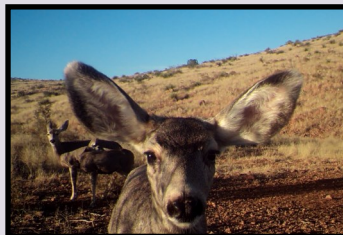
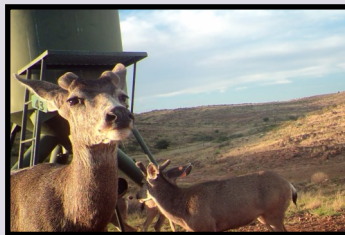


Erica I. Dunn — BRI Undergraduate Researcher

My name is Erica Dunn and I am from The Woodlands, TX – a suburb of Houston. My major is Natural Resource Management with a concentration in Conservation Biology, and I plan to graduate in the spring of 2019. I moved to Alpine (Sul Ross) in the fall of 2017 as a transfer student after attending nursing school for a year in Houston. I changed my major because I wanted to genuinely enjoy what I do for the rest of my life, and my love for nature overshadowed all else. Attending Sul Ross has been such a voyage, and I've had the remarkable opportunity to do fascinating things, like prescribed burns and a guzzler building project. I sincerely enjoy every single day I spend in this marvelous region of Texas, and I look forward to the opportunities Sul Ross and Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) grant me.



Effects of Lunar Phase on Mule Deer Feeder Utilization

16 October 2017 — 31 August 2018

Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) are found in the Trans-Pecos region of Texas, which is the area west of the Pecos River ending at the New Mexico state line. There are countless opinions and interpretations when it comes to lunar phase in relation to animal activity and behavior. Over the last year, BRI has been monitoring animal activity at free-choice protein feeders via game cameras. The goals of my project are to: 1) Determine which lunar phase mule deer were most active at feeders; 2) Determine which lunar phase mule deer were least active at feeders; and 3) Determine if there was a difference between day-time and night-time feeder utilization in relation to lunar phase. Information from this project will help biologists and managers effectively understand if lunar phases have an influence on mule deer feeder utilization or not. Additionally, data from this study may be advantageous to biologists, managers, hunters, and wildlife enthusiasts in better understanding mule deer activity during varying lunar phases.



CONSERVING THE LAST FRONTIER



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