



2019 ANNUAL REPORT



BORDERLANDS
RESTORATION
NETWORK

REBUILD. RESTORE. RECONNECT.

INTRODUCTION

IN REFLECTION....

With so many challenges facing the world and our beloved borderlands, 2019 seems quite long ago. However, our focus on strengthening and building the capacity of our organization during 2019 has prepared Borderlands Restoration Network to forge ahead stronger than ever.

From filling key staff positions and expanding our Board of Directors and Fellows Program, we were able to grow our knowledge base, expand our program capacity and propel our fundraising, grant writing, and communications, all to ensure a strong, professional, and lasting organization.

From the biggest year yet for the Native Plant Program, to continued outstanding youth education through Borderlands Earth Care Youth, the addition of *Su:dagī o wud doakag* (Water is Life), and restoring over 150 acres of public and private land through our Watershed Restoration Program, we are grateful for the opportunity to carry out our mission thanks to so many that have supported our efforts.

We are proud to share our 2019 successes with you, and in 2020, with your support will continue to rebuild, restore, and reconnect these spectacular and beloved borderlands long into the future.

Sincerely,



Kurt Vaughn
Executive Director



Lynn Davison
Board President

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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.

VISION

WE ENVISION CONNECTED BORDERLANDS WHERE RIVERS FLOW, PLANTS, WILDLIFE AND CULTURES THRIVE, AND COMMUNITIES DEVELOP AN INCLUSIVE RESTORATIVE ECONOMY WHERE A SENSE OF PLACE INSPIRES A SENSE OF PURPOSE.

RESTORATIVE ECONOMY

A RESTORATIVE ECONOMY CREATES A SYNERGY BETWEEN HUMAN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND NATURAL SYSTEMS TO BUILD A MORE PROSPEROUS AND SOCIALLY-JUST LOCAL ECONOMY, STANDING IN CONTRAST TO AN EXTRACTIVE ECONOMY, WHICH DEPLETES RESOURCES, DEGRADES ECOLOGICAL PROCESSES AND DECREASES BIODIVERSITY. A RESTORATIVE ECONOMY WORKS TO REGENERATE RESOURCES, ENHANCE PROCESSES AND INCREASE BIODIVERSITY.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thank you to the Board of Directors who provide countless hours of volunteer time, passion and expertise to govern and responsibly carry out the mission of Borderlands Restoration Network.

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Secretary

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Board Member

David Hodges
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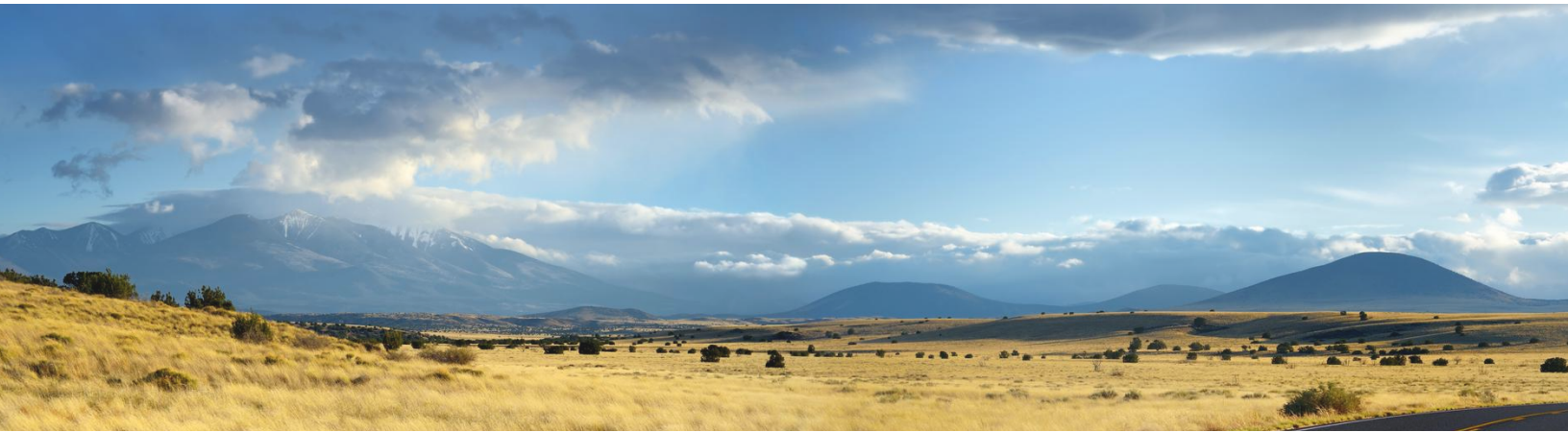
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Finance Manager

