Howell Pugh, M.S. Thesis Candidate

My name is Howell Pugh and I grew up in the Cross Timbers region of north-central Texas. Some of my favorite memories are from those days that I spent exploring the surrounding country side searching for hidden wildlife. After helping my family start a small auto repair business in Arlington, TX, for several years into adulthood, I joined the Army and had a successful career as a flight paramedic. It was not until I was transitioning from the Army back into civilian life that I discovered that you could make wildlife management a career. After the Army, my family and I moved to San Marcos, Texas to attend Texas State University where I received my Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology. Upon receiving my degree, we moved to Alpine where I am currently working towards a Master of Science in Range and Wildlife Management while working with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) on the pronghorn restoration project in the Trans-Pecos region of West Texas.

Thesis Project: Movement and Habitat Use of Translocated Pronghorn in the Trans-Pecos

Pronghorn in the Trans-Pecos region of West Texas were once as numerous as 17,000 individuals. A population decline began in the 1980s with their numbers falling below 3,000 in 2012. In 2011, a translocation program was initiated by TPWD and the Borderlands Research Institute to use pronghorn from healthy populations in the Texas Panhandle to supplement declining populations in the Trans-Pecos. During the translocation, Global Positioning System and satellite enabled collars have been fitted on animals to allow the tracking of individuals as they move across their new environment. This data has been collected for the translocations that have occurred in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2017 and the just released 2018 individuals. I will be using this data to determine the home range of a translocated pronghorn, allowing us to compare the home range of translocated Trans-Pecos pronghorn to the home ranges of pronghorns across their greater North American range. I will also be using the collar data to determine habitat use of a translocated pronghorn. This data will directly help TPWD and landowners make sound management decisions concerning conservation of pronghorn in Texas.

BORDERLANDS RESEARCH ◆ INSTITUTE

CONSERVING THE LAST FRONTIER