



# BRI Offers Stewardship Services to West Texas Landowners

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The Stewardship Services program at Borderlands Research Institute provides landowners with wildlife and conservation management assessments and connects landowners with experts in their area.

**B**orderlands Research Institute (BRI) is expanding services to help West Texas landowners manage and monitor their properties. Thanks to support from the Respect Big Bend Coalition, BRI hired veteran West Texas conservation biologist and former Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Regional Director Billy Tarrant in 2019 to lead the new Stewardship Services program. Along with landowner engagement activities connected to the Respect Big Bend effort, Tarrant is also working on expanding the landowner services provided by BRI.

“With more than 95 percent of land in Texas privately owned, we know that partnering with and supporting landowners is the key to successful conservation efforts in West Texas,” said Dr. Louis Harveson, who is the Dan Allen Hughes Jr., BRI Endowed Director and Professor of Wildlife Management at Sul Ross State University. “Providing landowners with the tools they need is an important part of our mission to conserve the natural resources of the Chihuahuan Desert Borderlands through research, education and outreach.”



Respect Big Bend

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Stewardship Services can include camera surveys, such as the one above, which help assess a property's wildlife populations and contribute to informed management decisions.



The Stewardship Services program at Borderlands Research Institute gives landowners the tools they need to be good stewards of the land, whether that's through ranch mapping, habitat assessments, water enhancements, fence modifications or species identification and inventories.

Stewardship Services include initial ranch consults by BRI staff and students to identify ranch priorities and help landowners connect with the expert resources available to them through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, TPWD and area land trusts, just to name a few. In addition, a variety of other services are available including mapping services, habitat assessments, water enhancements, fence modifications, wildlife and camera surveys, wildlife management plans, and species identification and inventories. In addition, BRI provides numerous outreach opportunities for landowners, such as workshops, seminars and conferences.

The Stewardship Services program is leading the outreach efforts of the Respect Big Bend Coalition with a number of upcoming seminars, four of which are confirmed for early 2020, and other seminars are being planned for the fall. Respect Big Bend is a collaboration between local landowners, community residents and leadership, scientists, industry, researchers and conservationists formed to address energy development's impact in the Big Bend region of far West Texas.

“These upcoming landowner seminars are designed to provide resources to area landowners to assist them with energy development opportunities on their properties,” said Billy Tarrant, BRI’s Associate Director for Stewardship Services who also serves as Regional Coordinator for the Respect Big Bend Coalition. “By engaging them in this process, we will be able to provide the support they need to help them benefit from economic opportunities that may arise while maintaining the character and heritage of Big Bend area working lands.”

## BIG BEND SEMINAR SERIES ON ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

An upcoming seminar series is designed to engage a broad constituency of Big Bend community members to better inform them on recent energy projections, potential impacts on communities and conservation values, and to develop creative strategies to conserve the unique resources and communities of the region.

There are four seminars scheduled in early 2020. They will all take place at The Espino Conference Center at Sul Ross State University in Alpine. Several fall 2020 seminars are also in the works. The seminar series is sponsored in part by Borderlands Research Institute and the Respect Big Bend Coalition, through the generosity of the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation, Meadows Foundation, Permian Basin Area Foundation and Still Water Foundation.

### Wednesday, January 15, 2020

**Topic:** Is Energy Development Coming to the Big Bend? Understanding the Latest Energy Projections and a Novel Approach to Reducing the Impacts of Energy Sprawl

**Keynote:** Marilu Hastings - Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation

Michael Young - Bureau of Economic Geology-UT Austin

### Wednesday, February 5, 2020

**Topic:** Potential Community Impacts from Energy Development: What to Expect and How to Prepare

**Keynote:** David Iannelli - Hudson Pacific

Mike Teague - Adamantine Energy

### Wednesday, March 18, 2020

**Topic:** Development by Design: Where Energy and Conservation Meet

**Keynote:** Joe Kiesecker - The Nature Conservancy of Texas

Melinda Taylor - UT-Austin

### Wednesday, April 22, 2020

**Topic:** The Case for the Trans-Pecos: Texas' Last Frontier

**Keynote:** Roel Lopez - Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute

Louis Harveson - Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University

