

Claire Veronie, M.S. Thesis Candidate



My name is Claire Veronie, and I have spent my whole life living in and loving Texas. I grew up in Tomball, which is a part of the Houston metropolitan area. Between my mother's fascination with learning and my father's love for the outdoors, my parents instilled in me a passion for land and for stewardship of nature. Some of my favorite memories are of my father taking my three sisters and me out to our friends' hunting lease each fall. These weekends further enhanced my love for wildlife, and sparked my interest in hunting as a management tool. I wanted the chance to learn more about how people interact with the natural resources we have, and so I began my bachelors at Texas A&M University as an Animal Science major. After just a semester, I realized that for the full perspective I was wanting, I needed to add on a major in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. I am grateful for this, because it is what ultimately lead me to pursuing my masters here at Sul Ross

State University in Range and Wildlife Management. Past jobs and internships have given me experience in livestock production, and I look forward to complementing that with studying pronghorn management on private rangelands here in the Trans-Pecos.

Thesis Project: Assessing Range and Animal Nutrition for Pronghorn in Trans-Pecos, Texas

The Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Restoration Project (TPPRP) is a multi-year partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University (BRI), Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, the Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Working Group, and USDA-Wildlife Services to bolster pronghorn populations that historically declined from 2008–2012 using translocations, habitat improvements, and predator management. My research will focus on pronghorn nutrition and range quality and their importance in population growth and in estimating long-term pronghorn carrying capacity. Findings of this research will provide a much better understanding of the nutritional needs of pronghorn as well as population goals for pronghorn perpetuity in the Trans-Pecos.

