



# Chihuahuan Sun



Newsletter of the Chihuahuan Desert Network

February 2019

## A Quick Update from CHDN

The staff of the Chihuahuan Desert Network (CHDN) just wanted to provide a quick update to CHDN parks and other partners with our vernal field schedule and a short note on the retirement of CHDN Program Manager Marcia Wilson at the end of 2018.

Look for our next full newsletter in August 2019 when we will have updates from both the fall and spring monitoring seasons.

I am looking forward to working with you all.

– *Andy Hubbard*, Acting Network Program Manager

## Program Manager Marcia Wilson Retires

CHDN wishes Marcia Wilson congratulations and a fond farewell upon her retirement at the end of 2018 after more than 26 years of government service. Marcia became the CHDN program manager in August 2015, and during her time with the network, she was particularly active in the binational meetings, on the Network National Council, and a member of the New Mexico Avian Conservation Partnership Steering Committee.

Prior to joining CHDN, Marcia was the general ecologist for the Northern Great Plains Network for 12 years, where she oversaw monitoring protocols for landbird, water quality, and aquatic invertebrate vital signs.



Marcia previously was the Deputy Chief for the Branch of Migratory Birds Research at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and supervised staff, developed budgets and annual work plans, and conducted strategic planning in addition to conducting research on fidelity and survivorship of wintering migratory birds in southern Mexico. She also has conducted research on the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot and on the Galapagos Islands. Marcia has a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Oregon State University where she studied core and peripheral populations of scaled quail and northern bobwhites in south Texas.

Upon her retirement, Marcia said, “It has been an honor and a privilege to have worked with each one of you over the years I have been with the National Park Service. You are an outstanding bunch of people! I will miss you all. Thank you for the wonderful memories!”

### Successful Fall Field Season

CHDN monitored plots in the Uplands Vegetation and Soils protocol during the autumnal field season. The crew monitored a total of 43 plots in Big Bend National Park (NP), Carlsbad Caverns NP, Guadalupe Mountains NP and White Sands National Monument (NM).



Above Left: Tim Pine throws a tape to begin setting up a plot at Big Bend National Park.

Left: Camp life in the rain and mud.



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**CHDN Spring 2019  
Monitoring Schedule**

Park	Springs Monitoring	Exotics Monitoring
Amistad NRA	4/1-4/5	4/3-4/6
Big Bend NP	2/20-2/27	4/6-4/9
Carlsbad Caverns NP	3/6-3/13	4/17-4/23
Guadalupe Mountains NP	3/20-3/27	4/17-4/23
White Sands NM	4/8-4/9	--



Megan Podolinsky and Tim Pine key out plants at uplands vegetation plot in Big Bend NP.

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