



MATTHEW HEWITT

MS Thesis Candidate
Carnivore & Non-game
Kingsville, TX

STUDENT PROFILE

Matt has always had an interest in wildlife and has known that he wanted to work outdoors and with wildlife since he was young. His interest narrowed to carnivores after an internship working with coyotes in Logan, Utah, and after working with black bears in Louisiana. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University-Kingsville in Range and Wildlife Management. Matt is now working toward his Master of Science in Range and Wildlife Management at Sul Ross State University under Dr. Patricia Moody Harveson.

PROJECT PROFILE

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*), is found in the Panhandle of Texas and has experienced a significant reduction in its distribution. Anecdotal evidence suggests that kit fox range may have constricted as well. Matt is using wildlife cameras to survey for kit fox in suitable habitat throughout the Trans-Pecos in order to model occupancy and to map their distribution in the region. He will also examine kit fox and coyote co-occurrence and potential spatial partitioning.

