

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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WHERE WE ARE

Greetings all,

2020 was a challenging year to be sure, but we suspect it was a pivotal year as well. Our global ecosystems threatened, our social cohesion frayed, and our economic systems in clear need of rethinking, we hope that 2020 will prove to be the year when action on all of these interrelated fronts became an urgent imperative.

While the whole world wobbled, here in the borderlands we continued our work to rebuild resilience in the face of a deepening climate crisis, restore critical wildlife habitat, and reconnect our communities to their home watersheds. We also took 2020's cue to question norms and do some pivoting of our own.

Among other things, we seized the opportunity to look deeply at our mission, strategies, climate change impacts, and repositioned some of our efforts and programming to help address critical unmet healthcare needs in a partner community.

We believe a sea change is on the horizon and we will continue to do our part in hastening its arrival.

Sincerely,

Wm DS

Kurt Vaughn PhD, Executive Director

Doug Smith PhD, Board President

OUR MISSION

We partner to grow a restorative economy by rebuilding healthy ecosystems, restoring habitat for plants and wildlife, and reconnecting our border communities to the land through shared learning.

OUR VISION

We partner to grow a restorative economy by rebuilding healthy ecosystems, restoring habitat for plants and wildlife, and reconnecting our border communities to the land through shared learning.

OUR PROGRAMS

Borderlands Restoration Network programs apply a multi-pronged approach to rebuild, restore and reconnect the borderlands region to heal the land from erosion, overgrazing, climate changes, aridification and development that has degrades the landscape. Our programs work together to repair the land, support ecosystems and strengthen our communities while inspiring learning and stewardship of our shared spaces on both sides of the border.



Watershed & Habitat Restoration





Education & Outreach



Borderlands Wildlife Preserve

NETWORK PARTNERS



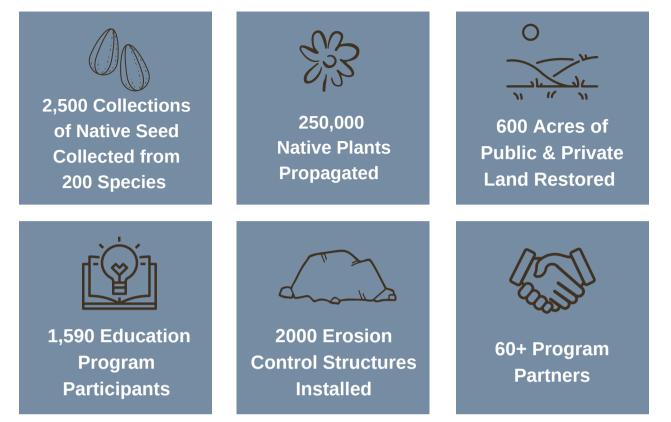




Wildlife Corridors, LLC BRN is a 501c3 nonprofit, but also an umbrella organization for a network of independent organizations working toward common goals. Our organizations collaborate and share resources and knowledge to achieve things we could not do as a single organization.



OUR IMPACT



OUR STORY



Launched in 2018, Borderlands Restoration Network is the vision of one of our founders Dr. Ron Pulliam, celebrated ecologist, professor and former science advisor to the Secretary of the Interior during the Clinton Administration.

Ron fell in love with the region studying our unique grassland birds. He retired to Patagonia with his wife Janice and has since founded Borderlands Restoration L3C, Wildlife Corridors LLC and Borderlands Restoration Network.

SENIOR FELLOWS

BRN Senior Fellows and Advisors help build organizational capacity and expand our knowledge base by bringing experienced practitioners, educators, and leaders to BRN. Senior Fellows are supported to propose projects and programs that contribute to BRN's mission.

José Manuel Pérez Cantú

Conservation Director, Cuenca Los Ojos

Dr. Laura Monti

Cultural Ecologist, Prescott College Kino Bay Center for Cultural & Ecological Studies

Alan Lamborn

Retired, Associate Provost for Educational Attainment, Colorado State University/Executive Director, Reinvention Collaborative

Dr. Gary Nabhan

Author, Agricultural Ecologist, Ethnobotanist, & Ecumenical, Franciscan Brother

Dr. Laura M. Norman

Supervisory Research Physical Scientist, U.S. Geological Survey Dr. Richard Pritzlaff Board Member, Biophilia Foundation

Dr. Ron Pulliam

Regents Professor Emeritus in the Eugene P. Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia

Dr. David Seibert Ecological Anthropologist

Dr. Tom Sisk

Olajos-Goslow Professor of Environmental Science and Policy, Northern Arizona University

Kate Tirion

Permaculturist & Owner, Deep Dirt Farm



REBUILD. RESTORE. RECONNECT.

