



Meeting: National Steering Committee Meeting

Date: September 18, 1999

Location: Killington, Vermont

Proceedings

I) Self-Introductions of Interim Steering Committee Chairs and Attendees

II) **PARC** Overview for Newcomers-

Whit Gibbons, SREL, gave a brief overview on **PARC**, the organization meeting, and current goals and objectives;

III) What is **PARC**/What **PARC** is not-

Peter Stangel, NFWF, discussed the role of **PARC**

PARC is meant to be an umbrella under which all other groups dedicated to herpetofauna conservation can collaborate. **PARC** is not a political entity and does not set policy or take political positions. The purpose of **PARC** is to facilitate cooperation and communication, not to take positions or stands on herp conservation issues;

IV) Use of the **PARC** name and logo, sanctioning of **PARC** entities

The steering committee discussed the use of the **PARC** name and logo. Marshall Meyers will investigate the need for logo and acronym protection. Peter Stangel will investigate how Partners in Flight has dealt with these issues.

In addition, the steering committee discussed the sanctioning of **PARC** entities (such as working groups.) The steering committee recommended that entities wishing to use the **PARC** name and logo with their programs should submit a mission statement and list of contacts to the steering committee.

V) Update on **PARC** workshop proceedings and the **PARC** Brochure

The Savannah River Ecology Laboratory is working to complete these two publications. Approximately 1000 copies of the proceedings and 5,000 copies of the brochure will be printed. The proceedings will go to the printer in October, with a Thanksgiving completion date for both publications. The proceedings will also be available on the website. Drafts of both publications were distributed to the committee for their comments. All comments were due to Whit Gibbons by Monday, October 4, 1999. Contact Katie Distler, NFWF (404-679-7121; distler@nfwf.org), if your agency/organization would like to contribute financially to the production of these publications.

VI) **PARC** Accomplishments to date

Under the direction of SREL, Erin Clark, the FWS intern for **PARC**, is finishing a summary of state agency management plans and other activities involving herps in the United States. Erin will work with Bruce Taubert, AZ Game and Fish, to make sure that all state efforts are included. When completed, this information will be available through the **PARC** website.

Whit Gibbons, SREL, suggested that authors highlight **PARC** in all publications, as a way to increase the visibility of the program. Whit cited two recent magazine articles where he had added a footnote that stated that his article supported the **PARC** effort to promote education about reptiles and amphibians.

The Savannah River Ecology Laboratory has created "SPARC"- Students for Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation. The lab is educating students about **PARC** and reptile and amphibian conservation. Contact David Scott, SREL, for more information about this program.

NFWF/Disney Foundation Funding for **PARC** Priority Projects- The Walt Disney Foundation and the NFWF currently have \$30,000 available to help fund priority **PARC** projects. The Foundation is currently accepting preproposals (one to two page project summary). Projects should address priority actions identified at the **PARC** workshop or through the regional/technical working groups. A letter of working group support will be required with the submission of the full proposal. Contact Katie Distler, NFWF, with any questions.

VII) PARC Needs

The steering committee recommended a **PARC** annual or semi-annual report to synthesize all key activities. The report would be available on the web. The report would tie in to annual meetings at the IAFWA and North American Wildlife conferences.

The **PARC** website is currently a very high priority for **PARC**. **PARC** participants are relying on the website for updates on **PARC**, meeting notifications, etc. In addition, the **PARC** website is helping to educate the public about **PARC**. Currently, SREL is managing the website on a volunteer basis, but cannot continue without financial support for both the maintenance of the website and fulfillment of all **PARC** requests/correspondence. Funding for this need is a priority. Please contact Katie Distler, NFWF, or Whit Gibbons, SREL if your agency/organization is willing to contribute financially to this priority. *A proposal and budget has been prepared, and will be distributed shortly.*

VIII) Geographic/Taxonomic Focus of PARC

The steering committee discussed the geographical and taxonomic limits of **PARC**. **PARC** was initially developed with a national, not international focus. Several steering committee members expressed their interest in keeping **PARC** focused on the United States, at least initially. Partners in Flight and the Black Bear Conservation programs were highlighted as examples of keeping a more defined focus in the initial stages of a program. In addition, it was noted that state support would be limited to national issues.

