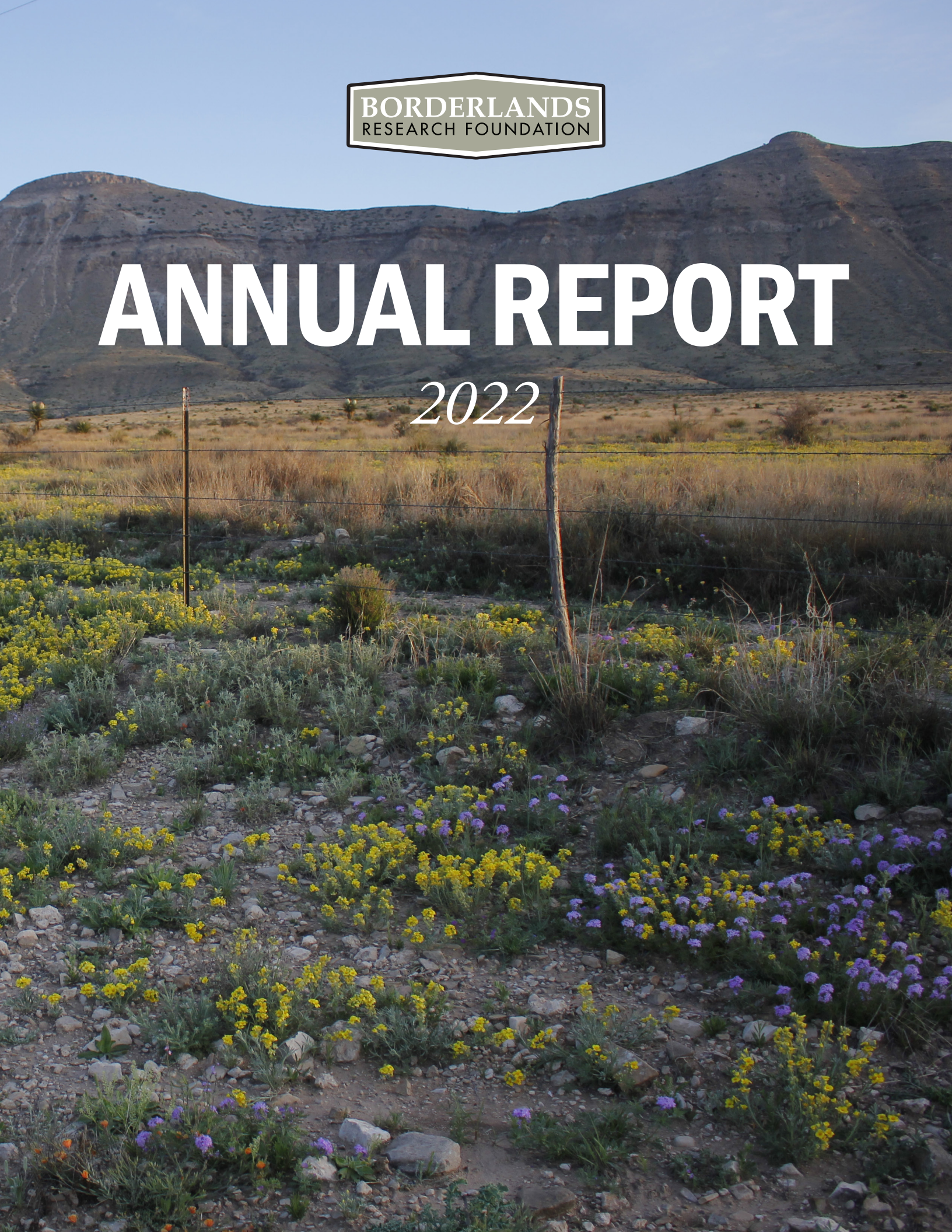
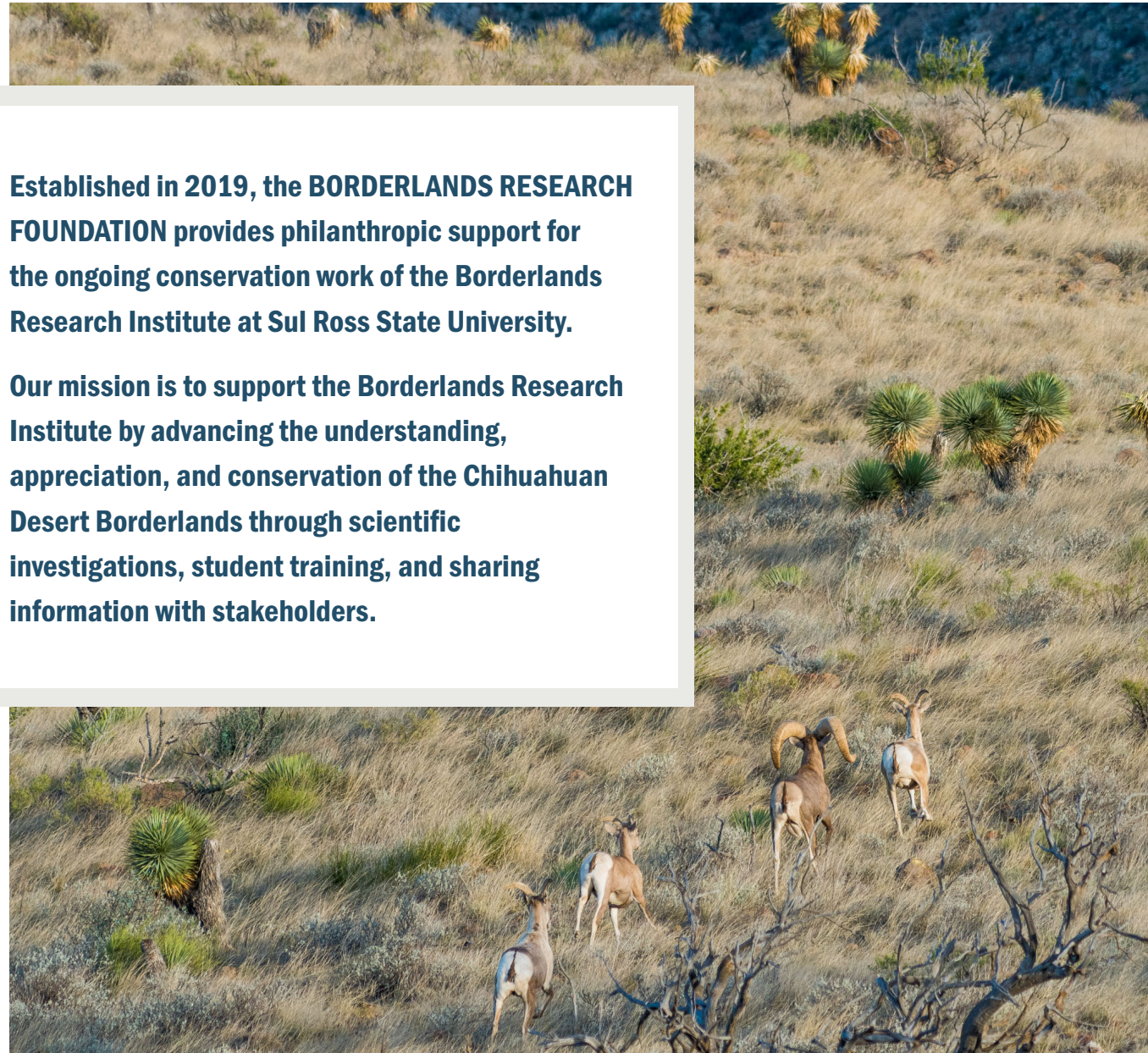