Audrey Rader, MS
Restoration Program Manager

Sarah Taylor, CFRE
**Development &
Communications Director**

Randi Trantham
Native Plant Project Manager

Yaritza Cortez
Grants & Contracts Administrator

Zach Farley
Restoration Crew Leader

Francesca Claverie
Native Plant Program Manager

Travis Gerckens
Farm & Maintenance Program Lead

Brandon Doles
Bookkeeper

David Seibert, Ph.D.
Ecological Anthropologist

Allegra Mount
**Native Plant Program
Co-Manager**

Aishah Lurry
Horticulture Technician

Caleb Weaver
Youth Education Program Manager

Andrea Fleder
Horticulture Technician

Juliet Jivanti
Education Coordinator

SENIOR FELLOWS & ADVISORS

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 outcomes, projects, and programs that contribute to BRN's mission.

José Manuel Pérez Cantú
Alan Lamborn

Dr. Laura Monti
Dr. Gary Nabhan

Dr. Laura M. Norman
Dr. Richard Pritzlaff

Dr. Ron Pulliam
Dr. David Seibert

Dr. Tom Sisk
Kate Tirion

NETWORK PARTNERS

Borderlands Restoration Network is both a 501c3 nonprofit and a network of multiple organizations in which 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.



Wildlife Corridors, LLC

OUR IMPACT

The Native Plant Program has **collected 2,400 native seed collections representing over 200 species and propagated 200,000 native plants** for use in restoration and residential projects.

BRN youth education programs including Borderlands Earth Care Youth have **trained nearly 150 youth from 5 borderland communities**.

Field Studies courses have trained over **25 students representing 7 nations**.

The Watershed Restoration Program has **improved 500 acres of public and private land retaining an estimated 1140 tons of soil**, improving hydrologic and soil condition to enhance wildlife habitat, and recharging shallow groundwater tables.

BRN employs **15 full-time employees and 11 part-time employees** averaging between 18-24 employees in total throughout the year, as well as an additional **20 interns**.

BRN has worked and continues to **work with over 60 program partners** to carry out our mission.

REBUILD.

The BRN Watershed & Habitat Restoration Program works to rebuild depleted watersheds and stressed habitats through ecological restoration.

WATERSHED & HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM

- **Restored over 150 acres of public and private land** in southern Arizona.
- Installed over **500 erosion control structures retaining an estimated 570 tons of soil** from polluting downstream waterways, as well as detain rainwater to enhance site conditions for vegetation and wildlife, and gradually recharge groundwater sources.
- Seeded **ten acres with native seed** and **planted over 1,000 native plants** to address pollinator nectar gaps across sensitive landscapes.
- Removed **five acres of invasive plant species** at Coronado National Memorial to protect the habitat of the sensitive and likely soon-to-be-listed endangered *Pectis imberbis*, or beardless chinchweed.
- Developed the **Sonoita Creek Watershed Conservation Plan** in conjunction with Tucson Audubon Society, Circle Z Ranch, and The Nature Conservancy to support healthy social and natural environments within the Sonoita Creek Watershed.
- **Trained 20 youth in ecological restoration activities**, engaging them on topics such as erosion control, out-planting, and seeding.
- **Rehabilitated Dragonfly Pond at the Borderlands Wildlife Preserve** attracting and supporting a host of animal and plant life.



Protecting the Beardless Chinchweed



Historically, *Pectis imberbis* (beardless chinchweed) has been found in the Atascosa-Pajarito, Huachuca, Patagonia, and Santa Rita Mountains in southern Arizona. In recent decades, only six U.S. populations have been located, five of which have fewer than 50 individuals in the population. Of the six surviving populations, Coronado National Memorial has one population that accounts for over 62% of the total population.

