



THE FRONTERA LAND ALLIANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Mission:
The Frontera Land Alliance
protects - forever- natural open
spaces, farms and ranches,
watersheds, and wildlife of the
northern Chihuahuan Desert.



WWW.FRONTERALANDALLIANCE.ORG



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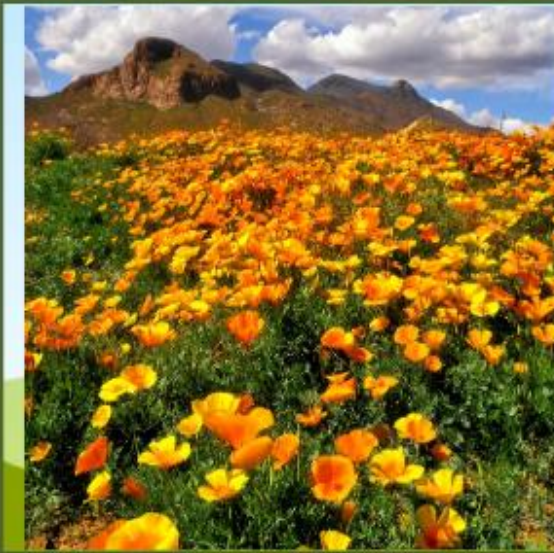
Staff:

Executive Director: Janae' Reneaud Field
Development Director: Kathia Gonzalez
Open Space Manager: Rocio Ronquillo
Education Manager: Viridiana Orona

Our Vision:

“Protecting our regional landscapes, landforms, watersheds, wildlife, and other natural resources for the benefit of our community today and future generations.

Frontera will achieve this through the facilitation of a shared community commitment to protecting, now, our open spaces for future generations”.



Castner Range National Monument



Report By: Janae' Reneaud Field

Executive Director of The Frontera Land Alliance

"After 52 years, Castner Range was designated a National Monument on March 21, 2023"

Castner Range—located in El Paso, Texas—is home to 6,672 acres of West Texas beauty and has historical significance that dates back thousands of years. It tells the story of how our region became the world's largest binational community. And now it is permanently protected as a national monument.

With great pride and honor, The Frontera Land Alliance Board of Directors has committed to continuing their investment in land preservation by taking the lead in the Castner Range National Monument Partnership through collaboration with the U.S. Army and the regional community. We will continue to work in very close partnership with El Paso Community Foundation (founded 1977) and other local, regional and national organizations. The Frontera Land Alliance will create a Castner Range National Monument Citizen Coalition Committee to engage in the sharing of the scientific, historical, and cultural significance of Castner Range throughout our region, and will work with the Army to identify specific restoration actions and public access planning.

The Castner Range National Monument Community Coalition is an alliance of local community members and regional, national, and international members. The CRNMCC's focus is to ensure that:

- the protection for the CRNM is guaranteed and sustained;
- safe and equitable access to the CRNM is being planned, researched, and moved forward;
- timely and effective education is delivered on how to connect with, enjoy, and respect the land.



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Report By: Viridiana Orona
Education Manager



Viridiana Orona is Frontera's Education Manager she actively works to connect the organization with the community. This role involves developing and implementing outreach strategies, managing educational programs, coordinating volunteers, maintaining the organization's online presence, and fostering positive relationships with stakeholders.

Community Outreach Events:

These are events where Frontera was invited to host a booth or a discovery table that featured fun activities for the public and where we talked to people about who we are and what we do. The Education Department attended 40+ events and connected with approximately 5,000 community members!



Partnerships:

The Education Department partnered with over 24 organizations. These events include guided hikes, discovery tables, co-host events, and so forth.

School Visits & Field Trips:

Frontera has partnered with over 16 elementary and post-secondary schools through guided hikes, priming lessons, and presentations promoting environmental awareness and engagement. Over 1,500 students from various schools have benefited from these programs, gaining outdoor exposure and learning about the Chihuahuan Desert's value.



OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

Report By: Rocio Ronquillo
Open Space Manager

"Just as we are all neighbors on this earth, we are also connected by the land under our feet"
Hometown: Earth

Rocio Ronquillo is Frontera's Open Space Manager. She monitors Knapp Land Nature Preserve and Lost Dog Nature Preserve and hosts community trail workdays, monitors the land by collecting data through surveys and public contacts, cultivates volunteers, works on environmental restoration, and implements the Stewardship Program, which aims to educate the El Paso community on becoming stewards of the land, encouraging a dedicated commitment to the conservation, protection, and responsible use of natural resources.