# ANNUAL REPORT

*2022*





**Established in 2019, the BORDERLANDS RESEARCH FOUNDATION provides philanthropic support for the ongoing conservation work of the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University.**

**Our mission is to support the Borderlands Research Institute by advancing the understanding, appreciation, and conservation of the Chihuahuan Desert Borderlands through scientific investigations, student training, and sharing information with stakeholders.**

**Borderlands Research Foundation Leadership**

**Board of Directors**

- Allen W. Smith, *President*
- Charles Davidson, *Vice President*
- Justin B. Yarborough, *Treasurer*
- James King, *Secretary*
- Elliott G. Hayne
- Robert J. Potts
- Carl E. Ryan
- Kelly R. Thompson
- J. Carlos Hernandez, Ed.D.  
*President, Sul Ross State University*

- Louis A. Harveson, Ph.D.  
*Dan Allen Hughes, Jr., Endowed Director,  
Borderlands Research Institute  
Associate Provost of Research and Development,  
Sul Ross State University*

*Letter from Leadership*



In 2019, a group of like-minded landowners created the Borderlands Research Foundation with one purpose in mind: to help support the research, education, and outreach mission of the Borderlands Research Institute. Today, the Borderlands Research Foundation serves as the nonprofit arm of Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University.

2022 was a big year for the Borderlands Research Foundation, as we launched our *West Texas Conservationist of the Year* award, where we honored our long-time friend, John L. Nau, III, as our inaugural recipient. Several hundred people attended this special event in Houston to support our mission. Nau has been an incredible partner for us, not only supporting our work, but opening his gates to welcome Borderlands Research Institute students for a variety of research projects.