It was recommended that **PARC** be national in scope, and would focus only on international activities that directly affected the conservation of native species. It was suggested that **PARC's** international involvement should be limited and that **PARC** should work to highlight national success stories on an international level.

*A purpose statement is currently being drafted. The statement will be circulated to the steering committee members, and then to the entire **PARC** group via email.*

IX) Reports from Working Groups

Northwest Working Group- Jeff Krupka, USFWS, (OR, WA, ID, MT, WY, N. CA, AK, British Columbia) Jeff has been working to spread the **PARC** word in the Northwest by accumulating a mailing list of all interested parties and starting a discussion of the top five issues for herps in the Northwest. So far, he

has received: habitat loss and alteration, lack of knowledge/expertise, introduced species, and fish stocking as high priority issues.

Policy, Regulation, and Trade Working Group- Bruce Taubert and Alison Haskell

The PRT Working Group has been moving forward on the five priority tasks developed at the Atlanta meeting. 1) Review existing state and federal regulations- Bruce Taubert, Marshall Meyers; 2) Develop list of species of special concern for the PRT Working Group- Earl Possardt, FWS, and Paul Moler; 3) Draft a sustainable use policy for **PARC**- Alan Salzberg and Perron Ross; 4) Draft state guidelines for animal welfare- Marshall Meyers, Alison Haskell, Joe Franke; 5) Develop a website link on invasive species- Jeff Lovich, USGS

The PRT Working Group has planned their first meeting for November 2 and 3 on Merrit Island National Wildlife Refuge in Florida ([Meeting announcement and agenda](#)). Contact [Alison Haskell](#) or [Bruce Taubert](#) for more information.

Research Working Group- A report was read from Laura Herbeck.

Henry Mushinsky, Cindy Carey, and Laura are organizing a one-day **PARC** symposium to be held at the joint meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, Herpetologists' League and Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles in La Paz, Mexico. In addition, they are discussing plans for a **PARC** Conference on the status, management, and current research on amphibians and reptiles. This conference could help address the research and management needs identified by members of **PARC**. Alan Savitsky and Chuck Peterson have begun to explore the possibility of creating a unified database for the distributions of amphibians and reptiles in North America. In addition, the Research Working group has established a **PARC** research email list serve to facilitate communication among **PARC** research working group participants.

The Northeast Working Group- Alison Haskell

The NE Working Group has scheduled a meeting for the end of September.

X) Review of Working Group Structure

The steering committee discussed the current working group structure. Peter Stangel, Katie Distler (NFWF), and Whit Gibbons have drafted a document that details what it means to be a working group, and the recommended organizational structure for **PARC**. *This will be emailed shortly to entire group and posted on the **PARC** website.*

XI) PARC Outreach to User Groups

Whit Gibbons, SREL, has written an article entitled "What is **PARC**" to send out to all the herp newsletters that he receives. Whit will forward this article the steering committee so that we can all send this out to our contacts for publication in user group newsletters and magazines.

XII) Update on CARA Status- Duane Shroufe, AZ Game and Fish

CARA, Conservation and Reinvestment Act, has the potential to provide millions of dollars from offshore drilling funding for non-game species conservation in the United States. CARA is close to mark-up. **PARC** priorities could possible receive strong attention from the state agencies. In addition, it is critical to have strong state agency representation in **PARC** working groups

XIII) Adjourn. The next meeting of the joint steering committee will occur at the North American Wildlife Conference, March 24-28, in Chicago, Illinois. Meeting announcements will be posted on the website.

In Attendance:

Peter Stangel, Katie Distler--NFWF

Whit Gibbons-- Savannah River Ecology Laboratory

Anders Rhodin-- Chelonian Research Foundation

Michael Lannoo-- Indiana University, DAPTF

Jim Sweeney-- Champion International Corporation

Jimmy Bullock-- International Paper

John Frampton-- South Carolina DNR

Tony Melchior-- Weyerhaeuser Company

Chuck Pils-- Association of Midwest Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Amy Silvano-- National Military Foundation Association, Herpetological Working Group

Geoff Hammerson-- The Nature Conservancy

Jeff Krukpa-- USFWS

Bob Ford-- The Nature Conservancy, Partners in Flight (SE Rep)

Alison Haskell-- USFWS

Duane Shroufe-- Arizona Game and Fish Department

Bruce Taubert-- Arizona Game and Fish Department

Marshall Meyers-- Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council