



BORDERLANDS  
RESTORATION  
NETWORK

REBUILD. RESTORE. RECONNECT.

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



## 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.

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## 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 change, aridification, and development that degrades our 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**

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**NATIVE PLANT  
PROGRAM**

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**EDUCATION  
& OUTREACH**

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**BORDERLANDS  
WILDLIFE  
PRESERVE**

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## MESSAGE FROM THE ED

Dear supporters and friends,

We at Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN) are very happy to report on another successful year. For us, it has been a year of transition at all levels. The Covid-19 pandemic left its mark, but our outstanding team adapted and made the best of it. Our programs continued, our staff numbers and capacity grew. We increased our protected land footprint and our education programs continued to inspire young minds on both sides of the border. Our hands-on restoration practices showcased the possibilities for ecological improvement in our region. This could not be possible without your continuous and generous support through these challenging times.

After a very fruitful five-year tenure, Kurt Vaughn, stepped down as Executive Director in December to follow his heart and be closer

to family in the Sierras of California. I did the opposite trek, from the coast of Central California, back to the arid lands of the US/Mexico borderlands, where the dry air and vast horizons made me feel at home. I am extremely happy to have joined BRN and look forward to the years to come working with our passionate staff, partners, and supporters to further our work and mission.

Thank you for your support!



Rodrigo Sierra Corona  
*Executive Director*





# BORDERLANDS WILDLIFE PRESERVE

## CONSERVATION MILESTONE

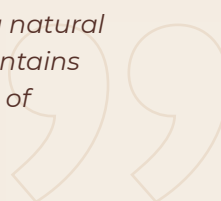
In 2022, 68.5 additional acres were acquired for conservation purposes, and an eight year in the making conservation milestone was achieved thanks to the generous support of the United States Forest Service Forest Legacy Program that provided over \$1,000,000 in funding to pay off all remaining original debt from the initial purchase of the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve. Additionally, \$600,000 from

The Nature Conservancy was received to help protect an additional 480 acres in partnership with the Town of Patagonia. The preserve, which was originally slated to be a subdivision and is the last unobstructed wildlife migratory corridor connecting the Santa Rita, Patagonia, and Huachuca Mountain ranges, is now permanently protected.



**Dr. Terry L. Root**  
*Nobel Peace Prize Laureate  
Supporter & Donor*

*Climate change is a crisis we all must address. As we humans cause our climate to rise rapidly, species are trying to move into cooler areas. They are going higher in elevation and toward the two poles. The global temperature is currently up 2°F, and we could lose 1 million species if the global temperature goes up to 3.6°F above natural temperatures. We must have corridors for species to move, which is exactly what the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve is doing—securing a natural corridor for species to move from Mexico into the mountains of Arizona. This work alone could help save thousands of species. That is why I support BRN as much as I can.*







## CONSERVATION

Thanks to the generosity of David Welborn and Ann Hunter-Welborn, BRN added a Conservation Director position that will help expand conservation initiatives and facilitate conversation and relationships in the borderlands region to build a coalition of regional organizations to coordinate wildlife conservation actions, identify and address conservation areas of mutual concern, and advance conservation initiatives at the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve.

Borderlands Wildlife Preserve that will stop problematic erosion, rebuild soils, decrease downstream sediment pollution, and increase water infiltration and soil moisture. To restore wildlife habitat and build climate resilience, invasive plant species were removed and replaced with native plants and seeds from our own Borderlands Nursery & Seed.

## RESTORING THE LANDSCAPE

Decades of drought combined with overgrazing, over-extraction of surface and groundwater, land use, wildfires, and pressures of extractive industries have left our region's ecosystems compromised. BRN continued to work to restore the landscape through grants awarded by the U.S. Forest Service and the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management.

Hundreds of erosion control structures were built in actively eroding drainages at the







## WATER FOR WILDLIFE

With funding provided by the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management and in collaboration with Bat Conservation International, BRN began converting a stock tank at the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve into a pond for wildlife. Once complete, the pond will provide an important source of permanent surface water nestled within rich riparian habitat.

During the summer of 2022, the pond was re-contoured to add more topographical variation and a greater diversity of microhabitats for aquatic species, along

with an impermeable liner with thin layers of compacted site-sourced clay. Revegetation with native plants will create a robust riparian habitat and flood-resilient sacaton flats around the pond following completion of a wildlife-friendly fence to keep livestock out.

Thanks to the generous support of Deborah Paterson, four new wildlife-friendly wildlife drinkers were installed that modernized our drinker system, allowing safe water access to smaller animals and insects, as well as larger wildlife and birds.

