Dear Friends,

When our chairman asked me if I would write this column, my first thought was: No, I am a rancher, not a writer! After further thought about all the challenges the Malpai Borderlands Group has faced in the last 14 years and is still going strong, I decided I could take on this challenge. So here goes.

It has been another dry winter and spring here in the Borderlands with less than 1” of moisture in most places from October, 2007, through June, 2008. A lot of wind and dust in the spring brought back memories of the 1950’s. The participants in our Ranching Today workshop in May experienced the Malpai area ranches at their worst. Three days of hard southwest winds, after a dry winter and spring, created so much dust that it was hard to see the landscape, much less any cattle! Fortunately, July turned out to be extremely wet, well above normal everywhere. August was more normal, with good rains being spotty. The grass is green and growing now, and the Borderlands area is in excellent condition and really looks good. We have decided to hold the next Ranching Today workshop in late summer instead of May to give our visitors a chance to see the country at its best instead of its worst.

It has been a busy year for the MBG board and staff with the ongoing challenges of overseeing our operations and projects. The board and staff held a working retreat at Willcox in August. We had lengthy discussions on different topics that we never seem to have time enough for during regular meetings. Our focus was planning for the future and trying to figure out where the funding is going to come from to continue the work we are doing. I think that saving our open space is important enough that our supporters will continue to help us as we go forward.

I feel that sometimes we don’t give ourselves enough credit for what we are doing. As a member of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board, which was established to advise the President and the Congress about environmental issues and needs along the border with Mexico, we meet in different cities along the Mexican border as well as in Washington D.C. I am amazed at the recognition and respect MBG has nationally and internationally. From the many positive comments I get, it makes me proud to be associated with the Malpai Borderlands Group.

I want to thank all of our friends for their past and future support.

Sincerely,

Edward Elbrock
Vice-chairman

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.
THOMAS TANK PRESCRIBED BURN

The prescribed fire known as the Thomas Tank Burn was ignited on Wednesday, June 18, 2008. Black lining to secure the perimeter was the first action taken and consumed all of Wednesday and most of Thursday. Interior ignitions started Thursday afternoon, continuing on Friday. Friday, June 20th, saw the completion of the burn, with just a few smoldering spots still active within the interior.

This burn had originally been scheduled for ignition in June of 2007, but had to be postponed when rain fell on ignition day. This year the rain was more cooperative, coming on June 21st, right after the burn. The summer monsoon rains have turned the burn area into a carpet of green.

All told, approximately 2,500 acres burned within the 4,300 acre burn perimeter. This percentage is typical of burns in our area due to the rugged, rocky nature of the terrain. All ignitions were made from the ground with the crews working in the rugged terrain in 100 degree weather. Given the circumstances, a remarkable job was done. The crew members themselves commented that the only thing that might have possibly improved the burn percentage would have been the use of a helicopter for aerial ignition in particularly difficult areas.

All of the targeted woody species, in particular mesquite, white thorn acacia, creosote bush, sandpaper bush, prickly pear and juniper, were impacted by the fire. As always, we are happy to report that no accidents or injuries occurred during this operation.

The entire burn occurred on a mix of privately owned land and Arizona State Trust land on two ranches. Credit for the burn’s success goes to Arizona State Forestry, particularly Natural Resource Manager Tom Warfield, the rural fire departments of southeast Arizona, burn boss Mark South, the Arizona Department of Corrections fire crews, and Natural Resources Conservation Service Malpai Coordinator Don Decker. The Arizona State Land Department and the San Bernardino Wildlife Refuge also contributed valuable assistance. Congratulations also go to the two area ranch families who worked for and promoted the burn and managed their livestock before and after the fire to ensure its beneficial effects.

The Thomas Tank Burn was successful both from the standpoint of natural resource enhancement and for the training opportunity it provided. It was another example of a successful Malpai Borderlands Group project featuring cooperation, coordination and hard work done safely and efficiently.

MULTI-SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN
By Peter Warren

After several years of work with an inter-agency team from the Arizona and New Mexico Game and Fish Departments, NRCS, U.S. Forest Service and others, we have finally completed a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Borderlands area with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The HCP is based on the recognition that while the land management work that the Group is involved in will result in long-term improvement of the land, there is potential for unintended impact on some endangered species as a result of our work. A good example is prescribed fire. Land managers all recognize that fire plays an important natural role in maintaining the ecological health of the land. However, fire can also pose a threat to some individuals of endangered species that may be in the path of the fire. The HCP supports our application for a permit from the Fish and Wildlife Service for this kind of “incidental take” of Threatened and Endangered species.

