Belonging on the border: accessibility and inclusivity in the Arizona-Sonora binational Sky Islands

Karla Hernandez
Xochitl Ramon Lopez
Environmental Field Coordinators



BORDERLANDS RESTORATION NETWORK

REBUILD. RESTORE. RECONNECT.

Thursday, October 22, 2026, WRMC

Today's talk

About BRN/Sky Island region

Accessibility in the borderlands

Breaking barriers: restoration, education, and community in the borderlands

Closing thoughts & questions

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RESTORATION
NETWORK

BORDERLANDS RESTORATION NETWORK

REBUILD.
RESTORE.
RECONNECT.

Mission

We partner to grow a restorative economy by rebuilding healthy ecosystems, restoring habitat for plants and wildlife, and reconnecting our border communities to the land through shared learning

Vision

We envision connected borderlands where rivers flow, plants, wildlife and cultures thrive, and communities develop an inclusive restorative economy where a sense of place inspires a sense of purpose

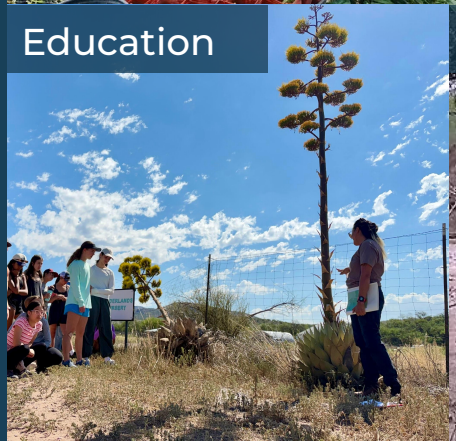
Native Plants



Watershed Restoration



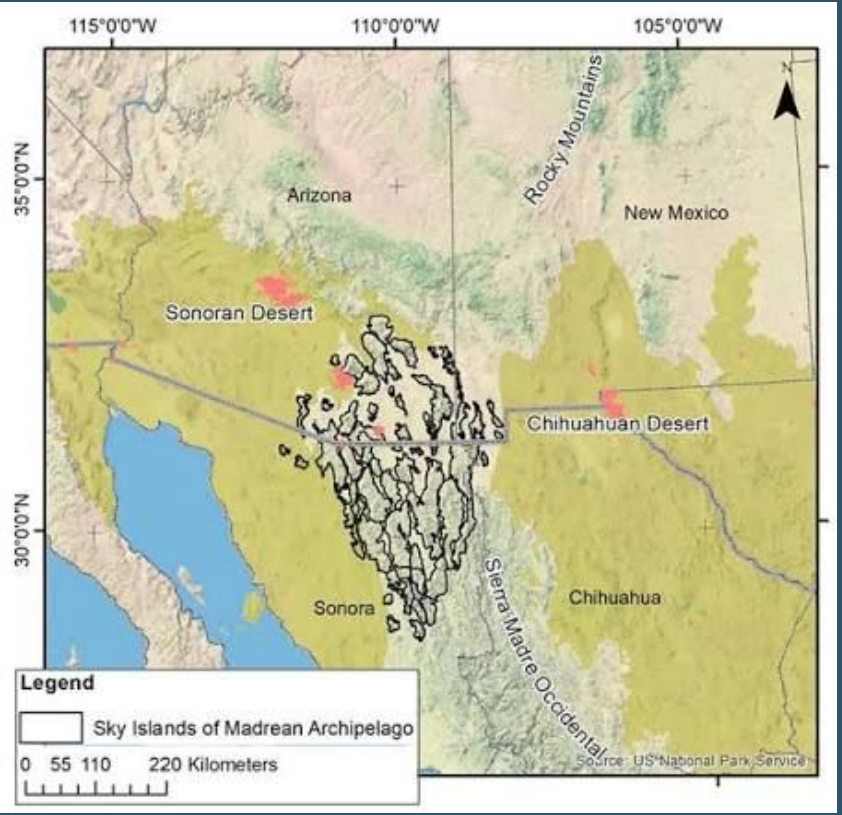
Education



Conservation



The Sky Islands





Barriers to Accessibility in the borderlands



The border wall construction in Lochiel Arizona on Sept. 23, 2026. (Photo Credit: Mason Kumet)





Credit: Wyatt Myskow for Inside Climate News

border wall construction
militarization & surveillance
lack of knowledge to public land access

Breaking barriers in the borderlands



Restoration



Education

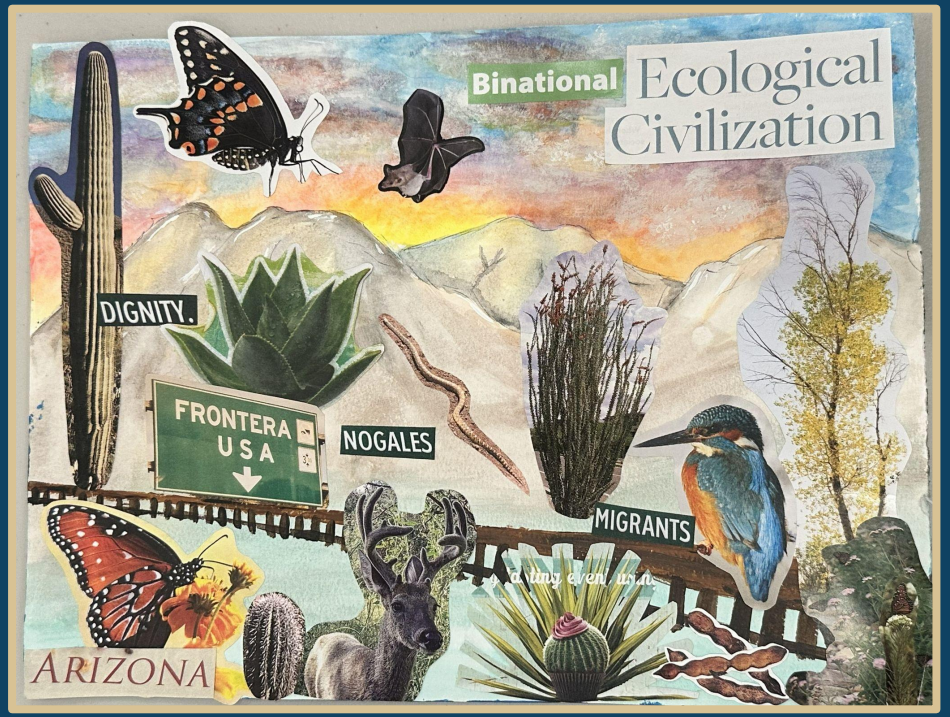


Community

Our approaches:

sense of place

place-based learning



Connecting people to places

2,111 Education program participants





Borderlands Earth Care Youth

Borderlands Field Course

Workshops, guided hikes, local school programs

Borderlands Earth Care Youth testimonials



“BECY has taught me many new concepts and skills in restoration that will be valuable to me for the rest of my life.” – 2024 BECY participant



“This internship gave me valuable hands-on experience and enlightened me on various ways to help the environment. I got to network with many people in different environmental fields which helped me become aware of more career options.” – 2025 BECY participant



Borderlands Field Course testimonials

Vanessa

Career pathways and partnerships













































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Takeaways...



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Thank you! Questions?

Karla Hernandez | khernandez@borderlandsrestoration.org

Xochitl Ramon Lopez | xlopez@borderlandsrestoration.org

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