



MAY 2020

We promote the advancement of land stewardship through ranching, science, and education.

FROM THE CEO

Preparedness

NEAL WILKINS

“As we know, there are known knowns; there are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns—the ones we don’t know we don’t know. And if one looks throughout the history of our country and other free countries, it is the latter category that tend to be the difficult ones.”

Donald Rumsfeld
US Secretary of Defense
February 12, 2002

At the time he made this statement, Donald Rumsfeld was broadly mocked by the media. Since the time, however, Rumsfeld’s

observations have come to represent, for many, the dilemma of preparing for those events that truly challenge our society. This issue of our newsletter is focused on preparedness. In the simplest of terms preparedness is just being ready for something – perhaps a hardship.

If you know what the hardship is, and generally when it will arrive, then it is simpler to prepare – it’s a known known. In South Texas, the heat of summer can be a hardship, and preparing is pretty straightforward, as we do know approximately how hot it will be and when it will get that way.

Drought, on the other hand, is not easy to predict – it’s hard to know when it starts, and you rarely know whether you’re at the beginning, middle, or end of a drought. Drought doesn’t start on a schedule and it doesn’t wait until you’re ready, but you do know its arrival is inevitable – it is a known unknown. Other “known unknown” events that ranchers experience fall into the same category as drought. Depressed cattle prices, fever tick quarantines, animal disease, wildfires, and labor shortages are all examples of known unknown hardships. Ranchers benefit from specifically preparing for these known unknowns – we normally just call these “uncertainties.”



Rangeland on the San Antonio Viejo after favorable rainfall, September 2015.

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STOCKING RATES

One of the most common uncertainties faced by ranchers is the question of long-term grazing capacity. In 2014, the East Foundation began a study of grazing capacity across some 18,500 acres of native rangeland at the northern end of the San Antonio Viejo ranch. This was the Coloraditas Grazing Research and Demonstration Area.

Our approach was to test two different stocking rates under both continuous and rotational grazing. The general idea was to follow response of wildlife, rangeland habitats, and cattle performance over a long enough time period to make some recommendations that could help managers make their own decisions on grazing in that part of South Texas. This work was especially aimed at those managers that seek to optimize production of cattle and wildlife.

After almost four years of operating this study, what we found was that sticking to set stocking rates just was not feasible in this part of South Texas, at least at stocking levels that are operationally feasible. The reason was that the effects of drought severely limit forage growth, so much so that these lands cannot sustain grazing without the real risk of long-term damage to habitats and serious catastrophic losses in cattle performance. One take-home message was clear – grazing management in this part of South Texas requires flexibility. Adjusting stocking rates to properly respond to changes in grazing capacity requires more forethought than simply sticking to set stocking rates, even at low levels.

Another important takeaway from the first phase of this long-term study is that if managers are sensitive to pasture conditions, and prepared to respond by adjusting

grazing demand, these landscapes can recover when rainfall returns. There was little apparent difference between the continuous grazing strategy and the deferred rotation strategy used in this project. Rainfall, and therefore forage production, is the primary driver. Stocking rate, which sets the rate of forage disappearance from livestock, is the other key driver.

Understanding the limits and remaining disciplined to manage grazing pressure according to pasture conditions, is likely to allow operators to strike the balance between short-run livestock production and long-run resource integrity.

If you are interested in the results of this work, you can access the publication *Cattle Ranching in the “Wild Horse Desert” – Stocking Rate, Rainfall, and Forage Response* on our website at <https://www.eastfoundation.net/science/publications/>.

UNKNOWNNS

Warren Street died at age 95 on January 8, 2019. He was a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. In the 1970s, Warren Street was the Scoutmaster for Troop 826 in north Texas. His slogan was, “Be prepared.”

