

Ryan Anthony, M.S. Thesis Candidate



My name is Ryan Anthony and I am working on wetland management projects in New Mexico and Texas. I am a former Army medic with 27 months of combat experience on the Iraqi front. Previously, I have worked with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the US Fish and Wildlife Service as an intern and fellow. Arizona is my home state although I was born and raised in Pakistan. Growing up elsewhere, there is a lot I learn from the great team of graduate students and the research team at the Borderlands Research Institute.

Thesis Project: Seed-bank and Invertebrate Potential of Arid Southwestern Wetland Impoundments

Historically overbank flooding of rivers due to snowmelt created large areas of seasonal wetland habitat which corresponded to the migration of waterfowl and shorebirds. In recent history, these rivers have been drained and dammed to provide water for the ever expanding mild weather cities. For my New Mexico study sites, Bosque Del Apache and Valle De Oro National Wildlife Refuges, I will be examining the seed-bank potential and making management recommendations. This study will help current and future refuge biologists to make informed decisions based on scientific research to restore historical natural wetland processes which in turn will provide habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife that utilize these refuges.

My third study site, Sandia Wetlands, in Balmorhea, Texas is a small wetland with big potential as it is one of the only wetlands in this part of West Texas that provides food resources to the shorebirds and waterfowl during a high energy demanding migratory phase in their life cycle.

