

TrekWest's Davis to complete 400-mile Mexico Leg at Arizona border on February 28

Supporters to greet hiker at security wall with huge jaguar banner

NACO, AZ — If John Davis thought that the dignitary-like reception he received from wildlife corridor enthusiasts in Sonora and Chihuahua was thrilling, he'll be equally pleased when he reaches the U.S.-Mexico border at Naco, Arizona on February 28. His crossing at one of the U.S.'s most heavily walled-off and obstructed wildlife pathways will feature many partners from both countries carrying a 200-foot-long social and environmental art project featuring the jaguar, followed with a traditional blessing ceremony by Yaqui tribal members.

"I'm hoping the fact that I can't just hike from one country to the other without running into a 16-foot-high steel barricade will highlight the plight of animals trying to follow their traditional pathways across the border," said Davis. "I know the wall is there for a reason, but when you try to keep people out with solid barriers, you also cut off wildlife movement."

Davis has seen plenty of unnecessary wildlife barriers during his month-long, 400-mile hike/bike/horseback expedition through some of northern Mexico's wildest landscape. This is terrain that his partners in the Western Wildway Network, including [Naturalia](#), [Northern Jaguar Project](#), [Tutuaca Mountain School](#) and [Cuenca los Ojos](#), are aiming to protect and connect with U.S. lands as part of a 5,000-mile wildlife corridor linking Mexico's Sierra Madre with Canada's Crown of the Continent. Davis plans to continuously hike, bike and paddle the remainder of that stretch over the next nine months.

While Davis has seen only tracks and scat of jaguar, wolves, ocelot, cougar and bear — the animals most likely to use such a vast "wildway" for cross-border migration and hunting — a super landscape barricade presents strong evidence that puts wildlife movement problems in clear focus. "We should be able to accommodate the needs of wildlife and national security at the same time," the trekker says.

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Davis will be available for media interviews during his border crossing activities, and will also be available for media interviews and as the featured speaker at a Tucson TrekWest celebration March 2 at Tucson’s “Historic Y” from 4-6 p.m. sponsored by Wildlands Network and local southern Arizona partners Defenders of Wildlife and Sky Island Alliance. See trekwest.org for detailed information on all Davis’ Mexico adventures, his colorful regular blogs, posts and tweets, trail route maps and a [“Say Yes to Wildlife Corridors”](#) petition to be delivered to U.S. decision-makers at the end of the trek by sponsor Wildlands Network. To schedule an interview, contact Kim Vacariu at 520-558-0165 (office); 520-390-3969 (cell) or <kim@wildlandsnetwork.org>

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