



## HAILEY BARTON

EMMETT, IDAHO

**M.S. IN RANGE & WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT**

### Prior Education:

Bachelor of Animal Science – Equine Science & Zoology DualMajor – University of Wyoming

### Professional Certifications & Organizations:

The Wildlife Society; Mule Deer Foundation; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

### Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

Last year, as a last hurrah before continuing my education, I went on a 21-day float trip of the GrandCanyon and also hiked 800 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. This year, I'm planning on attempting to run my first marathon, which will be from Alpine to my study site atElephant Mountain WMA.

### Short Bio:

Hailey was born and raised in southern Idaho, riding horses, camping, hiking, and playing in the fields and foothills around her home. She earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Wyoming, with a double major in zoology & equine science. After graduation, Hailey worked as a wildlife technician for many research and management agencies, and studied a multitude of species such as chipmunks, raccoons, mule deer, Yellowstone cutthroat trout, Brook stickleback, golden eagles, elk, mountain lions, Mexican gray wolves, moose, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn. In her off time, Hailey can be found hunting, fly fishing, backpacking, hiking with her dog, Zip, or scheming up another adventure.



## **EMILY BLUMENTRITT**

**HOUSTON, TEXAS**  
**M.S. IN RANGE & WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT**

### **Prior Education:**

Associate of Arts in General Studies from Lee College; Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology from Texas State University

### **Academic Achievements:**

Lee College Hall of Fame: Most Representative Student; Dennis Boe Paper Award from the Great Plains Honors Council; Jean Shepherd Award for Excellence in Historical Research; 1st Place Caldwell Memorial Award for Excellence in History; Dorothy Cooke Hayes Award for Outstanding First-Year Honors Student; Lee College Award for Excellence in the Humanities; Texas State University College of Science and Engineering Dean's List; Honors Undergrad Thesis: Gulf Coast Toads and the Urban Environment; Honors Project: Small-Scale Living Shoreline Viability in the Galveston Bay Estuary; Academic and scientific presentations at multiple conferences across the US

### **Professional Certifications & Organizations:**

Associate Wildlife Biologist with the Wildlife Society; Texas Master Naturalist (2016-2020); Texas Ornithological Society (2019)

### **Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:**

Bird watching is one of my favorite hobbies. Since I grew up near the coast, I have a special place in my heart for wetland ecosystems and wetland birds, but I love to be out in nature exploring the beauties of every ecoregion. When I'm not out birding, I love reading, playing video games, and hanging out with family and friends.

### **Short Bio:**

I grew up in the relatively small town of San Angelo TX and have loved horses as long as I can remember. I got my first horse when I was eleven years old, which only solidified my passion and interest in them. Throughout grade school and high school, I was actively involved in the local 4-H competing in horse judging, hippology, horse quiz bowl, rifle, and food challenge. During my undergraduate degree my knowledge of horses grew, and my first equine certificate class made me decide I wanted to teach equine classes. Unfortunately, right when I started on the university horse judging team COVID-19 hit. During my junior and senior year, I participated as an undergraduate research assistant to help the graduate students with their thesis projects. Following graduation, I went to work as an assistant horse trainer for a performance ranch, during which I decided to learn more about the equine veterinary field. I then spent the next year and a half at three veterinary clinics varying from an equine vet tech, equine rehab tech, and receptionist. After which I decided to continue my education with a Master in Animal Science at Sul Ross, with possibly a second Master or PhD in my future.





