



Steering Committee Conference Call Minutes  
7 August 2007

Participating Members:

Randy Gray	Erika Nowak	Brian Aucone
Polly Conrad	Laura Hines	

Unavailable Members:

Craig Ivanyi	Gad Perry	Kary Schlick
Rob Lovich		

(Action Items are in red text.)

- ❑ Randy introduced two new members to the Steering Committee: Brian Aucone the general curator with the Oklahoma City Zoo and Gad Perry from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX (Tom Jones, AZGFD, stepped down as a Steering Committee member to allow for Texas representation).
  - Oklahoma City Zoo donated \$2,000 to SW PARC.
- ❑ Randy previously emailed out PARC Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC) meeting minutes which were reviewed by each member (see August 2007 JNSC minutes).
  - A JNSC vote took place to determine the name for the 501c3 PARC entity that will handle funds for herp conservation. The official name will be “Friends of PARC.”
  - The Chytrid symposium will take place in November in Arizona.
- ❑ Task Force Updates
  - Habitat Management Guidelines (HMG), Randy;
    - Currently we have a draft from 2004 that Lori Woods, consultant, and herpetologists in Tucson put together for \$10,000. The Southwest is a huge area and the entire HMG could not be completed with only \$10,000, so it was recommended to focus on arid lands only. The resulting product does not include many ecosystems present in the SWPARC states and we need to move forward with the completion of the SW HMG. Matt Goode stepped down due to time constraints.
    - We may be able to get another \$10,000 to finish the SW HMG (NW PARC HMG received about \$20,000 to finish such a large area).
    - Ken Halama with University of CA, Riverside, has agreed to be the facilitator for the SW HMG.
    - Wendy Hodges or Lori Woods could possibly be contracted to finish the HMG.
    - The existing HMG needs more tables built in to include more species and photos representative of the entire SW PARC region and its landscapes. The final HMG should be presented more visually using bullet statements in boxes, rather than only textual.



- Brian recommended we borrow applicable portions of HMG sections from NE and SE HMGs, primarily for TX and OK. Randy suggested we could utilize NW HMG for CO regions as well.
- A NRCS net meeting took place to describe amphibian and reptile habitats and HMG training would fit nicely into this. **Randy will provide link for SC members to view net meeting materials.** Training sessions such as this will help prevent the HMG document from being buried and read less, or not at all. The training gets HMG conservation information distributed.
- Ernie is working on getting money for SW HMG and **Randy will continue to encourage Ernie to get funds.**
- SW PARC SC will need to review the HMG and an end product will hopefully be ready by end of the year 2008.
- Publicity/Educational Tools and Programs, Laura & Brian:
  - AZA is putting together a press kit release for year of the frog.
  - PARC has limited access to PR and Brian has access to the zoos PR crew, which he's getting to put together a generic press kit for SWPARC. Each state can plug in its area's and species' information. **Brian will talk with the educator at the OK Zoo.**
- Educational Handouts (Quick & Dirty Handouts), Erika:
  - Project leader, Dale Turner, has spoken with Roger Repp to get Tucson Herpetological Society's (THS) blessing for revising the "Living with Venomous Reptiles" brochure and was assured it's no problem. Dale also spoke with Dennis Caldwell, as the primary author and layout artist, and he's all in favor as well. The expansion of this brochure will include all SW PARC states.
  - There were two other Educational Handout projects mentioned, (1) Backyard Ponds, led by Trevor Hare and (2) Landscaping for Herps, led by Casey Burns. Trevor is interested in expanding upon a THS brochure, "Backyard Ponds" and will likely get permission to do so from THS. The brochure expansion would include a discussion on other vectors for infestations of non-native aquatic species (NNAS). Trevor would like to propose a SWPARC led strategic planning initiative dealing with NNAS and offered to lead such an initiative if the Steering Committee approves his request. **Polly will ask Trevor to provide the SC more details on this request (resources needed, end products expected, timeline, etc...) for the SC review next month.**
  - Dale has not yet followed up with Casey on the other project, Landscaping for Herps, but provided assurance that he fully intends to do so and will provide a schedule for Educational Handouts next month.
- Herp Regulations and Guidelines for Collection Impacts, Polly:



