



NEPARC 2004: Annual Meeting Minutes

Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, Mass.

August 18th & 19, 2004

Wednesday, August 18th, 2004

Welcome and Introductions from NEPARC Co-chairs, Linda Weir, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center & Stafford Madison, New England EPA

- Agenda overview
- Introductions around the room

PARC: 5 Years and Counting, Luke Fedewa, PARC State Coordinator

- PARC is a working partnership
- Differences with other conservation organizations
 - o Focus on amphibian & reptile species
 - o Includes both threatened and common species
- What can PARC Do?
 - o Work in partnership with NGO, State, Landowners, Grant agencies
 - o Provide coordination between organizations
 - o Provide communication networks to avoid duplicating effort, replicate successful projects, promote herpetology conservation
 - o Facilitation: access to pros, extensive contacts, regional and state meetings, collaborative conservation
 - o Provide Information on: Guidelines, protocols, policy recommendations with brochures, posters
- What is PARC doing now?
 - o Website revision
 - o New sections: herp news, researchers, consultants, new ed content, regional webpages: Support from EPA FWS, USGS, IAFWA, PARC state agencies
 - o Web education and outreach: e.g. NC and AZ
 - o Educational handouts: Cottonmouth, Indigo snake, Wetlands, etc
 - o Other publications in: Bioscience, Waterfowl, Guide to the snakes of NC.
 - o PARC newsletters
 - o PARC interns; graduate research, conservation and research
 - o PARC Guidelines: Habitat management guidelines for Amphibian and Reptiles for each region
- Coordinators
 - o 2 national coordinators:
 - Luke Fedewa, PARC States Coordinator
 - Eric Raffini, PARC Federal Coordinator
- What is NE PARC working on now?
 - o NE Habitat Management Guidelines (HMG)
 - o Annual meetings
 - o Adult education: "Herp for dummies" (Title to be changed)
 - o Risk assessment (also called Species matrix)



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Positions & Roles of National PARC Coordinators, *Eric Raffini, PARC Federal Coordinator*

- National meeting: Biannual Fall and Spring, next up: Atlantic City in September
- Funding of positions through collaboration of several federal sources
- Based in DC
- Centralized website for all PARC efforts
- Collaborations w/ FWS, NRCS, other agencies
- Using partnerships to apply for grants
- Establishing Habitat Management Guidelines and position statements on more difficult issues: pesticides, etc
- Outreach to private landowners
- Outreach to corporate landholders for improved land management
- Floating ideas of Non-profit 503c3, pros and cons...but not a possibility right now because will not be disinterested party
- Modeled after Partners in Flights
- What can National PARC do to help solve problems; taking any comments and suggestions
- How can PARC make a stand/position on certain issues when some funding sources come from the companies that are at core of problems/issues?
 - o Hard issue to combat
 - o White papers and position statements is ideal/necessary in the future
- Lots of federal agencies are also doing things to help PARC mission
 - o EPA: economic benefits to wetlands info for developers, case studies
 - o USGS: Lots of federal documents supporting herp habitat conservation
- How are HMG being distributed to developers, etc?
 - o Provided to funding sources
 - o SE PARC has working group to identify target audiences for distribution for draft comments
 - o Want to get as much feedback on these drafts as possible: Refuge managers, developers, NGOs, federal governments, etc....

Action Item Updates

Risk Assessment Project, Priya Nanjappa, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

- Initiated 5 yrs ago, table of species and the biological issues that would effect vulnerability
- Help drive research efforts in the NE
- Have good knowledge base
- What can we do to show progress: Product? Publication?
 - o Putting species matrix on website
 - o IUCN also has a document that has species account and distribution maps...overlaps what NEPARC has



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- Decided to go in diff direction...what can we do now with what we know
- Chris Raithel will go into more detail with this

Herp Education, Stafford Madison

- Landowners Guide to Appreciating Amphibians and Reptiles: formerly "Herp for Dummies"
- Need general outreach info on herp natural history and conservation for private landowners and laypeople
- Herps 101: What are herps, why are they interesting, why should we care?
- Threats, current regulations, what you do to help
- Written w/ landowners in mind but still applicable to others.
- Great way of introducing conservation and HMGs to landowners
- Overview of Current Assignments: Project Coordinator: Stafford Madison, Editing Assistance: Linda Weir

Comments: Should also include issues on problems with exotic species (Tom Tying)

Frog Quiz & NEPARC Listserve, Linda Weir

- Join NE PARC listserve: currently 128 members on list
- Frog quiz is USGS online website to allow interested people to practice frog calls
 - State based, with sound files of all frogs in the state
 - Will debut in Winter in time for next spring calling season
 - Anyone interested in being a BETA tester? Current beta website needs help testing and looking for problems & quirks
 - Need donations for recordings of frogs

Herp Regulations and Brief State Overviews, Al Breisch, NY Department of Environmental Conservation

