Dear Friends,

Perhaps at no other time in our lives has nature played such a crucial role—providing us with beauty, calming us in uncertain times, and inspiring creativity and a hopeful, positive outlook. Supporting and protecting Big Bend National Park—an iconic example of nature, beauty, and peace, a place that we know will always be there to lift us up—expresses those values we believe in. We are so grateful for the support that you have so generously provided for the Big Bend Conservancy allowing us to pursue our mission to support and protect Big Bend National Park.

In 2019 your donations allowed us to fulfill a pledge for the Trails Endowment which constitutes such an important legacy as the endowment provides support for trails, signage, and exhibits in perpetuity. With your help, we also raised $150,000 for historic renovations in celebration of Big Bend National Park’s 75th birthday. After the devastating Castolon fire that destroyed La Harmonia, our historic store serving the region since 1902, we established the Castolon Recovery Fund to provide immediate assistance. Our effort to preserve this critically important historic area will be a priority for the Conservancy in the years ahead.

Your donations allow us to work with local partners, to assist Park staff in difficult situations, to provide communications to members during critical times, and to work together with Park staff to respond to the Park’s needs. In addition to major projects and campaigns, your donations through the purchase of Big Bend license plates have generated $XX over the course of 24 years, an essential portion of our operating budget each year. Your donations allow us to work with local partners, to assist Park staff in difficult situations, to provide communications to members during critical times, and to work together with Park staff to respond to the Park’s needs. In addition to major projects and campaigns, your donations through the purchase of Big Bend license plates have generated $XX over the course of 24 years, an essential portion of our operating budget each year. Perhaps at no other time in our lives has nature played such a crucial role—providing us with beauty, calming us in uncertain times, and inspiring creativity and a hopeful, positive outlook. Supporting and protecting Big Bend National Park—an iconic example of nature, beauty, and peace, a place that we know will always be there to lift us up—expresses those values we believe in. We are so grateful for the support that you have so generously provided for the Big Bend Conservancy allowing us to pursue our mission to support and protect Big Bend National Park.

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We strive to be the very best stewards of Big Bend National Park and donor funds that allow us to protect and preserve this special place for all of us. On behalf of the BBC Board and staff, we thank you so very much for the privilege of serving and protecting our beautiful Park. Particularly in the times at hand, we are most grateful to all of you for your generosity, your support, and your commitment to the future—preserving the grand and sweeping wild landscapes, biodiversity, and beauty of Big Bend.

With gratitude,
Brenda Steuer
President
Big Bend Conservancy

Our first endowment is the James “Buddy” Davidson Charitable Foundation Trails Endowment and was fully funded in January 2019. Despite the shutdown we worked with the park to establish the fund’s parameters, and we were finally able to celebrate with donors and the park trail crew in January 2020. This endowment will fund maintenance, rehabilitation and expansion for trails around the park. The parameters are flexible, allowing park leadership to request funds for anything from seasonal work crews to equipment to signage. Trails are the lifeblood of Big Bend National Park, and we are pleased to have a permanent fund dedicated to ensuring they are in the best shape possible for future visitors.

Our second endowment funding was completed in January 2020, establishing the Fossil Discovery Endowment. This fund is dedicated to the Fossil Discovery Exhibit, and is our final gift to the exhibit. The endowment will fund a wide variety of needs at the exhibit – updating exhibits, deep cleaning of exhibits, repairs and maintenance and special programming. This will keep the Fossil Discovery Exhibit in world class condition for many years to come.

The Conservancy intends to grow these endowments through earned income, the $1 checkoff program with the lodge concessioner and planned gifts. The larger these funds grow, the more funding we can provide the park.

If you would like to contribute to an endowment please contact Courtney at director@bigbendconservancy.org or 512-529-1149.
Big Bend Turns 75

Big Bend National Park turned 75 years old in 2019, and Big Bend Conservancy celebrated this birthday with park staff across the state. From Free Family Days at the Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin to countless Rotary talks, to a Birthday Bash at Sul Ross State University, we brought the park to Texans with free events. We also had a resolution passed in the Texas House of Representatives extolling Big Bend’s virtues. We enjoyed having a year of celebration and look forward to the next 75 years!
Ten Year Spotlight

As the park’s visitation grows, so do the projects of Big Bend Conservancy. We hit the $1 million mark in funds raised for the park at the end of 2009. Since then we have raised an additional $2.8 million, raising our total to over $3.8 million contributed to projects, events and programs at Big Bend National Park. As we head into our 25th Anniversary year we continue to work on behalf of the park and in support of our mission: to support, promote and raise funds for Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River.