Warren Street taught dozens of boys how to make camp, catch fish, build a fire, cook meat, tie knots, use an ax, fix wounds, paddle a canoe, get your buddy’s back, and find your way through the woods. While it turns out that “be prepared” was officially the Boy Scout motto, our scruffy collection of neighborhood boys just assumed that “be prepared” was really a slogan created by our own Scoutmaster. With Warren Street in the lead, we focused most of our Boy Scout time on getting into the woods throughout north and central Texas. We were an unruly bunch and

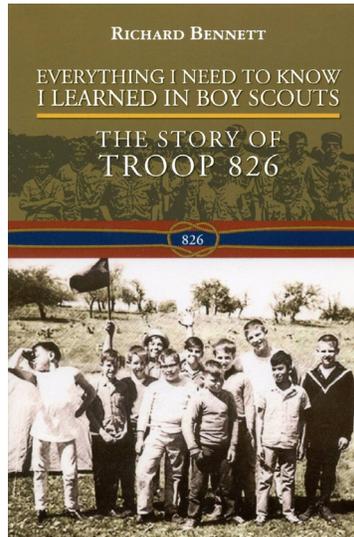
chasing merit badges was rarely our purpose.

As boys, we were out to have fun, but looking back now, I am sure that Mr. Street had some hidden motives – and he really had only two big ideas he wanted to penetrate into our heads and hearts. First, we were to be self-reliant, and for us that meant learning how to handle ourselves in the woods – eat well, sleep well, stay healthy, and not get lost. His second idea was that we should always stand ready to help someone else if they got in trouble, for us that meant learning to set our own comfort aside so that one of our buddies could eat, stay warm, or find their way out of the woods.

For these lessons he constantly put us in situations that challenged each of us. He would intentionally sneak equipment away from us, just to force us to make-do with what we had. Sometimes, nothing would go as planned – but that may have been the way he planned it. He weaved into our scouting years a bunch of lessons intended to make us stronger citizens and sharper students, but those lessons also made us better prepared for the unknown – we never knew what

to expect, but we were expected to improvise. We were just learning survival skills.

If you want to learn more about Warren Street and Troop 826, check out *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Boy Scouts* by Richard Bennet.



SURVIVAL

For a lot of the ranches in South Texas, the idea of survival through hardship is nothing new. Constantly doing what it takes to survive is a primary tool for preparedness. At

East Foundation, we have focused much of our efforts on doing what is required to maintain current operations, while also assuring our capacity to meet our mission is not crushed by the current reaction to COVID-19.

Like any other organization, we have had to improvise in order to adjust to an unknown unknown. We have changed our way of operating in order to keep doing our business – ranching, science and education. As any emergency or natural disaster sets in, there are unique and unanticipated challenges for keeping the doors open and maintaining operations.

During all this, it should come as a sense of pride that the ranches in Texas are still in business – at East Foundation we are weaning calves, we have had some rain, and it looks like there will be a good nesting season for bobwhites and turkeys. Our research projects are still in full operation, and we are also finding a way to deliver education programs with new innovations. We feel like much of this is due to some preparation so that we were able to adapt to a new working environment. Be prepared!

SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE

Management as Preparation

JASON SAWYER

One of the challenges to effective ranch management is the large number of variables that managers must cope with that are outside of their control. As we seek to develop solutions to enhance the sustainability of ranching enterprises, we intend to provide decision support tools to help managers prepare to cope more

effectively with the dynamic variables that impact ranch enterprises.

Weather is an overriding factor impacting most aspects of the enterprise. Because we cannot control weather, and cannot anticipate it with great confidence, how do we manage to create preparedness for whatever comes

our way? As we enter the peak of the growing season, now is the time to prepare for a good year, and for a tough year...one of these will happen, we just won't know for a while which it will be.

Stocking rate decisions are essential drivers of the sustainability of any ranching system. Because economic viability and profitability

are strongly related to livestock inventory, managers have incentive to increase stocking rate in the short run. However, excessive stocking rates in the current year (relative to forage growth) can impair the range resource and reduce the production capacity in future years. This tempers the short run motivation and provides incentive to balance forage demand with current year's growth to protect future productivity for cattle, wildlife habitat, and ecosystems services.



