

Trans-Pecos Wildlife Conference

PROGRAM AGENDA

AUG 5-7
2026

Wednesday, August 5

5:00pm - 8:00pm | Texas Big Game Awards

Join us at the Museum of the Big Bend for an evening dedicated to honoring those who sustain Texas' proud hunting traditions.

Thursday, August 6

Presentation sessions will be held on the 2nd floor of the SRSU Morgan University Center. The registration booth opens at 7:45am. Coffee and grab-and-go breakfast provided.

Session I: Keynote and Emerging Issues

Moderator: DR. LOUIS HARVESON, Director, Borderlands Research Institute

8:15am | Welcome Remarks

8:20am | Keynote Session

Change at the Border: Voices from Conservation, Science, and Policy

RAYMOND SKILES, Wildlife Biologist, Retired Wilderness Coordinator at Big Bend National Park, National Park Service
JIM BRADBURY, Managing Partner, James D. Bradbury, PLLC
THE HONORABLE GREG P. HENINGTON, Brewster County Judge

9:20am | Update on New World Screwworm and other Wildlife Diseases in Texas

DR. SARA WYCKOFF, Wildlife Veterinarian, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

9:40am | Preserving Darkness in An Age of Light

STEPHEN HUMMEL, Dark Skies Sr. Outreach Program Coordinator, McDonald Observatory

10:00am | Research Lightning Round

Connected by Water: Linking Springs, Rivers, Wildlife, and People

DR. KELBI DELAUNE, Research Scientist, Meadows Research Institute for West Texas Water, Sul Ross State University

An Update of Three Saltcedar Biocontrols Along the Rio Grande and Pecos Rivers

DR. CHRISTOPHER RITZI, Professor, Sul Ross State University

Moving Conservation and Management Forward: a Perspective Gained from a Decade-Plus of Research

DR. DANIEL COLLINS, Research Scientist, Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University

From Wetlands to Desert Grasslands: Building Resilient Ecological Communities in Arid Landscapes

DR. ANTONIO CANTU, Research Scientist, Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University

10:40am | Break, Sponsored by Center for Big Bend Studies

Session II: Big Game Management and Research

Moderator: KIDDO CAMPBELL, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

10:55am | Trans-Pecos Mule Deer and Pronghorn Population Update

SHAWN GRAY, Mule Deer and Pronghorn Program Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

11:15am | ProngMap: A Tool for Understanding Change and Prioritizing Management of Pronghorn Habitat

DR. JUSTIN FRENCH, Research Scientist, Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University

11:35am | Desert Bighorn Sheep Update

JOSE ETCHART, Bighorn Sheep Program Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

11:55am | Putting the Numbers to Aoudad Management: Finding Achievable Recommendations for a Variety of Goals

DR. JUSTIN FRENCH, Research Scientist, Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University

12:15pm | Lunch

Session III: Non-Game Management and Research

Moderator: **BILL ADAMS**, Associate Director of Operations, Borderlands Research Institute | Interim Director, Center for Big Bend Studies

1:30pm | An Update on Mountain Lions in Texas

RICHARD HEILBRUN, Wildlife Division Deputy Director, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

1:50pm | Using Sound to Detect Cryptic Birds in the Trans-Pecos

DR. RYAN LUNA, Kelly R. Thompson Professor in Quail Research, Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University

2:10pm | Black Bears in the Borderlands: Research Updates Along the US-Mexico Border

CAITLIN CAMP-PAPPAS, Graduate Research Assistant, Borderlands Research Institute

2:30pm | Living with Bears

AUSTIN BOHANNON, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

3:00pm | Break

Session IV: Habitat Management and Land Stewardship

Moderator: **BILLY TARRANT**, Associate Director of Stewardship Services, Borderlands Research Institute | Interim Director, Meadows Research Institute for West Texas Water

3:20pm | Restoring Grassland Birds by Removing Encroaching Brush

DR. MAUREEN FRANK, James A. "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation Endowed Professor, Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University

3:40pm | Watershed Stewardship and the Alamito Creek Conservation Initiative

JARED SCHNIERS, Alamito Creek Conservation Initiative Coordinator, Borderlands Research Institute

PRICE RUMBELOW, Conservation Delivery Coordinator, Rio Grande Joint Venture

4:00pm | Habitat Restoration in Practice: Successes, Setbacks, and Lessons Learned

DR. CARLOS GONZALEZ, Nau Endowed Chair in Habitat Research and Management, Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University

4:10pm | Cows and Desert Grasslands: What We Learned from Grazing Management Research

DR. SILVERIO AVILA, Research Scientist, Borderlands Research Institute, Sul Ross State University | Extension Range Specialist, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

4:20pm | Closing Remarks

5:00pm - 7:00pm | Reception

All attendees are invited to dinner and drinks at the Museum of the Big Bend.

Friday, August 7

7:00am - 9:00am | Guided Birding Hike

Hancock Hill Trailhead

8:00am - 1:00pm | Mimms Unit Visit

Departing from SRSU Morgan University Center Parking Lot

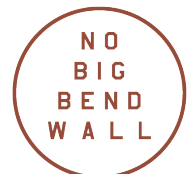
9:00am - 11:00am | Comparative Necropsy

Everett E. Turner Range Animal Science Center Outdoor Classroom



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trip

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