The Habitat Conservation Plan emphasizes that the long-term goal of the Group’s work is to maintain the ecological health of land through management of soil stability, biotic integrity, and watershed function. The HCP analyzes how the land management work supported by the Group may adversely affect the endangered species in the area, and it evaluates how best to conduct this work to minimize or mitigate impacts to the species. The HCP also has a monitoring component to ensure that our projects are actually accomplishing the intended goals.

The land management activities that are covered by the HCP fall into two general categories: first, grassland restoration and improvement through work such as fire management, erosion control, and mechanical brush control; and second, ranch management activities such as livestock management, fence and water system construction, and stock tank maintenance and repair.

The species covered by the HCP include a total of nineteen species in three habitat groups. The largest group includes 13 fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds that are dependant on riparian and aquatic habitats. Although this group is the largest, it is the most geographically restricted due to the specialized habitat. The most widespread group are the grassland specialists, which includes 4 species of birds and mammals. Finally, the HCP includes 2 species, a bird
and a snake, that are restricted to woodland habitat in mountain canyons. Nine of the covered species are currently listed as Threatened or Endangered. However, we also included some that are not listed, but which experts think may qualify for listing in the future based on current population trends. By including them now, these unlisted covered species will automatically be added to the permit if they are listed.

The HCP will help streamline future projects because as long as the guidelines established in the HCP are followed, no additional Endangered species consultation is needed. If a rancher wants MBG assistance for a covered activity, he can sign on with a Certificate of Inclusion as a cooperator under the HCP, and he will receive the protection of the HCP permit for the cooperative work. A rancher who wants the regulatory protection of the permit for covered activities, or to show support for the conservation “spirit” of the HCP, may also enroll for projects that follow the HCP guidelines whether or not he receives Malpai support for the project.

CASCABEL WATERSHED STUDY
by Gerald Gottfried, Research Forester, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station

The Cascabel Study is a cooperative effort by the Southwestern Borderlands Ecosystem Management Unit and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Arizona, Animas Foundation, Diamond A Ranch, Malpai Borderlands Group, Cascabel Ranch, the Forest Service’s Douglas Ranger District and Coronado Supervisor’s Office, and other Rocky Mountain Research Station research teams.

The Cascabel Watershed Study was established in 2000. The original objective was to evaluate warm-season prescribed burning (May through October), cool-season prescribed burning (November through April), and unburned controls in oak savannas common to the southwestern borderlands of the United States and Mexico. The information was requested by the Coronado National Forest and its cooperators when they prepared the Peloncillo Programmatic Fire Plan. The study was established as an ecosystem study that would evaluate seasonal burning on hydrology, erosion, sedimentation, vegetation, wildlife (birds, deer, reptiles, and rabbits), soil nutrients, and fuels.

The Cascabel watersheds are located on the eastern side of the Peloncillo Mountains and west of the Animas Valley of southwestern New Mexico. It is within the Douglas Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest and includes a part of the adjacent Diamond A Ranch. The study area consists of 12 watersheds that cover a total of 451 acres. Each of the watersheds contains a modified 9-inch Parshall flume to measure common low flows and a larger 3-foot or 4-foot flume to measure higher flows. Sediment basins, permanent channel cross-section stations, and side-slope erosion pins are being monitored to measure erosion and sedimentation from the watersheds. Two weather stations are supplemented by six recording tipping bucket precipitation gages. Inventory points and transects were established on all watersheds to determine vegetative, fuel loadings, wildlife species, soil nutrient dynamics, and side-slope soil erosion characteristics. The research plan was to burn four watersheds in the cool season, four in the warm season, and to leave four watersheds as undisturbed controls.

