

Annual Report 2019





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Courtney Lyons-Garcia,  
Executive Director  
Arlene Griffis,  
Membership Coordinator

Cover watercolor image courtesy of  
Tim Oliver ©2020

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, the 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.

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

# One Year: Two Endowments

2019 was a critical year for Big Bend Conservancy as we established not one but two endowments for the park. These two endowments will provide the park with perpetual funds they can count on each year as they plan for improvements, maintenance and additions to visitor services.



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 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](mailto:director@bigbendconservancy.org) or 512-529-1149.



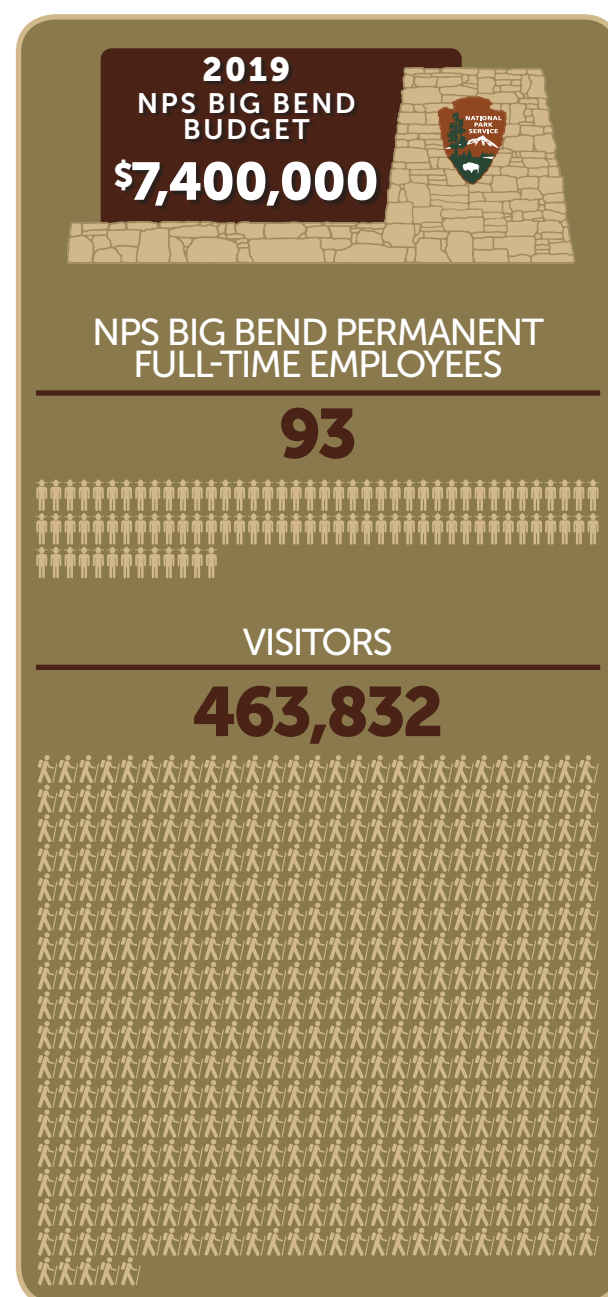
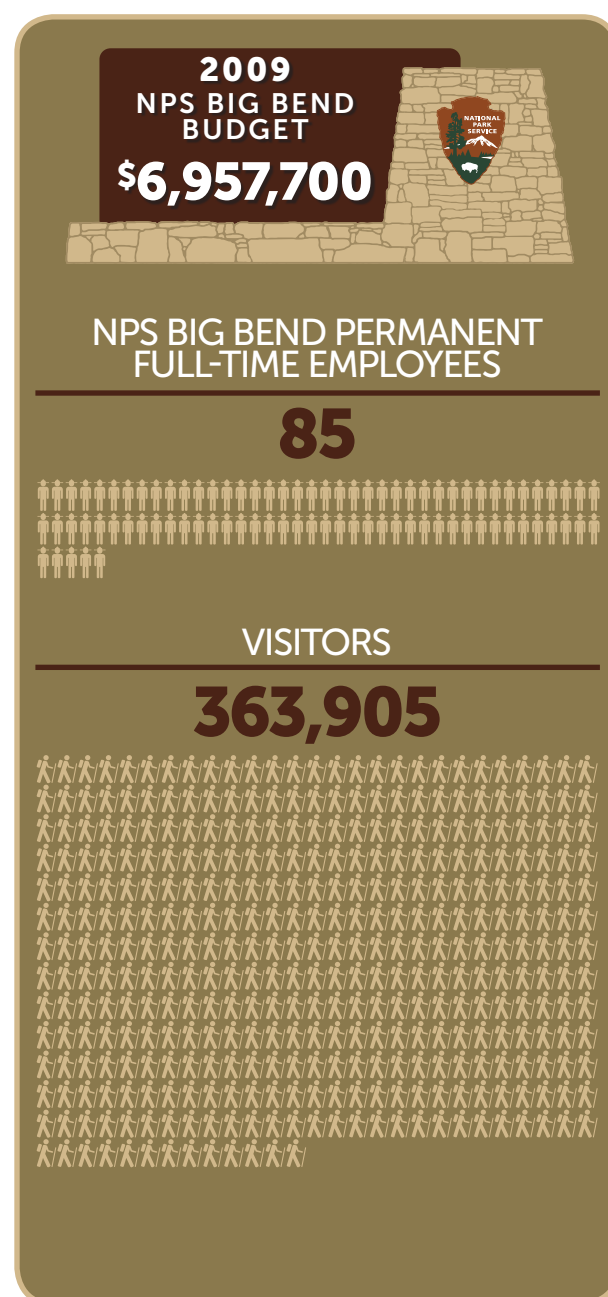
# Big Bend Turns 75

