

Please Welcome Dr. Amy Wagler, Ph.D. to the Frontera Board of Directors!

Dr. Wagler is an Associate Professor of Mathematical Sciences at The University of Texas at El Paso. Though her professional activities are not directly related to ecology and preservation, she is passionate about preservation of natural spaces, particularly in the border region, and she is thrilled about working with The Frontera Land Alliance to promote knowledge and appreciation of our natural environment. ■



CASTNER RANGE STATUS



We need YOUR help to achieve Castner Range National Monument status. We need volunteers to help with block walks, staff our booth at events, speak to local organizations and gather signatures on letters of support at events. If you can help, please contact the Frontera office: Janae@FronteraLandAlliance.org or 915-351-8352. E-Sign a letter of support at: CastnerRangeNationalMonument.org

Visit us at Castner4ever.org to learn more!  [/CastnerRange](https://www.facebook.com/CastnerRange)  [@CastnerRange](https://twitter.com/CastnerRange)

Lots more is going on from an art show which displays local school art, block walking, to attending events to educate people on the local movement to conserve Castner Range as a national monument. ■

Winton: Castner Range monument brings many benefits

Author: Scott Winton

Winton Homes recognizes that a healthy environment makes for a healthy city and people want to live in healthy cities. Much of Texan identity can be attributed to the state's diverse landscape. We are proud of our heritage, both cultural and natural. Our lands make up the special fabric of our home state. We have regional differences – lakes in the Dallas area; deserts in the Far West; beaches along the Gulf Coast and rolling Hill Country in between – but it is all these features that combined make our state unique.

El Paso is diligently working to attract new businesses to the region and part of that

appeal is the wealth of outdoor activities. A Castner Range National Monument within the City limits would be a major attraction to businesses thinking of setting up shop in the Sun City. Research on the economic contribution of national monuments in the West created in the last generation found that adjacent economies grew, adding new jobs, and per capita income increased, in real terms, in every case after the creation of these national monuments. HeadWatersEconomics.org, Winter 2012

Simultaneously, within the last five years, 88% of Texas experienced an exceptional drought. While the drought conditions have eased for



Photo by: Mark Klune

many of us, the drought of 2010-2015 was the second worst in the history of our state. And scientists have warned us that frequent droughts may become a permanent part of our lives. Nothing is more important for our lives – and livelihoods – than having clean water to drink. Conserving land will ensure that more of the precious little water that falls will soak into the ground and our aquifers, replenishing our water supply.

We draw on lessons learned from landscape ecology, open-space development, and regional planning. Winton Homes weighs the biophysical, economic, and institutional evidence for and against conservation development. We have learned that

conservation development offers many potential environmental and economic advantages. As we develop with conservation as a part of the process we have seen relatively high home values and appreciation rates and lower development costs. It is also wonderful to know that we have helped protect and actively work to use native desertscapes at our homes. It is not always easy to achieve conservation criteria since it may take longer to meet institutional regulations and regional planning, it is not always more profitable than conventional development. But to address the drop in income would be to offer subsidies or incentives.

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Photo by: Richard Love

Conservation in our Community



In Saving Land, the Land Trust Alliance's, spring edition, had an article called More Conservation for More People. It states that the key to community conservation is that it has to start with the people. When a land trust, in this case Frontera, listens to the many voices in the community and uses its strengths to meet the needs expressed by the community, it connects people to the land and to each other. And while it strengthens the community, the community strengthens the land trust.

The U.S. population is expected to grow by 100 million people in 50 years, which means land will face more pressure from development. The population is also growing more diverse, so land trusts need to serve diverse constituents to stay relevant.

On top of those demographic changes there are societal changes. Today many Americans are growing up without a strong connection to nature—and if they don't learn to love it, they won't act to save it.

Everyone deserves a chance to make that connection, to have access to nature and to live in a healthy community. When land trusts include more people in their work, we improve more lives. In turn, we gain broader support for conservation. This is a happy coincidence, where doing the right thing is also in our own collective self-interest.

As the community conservation concept spreads, we are seeing a wide range of community conservation projects.

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Here's what most of them have in common. They:

- Respond to a community need
- Connect people with place
- Connect people with people
- Create opportunities for people to get involved
- Energize the community
- Provide some form of public access
- Connect land conservation to other sectors, such as water, kids, health and food
- Provide lasting and meaningful impact in people's lives. ■

Winton Homes believes that conservation development could be a viable strategy for sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem services in changing landscapes.

Winton Homes is supportive of seeing natural areas and the opportunity to be physically connected to our natural and cultural heritage. We can create opportunities for our local economies to grow by investing in land for outdoor recreation, for wildlife, and water. Such investments have a ripple effect. ■

Public Input on Accreditation

The Frontera Land Alliance (Frontera) is pleased to announce that it is applying for accreditation by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Its land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that demonstrate compliance with the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices. The Standards and Practices are the ethical and technical guidelines established in 1989 by the LTA for the responsible operation of a land trust. Accreditation is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

To date only 342 of the nearly 1,700 land trusts in the U.S. have been accredited. The accreditation seal provides the public with an assurance that the accredited organization has the ways and means to protect important natural places and working lands forever.

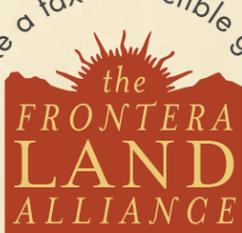
Achieving accreditation will show El Pasoans that Frontera has a solid foundation and delivers a professional program. Going through the process will give landowners additional confidence to work with us in permanently conserving their land, water and wildlife. And what is more, an accredited status will assure our donors that their support is well-placed. Accreditation conveys to landowners and supporters this message: "Invest in us. We are a strong, effective organization you can trust to conserve your land forever."

The accreditation seal is a mark of distinction. The public demands accountability from government and nonprofit organizations, including land trusts. Independent accreditation provides the assurance of quality and the permanence of land conservation that the public and donors look for, and publicly recognizes a land trust's ability to protect important natural places and working lands forever.

As an important part of the process, the Accreditation Commission invites public input on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Frontera complies with the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices.

You can email your comment to info@LandTrustAccreditation.org Comments may also be submitted to: Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments, 36 Phila St., Ste 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866; or faxed to 518-587-3183. Comments on the application will be most useful if they are received by **November 1, 2016.** ■

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Make checks payable and send to:
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 3800 N. Mesa Street, Suite
 A2-258
 El Paso, TX 79902

Thank you for your support!

Richard Teschner



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More Info:
FronteraLandAlliance.org



Photo by: Mark Klune