Texan by Nature and our founder, Mrs. Laura Bush hosted the fifth annual Conservation Summit & Celebration Dinner in November 2022. This important event brought together over 600 Texas leaders in-person and virtually, to engage in rich, impact-focused dialogue and networking exploring the beneficial connection between conservation and business. Ideas were shared. Relationships were formed. Leaders were inspired to work together to positively impact our future.

“It is inspiring to see conservation organizations and members of the business community in one place collaborating on how to conserve the natural resources of our great state.” - Regan Kassman, Enbridge

“Texan by Nature has rapidly become the gold standard framework for blending business and conservation in a complementary manner.” - Robert Horton, DFW Airport

“What does Texan by Nature’s Summit mean to you?”

“The TxN Summit is consistently the most inspirational event I attend in a given year. It brings together diverse skill sets, experiences, solutions, and thought-provoking content that can challenge the attendee with new perspectives, knowledge, and networks to further conservation efforts in Texas.” - Natalie Wolff, Texas Brigades

“Texan by Nature is one of the best partners a local conservation nonprofit can have. The Conservation Summit highlights cutting-edge projects they support and offers outstanding networking opportunities. I wouldn’t miss it. They and their superb staff are making an enormous impact to preserve the natural wonders of Texas.” - Jeff Sargent, Native Prairies Association of Texas
The overarching theme of the day was “The Future of Conservation.” The future of conservation, just like Texas’s beautiful landscape and leadership role in industry, is ever-evolving. The Summit explored human dimensions, ecosystem-level thinking, and best-in-class collaborations with the goal of inspiring new partnerships and driving conservation innovation and impact.

THE HUMAN DIMENSION
As our population grows, the broad impact of human interaction with natural resources becomes clearly visible. From stewarding our resources to realizing the full health and economic benefits of working with and engaging with nature, new models and opportunities are emerging. The human aspect of conservation is multidimensional including coalition building, community engagement, urban planning, workforce development, health & healing, entrepreneurship, personal stewardship, and more. Panelists included:

- Steve Jimenez, Hives for Heroes
- Shaun Clinton, Texas Health Resources
- Sarah Schlessinger, Texas Water Foundation
- Carla Ibarra, NRG Energy

ECOSYSTEM THINKING
Conservation and industry leaders often think and speak of ecosystems in similar yet very different ways. Conservationists most often refer to natural systems while industry leaders may refer to their supply chain or internal processes. Few entities look at the entire ecosystem and the interaction between industry and nature. With the rise in circularity discussion and goals, the need to view the entire ecosystem inclusive of industry and nature, creates a significant opportunity for impact, engagement, and economic growth. Panelists included:

- Hughes Simpson, Texas A&M Forest Service
- Devin Hetzel, Enbridge
- Meghna Tare, University of Texas, Arlington
- Robert Horton, DFW Airport

MODELS OF SUCCESS
The future of conservation relies on sound science, collaboration, metrics, prioritization, and reporting. There are projects and initiatives across Texas modeling these characteristics. From supporting our natural world and generating tourism, to feeding our population, to managing our waste, to collectively solving challenges, these projects and initiatives can be replicated in Texas and around the globe creating a thriving future for people and natural resources alike. Panelists included:

- Abraham Tume, Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages
- Dr. Michael Wetz, Harte Research Institute
- Philip Walker, 7 Oaks Ranch | Ozona Chamber of Commerce
- Edan Dionne, IBM

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