Annual Land Report:

From January to November, the Open Space Manager, assisted by dedicated volunteers, accomplished the installation of trail signage, trail maintenance, community outdoor education on Leave No Trace Principles, and cleanups, which involved the removal of illegal dumping and the dismantling of structures created by visitors using stones or bike ramps. The initiation of a restoration project, the ongoing monitoring of both open spaces, and the launch of the pilot stewardship program.



Partnerships:

Various community groups participated in the Open Space Department this year: West Star Bank, Franklin High School, Jefferson High School, Canutillo High School, Mission Early EPCC, Andress High School, El Paso High School, Loretto Academy, Girls Scouts, BMBA, and Por La Creacion.



Looking Ahead:

Next year, Rocio will be developing and implementing community conservation programs, including the implementation of the stewardship program, Trail Heads Wild Wanders program, the Outdoors Odyssey 101 recreation program, Women in Wilderness Discovery Program, and trail volunteer workdays. In addition, Rocio will:



- Actively promote and encourage "Leave no Trace" principles.
- Drone land monitoring through the creation of 3D models.

OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT

Report By: Rocio Ronquillo
Open Space Manager

LOST DOG NATURE PRESERVE

OVERALL

KNAPP LAND NATURE PRESERVE

- Hiked: **92.90 miles**
- Public Contacts Made: **427**
- The total number of trail maintenance: **1,144ft.**
- Clean up's: **1**
- Trail Signs Installed: **17**
- Removed a total of **20** trash bags with a capacity of 42 gals.
- Volunteer hours this season: **18**
- Volunteers this trail season: **62**
- Trail Volunteer Events: **8**
- Dogs off leash: **5**
- Dog on Leash: **13**

- Hiked: **226.32 miles**
- Public Contacts Made: **852**
- The total number of trail maintenance: **4,426 ft.**
- Signs Installed: **38**
- Removed a total of **20** trash bags with a capacity of 42 gals.
- Volunteer hours this season: **74**
- Volunteers this trail season: **252**
- Trail or Stewardship Volunteer Events: **31**
- Dogs off leash: **7**
- Dog on Leash: **13**

- Hiked: **133.42 miles**
- Public Contacts Made: **425**
- The total number of Trail Maintenance: **2,907ft.**
- Restoration Work: **2,593ft.**
- Trail Signs Installed: **21**
- Volunteer hours this season: **49**
- Volunteers this trail season: **190**
- Trail Volunteer Events: **24**
- Dogs off leash: **2**
- Dog on Leash: **0**

Table 1.

Note. Provides an overview of Lost Dog Nature Preserve and Knapp Land Nature Preserve, along with a comprehensive summary of both open spaces. The table details public contact statistics and outlines these natural preserves' ongoing land management efforts.





DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Report By: Kathia Gonzalez
Development Director



Kathia Gonzalez, Frontera's Development Director, is dedicated to finding secure and diverse funding sources for the short and long-term sustainability of the organization's operational and programming expenses.

Membership Program

This year, the development department organized a total of eight members-only events, ranging from captivating activities such as stargazing and storytelling to a special pictograph tour and an invitation to a VIP Chihuahuas Family Game Night. These events are reserved for individuals who contribute financially to Frontera, serving as a token of appreciation for their support. Donors play a crucial role in sustaining Frontera's programming, and we express our gratitude to everyone who contributed this year. **Your support has been indispensable!**





LOOKING AHEAD

The funding for the 2024 membership program will be provided by the James "Buddy" Davidson Charitable Foundation. If you're interested in becoming a member, please visit our website and choose a tier level that aligns with your financial capabilities. Monthly members in particular receive exclusive coffee invitations and play a vital role in ensuring Frontera's stable and consistent financial security.

2024 Members Events: Ceramic Botanic Workshop, Landscape Watercolor Painting, Mckitrick Fall Foliage Hike, Coffee and Lunch Invitations (tier dependent), and more.



