



BORDERLANDS  
RESEARCH FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

*2023*

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.



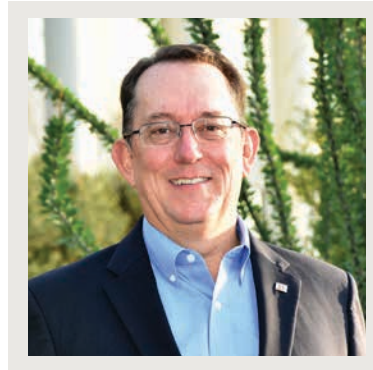
## Borderlands Research Foundation Leadership

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*Dan Allen Hughes, Jr., Endowed Director,*  
*Borderlands Research Institute*  
*Associate Provost of Research and Development,*  
*Sul Ross State University*

# Letter from Leadership



We're excited to share our *2023 Annual Report* and to acknowledge our many supporters, donors, and partners who help the Borderlands Research Foundation.

Our year kicked off in Spring 2023, where we honored two legendary land stewards: Roxie Catto Hayne and Ruthie Bowman Russell. Friends from across the state converged in San Antonio to help us honor Roxie and Ruthie as our 2023 West Texas Conservationists of the Year. Each of these mighty women serve as the conservation matriarch for their respective families and their multi-generational West Texas ranches.

In 2023, we also celebrated the 15-year anniversary of the Borderlands Research Institute. To commemorate the Institute's anniversary, the Borderlands Research Foundation launched an online fundraising campaign to raise money for scholarships for BRI graduate students. We were able to provide scholarships to every graduate student at the Institute, including nine scholarships awarded through our special fundraising effort celebrating BRI's 15th anniversary.

The Borderlands Research Foundation is proud to serve as the nonprofit arm of the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University and continues to provide valuable support for the Institute.

On behalf of our Board of Directors of the Borderlands Research Foundation, and the students, staff, and faculty at the Borderlands Research Institute, we would like to thank you for your continued support of the Borderlands Research Foundation!

Sincerely,

Allen W. Smith  
*President*

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

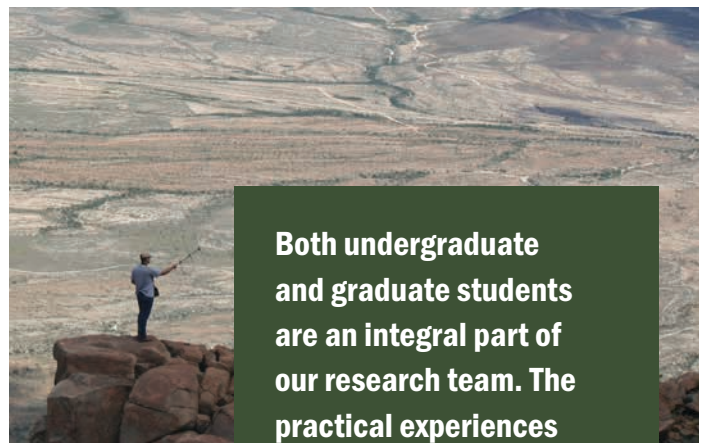
# About the Borderlands Research Institute



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.**



**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.**

Research projects allow us to train and educate the next generation of wildlife biologists, range conservationists, and ranch managers.