Stocking rate decisions are essential drivers of the sustainability of any ranching system.

Because we cannot accurately predict weather and forage responses, managers must be prepared to adapt to changing circumstances with advance planning.

Typical recommendations for setting stocking rates are based on 'average' forage production estimates, but in environments with highly variable precipitation and forage growth potential, preparation must be made to adjust to changing conditions. During the first phase of the Coloraditas Grazing Research and Demonstration project, measured forage standing crop after grazing was initiated ranged from as high as 3,000 pounds per acre (lbs/ac) to as low as 450 lbs/ac. See the initial project report on our website at <https://www.eastfoundation.net/science/publications/>.

Using conventional stocking rate calculations, these imply stocking rates ranging from 13 acres per animal unit (ac/AU) to 85 ac/AU. This range illustrates the difficulty faced by managers in anticipating 'proper' stocking rate over time – 'proper' is a moving target. If the current stocking rate is 40 ac/AU, management should likely have a contingency plan in place to reduce grazing demand by 50% to accommodate the potential for lower precipitation.

An alternative way to think about stocking rate decisions is that they imply a forecast of forage growth. This forecast is like inviting

eight people to dinner, with an expectation that you will prepare enough food for the entire party – if you miscalculate, someone may go hungry, or you may have too many leftovers.

Table 1 displays the forage growth expectation implied by different stocking rates, all of which are feasible in our environment. When reality begins to deviate from that implicit expectation, will we be prepared to respond? Table 1 also shows, for each stocking rate, the expected monthly decline in forage assuming growth has stopped.

Using these, managers can estimate a trajectory to reach a critical threshold (often suggested to be between 600 and 900 lbs/ac in our region) and be prepared to take actions according to established contingency plans.

For example, if the trigger point for removal was 750 lbs/ac, and current forage was estimated to be 1000 lbs/ac, the number of days remaining until the action point can be predicted (see last column of Table 1). Clearly, more aggressive stocking rates require better preparation to react to changing circumstances.

A long-term goal for our research program is to identify strategies that allow managers to make realistic contingency plans, with definable trigger points, that allow for optimization of long term economic and environmental sustainability in light of forage growth risk. We can't change the weather extremes faced in extensive ranching systems. But we can improve our capacity to prepare, take confident action, and optimize outcomes to improve the sustainability of the business and provide the stewardship necessary for long term success.

Table 1. Implied forage growth expectations, forage demand, monthly depletion, and days to critical limits depending on set stocking rate.

Stocking Rate ac/AU	Implied Annual Forage Growth lbs/ac	Annual Demand lbs/ac	Monthly Disappearance lbs/ac	Days Remaining ¹
10	3796	949	158	47
15	2531	633	105	71
20	1898	475	79	95
40	949	237	40	190
50	759	190	32	237
75	506	127	21	356

¹ Assumes current standing crop of 1000 lb/ac, with threshold of 750 lbs/ac.

RANCHER RESOURCES

Planning

TODD SNELGROVE

Growing up I spent most of my summers, Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, and spring breaks enjoying the forests, fields, creeks, and lakes of northeast Texas—this is where my dad grew up and where my grandparents lived their entire lives. My grandfather, Papa to me, made his living off the land on a sandy plot of land in Cass county—farming, raising cattle, and growing timber. On top of that he worked full-time as a mill wright in the blast furnace at Lone Star Steel. He and my grandmother were simple, hard-working, and resilient folks.

Looking back, I am struck by how much time they spent planning. It was as if they were hard-wired to think about the future and how to prepare for it. Whether it was saving a little money when times were good, prepping the garden plot for the next season, canning the fruits and vegetables from a bountiful harvest, setting out brush tops for crappie, and filling deep freezers with fish, deer, squirrels, and ducks they were always working to provide for themselves, their family, and friends.