On the contrary, invasive grasses also found in Coronado National Memorial, *Eragrostis lehmanniana* (Lehman's lovegrass) and *Eragrostis curvula* (weeping lovegrass), both have the tendency to "crowd out" native species and dominate landscapes. Beardless Chinchweed is a fragile, dainty aster that seemingly prefers to grow in wide open spaces or in the drip-line of trees in rocky exposed soils. Removing the invasive grasses is crucial to improving habitat for this rare plant.

BRN worked in Coronado National Memorial hand-pulling patches of invasive grasses before they grew any larger, or any nearer to the beardless chinchweed. New individuals were located and 48 monitoring plots were established. The plots will help to better understand beardless chinchweed and inform future restoration practices. These plots will also be utilized by researchers at Northern Arizona University who are interested in pollinator-plant interactions with this very special plant.

Rehabilitating Dragonfly Pond

The Borderlands Wildlife Preserve encompasses over 1,200 acres of land that serves as a critical wildlife corridor and preserve. Thanks to generous support from Christopher and Loretta Stadler, BRN outplanted native vegetation, conducted hydrological restoration and restored Dragonfly Pond, a crucial source of water for wildlife. Nearby wildlife cameras have captured a plethora of wildlife utilizing the pond including skunks, coyotes, deer, ravens, hawks, flycatchers, warblers, buntings, sparrows, hummingbirds, foxes, and tracks also indicate usage by mountain lions.

To restore this pond, BRN staff outplanted vine mesquite (*Hopia obtusa*), giant sacaton (*Sporobolous wrightii*), and desert honeysuckle (*Anisacanthus thurberi*) on the banks of the pond chosen for their forage and habitat potential for wildlife of the region. As they grow, these plants will also serve as a "blind" for wildlife using the location so they may remain undisturbed by the comings and goings of wildlife lovers visiting the preserve and hiking trails.



All wildlife in the borderlands are under threat from increasing drought conditions, rampant development, and barriers to habitat connectivity. Restoration activities enacted by Borderlands Restoration Network ensure that this habitat is not only preserved, but also made resilient to future environmental stressors.

Stitching the Landscape with USFS & ADEQ



Widely recognized as a global biodiversity hotspot, the Madrean Sky Islands are home to incredible diversity of pollinators, reptiles, birds, and mammals, including the only remaining jaguars in the U.S. However, many portions of this region, such as Smith Canyon (*roughly ten minutes north of Patagonia*) are facing the increasing pressures of climate change that are exacerbating trends of habitat degradation and fragmentation. Topsoil loss in Smith Canyon has had cascading effects on vegetation, water availability, and wildlife habitat integrity for riparian birds like the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo which face declining nesting success, and large mammals such as the jaguar which must traverse an increasingly divided and deteriorating landscape. In 2019, BRN was funded by the United States Forest Service and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to install rock erosion control structures across Smith Canyon.

In an effort to keep soil in place, improve the region's hydrology, and improve habitat for years to come, BRN staff installed upwards of 500 erosion control structures across the canyon estimated to retain an estimated 300 tons of soil across their cumulative lifespans. Through these efforts, BRN is stitching the landscape back together and supporting this vital region for years to come.

RESTORE.

The BRN Native Plant Program works to promote and protect biodiversity and ecosystems in the Sky Islands by providing access to restoration-quality native plant materials.

NATIVE PLANT PROGRAM

- The BRN Native Plant Program collected over **400lbs of native seed** including collections for multiple federal and private agency partners, **banking over 750 accessioned collections.**
- **Collected over 250lbs of seed** for US Forest Service work in Mansfield Canyon for revegetating the landscape after mine reclamation.
- The Native Plant Program nursery **offered over 200 plant species** for purchase and contract, **producing over 50,000 individual plants** with over 70% of plants and seeds distributed for habitat and restoration projects in southern Arizona.
- Partnered with the Institute for Applied Ecology to **grow wild collected seed on a half acre grow-out field** for Tonto National Forest restoration projects collecting over 200 lbs of seed from the field.
- **Contracted with the National Park Service to grow out 2,500 plants** from seed collected from Horseshoe Bend National Park to be planted at the Glenn Canyon National Recreation Area on the northern Arizona-Utah border.
- Collaborated with **Bat Conservation International** to lead an **agave seed collection workshop in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico**, and collaborated with the Colectivo Sonora Silvestre to lead **planting workshops** and present at the Día del Jaguar Festival in Alamos, Sonora, Mexico.
- Through funding from Mountain Rose Herbs and Bat Conservation International, begun development of a **bilingual practitioners booklet for growing agaves from seed for restoration projects** benefitting nectar feeding bats.