## PREPARING FOR FIRE

With funding provided by the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management and in conjunction with Patagonia Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Sonoita-Elgin Fire District, and Fire Prevention Specialists, BRN hosted two well-attended fire preparedness and mitigation presentations sharing fire awareness best practices with neighboring landowners and community members through education and outreach.

BRN also created an emergency map for emergency responders and neighbors to guide them through the preserve in the event of a wildfire. Wildlife Haven Property Owners Association began discussions to become a Firewise USA Community, which has evolved into a fire awareness committee for the neighborhood. In conjunction with the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management and Wildlife Corridors LLC, BRN developed the beginnings of a overall fire mitigation plan for the preserve.





## PEOPLE & THE LANDSCAPE

The Watershed Restoration Program leaned into the human land connection in 2022 by partnering with network partner Cuenca Los Ojos (CLO) to develop and conduct two one-week long watershed restoration workshops with funding provided through the Environmental Protection Agency Border 2025 Program.

The program supports cooperation and collaboration between neighboring nations that have achievable, tangible on the ground environmental and public health results for communities in the US/Mexico borderlands. Workshop attendees came from three borderlands nations including the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Sonora, Mexico, and Arizona. Restoration practitioners, students, and private landowners attended the workshop.

Workshops were hosted by CLO at Rancho Nuevo in Sonora and focused on large-scale watershed restoration practices including gabion construction. The second workshop at the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve focused on small-scale watershed restoration and revegetation techniques.

## HABITAT FOR MONTEZUMA QUAIL

In our longest running continuous watershed restoration project, BRN continued to build and seed erosion control structures on the southwest side of the Huachuca Mountains on Coronado National Forest land. Since 2018, BRN has constructed over 1,000 structures in the project area with funding and support from the National Forest Foundation, Southern Arizona Quail Forever, and Coronado National Forest.

Located downstream of the 2011 Monument Fire and within an oak-dotted grassland that is home to a robust Montezuma quail population, this project is increasing groundwater infiltration and surface water pooling necessary for many Montezuma quail food plants to establish and thrive while decreasing increased erosion rates caused by upstream fire impacts.

In addition to the continued watershed restoration work in 2022, BRN established quail food plots at Borderlands Nursery & Seed. Plots include wood sorrel (*Oxalys spp.*) and several pea species, which will be out planted in the project area and other appropriate restoration sites beginning in 2023.



## WATERSHED RESTORATION PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

- Installed 1,400 erosion control structures
- Planted 3,491 native plants in the landscape
- Distributed 22.33 lbs of native seed across project sites
- Treated 15 acres for invasive grass species





# BORDERLANDS NURSERY & SEED

## NATIVE SEED EXPANSION

From a 400 sq ft guest house of a volunteer, to a former cafeteria at the historic old elementary school in Patagonia, the BRN Native Plant Program grew once again to a large seed barn adjacent to the Borderlands Nursery & Seed nursery. The barn, leased from Native Seeds/SEARCH, provides 3,000 sq ft of space and expanded our farmed seed growing space from .75 to 1.25 acres. The extra land offers space for an additional 12 species to be produced for a total of 20 species of native plants for seed production on our farmed plot.



The extra space allows for more efficient and cost-effective seed collection for contracts and grow-out projects including, contracts with Southern Arizona Quail Forever for species supporting Montezuma Quail, plant production for the United States Forest Service to produce seed for ongoing revegetation efforts for the Mansfield Mine reclamation project, projects with the Tucson Audobon Society, the Institute of Applied Ecology, and for our own nursery production and retail seed sales.



**BORDERLANDS  
NURSERY  
& SEED**





## HEATING UP FOR BATS

Thanks to renewed contracts and capacity building funds from our partners at Bat Conservation International (BCI), Borderlands Nursery & Seed is now able to produce agave pups and clones more quickly and efficiently. In 2022 BCI funded a propane heating unit for the agave growing greenhouse, which will warm emerging seedlings in the coldest nights of winter, allowing for quicker growth and improved germination rates throughout the year.

BCI also funded an experimental raised bed in this same greenhouse that has been planted with 200 genetically individual *Agave palmeri* seedlings that will serve as mother plants for pups, or clones, produced from plants that will ensure genetic diversity and integrity of agaves when they return to the wild. Agaves are monocarpic, flowering only once in their lifetime and provide a tremendous amount of nectar for bats, as well as a variety of other pollinators including hummingbirds.