After a calibration period, the first set of four watersheds was burned in early March 2008 during the cool season. The Douglas Ranger District conducted the prescribed burn operations. We had hoped to burn earlier in the year but weather conditions or the lack of available fire crews delayed the burn until early March when conditions were starting to get warmer. The Douglas Ranger District conducted a safe and efficient cool-season prescribed burn that was successful in meeting the study objectives of opening the oak stands and producing a positive grass response.
The warm-season burns were scheduled for May 20, 2008. Three of the four warm-season watersheds were burned on May 20. Operations progressed as planned. It was late in the evening when ignitions on the third watershed were completed, and further ignitions were halted. The burn boss and district ranger decided to delay burning the fourth watershed, which was scheduled for May 21, because “red flag” wind conditions were expected. Burning the last watershed was scheduled for June 2.

During the late afternoon of May 20, a prescribed burn on the Safford R.D. escaped and key personnel from the Cascabel burn were redirected to Safford. The remaining fire crews began to secure the perimeter of the three burned watersheds. Mop-up continued and research personnel were allowed into the “black” to conduct additional measurements of fire behavior and effects. A few hotspots, mainly oak snags and yucca plants, continued to smolder. Most researchers completed assigned measurements and left the watersheds by about 11:30 a.m. Everything appeared quiet and secure although gusty winds were crossing the watersheds.

At approximately 11:55 a.m., strong wind gusts developed from the south and blew burning embers across the fire lines into the control watersheds and the unburned warm-season watershed. One estimate was that gusts were as great as 60 mph. The Whitmire Fire, as it was designated, jumped the lines in three places and, in spite of great efforts, ran mainly to the north, finally covering 3,990 acres of federal and private lands. The house and structures at the Cascabel Ranch headquarters were protected, and no Forest Service personnel or private individuals were injured. The main casualty was our original research design!

The Cascabel Study has been modified because of the unplanned burning in the four control watersheds and the one remaining warm-season watershed. Fortunately, most of the instrumentation survived the fire, and any damage was quickly repaired. We now are planning to evaluate warm-season burning, cool-season burning, and wildfire effects, and have adjusted the statistical design accordingly. We can still gain important information about fire effects in oak savannas of the Borderlands, but with a slightly revised experimental design!

Work at Cascabel has already increased the basic knowledge about oak savannas and woodlands in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands. More than 20 scientific articles that describe the hydrology and erosion-sedimentation dynamics, vegetation characteristics, and animal populations have been published, as well as presentations at professional conferences and workshops. Results from the Cascabel Watershed Study should be applicable to similar oak areas throughout the region, and could be used, with caution, when planning and evaluating management activities.

The Southwestern Borderlands Ecosystem Management Unit greatly appreciates all of the assistance with the fires from the Douglas Ranger District and the crews and personnel from other Coronado National Forest ranger districts and the Supervisor’s Office, other national forests in Arizona and the western states, the Portal Fire Department, Bureau of Land Management, and the Animas Foundation. We also appreciate the help of the science team members from the Rocky Mountain Research Station’s Air-Water-Aquatics Program in Flagstaff, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the School of Natural Resources of the University of Arizona. The RMRS statistical units in Fort Collins and Ogden continue to be an important resource for the success of the Cascabel Watershed Study.

MEMORIALS

Curtis C. ”Bud” Cooper (1914-2008)
The Malpai Borderlands Group thanks Bud’s family for designating the MBG for memorial donations.

The Group received contributions in honor of:
Robert Dewar
Allison Richard
JAGUAR UPDATE

There have been no new jaguar sightings in the Malpai Area since February 2006. The Arizona and New Mexico Jaguar Conservation Team (JAGCT) activities include: compiling scientific literature and occurrence information; developing a handling and kill-verification protocol; creating an education curriculum; monitoring jaguar presence through a Borderlands Detection Project; and developing procedures for the Malpai Borderlands Group to use in voluntarily compensating livestock owners for documented losses to depredating jaguars (no depredations have been documented as of January 2007). The JAGCT has also assessed the effects on jaguars of several predator control methods, and formed various committees to deal with other issues related to jaguar conservation.

More information is available at: http://www.azgfd.gov/w_c/es/jaguar_management.shtml

AWARDS

The Malpai Group awarded Mary Winkler and Carl Edminster Special Recognition Awards in appreciation for their past service to the MBG.

Mary Winkler has actively supported our work for over ten years, first as one of the original Grassbank ranchers and then for ten years as a board member. She had the foresight to protect her ranch with a conservation easement at a time when conservation easements were viewed more as a threat than an opportunity by many ranchers.

