

# John Clayton Kiddo Campbell, M.S. Thesis Candidate

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I am John Clayton Kiddo Campbell. I was born and raised in the small town of Castroville, Texas. At a young age I began to love the outdoors during visits to my great grandmother's farm, while fishing, and during trips to different state parks to go camping and swimming in the rivers of central and south Texas. My passion for wildlife continued when I came to Sul Ross State University to study these last three years. I will obtain my B.S. from Sul Ross State University in December of 2014, majoring in Natural Resource Management with an emphasis in Wildlife Management. During my undergraduate career I worked as a Wildlife Technician for two years at Borderlands Research Institute, primarily with the Desert Quail Research program working with Gambel's and Scaled quail ecology. During this time I was also blessed with the opportunity to volunteer with many other research projects, including studies of pronghorn, mule

deer, white-tailed deer, small mammals and bighorn sheep. I will be continuing my education and working on my Master's Degree in Natural Research Management under Dr. Louis Harveson.

## **Thesis Project: Desert Mule Deer Translocation and Restoration Efforts in the Trans-Pecos**

Mule deer numbers at Black Gap WMA and surrounding areas have decreased since the late 1980s and remain relatively low compared to other areas of the Trans-Pecos, while in the past this area had some of the densest mule deer numbers in the Trans-Pecos. The mule deer herds at the Black Gap WMA and surrounding areas have never rebounded from the last prolonged drought of the late-1990s and early-2000s, while almost all other herds in the Trans-Pecos did. The objective of this study is to restore mule deer to Black Gap and surrounding areas by translocation. We will be comparing movement/home ranges, survival, and habitat selection between mule deer that have been hard released vs. others that have been soft released.