## REMOVING INVASIVES

In 2022 two different efforts began to combat notorious invasive species in the Sky Islands, Buffelgrass, and Yellow Bluestem. In partnership with the Tucson Audubon Society Invasive Plant Strike Team invasive plant infestations were eliminated and revegetated with hardy species of pelletized native grass seed.

Thanks to funding through the US Forest Service Secure Rural Schools grant, buffelgrass removal efforts came as a result of monitoring conducted by the Forest Service in years past at the Wild Chile Botanical Area located along I-19 in the Tumacacori Highlands.

In partnership with Tucson Audubon Society, Appleton-Whittell Audubon Research Ranch, and the Babacomari Ranch, thousands of acres of public and private land in the Elgin area were monitored, treated, and revegetated to control Yellow Bluestem thanks to funding by the Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management’s Invasive Plant Grant.



### BORDERLANDS NURSERY & SEED BY THE NUMBERS

- 400 lbs of seed collected through 150 seed collections
- 3,000 lbs of seeds pelletized for nine restoration projects
- 350 agaves planted across the borderlands for nectar feeding bats and 3,000 propagated for future plantings
- 50,000 native plants propagated
- 1,200 milkweeds propagated and delivered in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management for the Las Cruces, New Mexico district
- Four workshops with 113 participants
- 11,509 native plants outplanted









# EDUCATION & OUTREACH

## BORDERLANDS EARTH CARE YOUTH (BECY)

BECY celebrated its 10-year anniversary with 13 borderlands youth participating in Douglas and Patagonia, bringing the total number of participants of the program to 170. Both crews learned and worked alongside conservation professionals in 18 unique locations on a variety of restoration worksites creating a transformative and inspiring summer internship experience.



Scan the code to read  
the 2022 BECY Report!



### Nicholas Botz

2022 BECY Patagonia Facilitator

*I gained a lot from this program and I think the impact that it has is very visible to me. Three years ago, we were building these rock structures, I got to see them again and the soil level was up at least seven inches. It was great! There were plants everywhere and native pollinators that weren't there three years ago. The impact is measurable and I think from here on, it's all about expanding this kind of work to make sure it's happening in other areas.*





## SONORAN FIELD COURSE

Thanks to the generous support of the Arizona Community Foundation of Cochise, The Westport Fund, and the generosity of Marcey Olajos, the second annual Sonoran Field Course was in high demand with over 68 applicants applying for nine available spaces. Participants traversed northern Sonora from Hermosillo to Rancho El Aribabi Conservation Ranch in Ímuris, to Agua Prieta, and Cananea, followed by days in the San Bernadino Valley and Cuenca Los Ojos.

Participants deepened their understanding of northern Mexico and the Sky Islands region through field trips, lectures and hands-on learning experiences covering the social, cultural and ecological aspects of the region. Topics spanning technical skills in native seed collection and plant propagation, watershed restoration, foundational principles of a restorative economy, cross-border collaboration, humanitarian aid, and more.



**Ivanna Paoleth Tautimez,**  
*2022 Sonoran Field Course  
Participant*

*I gained many more skills and experiences than I expected. This course was a huge source of inspiration to continue developing myself in these areas and make a significant impact. The course changed my perspective on life.*

*Scan the code to read  
the 2022 SFC Report!*





## NEW HORIZONS AT DEEP DIRT FARM

Deep Dirt Farm, an arid lands permaculture demonstration site, has been a long-standing partner of BRN as an experiential learning and permaculture site woven into our educational programming, including the long standing Women Grow Food program. In 2022 Deep Dirt became available for purchase and with the support of generous donors and foundation support, was obtained by BRN. The farm will maintain the Women Grow Food program and continue to serve as a learning center for visiting groups and BRN programming as the site and programming are developed into the future.



## ŞU: DAGĪ 'O WUḐ DOAKAG/ WATER IS LIFE

With generous support from Alan & Joan Lamborn and Liberated Paths, students from Baboquivari High School from the Tohono O'odham Nation participated in the Şu: dagĪ 'O WuḐ Doakag or Water is Life program designing and constructing a gathering space that supports native plants and fruit-bearing trees through rainwater harvesting with interpretive signage that celebrate the space as it relates to Tohono O'odham history and culture.



## RAINWATER HARVESTING WORKSHOPS

Four free rainwater harvesting workshops were provided in Huachuca City and Patagonia as a series generously funded by the Wildlife Conservation Society focusing on backyard rainwater harvesting strategies. Attendees learned about best practices for simple rainwater harvesting, how to select appropriate rainwater harvesting systems, and about plant palettes to grow appropriate food, shade, and pollinator gardens.