2 ----

WATERSHED & HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM





Employing a multi-pronged approach to restoring degraded landscapes to a trajectory of recovery and climate resiliency.

Installed 380 erosion control structures across 200 acres

Controlled invasive plants on 77 acres of the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve

Planted 600 native plants & collected 52 lbs of seed

Removed invasive plants from 6 acres of the Mansfield Mine Reclamation site

Controlled invasive grass on 5 acres protecting one of only six known populations of Beardless chinchweed in the US

NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM





Promoting and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems in the Sky Islands by providing access to restoration-quality native plant materials.

Propagated over 20,000 plants representing more than 200 native species

Hand collected and cleaned over 400 lbs of seed in 800 collections

Sold 3,850 native seed packets

Grew out 2,500 plants for the Glenn Canyon National Recreation Area

Cared for hundreds of salvaged plants for the Mansfield Mine reclamation project

Planted over 750 agaves across SE Arizona to support nectar feeding bats

Planted 1,000 Emory oak acorns across 250 acres of the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve

BACANORA FOR San Angelo Chihuahua Nuevo Laredo Monterrey **lochis** Saltillo Torreon Culiacan Mazatlán MEXICO

A BIG WIN FOR NECTAR FEEDING BATS OF THE BORDERLANDS

Everyone needed a win in 2020, and we got one for nectar feeding bats that rely on flowering agaves to sustain them along their migratory pathways across Mexico to the U.S .and back. Agaves in the region are disappearing due to increased production of the regional agave distillate, bacanora.

In 2019, the Salazar Center for North American Conservation at Colorado State University launched its inaugural Conservation Impact Prize, a \$100,000 incentive award designed to fund meaningful change in the field of conservation. Known as the Connectivity Challenge, this prize funds a proposal that drives innovation in landscape connectivity for habitat and community benefit in North America.

Forty-six applications were received from across the US, Canada and Mexico after which an expert panel of judges reviewed the proposals. Five finalists were selected to participate in a pitch fest as part of the Center's annual symposium to compete for the single \$100,000 prize. Borderlands Restoration Network came out on top securing the inaugural prize for this competition along with its project partner in Mexico, Colectivo Sonora Silvestre, which was founded by two alumni of the BRN Field School.

With this prize we will strengthen community-based restoration of bacanora agaves through policy change by collaborating with universities, herbaria, government agencies, local policy regulators, nonprofits, producers, and consumers in Mexico and the U.S. Connectivity of wild agave populations and impacts to pollinators on both sides of the border will be evaluated supporting the creation of a cooperative, science-based, sustainability certification for bacanora production.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Empowering and inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders in the borderlands through placed-based learning opportunities and skills training.

Collaborated to design and build the Huachuca City Community Garden & water-retention basins

Engaged 10 O'odham youth interns and two local facilitators in the Ṣu:dagī 'O Wud Doakag (Water is Life) program

94 community members participated in the Mesquite Stewardship Program

Hosted 43 students from two visiting groups & seven AZ graduate students

Hired four interns from Hermosillo, Sonora

Women Grow Food spent 400+ hours learning permaculture growing techniques producing 15 different crop varieties

Hosted nine virtual events including workshops and social media events

CROSS BORDER LEARNING



As the pandemic set in we were faced with rethinking how we could continue some of our intended work in a safe way. The 2020 Field Course scheduled to be held in Sonora, Mexico had to be canceled, but we shifted to a virtual format hiring four interns from Sonora to learn with us virtually.

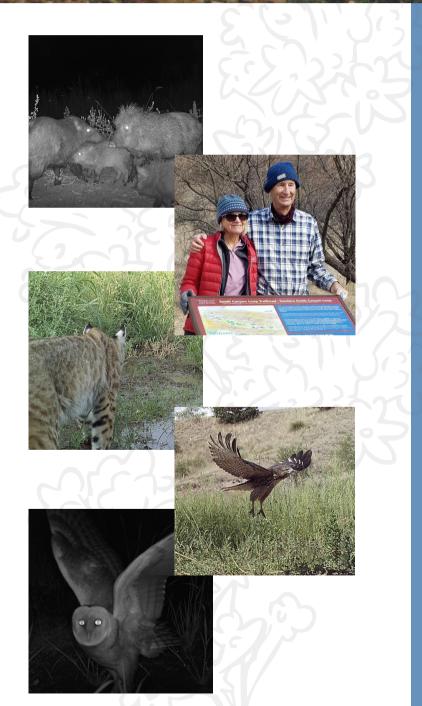
Through zoom training with our program staff, virtual conference attendance and other learning opportunities an interest and love for native plants rose to the surface, ultimately leading to a collaboration with a local school in Hermosillo, Palo Alto Escuela Americana. One of the interns, Omar, proposed the idea of building a nursery at the school to produce native plants to support the restoration and reforestation programs in Sonora.