## DAVID BROWN

PLANO, TEXAS

MPA/GRADUATE IN SPRING '24

### Prior Education:

BA in Political Science and International Relations at UT Tyler (graduated in 2010)

### Academic Achievements:

Current 4.0 in master's program; Collegiate debate team at UT Tyler 2005-2010 capturing a 2nd place at the International Public Debate Association (IPDA) Nationals in 2007 and was the IPDA National Championship top speaker in 2007; Pi Kappa Delta National Parliamentary Debate Association (NPDA) top speaker at the honorary nationals in 2006; Model UN, Student Government Association member of the Student Judicial Review Board; UT Tyler Patriot Scholar (2005-2010); Debate scholarship for performance and academic excellence (2005-2010)

### Professional Certifications & Organizations:

American Society for Public Administration; Pi Kappa Delta; Alpha Chi; Pi Sigma Alpha (2006-2010); Certified public school teacher in Texas (Speech 7-12 and Social Studies 6-12 certifications) and a New Mexico Level II license with English Language Arts and Social Studies endorsements; Bill Archer Fellowship during Fall of 2007; Texas Forensic Association; Texas Speech and Communication Association; Chair of the Interpersonal/Organizational Communication Interest Group for Texas Speech Communication Association in 2020; Chair and Presenter - The "Why" Behind the "What" SELs and Communication Education Sponsor: Instructional Development - High School & Interpersonal and Organizational Communication; 2020-2021 District 13 Chairperson for Texas Speech Communication Association; Chair of the Interpersonal/Organizational Communication Interest Group for Texas Speech Communication Association in 2021, Chair and Presenter - Media Literacy Sponsor: Interpersonal & Organizational Communication

### Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

I'm a hockey fan - GO RED WINGS! I love traveling and have been to every state except Alaska. I also enjoy the outdoors; my wife and our two dogs are always looking for a new hike or camp site to explore.

### Short Bio:

David has dedicated his life to education, serving as a high school Speech & Debate sponsor while teaching Social Studies, Professional Communications, Psychology, and most recently Special Education. He is an accomplished teacher devoted to students' needs with over a decade of experience in public, private, charter, and after-school tutoring programs throughout grades 3-12. David has focused his career on helping students manage and overcome personal, social, and behavioral problems that negatively impact well being or academic success, while also going above and beyond to enhance student experiences. In this vein, David has coached multiple Texas University Interscholastic League state champions in Extemporaneous Speaking and Cross-Examination Debate, many National Speech Debate Association national qualifiers and out-round participants in Speech events and...



## DAVID BROWN

PLANO, TEXAS

MPA/GRADUATE IN SPRING '24

### Short Bio Continued:

...congressional Debate, and many of his former students have gone on to attend prestigious schools such as Harvard and Brown University. A graduate of the University of Texas at Tyler, with a degree in Political Science and International Relations, David dreams of a life in civil service and government. Upon completion of his Master's in public Administration, David plans to seek his Doctorate in Public Administration with a concentration in Organizational Leadership, Public Policy, Administration, and Management. An aspiring and life-long learner, David is hoping to transition careers into policy analysis and research with hopes of one day holding a leadership position within a nonprofit organization focused on community building. David was a national champion debater during his undergraduate years, an award-winning Model UN participant, and a research fellow for think tanks in Washington D.C. Today he works in Special Education, teaching middle school students with high needs. He and his wife reside in northern New Mexico.





## CARISSA CHAMBERS

ALPINE, TEXAS  
M.S. IN BIOLOGY

### Prior Education:

B.S. in Geology, Sul Ross State University, 2015

### Academic Achievements:

NAGT/USGS Cooperative Summer Fellowship Program intern 2015

### Professional Certifications & Organizations:

Member of the Sul Ross Geology Club; Member of the Geological Society of America;  
Member of the West Texas Geological Society; Member of Association for Women  
Geoscientists

### Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

I'm a baker and decorate sugar cookies professionally. I love to paint when I have the time. I enjoy camping and hiking. I have a goal to visit all the National Parks in the U.S. by 2026, I've been to 25 so far!

### Short Bio:

I was born in Alpine, TX and grew up on a ranch along the border near Presidio, TX. Spending much of my childhood roaming around the desert fostered a love for nature and the outdoors, as well as the beginnings of what has become an impressive rock collection. I decided to take a geology class after pursuing another major for a few years and realized that geology was my true passion. As an undergraduate, I was nominated for the NAGT/USGS Cooperative Summer Fellowship Program and was accepted for an internship with the USGS in Reston, Virginia after graduating. I was fortunate to work with some great scientists from different disciplines, researching floodplain geomorphology and water quality in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. After a few years out in the real world, I chose to return to Sul Ross to work towards a master's degree in geology, specifically studying structural geology in the Lower Canyons.



