

A photograph of three people riding horses through a desert landscape. The riders are wearing hats and are positioned in the middle ground, moving from left to right. The foreground is filled with tall, dry grass and some cacti. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under a clear sky.

# An Unexpected Journey Through the Radical Center

30 YEARS OF THE MALPAI BORDERLANDS GROUP ★ DECEMBER 2024

BY PETER WARREN & TANA KAPPEL



*An Idea Is Born*





# Doing What's Right for the Land

More than 30 years ago a few of us ranchers and conservationists got together to talk about securing an open-space future for a 1-million-acre-landscape where Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico come together. For that to happen, we would have to work closely with our neighbors – and many public and private interests – to try to preserve the only livelihood that both protects and depends upon large open spaces: grazing.

We became the Malpai Borderlands Group, which focused on “doing what was right for the land,” in the words of our founder, Drum Hadley. We focused on what we could agree upon rather than what divided us, and we have become a force to be reckoned with.

We concentrated first on restoring fire to benefit the land while conditions still made that possible, while the land was still undeveloped. The effort to accomplish that one task across multiple land ownerships, both public and private, put us in the middle of the many intractable issues surrounding western lands. With the knowledge that the old ways (lobbying, litigation and confrontation) were doing little for the land itself, we forged ahead, believing in each other and not willing to take “no” for an answer.

**Under-promise and over-deliver. Do something with someone, not to them.**

These words became our mantra. Our path of cooperation faced opposition from those invested in conflict, both from within the ranching community and the environmental side. We stayed in the “radical center.” Our initial co-executive directors were a sixth-generation local rancher and a senior staff member of The Nature Conservancy.

Today our one-time adversaries acknowledge that our accomplishments have far exceeded their expectations. They have exceeded ours as well.

As we pause to celebrate our success, we know the work is far from over. A new generation is stepping up to build on what has been done. They won't take “no” for an answer either.

**Bill McDonald,**

Former Co-Executive Director  
Sycamore Ranch, Douglas, AZ



**John Cook,**

Former Co-Executive Director  
The Nature Conservancy,  
retired, Little Compton, RI





1990  
THROUGH  
1993



# 1990

## Ranchers Endangered?

The 1980's was a time of increasing antagonism between ranchers and environmentalists. Ranchers felt they were under siege and increasingly isolated. "Cattle free by '93" was a rallying cry from environmentalists. One of the few ranchers in our area with friends in both camps was Drum Hadley, a neighbor in Guadalupe Canyon. Drum decided to gather his ranching and conservation friends together to discuss the future of ranching in the area.



## Our first meeting was a curious gathering.

In addition to ranchers it included Jim Corbett, an outspoken liberal and leader of the Sanctuary movement for refugees. What brought this group together was concern about confrontations between stockmen and environmentalists. The ranchers, isolated in remote southern Arizona and New Mexico, were faced with a shift of public opinion against ranching that they believed threatened their livelihoods.

Jim Corbett sympathized with the plight of ranchers who he believed could become refugees, forced out of ranchlands settled by their parents and grandparents. "Few people today know how to feed themselves, much less the rest of society," he said. "Ranchers are an endangered breed. What we need is a diversity of livelihoods for the human community to be healthy – a diversity of species."

He proposed that ranchers join environmentalists, scientists, government representatives and interested others to discover basic premises that everyone could agree upon, as a means of resolving key issues and that would preserve a grazing culture and livelihood. One focus might be to prevent ranchlands from being subdivided and developed. The hoped result: the preservation of the unique American ranching and cowboy culture that protects open spaces.

~ Drum Hadley,  
Guadalupe Canyon Ranch  
Douglas, Arizona



TOP: Drum Hadley © Kelly Kimbro  
CENTER: Guadalupe Canyon © Peter Warren  
BOTTOM: Sign – unknown source



# 1991

## "Radical Center"

"Radical Center" was a term first used by Bill McDonald to capture the spirit of a future where both ranchers and conservationists work together instead of taking sides and fighting.

## Malpai Agenda

Drum Hadley facilitated meetings between ranchers and conservationists that resulted in the first statement of the group's vision and goals. Jim Corbett, a philosopher driven by a love of the land and an appreciation of animal husbandry, wrote the "Malpai Agenda."

## What to do with the Gray Ranch?

The Nature Conservancy's purchase of the 321,000-acre Gray Ranch (the former Diamond A) in the bootheel of New Mexico sparked concern about the future of ranching in the region. Local folks expected the Conservancy to take the ranch – the largest and most productive in the region – out of production and turn it into a nature preserve or wildlife refuge. The person assigned by TNC to figure out what to do with the Gray was John Cook. As John was getting acquainted with the area, he met Drum Hadley and Drum invited him to meet the neighbors.



## from the Malpai Agenda

*In the Sonoran bioregion and most of the arid West, ranching is now the only livelihood that is based on human adaptation to wild biotic communities ... it seeks to fit into the untamed biotic community, not remake the land and replace its natives to fit our civilization.*

*All who love the land agree that it should not be cashed in or mined-out and that its health takes precedence over profits. They agree in their opposition to development that bulldozes and fractures the land, drains away its waters, and poisons it with wastes. All who know and love a wild*

*land are on the side of its preservation. Ranching can be stewardship that preserves the health and unreduced diversity of the native biotic community.*

*~ Jim Corbett, Quaker philosopher & goat rancher 1933-2001*





*I lived in Arlington, Virginia and “commuted” to Malpai country for weeks at a time, staying at any ranches willing to put me up. I wasn’t much of a hand on a horse but I tried to learn.*

*Bill and I were riding over to Bill's shipping corral as we visited about how we were going to proceed with the new group. One idea was to form a non-profit which soon happened.*

*"Well, Bill, fundraising will go great," I said. "The foundations will love you guys with the hats and all."*

*Bill about fell off his horse. "Ask for money? We don't ask for money from anyone!... But I sure can show you how to coil a rope." He didn't have to point out the tangled mess hanging off my saddle horn.*

*Two people from completely different cultures and backgrounds trying to figure out something new. Bill coined the term “The Radical Center” and that’s exactly where we landed.*

~ John Cook, The Nature  
Conservancy, Retired, Little  
Compton, Rhode Island



# 1992

became the hub of the group's early meetings and lent its name to the group. Wendy and Warner Glenn were accustomed to putting up visitors and their hospitality had become legendary.

A fire broke out on the Rocker M Ranch along the Geronimo Trail east of Douglas, AZ. The Forest Service sent a crew to fight the fire, which was burning on a grassy area that had been treated to remove brush. Neighboring rancher Warner Glenn came over to see what was going on. He knew fire was just what that grassy patch needed to keep the brush from coming back. He asked the fire crew if they could let the fire burn. "No" was their answer; agency policy required putting it out as fast as possible. Warner and other ranchers felt that policy was not the best strategy for the land and sought changes in federal fire management.



# Porch diplomacy, hospitality and long hours



*When our group's founders sat on our front porch at the Malpai Ranch, pouring their faith and beliefs into promoting the sustainability of ranching and stewardship of the land, who knew that an organization was being born that would make history ... and become a sub-culture of its own?*

*Meetings became an item on everyone's agenda ... ranchers, agencies, conservation groups, scientists, biologists and politicians. Some had been adversaries in their beliefs of what would be best for the land itself. Some were skeptical and did*

*not believe we could all work together. It would take three years of trials, concepts being born, vulnerability, no financing, blind courage and faith, and long hours/days/months...to reach a point where the organization became a real thing.*

*This small group was blessed to have dedicated potential leaders and visionaries, and a woman — my Mom Wendy Glenn, who rolled up her sleeves, and for the next 23 years literally gave her all to the group.*

*Drum Hadley had a dream and a vision, and Wendy and Warner Glenn had a big house and a lifetime of practicing hospitality, ranching, conserving and preserving the landscape and its cultural history. The Hadley/Glenn friendship went back to the late 1950's. Even though some of both families' beliefs were different, we had deep respect for each other...and that was one of the basic strengths we gave to the conception of the MBG.*

*As the pieces of the Malpai puzzle slowly took shape, partnerships were formed and collaborations built. We brought grassbanking and conservation easements into reality.*