## FROM FAR AND WIDE, GAP YEARS & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

BRN welcomed students from far and wide from gap year programs and universities providing one of a kind experiential learning opportunities for participants to learn about the borderlands, ecological restoration, native plants, permaculture, and more.

## MESQUITE & CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Funded by the University of Arizona Institutes for Resilience grant, BRN partnered with the University of Arizona's Southwest Center and Desert Laboratory of Tumamoc Hill and the College of Natural Resources and the Environment to provide a free workshop training series focused on mesquite. These free mesquite training series taught climate-friendly mesquite management practices and artisan skills that can enhance mesquite habitats in southern Arizona to reduce the impacts of wildfires, floods, and drought. The series provided hands-on training and skill building teaching sustainable uses for mesquite ranging from practical knowledge to managing mesquite on personal property, learning about fine woodworking, and using mesquite as a local food source.

- ARCC
- Earlham College
- Kroka Expeditions
- Loyola Marymount University
- National Outdoor Leadership School
- Simmons University
- The Traveling School
- Where There Be Dragons







## COMMUNITY RESTORATION

### VETERANS MEMORIAL WELLNESS PARK

In collaboration with the Town of Huachuca City, Huachuca City Community Garden, and Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management, collaborative design for a new rainwater harvesting community forest to serve human and nonhuman

residents and visitors in Huachuca City was created. Thanks to support from community members, native trees will provide long-term shade for visitors and critical habitat for wildlife, such as insects, butterflies, and birds.



### PATAGONIA YOUTH ENRICHMENT CENTER

Thanks to support from Santa Cruz County and the American Rescue Plan Act, tens of thousands of gallons of rainwater will be diverted from Patagonia streets and instead grow food. Student groups from across the country visiting BRN helped install cisterns, dig basins, plant food and pollinator gardens, and learn about aridlands food production at the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center. Patagonia youth can now grow food solely from rainwater helping to support their community.



## DOUGLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

In partnership with the US Forest Service, Douglas youth spruced up an underutilized outdoor patio at the Douglas Public Library to provide food for patrons and pollinators. The library serves as one of the few public places open to students after school. Youth wove heritage roses around unsightly fences, planted rosemary and milkweed, and installed new trellises for edible grapes.



## SALUD COMCAAC SENIOR FELLOW PROJECT

Salud Comcaac, a BRN Senior Fellow project lead by Dr. Laurie Monti, fosters community and ecological health in partnership with the Comcaac Nation of Sonora, Mexico. To protect and reforest mangrove and seagrass beds, 1,500 mangrove seedlings were collected by youth leaders and are being cultivated in preparation for planting in estuarine sites in 2023.



Through generous funding from Amazon Conservation Team, nightly scouting trips were made by Grupo Tortuguero, and Comcaac Desemboque team researchers collected 8,452 eggs from the nests of olive ridley turtles to protect them from predation. 6,152 hatchlings were later released back to the wild.

Desemboque Tortuguero Group and Ancestral Tides, an international indigenous sea turtle conservation network, joined

forces during a week long convening to strengthen cultural ties and work to protect sea turtles. Sea turtle conservation experts and leaders from indigenous coastal communities from Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, and Mexico including Comcaac, Guna, Emberá, Kogui, Kamëntsá, and Kofan tribes attended.



### EDUCATION & OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS

- 10 Public Workshops
- 5 Internships
- 4 Education Programs with 770 participants





## 4,308 VOLUNTEER HOURS

We are eternally grateful for the many hours of service our loyal volunteers have contributed to furthering the BRN mission. Their selflessness and dedication have made a significant impact. Thank you, volunteers! We are inspired by your passion and commitment.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**John Hughes**

*Borderlands Nursery & Seed Volunteer since 2013*

*“Volunteering at borderlands gives me hope for the future both through the plants and seeds we restore into the landscape, but also through the connection and inspiration I draw from seeing the younger generations care and restore the planet.”*



**Deb Goff**

*Borderlands Nursery & Seed Volunteer since 2019*

*“That in the midst of what could be Earth’s nightmare, the final one. Borderlands Restoration Network offers itself as a kind lion that picks up your soul gently by the nape of the neck and carries you into hope.”*