## NICOLE DICKAN

KATONAH, NEW YORK  
M.S. IN RANGE & WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT

### Prior Education:

B.S. in Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation, Canisius College NY B.A. in Psychology, Canisius College NY

### Academic Achievements:

Wes and Victoria Bannister Scholarship Recipient (2023); Borderlands Research Institute Summa Cum Laude; Canisius College Excellence in Research Award (2020), Canisius College; Canisius Science Scholars member and grant recipient (2017-2020)

### Professional Certifications & Organizations:

Member of the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA); Member of the Wildlife Society (TWS)

### Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

I enjoy rock climbing, backpacking, hiking, traveling, riding motorcycles, swimming, and birding. I also like trying new restaurants, especially Japanese restaurants since sushi is my absolute favorite food.

### Short Bio:

I was born and raised in NY where I fell in love with outdoor activities and exploring nature. I learned early on that I wanted a career focused on animals in some capacity. Before I discovered wildlife as a career option, I worked at a kennel, interned at the local SPCA, and at the Buffalo Zoo working with polar bears. I went to Canisius College in Buffalo NY to study Animal Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation where I initially focused my studies on animal cognition. After completing a field course and conducting research in Belize, I developed a passion for wildlife biology and field work in general. After graduating, I went on to work as a wildlife technician in South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Idaho studying bobcats, black bears, grizzlies, bighorn sheep, and various non game species. While I enjoyed working with all these species, I felt a particular connection to the bears. I gained a deep appreciation and respect for both the species and the work that goes into managing their populations. This led me to my current master's position at Sul Ross where I am studying the behavior and ecology of black bears in the Trans-Pecos.





## ANDREW DOTRAY

LUBBOCK, TEXAS

M.S. IN RANGE & WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT

### Prior Education:

B.S. in Natural Resources Management with a concentration in Wildlife Biology, Texas Tech University

### Academic Achievements:

Magna Cum Laude, Texas Tech University; Overall Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher, TTU; 1st Place Undergraduate Research Poster, TTU NRM Research Day; Presidential Scholarship (2018-2022), TTU

### Professional Certifications & Organizations:

The Wildlife Society; Student Association of Fire Ecology, TTU; Soil Science Society of America

### Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

I enjoy outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and fishing. I love playing and watching sports such as football, basketball, baseball, and countless others. I also enjoy spending my free time observing and appreciating different forms of art, including paintings/drawings, music, and cinematography.

### Short Bio:

I was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas. I grew up with a family always outdoors, finding my true love of nature while camping every year in Minnesota and all throughout Texas. With my parents and extended family all hailing from Minnesota, I adore the annual roadtrips to the state and gaining an appreciation of the ecological diversity of this country. Raised a Red Raider, I followed my passion to study wildlife biology and got my bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University. As an undergrad, I assisted in the research of coyote population dynamics in the Mojave Desert in southern California. Following graduation, I remained in Texas working with an endangered bird species off the gulf coast and in the panhandle with a variety of big game species. I am excited and extremely grateful to further my passion for wildlife research at Sul Ross State University and the Borderlands Research Institute.



## HUGO FLORES

LAREDO, TEXAS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & GRADUATE STUDIES

### Prior Education:

Associates of Arts, Laredo College. Bachelors of Science in Criminal Justice, Sul Ross State University.

### Academic Achievements:

Dean's list Spring 2022. I currently have a 3.7 GPA in the Master's program.

### Professional Certifications & Organizations:

I am currently a Door-Dash driver. Member of Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Member of SRSU New Man Club

### Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

I enjoy swimming, watching Mexican League baseball games, and playing tennis.