This planning inevitably helped them prepare for the unanticipated and helped them through the hard times—mill shutdowns, unforeseen health issues, droughts, and the inevitable economic downturn. It brings to mind a quote from U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, “Daddy always seemed to be preparing for rainy days. Maybe that’s why they never came.”

For those that make their living off the land this mindset is a way of life. It is no different for us here at the East Foundation with one

exception. We do hope for “rainy days” in the Wild Horse Desert but we prepare for the worst. As a forward-focused organization we are constantly planning for the future—preparing for our next drought, developing infrastructure that is durable and will meet our needs for years to come, mentoring young professionals, and investing in the future of our children through our education programs.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower once said about planning for battle, “Plans are useless, but planning is indispensable.” Planning helps us envision how the future may unfold, prepares us to be nimble, flexible, and more responsive in the face of adversity. This mindset makes us more resilient and reduces the anxiety of facing the unknown.

A good example of this are the investments we’ve made in our technology and communications infrastructure over the last several years. With over 40 employees scattered from San Antonio to the Valley and throughout south Texas we have a highly mobile workforce. The ability to communicate effectively while on the go in an area of Texas where options for high speed internet are limited is a challenge.

We’ve met this challenge by equipping most of our staff with smart phones and laptops. At our Hebronville office we were able to work with AT&T to buildout fiber optic infrastructure giving us internet access on par with San Antonio. At the San Antonio Viejo Ranch headquarters, we had to get a little more creative but were able to build out a boosted 4G LTE based Wi-Fi network.

Upcoming Events

MAY 12-15

Texas Association of Museum Virtual Conference

“Texans of Tomorrow” Joint Presentation with Dr. Pepper Museum, the Witte Museum, and East Foundation.

MAY 28

Professional Advisors Meeting via Zoom.

JUNE 11-13

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Summer Meeting in Santa Fe, NM.

JUNE 16-17

Board of Directors Meeting at El Sauz Ranch.

JULY 9-12

Texas Wildlife Associations’ 35th Anniversary and Convention at the JW Marriott in San Antonio.

At the East Foundation we value relationships and the solutions that come from working closely together—ideally when we are together, in the office or out in the field. All of these technology solutions combined were intended to give us options to work more effectively together from miles apart when needed. This became readily apparent on March 19th when we closed our offices in San Antonio and Hebronville to the public and switched most of our staff to working from home.

Let me be clear—we never planned for a global pandemic forcing us to swiftly move to a “remote” work environment dominated by Zoom meetings and conference calls. However, the planning we did over the last several years prepared us to pivot quickly to a temporary way of working while maintaining productivity and meeting our mission. Thinking about the future and being prepared for what it holds is what good stewards do, making us ready for the rainy days—both the good ones and the bad ones.



ALUMNI PROFILE



LISA ZOROMSKI

Lisa is originally from Appleton, Wisconsin, where her interest for natural resources stemmed from her involvement with Future Farmers of America (FFA). She earned a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point (UWSP) in Wildlife Ecology. At UWSP she conducted research projects on Eastern cottontail rabbit parasites, bison behaviors and parasite loads, and furbearer occupancy. These experiences led her to develop interests in applied research on wildlife diseases and human-wildlife conflicts.

Upon graduation, Lisa was accepted into the M.S. program within the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. She drove nearly 1,500 miles to move to Texas. Lisa researched nilgai visitation rates and behaviors at latrines (or dung piles) and fence crossing sites. She assessed whether these locations would be effective areas to place tick treatments for nilgai.

Lisa’s work occurred on our El Sauz and Santa Rosa ranches, as well as a ranch in Cameron county. After graduating this past

December, Lisa began working as a wildlife technician for the United States Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services. Her duties focus on the eradication of wild pigs in Ohio.

In her own words:

“I am really thankful for everything the East Foundation has done in support of my project. My graduate research involved visiting East ranches every two weeks. I was always amazed at the number of wildlife I would see each day, as well as a hidden world revealed through the thousands of trail camera photos I reviewed.

While my project was funded by the Las Huellas organization of South Texas, the East Foundation was always excited to collaborate with them and values these connections with fellow land stewards.

