



BARBARA SUGARMAN

MS Thesis Candidate
Carnivore & Non-game
San Diego, CA

STUDENT PROFILE

Barbara is from sunny San Diego, California. She obtained a BS in Forestry at Northern Arizona University. After receiving her degree, she lived in Colorado and Utah for several years. Barbara has been interested in nature and wildlife since early childhood. As her education progressed, she fell in love with wildlife management, specifically conservation. Her particular area of interest is in small mammals and mesocarnivores. She has previously worked with Utah prairie dogs (*Cynomys parvidens*), Gunnison's prairie dogs (*Cynomys gunnisoni*), black-footed ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*) and American pika (*Ochotona princeps*). Barbara loves to hike with her dog Champ and her cat Zuko, ski, backpack in wild places, and travel with her husband Patrick.

PROJECT PROFILE

In the last 200 years, prairie dog populations have declined dramatically due to poisoning, shooting, sylvatic plague (*Yersinia pestis*), and habitat loss. As a result, many scientists and wildlife managers are researching how to restore this keystone species back into the ecosystem. Prairie dog translocation is a natural extension of this research, moving prairie dogs from a large, healthy colony, to an area where wildlife managers and landowners want to establish prairie dogs. Borderlands Research Institute is working to fill the void of knowledge in how to successfully establish a prairie dog colony in West Texas. The goal of this project is to study and implement the translocation of prairie dogs and establish a prairie dog colony that persists on the landscape. This project will assist wildlife managers with future translocations of prairie dogs and aid in the restoration of prairie dogs to the Trans-Pecos ecoregion.