Collecting the Seeds of Tomorrow



While the BRN horticulture team collects seed year round for restoration projects, the bulk of the work happens during the fall season. As monsoons draw to a close, warm-season native plants finish flowering and complete the ripening process on their precious fruit while preparing to disperse it across the landscape.

BRN's focus during the post-monsoon collection season is set on one kind of plant in particular, native grasses. Our southern Arizona grasslands are unique ecosystems that are valuable to wildlife as habitat, to ranchers as forage, and to the world as a form of carbon sequestration.

In ecological restoration, grasses have tremendous value for their ability to grow and establish quickly from seed and hold soil in place on steep slopes. Native grasses also have extensive, fibrous root systems that allow them to withstand periods of drought by staying dormant.

In 2019, we collected over 200lbs of seed from native grasses and forbs from over 40 different species. This seed will be used in restoration projects across the borderlands on public lands, as well as being added to our ever growing seed collection. Public lands projects of note include over 250lbs of seed collection for the Mansfield Mine Restoration Project in the Coronado National Forest in the Santa Rita Mountains, and grass seed collection at the Coronado National Memorial in the Huachuca Mountains.

Protecting Wild Crop Relatives

Working with field botanists from the USDA Forest Service's Enterprise Program, BRN surveyed the presence of wild Chiltepin (*Capsicum annuum* var. *glabriusculum*) and other wild crop relatives, or wild plants closely related to a domesticated plant, in the Wild Chile Botanical Area of the Tumacacori Highlands.

This work is a part of a project with the US Forest Service, the Agricultural Resource Service, and BRN Senior Fellow Gary Nabhan, to track the changing presence of plant populations that have ethnobotanical significance, are threatened or sensitive, or are related to cultivated plants. BRN's specific role in this project was to focus on collecting specimens to send to the University of Arizona Herbarium and scout for populations to collect seed for seed banking. Protecting and maintaining healthy populations of arid land adapted wild crop relatives is important for future food security in the face of climate change.



Binational Bats & Agaves



With almost 30 species of bats in Arizona most eat insects except for two nectar feeders, the Mexican long-tongued bat (*Choeronycteris mexicana*) and Lesser long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris yerbabuena*). Nectar feeding bats are nighttime plant pollinators that follow the bloom cycles of mostly succulents like agave and cacti in Mexico and the very tip of the southern US. Agave is an important bat food source in the grassland region that faces continued threats such as climate change, land development, and wild harvest of agaves for bacanora production, the regional mescal produced from agaves in Sonora. Collaborative work across the US/Mexico region is important to protect both bats and agaves.

Alongside our efforts with Bat Conservation International and the #agavesforbats campaign to collect seed and propagate thousands of agaves for restoration, we also organized outreach efforts in Sonora and northern Mexico including leading an agave seed collection workshop in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, and collaborated with the Colectivo Sonora Silvestre to lead agave planting workshops at the Día del Jaguar Festival in Alamos, Sonora.

Through Borderlands Restoration Network's partnerships we are making a difference in the long-term availability of agaves on the landscape to support bats, as well as other important ecological functions. There are currently thousands of agave seedlings in the native plant nursery that will be planted in the next year and a half, and millions of *Agave palmeri* seed at our seed lab to be used for future agave restoration work.

RECONNECT.

BRN's education programs work to empower youth and young professionals through placed-based learning opportunities, skills training, and work to inspire the next generation of leaders to pursue conservation-based livelihoods in our borderland communities.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH



- Borderlands Earth Care Youth (BECY) program **hired 20 youth and two adult** facilitators, from the **border communities of Douglas and Patagonia** who conducted hands on restoration work in both rural and semi-urban settings across the borderlands.