South Texas is nothing like Wisconsin or Ohio, but the East Foundation’s El Sauz Ranch will forever be one of my favorite places for its beautiful landscape and great memories spent researching wildlife with friends. I am truly blessed to have such a great organization support me through my graduate studies, and I look forward to applying the skills I learned in graduate school to make a positive impact for wildlife conservation.”

RANCH REPORT

The Next Drought

GILLY RIOJAS

Over the last thirty days most of our ranches have received some much-needed rainfall that helped green up our pastures and will hopefully allow us to have a very productive spring and summer for forage production. These last few weeks we have been focused primarily on weaning our fall calves and pregnancy checking the fall cows. We should be finished with weaning by the middle of May and then we will move into branding our spring calf crop. It is a busy season but one that is more enjoyable with green grass.

Our primary focus is to do what's right for the land and the life that depends on it. It is our responsibility to take care of our land and the animals—cattle and wildlife—that need this resource to survive. We realize that we live in an area of the state that does not receive an abundant amount of rain fall. More times than not we are dealing with some level of drought. We need to constantly be prepared to handle drought and its effects on our cattle herd.

To help us protect the land we focus on drought systems management and implement this with our cattle herd in several ways. We want to ensure that we maintain an appropriate carrying capacity for each ranch and pasture that we operate. We observe available forage, brush coverage, and range site to determine our carrying capacity. That allows us to decide on the correct number of animal units to put on that site for a certain amount of time.

We keep a certain amount of pastures available as flex pastures to give us the leeway in not being fully stocked 100% of the time with our cow herd. We operate a base cow herd across 65% of our ownership and use the remaining 35% of our pastures as flex. With these flex pastures we have the option to run stocker cattle or use it as drought relief to rest more sensitive areas of the ranch. Flex pastures allow us to mitigate risk for our cow herd, give us options for the rotation of cattle and allow us to rest sensitive pastures during critical times of the year.



Protecting our cattle herd on the San Antonio Viejo and other East Foundation ranches from the effects of drought is one of our primary objectives.

Our continued focus on drought management ensures that all East Foundation properties are fully prepared to handle droughts and take care of the most important resource we've been entrusted with—the land that we operate on.



