Big Bend National Park is home to a number of carnivore species, including black bear (*Ursus americanus*), mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), badger (*Taxidea taxis*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*), long-tailed weasels (*Mustela frenata*), hog-nosed skunk (*Conepatus leuconotus*), hooded skunk (*Mephitis macroura*), spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). Understanding the distribution of these species is important for park biologists to monitor the potential impacts of human activity and potential human-wildlife conflict. Camera traps are a noninvasive and relatively inexpensive way of surveying and monitoring mammals over large areas and over long time periods. In this study, Caitlin will use motion-triggered cameras to monitor the distribution and overlap of carnivores, as well as other mammals. This data will be useful for the long-term monitoring of wildlife biodiversity and species distributions in the park.

**STUDENT PROFILE**

Caitlin graduated from Texas A&M in 2016 with a degree in Environmental Studies. She grew up going on family trips to different national parks and exploring nearby creeks, which is what established her love of the outdoors and wildlife. During her undergraduate studies, she gained research experience with honeybees and coral reef systems. After graduating, Caitlin interned at a wildlife rescue and then worked at various environmental jobs, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in air quality and the environmental sector of the construction industry with Compliance Resources, Inc. After working in the construction industry, she was motivated to go to Sul Ross State University to study wildlife. For Caitlin, it was heartbreaking to witness the construction development that devastated the natural habitat of various species. Now, she wants to learn how she can protect wildlife and their habitats.

**PROJECT PROFILE**

Big Bend National Park is home to a number of carnivore species, including black bear (*Ursus americanus*), mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), badger (*Taxidea taxis*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*), long-tailed weasels (*Mustela frenata*), hog-nosed skunk (*Conepatus leuconotus*), hooded skunk (*Mephitis macroura*), spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). Understanding the distribution of these species is important for park biologists to monitor the potential impacts of human activity and potential human-wildlife conflict. Camera traps are a noninvasive and relatively inexpensive way of surveying and monitoring mammals over large areas and over long time periods. In this study, Caitlin will use motion-triggered cameras to monitor the distribution and overlap of carnivores, as well as other mammals. This data will be useful for the long-term monitoring of wildlife biodiversity and species distributions in the park.