- Participants built **109 new rock and wood erosion-control structures** in the Chiricahua Mountains including building rock detention structures in Pinery Canyon and Reed Creek, and Shaw Tank in the Dragoon Mountains.
- Built **125 new rock and wood erosion-control structures** within Smith Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains.
- Learned **skills in sustainable agriculture** from eight local experts, including visiting four farms/ranches.
- In collaboration with the City of Douglas, designed and constructed **infiltration basins and planted native plants in downtown Douglas.**

Su:daḡi o wud doakag (Water is Life)

- In collaboration with Baboquivari High School from the Tohono O'odham Nation, **BRN supported piloting the Su:daḡi o wud doakag (Water is Life)** program providing **13 paid internships** to high school and college students, and **2 paid adult** facilitators.
- The **Su:daḡi o wud doakag (Water is Life)** program conducted **ecological restoration projects at Baboquivari High School** including building a natural walking path, a watho (ramada) with mesquite pods and ribs of saguaros, and installed cisterns for a passive water system to bring rain water into their courtyard and support desert native plants.

BRN Field Studies Course

- Field School hosted **14 participants** from Arizona, Northern Mexico, Tohono O'odham Nation and the greater United States training participants in a **multi-week intensive training in arid land restoration ecology** and provided foundational principles of the restorative economy.
- **\$8,800 in scholarships were awarded** for course costs and housing.
- **Five paid internships were provided** to young adults who completed the course for further skill and leadership building.



Youth Changing the Landscape



Borderlands Earth Care Youth (BECY) inspires and trains the next generation of land stewards by hiring youth to restore their home watersheds. Twelve person youth crews from the border communities of Douglas and Patagonia, Arizona are hired to partake in the 6-week program.

Amongst the many projects completed during the summer of 2019, BECY youth participating from Douglas and Patagonia worked in conjunction with the City of Douglas to plan and execute a restoration project in downtown Douglas. BECY youth designed and installed infiltration basins lined with rocks painted by community members, and planted native-pollinator attracting plants helping the town mitigate water runoff while creating a space to display the youth's hard work.

During 2019, participants also accomplished projects including water harvesting at the urban and home scale, building erosion control structures on working lands, pond and spring restoration, invasive species removal, native seed collecting and curating, native plant propagation, permaculture design, and assisting farmers and ranchers in daily tasks.

Su:dagī o wud doakag (Water is Life)

Since the arrival of Spanish missionaries, 96% of the surface water in Tohono O'odham ancestral homelands has disappeared, prompting the Tohono O'odham youth to take charge and create opportunities to mitigate the environmental challenges within the nation. As a result, Baboquivari High School, Borderlands Restoration Network, Tohono O'odham Community College, and Flowers & Bullets piloted the Su:dagī o wud doakag, or Water is Life after school youth program.

BHS students designed and installed a Ju:ki Oidag, or Rain Garden, on the BHS campus, harvested rainwater, planted gardens, and sowed seeds of hope for future generations. The Ju:ki Oidag was made possible through the culmination of hundreds of hours of hard work, deep learning, and collaboration, along with the immense support of the Baboquivari High School community.

The successes of Su:dagī o wud doakag has led to the expansion of funding for three more years of this program, which will employ 15 youth per year and impact over 325 Baboquivari youth between grades 7 through 12. The Su:dagī o wud doakag program was designed for TO youth to earn valuable skills, training, and income while connecting with O'odham himdag or way of life.



Creating Leaders of the Future



The Borderlands Restoration Network Field Course is an immersive, practical training course designed to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders in the Sky Islands. Valeria Cañedo attended the Field Course in 2018 and used the skills and leadership learned to co-develop a newly forming nonprofit organization, Colectivo Sonora Silvestre, in Mexico, focused on collaborative habitat restoration.

Valeria has continued to collaborate with BRN through many projects focused on wildland education and habitat restoration in the Sonoran Desert. In 2019, Valeria returned for an internship with BRN and took part in developing a Spanish curriculum for participants, along with creating Spanish resources to provide access to environmental information in Mexico, and contribute to cross-border collaboration efforts.

