

Maribel Glass, M.S. Thesis Candidate



My name is Maribel E. Glass. I was born and raised in Houston, Texas. I graduated from Texas A&M University – Kingsville in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science. I majored in Range and Wildlife Management minored in Biology. My long-term academic goal includes earning a doctorate degree. Currently, I am pursuing a Master of Science (thesis) with a major in Range & Wildlife Management. I am honored to be able to continue my studies and pursue my passion for conservation at Sul Ross State University. I am working on a thesis project under the guidance of Dr. Ryan O’Shaughnessy.

Thesis Project: Assess the Effects of Management Prescriptions on Knotgrass and its Energetic Production Value for Migratory Birds

Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge was established to provide a critical stopover site for migrating waterfowl. Refuge staff manages water using gates and ditches to create wetlands and mimic natural flooding cycles. These wetlands re-create the historic habitat that migratory birds need to thrive. As a result, the refuge provides food and habitat for migratory birds and a diversity of wildlife. However, refuge staff has noticed an increasing density of paspalum in wetland units. This particular genus has been known to be invasive and displace desirable vegetation if not managed properly. It is still uncertain whether this grass is useful to avifauna and, furthermore how management prescriptions affect its abundance. My thesis project is to determine the production value of paspalum, which management practices facilitate its spread and whether paspalum is a food source for avifauna.



CONSERVING THE LAST FRONTIER