

Dr. Michael Colvin
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Although the exact orientation of my future endeavors as a natural resource advocate and scientist have changed dramatically during my education, my resolve to acquire a position that affords me the privilege to study aquatic ecosystems and sensitive species has been sustained. The diversity of fishes enthalls me and I hope to spend my career progressing the understanding of both unfamiliar and sport fish ecology and applying generated knowledge to conservation and management actions. Recent opportunities to teach college courses and mentor developing scientists have introduced an exciting dimension to my future aspirations, the attainment of a fisheries professorship that will provide me the opportunity to continually participate in undergraduate and graduate student growth.

My increasing experience in aquatic systems has developed my research interests to focus broadly on aquatic ecology and its direct applications to conservation and management actions. The ultimate objective of my scientific pursuits is to address specific questions about aquatic systems while embracing the complex ecological context within which they occur. By doing so, I hope to provide applicable solutions to imminent great challenges to freshwater environments. Although much of my previous research has been applied in nature, my broad ecological interests have afforded the unique resolution of several directed questions (*e.g.*, Plains Topminnow management in Nebraska). By incorporating my interest in ecological principles and comprehensive training in applied fisheries management, I feel that I am particularly able to contribute practical solutions to the current threats facing aquatic ecosystems.

Given my research emphasis on ecological principles and comprehensive training in applied fisheries management, I feel I am particularly capable of developing a practical framework to prioritize aquatic species conservation alongside the Gulf Coast and Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative. I feel that the completion of my Ph.D. education coupled with my substantial research experience make me an excellent candidate for the available postdoctoral position.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Schumann", with a stylized, flowing script.

David A. Schumann, Ph.D. Candidate (May 2017)
Department of Natural Resources Management
South Dakota State University