The *2022 Annual Report* acknowledges our supporters, donors, and partners that have helped the Borderlands Research Foundation achieve so much this past year. The conservation projects, educational programs, and outreach activities at the Borderlands Research Institute would not exist without your help. Over 95% of the Institute’s annual budget comes from external sources including donations, gifts, and grants.

The Institute is presently managing about 20 different research projects, supporting dozens of graduate and undergraduate students. Projects vary from assessing vegetation management scenarios for optimizing wetland birds, to restoring pronghorn in their historic habitats, to mitigating drought effects on scaled quail. None of these projects would be possible without your unyielding commitment to conservation.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, we would like to thank you for being a supporter of the Borderlands Research Foundation!

Sincerely,

Allen W. Smith  
*President*

Louis A. Harveson, Ph.D.  
*Dan Allen Hughes, Jr., Endowed Director*



# About the Borderlands Research Institute



Since 2007, the Borderlands Research Institute has encouraged effective land stewardship of the Chihuahuan Desert. By providing land managers with the most current scientific information, the Borderlands Research Institute is helping to conserve one of the most biologically diverse regions of the world.

### RESEARCH

Scientific inquiry is the backbone of natural resource conservation. The Borderlands Research Institute faculty and students conduct research investigations on wildlife, rangelands, and other components of the Chihuahuan Desert. As scientific knowledge advances, so does the ability of land managers to make sound management decisions.

These research investigations are far-reaching and cover a multitude of topics, including:

- Investigating the impacts of exotic species on native wildlife populations
- Evaluating the effects of harvest strategies of economically important game species
- Documenting travel corridors of rare species
- Devising economical methods to restore grasslands being overrun by invasive brush species
- Restoring ecosystem function to riparian habitats.

### EDUCATION

Education is the cornerstone of the Borderlands Research Institute's mission. Research projects not only advance the ability to manage the natural resources of the Chihuahuan Desert, but they allow us to train and educate the next generation of wildlife biologists, range conservationists, and ranch managers.

Both undergraduate and graduate students are an integral part of our research team. The practical experiences gained by our students allow them to succeed as future resource managers.

### OUTREACH

As researchers and educators, one of our biggest challenges is bridging the gap between research, teaching, and outreach. This is especially true when it comes to getting pertinent information in the hands of those who make the most difference—land managers.

As we discover practical solutions to natural resource management problems, we share those solutions with private landowners and other resource managers via publications, websites, seminars, and workshops. The Borderlands Research Institute is committed to providing information to resource managers through multiple channels so they can make informed decisions regarding natural resource conservation.



**Graduates of the Borderlands Research Institute are employed with state and federal resource agencies or with private consultants and ranches and influence wildlife management decisions on over 31 million acres in Texas, some 20% of the state's acreage.**

# Named Gifts and Endowments

Endowments generate income for Borderlands Research Institute in perpetuity. They are managed at no cost to the Institute by Borderlands Research Foundation. The interest from the endowments is invested to bolster the programs and research of the Institute. We are forever grateful for this support that will impact future generations of researchers and students.

## Dan Allen Hughes, Jr., Endowed Director of Borderlands Research Institute

Donor: Peggy and Dan Allen Hughes, Jr.

Provides ongoing support for the director of the Borderlands Research Institute.

## James A. “Buddy” Davidson Charitable Foundation Endowed Chair for Conservation Biology

Donor: James A. “Buddy” Davidson Charitable Foundation

Supports a program leader, spokesperson, and chief strategist for the Conservation Biology Program.

## Nau Endowed Chair in Habitat Research and Management

Donor: Nau Foundation

Provides operational support for the development and implementation of the Habitat Management Program within Borderlands Research Institute.

## Kelly R. Thompson Professor in Quail Research

Donor: Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation

Provides underpinning for the development and support of the Quail Research Program through the establishment of a professorship in quail research.

## John B. Poindexter Endowed Fellowship in Quail Research

Donor: John B. Poindexter and friends

Supports the development and growth of the Quail Research Program through the establishment of a graduate student fellowship.

## Victoria and Parker Johnson Endowed Fellowship for Big Game Research

Donor: John L. Nau, III

Provides program support for a graduate student focused on Big Game Research.

## Wes and Victoria Bannister Operating Endowment for Borderlands Research Institute

Donor: The Bannister Family

Honors the memories of West Texas naturalists Wes and Victoria Bannister and provides critical funding for general operations.

