

Sarah A. Kearney — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Sarah and I am a junior at Sul Ross State University studying Wildlife Management. I grew up in the south plains town of Lamesa, Texas and was born into a farming family. I grew up driving tractors in the field and helping my father work on our family's cotton, wheat, and organic peanut farm. My dad always took me hunting as soon as the work was finished and he is the one who sparked my love for the outdoors in my heart. Growing up farming and hunting got me interested in ways to use the land in sustainable ways without hurting it or the animals that depend on it. By watching the deer eat early in the morning in the same field I was working in, I realized I could make a difference in the well-being of wildlife. The Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) and Sul Ross immediately grabbed my attention when looking into colleges. I have been fortunate enough to work as an undergraduate research assistant for the Trans-Pecos Pronghorn Restoration project for two years, as well as serve as both social media officer and secretary for the Range and Wildlife Club.



Monitoring Water Use by Pronghorn During the Fawning Season

16 September 2018 — 31 May 2019

Thanks to the incredible teamwork of landowners, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, BRI, and many others, Trans-Pecos pronghorn numbers are on the rise again after a significant drop-off in 2011. My project is one of many that is helping to get an idea of how they are doing and what resources they are utilizing, and in what amount. I will be analyzing the temporal differences in water use by pronghorn during the fawning season by setting up game cameras on readily available water sources in an area of the Trans-Pecos where translocated pronghorn have been released in the past. These results will help landowners better understand the best way to supplement water during difficult times for the pronghorn, as well as give us a better understanding of their behavior during this time.



CONSERVING THE LAST FRONTIER



The BRI Undergraduate Mentorship Program is proudly supported by a grant from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.