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RAINFALL REPORT

April Showers

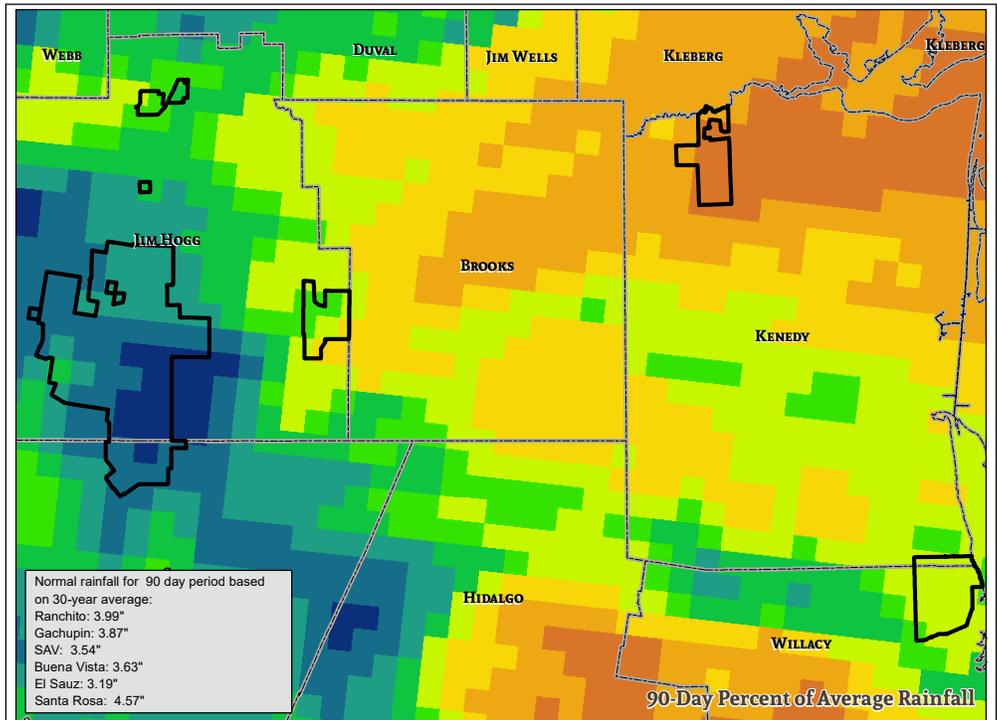
ALLIE BIEDENHARN

Timely spring rains are bringing plenty of May flowers (and green grass) to East Foundation ranches! We all know it doesn't take long for rangelands to deteriorate, so we are constantly tracking rainfall trends helping us to be better stewards of the land and to guide our management decisions.

While past rainfall maps and current drought status painted a brown picture, late spring rains have graciously hit the ranches in Jim Hogg and Starr counties, bringing with it green grass. The San Antonio Viejo ranch has received well above average rainfall amount with some areas receiving close to ten inches since the first of April.

Prior to this most recent wet spell most of our ranches had received less than half the normal rainfall. In some cases, it is closer to a quarter of what we would normally expect. With the recent rains we've seen improvement in our overall drought status across our western ranches. The Santa Rosa Ranch in Kenedy County, however, has received 20 to 30% of average rainfall for the past three months and remains in severe drought.

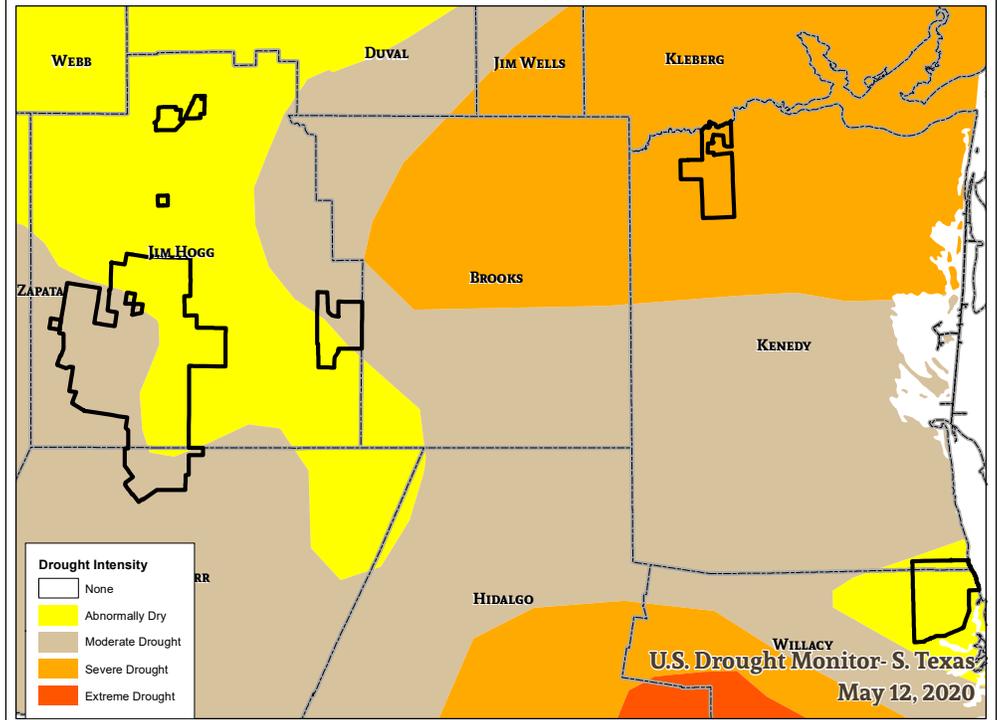
For more information on drought and other weather events or to view information specific to your part of the state please visit: <http://climatexas.tamu.edu/drought/maps/index.html>.