Carl Edminster has been a key advisor to the Malpai science program since its beginning. He has been a leader in directing research efforts to answer management questions that have come up during project planning, especially for prescribed burning. His efforts have helped to resolve scientific issues and get fire planning done that would otherwise have taken many more years.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has named MBG Board Member, Warner Glenn, “Regional Recovery Champion” for his outstanding contributions to threatened and endangered species in the Southwest. Benjamin N. Tuggle, Director of the Service’s Southwest Region, presented Warner with the award at our June board meeting. He also presented Warner a special award in recognition of leadership and dedication to conservation of the jaguar in the Malpai Borderlands.

NATIONAL FOREST ALLOTMENT MONITORING

Thirteen National Forest Grazing Allotments are located within the Malpai Planning Area. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring use levels, ecological condition, and trend on all grazing allotments, but a constrained budget makes it difficult to accomplish this every year. Currently only one agency staff person is managing the range resource on the Douglas Ranger District. Nationwide the agency has encouraged grazing permittees to contribute to the monitoring effort. To assist the Forest Service to accomplish this important task, the Malpai Borderlands Group agreed to provide a consultant to monitor part of the Peloncillo Allotments every year. This service was made available to any Forest Permittee in the area, and local ranchers requested monitoring on all but two involved allotments. Larry Allen was selected to conduct this monitoring because of his long experience in monitoring National Forest rangelands. He meets annually with the District Ranger and discusses data needs, and visits about one third of the allotments. After a review by the involved permittee, a photo illustrated report is sent to the Ranger for inclusion in his files. Since initiation of this program, all allotments in the area have been visited at least twice, and some have had three inspections. A great deal of data is available in the Forest Service files at Douglas. Four allotments were visited in early July and one more was inspected later in the summer, after the grass was mature. The recent Southern Peloncillo Environmental Assessment by the Coronado National Forest was also reviewed for the permittees.
DONATIONS ON WEBSITE

The Malpai Borderlands Group can now accept donations on our website:
www.malpaiborderlandsgroup.org

Several of our supporters have said they would like to be able to make donations via their credit card. On the website, go to the home page, scroll down the left side of the page and click on the PayPal button, where you are now able make a donation by credit card. There will be a receipt generated that will be sent to the donor’s email. The Malpai Group will receive the donation minus the fee that Pay Pal receives for the service.

COOPERATIVE PROJECTS WITH NRCS

by Don Decker, Natural Resources Conservation Service

It has been a busy year working with the Malpai Borderlands Group and their partners on a variety of conservation efforts. I would like to take this opportunity to focus on only a couple of these activities: erosion control and MBG cost share projects.

With the help of an NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) contract of $77,000 of cost share monies, the MBG is funding erosion control efforts in the drainages directly upstream from the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge. The project covers portions of three Malpai ranches that signed on to cooperate in the work on their private and State lease lands. The project involves building loose rock erosion control structures in existing drainages. This work is done in consultation with Van Clothier of Stream Dynamics and is in continuation of the hundreds of structures already put in place with his hard work and guidance over the last few years. These relatively small structures work together to stabilize the grade, decrease down cutting and reduce the negative aspects of erosion. Sediment trapped by the carefully placed rocks provides a seed bed for grasses to take root to vegetate washes and hold the soil in place. The labor has been carried out by the Douglas State Prison Wildlands Fire Crew. They are available for this type of work during the non-fire season. The crew has done an excellent job of learning about stream hydraulics and the fundamentals of working to manage the flow of water to improve infiltration and plant establishment. I have found that they take real pride in this hard work and it is a pleasure to be involved with them in these efforts.

