

Alec D. Ritzell — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Alec Ritzell, and I am from Katy, Texas. I attended public school for most of my pre-college education, but I was home-schooled throughout my high school years. During this time, I enjoyed volunteering with multiple organizations including the Houston Bulldog Rescue and Katy Prairie Conservancy. I also spent a great deal of my time growing vegetables and researching about wildlife for leisure. After high school, I spent one year taking classes at various junior colleges in Dallas, Texas. In the fall of 2014, I transferred to Sul Ross State University to pursue a degree in wildlife management. My interest in this career path is rooted in my passion for the outdoors. I have enjoyed many hunting and fishing experiences since an early age. I look forward to developing my career that involves wildlife conservation and ecological restoration. This goal is much closer to being realized since I have been able to volunteer in wildlife related fieldwork including spotlight surveys and quail trapping.



Long-term Response of Vegetation to Spike 20P Treatment

16 April — 15 August, 2015

I am currently working for graduate student James Eddy as a technician for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department effects of Sendero® quail research project at Elephant Mountain Wildlife Management Area (EMWMA). My position requires me to help my mentor conduct vegetation transects, process trail camera photos, and perform maintenance on trail cameras. In addition to these obligations, I am working on my own project to research how Spike 20P effects plant communities over the long-term (7 years) in desert grasslands. Specifically, I am supporting my research by comparing data from vegetation transects conducted at EMWMA on Spike 20P treated sites in 2008 to data I have assisted in collecting for the spring of 2015. The main focus of my research is to see whether Spike 20P treatment results in a marked increase of herbaceous plant cover and decrease of woody plant species over time.



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