### Short Bio:

My name is Hugo Flores, and I am from Laredo, Texas. I was fortunate to be able to get an Associate's degree while in high school, which made it possible for me to graduate at 19 years old with a bachelor's degree. I played tennis throughout High School, and while looking for college tennis opportunities, I found Sul Ross State University and decided to come to Alpine, Texas. I have since fallen in love with the town and the professors' passion for teaching all classes. I am working to become a criminal justice professional as soon as I complete my degree requirements.





## ANDRES GOMEZ

SAN ELIZARIO, TEXAS  
GRADUATE

### Prior Education:

Bachelors in biological sciences and an Associate of Arts

### Academic Achievements:

Graduated from UTEP with a bachelors in biological sciences, currently finishing up my masters, and will continue to med school

### Professional Certifications & Organizations:

The Wildlife Society; Student Association of Fire Ecology, TTU; Soil Science Society of America

### Short Bio / Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

I am a first generation; my parent's education consists of middle school so I have broken a cycle. All my siblings barely finished high school, as I am the youngest I wanted to do more and I have but there's still more to do. I graduated from an early college with both my high school diploma and associate of arts. After graduating I went to UTEP to obtain my bachelors and now I am here. Not into sports, at all. My hobbies consist of reading novels and playing chess, dominoes and poker. I would love to say that I have an amazing skill for cooking, maybe a bit spicy but still delicious. I am very friendly but quiet, it makes sense because I like to talk but to myself! Currently my first semester working on my thesis and hopefully it all goes well. I am glad to be part of this fellowship because it a way to meet more people that are intelligent and that are struggling with the same problems. Mi biggest goal is to become a pediatrician, so I am not down with school.



**TY  
GOODWIN**  
**GATESVILLE, TEXAS**  
**M.S. IN RANGE & WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT**

## Prior Education:

Bachelors in Range and Wildlife Management, Sul Ross State University

## Academic Achievements:

Outstanding Underclassmen in Natural Resource Management 2020-2021;  
Outstanding Upperclassmen in Natural Resource Management 2021-2022;  
Outstanding Student in Range Management from Sul Ross at TSSRM 2022; 2nd Individual at TSSRM Plant ID 2022; 2nd Individual at TCTWS Plant ID 2022; 1st in Poster Presentation at TCTWS 2022; Sul Ross Man of the Year 2023; Graduated with Summa Cum Laude from Sul Ross 2023

## Professional Certifications & Organizations:

Member of the Sul Ross Range & Wildlife Club; Worship leader of the Sul Ross Baptist Student Ministry; Coach of the Sul Ross Plant ID Team

## Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

I like to sing and play music when I have free time or am enjoying time with family and friends. I like to garden where I can fit pots on my small apartment porch and also enjoy learning the native vegetation of the area. In most of my free time I like to tinker on my 1967 Scout and other mechanical items.

## Short Bio:

I grew up in Gatesville Texas of the hill country and decided to go to school at Sul Ross State University in Alpine after falling in love with the area on a summer motorcycle trip with my grandfather. After graduating from high school in 2020, and armed with 8 years of plant identification know-how, I decided to study natural resource management with an emphasis in range and wildlife management. I graduated with a bachelors in 2023 and decided to pursue a Masters degree at Sul Ross in the same field. I was heavily involved with the Borderlands Undergraduate Mentorship Program as an undergrad and am excited to be leading a range centered grazing project. In my free time, I enjoy the Big Bend region with friends and family.





## PAOLA GUTIERREZ

EL PASO, TEXAS

EDUCATIONAL/INFORMATIONAL  
TECHNOLOGY

### Prior Education:

Bachelor of Science in Education EC-6th Sul Ross State University

### Academic Achievements:

Sul Ross Honors Graduate

Dean's List Fall/Spring 2019-2022

TSTA-AE District 6 Vice President

Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science, Sul Ross State University

### Professional Certifications & Organizations:

ESL Certified

### Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

I was a cheerleader at Sul Ross throughout my undergraduate career. A couple of more interesting facts would be that Spanish is my first language and I am left-handed!