Palo Alto Escuela Americana and BRN will work to raise student awareness of environmental issues, promote values focused on environmental care and foster future leaders in conservation.

Today the project is complete and seeds have been started in more ways than one. The green house will have a space for native plant production, biointensive beds to grow food in a small space and make compost, as well as an exterior garden for pollinators.

When the children return to school, they will adopt this new project which will accompany them through their elementary education. With their fill of dirt, they will learn about native flora, the importance of reforesting and growing their own food. Undoubtedly this has been a great team effort, especially during uncertain times that will have long-standing benefits to the students and the community.

BORDERLANDS WILDLIFE PRESERVE





A segment of the Sonoita Creek Wildlife Corridor, the 1400 acre, and growing, Borderlands Wildlife Preserve is protected and managed to conserve critical wildlife habitat, and maintain a route for migratory species.

Identified over 20 species of animals on seven wildlife cameras, including the endangered yellow-billed cockoo

Installed 10 interpretive signs along hiking trails, new welcome kiosk signage and a drinking fountain

Over 1000 visitors came to the BWP to hike or enjoy the preserve

Site for seven restoration projects

Won funding to protect 500 acres as part of the USFS Forest Legacy Program

Completed the two-mile Cross Corridor Trail

Maintained three wildlife drinkers and Dragonfly Pond to support wildlife

COVI RELIEF & THE S ermosillo Los Mochis Culiacan ME

SHIFTING GEARS TO HELP NEIGHBORS IN NEED

While public health may not be our primary focus, the well being of the people of the borderlands certainly is. When COVID struck, not everyone had access to health care, supplies and support to protect their communities. The Comcáac Indigenous Community, or Seri, with whom we have a long standing relationship with through BRN Senior Fellows, Laurie Monti, and Dr. Gary Nabhan, are a perfect example.

Assistance to help combat COVID was not readily available to this vibrant community so they reached out to Laurie, who also happens to be a nurse. Laurie and others sprung into action organizing fundraising efforts, procuring supplies and transporting needed relief to the Seri in Sonora.

Thanks to the support of donors, numerous organizations and the plain determination of Lauire and the Seri themselves, two medical response clinics were established and stocked with the necessities to help save lives.

Supplies included six oxygen concentrators disposable masks, tubing, a sterilization unit, oximeters, personal protective gear, sanitizer, and medications. Thanks to a generous donor, hundreds of handmade fabric reusable masks were also supplied to help protect this community over the long haul.

Each clinic was provided with satellite internet and integrative healthcare teams, including six health promoters supported by expert herbalists, bringing together modern medical treatment with traditional desert plant medicine to treat patients with Covid-19. The health care teams in both villages worked around the clock, seven days a week to care for patients undoubtedly saving countless lives.

With thanks...



<u>\$5K+</u>

Jennifer Abe Robert & Penny Cabot Kevin Casey** Faith Coburn Tacy Hahn Jerry & Cyndi Jenkins Terry Root Chris & Mary Strohm Christopher & Loretta Stadler Karen Winkelman

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*These donors are members of the Restoration Partners Monthly Giving Society. **This gift was an inkind contribution.

PROJECT PARTNERS & GRANTORS

2020 PROJECT PARTNERS

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Sky Island Alliance **USFWS Sonoran Joint Venture** Southwestern Research Station Strategic Habitat Enhancements Sweetwater Center T4Ranch The Nature Conservancy Tohono O'odham Community College Town of Patagonia Tucson Audubon Society University of Arizona University of New Mexico Land Arts of the American West USDA **US Forest Service US Geological Survey** Watershed Management Group Wildlife Corridor LLC Youth Conservation Crew