Another activity that I work with the Malpai Borderlands Group on is their ongoing ranch improvement cost share program. The MBG helps participating ranchers with the installation of conservation practices by offering cost share monies to defray the cost of otherwise expensive projects which help the rancher implement sound rangeland management. I work with the rancher to plan out a worthy project which the rancher then presents to the Board. If the Board agrees with the proposal, they vote to help fund it, pending the securing of the needed monies. In this last year, the Board has agreed to help in the funding of six projects of which three have been completed and one partially completed. The completed projects include: 5 ¾ miles of boundary fence replacement, solar pumps on remote wells and the 4,300 acre Thomas Tank prescribed burn. All of these projects make it possible for the rancher to continue to carry out sound grazing practices with good grazing distribution and rest/rotation management. These projects also have considerable wildlife benefits associated with them such as the removal of old, wildlife unfriendly fencing, the creation of full time water sources and the restoration of healthy grassland communities. Projects approved by the Board for cost share but not yet implemented include: many more miles of boundary fence replacement involving four different Malpai ranches and a relatively small but important prescribed burn to rehabilitate an area previously converted back to grasslands through the Group’s past efforts. The MBG’s cost share program is an important part of their overall work to help improve this region’s beautiful and diverse grasslands. When possible, this funding works in complement with other cost share efforts such as the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Habitat Stamp Program.

The erosion control work and the MBG cost share program represent only two of the many areas where I am able to help and consult with the Malpai Borderlands Group in their ongoing effort to conserve and restore these important rangelands. I find it a pleasure to work with such outstanding ranchers, researchers and others who all share such a concern and respect for this wonderful land.

THANK YOU TO ORVIS COMPANY

Many years ago Warner Glenn realized he needed a special shirt when he was out riding; one which was tough enough to stand up to mesquite thorns, with snaps so he could open it one-handed, and that opened just part way down so he could “put his lunch in there” without worrying about losing it. Ever since, he has had his shirts custom made by a local seamstress. When his shirt came to the attention of people at the Orvis Company, they realized it was a design they had never seen before, and they asked Warner if they could market it. He said yes, and for the last nine years the “Malpai shirt” has been one of their best sellers. For every shirt they have sold, Orvis has donated $5 to the Malpai Group, making them one of our most reliable supporters.

We want to give Orvis Company a big Thank You for their support over the years!

CHIRICAHUA FROG SAFE HARBOR AGREEMENT

by Peter Warren

This is the fourth year of activity under the Chiricahua Frog Safe Harbor Agreement between the Malpai Borderlands Group and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At our January board meeting Drum Hadley enrolled 3,790 acres under the Group’s Safe Harbor Agreement, together with Steve Spangle, USFWS Field Supervisor for Arizona, who signed the agreement for the Service. The property is located along Cloverdale Creek on the Diamond A Ranch Western Division in Hidalgo County, New Mexico. Since the Chiricahua frog was listed Threatened in 2002, there have been continuing population declines. This site is considered by some specialists to be the best Chiricahua frog population in New Mexico, and perhaps anywhere in its range.

This new enrollment in the agreement sets the stage for a cooperative frog habitat restoration project at Cloverdale Cienega with Sky Island Alliance. Preliminary site surveys and planning have been done to design the restoration of natural stream flow at the Cloverdale Cienega. Natural flows have been diverted by historic road work such that flows into the cienega have been greatly reduced and the cienega is un-naturally dry. Hydrological restoration will restore flow into the cienega and substantially expand available wetland habitat for the frog.

With this new addition, the total acreage enrolled under the Malpai Chiricahua Frog Safe Harbor Agreement stands at 25,390 acres. This includes

Grass responding to gully stabilization using “one rock dams”

Chiricahua leopard frog

Photo © by Cecil Schwalbe
3,790 acre of private land in New Mexico, 4,400 acres of private land in Arizona, and 17,200 acres of state trust land in Arizona.

