

WATER IN THE DESERT 2026

SUL ROSS
STATE
UNIVERSITY
ALPINE, TEXAS

A CONFERENCE ABOUT
Water in the Chihuahuan Desert of West Texas

AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, February 11, 2026

- 12pm** **Registration, networking and exhibits,**
Morgan University Center
- 1:00** **Welcome and Setting the Stage;** A look
at West Texas land trends and drought
and climate trends in our arid Chihuahuan
Desert region
- 1:30** **Stewardship for Healthy Watersheds**
- 2:00** **An Essential Primer on GCDs, DFCs
and GMAs**
- 2:30** **Rio Grande and Pecos River** Compacts,
Flows and Challenges
- 3:00** **Networking Break** with student research
poster sessions and exhibits
- 3:30** **Water for Texas' Future;** Prop 4
- 4:00** **Produced Water;** The Biggest Conversation
in the Permian Basin
- 4:30** **Data Centers;** What they may mean for
water in West Texas
- 5:00** **Welcome Reception hosted by
Environmental Defense Fund,
Rio Grande Joint Venture and Texas
Wildlife Association**

Thursday, February 12, 2026

- 8am** **Networking breakfast**
Morgan University Center
- Educational Sessions at Marshall Auditorium**
- 9:00** **Welcome and Opening Remarks,**
PAUL FOSTER and **DR. LOUIS
HARVESON**
- 9:15** **Keynote Session, BRIAN RICHTER,**
Water Scarcity—Realities and Solutions

- 9:45** **Grounded in Science;** Groundwater
research, data modeling and applications
in local communities. Moderated by
JOHN DUPNIK with a special introduction
by TWDB Director **ASHLEY MORGAN**
- 10:45** **BREAK** (15 min)
- 11:00** **Legislative Action,** moderated by
VANESSA PUIG-WILLIAMS, featuring
State Rep. **BROOKS LANDGRAF,**
State Rep. **EDDIE MORALES** and
State Rep. **STAN KITZMAN**
- 12:00** **Lunch and Networking Break** with student
research poster sessions and exhibits
- 1:30** **Reflections of Water, TRACY O. KING,**
Senior Advisor to Texas Speaker of the
House Dustin Burrows
- 1:45** **County Voices,** Brewster County
JUDGE GREG HENINGTON with
Pecos County **JUDGE SHUSTER,**
Hudspeth County **JUDGE MACKENZIE**
and Real County **JUDGE RUBIO**
- 2:30** **A Conversation about the Rule of Capture**
DR. ROBERT MACE and **ROBERT POTTS**
- 3:15** **Break** (15 min)
- 3:30** **Research Lightning Rounds** moderated by
BILLY TARRANT with special remarks
by **ERIC R. MEADOWS,** President & CEO,
The Meadows Foundation
- 4:00** **Our West Texas Elders,** moderated by
DR. ANDREW SANSOM
- 4:45** **Closing Remarks,** Congressman
TONY GONZALES, U.S. House
of Representatives (Dist. 23)
- 5:00** **Closing reception at the Museum
of the Big Bend**

Friday, February 13, 2026

Morning Field Trips