

Destinee D. Love — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Destinee Love and I am from Harper, which is in the Hill Country of Texas. Most of my childhood was spent on my family's ranch, Love Ranch, where my dad was a hunting guide and my mom cooked for the hunters and taught at Harper Elementary School. I spent much of my time helping my dad with the hunters and working at the taxidermy shop in town. I am currently a junior at Sul Ross State University, pursuing a degree in wildlife management. I began attending this school as a freshman in 2014 and found my niche with the Range and Wildlife Club where I have been highly active. I chose this field because I have always had a passion for wildlife, be it hunting, fishing, or just being in the great outdoors. This year I was fortunate enough to be accepted into the Undergraduate Research/Mentorship Program. I will be graduating with my B.S. in May of 2018 and after that I will be pursuing a M.S., also in the field of wildlife.



Monitoring Desert Bighorn and Aoudad at Water Sources in the Sierra Vieja Mountains, Texas

16 May — 31 August 2016

The Sierra Vieja mountains are found in the Chihuahuan Desert of Texas, and like most of the surrounding areas, permanent water sources are limited. In order to improve this situation, landowners have begun creating artificial water sources for their properties to sustain a variety of big game species. Two of the focal species in this area are desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) and aoudad or Barbary sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*). Using trail cameras, we will be observing seasonal water usage, assessing time of day and duration of use at water sources, and evaluating lambing periods for both bighorn and aoudad. This information can be used for landowners to make more informed decisions about artificial water sources on their property.



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