

Hunter L. Hopkins — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Hunter Hopkins and I was raised in Gruver, Texas – a small agricultural town in the very top of the Texas Panhandle. I grew up farming wheat, corn, and maize, and working cattle on various ranches from west Texas to southern Colorado. I also have been an outdoorsman for as long as I can remember – thanks to my family who introduced me to nature through hunting and fishing. This love for the outdoors grew inside me, and after graduating from Gruver High School in May of 2016, I decided that I would attend Sul Ross State University and major in wildlife management. This is my second year at SRSU and I am classified as a junior. I am an active member of the Range and Wildlife Club where I have served as social media officer, range vice president, and I am currently serving as president. Since my arrival in Alpine I have worked as a taxidermist's apprentice, hunting guide, and ranch hand, as well an undergraduate assistant to several research projects through the Borderlands Research Institute.



Spatial Partitioning Between Coyotes and Other Meso-Carnivores in the Marfa Grasslands, Texas

1 April — 31 August 2018

I am currently assisting graduate student Matt Hewitt with a kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) distribution project throughout the Trans-Pecos. Each weekend we go out to different ranches and set out trail cameras in likely kit fox habitat. These cameras are placed within the smallest known home range area of kit foxes and are baited with cat food based attractants. After two weeks of data collection we gather the cameras and load the pictures into a drive so that we can sort and label photos. I am going to be assessing the data we collect from the Marfa Grasslands of Presidio and Jeff Davis counties, Texas in order to see if coyote (*Canis latrans*) occurrences have an effect on other meso-carnivores' occurrences in my study area. Meso-carnivores of the Marfa Grasslands include kit fox, gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and western spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*).



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