*Mom and our family provided lodging, meals, rides, bus tours and porch time to hundreds of people from every walk of life, foreign countries, skeptics, anti-ranching cultures and politics. MBG consumed our lives, and we gave it top priority. We bore criticism from neighbors and friends afar and we sometimes thought "what were we thinking?"*

*The essence of our MBG work — the hundreds of horses and mules saddled, the beds made, the meals cooked, the comedic effect of Wendy turning the conference room from a clutter of projects to meeting area in a few hours, Wendy's no-BS attitude, my daughter Mackenzie's concentrated exposure from birth through high school to all that MBG stood for — had an incredible impact on our lives physically, financially and mentally. And it was all worth it!*





*Ironically, soon after Wendy stepped away from MBG work to try to regain her private life — her love of archeology, family history, being a grandmother, being a cowgirl and ranch woman — poof, she was gone. Her death in 2014 left a deep hole in our hearts and the hearts of our MBG compatriots.*

*The MBG was blessed from day one with the dedication, hard work and cutting edge ideas of the founding families, the board of directors, the agency folks that contributed knowledge and information, the foundations, friends and acquaintances that donated to the cause, and organizations like The Nature Conservancy that believed in our mission and helped in a multitude of ways to make it all come together.*

*The Malpai group awakened the idea that ranchers and non-ranching conservationists share a goal to protect open spaces, wildlife and landscapes. We confirmed that more can be accomplished with shoulder-to-shoulder efforts than separate but parallel agendas.*

*~ Kelly Glenn Kimbro  
with Warner Glenn,  
Malpai Ranch,  
Douglas, Arizona*

*When I first went to visit The Nature Conservancy headquarters in Arlington, I stopped at the door and looked up and down the street to make sure no one I knew would see me go in.*

*~ Bill McDonald, Sycamore  
Ranch, Douglas, Arizona*



Bill McDonald at branding © Blake Gordon

# 1993

## Engaging the Agencies

We realized that to work across the entire Malpai landscape — from the Mexico border to Animas, and from the Chiricahuas to the Playas Valley— we would need to engage with all the state and federal agencies responsible for land and wildlife in Arizona and New Mexico. Each agency had its own turf and their staffs rarely spoke to each other. We invited all the agencies to meet at the Gray Ranch to discuss our vision. The result was a cooperative agreement signed by a dozen federal and state agencies.

## Malpai Goes to Washington DC

Building support for our ideas would require meeting with top agency officials in our nation's capitol. So, Bill McDonald, Drum Hadley and John Cook did just that. One result was the first Natural Resources Conservation Service field position with multi-state responsibilities, which was first filled by Ron Bemis.



*An Organization is Born*





# THROUGH

11



# 1994

## The Malpai Group Becomes Official

With the help of Nature Conservancy attorney Mike Dennis, we incorporated as a 501c3 non-profit corporation. We had the legal structure of a land trust, but from the beginning we wanted to take on more than a traditional land trust.

## A Unanimous Mission

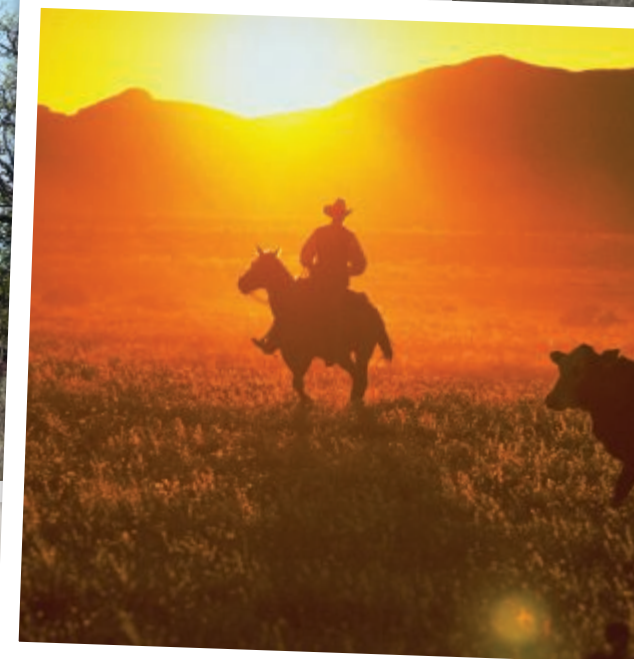
One of our most important decisions was to create a mission statement that had the unanimous agreement of everyone involved. It took a lot of effort, but it paid off: We've returned to this document repeatedly when we've needed to make tough decisions, to make sure we were staying true to our original vision.

*One night at the Glenn's Malpai Ranch, we were having a great time around the supper table, laughing and telling stories about funny events we remembered. After a bit I caught on that Wendy and Warner were telling family stories from back in the late 1800's and early 1900's – not recent times like I was recounting.*

*This happened over and over. My new friends and colleagues operated on a time scale of generations of family going back to territorial times before Arizona was a state.*

*The Malpai group didn't make decisions "at the speed of business." We worked at the pace of the landscape.*

*~John Cook, The Nature Conservancy,  
retired, Little Compton, Rhode Island*







## *Malpai Mission*

*Our goal is to restore and maintain the natural processes that create and protect a healthy, unfragmented landscape to support a diverse, flourishing community of human, plant, and animal life in our borderlands region. Together we will accomplish this by working to encourage profitable ranching and other traditional livelihoods which will sustain the open space nature of our land for generations to come.*



## **Baker I Burn**

Letting fire play a more natural role on the land was a core goal, so we planned our first prescribed burn of 2,967 acres, in collaboration with Larry Allen, the range staff officer for the Coronado National Forest. This fire helped us understand how to manage fire, but it also made us aware of all the planning requirements the agencies needed to consider, from endangered species to archaeological resources.



# 1995

## Grassbank

Our first venture into land protection was a Grassbank program. This idea, developed by Drum Hadley in discussion with neighbors, allows ranchers to graze on the Diamond A Ranch in exchange for conservation agreements on their home ranches. The Diamond A had been rested from grazing for about 10 years when the Animas Foundation acquired it from The Nature Conservancy. Drum envisioned that the accumulation of grass was like a “bank” of forage for neighboring ranchers who, after years of serious drought, faced the need to reduce their livestock numbers. The conservation easements, developed with guidance from The Nature Conservancy’s Mike Dennis, covered 17,400 acres on four ranches, with the ranchers — Billy Darnell, Edward Elbrock, Wart Walter and Mary Winkler — receiving up to five years of grazing on the Diamond A.

## Conservation easements

Many in the ranching community viewed these with skepticism, thinking they were a kind of trick to gain control of rangeland. The four ranchers showed considerable bravery in the face of antagonism from the community in trying something new. Without their willingness to step up, and without the sensitivity and guidance provided by the Conservancy’s Mike Dennis, the Malpai group would not have made the progress we did.

*A bad drought in the early 1990s brought us face to face with a tough decision: What to do with our thin, weak cow herd that wasn’t getting enough feed on the ranch? Drum Hadley came to us with his Grassbank idea and the opportunity to move the cows to the Gray. That was an easy decision. It took two days to drive the stumbling cows to the Gray. When they got there, they began moving out into the grass, eating and gaining energy and weight. It was such a joy to see the cows doing well again. After a few years of rest, grass on our ranch had a chance to recover and we brought the cows home to healthier pastures.*