A previous habitat improvement project covered under the Safe Harbor Agreement was completed in 2006 to expand pond habitat for Chiricahua frogs at Rosewood Tank on the Magoffin Ranch. The project involved constructing a new concrete basin, which is somewhat larger than the original pond, and installing a pipe and float valve from the existing water system to ensure a stable water level. Within a few weeks of completing the new pond, frogs colonized the pond and egg masses were observed. The expanded habitat at Rosewood Tank has continued to support frogs, and remains the most stable Chiricahua frog population in the San Bernardino Valley.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Randy Walter is a third generation New Mexico rancher. He grew up in Animas, New Mexico and worked on his family ranch located in the Peloncillos. His grandfather, Curly Walter, homesteaded the ranch in 1919, building a house, corrals, and out buildings. Wart Walter, Randy’s father, was raised on the ranch and grew up in the old house that is still located on the place. Wart worked on the ranch his whole life, inheriting it from his mother and father. He is known for being an excellent cowboy and he trained cutting horses in Tucson for a time. He passed down his knowledge to his three sons teaching them ranching and cowboy skills. Randy graduated from Animas High School in 1975. He married his wife, Duti, in 1978 and soon after pursued a career with Valley Telephone and is now Supervisor over Installation and Repair in the Animas, New Mexico office. Randy and his wife run the School Bus from Rodeo, New Mexico to take children to Animas Public Schools. Randy has two children, Clay Walter and Darcy Bagwell. Clay and his wife Farah are school teachers in the Silver City and have one son, Dalin, and another on the way. Darcy and her husband, Brandon, are financial consultants in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Randy and his family enjoy time together, roping and fishing. Randy guides hunters in Mexico in his spare time and also in the rich hunting grounds of New Mexico. Randy and his wife have lived in the Animas Valley their entire lives and believe in the preservation of our way of living, which the Malpai Group embraces.

Richard W. Winkler replaced his mother, Mary Winkler, on the MBG Board in March of 2008. He adds youth and conviction to the board. Richard was born in 1966 in Hinsdale Illinois. His parents Richard and Mary Winkler moved to Douglas Arizona, the next year. In 1971 the Winklers bought a small ranch in Rodeo, N.M. Richard attended a one-room elementary school at Apache, Arizona until eighth grade and then Animas High School from 1981-84. The Winklers expanded their ranch in the late 1970’s with the purchase of the Strickland ranch north of Rodeo. They also owned and operated the Portal Store, Cafe and Post Office. In 1989 Richard completed his Bachelor of Science degree at New Mexico State University in Geography with a minor in Geology. Between 1987 and 1997 he was a seasonal fire fighter with the Coronado National Forest Douglas Ranger District. In 1991 he was awarded a teaching certificate and began a teaching and coaching career. In 1997 he moved back to Rodeo to accept a teaching and coaching position with the Animas Public Schools. In 1998 Richard and his wife, Tamara, purchased the original Triple Mountain Ranch that his parents started with in 1971. They have two children Zachary, 10 and Parker, 4. Richard says it has been a great experience to watch his children grow up on a ranch.

Richard says “The Malpai Borderlands is a group that has worked to keep ranching in my area for generations to come. I would like to see ranching continue in our valley and the open spaces in the Peloncillo Mountains protected.”

Sheryl (Sherry) L.G. Bartolucci, has joined the Malpai board as an Ex-officio Member. Sherry combines the knowledge and experience she has gained from working in both the non-profit and for-profit arenas. She is co-founder and CEO of Synergistica, prior to which she was the Chief Administrative Officer for the $5 billion Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. She was one of its first employees, responsible for developing the culture, creating the headquarters’ “green” building, managing communications, the grant making process, human resources and technology. She served as a member of the executive Management...
Committee and was a program leader with special interest in grantee capacity building and work in South and Central America.

A California native and UCLA graduate in political science and psychology, Sherry served with the Peace Corps in Peru teaching business to the emerging middle class. After returning to the U.S., she held a variety of positions throughout her professional career. Sherry was a Senior Vice President of Crocker National Bank and President of Exceptional Management Associates’ strategic and operations consulting practice. Before joining the Foundation, Sherry was Executive Vice President of Bank of America, reporting to the Chief Executive Officer and working on acquisitions in the U.S., plus special bank projects and leadership issues around the world.

Sherry lives on a ranch in California’s Sierra Nevada Foothills. She contributes to her larger community by serving on boards and supporting non-profits with a focus on enhancing environmental conservation, world peace and health, performing arts, police and fire safety, domestic and wild animal protection and rehabilitation, and care of at-risk adolescents. As owner of SLB Farms she breeds, raises and shows Morgan horses. Her horses have won over a dozen world and national championships.

THE FOUNDATIONS
These foundations are among those that have helped us since Malpai Borderlands Group began. We sincerely appreciate the support received from all of them through the years:

Alice Busch Gronewaldt Foundation
Animas Foundation
Anonymous Charitable Trusts and Foundations
Arizona Cattlegrowers’ Foundation
Bobolink Foundation
Liz Claiborne/Art Ortenberg Foundation
Clark Family Foundation
General Motors Corporation
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Hewlett Foundation
J.M. Kaplan Fund
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Louisa Duemling Charitable Lead Trust
Mary W. Harriman Foundation
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Moriah Fund Inc.