East
FOUNDATION



May 11, 2020



EMPLOYEE PROFILE



LANDON SCHOFIELD

Landon is a recent south Texas transplant. He was born in Boise, Idaho but grew up in south central Idaho in the small town of Buhl. He grew up hunting, fishing, and exploring the Snake River basin and the Sawtooth Mountains to the north of Buhl. Before pursuing his degree in Wildlife Biology, Landon was a dental major. It was after completing a health science degree and working towards admission to dental school that he decided dentistry was not fulfilling and braced himself for a big change.

Landon transferred to the University of Idaho and double majored in Wildlife Biology and Geographic Information Systems. After completing his undergraduate education, he accepted a graduate position at Louisiana State University studying the movement ecology and reproductive phenology of wild turkeys. Landon completed his Master of Science degree in Wildlife Biology in 2019 while working for East Foundation.

As the Range and Wildlife Biologist at East Foundation, Landon provides expertise related to range and wildlife management and associated

research projects. He delivers project management support and ensures data quality. He works regularly with Foundation research partners and graduate students on projects ranging from prescribed fire to white-tailed deer captures. Each day Landon works to advance the long-term range and wildlife management priorities of the Foundation.

In his free time, Landon enjoys hunting, fishing, tying fly-fishing flies, and adventuring with his family. Landon and his wife Emily have two children and live in Kingsville, Texas.



FIELD OPERATIONS FILE

El Sauz Headquarters

TREY DYER

The construction of the long-awaited headquarters building at El Sauz is complete! It is located just inside the main gate, close to Port Mansfield, Texas. Final preparations—furnishing, internet service, stocking supplies—are being made prior to a move-in date. The building is 90 feet by 40 feet with 16-foot wings running the length of each 90-foot side. Each end has a 1,200 square foot living area and there is a 1,200 square foot shop in the center.

The new facility also has three RV hook-up sites complete with electricity, water, and sewer. Currently, two of the East Foundation's travel trailers are hooked up and being utilized by the monitoring crew until a move in date is set. The existing travel trailers and extra hook-up will help fill the need of additional lodging during times of high activity on El Sauz and give us room to expand. Additionally, high-speed wireless internet will be provided for the entire facility.

The west side of the building will be utilized by our partners: researchers, monitoring crews, field technicians, and other guests performing work at El Sauz. This side has three bedrooms, four bathrooms, a full kitchen, a common area, and can sleep up to 12 people. Each room is equipped with two sets of bunk beds. The common area will have dining accommodations as well as a dedicated workspace. The east side of the building will be home to Alain Campbell, Unit Foreman of El Sauz. It is a two-bedroom, two-bath with a dining area, living room, and kitchen.



A bird's eye view of the new El Sauz Headquarters with several visitors and two travel trailers parked out front.

The shop area will allow for our service department to perform repairs and maintenance on equipment located at El Sauz without having to transport it back to our main facility on the San Antonio Viejo. It will be equipped with an air compressor, welder, tools, ice maker, and shop sink. The shop area has two restrooms and a shared laundry room, which will house two washers and two dryers. The addition of two restrooms will be beneficial to our education staff when

hosting field lessons at El Sauz by reducing the need for rented restroom facilities.

The site plan and layout of the utilities and infrastructure on this project will allow for additional space to be constructed in the future. As the East Foundation continues to grow, the headquarters facility at El Sauz will help the Foundation in achieving its mission of promoting land stewardship through ranching, science, and education by allowing for flexibility in future lodging and operational needs.

SECURITY REPORT

Making the Most of a Confusing Situation

MATT ROBINSON

I feel very lucky and blessed to work for East Foundation during these troubled times. Or any time, come to think of it. Not only do I continue to work and get a paycheck, but I get to do it on over 217,000 acres. Talk about social distancing, how much safer can you get? I do have to admit, I am really confused. We are living through a pandemic. There are so many unknowns, and what are people doing? They are hoarding toilet paper. I don't know what to think about that, but I can say for sure, there are more important things to worry about. During these times, please think about others. Be courteous and kind. Be safe and careful. Use common sense. And don't treat each other like lepers.

