



Ocelot © Saad3



Nelson and Goldman's Woodrat © M. Ángel FNC

Connect Wild Lands for Wild Cats in Mexico

A wild stretch of coastal mountains in western Mexico hosts an astonishing variety of natural features, elevations, soil types and climates and thousands of species of plants, migratory birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals including bats, a rare rat and five species of wild cat. The Sierra de Cacoma region in the state of Jalisco is an extraordinary example of this environment.

Despite its vast biodiversity, Sierra de Cacoma has remained a forgotten part of Mexico due to its remote and rugged terrain and lack of economic opportunities. This isolation has opened the door to illegal deforestation for plantations. Fire as a means to clear land for agriculture and cattle ranching has been a key component of habitat loss, and dams, roads and development bring additional destruction of this mountainous landscape.

Rainforest Trust and our local partner, Pronatura Mexico, seek \$778,274 to achieve protection of an estimated 133,013 acres of coniferous tropical forest in this Pacific mountain range. The goal is for these water-rich forests to be designated by the government as a Hydrological Protection Area, because they form the headwaters of four important watersheds that provide critical water supplies to communities in the region.

SECURE A BIOLOGICAL CORRIDOR FOR WIDE-RANGING SPECIES

Five out of the six wild cats still roaming Mexico are present in the region: Jaguarundi, Ocelot, Puma, Bobcat and Jaguar. Two of the largest cats in the western hemisphere, the Jaguar and the Puma, require large territories that can measure upwards of 50 square miles. Jaguarundi, Ocelot and Bobcat are considered medium-sized cats, though they still require approximately 30 sq.mi. of territory.

The proposed Sierra de Cacoma State Reserve fills a significant gap in a large biological corridor of over 6.1 million acres that includes three important national protected areas stretching north to south. The area is part of the Mexican Wolf's historic territory before it suffered widespread extermination by humans, and preserving it will secure the possibility of the wolf's return.

Extensive biological surveys conducted in the mountainous region have documented at least 10 forest types, 775 species of flora, 88 species of mammals, 298 birds species (18% of which are migratory), 90 species of reptiles and 27 species of amphibians. This project will support ongoing surveys within the proposed reserve area.



133,013
ACRES

\$778,274
PROJECT COST

\$5.85
COST PER ACRE

12,432,622 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Nelson and Goldman's
Woodrat (EN)



STOP TREE-FELLING IN THE SIERRA DE CACOMA MOUNTAINS FOR ILLEGAL PLANTATIONS

Much of the land in Sierra de Cacoma is farmed as *ejidos*—areas of communal land historically used for communal agriculture—or is individually owned by small private landowners. Our partner will ensure that both ejido leaders and municipal authorities are consulted and engaged as the project moves forward. An improved governance structure will support conservation, land use and fire management while providing improved quality of life for a historically marginalized community.



Landscape of the project site © Pronatura