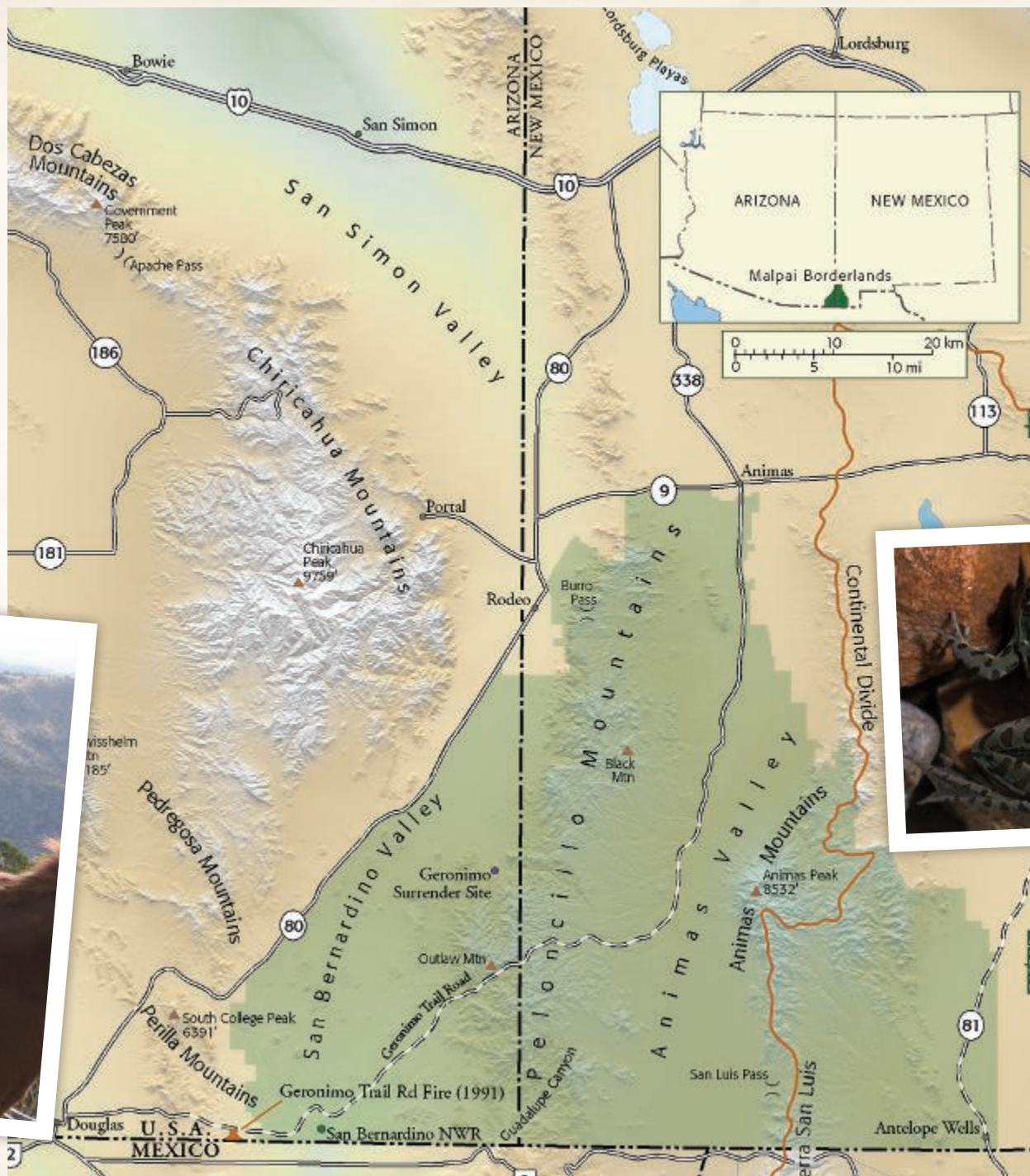
*~Mary Winkler, one of the original  
Grassbank ranchers, Rodeo, New Mexico*

*I was driving back to Tucson from the Gray Ranch and stopped at the bakery in Animas. Wart Walter walked in and we chatted. I’d seen him at Malpai meetings, but didn’t really know him. He was a quintessential family rancher and I was puzzled about his willingness to do a conservation easement. I had to ask: “Why did you decide to put an easement on your place?” He said, “Well, I spent all my life on that ranch and I love it. I just don’t want my kids to be able to split it up when I’m gone.”*

*~Peter Warren, The Nature  
Conservancy, retired, and  
Malpai board member,  
Tucson, Arizona*







## Chiricahua Leopard Frogs

The Rosewood Tank, an earthen stock pond on the Matt and Anna Magoffin ranch, had not gone dry for 25 or 30 years. Herpetologists considered this pond to be one of the most reliable waters in the valley and the best refuge for threatened Chiricahua leopard frogs. Normally the pond would dry down during spring, then fill with summer rains. This year the summer rains were late, and the pond became a bathtub-size puddle. Before it dried out completely, the Magoffins, with their two young boys, Chris and Mike, began a family project of hauling water once a week to support the frogs. They thought the rain would come, but it never did, not that summer, nor winter, nor the following summer. They hauled water for the frogs weekly for over two years, and the frogs survived.



# 1996

## Incorporating Science

We wanted to base our work on the best possible information, but we recognized the big communication gap between ranchers and scientists. To guide our decisions about land management projects, we formed a Science Advisory Committee composed of ecologists, range scientists and conservation biologists. With the help of the committee, we developed range monitoring methodology with input from agency partners. We used this methodology to install monitoring sites on all the conservation easement ranches and lands where we were doing prescribed burns or brush management.

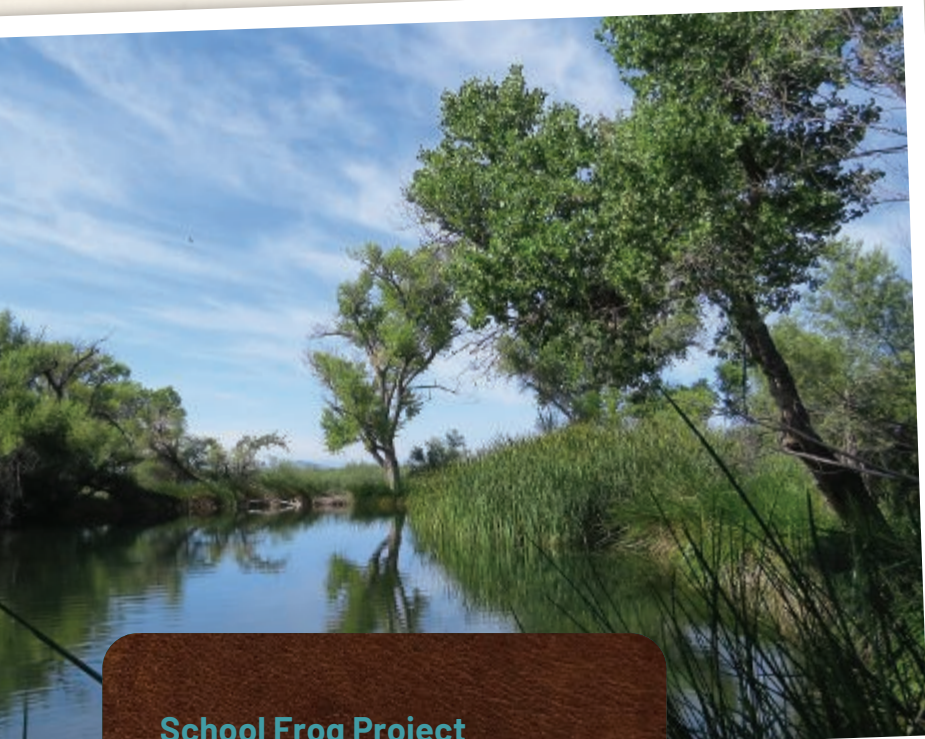
## Eyes of Fire, the Jaguar

Warner Glenn was hunting in the Peloncillo Mountains on Bill and Mary McDonald's mountain pasture when he came across a track that he figured was a large mountain lion. When he finally saw the cat, he realized, "My lord, that is a jaguar!" He pulled out his camera and took a series of the first photos ever of a live jaguar in the United States. He later saw a large track pointing back toward Sonora, to the Cajon Bonito where water and food were plentiful. He published the photos in a book, *Eyes of Fire*, and donated the proceeds to establish a jaguar fund that reimburses ranchers for cattle lost to jaguar predation.



THIS PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM Jaguar painting by Deloss McWilliams from photo by Warner Glenn © Blake Gordon; Warner Glenn with hounds © Blake Gordon OPPOSITE PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: San Bernardino Wildlife Refuge © Peter Warren; Anna Magoffin © Peter Warren





### School Frog Project

Anna Magoffin's brother Hans Bodenhammer, a teacher at Douglas High School where Matt and Anna's two boys went to school, knew of the frog refuge effort at Rosewood Tank. He decided to develop a frog project to engage his students in science, in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Malpai group. The students grew frogs at the school to replenish the population at the San Bernardino Wildlife Refuge. The students and the frog project received national recognition.