**2009**

- NPS Big Bend Permanent Full-Time Employees: 85
- Visitors: 363,905
- Total Funding to Big Bend National Park: $141,000
  - National Public Lands Day: $2,000
  - Ride for Trails: $3,000
  - Fossil Discovery Exhibit: $49,000
  - Orientation Film: $87,000

**2019**

- NPS Big Bend Permanent Full-Time Employees: 93
- Visitors: 463,832
- Total Funding to Big Bend National Park: $466,480
  - Government Shutdown Response: $5,900
  - Castolon Recovery Fund: $7,080
  - PBS “Nature” Documentary: $28,500
  - 75th Anniversary Celebrations: $35,000
  - Trails Endowment: $140,000
  - Fossil Discovery Endowment: $100,000
  - Centennial Challenge Project for Historic Building Rehabilitation: $150,000

2009 NPS Big Bend Budget: $6,957,700

2019 NPS Big Bend Budget: $7,400,000

NPS Big Bend PERMANENT FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES

- 2009: 85
- 2019: 93

Visitors

- 2009: 363,905
- 2019: 463,832

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- Fossil Discovery Endowment: $100,000
- Centennial Challenge Project for Historic Building Rehabilitation: $150,000
In 2019 Big Bend Conservancy partnered with the National Park Foundation on a Centennial Challenge Project for historic renovation. Centennial projects are designed to use congressionally appropriated funds as a match for private philanthropy. Big Bend Conservancy pledged to raise $50,000, the National Park Foundation contributed $25,000 and the National Park Service matched that with $75,000 in Centennial Funds. The park will use those funds to restore the Dorgan and Alvino Houses in the Castolon District.

The in-park work will be led by experts at the Center for Big Bend Studies at Sul Ross State University. They have already done an extensive survey of the Castolon District buildings and have identified the exact work that needs to be done for both structures. Both buildings are integral to the human history story at Big Bend National Park, and highlight the lives and struggles of the early pioneers of West Texas. Both buildings have been identified as having critical need to ensure their preservation, as each year the elements deteriorate them further.

The Dorgan House was built in the late 1930s of wooden lintels and adobe brick. The house has been identified as significant and has a commanding view of Santa Elena Canyon. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Over time water erosion has deteriorated the building and wooden beams were taken from it to erect other structures, leading to the need for stabilization. This building is extremely popular and is frequently photographed by visitors. It is a short, easy walk that most can complete with little difficulty, no matter your physical condition.

The Alvino House is believed to be the oldest standing structure in Big Bend National Park. First built in 1901, the house was originally utilized as the first store in the area. It was also placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. Due to flooding and weather, it is in need of significant restoration.

The park selected these two buildings as the most important historic structures in need of funds from the Centennial Challenge program, and the Conservancy is pleased to be able to leverage these dollars to protect not one but two historic buildings.

We thank the following donors for providing the match to secure Centennial Challenge funding:
- The Powell Foundation
- The Summerlee Foundation
- The Estate of David England
Treasurer Notes to Annual Report

Big Bend National Park has been “discovered”. Before the pandemic, visitation was running at historic records, and we can expect that to continue. Big Bend Conservancy is here for the long-haul and we are transitioning for the future. Even as the pace at the park has slowed temporarily, Big Bend Conservancy is undertaking planning and operational improvements over the current year.

There are many challenges for the NPS and park staff and for our organization. Our long-term projects are focusing on environmental sustainability such as solid-waste management, protection of unique park resources - land, water, flora, fauna, history, culture; and last, but not least, improvement in the visitor experience. We are working with partners throughout the Big Bend area and in Mexico to prepare to move ahead on several important initiatives.

Big Bend Conservancy relies largely on individual donors, Big Bend license plate sales, and membership sales to support our daily operations. Big dream projects require larger gifts and grants to achieve. Legacy gifts, memorials, and planned giving are also beginning to make a significant impact for BBC. We are extremely grateful, and we recognize every donation at this time is a precious gift.

![Graph](image)
Thank you!

