



Christopher Stelly Biology

I am from Alexandria, Louisiana. I graduated from Louisiana Tech University with a BS in Forestry (Wildlife Habitat Management concentration) in 2014. Upon graduation, I spent time working as a technician for a deer study being conducted by the University of Georgia. While aiding in deer capture at the Tensas Wildlife Refuge, my interest in black bears was sparked by the constant sightings of the species. I then worked on a seasonal Louisiana black bear study conducted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) collecting hair samples for individual identification, as well as the trapping and instrumentation of GPS and VHF collars to monitor survival and home range of these black bears. Currently, I am pursuing a MS in Biology at Louisiana Tech University under the direction of Dr. Heidi Adams. My thesis research—which is a collaborative study between Louisiana Tech University and LDWF—focuses on how the surrounding landscape and silvicultural techniques influence natal den site selection among female Louisiana black bears. After graduation, I want to work as a wildlife biologist with LDWF.