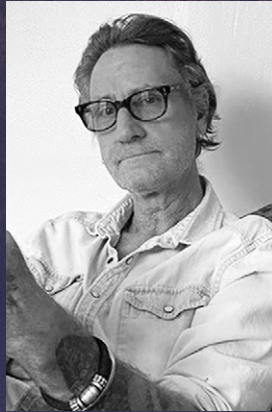


## *In Memoriam:*

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### **Glen “Gooch” Goodwin**

(1958 – 2022) was a great friend and advocate for the conservation and restoration of the Sky Islands. As a multigenerational lifelong local of Patagonia, Gooch was involved in the inception of Borderlands Restoration and is a co-founder of Patagonia Area Resource Alliance. He had unparalleled knowledge of every gulch, peak, and cranny in the area, often scouting for plants, checking secret wildlife cameras and springs, and regularly inspiring and touring youth groups around the mountains and the gorgeous San Rafael Valley. Gooch’s legacy will always be remembered through his generous and selfless spirit, passion for conservation, and commitment to wildlands stewardship and education.



### **Annie McGreevy**

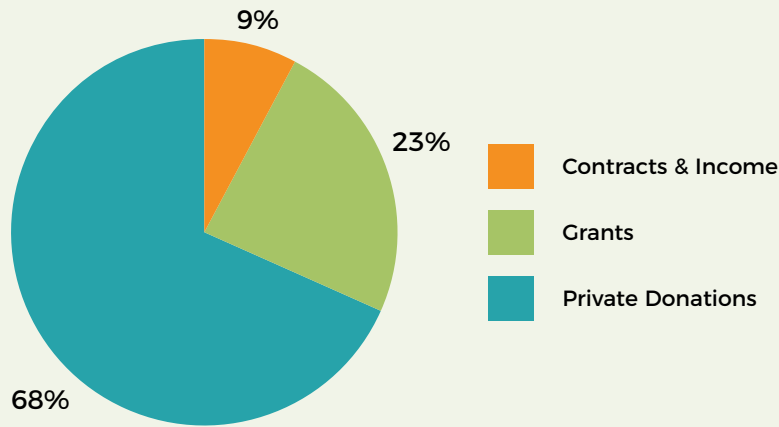
(1938 – 2022) was a great friend and supporter of BRN having been a fierce defender of the land, water, and wildlife in the region along with a strong commitment to the children of the borderlands including the Borderlands Earth Care Youth program and championing the Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center. As part of her impressive track record of community work, Annie and her husband Quentin helped found Save the Scenic Santa Ritas to protect the Santa Rita mountains from mining. We will miss Annie’s indomitable spirit, passion for the environment, and her heartfelt generosity.