### Short Bio:

My name is Paola Gutierrez, and I was born and raised in El Paso, Tx. I moved to Alpine to attend Sul Ross in Fall Of 2019. I chose Sul Ross because my high school principal strongly recommended its education program to me. I truly believe that I made the best choice attending this University because of the amazing community and the constant 1 on 1 support. I am now a Kindergarten teacher. Being a teacher is something I always knew I wanted to be, but I aspire to one day help the education system from outside of the classroom. I am constantly trying to learn new things which I think goes hand in hand with education since it is constantly changing. I am excited to be a part of this fellowship and continue to expand my knowledge amongst my peers!



## **GARNER HANCOCK**

**GARRISON, TEXAS  
MASTER OF BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION**

### **Prior Education:**

Bachelor's of science in Construction Management.

### **Academic Achievements:**

Dean's List (2021), (2022), and (2023); Summa Cum Laude, Bachelor's of science, Sul Ross State University; Honors Graduate; Industrial Technology Leadership Award

### **Professional Certifications & Organizations:**

Member of NAHB student Chapter; President of the NAHB Club

### **Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:**

I have always had a love for the outdoors. Some of my favorite activities include canoeing, hiking, and hunting.

### **Short Bio:**

I grew up in East Texas in a town by the name of Nacogdoches. Growing up on the family ranch, I learned at an early age how to solve problems and produce effective solutions. This is what cultivated my desire to become a problem solver. I got my undergraduate degree in construction management at Sul Ross State University, and I quickly fell in love with the area in and around Alpine. This love of the area and a desire for higher education made me decide to pursue my MBA here at Sul Ross. After receiving my master's, I plan to work in the construction industry and continue to cultivate meaningful connections and produce effective solutions to problems.





## **GRAY HANCOCK**

**NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS**  
**M.S. IN RANGE & WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT**

### **Prior Education:**

Bachelor of Science in Natural Resource Management Agricultural Business, Sul Ross State University, 2023

### **Academic Achievements:**

Sul Ross Honors Graduate; Dean's List Fall/Spring 2019-2023, Sul Ross State University; Magna Cum Laude, Bachelor of Science, Sul Ross State University

### **Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:**

I like to play baseball, fish, hike, kayak down rivers, and explore new places!

### **Short Bio:**

My name is Gray Hancock, and I was born and raised in Nacogdoches, Tx. I grew up on a small family ranch and spent my childhood exploring the natural world. Growing up, we would travel to Big Bend National Park and the surrounding Trans-Pecos region of Texas. I fell in love with West Texas and decided to pursue a degree in Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University. Throughout my time at Sul Ross, I spent the weekends traveling the area and kayaking stretches of the Rio Grande. This fueled my interests in hydrology and studying how water interacts with surrounding ecosystems, spurring interest in furthering education at the graduate level. When the opportunity to pursue a graduate degree studying hydrologic interactions at Sul Ross through Borderlands Research Institute presented itself, I was eager to join and started my master's degree in June 2023! I am excited and look forward to my time here at Sul Ross!



## **BROOKE MANUEL**

**ANDREWS, TEXAS**

**M.A. IN ENGLISH / CREATIVE  
WRITING**

### **Prior Education:**

Sul Ross State University, B.A. English, Minor in Professional Communications and Design (Graduated 2023); Midland College, A.A. General Studies (Graduated 2015)

### **Academic Achievements:**

Mary Moll Jennings Scholarship Awardee (Spring 2024); Poem "The Wild Woman" Published in The Sage (Fall 2023); Poem "Divine Femininity" Published in The Sage (Fall 2023); Poem "A Little Red Building" Published in The Sage (Fall 2023); McNair Scholar (2023); Outstanding Undergraduate English Major Award (Spring 2023); 1st Place in the Sigma Tau Delta Poetry Contest for the Poem "The Wild Woman" (Spring 2023); 1st Place in General News at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association Convention for the Story "Students Return to School in Wake of Uvalde Shooting" (Spring 2023)

### **Professional Certifications & Organizations:**

Sigma Tau Delta

### **Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:**

Hobbies/Interests: During my free time, I enjoy reading, junk journaling, crafting of any sort, fishing, and going hunting with my significant other. Fun Facts: I got my associate's degree two weeks before my high school diploma, I was voted class clown in high school, and I used to be signed to a modeling agency.

