

A presentation to the IBWC Citizens Forum

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Environmental Impacts of the Border Wall

Types of Impacts

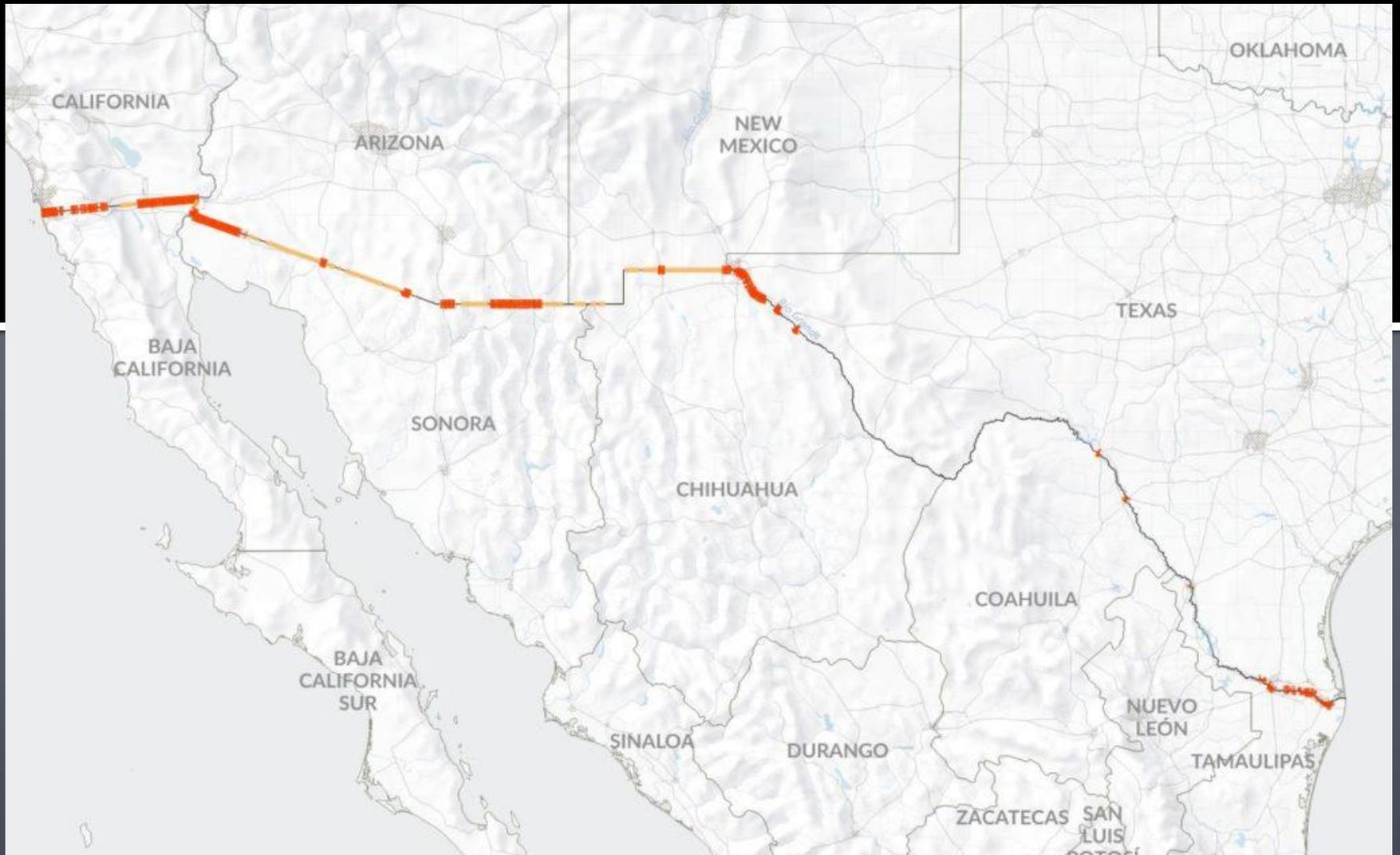
- Impacts to wildlife:
 - Disturbance
 - Habitat Loss and fragmentation
 - Blockage of movement
 - Recipe for extinction
- Drying of springs, wetlands and aquifers
- Increased flooding and erosion