“In the summer of 2019 I had the opportunity to do an internship with Borderlands Restoration Network to help bring the Field Course to Sonora and bring this opportunity to Mexican students who may not have a visa to travel to Arizona. The curriculum of the course that was created is based on our experiences as students of biology, reinforcing the knowledge in areas of conservation, restoration and above all transboundary problems that we live with everyday. The biggest lesson I learned during my stay is that small actions can change the future of students and thereby lead to the next generation of environmental leaders.” - *Valeria Cañedo*

IN GRATITUDE

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS \$5K+

Marcey Olajos & Ron Lee
Christopher & Loretta Stadler



\$1000+

Laura Chester
Yunghi Choi
Lynn Davison & Judy Clegg
Mike & Sandy Dean
Ann Gosline & Jerry Rodman
Alan & Joan Lamborn

Jack May*
Annie McGreevy & Quentin Lewton
Debra Paterson
Chris & Mary Strohm

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Don & Doris Wenig
Laura Wenzel

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*We make every effort to list your name correctly. If we made an error, we do sincerely apologize!
Please contact us at taylor@borderlandsrestoration.org and let us know.*

PROJECT PARTNERS & GRANTORS

2019 PROJECT PARTNERS

47Ranch
Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch
Arevalos Farm
Arizona Commission on the Arts
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Arizona Department of Forestry & Fire Management
Arizona Native Plant Society Santa Cruz Chapter
Baboquivari High School
Bat Conservation International
Biophilia Foundation
Border Arts Corridor
Borderlands Restoration L3C
City of Douglas
Colectivo Sonora Silvestre
Coronado National Forest
Coronado National Monument
Cuenca Los Ojos
Deep Dirt Institute
Douglas High School
Flowers & Bullets
Friends of Sonoita Creek
Gila Watershed Partnership
Harris Heritage Farm
Home Grown Instruments
Huachuca City Community Garden
Huachuca City Public Library
Madrean Archipelago Plant Propagation Initiative
Malpai Borderlands Group
Milagros del Desierto
Native Seeds/SEARCH
NOLS SW
Partners for Fish and Wildlife
Patagonia Corporation
Patagonia Creative Arts Association
Patagonia Flower Farm
Patagonia Museum
Patagonia Public Library
Patagonia Union High School
Patagonia Youth Enrichment Center
Pollinator Corridors Southwest
Southern Arizona QuailForever
Santa Fe Ranch Foundation
Sky Island Alliance
USFWS Sonoran Joint Venture
Southwestern Research Station
Strategic Habitat Enhancements
Sweetwater Center
T4Ranch
The Nature Conservancy
Tohono O'odham Community College

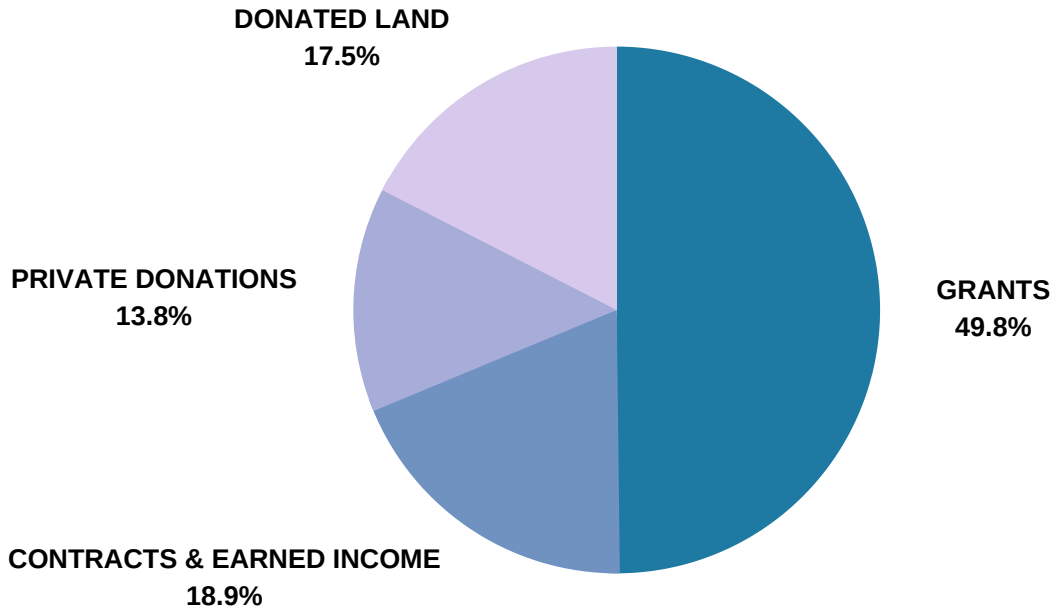
Tucson Audubon Society
University of Arizona
University of New Mexico Land Arts of the American West
USDA
US Forest Service
US Geological Survey
Watershed Management Group
Wildlife Corridor LLC
Youth Conservation Crew

