

# 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Chapter of The Wildlife Society Meeting



*Achieving Landscape-level Management in a Private  
Land State*

**February 22-24, 2023**

Houston, Texas

# **Plenary - Achieving Landscape Level Management in a Private Land State**

**Post Oak Ballroom, 10:30 am, Thursday February 23, 2023**

**Moderator**

**Ed Roberson**



Founder, Mountain & Prairie Media

Ed Roberson is a Colorado-based conservationist and creator of Mountain & Prairie, a top-ranked podcast featuring long-form interviews with innovators of the American West.

Since its first episode in early 2016, Mountain & Prairie has gone on to be recognized by the Aspen Institute, Patagonia, Apple Podcasts, MeatEater, The Nature Conservancy, Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, High Country News, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Montana Governor's Office, and more. Thanks to the podcast's popularity, Ed is now a sought-after speaker and moderator at events throughout the United States. He also produces and hosts live podcast shows at venues around the West.

Ed's career has focused on land, water, and conservation for nearly two decades, primarily in the American West. He served as Conservation Director at Palmer Land Conservancy for four years, leading the organization's cutting-edge water conservation efforts in southeastern Colorado. Prior to Palmer, he was a ranch broker and worked extensively throughout Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. He has also served on boards and committees for a wide range of conservation organizations in Colorado.

Ed holds a BA in economics and an MBA with a concentration in finance, both from Wake Forest University. He is also a proud graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Away from work, Ed is a committed husband, father of two, voracious reader, comically slow ultrarunner, and devotee of the Strenuous Life.

### **Roel Lopez**



Dr. Roel Lopez is Director of the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute and Department Head for the Department of Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management at Texas A&M University. He has over 25 years of natural resource and land management experience with academia, federal and state agencies, and private industry. His research focuses on endangered and fragmented wildlife populations, sustainability of military lands, and rural land trends and demographics.

### **Chad Ellis**



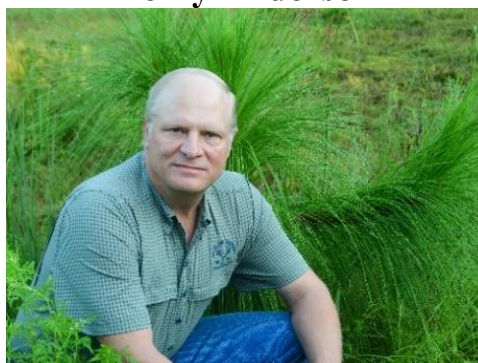
Chad Ellis is the Chief Executive Officer for Texas Agricultural Land Trust (TALT), Chad Ellis brings a wealth of land conservation experience, most recently in his work for the Noble Research Institute, the largest nonprofit agricultural research organization in the U.S. Mr. Ellis has over 25 years of experience working directly with producers and land managers implementing stewardship focused management. Ellis not only promotes and advocates land stewardship principles, he also implements it within his own family operation in Lohn, Texas. Mr. Ellis is passionate about helping empower the producer to be better tomorrow than they are today. Ellis brings deep connections and experience with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, where he served in increasingly responsible roles for a decade.

### **Billy Tarrant**



Billy Tarrant is the Associate Director of Stewardship Services at Borderlands Research Institute where his main responsibility is managing the Center for Land Stewardship and Stakeholder which provides technical resources for landowners, energy developers, community members, and conservation partners. After receiving his BS and MS in Wildlife Science at New Mexico State University, Billy worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department before joining Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) in 1996. He served as a District Wildlife Biologist for several years before moving to West Texas to accept a leadership position in 2005. Before retiring from TPWD in 2019, Billy served as a Regional Director where he oversaw operations of the Trans-Pecos and Panhandle Wildlife Teams. Throughout his career, he has worked effectively with partners to achieve meaningful conservation, as demonstrated by his efforts with the Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Working Group, the formation of the Texas Playa Conservation Initiative, and managing the local outreach and coordination efforts of the Respect Big Bend Initiative.

### **Terry Anderson**



Terry Anderson is a biologist, a forester, and a conservation entrepreneur, who received a Bachelor of Science in Forestry with an emphasis in Wildlife Management from Stephen F. Austin State University in 1991 and has spent the last 32 years successfully operating in a broad range of eco-system markets. His latest efforts have focused on developing Conservation Equity Management, a Texas based, natural resource, private equity firm, created in 2021. The firm has a unique perspective that centers around financial investment in rural lands. Anderson is also co-founder and CEO of Conservation Equity Partners, LLC, a company specializing in working with land, water, and wildlife resources through traditional approaches and creative enterprises,

formed in 2018. In addition, he is co-owner of Wildlife Systems, Inc., an outdoor enterprise that offers recreational experiences on over 900,000 acres of private lands in Texas. Additionally, Anderson occasionally serves as an adjunct faculty advisor at Stephen F. Austin State University's Arthur Temple College of Forestry, assisting with habitat management and wetland ecology courses. He acts as a Board Trustee for the Texas Wildlife Association Foundation and is philanthropically involved with the Texas Wildlife Association and the Texas Forestry Association