# 1997

### Prescribed Burn Number Two

We conducted the Maverick prescribed burn in cooperation with the Forest Service. We wanted a large fire that would approximate a natural fire. This one was 7,200 acres. This fire impacted habitat for two endangered species: New Mexico ridge-nosed rattlesnake and Sanborn's long-nosed bat. We learned that nothing was known about how fire affects these species, so we started studying it, something we never imagined we would do.

### What's Best for Jaguars?

Warner's jaguar photos inspired tremendous interest in our corner of the world, with many opinions offered as to what would be "best" for jaguars. We invited Alan Rabinowitz, a leading jaguar expert, to evaluate the cat's habitat in our area. We showed him around north of the border and flew him south to see the confluence of the Rio Aros and Rio Bavispe, the wild heart of the northern jaguar population. His opinion after looking at our country: "Any jaguar that comes up here will turn around and go home pretty fast. There is not enough water and not enough prey."

### Fire Planning Map

It became clear that fire needed to play a bigger role on the land. We wanted the agencies to manage wildfires in a way that let them burn farther. But, without advance guidance on how landowners wanted fire managed on their ranches, the agencies were required to put them out as soon as possible. To address this, we created a fire planning map that covered 26 ranches and indicated how each rancher wanted fires handled. We distributed this to the agencies to put in every fire truck.



# 1998

## Ranching Today Workshops

As word spread about our work, requests started coming in from people who wanted to visit and learn first-hand what we were doing. We organized the first of what we called "Ranching Today" workshops. This year we had visitors from California, Colorado and Alberta, Canada. Interest was so high that we began to put on one, sometimes two, of these workshops every year.

## Peloncillo Fire Plan

After organizing two prescribed burns and realizing how much planning was needed for each one, we decided to develop a broader plan that would cover multiple burns. Working with the US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service we came up with the concept of a programmatic fire plan for the entire Peloncillo Mountains that would cover multiple burns and last for 10 years.



TOP TO BOTTOM: Don Decker examines soil © Brandon Bestelmeyer; Prescribed fire ignition © Peter Warren



# 1999

## How Does Fire Impact Species?

The US Forest Service identified our area as a focus for a new ecosystem research program led by Carl Edminster and Gerry Gottfried from the Rocky Mountain Research Station. The focus was grassland restoration and watershed function. Because we had just identified a large gap in our understanding of how fire affected several endangered species, we guided the research program to answer these questions. We convened two advisory committees, one for ridge-nosed rattlesnakes and one for nectar-feeding bats, and they contributed research plans which the RMRS funded. This was a critical step in breaking the logjam that had prevented more prescribed burning in the Peloncillos.

## Fire & Drought at Landscape Scale

As we got deeper into fire planning, it became clear there was a lack of research addressing fire effects at a landscape scale. We committed to support a large-scale, long-term ecosystem study at McKinney Flats on the Diamond A Ranch. The research, which encompassed a 10,000-acre pasture divided into four areas, was aimed at assessing the interactions

of fire, livestock grazing and the natural herbivory. The study lasted ten years. What we didn't expect was the huge drought that hit the region. As a result, we ended up documenting the impact of the drought.

## Ridge-Nosed Rattlesnake

To move ahead with fire planning, we needed to understand how fire impacted the New Mexico ridge-nosed rattlesnake. We turned to our snake advisory committee and to the leading expert on the snake, Andy Holycross at Arizona State University. We contracted with ASU for him to map the snake's habitat in the Peloncillos. It took two years, but the habitat map was the key to developing recommendations so the Forest Service could complete the fire plan.

## First Science Meeting

As we worked with ranchers on land management projects and scientists on fire research, we realized there was a lack of engagement between scientists and ranchers. We convened a forum for scientists and ranchers to meet and share information. We held our first science meeting at the Gadsden Hotel in Douglas, Arizona. It was so well received that we have held one every year since.





# *Ecology and Influence*





2000

THROUGH

2009



# 2000

## Influence Spreading

Word of our Ranching Today workshops had spread. We began hearing from folks from far-flung places who wanted to see what we were doing. This year, we had Ranching Today participants from Canada, Idaho, Colorado, California, Hawaii, Montana, as well as Arizona and New Mexico. Many of these participants went home to start their own community organizations.

## Jaguar Research

Warner's photo of the jaguar stimulated interest in the status of the big cats. We supported jaguar research in Sonora by Mexican biologist Carlos Lopez and well-known Arizona wildlife biologist David Brown. This work helped publicize the sizeable population of the northern jaguar population just 130 miles south of the border.

*The Malpai group gave us the vision of what could be accomplished by community conservation organization efforts. They also supplied the structure and then the right person to get the job done. The founding members of RSA know that we would not exist today without the demonstrated leadership by the Malpai group. Thank you.*

*~ Dale Veseth & Leo Barthelmess  
Ranchers Stewardship Alliance,  
Phillips County, Montana*

*A friend brought us an article about an Arizona rancher named Bill McDonald and the Malpai Borderlands Group. We invited him to speak at our first annual meeting.*

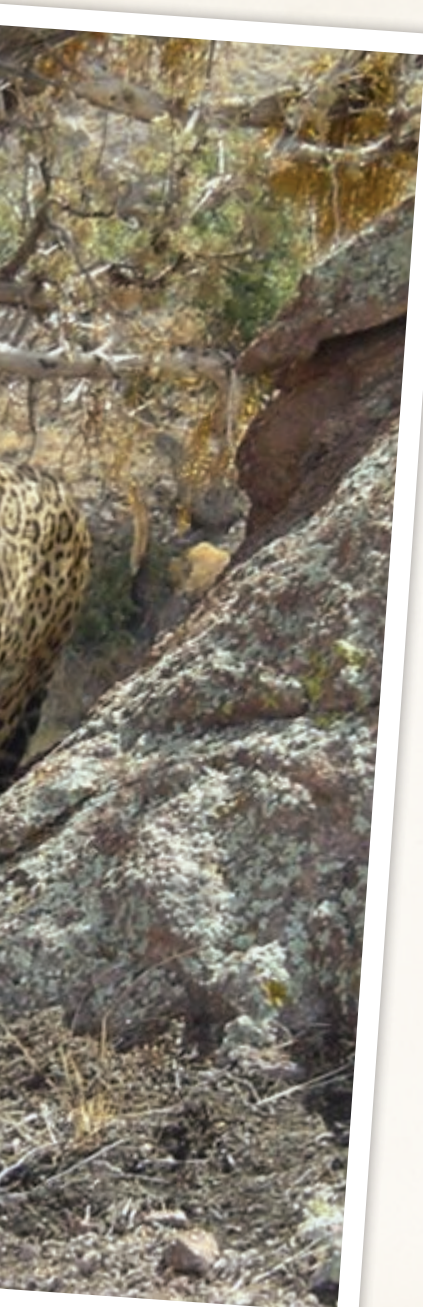
*"What did a rancher in a semi-desert environment have in common with ranchers in this wet, coastal climate," Bill said. "The answer turned out to be – except for location – everything."*

*Bill remains our most inspiring and beloved presenter. As a follow-up, three of us attended a Malpai board meeting in Douglas. We returned with more Malpai "inspiration" to help us lay our foundation. Now in our 24th year, we continue to tout the benefits of our land management ethics and practices and enjoy a strong membership and following in the private and public sectors. It's difficult to say where the Buckeye would be today without Bill and the Malpai's early influence. We are eternally grateful.*

