

Derek R. Malone — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Derek Malone, and I am from Keller, Texas. I just graduated from Texas Tech University with a degree in Natural Resources Management and a specialization in Wildlife Biology last May (2017). While growing up, my family would spend our summers camping and hiking all around the state and nation. In addition to camping and hiking, I also spent a lot of my time on the lakes in Minnesota fishing with my grandparents. It was this love of the outdoors my family instilled in me from a young age that has led me to pursue a degree and a career in natural resources field. I hope to one day work as a wildlife biologist.



Mule Deer Summer Forage and Cover Availability in the Rolling Plains, Texas

1 May — 31 August 2017

This summer I am working on a research project that will provide a better insight as to what plant species are available for, and utilized by, mule deer within parts of Hutchinson, Roberts, and Ochiltree counties within the Rolling Plains ecoregion of the Panhandle of Texas. Canopy cover, vegetation density and frequency, visual obstruction of vegetation, and vegetation height will be collected. Along with vegetation data, I will also be collecting mule deer fecal matter and sending it off to a lab for plant content analyses. This will allow us to have a better idea of the composition of the browse, forbs, and grasses selected by mule deer during the summer months for this area. The data collected from this research will be used to assist with a future Ph.D. project studying ungulates in the Texas Panhandle.



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