## Virginia Matthews Law Endowed Scholarship

Donor: Family of Virginia Matthews Law

Honors the family of the historical West Texas Kincaid Ranch by offering scholarships that expand knowledge for landowners through research, education, and outreach.

## Franklin and Virginia Law Endowed Scholarship

Donor: Family of Franklin and Virginia Law

Honors the family legacy of Franklin and Virginia Law by offering scholarships that expand knowledge for landowners through research, education, and outreach.

## Wayne and JoAnn Moore Endowed Scholarship

Donor: The Wayne and JoAnn Moore Charitable Foundation

Recognizes the worthwhile endeavors of the Borderlands Research Institute by offering an annual scholarship.

## West Texas Chapter of Safari Club International Endowed Scholarship

Donor: West Texas Chapter of Safari Club International

Supports the scholarship of a student focused on Wildlife Management.



## Commemorating 50 years with an Investment in Conservation

**Carl Ryan fell long and hard for the Davis Mountains when he was just 10 years old.** Decades later, that part of West Texas remains close to his heart. After reflecting on all the time his family has spent immersed in the best the region has to offer, he and wife Suzi Davidoff decided to honor those connections by giving back to Sul Ross State University—the place that ties it all together.

Carl sees Sul Ross State University, his alma mater, as having incredible potential to positively impact the region he loves. He is an active board member of the Borderlands Research Foundation, the charitable arm of Borderlands Research Institute, located at Sul Ross.

“We share the same conservation goals. It’s important to be able to rely on someone who can give us information about the challenges we face. The Borderlands Research Institute is important to Trans-Pecos landowners and to all the people who will inherit the Trans-Pecos,” Carl said.

**“The Borderlands Research Institute is important to Trans-Pecos landowners and to all the people who will inherit the Trans-Pecos.”** Carl Ryan

In honor of his 50-year anniversary of graduating from Sul Ross, Carl and Suzi pledged \$50,000 to the Borderlands Research Institute.

“We are so appreciative of Carl and Suzi’s support to Borderlands Research Institute and Sul Ross State University,” said Dr. Louis A. Harveson, who is the Dan Allen Hughes, Jr., Endowed Director of Borderlands Research Institute. “Carl has inspired us all with his commitment to conserving the land he loves, and this major gift will help ensure that our focus on wildlife and conservation research will remain strong in the years and decades to come.”

# 2022 Financials

## Borderlands Research Foundation Statement of Financial Position - December 31, 2022

### ASSETS

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cash                | 357,113             |
| Investments         | 5,324,214           |
| Accrued Interest    | 18,104              |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b> | <b>\$ 5,699,431</b> |

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Liabilities                             | -                   |
| Net Assets                              |                     |
| Without Donor Restriction               | 695,443             |
| With Donor Restriction                  | 5,003,988           |
| Total Net Assets                        | 5,699,431           |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b> | <b>\$ 5,699,431</b> |

## Statement of Financial Activity - December 31, 2022

|                                      | Without Donor Restriction | With Donor Restriction | Total               |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                        |                           |                        |                     |
| Contributions                        | 441,443                   | 644,192                | 1,085,635           |
| Investment Earnings (Net)            | -                         | (812,340)              | (812,340)           |
| Net Assets Released from Restriction | 503,330                   | (503,330)              | -                   |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                  | <b>\$ 944,773</b>         | <b>\$ (671,478)</b>    | <b>\$ 273,295</b>   |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                      |                           |                        |                     |
| Program                              | 503,330                   | -                      | 503,330             |
| Support Services                     |                           |                        |                     |
| Management & General                 | 17,664                    | -                      | 17,664              |
| Fundraising                          | 53,785                    | -                      | 53,785              |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                | <b>\$ 574,779</b>         | <b>-</b>               | <b>\$ 574,779</b>   |
| <b>NET PROFIT (LOSS)</b>             | <b>369,994</b>            | <b>(671,478)</b>       | <b>(301,484)</b>    |
| <b>BEGINNING NET ASSET BALANCE</b>   | <b>325,449</b>            | <b>5,675,466</b>       | <b>6,000,915</b>    |
| <b>ENDING NET ASSET BALANCE</b>      | <b>\$ 695,443</b>         | <b>\$ 5,003,988</b>    | <b>\$ 5,699,431</b> |

### 2022 EXPENSES

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Program              | 88% |
| Management & General | 3%  |
| Fundraising          | 9%  |

These Financial Statements are unaudited.

