

Matthew Hewitt, M.S. Thesis Candidate



My name is Matthew Hewitt and I am from Kingsville, Texas. As a kid I developed a passion for the outdoors from my time hunting, fishing, hiking, backpacking, and mountain climbing. I have always had an interest in wildlife and have known that I wanted to work outdoors and with wildlife since I was young. My interests turned towards carnivores after I did an internship in Logan, Utah working with coyotes and after a summer working with black bears in Louisiana. I received my Bachelor's Degree from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in the fall of 2017, majoring in Range and Wildlife Management. During my time at Kingsville I was employed as a technician on multiple graduate projects working with bobcats, ocelots, coyotes, feral hogs, white-tailed deer, javelina, and turkeys. I am now working

towards my Master's Degree in Range and Wildlife Management at Sul Ross State University under Dr. Patricia Moody Harveson researching the distribution of kit fox in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas.

Thesis Project: Modeling Occupancy and Potential Distribution of Kit Fox in the Trans-Pecos Region of Texas

The kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) is found in desert and semi-arid regions of the western US including the Trans-Pecos region of Texas. Abundance and population trends of kit fox are unknown throughout much of its range. A close relative, the swift fox (*Vulpes velox*) found in the Panhandle of Texas, has experienced a significant reduction in its distribution. Anecdotal evidence suggests that kit fox range may be constricting as well. I will use ecological maps to determine all possible kit fox habitat in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas, and then implement a grid of trail cameras to determine what parts of that area they are utilizing. I will also be looking at the spatial relationships between kit fox and other carnivores in their habitat.



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