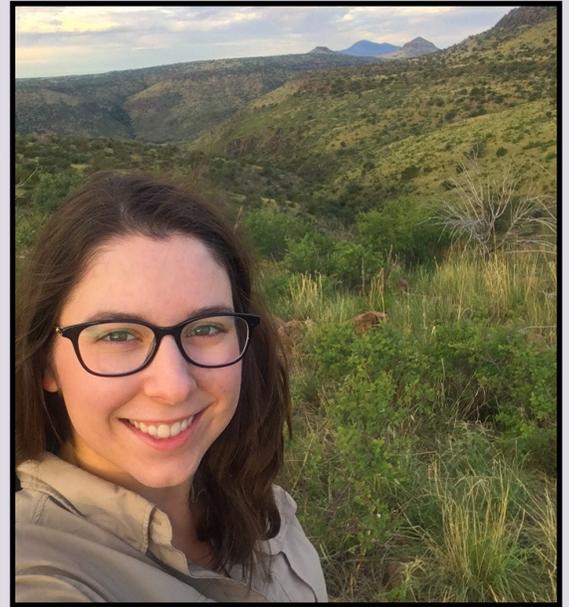


A. Faith Hille — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Faith Hille, and I am from Austin, Texas. As far back as I can remember I have always had a fascination for the outdoors; I was a typical tomboy. I would catch lizards, collect plants, and watch squirrels, birds, deer, and coyotes for hours on end around my house. However, I never had the opportunity to go camping, fishing, or hunting because none of my four older siblings expressed interest in the outdoors. In the fall of 2016, I transferred to Sul Ross State University, and found the opportunities that I had been missing. Attending Sul Ross was quite the culture shock for me at first; I was immediately immersed into hands-on opportunities. I have been able to attend deer captures, conduct browse surveys, fish, camp, and even participate on a prescribed burn! I am currently a senior pursuing a degree in conservation biology and I am expecting to graduate in December of 2018. This summer I was accepted into the Undergraduate Research and Mentorship Program with the Borderlands Research Institute for their Trans-Pecos browse study. I am excited to put my plant knowledge to the test and further develop my plant identification skills.



Nutritional Content of Wildlife Browse in Differing Mountain Ranges, Trans-Pecos, Texas

1 June — 31 August 2018

Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) are a valuable game species in Texas and it is important for ranchers to maintain key forage quality and quantity throughout the year to support the wildlife. This summer I am working with Thomas Janke on collecting browse samples from several ranches across the Trans-Pecos to evaluate seasonal nutritional content of wildlife forage. Using data collected, we will evaluate if there is a difference between nutritional value throughout different mountain range elevations and geological substrates, as well as over a north-south and east-west gradient across the Trans-Pecos. Data collected from this study will help landowners and managers better understand what native nutrition is available on the landscape, as well as what is nutritionally lacking during different key times of the year, especially during gestation and antler development of mule deer.



CONSERVING THE LAST FRONTIER



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