CLIMATE CHANGE

We know that land trusts can positively influence the impact of climate change through land preservation and other conservation and education techniques. But until quite recently, Frontera didn't have the equipment to collect and analyze data. In January and February 2023, Frontera installed two weather stations at two of our four conserved natural open spaces: Lost Dog Nature Preserve and Knapp Land Nature Preserve. In March 2023, the weather stations started collecting data: temperature, precipitation, moisture/humidity, wind, and CO2 particulate matter. This baseline study was made possible by a Climate Change Grant provided by the Open Space Institute and The Land Trust Alliance.

Data from year one (2023) will help us start building and quantifying the benefits that open natural spaces offer to our region and how they can serve to mitigate climate change.

Luis Miranda, Frontera's contracted climate change consultant, carried out the installation of the two weather stations and the monthly monitoring of them as well; he also undertook the extraction of the data. The data collected was analyzed by Pablo Fernandez, an intern with the UTEP Pre-H2O Program. His findings for spring and summer were presented at the UTEP COURI Symposium. If you are interested in learning about his results, please visit <https://www.fronteralandalliance.org/our-work/>

Frontera will continue to monitor and collect climate data to better understand future weather-pattern conditions along with the impact of land conservation on climate change mitigation.





CONSERVATION PARTNERS

**"WHEN WE SEE LAND AS A COMMUNITY
TO WHICH WE BELONG, WE MAY BEGIN
TO USE IT WITH LOVE AND RESPECT."
-ALDO LEOPOLD**

Franklin Mountains State Park, Wyler Tram, UTEP, EPCC, City Parks, EPWater, El Paso 500 Women Scientists, El Paso Zoo, El Paso Museum of Archeology, El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society, El Paso Electric, Friends of The Rio Bosque, Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest, Green Hope, Growing with Sara Farms, Hueco Tanks State Park, Insights, Texas Master Naturalist Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Service, Celebration of our Mountains, BMBA, El Paso School District, El Ajo Casa Productora, Maquina Fotografica, Sun City Astronomers, El Paso Chihuahuas, Zin Valle Vineyards, UTEP Biodiversity Collections, Becoming Youth, Ciudad Nueva, EPCC Geologists International Museum of Art, Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, El Paso Water Tech20, Mission Academy Las Cruces, Young Women's Academy, Vista del Sol, Loretto Academy Cathedral High School, Texas Society of Ecological Restoration, Don Haskins PreK, El Paso School District, Paso Del Norte Community Foundation, El Paso Libraries, and For the Brand Marketing.

MEMBERS, GRANTORS AND SPONSORS

The Frontera Land Alliance expresses gratitude and recognition to our financial supporters in 2023, including members, foundation grantors, sponsors, and individual donors. Your generous support is essential for the successful implementation of our initiatives. We extend our thanks to everyone who believes in The Frontera Land Alliance and contributes to our mission of enhancing and expediting conservation efforts that positively impact people, prosperity, and natural resources. Our appreciation goes out to partners and supporters who leverage their resources, communities, and workforce to further our cause. Thank you for your invaluable support!