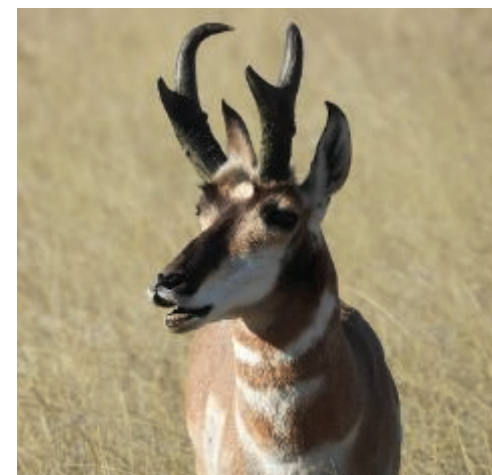
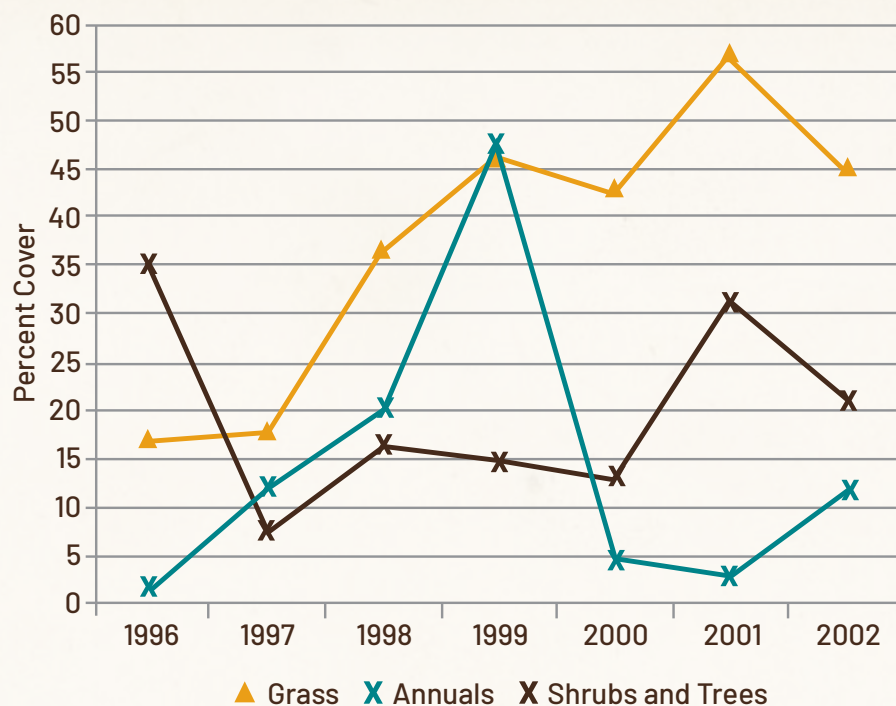
*~ Andy Westfall, Buckeye  
Conservancy, Ferndale, California*







After fire, grasses increase and shrubs decline



## 2001

### Natural Fire in the Peloncillos

After three years of work with the Forest Service and numerous specialists, we completed the Peloncillo Programmatic Fire Plan. Covering 120,000 acres, this plan was the first large landscape fire plan in the region, and it set the stage for the Firescape approach the US Forest Service now uses to engage rural communities in fire planning. An important aspect of the plan was defining the conditions under which a lightning-caused fire would be allowed to burn. This opened the door to a more natural fire regime.



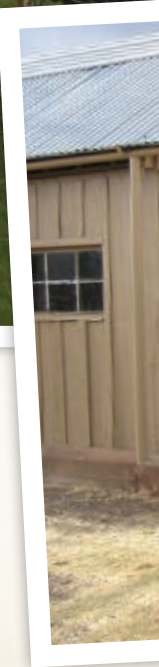
# 2002

## Africa Exchange

We had an unexpected exchange of visits with the Maasai people of Kenya and Tanzania. David Western, who partnered with Kenyan Maasai communities to do large-landscape conservation, recognized similarities between the Maasai and the Malpai group. He arranged the exchanges, the first of which was a visit to Kenya by Malpai board chairman Bill Miller and researcher Charles Curtin.

## Two Cowboys Project

On the second Africa exchange, Malpai ranchers Matt Magoffin and Edward Elbrock flew to Tanzania to help repair a washed-out earthen dam at the Manyara Ranch. The dam is the largest source of water at the ranch, a key wildlife corridor between two national parks, Tarangire and Lake Manyara. Many Maasai herders use the ranch, which is an important habitat corridor for elephant and buffalo. No one there knew how to repair the dam. Edward and Matt with years of dirt-moving experience, employed a bulldozer from Tarangire Park to repair the dam.



THIS PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Bill McDonald herding with Maasai © Peter Warren; Maasai with Warner Glenn © Peter Warren  
OPPOSITE PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Matt Magoffin with fire in sacaton © Anna Magoffin; Warner Glenn with Mongolian visitor © Peter Warren; Mongolian visitors in the mountains © Kelly Kimbro



# 2003

## Prescribed Fire Success

With our new fire plan in place we took on a large prescribed burn along with the Forest Service. The **Baker II burn** was in June, when natural wildfires are often ignited by dry lightning storms. With a 48,000-acre perimeter, it was the largest successful prescribed fire attempted in the US. The fire created a mosaic of fire effects from unburned patches to many low intensity burn areas and a few high intensity burn sites. This patchwork was the outcome we'd hoped for: a diverse mosaic of ecological conditions.

## Erosion Control

Excessive soil erosion is pervasive in the Malpai area. We began placing small rock structures along eroded streams to capture soil and stabilize the channels. The work is labor-intensive, but a low-cost way to improve the watershed.

## Mongolian Visitors

Malpai board member Reese Woodling traveled to Mongolia to share his knowledge about livestock breeding in extreme and unpredictable climates. He came at the invitation of the National University of Mongolia. Following his visit, we hosted Mongolian visitors who came to see how we manage our rangelands.





# 2004

## 10th Anniversary of MBG

The influence of the Malpai Borderlands is spreading.

### Safe Harbor for Endangered Species

After keeping Chiricahua leopard frogs alive for three years, the Magoffins became concerned that the endangered species they were caring for could decline for reasons beyond their control. And that could mean federal penalties such as fines and restrictions on their land and water use. To address these concerns, we developed a Chiricahua frog Safe Harbor Agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service which protects landowners in their situation. This agreement served as model for a statewide safe harbor agreement that AZ Game and Fish Department developed. Stock ponds are now recognized as a critical component of Chiricahua frog recovery.

### Maasai to the Malpai

David Western, working with the Africa Conservation Center in Nairobi, Kenya, arranged for several Maasai herders to visit the Malpai area. These visitors from Kenya and Tanzania practice traditional livestock husbandry. We learned that we shared experiences and concerns: People whose livelihoods depend on livestock pay close attention to weather and forage, and livestock-based communities are feeling increasing antagonism from society at large.

### Range Science

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is a trusted partner in land management. Our NRCS coordinator Ron Bemis retired and was replaced by rangeland conservationist Don Decker who works with area producers to develop management plans and range improvement projects.

*Over seven days, we visited several large ranches, looked at cattle and wildlife, and stayed with the ranchers in their homes. We rode their mules, shared their meals, learned how to rope a calf, joined in their lives and exchanged dances, songs and stories at a barn dance.*

*We pastoralists depend on livestock and close collaboration among herders struggling to make a living in arid lands. Maasai and Malpai ranchers are both losing our open rangelands to encroachment, land subdivision, fencing and commercial development. We both face competition from wild animals as the range dwindles and pastures degrade. And we both face the same threats to our way of life and culture. Our aim in the exchange is to join forces to confront our common problems and come up with new solutions.*

*Perhaps the most significant lesson is that the Malpai Borderlands Group has learned to collaborate to the advantage of all its members, just as we do in our subsistence herding practices.*

*~ Letter by Maasai herders (paraphrased)*





## 2005

### Land Protection

Our goal was to protect all of the ranches within our 800,000-acre area from subdivision. However, we did not pro-actively reach out to ranchers to promote conservation easements. Our neighbors learned by word-of-mouth, and when they were ready to learn more we worked with them. We had now completed conservation easements on 12 ranches totaling 75,000 acres. These private protected lands are associated with at least another 100,000 acres of state and federal lease lands.

### Maasai Hosts Malpai

The fourth exchange was a trip to southern Kenya where the Maasai who had visited us were our hosts at their communities near Amboseli and Masai-Mara. We, Malpai members, walked with our Maasai friends as they herded their cows, an eye-opening introduction to a different way of managing livestock. Where we turn cows out in a pasture and go back to check on them every few days, the Maasai walk with their herds all day, every day, and bring them home every night. This protects the cows from predators and guides them to the grass that is in the best condition. The pressure to subdivide their land, which threatened their way of life, was similar to the anti-rancher sentiment we were feeling at home. We were seeking solutions to similar problems.