### **Short Bio:**

I grew up in the Midland/Odessa area but was born in Pasadena, Tx. Over the years, I have worked a multitude of jobs in search of my passion. I have worked as a waitress, a model, a model manager, a traveling brand ambassador, a nurse's aide, a veterinary technician, a nanny, an online tutor, an administrative assistant, and many other things. During 2020, I worked as a nurse's aide and decided to go to school. I had no clue what I wanted to do with my life, but I knew I needed to go back to school, so I said, 'Why not pursue nursing?' I attended one Anatomy and Physiology class and unenrolled in that course less than thirty minutes after walking out. I enrolled in a writing course instead and immediately fell in love. I have only been working at my craft for a few years, but it feels amazing to look back on my work from 2021 and see the progress I have made. I have always been a creative at heart. As a child, I loved to paint; during my teenage years, I got into modeling; and now, as an adult, I have a true passion for writing. Some people may not view writing as an artform, but I beg to differ. It is as much art as painting or sculpting. I currently work three part-time jobs and edit books on the side. I am an online writing and English tutor for Odessa College, a program manager at an after school care program called Right At School, and a graduate assistant here at Sul Ross. As a graduate assistant, I oversee the Skyline, Sul Ross' student newspaper, and The Sage, Sul Ross' Literature and Art Magazine. As an undergraduate student here at Sul Ross, I was a McNair Scholar and also worked for the Skyline. Over the last year, I had the pleasure to present at four conferences. I really enjoy doing research and look forward to developing my verbal presentation skills further. This is my first semester of grad school, and I am already enjoying it. I am honored to have been chosen as a PPOHA fellow this semester and look forward to all that the semester has in store for me.





## **CAMRYN MEDINA**

**EL PASO, TEXAS**

**1ST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENT**

### **Prior Education:**

Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology (Exercise Science)

### **Academic Achievements:**

J. Pat Evans Honor Award; W.H Perryman Outstanding Kinesiology Undergraduate Student Award; Summa Cum Laude Honors- Sul Ross State University; American Southwest Conference All Academic Team; Dean's List.

### **Professional Certifications & Organizations:**

McNair Scholar; AED & CPR Certified (American Red Cross); Currently studying to become a Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist through the National Strength & Conditioning Association (CSCS)

### **Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:**

I have a passion for fitness, health, & wellness. Growing up I stayed active by participating in a multitude of different sports (basketball, volleyball, competitive swimming, karate, golf, baseball, soccer, weight lifting). I love to cook and bake for myself, my family, and friends. I enjoy spending time in nature and also tending to my many plants that I take care of in my dorm. When I'm not spending time with friends or studying I love to be in the weight room! I enjoy painting and also have a passion for fashion. I can play the violin and have recently been learning to play the guitar. Outside of my hobbies and interests I'm also a team captain for the Sul Ross State University Women's Basketball Team. Being a part of the team has been one of the groups of people who have turned into family and I wouldn't trade the experience for the world!

### **Short Bio:**

My name is Camryn Medina and I am a proud El Paso, Texas native. Growing up I had always been surrounded by sports and was always pushed by my parents to participate in something to stay busy. After trying out a variety of sports I decided to focus on basketball so much to the point where a couple of my teammates and myself enrolled to attend a strength & conditioning facility to improve our strength, power, and speed. I didn't know what to expect when it came to the type of training we would be...