The Border Wall Before Trump

~354 miles of “pedestrian fencing” ~300 miles of vehicle barriers







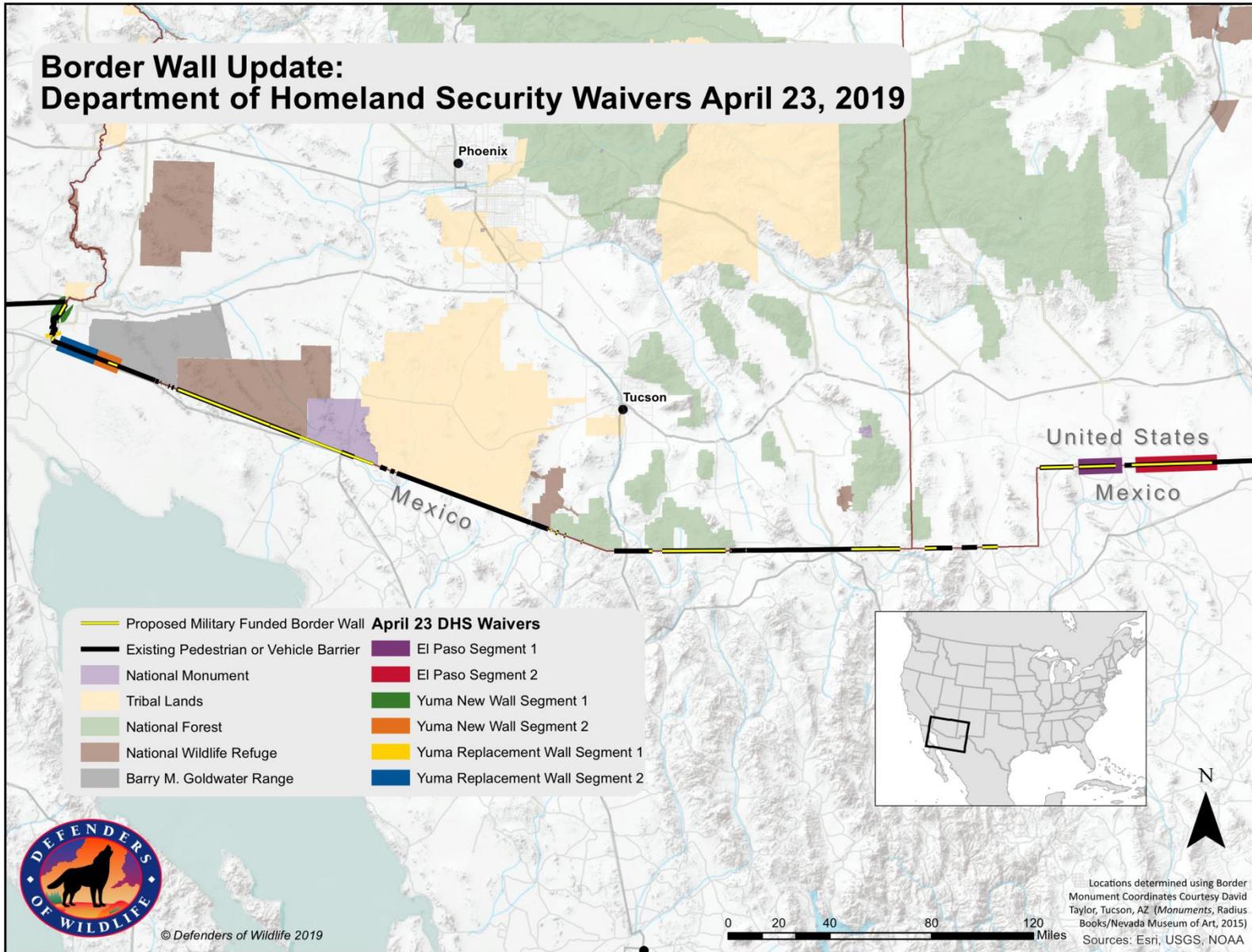
Credit: Reveal research, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, OpenStreetMap, Allison McCartney