- Project leaders (Charlie Painter, Tom Giermakowski, Mike Sredl and myself) have been in contact to identify this project team's goals and provide a little bit of direction prior to addressing the entire team. We will first compile all of the SW state's herp collection regulations and we're anticipating an end product date of Jan'08, hopefully, but definitely prior to the next SW PARC meeting.
- The first task of compiling herp regulations will summarize the SW PARC states' regulations (highlights only) and will link to agencies' web pages for current detailed Revised Statutes or Administrative Codes regarding herp regulations. We'll also provide contact lists for all states and reporting requirements for permits. Federal regulations that might apply will also be included. We will illustrate a state by state account of all types of collection (scientific, commercial, hobbyist) and the conservation laws applicable in each state (including species lists and status).
- Currently discussing whether a textual format or a chart style comparison would work better for the end product. The end product will be a HTML and PDF document to be reviewed by the Steering committee and if approved, posted to the SW PARC website.
- The second task, developing guidelines for evaluating the impacts of collection on herp populations, will have more depth and take much longer. We do not anticipate an end product prior to the next SW PARC meeting, but this was known and announced at the last meeting in Albuquerque. A timeline for the second task will be developed upon completion of the first task.
- Inventory & Monitoring Training Development, Polly:
  - Project leaders Cynthia Tait and Esther Nelson have attempted to contact those who originally expressed interest at the meeting in Albuquerque for I&M Training Development and have received no replies. I sent out another request to facilitate responses.
  - Cynthia is looking for clarification as to what the exact mission of the I&M Training Development project team is. When Cynthia asked me, I told her that my vague recollection of the goals were to develop a training module specific to the southwestern ecosystems that explains how different types of I&M techniques can answer different types of questions about herps. Could perhaps, include monitoring recommendations for agency personnel, researchers, etc...
  - Cynthia contacted Ernie Garcia to see if the national I&M effort could offer direction. Ernie may have some seed \$ to help migrate the SE PARC training module to the SW. Most of the seed \$ is to cover the initial field reconnaissance. In general, putting on an IM



class costs about \$6k. In a region with limited species diversity (as apposed to the SE), 2 people can give the whole course. The SE module (4 days instruction time) has a syllabus, ppts, etc and could be used as a template for our region. The module would have to be adjusted for SW species and habitats, of course

- Initially Ernie would like to get ONE fairly general training course for the SW region, and then broaden the syllabus to accommodate other species and subregions. Previously he talked with Shelly Witt (USFS Continuing Ed lead) and she was supportive about putting on herp IM training as part of Continuing Ed. However, this idea was not taken further. Cynthia has a call in to Shelly and will see if we can use continuing ed as a start, and how that would work. Continuing Ed is just FS program, but perhaps other agencies and entities can be accommodated.
  - Polly asked for insights from the Steering Committee as to what we would like to see from a SW PARC I&M Training. Nothing was added to what is above.
- Quarterly Reports will be sent out every three months to all SW PARC meeting attendees and those who have been added to the SW PARC contacts list. **Polly will develop email list from meeting participants and those asked to be added. Erika will provide additional email addresses to Polly. Brian will ask his IT contact about importing excel contacts into outlook.**
  - A paragraph reporting progress for each task team will be included along with any other announcements and progress updates.
  - This will provide opportunity for others to join in SW PARC efforts.
  - A link to the SC meeting minutes on the SW PARC website will be provided in the quarterly reports.
    - Polly asked if communication with Tom Giermakowski has been established and continued for the modification and continuation of the SW PARC website. Is Tom still willing to do this? **Randy will contact Tom regarding the SW PARC website modifications, updates and posting minutes and quarterly reports.**
- 2008 Meeting
  - Travis LaDuc has agreed to be the local coordinator for the '08 SW PARC meeting if it's in Austin, TX
  - Craig and Randy are contacting Duane Schlitter to see if TX PWD is interested in hosting.
  - **Gad Perry will be the lead for the 2008 Meeting Planning Committee and is putting together the committee members and determining date and location.**
  - The Las Vegas Springs Preserve was dropped as a possibility because their event coordination staff has yet to respond to initial information requests.
- PARC General Brochure Review



- Pg 1 update PARC logo
- Pg 2 reduce the size of the wetland/cattail picture and add a habitat picture illustrating a SW habitat. **Brian will contact photographer friend to obtain pictures.**
- Pg 4 dump the brown snake picture and replace with an **Arizona mountain kingsnake picture (Polly will provide)**
- Pg 5 add, “riparian areas” after wetlands to include SW habitats.
- Pg 7 dump frog pic and add a SW lizard pic **(Brian will obtain picture)**
- Pg 8 update PARC logo and add BLM as a sponsor
- **Polly and Brian will communicate to determine which pictures will be used. SC will review all pics prior to being sent to Ernie and Priya. Brian and Polly will send final pictures to Ernie and Priya.**
- Randy will send brochure edits out to SC for review and subsequently forward to Ernie and Priya.
- THS Sonoran Herp Research Symposium will have its meeting April 11-13, 2008 in Tucson, AZ. THS has asked SW PARC to sponsor the meeting and has requested \$500.
  - While we extremely appreciate all of the help THS has provided SW PARC, the SC is currently unable to commit to a monetary value at this point, as we’re still closing out book keeping with UNM from our past meeting. **Randy will call Jill Z (?) to report the SC decision.**
    - Tom will meet with UNM events staff to go over the bills from the Albuquerque meeting to ensure we were charged appropriately and the bill is paid in full
  - This issue will be revisited in January 2008 when we have a better idea of what funds we’re able to contribute.
  - We may want a table at the THS meeting to advertise for our upcoming 2008 meeting in Austin.
- Next SW PARC SC Meeting will be 9 September 2007.
  - **Please notify Randy and Craig if you cannot attend or if you have agenda items.**
  - **Randy, Kary, Polly, Erika, Laura, Rob will have Task Force updates.**