

Chelby Hinds, M.S. Thesis Candidate



My name is Chelby Hinds and I am from Hobbs, New Mexico. I have always had a passion for the outdoors as well as a love for animals. At a young age I became fascinated with wildlife and found myself wanting to learn more about them. I became interested in the management aspect of them when I took a undergraduate wildlife course at Sul Ross. I decided to pursue my dream of becoming a wildlife biologist and received my bachelors of Natural Resource Management with an emphasis in Wildlife Management from Sul Ross in May of 2018. While working on my bachelors, I volunteered on several deer captures as well as other projects. A few months before graduating, I decided to pursue my masters in wildlife management and took a mule deer project under Dr. Ryan Luna.

Thesis Project: Mule deer utilization of urban environments during the rut

Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) can be spotted in Alpine, TX throughout the year; however, the number of bucks seems to increase as the breeding season (rut) approaches. West Texas mule deer's rut typically begins around late November and can last up until early February. Few studies have been done to monitor the movement of urban mule deer; however, it is important for managers to know how to manage populations in an urban environment. Urbanization is growing throughout the United States, which causes deer populations to increase due to suitable habitat and lack of predation. It is important to know where these deer are coming from and going to seasonally in order to properly manage an urban population. My project will be to track the movement of urban deer throughout the seasons. We will be trapping approximately 17 deer in various locations around Alpine. Each individual will be fitted with either a VHF or SAT collar. Deer movements will be monitored throughout the year to determine patterns of movement, seasonal home range sizes, and habitat use.



CONSERVING THE LAST FRONTIER