The following donors made gifts to Big Bend Conservancy of $250+ during Fiscal Year 2019 (July 1, 2018–June 30, 2019). We thank them for their support! [I’ll see the gift list as taking up 2 pages, pages 7-8. But if it’s too long I can cut it just (LMK)]

PEREGRINE FALCON
Patrick Krupman
James O. and Mary Ann Wilkes
Kye Lear
Ann Griffith Ash
DD Ames
Richard and Tori Goldsmith
Stan Biderman and Kathryn Minette
John and Sarah Hastings
Kay Dennison and Philip Hogue
Stuart B. Rebecca Isog
Rob Pennington and Stuart Isgur
Kay Dennison and Philip Hogue
John and Sarah Hastings
Stuart & Rebecca Isgur

THE ESTATE OF DAVID ENGLAND
The Estate of Jack and Joan Lamlam

MORAL GIFTS
Stan Biderman and Kathryn Minette, in memory of
Kenneth and Sheila Bloom, in honor of
Larry and Emily Brumley, in memory of
Chex Family Fund, in memory of
Richard and Kathleen Davis, in memory of
Margaret Donaldson, in memory of
Edwards Aquifer Authority, in Honor of
Michael Huff, in memory of
Philip LeMessurier, in honor of
Marts and Lundy, in memory of
Dennis O’Brien, in honor of
Jonathan Poarch, in memory of
Sierra Club, in Honor of
Farrar Stockton, in memory of
Dean Stroomborn and Catherine Spain, in honor of
Jim and Kathy Wright, in memory of
Need names to go with in memory of...

OTHER
Far Flung Outdoor Center, 50th Anniversary of the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act
National Park Foundation, Texas Partnership Meeting
Paul and Mary Nugent, 8th Wonder Event

BEQUESTS
Jens Biderman and Philippa LeMessurier

ALLANU CAMPAIGN
Mary Decker
EarthShare of Texas
Mickey and Mike Marvins
Valerie Meyer
Timothy Ols
Michael and Elizabeth Smith
Timothy and Melissa Sullivan
Steve and Suzanne Tuttle

CORPORATE CAMPAIGNS
Groger
Parks Project LLC

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN RESPONSE
James Evans
Chris and Abby Thompson

75TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
Aron Carter Foundation
BNST Foundation
Robert Decker

PBS “NATURE” DOCUMENTARY
Caroline Forgason

CASTLOON RECOVERY FUND
Kimberly Cline
Nancy Sommers
Christy Reed

How to Give
Big Bend Conservancy is a non-profit, tax ID 75-2670331, whose mission is to support, promote and raise funds for Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild & Scenic River. Gifts to the Conservancy can be made through one of the following:

Text “Donate” to: 432-223-0102 • bigbendconservancy.square.site • Call 512-529-1149

We thank the following donors for their in-kind gifts to the Conservancy:

Greg and Nancy Brazeal
Steve and Arlene Griffis
 Pam Hall and James Sudder
David and Elizabeth Fridelman
Joie and Jaclyn Gaona
The Willard Hendershott Estate
Joe and John Hicks
Chris and Dawn Holins
Dennis and Jane Kears
Ann Kovich
Don and Virginia Lewis
Bill and Nancy McGovern
Paul and Mary Nelson
Parks Project LLC
The Powell Foundation
Dennis and Ruth Prescott
Jan and David Redford
Patrick and Ruth Reinhardt
Truett and Carroll Roberts
Philip and Peggy Spruill
Mark and Brenda Steuer
Chris and Andy Thompson
Joe Tooley

BIG BEND CONSERVANCY THANKS:
JAMES A. "BUDDY" DAVIDSON FOUNDATION
LEAD DONOR

 Gregg and Mary Brazaal
 Steve and Arlene Griffis
 Pam Hall and James Sudder
 David and Elizabeth Fridelman
 Joie and Jaclyn Gaona
 The Willard Hendershott Estate
 Joe and John Hicks
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 The Powell Foundation
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 Jan and David Redford
 Patrick and Ruth Reinhardt
 Truett and Carroll Roberts
 Philip and Peggy Spruill
 Mark and Brenda Steuer
 Chris and Andy Thompson
 Joe Tooley

MEMORIAL GIFTS
Jens Biderman and Philippa LeMessurier

IN MEMORY OF
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"In Memory" info we may not
use the infomation off it?

Did you want to show this sign or use the information off it?

Plus once we have filled in all the
"In Memory" info we may not have room.
Memory about TJ