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Three Minute Thesis (3MT) to Take Place at Annual Private Lands Summit

San Antonio, TX – July 10, 2023 – East Foundation is a Silver Sponsor for and will participate in the Annual Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) Private Lands Summit at the J.W. Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa July 13-16, 2023. Wildlife enthusiasts from across Texas will gather for fun, education, and networking opportunities over three days. Previously, 1,500 individuals have attended the TWA event, and this year for the first time, East Foundation will host their 3MT competition at the Private Lands Summit. This year's competition is the 6th annual 3MT for East Foundation, expected to take place on July 13th at 3:00 pm, followed by a social from 4-6 pm.

“The Three-Minute Thesis competition is an important opportunity for future professionals to translate their work meaningfully,” says East Foundation Chief Science Officer Jason Sawyer. “East Foundation is proud to bring this event to the Private Lands Summit, where contestants will be able to present to a diverse audience of biologists, land managers, and conservationists. It is the perfect opportunity for their work to be highlighted and for them to make lifelong connections.”

3MT is a research communication competition that challenges graduate students to make an impactful three-minute presentation on their research topic and its significance. Students who participate develop academic, presentation, and research communication skills and the ability to explain their research to a non-academic audience.

This year, East Foundation is planning to award three prizes. Two will be awarded during the social immediately following the competition. *People's Choice Award*, going for \$1,500, is judged by the audience – peers, colleagues, university faculty, and other guests from across Texas. The *Judge's Award*, going for \$1,500, is judged by a panel of interdisciplinary guest judges. Lastly, the *Directors' Choice Award* of \$2,500 will be awarded in the fall following the competition. The Board of Directors for East Foundation will select one presentation to receive the *Director's Choice Award*.

"For me, 3MT was such a great experience working on explaining my research succinctly and describing my research's connection to the East Foundation's mission to promote land stewardship. My experiences at 3MT helped me prepare to be an effective public speaker throughout graduate school when I would often present my research to audiences unfamiliar with my work. At 3MT competitions, I always enjoyed speaking, connecting with East Foundation staff

and students, and learning about other research projects taking place across East Foundation properties in South Texas." - Lindsay Martinez, 2022 *Director's Choice Award* winner.

The rules and judging criteria for 3MT are as follows: a single static PowerPoint slide is permitted. No slide transitions, animations, or movement of any kind. Other electronic media (e.g., sound and video files) are prohibited. Other props (e.g., costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are prohibited. Presentations are limited to three minutes. Presentations exceeding three minutes are subject to disqualification at the judges' discretion. Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g., no poems, raps, or songs). Presentations are to commence from the stage. Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.

Each of the three judging criteria has equal weight, emphasizing audience understanding. Students participating in 3MT are graded on *communication style* (was the thesis topic and its significance communication in language appropriate to an intelligent but non-specialist audience), *comprehension* (did the presentation help the audience understand the research), and *engagement* (did the presentation make the audience want to know more).

About the East Foundation

The East Foundation promotes the advancement of land stewardship through ranching, science, and education. We manage over 217,000 acres of native South Texas rangeland, operated as six separate ranches in Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Starr and Willacy counties. The lands were bestowed to the Foundation through the generous gift of the East family in 2007. To honor their legacy, we uphold their vision and values that were established more than a century ago.

About Texas Wildlife Association

The Texas Wildlife Association is a statewide membership organization that serves Texas wildlife and its habitat, while protecting property rights, hunting heritage, and the conservation efforts of those who value and steward wildlife resources. The Texas Wildlife Association was formed in 1985 by a group of ranchers, wildlife managers, and hunters dedicated to the conservation, management, and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat on private lands.

For more information on our work, visit www.eastfoundation.net

To attend the 3MT competition at the Annual Private Lands Summit for media coverage, please get in touch with Landen Addison with the contact information below.

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