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.





# Centennial Challenge Project: Historic Renovation

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



## BIG BEND CONSERVANCY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

June 30, 2019

### ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$143,122
Grants and other receivables	30,609
Prepaid expense	18,628
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted for endowments	78,153
Beneficial interest in endowment assets held by community foundation	148,334
	<u>\$418,846</u>

### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$17,819
Unearned revenue	8,800
	<u>26,619</u>

### NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions:	
General operations	123,410
Board-designated for specific purpose	25,000
Board-designated for endowment	744
	<u>149,154</u>
With donor restrictions:	
Subject to endowment spending policy	225,743
Restricted for purpose or future periods	17,330
	<u>243,073</u>
	<u>\$418,846</u>

## BIG BEND CONSERVANCY STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

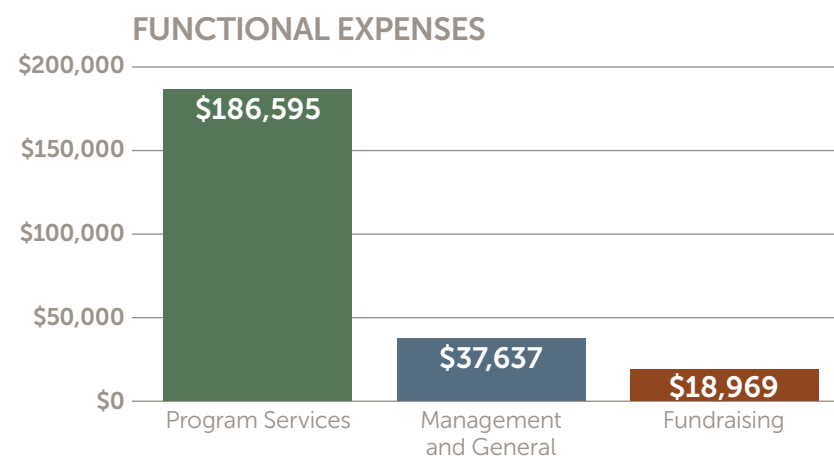
	WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	TOTAL
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>			
Contributions and grants	\$244,724	\$126,433	\$371,157
Membership dues income	57,599	-	57,599
Event revenue of \$68,172 net of direct benefit to donors	19,320	32,950	52,270
Investment return, net	122	9,447	9,569
Other income	582	-	582
Net assets released from restriction	5,000	(5,000)	-
	<u>327,347</u>	<u>163,830</u>	<u>491,177</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program services:			
Promote Big Bend National Park	186,595	-	186,595
Supporting services:			
Management and general	37,673	-	37,673
Fundraising	18,969	-	18,969
	<u>56,642</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,642</u>
	<u>243,237</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>243,237</u>
Change in net assets	84,110	163,830	247,940
Net assets - beginning of year	65,044	79,243	144,287
Net assets - End of Year	<u>\$149,154</u>	<u>\$243,073</u>	<u>\$392,227</u>