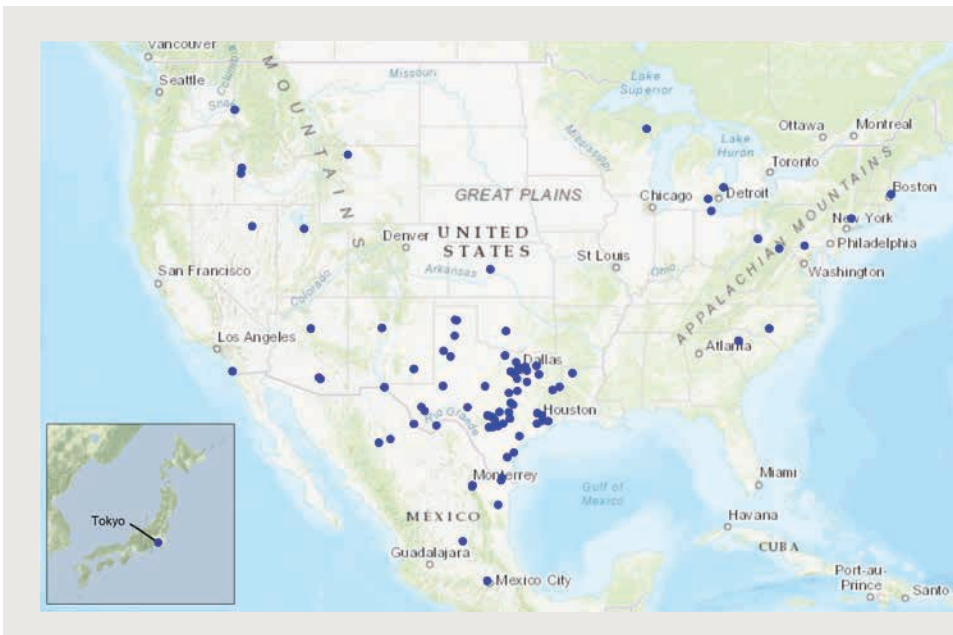
# OUTREACH



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 our stakeholders.**



## WHERE OUR STUDENTS COME FROM

Our students have come from near and far to study the Chihuahuan Desert borderlands. Student hometowns have ranged from Alpine, Texas, where the Borderlands Research Institute is based, to as far away as Tokyo, Japan.



**Ruthie Bowman Russell inherited her conservation values and love of West Texas from her grandmother, Verna Hooks McLean.**

Verna loved to quote the renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold and preached about how important it was to respect nature and to leave the land better than we found it. Ruthie took the lessons to heart and devoted her life to the conservation of the land she loves. She and husband Johnny manage multiple ranches in Texas, including the 101 Cienega Ranch in West Texas. She has forever protected her beloved Sycamore Springs Ranch on the Devils River with a conservation easement and was honored with a Lone Star Land Steward Award from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in 2014.

Ruthie has taken active leadership roles in conservation-focused organizations, including Texas Wildlife Association, Borderlands Research Institute, Devils River Conservancy, the Llano River Watershed Alliance, and the San Antonio Advisory Board of The Nature Conservancy.



**Roxana (Roxie) Catto Hayne is passionate about wildlife, land conservation, ranching and family.**

Her grandfather, Alfred S. Gage, was one of the pioneering ranchers of West Texas. The A.S. Gage Ranch got its start in 1883 and prospered under Alfred's management. The Hayne, Kelleher, and Negley families, Alfred's heirs who own part of the original ranch known as the Catto-Gage Ranch, have treasured the land for generations.

Roxie and her family have continued the ranching tradition with an emphasis on conservation of natural resources, as well as incorporating restorative measures on the land. Roxie and her family were early adopters of wildlife conservation initiatives in the region and have seen the benefits for land, wildlife and livestock. The ranch supports a diversity of wildlife, plants and habitats that have flourished alongside their well-managed herds thanks to the family's dedication. The Catto-Gage was honored with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's prestigious Lone Star Land Steward Award in 2007.

# *2023 Borderlands Research Foundation Contributors*

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

Matt Akins	Carlos Hernandez	Ruthie and John Russell
James Altgelt	Hildebrand Fund at the	Bill Sain
Julie Altman	Greater Houston Community	Lydia Saldaña and Bill Orcutt
Sarah Biedenbarn	Foundation	Schwab Charitable
La Brasada Foundation	Karen J. Hixon	The Gay D. and William F. Scott
Neal Brodbeck	Anne Holt	Family Foundation
Katherine Brown	Katy Hoskins	Gary Seale
Robert T. Buchanan	Dan Allen Hughes, Jr.	Sean Gunn
Susan Buckland	William Hubbard	Silver Eagle Beverages Charitable
Michael S. Chadwick	Leslee Kay Hurwitz	Fund at the Greater Houston
Caren Clemmer	Parker Johnson	Community Foundation
Kenneth Clouse	Melanie Kaihani	The Allen and Mimi Smith
Donna Cole	Joan Negley Kelleher Living Trust	Family Foundation
D J Craine	King Land & Water	Ford Smith Investment
James A. "Buddy" Davidson	John Korbell	Spencer Foundation
Charitable Foundation	Nancy M. Law	Jeff Stephens
George Dawson	Jonathan Letz	Alice Ball Strunk
Jeffrey Dickan	LKCM South Texas Partners	Stan Studer Jr.
DSC Foundation, Inc.	Luther King Capital	Steve Taber
East Foundation	Management	Toby Tate
Jonathan Finger	Ben Masters	Texas State University System
Johnathan Fitzsimons	Nyle Maxwell Family of Ranches	Foundation
Kathleen Foley	Robert McCamey	The Texia Fund at Fidelity
Caroline Alexander Forgason	McMahon Bowman Ranch, LLC	Charitable
Frost Bank	Laura McSpadden	Donald Thompson
Heather Fullerton	Charles McTee	Kelly Thompson
Adan Gandaria	Roger Moore	Mrs. R. Foard Townsend
LeighAnn Goodwin	Raymond Morgan	Trellis Company
Milton S. Greeson, Jr.	Morian Foundation	Sarah Turner
Richard Guenzel	John L. Nau, III	Upper Colorado River Chapter
Guglielmo Family Foundation	Ellen Oaster	of Safari Club International
Sarah Harte and John Gutzler	Petan Ranch/Ashley and	George C. Vaughn
Beth and Michael Harper	Rad Weaver	Chris White
Dan Harper	John B. Poindexter	Samuel Williams
Harte Family Fund DAF	Primavera Resources Inc.	Justin Yarborough
Sarah Harte	Kyle Redenti	The Yarborough Foundation
Will and Pam Harte	Republic Ranches, LLC	Fund at Westwood Trust
Elliott and Allison Hayne	Jayme and William Russell	
H-E-B	Kelly and McLean Russell	

