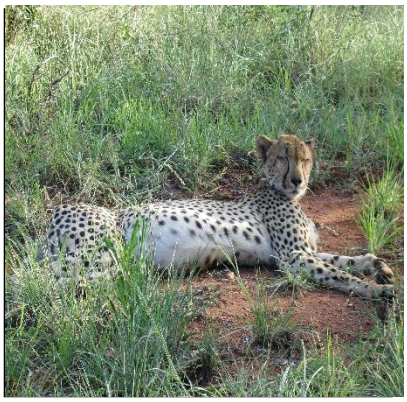
Jamie Cooper, M.S. Thesis Candidate

My name is Jamie Cooper. I was born in Littleton, Colorado but was raised in Jourdanton, Texas. With an environmentally-centered family as a blessing, I was allowed many opportunities to build rock forts near the Rockies, fly fish, and explore South Texas hunting leases. Early on, I budded with enthusiasm when immersed in nature and had an affinity for animals. As a third generation Aggie, I attained my B.S. from Texas A&M University with a major in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation and a minor in Psychology in May 2017. During my time there, I was able to study abroad in South Africa while conducting research on the herpetofauna and witnessing some of the most beautiful creatures I have ever laid eyes on. Following college, I moved further south to work as the Conservation Educator at Welder Wildlife Foundation. My time there was filled with educational exploration as I lead programs for all ages and continued my passion as a naturalist. This fifteen-month internship turned into a Welder Fellowship to pursue my Master's Degree. I now study Range & Wildlife Management at Sul Ross State University under the guidance of Dr. Patricia Moody Harveson.

Thesis Project: Estimating Mountain Lion Density in the Davis Mountains, Texas, Using Spatial Capture-Recapture Techniques

The impacts of apex predators on all trophic levels of ecosystems are beginning to be understood as widespread and critically important. Yet, studying these large carnivores can be difficult as they are often few in number, have very large ranges, and are elusive. A key apex predator in the southwest is the mountain lion (*Puma concolor*). Researchers at Borderland Research Institute have been monitoring mountain lions in the Davis Mountain region of Texas for many years. The goal of this research is to evaluate new spatial capture-recapture (SCR) techniques using remote camera data to estimate the population density of mountain lions in the Davis Mountains. This research will use SCR methods with unmarked or partially marked animals. The results will be useful to Wildlife Conservation and Management specialists in Texas and other areas where density estimate of large carnivores are needed.



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