

Cody A. Putman — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Cody Putman, and I am from the Alamo City of San Antonio, Texas. I grew up in the city but have always longed to be in the great outdoors. Hunting, camping, and fishing have always been among my favorite activities, although I did not always have the opportunity to do so. This lack of opportunity to satisfy my need for nature drove me to immerse myself in it by attending Sul Ross State University, where I am currently a freshman. I chose Sul Ross because I wanted to get my hands dirty. Once there, I immediately joined the Range and Wildlife Club. Through the club I have done various projects including building guzzlers in the deserts and assisting with deer captures, and that was only my first semester! I am greatly appreciative for the many opportunities given to me by the students and faculty of the Natural Resource Department and the Borderlands Research Institute. Especially for the opportunity to work with the Undergraduate Mentorship Program and Daniel Tidwell on his thesis project. I am excited for my future here and I am looking forward to the adventures that lie ahead of me.



Estimating White-tailed Buck Home Ranges Using Trail Cameras

16 October 2015 — 15 May 2016

I am currently studying the use of camera traps to determine home ranges of white-tailed captive-reared bucks following liberation on a ranch south of D'Hanis, Texas. I will be sorting photos gathered from camera traps spread throughout the study area. I will be able to estimate home ranges of captive-reared bucks by analyzing capture frequency of individuals and by the location of captures. This data will be spatially analyzed in ArcMap 10.2. If the camera-trap method for estimating home ranges is found to be comparable to our coinciding GPS collar home range estimates, then it can provide managers with another way to gain an understanding of their deer population movements and habitat utilization.



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