THIS PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Bill McDonald in Maasai community meeting © Peter Warren; Mary McDonald with Maasai young people © Peter Warren; Poppies on Steer Mountain © Warner Glenn OPPOSITE PAGE: Warner Glenn and Maasai comparing outfits © Peter Warren



# 2006

## First Research Burns

After years of preparation and data collection, the first research burns were conducted at McKinney Flats, a 10,000-acre pasture on the Diamond A Ranch. Drought had caused a multi-year delay in conducting the burns, because there was insufficient grass to carry the fire. Finally, there was enough grass to do the experimental burns, but the fire intensity was not what we had hoped for.

## Second Jaguar

While on a hunt, Warner Glenn photographed a second jaguar in the New Mexico Bootheel. Both this and the previous jaguar Warner photographed had come north from the Cajon in Mexico which has one of the best perennial streams in northeast Sonora. Their presence in the Malpai emphasizes the importance of this area for these cats to roam into the United States.

## Working Wilderness

University of California professor Nathan Sayre worked with us to prepare a 10-year strategic plan. He published this plan as "Working Wilderness," which told the story of our first 10 years.



THIS PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Rattlesnakes courting © Peter Warren; Pronghorn © Kelly Kimbro OPPOSITE PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Cottonwood Basin © Peter Warren; Bill McDonald signs agreement with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Looking on are, from left, Bill Radke, Steve Spangle, Peter Warren and Matt Magoffin © Kelly Kimbro





## 2007

### Cottonwood Basin Fire

The first prescribed fire conducted under the Peloncillo Programmatic Fire Plan, reached 4,800 acres. This was the third fire in recent years to burn through this basin, which is part of Bill and Mary McDonald's mountain pasture. When the first burn was planned there, Bill had to rest the pasture for three years to ensure adequate grass to fuel fire. After the burns, the grass was so thick that fire could easily burn through it.



# 2008

## Endangered Wildlife

With the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we spent three years preparing a Habitat Conservation Plan covering 19 species. The plan's underlying basis is that the cumulative benefit of the habitat improvement work, such as planned burns, outweighs any incidental harm to the endangered species.

## Out-of-Control Experimental Burn

Low stream flows made it difficult for the US Forest Service scientists to get baseline water data for the Cascabel watershed. Finally, with enough baseline data, experimental burns were conducted at Cascabel. To remind us of the difficulty of doing fire research, the burn got out of control and burned across what should have been unburned control areas! Rocky Mountain Research Station researchers reworked the experimental design to accommodate Mother Nature.

## Thomas Tank Burn

For the first time we collaborated on a prescribed fire with AZ State Forestry. Previously we had worked with the Forest Service which has the greatest capacity of any agency to plan and carry out burns. The Peloncillo fire plan and the new habitat conservation plan helped streamline planning for individual fire projects and made it possible for an agency like AZ State Forestry to take the lead on a burn.



## Fixing Frog Habitat

Cloverdale Cienega in the Peloncillo Mountains supports one of the best Chiricahua leopard frog populations in New Mexico. However, the cienega was drying and eroded and in serious need of restoration. The Chiricahua frog Safe Harbor Agreement for the Cloverdale Cienega provided reassurance to the landowner that any frog loss that occurred during the restoration would not lead to penalties to the landowner. This allowed the restoration to proceed.





# 2009

## Cloudt Ranch Conservation Easement

This was one of our largest land protection projects, at 9,500 acres. The ranch is strategically located; its protection will curtail spread of residential subdivision southeast from Rodeo, NM, into the Peloncillo Mountains.

## Pascoe Fire in Animas Valley

In June, lightning started this fire, which was pushed by wind across 90,000 acres. Alarming as it sounds, this was good example of natural fire in healthy grassland. Summer rains started a month later and the grass grew back during the summer rain. Being prepared with a plan in place was the key to taking advantage of this natural ignition.

## McKinney Flats

McKinney Flats landscape-scale research project was completed after ten years. The study was designed to examine the interaction of fire and grazing, but it best documented the onset of a record-setting, multi-year drought. Drought effects swamped the experimental treatment effects, a reminder of the challenges of large-scale, long-term ecological studies. Results were published as a special edition of the journal *Desert Plants*.





# *Hitting Our Stride*





2010

THROUGH

2010



# 2010

## Rob Krentz

Rancher and Board Member Rob Krentz was tragically killed on his ranch by a drug smuggler. Rob was passionate about education and served for years on the board of the Apache School. In his memory, we established a scholarship for students to pursue higher education in agriculture. The scholarship is supported by an annual sale of calves donated from the community. Rob's son Frank took over his seat on the board.

## Impact of Conservation Easements

When the goal is to keep things as they are, it can be hard to measure progress. So, how do we measure the impact of these investments? University of California's Nathan Sayre interviewed landowners, partners and stakeholders and found that six out of ten ranches with easements voluntarily reduced their cattle stocking rates by 30-67 percent, even though the easements did not explicitly limit stocking rates. The study also found that ranchers with easements planned for the long-term stewardship of their ranches.

## Argentina Exchange

We exchanged visits with a group of ranchers from Argentina, the Fundacion Neuquen. These ranchers from the foothills of the Andes were looking for guidance on how to put together a collaborative group. We continue to be surprised about the similarity of concerns and challenges of livestock-based communities around the world. We're also finding parallels in the solutions to these challenges.



THIS PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Phil and Rob Krentz © David Zickl; Roundup © Kelly Kimbro  
OPPOSITE PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Rio Yaqui jaguar habitat, Sonora © Peter Warren; Warner Glenn © Blake Gordon



*The Malpai Borderlands Group has been an inspiration and partner to the Western Landowners Alliance since our inception as an organization in 2011. One of the Malpai's founding board members, Bill McDonald, is one of our founding board members.*

*The Malpai group is a model of what is possible when people engage in meaningful collaboration. We have applied its approach to many of our programs, including our Conflict Reduction Consortium, policy working groups and engagement with other locally-led partner organizations. Malpai's "radical center" approach has long informed and inspired WLA in our own work. It is key to our success.*

*~ Lesli Allison, Western Landowners Alliance, Denver, Colorado*

**2011**

**Rob Krentz  
Memorial Scholarships**

The first group of scholarship students were selected, all from local high schools who will go to college or university to study agriculture-related fields.





# 2012

## Rocks for Erosion Control

As part of our erosion control effort, we've built more than 1,400 rock structures along five arroyos that are tributaries to the Rio San Bernardino. These small structures catch soil that allows grass to grow along previously barren channels. These structures also aid stream flows downstream on the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge, benefitting the endangered fish there, the only place in the United States where fish of the Rio Yaqui occur.

## Jornada Science

Our most important science collaboration is with the US Department of Agriculture's Jornada Experimental Range. The Jornada station has "adopted" the Malpai group as a demonstration/trial area for some of the scientific approaches they have developed over the last 100 years. This year they produced maps of ecological sites for three ranches. These maps indicate ecological potential for different areas and can be a useful guide for managing to maximize productivity.

*"I'll never forget the first day I attended a Malpai group board meeting at the Glenn's Ranch: Ranchers discussed the dynamic trends in the cattle market and then just as actively discussed Chiricahua leopard frog population trends on the Magoffin Ranch! To me, this exemplifies the group's love for this beautiful portion of the world and their commitment to making it even better."*

*~ Bill Radke, San Bernardino Wildlife Refuge Manager*



*"When we started, we viewed the US Fish and Wildlife Service as an adversary. Now they are one of our strongest partners."*

*~ Bill McDonald,  
Sycamore Ranch,  
Douglas, Arizona*

THIS PAGE LEFT TO RIGHT: Bill Radke © Blake Gordon; Yaqui chub © Bill Radke; Aston Draw in flood © Warner Glenn  
OPPOSITE PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Wendy & Warner Glenn © courtesy Glenn family; Riding in the Peloncillos © Peter Warren  
Kelly Kimbro © Blake Gordon





## 2013

### Malpai Ranch Easement

The Glenn family completed a conservation easement on their Malpai Ranch. This brought the total area we have protected to 78,000 acres on 15 ranches. The Malpai Ranch wraps around the San Bernardino Wildlife Refuge, so protecting it is an important buffer for the refuge.

## 2014

### Wendy Glenn

Wendy's death this year left a deep hole. For 23 years, she had given her all to the formation and running of the Malpai Borderlands Group.

### Fire Management Flexibility

The Peloncillo Programmatic Fire Plan and distribution of the fire planning map have allowed agencies to respond to wildfires with greater flexibility. Over the first 20 years of Malpai's work, fire has been allowed to burn over an average of 20,000 acres per year, making it one of the few places in the Southwest where fire is playing something close to its natural role.



