

NRM 5328
BIG GAME MANAGEMENT FALL 2026

Class times: TR 14:00-14:50

Instructor: Dr. Mark Bell

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Office: Health Sciences Building, 102 West Ave E, Alpine, TX 79830,
Room 102

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 11– 12

Textbooks:

Krausman and Cain. 2022. Wildlife management and Conservation: Contemporary Principles and Practices. Second Edition, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.

Fryxell, Sinclair, and Caughley. 2014. Wildlife ecology, conservation, and management. Third Edition, Blackwell Publishing, Malden, Massachusetts. (Recommended)—can also use 2nd edition

Catalog description: Application of the principles of wildlife management to big games species; habitat management, production, population characteristics and management strategy for each big game species will be stressed.

Course objective: To provide a general overview of: (1) the ecology and conservation strategies of large mammals of North America; (2) the practices commonly used to manage big game species in North America.

Grading: Exam 1 – 15%
Exam 2 – 15%
Exam 3 – 15%
Exam 4 – 20%
Assignments – 35%

Scale: 90 -100% = A
80 – 89% = B
70 – 79% = C
60 – 69% = D
< 60% = F

Attendance: No make-up quizzes, assignments, or exams will be given for unexcused late or missing work. Late work will only be excused when you have notified the instructor PRIOR to due dates.

Species Profiles:

Each student will select one big game species that occurs in the Southwestern United States to profile. Once a species has been selected, the student will conduct a literature review of the species as it pertains to the Chihuahuan Desert. A bibliography (15 citation minimum) is due on the **8th of October**. Actual paper copies of the articles must be attached to the bibliography. Using their respective bibliographies, each student will write an 8-10 page paper (12 pt, double spaced) on the life history of the species as it relates to the Southwest. The final draft is due on the **3rd of December**.

Land Evaluation and Management Plan:

Each student will select a property (you can choose one we discuss or one that you know about) to evaluate its overall health and condition as a wildlife habitat and then create an 6-8 page (12 pt, double spaced) management plan for that property. The final evaluation and management plan is due on the **3rd of December**.

Accommodations:

It is required of Sul Ross State University to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. If you would like to request such accommodations because of physical, mental, or learning disabilities please contact the ADA coordinator for Program Accessibility located in Room 206 of the Briscoe Administration Building, or call 432-837-8203.

Program learning objectives:

Program Learning Outcomes for the B.S. in Natural Resource Management

The graduating student will demonstrate that he/she is able to:

1. Identify species of wildland plants and wildlife common to the western United States and describe their natural history.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the elements of an ecosystem.
3. Communicate about natural resources and conservation both verbally and in writing.
4. Conduct range and wildlife inventories in a team setting.
5. Apply knowledge about elements of an ecosystem into an appropriate conservation management plan.

Program Learning Outcomes for the M.Agr. in Range and Wildlife Management

The graduating student will demonstrate that he/she is able to:

1. Apply statistical concepts and procedures to natural resource data

2. Evaluate literature and references as they apply to the natural resource field
3. Demonstrate their knowledge of the fundamentals and advanced concepts of range and wildlife management.

Program Learning Outcomes for the **M.S. in Range and Wildlife Management**

The graduating student will demonstrate that he/she is able to:

1. Apply statistical concepts and procedures to natural resource data
2. Evaluate literature and references to substantiate an applied research project.
3. Examine, select, and utilize appropriate resources, materials, and data collection instruments to implement research projects.
4. Justify and defend the research questions and design.

Academic Integrity. Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused; meaningful and pertinent participation is appreciated. Examples of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part for another course and/or professor; turning in another person's work as one's own; copying from professional works or internet sites without citation; collaborating on a course assignment, examination, or quiz when collaboration is forbidden.

Section X. Notes on University Programs and Services

SRSU Disability Services. SRSU Disability Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S, SRSU's Accessibility Services Coordinator at 432-837-8203 (please leave a message and we'll get back to you as soon as we can during working hours), or email rebecca.wren@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall (Suite 112), and our mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

SRSU Distance Education Statement.

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Technical Support. SRSU 24/7 Blackboard Technical Support: Toll Free: 888.837.6055.

Email: blackboardsupport@sulross.edu

SRSU Library Services.

The Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library in Alpine offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

The Southwest Texas Junior College (SWTJC) Libraries at Uvalde, Del Rio, and Eagle Pass.

Offer additional access to library spaces and resources. Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Uvalde students may also use online resources available through SWTJC website, <https://library.swtjc.edu>. The SWTJC Libraries serve as pick-up locations for InterLibrary Loan (ILL) and Document Delivery from the Alpine campus.

Classroom Climate of Respect

Importantly, this class will foster free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. This means that all of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. No one is entitled to harass, belittle, or discriminate against another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. Still we will not be silenced by the difficulty of fruitfully discussing politically sensitive issues.

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Tentative class and lab schedule for NRM 4308 – Big Game Management – Fall

Dates	Week	Subject
8/25	1	Introductions, Syllabus
9/1	2	Population estimates
9/8	3	Nutritional ecology, habitat selection
9/15	4	Exam 1 , Carrying capacity
9/22	5	Bighorn sheep
9/29	6	elk
10/6	7	
10/13	8	Mule deer & White-tailed deer, Exam 2 Mountain Lion
10/20	9	Pronghorn
10/27	10	exotics
11/3	11	Non-game species - Black bears
11/10	12	Exam 3 (11/14) , exotics – hog and aoudad
11/17	13	Scoring big game
11/24	14	Thanksgiving week
12/01	15	Final draft , Semester review, Exam 4