2019 GRANTORS

Agnes Nelms Haury Program in Environment & Social Justice
Arizona Community Foundation of Cochise
Arizona Department of Agriculture
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
AZ Department of Forestry and Fire Management
Biophilia Foundation
Community Foundation Sonoma County
Desert Diamond Casino
Frances Seebe Trust
Legacy Foundation of Southeast Arizona
Lush Cosmetics
Malpai Borderlands Group
Mountain Rose Herbs
National Park Service
One Tree Planted
Partners for Fish & Wildlife
Patagonia
Patagonia Regional Community Foundation
USFWS Partners Program
USFWS Sonoran Joint Venture
SB Foundation
The North Face
United States Forest Service
Wright-Ingraham Institute
Anonymous (1)

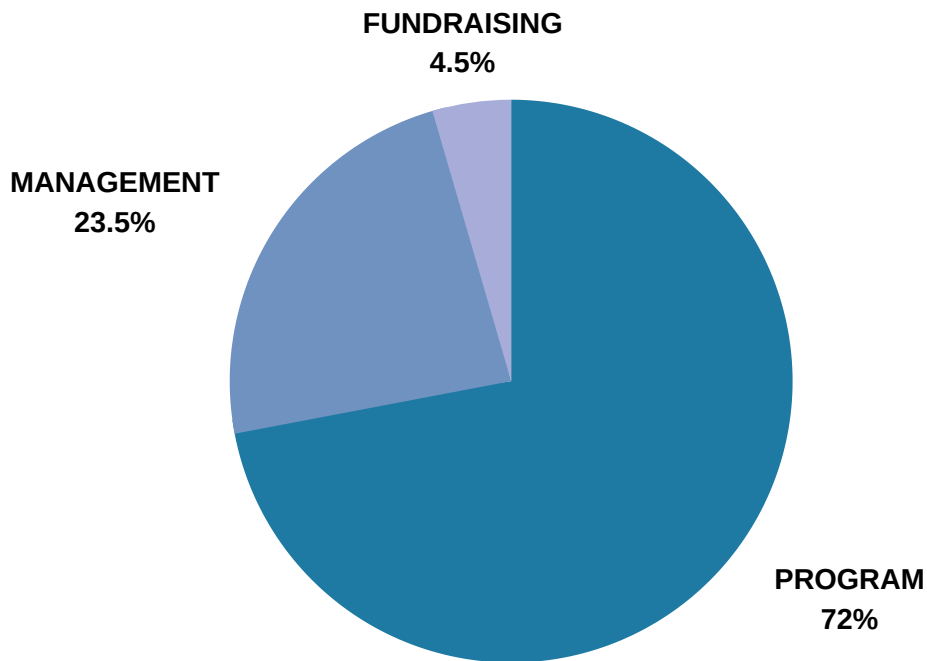
FINANCIALS

INCOME & SOURCES OF SUPPORT



2019 TOTAL INCOME: \$1,257,590

EXPENSES



2019 TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,068,992



**The information presented above is drawn from Borderlands Restoration Network's 2019 audited financial statements from BeachFleischman PC.*

Let us be good stewards of the Earth we inherited. All of us have to share the Earth's fragile ecosystems and precious resources, and each of us has a role to play in preserving them. If we are to go on living together on this earth, we must all be responsible for it.

-Kofi Annan



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 upcoming tours, shop the native plant nursery, join us for a nature walk or a workshop.

VOLUNTEER.

Put your hands where your heart is and join volunteers in our nursery, native 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.

PURCHASE OUR PLANTS & SEEDS.

Visit the Borderlands Restoration Native Plant Nursery to purchase plants, order seeds online, or contact us to make a wholesale purchase of our products. Visit our website for complete details.

DONATE.

Nothing is possible without the generous support of our donors. Visit our website for complete details about all our giving opportunities.

STAY IN TOUCH.

Follow us on Facebook.com/[borderlandsrestorationnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/borderlandsrestorationnetwork) and Instagram @BorderlandsRestoration, and make sure to sign-up for our newsletter via our website.

HIRE US.

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



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