

## **Call for Action to Protect Wild Jaguars and other Central American Wildlife**

Jaguar SAFE has accepted a challenge to meet an immediate and measurable conservation need in the field: taking a stake in successfully managing Belize's Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary – **still the world's only reserve specifically established to conserve jaguar habitat.**

The Sanctuary has not had wardens at its southern Juan Branch Gate for several years. However, when previously posted there, wardens who came from the local community were quite effective in reducing poaching and other illicit activity.

The Belize Audubon Society Manages Cockscomb; and they ask our support to reestablish these important positions for the Sanctuary. Before committing to hiring two wardens, at a total cost of US\$25,000 per year, they request that we are fully funded for two years. This makes sense because it offers some job security to the candidates. The good news is that since May, 2017, the Jaguar SSP has already passed 60 percent of that goal among its member institutions.

Belize Audubon Society proposes, in addition, that the wardens will be best equipped with a base of operations at the Sanctuary gate. A building exists but needs \$10,000 in repairs after sitting idle in the forest for five years.

If your institution has an emphasis on Neotropical, or general American, conservation this is a prime opportunity to have a large impact for a small investment. We have asked Jaguar SSP institutions to make an annual \$500 pledge. Half of them have already responded positively – some with contributions much larger than that. We even have four institutions on board that do not house jaguars!

And, that's why we are bringing the project to your attention here: We discovered that there are many zoos and aquariums who see this as a chance to protect a shot of Belizean species in addition to jaguars. Just among the cats we know that pumas, margays, ocelots and jaguarundis live in Cockscomb.

For Quarters for Conservation institutions – or even if you don't do Q4C – adding the Cockscomb wardens to your menu of choices is an easy win.

Won't you please consider joining us? You – and the jaguars, ocelots, pumas, jaguarundis, margays, macaws, curassows, tinamous, tree frogs, howler monkeys, boas, bushmasters and butterflies - will be glad you did!

For more background information, please contact Stacey Johnson, Jaguar SSP/SAFE Coordinator at [otorongo416@yahoo.com](mailto:otorongo416@yahoo.com), or 442 230 6064.