Name: William R. "Randy" Swilling, Jr.

STAC Member Since: August 2011

Title: Natural Resource Manager

Department: Cape Hatteras National Seashore

Organization: US National Park Service

Education: MS Zoology, Auburn University (2000)

BS Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Wildlife Biology, Clemson University (1992)

Primary Focus Area: Upland and estuarine habitat restoration

Secondary Focus Area(s): Invasive plant species (Phragmites) control within wetland habitats

Career Experiences: My Master's thesis focused on sub-adult dispersal and habitat selection in endangered beach mice along the Gulf Coast of Florida and Alabama. My professional career spans 11 years with four different federal agencies. I have worked as a biologist for the US Fish & Wildlife Service in the Wildlife Refuge System in Alabama and in the Ecological Services Division in Utah. I spent time with the Bureau of Land Management in northern Utah working closely with multiple partners on large scale sagebrush restoration efforts focusing on the impacts to sagebrush obligate plants and animals. This position also included incorporating wildlife habitat based objectives into the Wildland Urban Interface and Hazardous Fuels Reduction projects proposed by the fire ecologist. I served as an ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service at the Savannah River site in South Carolina where we balanced a production-based forest with long-leaf pine ecosystem restoration and red-cockaded woodpecker and gopher tortoise recovery. In Montana, I worked as a District biologist on the Gallatin National Forest bordering Yellowstone National Park where I emphasized large-scale habitat manipulation projects for grizzly bears and elk, deer, and bison winter range. I used seasonal and volunteer help to develop a bat monitoring program for my forest with the purposed of collecting habitat use and distribution data for bat species.

My work experience has shown me that relationship building with internal and external partners is the key to achieving common resource objectives and that communication with all interested publics, both advocates and adversaries, is central to this success.