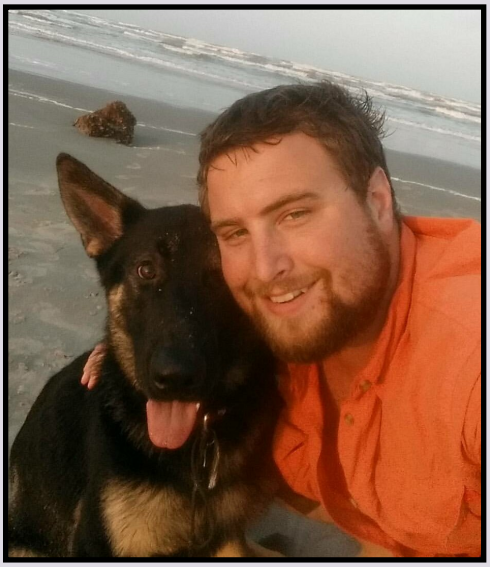
Brian K. Metz — BRI Undergraduate Researcher



My name is Brian Metz and I was raised in Canyon Lake, Texas. I grew up hunting, and fishing in the Hill Country. My love for the outdoors, and hunting overall, took over when I started bow hunting. After high school, I joined the U.S Army as an infantryman and was stationed at Ft. Carson, Colorado, along with some time overseas. After the military, I started the next chapter of my life attending college in College Station. While in College Station, I also fell in love with the love of my life, Jessica Metz, who shares her passion for the outdoors with me. I am currently a senior at Texas A&M University in the Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences department with an emphasis in Wildlife and Fisheries management.

My time in third world countries really opened my eyes to the destruction of natural resources due to poor management, or lack of caring for the resources. This, along with my strong bond with bow hunting, led to where I am now. Working towards a position to where I can help conserve and manage our country's resources, so many generations after mine can enjoy the wild as I do.

Wildlife Utilization of Varying Guzzler Styles in the Black Gap Complex, Texas

16 June — 31 August 2017

My undergraduate study at Sul Ross State University consists of looking at wildlife utilization of different styles of man-made water sources ($n \geq 6$) at the Black Gap Complex in southeastern Brewster County, Texas. The man-made water sources (a.k.a. guzzlers) are designed to catch rainwater, store it in a tank, which then feeds into a water trough, thus providing a water source for wildlife. We want to look at whether different wildlife species select for certain guzzler designs over others.

To monitor water source utilization, game cameras were set up at each source to record wildlife activity. Water and air temperatures, along with water clarity and cloud cover, are being recorded during the morning and evening hours, 3 days a week at each source, to see if any of these variables may affect water utilization.

The outcome of this study will be able to help managers determine what type/style of guzzler to construct on their property, depending on their wildlife management goals.

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