Border Wall Contracts Awarded under Trump Administration

- 13 contracts (new 18'-30' fencing)
- \$4.4 billion
- 344 miles



Border Wall Update: Department of Homeland Security Waivers April 23, 2019



- | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Proposed Military Funded Border Wall | April 23 DHS Waivers |
| Existing Pedestrian or Vehicle Barrier | El Paso Segment 1 |
| National Monument | El Paso Segment 2 |
| Tribal Lands | Yuma New Wall Segment 1 |
| National Forest | Yuma New Wall Segment 2 |
| National Wildlife Refuge | Yuma Replacement Wall Segment 1 |
| Barry M. Goldwater Range | Yuma Replacement Wall Segment 2 |



© Defenders of Wildlife 2019

Locations determined using Border Monument Coordinates Courtesy David Taylor, Tucson, AZ (*Monuments, Radius Books/Nevada Museum of Art, 2015*)
Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA





Impacts to wildlife: disturbance and habitat loss











REFUGIO NACIONAL
DE FAUNA
SILVESTRE



SE PROHIBE LA ENTRADA
SIN AUTORIZACION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL WILDLIFE SERVICE

Impacts to wildlife: movement blocked

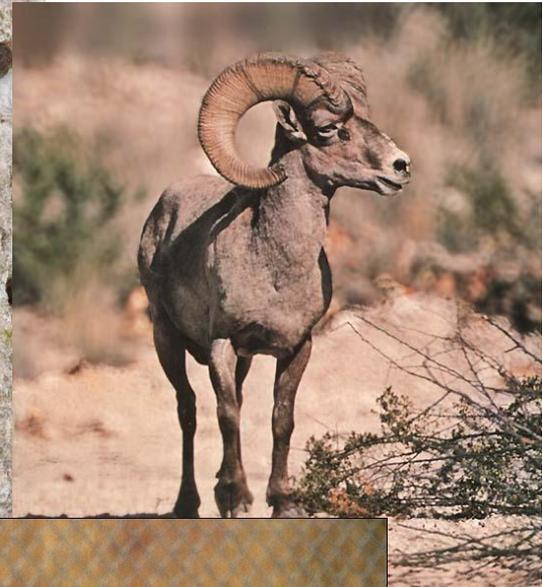


Overall Ranking of States for Biodiversity

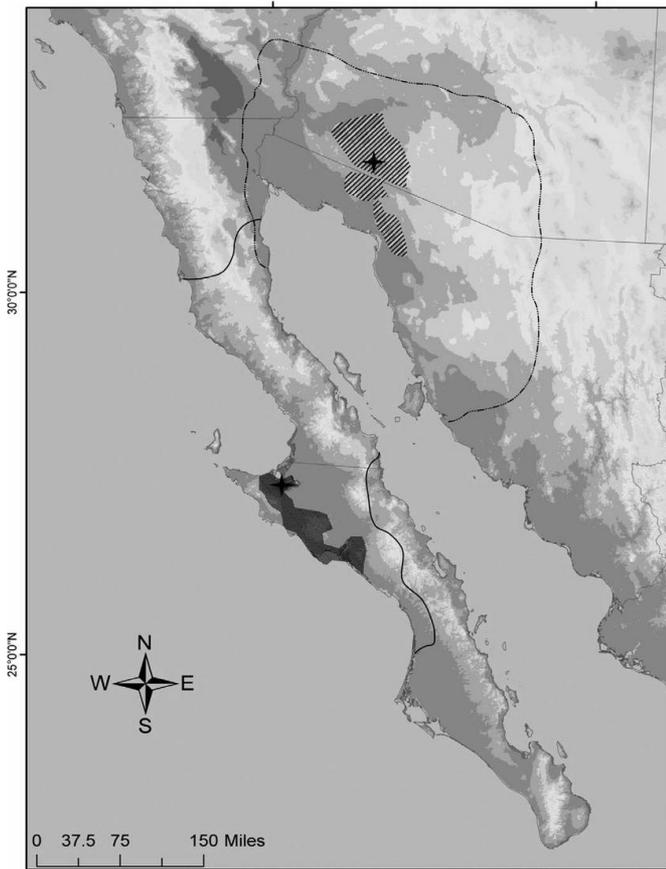
Rank	State
1	California
2	Texas
3	Arizona
4	New Mexico

