

Ty Higginbotham, M.S. Thesis Candidate



My name is Ty Higginbotham, I gained my passion for the outdoors and wildlife as a child growing up hunting, fishing, and camping in East Texas. I followed my passion to Texas A&M University Kingsville (TAMUK) where I received my Bachelors in Range and Wildlife Management. While I was at TAMUK I volunteered as much as I could until the opportunity to apply for a technician position opened. I first received a job as a technician working with white-tailed deer and their effects on the habitat, and later a position looking at Rio Grande Wild Turkey seasonal movements and roost site characteristics. These two positions showed me I wanted to pursue a higher education in wildlife. I am now working on my Master's Degree in Natural Resource Management under the advisement of Dr. Louis Harveson and Dr. Whitney Gann.

Thesis Project: Pronghorn Habitat Selection Using a Resource Selection Function

Pronghorn populations have suffered a historic decline in the Trans-Pecos ecoregion of Texas. In turn this lead to the Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Restoration Project where private landowners, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Borderlands Research Institute, and USDA-Wildlife Services have all come together in an effort to restore the Pronghorn population to what it once was. I will be looking at habitat selection of the translocated Pronghorn by sampling vegetation at known and random sites. This information can help us to understand preferred Pronghorn habitat, and how we can potentially better manage for these areas.