Border Patrol agents are still on the job. Smuggling traffic seems to have slowed on East Foundation, but the flow of illegal activity seems to never end. Border Patrol agents caught this group on San Antonio Viejo (SAV) near FM 649. It is hard

to get away when handcuffed to all your friends.



Border Patrol continues their work on San Antonio Viejo and other East Foundation ranches.

Recently, I was heading across SAV to check for illegal activity. I came to the Buenos Aires gate, which is a long way from anywhere. As I got out at the gate, I noticed fresh footprints. Then I heard a whistle behind me. I immediately thought – smugglers, traffickers or some other illegal activity. I have to admit,

it made the hair on the back of my neck stand up. You never know how many there are or what their intentions are, and I had not seen anyone yet. Eventually, one guy walked out. He was tired, lost, and wanted help. He spoke English and said that he had called 911. I called Border Patrol. Sure enough, they were looking for him. Lucky for everyone, I happened to be in the right place at the right time.

This man has an interesting story. Although he is from Guatemala and crossed the border illegally with his wife, he has lived in Minnesota for 16 years, works as a lawn maintenance man, and has a daughter who was born in Minnesota. He went home to Guatemala, paid \$12,000 to be smuggled back across the border and was trying to make his way back to Minnesota. He said he had been travelling for over a month through Mexico.

Three different cartels had approached him as he travelled through Mexico. The first group he encountered took all of his money. He was taken to a safe house in the Roma area. The smugglers assigned him a guide and told him to expect a 50-mile brush walk. The guide and group that he was with were dropped off in the brush and started their trek. The guide was using cocaine and walked at a fast pace and took pains to never walk on a trail or road, but always walked through the brush. He said eventually he couldn't keep up the pace and his whole body started cramping.

The guide left him with no food and little water to fend for himself. He had been walking one day alone when I found him. I assumed he would try making the trip again to get to his family. I asked him if he would pay again and he said they would give him three tries for the original payment. He may have been lying to me, but I thought it was an interesting story.

I loaned Molli Foxley a security camera to use to monitor remnant cattle and loaded an app on her phone to receive pictures from the camera. This allowed her real time monitoring of remnants entering the water trap so she could catch them and move them to another pasture. One night I obviously didn't have enough to do, and I thought

I would have some fun. I dressed up like Sasquatch and made an appearance on Molli's camera.



Even the Sasquatch that lives on San Antonio Viejo rides for the brand and sports an East Foundation hat.

Game Warden Carlos Maldonado wanted in on the fun, so we made a plan. He wore night vision so we could see when the camera took a picture and pose for it. I came into the viewing area of the camera, sat down in my camp chair, and acted as if I was reading a book. Later, Carlos showed up wearing a COVID face mask and night vision and handed Sasquatch a mask.

The picture adjacent shows Sasquatch and Carlos properly wearing COVID masks.

During all of this, I was texting Molli asking her what was going on with her cow camera, as the pictures were coming to my phone also. She replied

that it looked like a Chupacabra and Carlos. I said, "It looks like they are being safe by wearing masks."

She seemed very unimpressed and texted that they were not practicing proper social distancing. So much for getting a rise out of Molli!

Alain Campbell has the same camera set up to help monitor wild cows. He will hide late at night near a trap in his Ranger. He says the cows have nicknamed it the "Death Wagon," because when it comes blasting out of the dark, something is getting roped, tied to a tree, and maybe castrated.

I was planning to play the camera trick on Alain. I decided mistakes could be made in the dark and it was too risky, so I decided to *steer* clear of Alain's operation.



Sasquatch and Game Warden Carlos Maldonado encourage you to wear your mask when you're out and about and to practice proper social distancing.