Ty and his mentor Leanna Morin are studying pronghorn and vegetation on the Mimms Ranch in Marfa, Texas. The project’s purpose is to determine how the wild pronghorn’s diet, which consists of about 80-90% forbs, effects the forb community, and vice versa. To do this, they have collected seasonal vegetation samples on the Mimms Ranch and also collected fecal material from the wild herds of pronghorn to compare and find out what they are digesting, with a special emphasis on collecting female fecal samples to determine the differences between when they are carrying young and not. The purpose is to see if they change their diet compared to their needs. Ty and Leanna will then grind the vegetation samples to identify the cell structure inside the fecal matter.

STUDENT PROFILE
Ty graduated from Gatesville High School in 2020 and is currently studying Natural Resource Management with an emphasis in Range Management at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas. Ty loves the country out here in West Texas and first discovered there was a school here on a road trip with his grandfather. With a passion for learning how to identify plants and learning about the practical use of plants, he was always pointed in the direction of Sul Ross. In his free time he loves to explore and learn anything new that he can wrap his mind around.

PROJECT PROFILE
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