# CAMRYN MEDINA

EL PASO, TEXAS

1ST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENT

### Short Bio Continued:

...partaking in, but upon walking in that first day of training I instantly fell I love with everything I was seeing. Our trainer and the facility that he ran was so amazing that I continued to train year after year. In addition to finding a new passion, I also found a field of work that I immediately new I wanted to be apart of. I sought guidance from my trainer and he helped ensure that I would be on the right path towards becoming a strength & conditioning coach. With my goals in mind, I excelled in my undergraduate courses and graduated with a B.S in Kinesiology (Exercise Science) in the Fall of 2023 and with the honors of summa cum laude. I am currently working on my Master's in Health & Human Performance at Sul Ross State University and hope to graduate in the Spring of 2025. Additionally I have been studying to become a Certified Strength & Conditioning Specialist by the NSCA which serves as the gold standard in the field of strength & conditioning. My goals are to become a strength & conditioning coach for a Division I NCAA team, preferable in women's basketball or for football. I also desire to get my PhD in the future as well. I have served in two internships and am also a graduate/teaching assistant for the Department of Kinesiology here at Sul Ross State University. With that, I hope to keep building my resume and gaining knowledge in the field so I can help aspiring athletes like myself reach their sport goals.





**YCELA  
ORTIZ**

**UVALDE, TEXAS**

**MASTER OF ARTS IN ENGLISH**

## Prior Education:

Bachelor's of Arts in English, Sul Ross State University (2022); Associate of Arts in General Studies, Southwest Texas Junior College (2020)

## Academic Achievements:

Graduate Assistantship (Fall 2023 - Spring 2024); Title V Graduate Fellowship (Summer 2023 - Spring 2024); Dean's List (Fall 2021 - Fall 2022)

## Professional Certifications & Organizations:

Sul Ross State University Writing Center (Tutor)

## Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

I am an only child; I own one cat; I own many, many books; Despite being 24, I love stuffed animals.

## Short Bio:

I am a small town girl, but I grew up moving throughout various towns and cities throughout Texas. Every summer, I would spend time with my grandparents and three younger cousins who are like siblings to me. Within my family, I am the only one who has pursued anything higher than a high school diploma, making me a first-generation college graduate. Writing holds a very special place in my heart, and with it I hope to portray the everyday details of life as I see it. I still haven't the faintest clue of what I want to do with my life, but I figured that's okay. Because that's certainly a part of living.



## **ELLE SUTHERLAND**

**MOSCOW, IDAHO**  
**M.S. IN RANGE & WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT**

### **Prior Education:**

B.S. in Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho

### **Academic Achievements:**

Suma cum laude, Bachelor of Science; Xi Sigma Pi National Honors Society Member; Desert Bighorn Council Memorial Research Grant recipient; Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute scholarship recipient

### **Professional Certifications & Organizations:**

The Wildlife Society: University of Idaho Student Chapter The American Fisheries Society: Palouse Unit; University of Idaho Student Chapter The Wild Sheep Foundation Swift water Rescue Training Certification Wilderness First Aid and CPR NAUI Open Water Scuba Diver Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Safe Capture Chemical Immobilization Training Certification (San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Academy).

### **Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:**

I love hunting, fishing, trail running and just about anything outdoors. I also enjoy baking and playing with my dog.

### **Short Bio:**

I grew up in northern Idaho where my experiences hunting, fishing and backpacking in the outdoors ignited my love of natural resources and led me to pursue a degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Idaho. While an undergraduate I worked as a technician on forestry, fisheries, range and wildlife projects. Following graduation, I began seasonal work on a bighorn sheep project and was hooked by the charismatic species, leading me to spend the next two years as a bighorn research technician in Montana and Wyoming. I also spent some time working as a veterinary technician and studying nursing before I decide to continue on for my masters in wildlife. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue pursuing my passion for wildlife management as a graduate student at Sul Ross and the Borderlands Research Institute.





## AUDREY TAULLI

LUCAS, TEXAS

M.S. IN RANGE & WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT

### Prior Education:

B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences with a Minor in Forestry- Texas A&M University

### Professional Certifications & Organizations:

Professional Leadership Certification through the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets; Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society; Texas Wildlife Association; The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators; Guild of Natural Science Illustrators

### Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

I have a huge love for being outdoors, including horseback riding and camping. I also love art, and am working on becoming a certified Scientific Illustrator. I enjoy drawing, painting, and digital illustration.

