

Trestan Bryant, M.S. Thesis Candidate



My name is Trestan Bryant; I was raised in an extremely rural town in South East Texas just south of Lufkin called Chester. While growing up there I had the opportunity to assist my grandparents in their many agricultural endeavors. If we were not tending to the family's cattle, we were checking game cameras on my grandfather's land for a large multitude of game. My obsession with Natural Resources spawned from my grandfathers many ventures. He initially taught me about fishing and hunting as well as fur trapping. He instilled into me a type of stewardship into not only the animals we harvested, but also to the land. Which we used for everything from timber management, cattle, and to wildlife management. When I was at Texas A&M University I quickly found a home within the vast Agricultural College, and from there soon found my way to Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences. Texas A&M allowed my many opportunities such as being able to intern for Stephen F. Austin State University with the Eastern Turkey Restoration project in East Texas. These experiences have helped drive me to pursue a Masters here at Sul Ross State University for Range and Natural Resource Management under the advisement of Dr. Ryan Luna.

Thesis Project: Quantify selection of specific habitat types for trans-located wild turkeys in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas.

The Rio Grande Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*) is a subspecies of Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) that was historically found throughout the Trans-Pecos. We will be moving individuals to a previously restored riparian area along Terlingua Creek and monitoring their habitat selection during key phases of their life cycle. This study aims to use animal movement and high resolution GPS data collected from trans-located Rio Grande wild turkeys combined with ground-truthed/spatial vegetation information, we will identify and quantify habitat selection supporting development of a habitat suitability model for Rio Grande wild turkey's in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas.



CONSERVING THE LAST FRONTIER