N.M. Pulliam Trust
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Norcross Wildlife Foundation
National Cattlemen’s Association
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Orvis Company
Orvis-Perkins Foundation
Packard Foundation
Point Foundation
Public Lands Council
Stocker Foundation
Thaw Charitable Trust
Tides Foundation
Turner Foundation
Wallace Research Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation
Wolf Creek Foundation
ANNUAL APPEAL

Our Annual Appeal is very important to the MBG as it helps with expenses that we must cover for overhead and running the office. Your donations support the work done by staff to carry out our work. We are very grateful for all the people that help us with these donations. This year we are enclosing our 2008 Annual Appeal Letter with this newsletter to save postage. If you have already sent us a donation this year, we want to let you know how much we appreciate it. THANK YOU!!

COOPERATORS
PRIVATE SECTOR:
Cooperating ranchers and landowners in Arizona, New Mexico, and Mexico.

PUBLIC SECTOR:
*U.S. Department of Agriculture:
~Agriculture Research Service
~Forest Service:
    Coronado National Forest
    Rocky Mountain Research Station
~Natural Resource Conservation Service

*U.S. Department of Interior:
~Bureau of Land Management, Las Cruces and Gila Districts
~Fish and Wildlife Service

*U.S. Department of Homeland Security
~Border Patrol - Customs

*Conservation Districts:
~Whitewater Draw Natural Resource Conservation District
~Hidalgo Soil and Water Conservation District

*University of Arizona’s Desert Laboratory
*University of New Mexico
*Arizona State University
*New Mexico State University
*New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
*Arizona Game and Fish Department

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS
* The Animas Foundation
* The Nature Conservancy
* Fundacion Cuenca Los Ojos

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL SCIENCE MEETING

Our next Science Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at the Douglas Community Center, just north of the historic train station in Douglas. There will be some interesting presentations, and lots of stimulating discussion, so put it on your calendar!
## MALPAI BORDERLANDS GROUP

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<td>Bill McDonald</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Sycamore Ranch, Douglas, Arizona</td>
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<td>Reese Woodling</td>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Rancher, Tucson, Arizona</td>
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<td>Edward Elbrock</td>
<td>Vice-Chairman</td>
<td>Elbrock Ranch, Animas, New Mexico</td>
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<td>Seth Hadley</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Diamond A Ranch, Animas, New Mexico</td>
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<td>Drum Hadley</td>
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<td>Ray Turner</td>
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<td>Ecologist, USGS (ret.), Tucson, Arizona</td>
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<td>John Cook</td>
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<td>The Nature Conservancy, Little Compton, Rhode Island</td>
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<td>Larry Allen</td>
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<td>Natural Resource Consultant, USFS (ret.), Albuquerque, NM</td>
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<td>Randy Walter</td>
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<td>Rob Krentz</td>
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<td><strong>Ex-officio Board Member</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Legal Counsel</strong></td>
<td>Mike Dennis</td>
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<td><strong>Advisors</strong></td>
<td>Joe Austin, Ron Bemis, Jim Brown, Kelly Cash, Van Clothier, Charles Curtin, Don Decker, Carl Edminster, Gerry Gottfried, Matt Magoffin, Bill Miller, Dennis Moroney, Bill Radke, Nathan Sayre, Charlie Siepel, Sam Smith, Pete Sundt, Myles Traphagen, David (Jonah) Western</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Staff</strong></td>
<td>Peter Warren, Program Coordinator</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Wendy Glenn, Office Manager</td>
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<td>Mary McDonald, Finance Director</td>
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<td>Carrie Krentz, Systems Specialist</td>
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<td>Ben Brown, Science Coordinator</td>
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<td>Art Work</td>
<td>Anna Magoffin</td>
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<td>Cook</td>
<td>Kelly Glenn-Kimbro</td>
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<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>Mackenzie Kimbro</td>
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### Malpai Borderlands Group

6226 Geronimo Trail Road  
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Douglas, AZ 85608

Phone: (520) 558-2470  Fax: (520) 558-2314  
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Office Hours: Monday through Thursday  8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Arizona Time

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