James a Buddy Davidson Charitable Foundation



The Malcolm C Damuth Foundation

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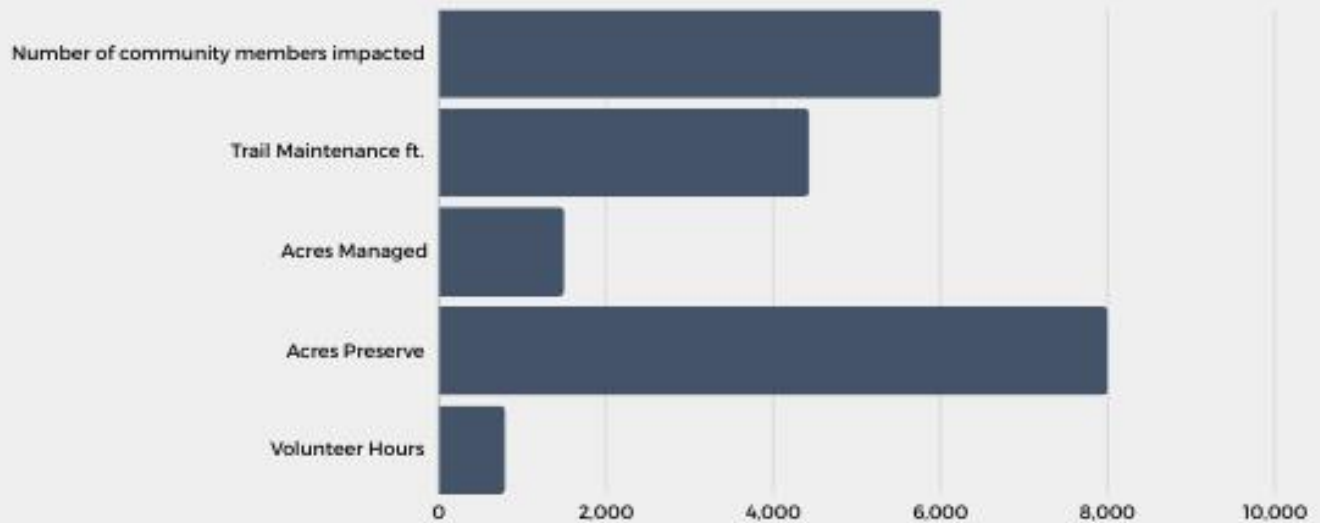
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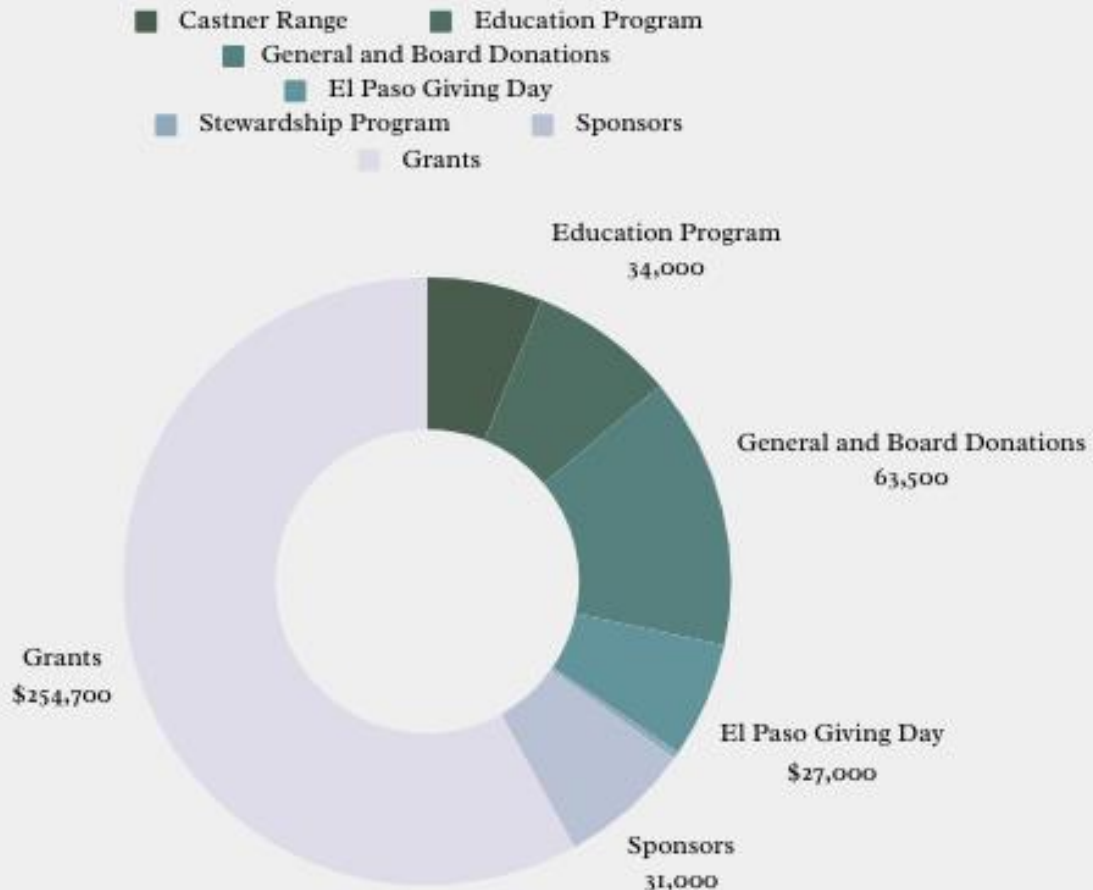
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