To: Miller, Clay[Miller.Clay@epa.gov]
From: Peck, Gregory
Sent: Mon 8/1/2016 5:23:22 PM
Subject: RE: WATER POLLUTION: Army Corps officials recommend rejecting Ariz. copper mine

Thanks Clay

Gregory E. Peck

Chief of Staff

Office of Water

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue

Washington, D.C. 20460

202-564-5700

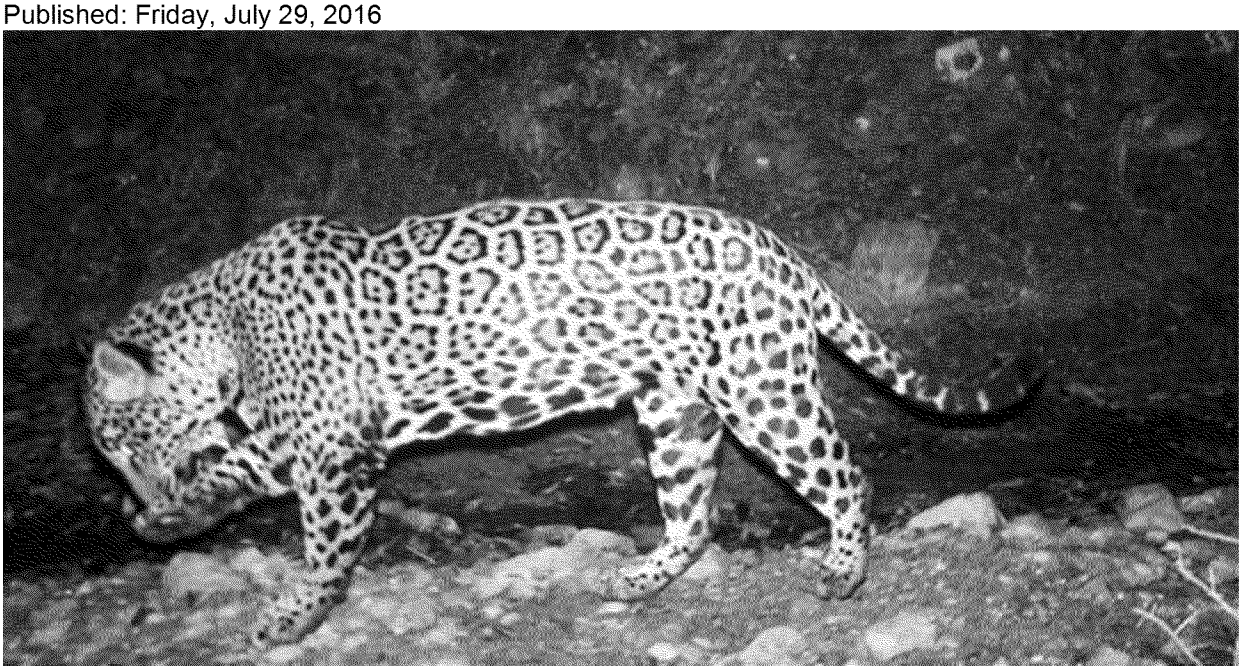
From: Miller, Clay
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 12:48 PM
To: Kaiser, Russell <Kaiser.Russell@epa.gov>; Goodin, John <Goodin.John@epa.gov>; Eisenberg, Mindy <Eisenberg.Mindy@epa.gov>; Peck, Gregory <Peck.Gregory@epa.gov>; Landers, Timothy <Landers.Timothy@epa.gov>; Evans, David <Evans.David@epa.gov>; Best-Wong, Benita <Best-Wong.Benita@epa.gov>; Campbell, Ann <Campbell.Ann@epa.gov>; Neugeboren, Steven <Neugeboren.Steven@epa.gov>; Leff, Karin <Leff.Karin@epa.gov>
Cc: Hunter, Christopher <Hunter.Christopher@epa.gov>; Moulta-Ali, Abu <Moulta-Ali.Abu@epa.gov>; Christensen, Damaris <Christensen.Damaris@epa.gov>; Downing, Donna <Downing.Donna@epa.gov>; Fertik, Rachel <Fertik.Rachel@epa.gov>; Hough, Palmer <Hough.Palmer@epa.gov>; Kwok, Rose <Kwok.Rose@epa.gov>; Morgan, Joseph <Morgan.Joseph@epa.gov>; Topping, Brian <Topping.Brian@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: WATER POLLUTION: Army Corps officials recommend rejecting Ariz. copper mine

From: Goldmann, Elizabeth
Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 12:38 PM
To: Landers, Timothy <Landers.Timothy@epa.gov>; Miller, Clay <Miller.Clay@epa.gov>; Brush, Jason <Brush.Jason@epa.gov>; Torres, Tomas <Torres.Tomas@epa.gov>; Woo, Nancy <Woo.Nancy@epa.gov>; Leidy, Robert <Leidy.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: WATER POLLUTION: Army Corps officials recommend rejecting Ariz. copper mine

WATER POLLUTION: Army Corps officials recommend rejecting Ariz. copper mine

Dylan Brown, E&E reporter

Published: Friday, July 29, 2016



El Jefe the jaguar. Photo by the Fish and Wildlife Service, courtesy of Wikipedia.

Regional Army Corps of Engineers officials this week recommended their agency not issue permits for a controversial Arizona copper mine overlapping the territory roamed by America's only known jaguar.

The Army Corps' Los Angeles District, which oversees Arizona, sent a recommendation to South Pacific Division headquarters in San Francisco about dredge-and-fill operations at the proposed Rosemont mine near Tucson, Ariz.

Army Corps procedure dictates that recommendations be sent up the chain of command if they advise rejecting permit applications.

While the Army Corps does not discuss or release such internal deliberations, districts typically send

recommendations approving Clean Water Act Section 404 permits directly to U.S. EPA. That agency has a controversial veto authority and has already expressed strong concerns about the project's impact on waterways (*Greenwire*, May 6, 2015).

The South Pacific Division has not yet made a final decision, which is expected in the coming months.

Environmentalists have long protested the 5,431-acre mine proposal in the Coronado National Forest -- home to El Jefe the jaguar.

The Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity threatened to sue the Forest Service last month after the agency ruled "reasonable and prudent" mitigation for the project could protect endangered species including the jaguar (*Greenwire*, June 30).

"The corps has apparently concluded what we've known all along -- that the Rosemont mine is simply not in the public interest," said Randy Serraglio of the Center for Biological Diversity.

He added: "In this age of climate change and decades of ongoing drought, the threats to our water, in particular, are too egregious to allow this mine to proceed."

Hudbay Minerals Inc., however, said "a more senior-level review" was always a possibility for the project.

Despite hard times financially amid the commodity downturn, the Toronto-based company remains committed to the project.

"It is in no way a final decision," the company said in statement. "Hudbay Arizona will continue to work with the agency to satisfy its requirements to grant the permit."