2020 GRANTORS

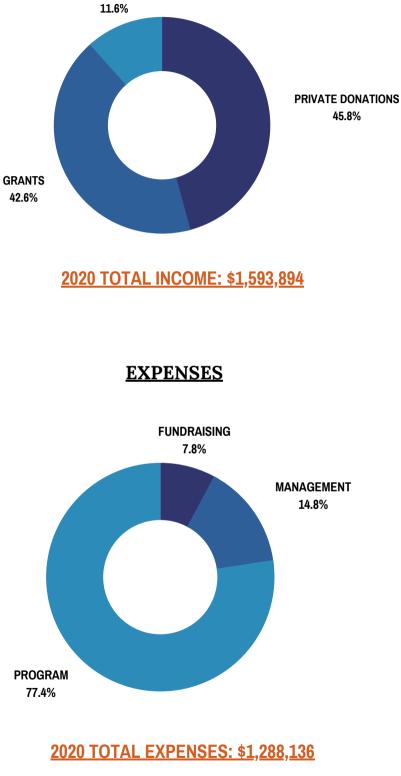
Amazon Conservation Anonymous (1) Arizona Commission on the Arts Arizona Community Foundation Arizona Department of Agriculture AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management Bat Conservation Inc. **Biophilia Foundation** Colorado State University Foundation **Community Foundation for Southern Arizona** 11th Hour Racing, a program of the Schmidt Family Foundation Frances Seebe Trust Greater Good Honnold Foundation Kulibert Gift Fund Liberated Paths M.B. Vanderbeek Foundation Marshall Foundation National Park Service New York Community Trust Patagonia Regional Community Fund SB Foundation Schwab Charitable The San Diego Foundation The Woodtiger Fund United States Forest Service University of Arizona/College of Social and Behavioral Sciences US Fish and Wildlife Service Waste Management Wildlands Network

FINANCIALS

INCOME & SOURCES OF SUPPORT

CONTRACTS & EARNED INCOME





*The information presented above is drawn from Borderlands Restoration Network's 2020 audited financial statements from BeachFleischman PC.

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Miranda Diaz **Sonoran Intern**

Jorge Chacon Sonoran Intern

Sydney McKay Native Plant Program Student Intern

Sophia Lattanzio Native Plant Program Student Intern

Gianna Martin Horticulture Intern

Arriana Ochoa-Tovar Horticulture Intern Lee Farese Oak Intern Sarah Ramirez Oak Intern

STAFF

Kurt Vaughn, PhD Executive Director

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Francesca Claverie Native Plant Program Manager

Perin McNelis Assistant Manager, Native Plant Program

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Travis Gerckens Farm & Maintenance Program Lead

Lily Christopher Lead Horticulture Technician

Andrea Fleder Horticulture Technician

Aishah Lurry Horticulture Technician

Emmett Rahn-Oaks Horticulture Tehnician

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Damien Carlos **Water is Life, Facilitator**

Pachynne Ignacio **Water is Life, Facilitator** Juliet Jivanti Education Coordinator

Caleb Weaver **Youth Education Program Manager**

Audrey Rader Restoration Program Manager

Zach Farley Restoration Crew Leader

Eduardo Gracia Field & Restoration Technician

Cholla Rose Nicoll Borderlands Wildlife Preserve Lead Technician













1,151 Volunteer Hours from 56 Volunteers

GET INVOLVED

Join us today so that together we can rebuild, restore, and reconnect the borderlands.

VISIT

Come see for yourself the ecological restoration work happening in the borderlands. Contact us for tours, shop Borderlands Nursery & Seed, or join us for a nature walk or workshop

VOLUNTEER.

Put your hands where your heart is and join volunteers in our nursery or seed lab and on restoration projects to help Borderlands Restoration Network do things we couldn't without your help! Email us at info@borderlandsrestoration.org.

BUY OUR PLANTS & SEEDS.

Visit Borderlands Nursery & Seed to purchase our ethically collected, chemical free and pollinator safe plants and seeds. Visit our website for complete details: www.borderlandsplants.org.

DONATE.

Nothing is possible without the generous support of our donors. Visit our website for complete details about all our giving opportunities. Restoration Partners and Founders Society Members receive 10% of nursery purchases.

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Follow us on social at: Facebook.com/borderlandsrestorationnetwork or Instagram @BorderlandsRestoration, and make sure to sign-up for our enewsletter via our website. Follow Borderlands Nursery & Seed @borderlandsplants on Facebook and Instagram.

HIRE US.

Borderlands Restoration Network offers consultation and implementation services for native landscaping, rain gardens, and rainwater harvesting systems in your yard. Contact cweaver@borderlandsrestoration.org for more information.

Phone: (520) 216-4148 Email: info@borderlandsrestoration.org Address: PO Box 121, Patagonia, AZ 85624

www.borderlandsrestoration.org www.borderlandsplants.org

States -