Source: NatureServe, 2002. States of the Union: Ranking America's Biodiversity

Affected species



Sonoran Pronghorn



- Highly endangered:
 - 160 animals in U.S.
 - 240 animals in Mexico
- Border wall will:
 - divide population
 - prevent access to water sources

Mexican gray wolf



- Highly endangered:
 - ~131 wolves in U.S.
 - ~30 wolves in Mexico
 - Inbred due to low founding numbers
- Border Wall will:
 - Prevent interbreeding and gene flow

MALE MEXICAN WOLF'S JOURNEY ACROSS BORDER, 2017

- Pedestrian
- Vehicle
- Santa Teresa Wall

Spends day at Organ Mtns.-Desert Peaks Natl. Mon.

Puerto

Crosses into U.S. from Chihuahua about 150 miles south on Jan. 21



Santa Teresa Border Wall (under construction)

Crosses back to Mexico at Ciudad Juárez through gap in fence on Jan. 24

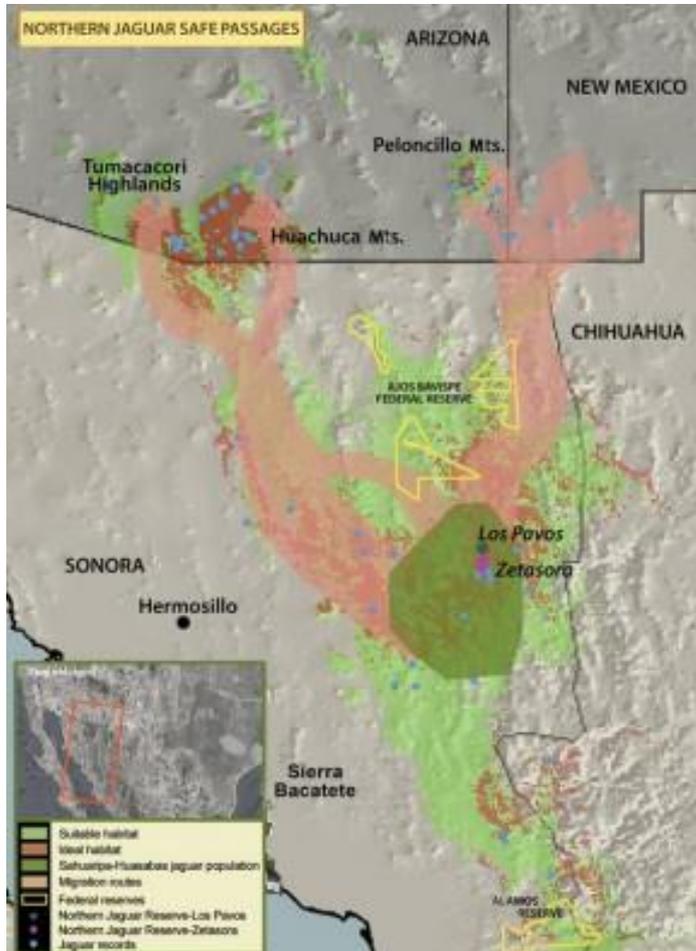
Returns to mountains of Chihuahua after journey of nearly 600 miles