## 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.





# 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 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 Klumppan  
James O. and Mary Ann Wilkes  
Kye Lear  
Ann Griffith Ash  
DD Ames  
Richard and Toni Goldsmith  
Stan Biderman and Kathryn Minette  
John and Sarah Hastings  
Kay Dennison and Philip Hogue  
Stuart & Rebecca Isgur  
Rob Pennington and Mack Kearns  
John and Beth Callaghan  
Lindsay Heinsen  
Duane King and Carmen Delgado  
Patrick and Diana Brown  
Leo and Elizabeth Tynan  
Roger Borgelt  
Michael and Susan Muse  
Edna Platte  
James O. and Mary Ann Wilkes  
George Brin and Colleen Walter-Brin  
Bill and Susan Costello  
J. Russell and Isabel Hoverman  
Cynthia Howard  
Keith and Barbara Martinson  
Steven Wilson  
Thomas Doneker  
Jim and Lisa Hamilton  
Nancy O'Neill and Charles Childress  
Joseph and Marjorie Dishron  
Philip and Sarah LeMessurier  
Greg Egan  
Mike Rice  
David and Jan Redford  
Tom and Adelaide Leavens  
Brian and Laura Davis  
The Powell Foundation  
Karen Pruet  
Tolbert Greenwood  
Susan & Jerry Pittman  
Patrick and Diana Brown  
Carl Bohne and Kate Martin

## BLACK BEAR

Nancy Kurrus  
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Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Littlefield  
Beth Pfaff and John Miller  
Hallie Ferguson  
Bill and Celeste McEntire  
Robert MacLean  
Mickey and Sam Dufilho  
Mark Seeger and Jeff Harper  
Emily Clements  
Eulon Taylor  
Steve & Ann Meyer  
Erica Clark  
Craig and Sally Clayton  
William and Nancy McGovern  
Edwin and Ellie Morrison  
Thane and Nicole Wyman  
Billy Hassell  
Delia Milliron  
Neel and Lauren Baumgardner  
Darryl Droemer  
Bill and Mary Anne Dingus  
Harve Truskett  
Tom and Van Truskett  
Billy Hassell  
Shirley Cooper  
Evelyn Jo Wilson  
Diane and Tom Legg  
Thomas Britt  
Jana Orsinger and William Orr  
Leslie and David Wolff  
Robert MacLean  
Robert Brabham  
Irv Downing  
Francis Rollins  
Don and Virginia Lewis  
BP Foundation  
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Jose Gaona  
Mark and Brenda Steuer  
Joe Tooley  
Ann Kovich  
George Easterly  
Patrick Reinhart  
Ellen Breaux Morris  
John and Jean Grove

Christopher Holmes

## MOUNTAIN LION

Kevin and Amanda Billings  
Glenn and Martha Taylor  
Shell Oil Company  
Ronald Sommers and Charles Mary Kubricht  
Matthew and Elizabeth Wareing  
Danny Dansby  
Mary Decker  
Bill & Meribeth Stevens  
Philip & Peggy Spruell  
Steve and Martha Hixon  
Joan and Robert Hicks  
Jim Avant  
David Popple and Jennifer Schroeder

## ANNUAL 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

Kroger  
Parks Project LLC

## GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN RESPONSE

James Evans  
Chris and Abby Thompson

## 75TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Amon Carter Foundation  
BNSF Foundation  
Robert Decker

## PBS "NATURE" DOCUMENTARY

Caroline Forgason

## CASTOLON RECOVERY FUND

Kimberley Cline  
Nancy Sommers  
Christy Reed

## 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

### THE ESTATE OF DAVID ENGLAND

The Estate of Jack and Joan Lamkin

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

Stan Biderman and Katheryn Minette,  
*in memory of*  
Kenneth and Sheila Bloom,  
*in honor of*  
Larry and Emily Brumley,  
*in memory of*  
Chew 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 Strombom and Catherine Spain,  
*in honor of*

Jim and Kathy Wright,  
*in memory of*  
*Need names to go with in memory of...*

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

Mary Baxter  
David Caton  
Billy Hassell  
Mike Marvins  
Carroll Swenson-Roberts



## BIG BEND CONSERVANCY THANKS:

JAMES A. "BUDDY" DAVIDSON FOUNDATION  
LEAD DONOR

GREG AND MARCY BRAZAITIS  
STEVE AND ARLENE GRIFFIS  
PAM HALL AND JAMES DUERR  
DAVID AND ELIZABETH FRIEDMAN  
JOSE AND JACLYN GAONA  
THE WILLARD HENDERSHOTT ESTATE  
BOB AND JOAN HICKS  
CHRIS AND DAWN HOLMES  
DENNIS AND JANE KEARNS  
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PARKS PROJECT LLC  
THE POWELL FOUNDATION  
DENNIS AND RUTH PRESCOTT  
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TRUETT AND CARROLL ROBERTS  
PHILIP AND PEGGY SPRUELL  
MARK AND BRENDA STEUER  
CHRIS AND ABBY THOMPSON  
JOE TOOLEY

## 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](http://bigbendconservancy.square.site) ▪ Call 512-529-1149



# Memory about TJ



PO Box 200, Big Bend NP, TX 79834  
[www.bigbendconservancy.org](http://www.bigbendconservancy.org)  
[membership@bigbendconservancy.org](mailto:membership@bigbendconservancy.org)