BORDERLANDS
RESEARCH ◆ INSTITUTE

CONSERVING THE LAST FRONTIER

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ALICE GIAMBALVO

Undergraduate Mentorship Program
Wildlife: Black Bear
Alpine, Texas

STUDENT PROFILE

Alice Giambalvo, a high school senior and dual-credit student at Sul Ross State University, has always been passionate about conservation. Her interest in wildlife research was sparked by attending the West Texas Women in Conservation Retreat, where she connected with professionals in the field and discovered new ways to turn her passion into a career. Through mentorship and hands-on experiences, Alice found her niche in science communication, particularly in writing for conservation. Her journey led her to the Borderlands Undergraduate Mentorship Program (BUMP), where she played a key role in wildlife research while refining her passion for public outreach.

PROJECT PROFILE

As a BUMP student, Alice contributed to a black bear research project, focusing on the species' natural recolonization in West Texas. Her main role involved analyzing game camera images to help determine black bear density and habitat preferences in the Trans-Pecos region. She also assisted in testing AI models for wildlife detection and evaluating bear trap safety in extreme temperatures. Through this work, Alice gained invaluable experience in data analysis and conservation communication, solidifying her goal of becoming a content strategist for a nature conservancy organization.