

## Philip Boyd, M.S. Thesis Candidate

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My name is Philip Boyd. I grew up surrounded by forests and cornfields in Pennsylvania. Some of my fondest memories were formed in the outdoors there and on visits to family in the Rocky Mountains. There we would keep our eyes open for the array of wildlife that was unique from life back east. I obtained a B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh in 2001 where I studied the anthropological function of storytelling for cultures throughout history. I applied some of these studies towards my first career as a songwriter and internationally-performing musician. Following my career in music, I worked in Pittsburgh for an Internet-based media company and as systems manager for Carnegie Mellon University. Meeting my Native-Texan wife, Abby, and subsequent visits to Big Bend inspired a move to Alpine, TX and pursuit of my master's in Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross. In my first semester I began using STELLA software to develop a population model for the pronghorn translocation effort. I will build upon this model for my thesis.

### **Thesis Project: Modeling Translocated Pronghorn Population Success in the Trans-Pecos, Texas**

Pronghorn (*Antilocarpa americana*) are a native North American species and are the sole surviving member of the family Antilocapridae that saw most of its members go extinct during the Pleistocene epoch. The Trans-Pecos region once saw flourishing populations of pronghorn, but these numbers began to see historic declines by the early 2000s. In an effort to re-establish populations in the region, the Borderlands Research Institute paired with Texas Parks and Wildlife to translocate groups of pronghorn from thriving populations in the Texas panhandle, back to the Trans-Pecos. I will work with managers and my advisors to develop an ecological simulation model in order to analyze current data and to help project the success of various sex and age based makeups of translocated populations. I will also be assisting in the field as a technician tracking the 2016 group of translocated pronghorn on the Marfa Plateau.