### Short Bio:

I grew up north of Dallas in a small town called Lucas, TX. I spent a lot of time outside as a kid, either playing sports, riding horses, or hunting/fishing and camping as a kid. A trip to Yellowstone National Park when I was in high school helped me realize I could have a job that involved being outside, and I was hooked. I spent my undergrad years at Texas A&M and with the Corps of Cadets, and after graduating worked for the AgriLife Research and Extension branch of the University. I spent four and a half years on a crew surveying military installations in eastern and south central New Mexico. I also began a Scientific Illustration certification program last year that I am slowly working through with the hopes of becoming a published illustrator in the future.



## DAVID TONNESSEN

OSLO, NORWAY

THESIS MASTERS IN NATURAL  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### Prior Education:

Bachelor's of Science in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, CU Boulder

### Academic Achievements:

Scholarship recipient from organizations including Colorado Field Ornithologists and Borderlands Research Institute.

### Professional Certifications & Organizations:

Current committee member of the Colorado Rare Bird Records Committee, current treasurer for the Sul Ross Bio Club, former board member for the Colorado Field Ornithologists.

### Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

My personal interests include bird evolution, bioacoustics, bird migration, photography, black licorice, and Mexico.

### Short Bio:

I grew up in a large family as a first-generation American, with current strongest ties to the US state of Colorado. Discovering birding changed my life and drove me towards spreading a love for nature and conservation, and also generated a passion for research. Now, I'm on a mission of making birding and science accessible and educational, and driving towards my eventual PhD. One step in this process is through a cool project at the Borderlands Research Institute to survey for Montezuma Quail and earn an M.S. in the process.





## PAYTON WHITE

**SAN ANGELO, TEXAS**  
**M.S. IN ANIMAL SCIENCE**

### Prior Education:

Associate of Arts, Howard Community College ; Bachelor of Science, Tarleton State University

### Academic Achievements:

Title V PPOHA Fellowship, Spring 2024; Deans List, Tarleton State University, 2021  
Professional Certifications & Organizations: Equine Certificate, Tarleton State University; Block and Bridle Advisor, Sul Ross State University; Undergraduate Research Assistant, Tarleton State University 2020-2021; TREAT Volunteer, Tarleton State University 2019-2021; Rifle Team, Tarleton State University 2019-2021

### Professional Certifications & Organizations:

Equine Certificate, Tarleton State University; Block and Bridle Advisor, Sul Ross State University; Undergraduate Research Assistant, Tarleton State University 2020-2021; TREAT Volunteer, Tarleton State University 2019-2021; Rifle Team, Tarleton State University 2019-2021

### Interesting Facts - Hobbies / Interests:

My hobbies/interests include hiking and hunting around the big state of Texas. As well as drawing, baking, riding/grooming horses, and yoga. If I am not in class, in my office or outside, you can find me snuggling with my two cats.

### Short Bio:

I grew up in the relatively small town of San Angelo TX and have loved horses as long as I can remember. I got my first horse when I was eleven years old, which only solidified my passion and interest in them. Throughout grade school and high school, I was actively involved in the local 4-H competing in horse judging, hippology, horse quiz bowl, rifle, and food challenge. During my undergraduate degree my knowledge of horses grew, and my first equine certificate class made me decide I wanted to teach equine classes. Unfortunately, right when I started on the university horse judging team COVID-19 hit. During my junior and senior year, I participated as an undergraduate research assistant to help the graduate students with their thesis projects. Following graduation, I went to work as an assistant horse trainer for a performance ranch, during which I decided to learn more about the equine veterinary field. I then spent the next year and a half at three veterinary clinics varying from an equine vet tech, equine rehab tech, and receptionist. After which I decided to continue my education with a Master in Animal Science at Sul Ross, with possibly a second Master or PhD in my future.