

Michael Stangl — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Michael Stangl, and I hail from Austin, Texas. I moved to Alpine in 2011, though I have been camping and backpacking out here in the Big Bend for years. I spent the summer of 2010 with the National Outdoor Leadership School in the Yukon Territories, and it was there that I fully realized my love for the wilderness. Not long after that experience I enrolled at Sul Ross and began working towards a degree in Conservation Biology. I never expected myself to find solace in the world of science, but it's been an extraordinary surprise. I have had remarkable opportunities and experiences both in the classroom and in the field here at Sul Ross. I am grateful and excited to be a part of the BRI mountain lion research team. When I'm not working or studying it can be assumed that I'm planning my next outdoor adventure with my dog Susan.



Use of Camera Traps to Determine Distribution of Four Skunk Species in Big Bend National Park

1 January — 15 August, 2015

There are four species of skunk that occur sympatrically in Big Bend National Park. Knowledge of how these mesocarnivores interact with each other and other species in their environment provides a better understanding of the ecosystem as a whole. I will be using remotely placed cameras throughout the Chisos Mountain Zone to assess the distribution of skunk species in the area. Habitat analyses will be conducted at areas of occurrence to determine the overlapping characteristics of these species' ecologies.



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