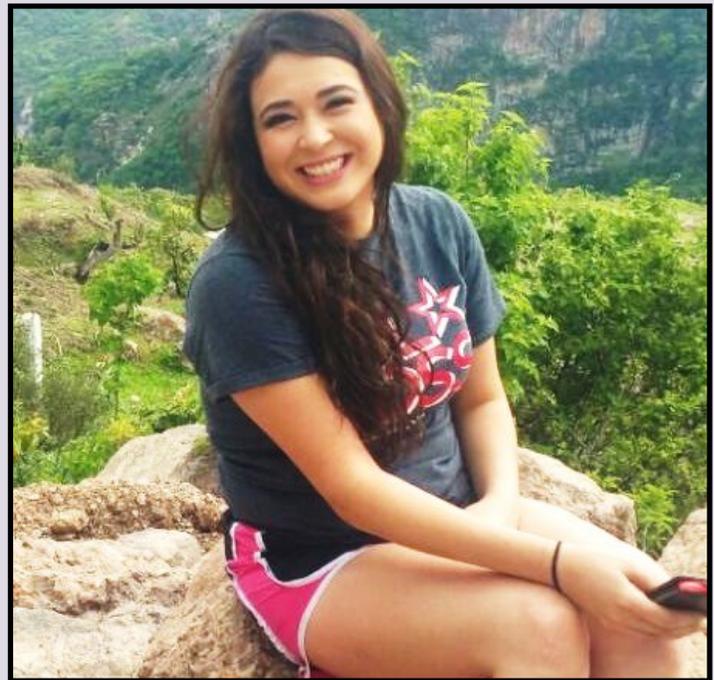


Fabiola T. Baeza — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Fabiola Baeza; I am from Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico. My love for nature began during my early years when I was home-schooled by my mother at my father's ranch. During this time, I would spend a great amount of time helping my dad work cattle or whatever else was necessary. I moved to what I call my hometown of Presidio, Texas at a very young age. I graduated from Presidio High School in 2012 at the age of 17. I attended UTEP and EPCC before coming to Sul Ross as a Junior to major in biology. Though Sul Ross was not my first choice as a university, it has been the one I have enjoyed the most. Following graduation in December 2016, I plan to obtain a master's degree in Biology. I am very thankful to the Borderlands Research Institute and my mentor Thomas Janke for giving me the opportunity to work as an undergraduate researcher for this great institution.



Demographics and Timing of Mule Deer Utilizing Protein Feeders

16 May — 31 August 2016

Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) are a widely dispersed big game species economically important in the western United States. They are the largest bodied native deer species inhabiting Texas. Mule deer have exhibited population fluctuations throughout their western range over the past years. They tend to be solitary, but when groups are formed, they are known to vary seasonally, and depending on habitat condition. To help supplement nutrients during dry years, or in places where habitat quality is lacking, ranchers and managers provide protein feed to mule deer and other species. The purpose of my project is to: 1) compare hourly and seasonal use of free-choice protein feeders by mule deer; 2) assess mule deer demographics (i.e., bucks, does, fawns, or mixed groups) utilizing feeders; and 3) evaluate mule deer tendencies to form groups at feeder sites. Data from this study will help managers and biologists have a better understanding of mule deer supplemental feed utilization, and the potential benefits and implications it may cause.



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