

My name is Julie Schmidt, I'm proud native of the great city of San Antonio. Although I am from the city, my love for outdoors began at a very early age. Growing up my family had access to a ranch outside of Uvalde, Texas. My sister and I would hike, fish, hunt, swim, ride horses and anything else we could think of. It was there that my love and respect for wildlife was instilled into me and is the reason I had decided by the age of 7 to pursue a career in the wildlife field. Throughout my childhood, my father would take us on father-daughter trips along with a few other families where we'd travel the state and stay at State Parks. That's when I made a life goal to visit every state park!

While in high school at Winston Churchill, my mother suggested Sul Ross State University. Weary at first as Alpine is such a small town, I wasn't too sure about it. But after a visit I instantly fell in love with the scenery, the fresh air and all of the opportunities that the school could provide its students. I am now a junior double concentrating in both range and wildlife management. I know that I wouldn't be this happy anywhere else.

#### DETERMINING CAUSATION OF FALSE TRIGGERS ON CAMERA STUDIES AND DETERMINING DATA LOSS BY ELIMINATION OF EXCESSIVE DAY TIME PHOTOS IN MESOCARNIVORE STUDIES IN THE MARFA GRASSLANDS OF TEXAS

The Trans Pecos is a unique and highly diverse region of Texas. During camera trapping studies, the grassland ecosystem and the windy plains mean game cameras end up having thousands of photos of grass swaying in the breeze. Working with Borderlands Research Institute and land owners throughout the Marfa grasslands, I will be looking at millions of game camera photos collected from various ranches and will compare the animals detected during two separate time blocks, a 10pm to 4am and a 4am to 10pm, to see if the removal of day time photos would have any effect on specie detections. In conjunction with species detection comparisons I will also be looking further into the cause of false triggering of the game cameras, specifically looking closer at wind speed and ambient temperature changes.

This will be my third research project conducted through BRI's amazing Undergraduate Research Mentorship Program. Along with improving my technical writing and professional presentation skills I've worked on since my first year, I am excited to have been given another opportunity to learn and experience new things in my field. With this new project, I have already began bettering my navigation skills, being trained in mapping using GIS software, learning how to identify species found in the Trans Pecos and experiencing firsthand how to analyze photo data. I can't wait to complete my research and present all over Texas.