

Zuzu R. Verk — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Zuzu Verk and I'm from Fort Worth, Texas. I moved to Alpine and transferred to Sul Ross State University from UNT almost a year ago. A growing passion for nature drew me to west Texas where I interned for the Davis Mountains State Park. After deciding to pursue conservation biology as a collegiate career, I packed up my car and my dog and the rest was history. I've since fallen in love with the natural resource management program and all the opportunities it presents. Every day that goes by, the terrain and wildlife remind me of how beautiful this frontier is, and how truly lucky I am to be here.



Monitoring Survival and Movements of Pronghorn Fawns in the Marfa Plateau, Texas

1 May — 31 August 2016

During my undergraduate mentorship I have worked with the Borderlands Research Institute and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to study the survival rate of pronghorn fawns in the Trans-Pecos area. This research began with nightly captures where we tagged, collared, and collected data from young fawns. They were then tracked every day, if possible, to check for mortality, behavior, movements, and any other relevant information. Upon locating a mortality, remains were analyzed to gain a better understanding of the high death rates of these animals. I have also integrated questions and monitoring concerning the increase of movements throughout their growth. This project has proven to be extremely rewarding and educational. Not only am I learning how to properly conduct field research, but I am also being coached through scientific writing, thought processes, and what it really means to be a part of a research team. None of it would have been possible without the time and dedication of our incredible pronghorn team members. The experiences I've attained from this project are truly priceless.



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