## 2022 Borderlands Research Foundation Contributors

Borderlands Research Foundation is grateful for the generosity of our donors.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| The Wes and Victoria Bannister Fund at Vanguard Charitable              | John L. Nau, III   |
| Mary Jon and J.P. Bryan   | Nine Point Mesa Ranch  |
| Keli and Charles M. Davidson  | NuStar Logistics, L.P.   |
| Tom Fitzpatrick   | Carol and Pete Peterson  |
| William Gray  | John B. Poindexter   |
| Louree Bruce and William E. Greehey                                     | Republic Ranches, LLC  |
| Beth and Michael Harper   | Risher Companies   |
| Hastings Mutual Insurance   | Routt Investments, Ltd.  |
| Allison and Elliott Hayne   | Ruthie and John Russell  |
| Melinda and Jeff Hildebrand   | Suzi Davidoff and Carl E. Ryan   |
| The Perry Homes Foundation Fund at Greater Houston Community Foundation | J. Carl Sewell, III  |
| Peggy and Dan Allen Hughes, Jr.   | Silver Eagle Beverages   |
| The Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation                              | Silver Eagle Beverages Charitable Fund at the Greater Houston Community Foundation |
| Richard O. Hunton   | Silver Eagle Distributors Houston, LLC   |
| Carolyn and Mark Johnson  | The Allen and Mimi Smith Family Foundation   |
| Victoria and Parker Johnson   | Ford Smith Investments   |
| Mary and Paul Jornayvaz   | Liz and Andrew Stepanian   |
| Tammy and James King  | Texas Capital Bank   |
| Janell and Tio Kleberg  | Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation  |
| Nancy Law   | Texas State University System Foundation   |
| Luther King Capital Management  | USI Insurance Services, LLC  |
| Catherine M. McKnight   | USI Southwest, Inc.  |
| Lynda and Robert E. McKnight, Jr.                                       | Ellen and Robert Wagnon  |
| The Wayne and JoAnn Moore Charitable Foundation                         | Bruce Westerman  |
| The Morian Foundation   | Daisy Sloan and John White   |
| Barbara Nau   | Ashley and Justin Yarborough   |
| The Nau Foundation  | The Yarborough Foundation  |
|   | Zadok Jewelers   |

## Borderlands Research Institute Students Awarded \$46,500 in Scholarships in 2022

Seven graduate students at the Borderlands Research Institute were selected to receive \$46,500 in scholarships in 2022. These scholarship funds are an investment in the future of Borderlands Research Institute students, and we are grateful for the support of these fine organizations and donors.



Maya Ressler, Leanna Morin, Preston McKee, Erin O'Connell, Caleb Hughes, Brooke Bowman

### Franklin and Virginia Law Endowed Scholarship

Brooke Bowman

### Virginia Matthews Law Endowed Scholarship

Leanna (Lilly) Morin

### Wes and Victoria Bannister Scholarship

Caleb Hughes  
Olivia Gray

### Wayne & JoAnn Moore Endowed Scholarship

Maya Ressler

### West Texas Chapter of Safari Club International Endowed Scholarship

Erin O'Connell

### Wildlife Graduate Student Scholarship of the Southwest Section of The Wildlife Society

Olivia Gray

### Dan L. Duncan Scholarship (Houston Safari Club)

Erin O'Connell  
Maya Ressler  
Olivia Gray  
Preston McKee

## John L. Nau, III, Honored with West Texas Conservation Award



The Borderlands Research Institute and the Borderlands Research Foundation honored Houston businessman John L. Nau, III, with the inaugural West Texas Conservationist of the Year award in May 2022. The award was presented at a special event at the River Oaks Country Club in Houston.

Nau has impacted all corners of the country through his conservation vision. Among his myriad accomplishments, he has served on the boards of the National Park Foundation, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, the American Battlefield Trust and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. Here in Texas, he is a longtime member of the Texas Historical Commission, and is currently serving as board chairman.

In West Texas, Nau has partnered with the Institute on numerous wildlife and habitat research projects. In 2007, he acquired Nine Point Mesa Ranch in southern Brewster County, a breathtaking high desert oasis teeming with wildlife and the location of a continuing restoration success story, thanks in large part to his passion for West Texas and the wildlife that thrives there.



"John L. Nau, III, has certainly made his mark on conservation in West Texas and is a shining example of private land stewardship," said Dan Allen Hughes, Jr., former chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, who now chairs the Borderlands Research Institute's Advisory Board. "He has created a conservation legacy through his unwavering support of research, management, and philanthropy."



*Join us in supporting the work of the Borderlands Research Institute to advance our understanding, appreciation, and conservation of the vast landscapes and iconic wildlife of the Chihuahuan Desert Borderlands.*

**Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to the Borderlands Research Foundation through the QR code below or online at [BorderlandsResearchFoundation.org](https://BorderlandsResearchFoundation.org).**

