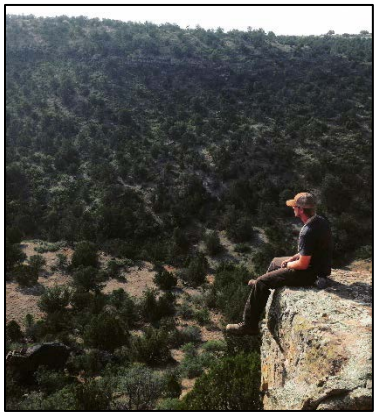
Taylor Shannon Daily, M.S. Thesis Candidate

Hello my name is Taylor Daily and I grew up in Lubbock, Texas. Being raised outside of the city limits is where my love for wildlife began; here I spent most of my time catching any and every animal I could find or get my hands on. I always find myself to be the most joyful when hunting, fishing, or just being outdoors. It wasn't until I had already started college that I learned about wildlife as a career, so I decided to major in Natural Resources Management at Texas Tech University. The summer of 2016, I worked with Pronghorn Antelope in central New Mexico and discovered my passion for big game species. As I pursued this passion I met many fellow big game enthusiasts, like myself, and just happened to land a position as an undergraduate research assistant with the Borderlands Research Institute. I was able to research mule deer nutrition in the Texas Panhandle and present my results at professional wildlife conferences. Through this opportunity I found my niche, and decided to continue my wildlife education. I am currently working on my Master's Degree at Sul Ross State University under Dr. Louis Harveson.

Thesis Project: Movements, Survival, and Habitat Use of Desert Bighorn Sheep in the Black Gap Wildlife Management Area, Texas

Historically, desert bighorn sheep were once a prevalent species throughout the Trans-Pecos ecological region of Texas, but unfortunately had become extirpated by the 1960s due to unregulated hunting and disease transmission from livestock. Restoration efforts from surrounding states were quickly implemented, in hopes of re-establishing a bighorn population throughout the Trans-Pecos. Since that time, Black Gap Wildlife Management Area has developed a small subpopulation that has endured disease, stress, and predation; in order to ensure sustainability we must continue our restoration efforts. The objective of this study is to restore and strengthen desert bighorn sheep at Black Gap WMA, by means of translocation. Bighorn were captured, equipped with a GPS satellite collar, and transported from Elephant Mountain WMA to Black Gap WMA. Movements, survival, and habitat utilization will be observed and compared between bighorn that are resident, hard-released, and soft-released. Information from this study will assist Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists with future management decisions regarding desert bighorn sheep in the Trans-Pecos ecological region of Texas.



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