



CAITLIN CAMP

PhD Dissertation Candidate
Conservation Biology
Austin, Texas

STUDENT PROFILE

Caitlin grew up exploring nearby creeks and woods and going on family trips to different National Parks which gave her a love for the outdoors and wildlife. She obtained a B.S. in Environmental Studies at Texas A&M where she gained research experience in honeybees and coral reef systems. After working in various environmental jobs, she wanted focus on wildlife. She got her M.S. in Range and Wildlife Management at Sul Ross State University studying carnivores and other mammals in Big Bend National Park. She moved to California to work as a biologist at a consulting firm conducting surveys for threatened and endangered species, including bald eagles, California spotted owls, and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frogs. her interest and love for carnivores brought her back to Texas to pursue a Ph.D. in black bear ecology. Outside of school, she loves birding, swimming, and hiking/traveling with her fiancé, Alex, and dog, Rey.

PROJECT PROFILE

Black bears were considered extirpated from Texas in the 1950s due to unregulated hunting, predator control, and habitat loss. They have since naturally recolonized areas of Texas, dispersing from the Mexico source population to small suitable habitat patches which form subpopulations in West Texas. Research is currently underway to explore basic black bear ecology in the Trans Pecos region, and recently, Borderlands Research Institute was granted the opportunity to expand this research into South Texas. Using GPS collar data and presence/absence data from trail camera photos, Caitlin's research will investigate transboundary movements and how bears might be affected by current border activity and infrastructure in place at the U.S.-Mexico border. This information will also contribute to BRI's large-scale project currently underway to monitor the return of black bears to Texas.

