Jacob Lampman, M.S. Thesis Candidate

My name is Jacob Lampman and I grew up on a small farm east of San Antonio in Marion, Texas. While growing up I spent a lot of time at my grandparent's ranch where I developed a great love for the outdoors and wildlife. It wasn't until high school that I discovered that wildlife management was a field of study that could be pursued through college and as a career. So I decided to major in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A&M University. Texas A&M provided me with many volunteer opportunities to gain different experiences, including a study abroad to South Africa. While working as a technician on a project with Bobwhite Quail I decided to continue my education. I am now working towards a Master's Degree in Natural Resource Management at Sul Ross State University under the advisement of Dr. Louis Harveson.

Thesis Project: Influence of Agriculture on Mule Deer in the Texas Panhandle

Mule deer can be found in both the High Plains and Rolling Plains ecological regions of the Texas Panhandle where they occupy a variety of habitats. Their numbers have increased in the Panhandle the past 30 years and are known to use agricultural fields where some farmers consider them a nuisance. Currently, there is very little information available regarding mule deer movements, habitat preferences, and survival in the Panhandle. In addition, information on the influence of agricultural production and the effects of habitat fragmentation on mule deer populations is also limited. Formulating and implementing mule deer management decisions is difficult when agricultural effects on deer movement, behavior, and ecology are largely unknown. The aim of this study is to evaluate the sex- and age-specific mule deer movements in relation to agriculture crops and other habitat components yearly and seasonally, as well as investigate the effect of agriculture on survival of adult and fawn mule deer. Capturing and equipping the deer with GPS and radio transmitters will provide insight on the influence of croplands on mule deer movements and the importance of agriculture on deer survival and changes in body mass and condition. This information will allow Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists to make predictions regarding long-term harvest management and sustainability of mule deer in the Panhandle region.

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