# 2015

## The Hog and Guadalupe

In late spring, these two lightning-caused fires were allowed to burn as agreed to in the Peloncillo Fire Plan. The result was a beautiful mosaic of ecological improvement across 14,000 acres. Our intention as part of the plan was to conduct more prescribed burns, but natural ignitions greatly reduced the need for them.



*"The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance came about when Charley Miller of the Elkhorn Ranch and John King of the Anvil Ranch got together at a cattle sale and decided it would be a good idea for the ranchers in the valley to get together. Their model: the Malpai Borderlands Group, the pioneer of ranching collaborative conservation in the southwest. They invited Malpai representatives to come and talk about why they put together the MBG and what it had to offer the ranchers of the Altar Valley."*

*~ Tom Sheridan, Altar Valley  
Conservation Alliance,  
Tucson, Arizona*



THIS PAGE LEFT TO RIGHT: Vermilion flycatcher © Peter Warren; Evening primrose © Blake Gordon; Poppies in San Bernardino Valley © Warner Glenn; Kelly Kimbro gives roping lesson to Maasai © Courtesy of Glenn family OPPOSITE PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Rich Winkler © Tamara Winkler; Warner Glenn with Van Clothier © Kelly Kimbro





## 2016

### Malpai Group Leadership

This was Bill McDonald's 22nd year as executive director, ably assisted by his wife Mary, who served as the group's financial director and "so much more," says Bill. This year, Bill and Mary turned the reins of the Malpai group over to another husband and wife team, Rich Winkler, who became the group's second executive director, and his wife Tamara. Rich is the son of founding board member Mary Winkler, one of the four original Grassbank ranchers. Handing leadership to the second generation in the community is a major step in assuring the long-term sustainability of the organization.

### Plug 'n Pond

Some eroded arroyos are too large and deep to build rock dams to stabilize the stream channel. So, we tried the "Plug n' Pond" technique, which involved heavy machinery to restore these larger channels. So far, this gully plug technique has proven successful to catch sediment and restore native sacaton grass.



# 2017

## Jaguar

A jaguar was sighted in the Chiricahua Mountains where jaguars had been seen in the past. This jaguar would have used the wildlife corridor across the San Bernardino Valley – lands protected by Malpai conservation easements.

## Where is the Water?

That question is on every rancher's mind. So, we asked scientists at the Jornada Experimental Range if they would study it. They used satellite imagery to map water distribution in the borderlands over a 28-year period. This information identifies the most reliable water locations, and where improvements can be made in water distribution and reliability.

## Rock Dams to Stop Erosion

For 15 years we've been building small rock dams to control erosion. The result: More than 2,000 structures and around 200 miles of arroyos stabilized. New grass is now growing in the previously bare channels.



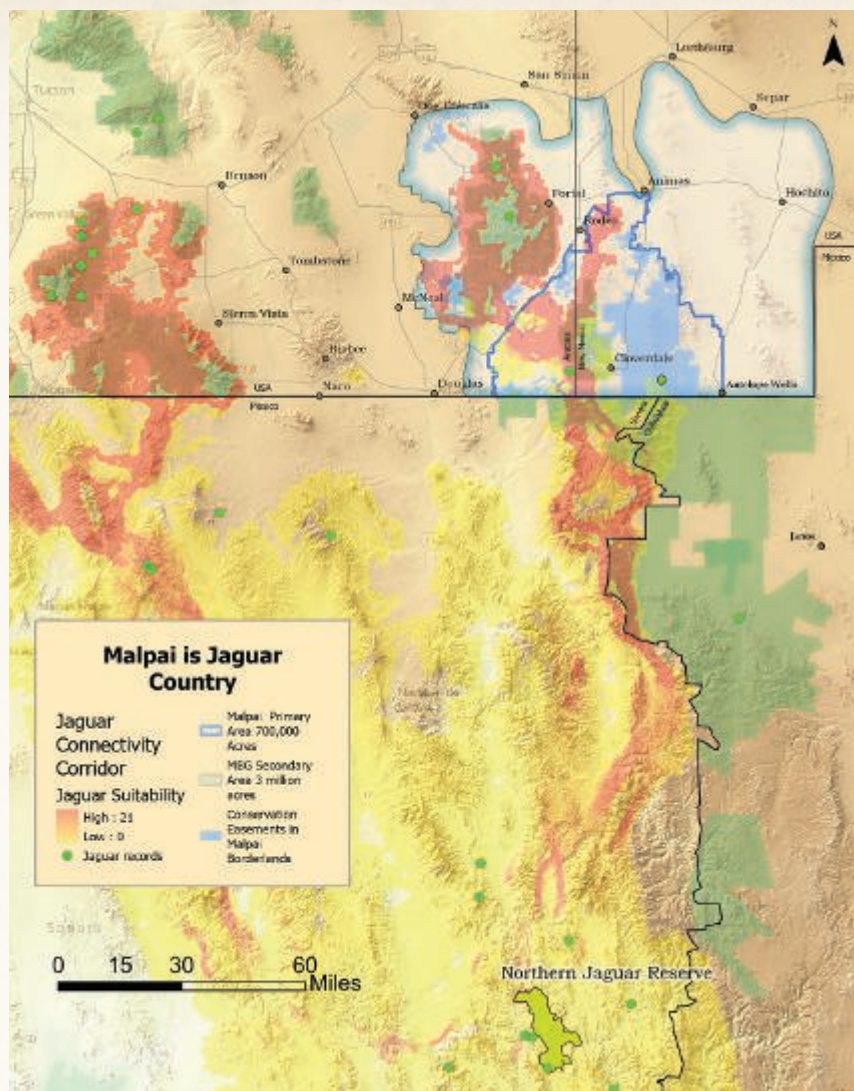
THIS PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Rios Aros jaguar habitat, Sonora © Peter Warren; From the Peloncillo Mountains looking at the Chiricahuas © Don Decker; Herding cattle © Kelly Kimbro



# 2018

## Jaguar Routes into the U.S.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service completed a recovery plan for the northern jaguar that identifies three habitat corridors that are critical for allowing jaguars to move from Mexico to the US. One of these corridors is through the Malpai area which connects the northern Sierra Madre to the Peloncillo and Chiricahua mountains. All three jaguar habitat corridors are in places where local collaborative groups are working to protect wild, open land: Malpai in the eastern corridor, Cienega Watershed Coalition in the central, and Altar Valley Conservation Alliance in the western. These corridors highlight the importance of collaborative work like ours as key for protecting large landscapes.



*I appreciate working at a place, and with people, where the relationships between agencies and landowners are deeply rooted.*

*~ Carl Schwabe, U.S. Forest Service  
 Incident Commander, Coronado  
 National Forest, Arizona*

# 2019

## Miller Fire

Because of the Peloncillo Fire Plan, another lightning-caused wildfire was allowed to burn for ecological benefit. The Miller Fire burned across 5,700 acres for two weeks until summer rains put it out. This is the historic pattern for fire in the Malpai area: Early summer ignition followed by summer rains, leaving bare ground exposed for just a few weeks until the grass begins to grow back.

## Protecting Ranch Lands

We've secured conservation easements on two ranches. Protected ranchland in the area now totals 86,000 acres on 18 ranches. Maybe the goal of protecting all the ranches in our area from subdivision is achievable after all!



# *The Future Looks Bright*

*A hundred years from now, our forward thinking will give peace of mind  
to whoever is carrying the torch.*

*~Billy Darnell, Darnell Ranch, Animas, New Mexico*







2020



THROUGH



2024



# 2020

## A Malpai Assist

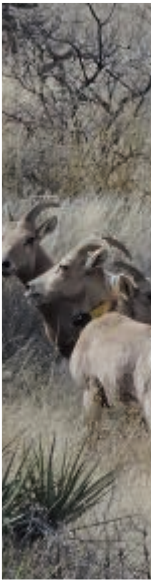
We helped the Trust for Public Land complete a conservation easement on the 27,200-acre Cienega Ranch west of the Chiricahua Mountains. This is the first time Malpai assisted another group in a project outside our core area.

