

J. Silverio Ávila Sánchez — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is J. Silverio Ávila Sánchez; I am from Tampico, Tamaulipas, Mexico. Since I was a kid I have always liked animals, nature, and outdoor activities. I am now on my last semester of my bachelor's degree of Forestry Engineering at the Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico. I am currently working on my thesis (The effects of wildfire in the composition and structure of rosaceae shrubs in Sierra Zapalinamé, Coahuila) so I can graduate this summer, 2016. I did an internship at Sul Ross State University with the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) in the fall of 2015 helping as an assistant technician with graduate students in their projects. Some of the projects I was able to volunteer with during my time with BRI included: desert bighorn sheep, aoudad, quail, mule deer, and white-tail deer. I am also a fanatic of photography; always carrying my camera with me to snap pictures of nature, wildlife, and landscape every time I am in the field working or hiking. I want to thank M.S. Carlos Gonzalez, PhD Louis Harveson, M.S. Thomas Janke, Jose Etchart, and the rest of the professors, staff, and students of the BRI for their guidance, help, and most of all friendship, during my stay at Alpine, TX.



Water Utilization and Lambing Timing of Aoudad and Desert Bighorn Sheep

16 August — 15 November 2015

During my stay at the Borderlands Research Institute (Sul Ross State University), I was mentored on conducting a study on the use of waters by aoudad (*Ammotragus lervia*) and desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). To monitor water utilization and document interactions between the species, we set up game cameras on artificial water troughs. Our main objective was to compare the usage of waters by the two species and see if there was an overlap, or if they avoided each other, while they visited these places. We also used the game camera data to document the timing of lambs for each species. The results were clear and gave us an idea of the behavior and ecology of these animals; a poster was made and presented during the 52nd annual meeting of The Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society with success.

