



Laguna Clay Company
Endangered and Threatened
Species Tile Series
2014
"Ocelot"

Laguna Clay Company presents this tile and poem as a token of thanks to the people who have made doing business in 2014 a success and a pleasure.

Our 2014 Ocelot tile is an exemplary interpretation of leopardus pardalis' nocturnal stealth. The tile was produced at Tile Guild and conceived by artist/craftsman Dennis Caffrey. Tile Guild is a small artisan factory in Los Angeles, California which has been in operation for 30 years. They offer historically accurate reproduction tile, one of a kind murals, fountains and architectural detail. We hope this Ocelot "sneaks up" on your wall to become one of your new favorites.

Naturalist and writer Ernest Thompson Seton (August 14, 1860 – October 23, 1946) described the Ocelots' coat as "(the) most wonderful tangle of [blackish] stripes, bars, chains, spots, dots, and smudges," and added a "trapper, frontiersman, or saddle-dandy of the sunny Rio Grande Plains did not consider himself dressed unless the silver of his gear was shining on a background of soft gray fur, the blackblotched velvet robe of an Ocelot." John J. Audubon's son, J.W., noted that their "beautiful skin makes a most favorite bullet pouch." As recently as the 1980's, ocelot coats, requiring as many as 12 pelts where wildly popular, in spite of the \$40,000.00 plus price tag. Today's laws prohibit taking ocelot pelts or capturing ocelot for the pet trade, sparing some 20,000 animals a year.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) protects the ocelot in most the South American countries it populates. The cats are no longer found in Arkansas, Louisiana, and Arizona but between 80 and 120 still roam Texas as a protected endangered species. Population growth is impacted by agricultural and urban expansion which eliminates the brush, marshes and forested areas where the cat lives and hunts. Low reproduction rates due to long gestation, small litter size and infant mortality add to the challenge of increasing ocelot population.

Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/not-a-lot-of-ocelots-63683601/#j0o778zXJk0ejIiY.99>

Find facts about endangered species at
<http://www.earthsendangered.com/index.asp>

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