Steven Pearson

Biologist Supervisor

Steven received his B.S. degree from the Richard Stockton College of NJ where he majored in Environmental Studies and minored in mathematics. Steven returned to school in 2007 at Drexel University where he received a Ph.D. in Environmental Science in 2013. The title of Steven's dissertation is "The Potential for Competition Between the Red-bellied Turtle (*Pseudemys rubriventris*) and the Red-eared Slider Turtle (*Trachemys scripta elegans*)." During the course of his dissertation, Steven studied wild populations of turtles and performed mesocosm experiments with juvenile turtles.

After completing his Bachelor's degree, Steven spent four years working with endangered and threatened species including harpy eagles (*Harpia harpyja*) in Panama, the Santa Cruz Island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*) on the Channel Islands in California, the Pierson milk vetch (*Astragalus magdalenae*) in California, and leatherback sea turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*) in Costa Rica. All of these positions provided him with new perspectives on wildlife protection and management.

Steven's current position as a biologist supervisor enables him to utilize the skills he has developed in previous positions as well as to develop new tools to analyze complex ecological issues. Steven works on varied projects that revolve around monitoring impacts to Louisiana wildlife by industrial activities. Steven works with state trustees to develop and implement field studies that can be used to determine short-term and long term-impacts from anthropogenic (human-caused) activities. Steven is currently working with the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office (LOSCO) to develop an assessment protocol which will be used to assess natural resource damages after an oil spill occurs. Steven's work has allowed him to travel across the state and has helped him gain an appreciation for the diverse environments found throughout Louisiana.

A focus of Steven's has been working with collaborators Will Selman at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and biologists from the department's Marine Fisheries Program to study the abundance and distribution of diamondback terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*) throughout Louisiana's coastal regions. This work is instrumental in determining the status of terrapin populations in Louisiana.

Steven says that living and working in Louisiana has been a great experience for him. Steven enjoys many cultural aspects of Louisiana life including the music, festivals and cuisine.

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Growing season prescribe burn. Invasive plant control.		Invasive plant control. Bushog/mow roads, fields.	Mast survey. Plant cool-season food plots.* Invasive plant control.	Invasive plant control.		Dormant season prescribe burn.** Invasive plant control.
Plant brown-top millet for first season dove fields.		Manipulate dove fields for hunting plant brown-top millet for second season dove fields.				
Provide mineral supplements.		Apply for DMAP.	Pre-season camera survey.*** Begin deer stand repairs and prep for hunting season	Pre-season camera survey.***	Collect harvest data.	
Moist-soil plant management/disturbance.		Begin partial flooding for teal, begin duck blind repairs and prep for hunting season.	Manipulate moist soil if needed; mow, disc, burn, plow, herbicide.	Start main flooding of moist soil units.		
	Trap hogs****			Trap hogs		
				Fallow disk borders 50 - 100' wide around fall deer plots to improve summer quail nesting-feeding habitat.		
Escape cover can be created any time during the year as needed.				Disk near cover to improve feeding habitat.		
Regularly clean bird feeders to reduce disease transfer, prevent nonnative, invasive birds from utilizing bird houses.					Install new bird houses and clean out existing boxes.	
			Take a youth hunting during special WMA youth squirrel hunts.	Install squirrel nest boxes.		
Plant chufa.				Plant clover for spring plots.		
Future diurnal habitat can be created any time durin the year as needed using clearcuts, shelterwood, group selection.				Bushhog to a height of 12-18 inches and/or burn openings managed for nocturnal habitat.		

and summer bedding cover for deer, etc.