# 2023 Financials

## Borderlands Research Foundation Statement of Financial Position - December 31, 2023

### ASSETS

Cash	293,863
Investments	6,160,511
Accrued Interest	22,420
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 6,476,794</b>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	-
Net Assets	
Without Donor Restriction	302,450
With Donor Restriction	6,174,344
Total Net Assets	6,476,794
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 6,476,794</b>

## Statement of Financial Activity - December 31, 2023

	Without Donor Restriction	With Donor Restriction	Total
<b>INCOME</b>			
Contributions	445,031	487,642	932,673
Investment Earnings (Net)	-	715,612	715,612
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 445,031</b>	<b>\$ 1,203,254</b>	<b>\$ 1,648,285</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program	685,172	-	685,172
Support Services			
Management & General	23,308	32,898	56,206
Fundraising	129,544	-	129,544
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 838,024</b>	<b>32,898</b>	<b>\$ 870,922</b>
<b>NET PROFIT (LOSS)</b>	<b>(392,993)</b>	<b>1,170,356</b>	<b>777,363</b>
<b>BEGINNING NET ASSET BALANCE</b>	<b>695,443</b>	<b>5,003,988</b>	<b>5,699,431</b>
<b>ENDING NET ASSET BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 302,450</b>	<b>\$ 6,174,344</b>	<b>\$ 6,476,794</b>

### 2023 EXPENSES



*These Financial Statements are unaudited.*

# 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**

*Donors: 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.

## **Borderlands Research Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship Fund**

*Donor: Friends of Borderlands Research Foundation*

Provides scholarship funds for graduate students at Borderlands Research Institute.

# *Borderlands Research Institute Students Awarded \$53,000 in Scholarships in 2023*

Thirteen graduate students and two undergraduate students at the Borderlands Research Institute were selected to receive \$53,000 in scholarships through the Borderlands Research Foundation in 2023. 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.



*Among the scholarship recipients in 2023 (l-r): Andres Solorio Pulido, Hailey Barton, Nicole Dickan, Gray Hancock, Aaron Ortega Gonzalez, and Audrey Taulli.*



During the summer of 2023, Borderlands Research Foundation launched a scholarship fundraiser in celebration of the Borderlands Research Institute's 15-year anniversary. An assortment of BRI gifts were available for donations starting at \$100 and more. The Permian Basin Area Foundation kickstarted the fundraiser with a \$15,000 challenge grant, and thanks to our donors, we were able to fund scholarships for every graduate student at the Borderlands Research Institute in 2023.

**Borderlands Research Foundation  
Graduate Student Scholarship**

- Hailey Barton
- Emily Blumentritt
- Asia Cornelius
- Nicole Dickan
- Andrew Dotray
- Aaron Ortega Gonzalez
- Gray Hancock
- Andres Solorio Pulido
- Audrey Taulli
- David Tønnessen

**Franklin and Virginia Law Endowed  
Scholarship**

- Emily Blumentritt

**Virginia Matthews Law Endowed  
Scholarship**

- Caleb Hughes

**Wayne & JoAnn Moore Endowed  
Scholarship**

- Andrew Dotray
- Ty Goodwin

**Linda and Curtis Neeley Scholarship  
(through the Permian Basin Area  
Foundation)**

- Jon Lomas
- Eduardo Santoya

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

- Elle Sutherland



*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).**

