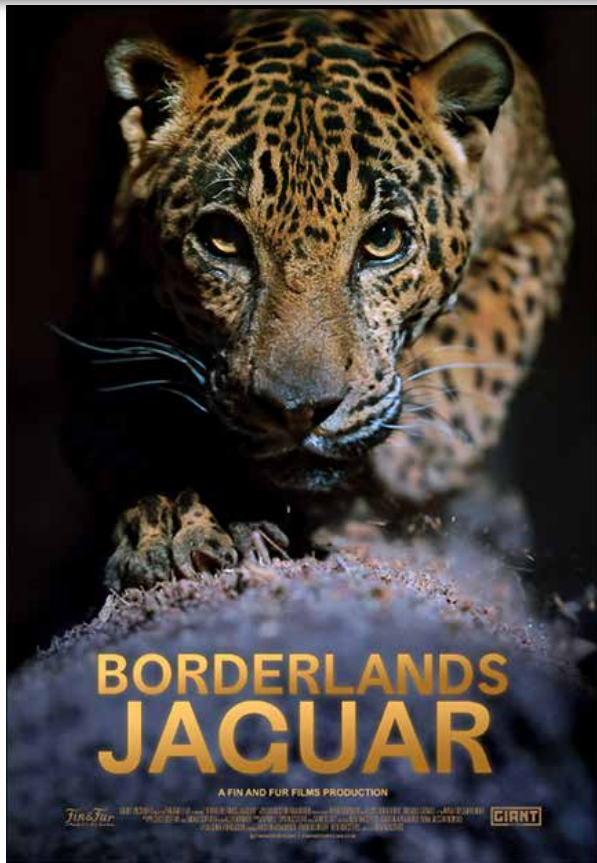


Each Bike Donor Receives a Certificate for a Free Coffee from





The Last Page



Borderlands Jaguar is a new 2026 documentary by Ben Masters and Austin Alvarado about the elusive jaguar's fight for survival and return to the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, highlighting the threat of border walls and the need for binational conservation, following jaguars like the matriarch Libélula and seeking help from conservationists. It's a follow-up to their film *The American Southwest* and aims to inspire efforts to protect these endangered big cats and their shared ecosystem. **The film will be shown at the Loft Cinema in Tucson on January 16th at 6:30 PM and it will be available for streaming on several platforms.**

To the right. Marissa Orr, a Tucson journalist a TUCSON (KVOA) reported a rare spotted wild cat in Southern Arizona was captured on camera recently in the Santa Rita Mountain region. The story was online on December 31, 2025. According to the University of Arizona Wild Cat Research and Conservation Center, an ocelot was spotted in the Santa Rita Mountains, and it's the second time in recorded history that an ocelot was documented within the area. The Wild Cat Center last detected an ocelot in the Santa Rita Mountain region in 2013-2014.



Send comments, articles, & announcements to:
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