## Big Data

How do we measure progress in influencing land use and ecological health across a one-million-acre landscape? We discussed this question with Brandon Bestelmeyer, director of the Jornada Experimental Range. He organized a first-of-its kind study of 25 years of landscape-scale changes in the Malpai and surrounding area using “big data”— regional data from satellite imagery and socio-economic studies. A comparison of land patterns in our area with the surrounding region showed progress toward our goals of improved land productivity and protection from fragmentation. The results were published in the journal *Rangeland Ecology and Management*.

## A Wildlife Crossing Structure

Interstate 10 is the most significant barrier to wildlife movement in our region, blocking jaguars from moving north and elk from moving south. We contributed to a New Mexico Department of Transportation analysis of wildlife movements along I-10. Trail cameras set up at I-10 where it crosses the Peloncillos showed small wildlife species use culverts, but larger game such as bighorn sheep and deer cannot cross that way. We recommended that a wildlife crossing structure be built there.







*Precision ranching systems aren't cheap, but the technology is evolving rapidly and will become less expensive over time. In the future these tools could provide valuable information in the quest for understanding carbon sequestration in soils and support regenerative agriculture in large ranching systems.*

*~ Brandon Bestelmeyer, director,  
Jornada Experimental Range,  
Las Cruces, New Mexico*

*Throughout the Animas and San Simon valleys, ruins of old homesteads stand in silent testament to the grit and will of the settlers who carved out a livelihood from the unforgiving parcels of desert allotted to them via the Homestead Act of 1862.*

*We continue their work on the same land today. Though we have more technology than the early settlers, we share many of their struggles – lack of water, shortages of grass for grazing, and predators. We also have issues the early settlers could never have foreseen, that these lands could be populated and subdivided.*

*The future of ranching will require collective action through groups like the MBG. Despite any differences we ranchers may have or difficulties we face, the future of ranching is what it has always been: ranchers supporting ranchers.*

*~ Zachary Winkler, engineer, rancher,  
and C.P. Stocker scholarship winner*



# 2021

## Precision Ranching

Using satellite technology developed by the Jornada Experimental Range will help ranchers use their computers to remotely assess water and herd management. Ranchers can check their computers to see cow locations and check water levels, and even manage pastures without fencing. The Winkler ranch is demonstrating the application of this technology in our region.

## Scholarship Year 10

The Rob Krentz Memorial Scholarship is a decade old, and we added the C.P. Stocker scholarship in memory of the father-in-law of board member Reese Woodling. The two scholarships have now supported 15 students.



# 2022

## Changing of the Guard

Channing Moore replaced Rich Winkler as executive director. From a ranch family in Animas, NM, Channing has a background in ranching and an education from New Mexico State University.

## Priority Wildlife Crossing

The proposed wildlife crossing structure over I-10 was selected by the NM Department of Transportation as one of 11 priority locations across the state. This would be the first such structure on I-10. Unfortunately, locations with higher numbers of wildlife-vehicle accidents have so far received higher priority for construction.

## Foster Fire

The 7,600-acre fire, started by lightning, was managed for ecological benefit, another example of the value of the Peloncillo Fire Plan.



THIS PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Pronghorn on skyline © Warner Glenn; Ranching Today tour © Peter Warren  
OPPOSITE PAGE: Krentz Ranch © Bill Radke





# 2023

## Pronghorn Transplant

Arizona Game and Fish Department relocated 29 pronghorn antelope from the San Bernardino Valley to bolster the herd in Altar Valley. Pronghorn had been extirpated in the San Bernardino for several decades, then reintroduced in the 1980's. The valley's increasingly healthy grassland has allowed the pronghorn here to thrive, enough to spare some of the animals for relocation to the Altar Valley. This is sign of the success of our grassland protection and restoration.

## Scholarships

We have now supported 25 students through the Rob Krentz and C.P. Stocker scholarships. We never imagined we would run a scholarship program, but it has become one of the most rewarding aspects of our work. Most of our students have completed their education in everything from Agricultural Economics to Veterinary Science, and a number have gone on to graduate school.

## Krentz Ranch Conservation Easement

After completing a conservation easement on the Krentz Ranch more than 10 years ago, we completed a second easement with the second generation of the Krentz family. This easement provided funding for the family to afford to add acreage to the ranch, making it more sustainable in the long run. This also expands the protected habitat corridor between the Peloncillo and Chiricahua mountains.



# 2024

## Expanding Work Area

Over the years we undertook projects outside of our core working area. After considerable discussion, we decided to expand our working area to include the Chiricahua Mountains to the west, the NM Bootheel to the east, and north to I-10. This expands our working area from 800,000 to 2 million acres. On the expanded project areas, we'll conduct projects with partners rather than going it alone as we have in the past.

## Protecting Working Ranches

We have now helped ranchers protect 90,000 acres of private rangeland from subdivision with 20 conservation easement agreements.



THIS PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM: Kelly & Mackenzie Kimbro and Warner Glenn © Blake Gordon; Malpai Ranch sign © Blake Gordon  
Roundup © Blake Gordon; Agency tour © Peter Warren OPPOSITE PAGE: White-tailed fawn © Rich Thompson



# The Future: Ranching at a Crossroads

*From the beginning, the Malpai Borderlands Group has considered ways to keep the next generation involved in ranching. In recent years, younger generations have left their family ranches for more profitable jobs off the ranch, leaving ranch succession in question.*

*As a member of that younger generation, I have pondered whether I want to take over management of my family's ranch. As an only child, I am aware that if I do not take on this challenge, our ranch will someday be sold and pass out of my family. This reality is one I have tried to pass off to that "someday" realm of thought. I will be honest; there are some things that don't appeal to me about ranching: long rides on icy mornings and fixing fence.*

*The next generation of landowners will need to incorporate many new types of knowledge to be successful, and deal with uncertainties in the natural and political environments.*

*However, one thing overrides my doubts about returning to the ranch—the Malpai Borderlands Group. Passion for a small section of the Southwest, for an unparalleled lifestyle and landscape has **forged together a community, which I believe has the collective expertise and ingenuity to address some of the most significant ranching and conservation issues today.** Malpai has created a positive vehicle for information exchange and a network of support that will make the challenges of ranching seem more manageable.*

*Personally, one of the biggest lessons provided by the Malpai experience has been that as a cattle rancher, I would not simply be a mender of fences, a mover of cattle, and a seller of calves, but part of something more meaningful, something much larger than the sum of its parts. For me, this is an irresistible draw. I believe the success of Malpai and the proliferation of similar collaborative efforts will provide inspiration for young people across the country to maintain these traditional livelihoods.*

*I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all who have worked so hard to make Malpai what it is—you have done more than you know to ensure the sustainability of ranching for generations to come.*

*~ Sarah McDonald, Sycamore Ranch, Douglas, Arizona*



Sarah (McDonald) Parmar wrote this in 2007. She is currently director of conservation for Colorado Open Lands, a statewide land trust, where she focuses on protecting working lands and water rights using conservation easements. After her son completes high school, she plans to return to the home ranch and take over management from her father, former MBG Executive Director, Bill McDonald.



A hearty thank you to our colleagues and supporters. Because of friends like you, we are optimistic about the future of the Malpai Borderlands Group.

# THEA



### **AUTHOR NOTES**

Peter Warren retired from The Nature Conservancy in Arizona after 31 years as ecologist and field representative. He has been a Malpai Borderlands Group board member since 2017.

Tana Kappel grew up on the family cattle ranch in northeastern Montana. She's written about agriculture and conservation for Montana State University and, for 22 years, for The Nature Conservancy.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY NOTES**

Our cover photos and many photos inside are by Blake Gordon, who took them on assignment for The Nature Conservancy.



# THANK YOU

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Frank Krentz, Krentz Ranch, Chair  
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## **STAFF**

Channing Moore, Executive Director  
Tamara Winkler, Finance Coordinator  
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**[malpaiborderlandsgroup.org](http://malpaiborderlandsgroup.org)**



*“Much more is at stake here than the future of a few ranch families. Wildlands teach those for whom they are home an outlook and insights to which others are blind. Some of these lessons take many generations to learn...These lessons come hard, and no society that eradicates or discards those among its members who have acquired this kind of wisdom can mature into a people that is truly at home in its land.”*

*~ Jim Corbett*

Aerial photo looking south across the Peloncillo Mountains into Mexico © Blake Gordon