Wanders into Las Cruces on Jan. 23

Source: Mexican Wolf Binational Recovery Team

Jaguars





Levee Walls: Death Traps for Wildlife



Springs and wetlands

- Water wells drilled to make concrete footings, dust control
- ~0.5 million gallons/mile
- ~50 million gallons in AZ



Quitobaquito Springs—a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, AZ



San Pedro River National Conservation Area, AZ



San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge, AZ



Animas Valley, NM



Big Bend National Park, TX



Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, TX



Increased Flooding and Erosion







Nogales 2008

- 2 deaths
- \$8 million in damage





Laws Waived by the Department of Homeland Security to Build the Border Wall

"Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall have the authority to waive all legal requirements such Secretary, in such Secretary's sole discretion, determines necessary to ensure expeditious construction of the barriers and roads under this section."

--REAL ID Act of 2005

The **National Environmental Policy Act** (Pub. L. 91-190, 83 Stat. 852 (Jan. 1, 1970) (42 D.S.C. 4321 et seq.)), the **Endangered Species Act** (Pub. L. 92-205, 87 Stat. 884 (Dec. 28, 1973) (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly referred to as the **Clean Water Act**) (33 D.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the National Historic Preservation Act (Pub. L. 89-665, 80 Stat. 915 (Oct. 15, 1966) (16 D.S.C. 470 et seq.)), the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 D.S.C. 703 et seq.), the Clean Air Act (42 D.S.C. 7401 et seq.), the Archeological Resources Protection Act (Pub. L. 96-95, 16 D.S.C. 470aa et seq.), the **Safe Drinking Water Act** (42 D.S.C. 300f et seq.), the Noise Control Act (42 D.S.C. 4901 et seq.), the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 D.S.C. 6901 et seq.), the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 D.S.C. 9601 et seq.), the **Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act** (Pub. L. 86-523, 16 D.S.C. 469 et seq.), the **Antiquities Act** (16 D.S.C. 431 et seq.), the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act (16 D.S.C. 461 et seq.), the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Pub. L. 90-542, 16 D.S.C. 1281 et seq.), the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 D.S.C. 4201 et seq.), the Coastal Zone Management Act (Pub. L. 92-583, 16 D.S.C. § 1451 et seq.), the **Wilderness Act** (Pub. L. 88-577, 16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Pub. L. 94-579, 43 D.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (Pub. L. 89-669, 16 D.S.C. 668dd-668ee), the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (Pub. L. 84-1024, 16 U.S.C. 742a, et seq.), the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (Pub. L. 73-121, 16 D.S.C. 661 et seq.), the Administrative Procedure Act (5 D.S.C. 551 et seq.), the Otay Mountain Wilderness Act of 1999 (Pub. L. 106-145), Sections 102(29) and 103 of Title I of the California Desert Protection Act (Pub. L. 103-433), 50 Stat. 1827, the National Park Service Organic Act (Pub. L. 64-235, 16 D.S.C. 1,2-4), the National Park Service General Authorities Act (Pub. L. 91-383, 16 D.S.C. 1a-1 et seq.), Sections 401(7), 403, and 404 of the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-625), Sections 301(a)-(f) of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act (Pub. L. 101-628), the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 D.S.C. 403), the Eagle Protection Act (16 D.S.C. 668 et seq.), the **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act** (25 D.S.C. 3001 et seq.), the **American Indian Religious Freedom Act** (42 D.S.C. 1996), the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (42 D.S.C. 2000bb), the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 D.S.C. 1600 et seq.), and the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960 (16 D.S.C. 528-531), and the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977 (31 V.S.C. 6303-05).

Waiver Authority

- Used 5 times by Bush
- To date, used 15 times by Trump—51 federal laws waived

Questions?