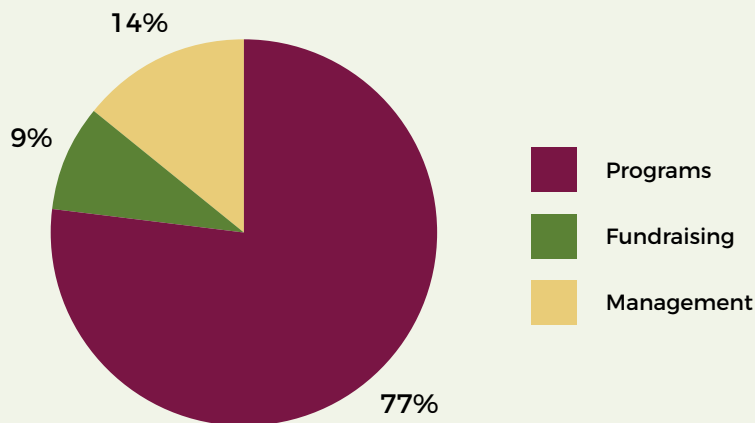


# FINANCES

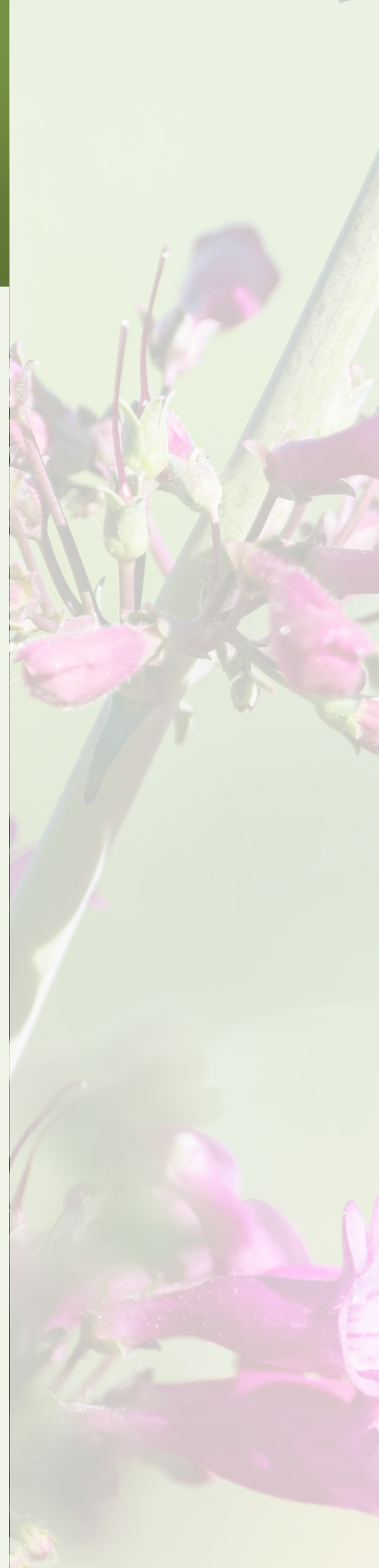
2022 Total Income: **\$2,661,563**



2022 Total Expense: **\$1,692,103**



*\*The information presented above is drawn from Borderlands Restoration Network's 2022 audited financial statements from BeachFleischman PC.*







*Scan the code  
to meet the  
Staff & Board  
of BRN*







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Christopher & Loretta Stadler

**\$10K+**

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David Welborn & Ann Hunter-Welborn

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Alan & Joan Lamborn

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 Coronado National Forest  
 Coronado National Memorial  
 Cuenca Los Ojos

Dirtbags  
 Douglas High School Land Lab  
 Douglas Public Library  
 Duglaprieta Trabaja  
 El Coronado Ranch  
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 Fort Huachuca Sentinel Landscape  
 Friends of Sonoita Creek  
 Huachuca City Community Garden  
 Gila Watershed Partnership  
 Home Grown Instruments  
 Huachuca City Public Library  
 Institute for Applied Ecology  
 Instituto Bicultural Palo Alto Los Encinos S.C.  
 Lazy RR  
 Lee Station Ranch  
 Malpai Borderlands Group  
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 Patagonia Area Resource Alliance  
 Patagonia Creative Arts Association & Tin Shed Theater  
 Patagonia Union High School & Middle School  
 Patagonia Volunteer Fire & Rescue  
 Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center  
 Petrified Forest National Park  
 Rancho El Aribabi Conservation Ranch  
 Saguaro National Park  
 San Carlos Apache Tribe  
 San Xavier Co-op Farm  
 San Xavier Natural Resources  
 Santa Fe Ranch Foundation  
 Sierra Club  
 Sky Island Alliance  
 Southern Arizona Quail Forever  
 Sweetwater Center  
 Sycamore Ranch  
 T4 Ranch  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 Tohono O'odham Community College  
 Town of Huachuca City  
 Town of Patagonia  
 Tucson Audubon Society  
 United States Fish & Wildlife Service  
 United States Forest Service  
 United States Geological Survey  
 University of Arizona  
 Watershed Management Group  
 Wildlands Network  
 Wildlife Corridor LLC  
 Wrinkler Ranch  
 Youth Conservation Crew





## STAY IN TOUCH & GET INVOLVED

Join our enews list to stay up-to-date on the latest happenings at BRN as well as upcoming events, workshops, and volunteer opportunities.

*Scan the code to get our latest news!*

## VISIT

Come see for yourself the ecological restoration work happening in the borderlands. Join us for a guided hike, workshop, volunteer opportunities, shop the nursery, or visit the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve.

## BUY OUR PLANTS & SEEDS

Visit Borderlands Nursery & Seed to shop our large selection of chemical-free and pollinator safe native plants and seeds.

*Scan the code to visit the BN&S website!*



## SUPPORT

Learn more about our current giving opportunities including our leadership giving society the Founders Circle, how to become a monthly donor, or make a gift today to help support the ongoing work and mission of BRN.

*Scan the code to donate!*

**BORDERLANDS RESTORATION NETWORK**

PO Box 121, Patagonia, AZ 85624

(520) 216-4148

[info@borderlandsrestoration.org](mailto:info@borderlandsrestoration.org)

[www.borderlandsrestoration.org](http://www.borderlandsrestoration.org) | [www.borderlandsplants.org](http://www.borderlandsplants.org) | [www.borderlandswildlifepreserve.org](http://www.borderlandswildlifepreserve.org)



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