# Carlos Gonzalez, Ph. D. Candidate

My name is Carlos "Lalo" Gonzalez and I am from Tamaulipas, Mexico. While in high school, I had the fortune to be a volunteer for two summers helping with turkey and Gambel's quail research. This allowed me to gain experience in wildlife research and motivated me to pursue a career in wildlife management. I received my Bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Range Management from Texas A&M University – Kingsville in the spring of 2011. While attending TAMUK I was part of the plant ID team and I also worked as a technician for the Caesar Kleberg Research Institute in the Faith-Comanche deer study. Currently I have been blessed with the opportunity to pursue a Doctorate Degree. Since the winter of 2014, my research has focused on the restoration of desert bighorn sheep in Trans-Pecos, Texas under Dr. Louis Harveson.

## Ph. D. Project: Spatial, Temporal, and Demographic Characteristics of Desert Bighorn Sheep in West Texas

In the late 1800s, there were believed to be 1,500 desert bighorn roaming throughout 16 mountain ranges in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas. The last native bighorn from Texas were believed to be extirpated by the early 1960s. Starting in 1957, restoration efforts began with the capture and transport of desert bighorn back into Texas. In December of 2010, 46 bighorn were captured from the Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area (EMWMA) and transported to Big Bend Ranch State Park (BBRSP). December 2011, BBRSP's bighorn population was increased by 95 supplementary bighorn from the Beach, Baylor, and Sierra Diablo Mountains. The following year, 2012, 44 bighorn were captured from the EMWMA and transported to a private ranch in Southern Brewster County making it the 1st time Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released bighorn on private property. In January 2014, we captured and removed 61 bighorn from the EMWMA and released them on a private ranch in the Sierra Vieja Mountain range. With these 4 captures, a total of 246 bighorn have been transported and released into 3 more of their uninhabited historic mountain ranges. Out of the 246 captured and released bighorn, 154 (55 rams and 99 ewes), have been fitted with GPS radio collars for research purposes. The collars are programmed to collect GPS locations every 3–5 hours, depending on the project, for up to 25 months. This data will allow us analyze survival, site fidelity, movements, range sizes, interactions between herds, and habitat utilization. The information obtained from this study will allow us to make more sound management decisions and help improve our translocation and the desert bighorn restoration.