

Find the “Cat Hole”



Photo: U.S. Border Patrol

One of the many environmental problems caused by the border wall is the blockage of migratory corridors for a variety of wildlife. This photo shows a mountain lion stranded along the newly-constructed Sasabe border wall near southern Arizona’s Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

In a weak attempt to address this type of problem regarding the wall near El Calaboz, Texas, the Department of Homeland Security has constructed wildlife portals, or “cat holes,” that are supposed to provide access for animals, but not humans.



What do these “cat holes” look like? The photo to the right shows a newly constructed border wall segment near the Lower Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge. Can you find the “cat hole?” Look closer...



There it is!



This tiny 8” X 11” slit will barely accommodate a small ocelot, *if* it is lucky enough to find one of the widely-spaced holes. Many small animals avoid open spaces, such as the 60-foot swathes cleared along the border walls. Hot summer temperatures could heat the steel wall bollards, burning any animal that might brush up against it. A letter-sized hole in a wall is no substitute for serious mitigation and restoration efforts.