- Review and overview of regulation changes
- Sent out questionnaires to states : no response from DE, VA, MA, VT
- CT: revised endangers species list, no new herps
- ME: changes law related to commercial harvest of snapping turtles
- Not all leg change positive: NJ fast track legislation reduces protection of vernal pools
- NY: legislation passed that would require permit to keep any herp species as pets, governor has not yet signed into law
- WV: Talk to commissioner to get legislation for herp regulations to cover endangered species
- Court Decision: negative CT....Town of Wilton Inlands Wetland act...only to protect physical characteristics of wetlands not animals
- Increase penalties to help with illegal taking of Herps and other wildlife
- NJ legislation makes it easier to fill vernal pools
- NJ: 3 cases of illegal possession of Timber rattlers
- NY: 2 cases of illegal killings of rattlers \$1000 fine possible but judges reduce fine, one guy killed and ate rattle snake and got \$50 fine



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- VT seizure of illegal turtles
- ME purchase 100 acres of land for Spotted and blandings
- MD several purchases plus easements to protect bog turtle sites
- NH Merrimack River and great Bay land to help benefit turtles
- NY some land purchases for bog turtle sites by land trusts and The Nature Conservancy

Comments: Red-eared sliders being sold? What are some solutions? Don't know.

Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibian and Reptiles of Northeastern United States, Joe Mitchell, University of Richmond & Al Breisch, NY DEC

- Background: Workshop, Chicago 2001, established species list, matrix of species and habitats and list of guidelines to consider
 - o Midwestern completed HMG
 - o SE is in review stage
 - o NE in final form, with publication anticipate early next year
 - o SW and NW will follow
 - o Need similarity in appearance for framework and continuity
 - o Lots of revision in the past 5 years and lots of discussion on wording
 - o MW is now out of print: there is one copy for NRCS office in county
 - o Differences in scales, scope and educational level...this publication is more for professionals
- Similarity in language for all regions of HMG
- How many and what levels of habitats to break things into was decided on in Chicago Meeting
- Can download individual habitat without downloading all
- Sections include:
 - o How to use the guidelines: Maximizing compatibility (for both herps and habitat) and Ideals (solely for herps)
 - o Natural history of herps; differences in endothermy vs. ectothermy and how these characteristics dictate needs in habitats for species
 - o Conservation challenges (old terminology: threats)
 - Roads, pollution, exploitation, etc...what, why, how?
 - Laws, awareness, fire suppression, invasive species, subsidized predators
 - Background
 - Matrixes on how they work
 - o List of important habitats for herps: intro, characteristics of species, management recommendations for each habitats for herp species; boxes with case studies or examples
 - Seasonal wetlands
 - Permanent wetlands
 - Small streams, springs, seepages
 - Rivers
 - Estuarine and marine
 - Harwood forest
 - Grasslands/old fields



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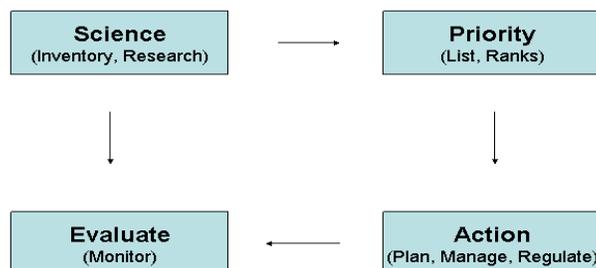
- Rock outcrops/talus
- Caves and karst systems
- Agricultural lands
- Urban and suburban systems
- Adaptive management plans
- NEED PHOTOS: vernal pool examples, road rut puddles, Wood Frog, Spotted Salamander, Marbled Salamanders, Gray Treefrog, egg masses, degraded or polluted vernal pool dry vernal pools. Etc....
 - Please sign up to send in pictures for the document (slides or digital photos @ 600dpi) of bad management practices for habitats. Also need information for captions: location and message to get across.
- MATRIX: Are according to species level, 163 species in Matrix
 - 13 NE states, checklist prepared by each state
 - Current, extirpated, species Pine Snake in MD? Rattlesnake in ME?
 - Washington D.C. wanted to be listed separately
- Printed and layout by NY DCP.
- Conservation Options
 - Federal Level conservation programs
- Recommended Readings: Need to add and proofread documents, add grey literature and older publications
- Organizations and state level work

Comment: How to get surveys done to figure out what is possible on land and how to determine if they are actually there. FOCUS is on Habitat and not Species!

Comment: New Book: Courting the Wild...need stories of how herps inspired your life

Risk Assessment Projects: Improving Flexibility and Usability, *Chris Raithel, Rhode Island Division of Fish and Wildlife*

- Adaptive Management Overview:





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- Is it possible to skip from Science to Action without the intermediary steps? Yes.
- Want to see if can make reasonable extrapolations from one species to other species.
- Can use to make well thought out conservation methods based on this information
- Recommendations for Risk Assessment Matrix should also be in format that can be sorted
- Determining impacts of negative features (i.e. roads)- For example: In literature roads impacted 2km of surrounding land...can layer road buffers with current open space areas to determine possible areas of current and future concerns
- Efforts should focus more on landscape issue, not on individual species, but politics will most likely aim to conserve cute & cuddly species
- Also need to determine ownership of areas that may be potential threats to habitat and species and target those areas for possible conservation programs.
- Need information on non-public open space
- Problem locations
 - o Target land across road
 - o Mitigate roads
 - o Enhance habitat in preserve
- Other options
 - o Fine tuning things, habitat is not always indicative of vegetation...should not limit ourselves to only certain areas...think possible future habitat possibilities
- Conclusions
 - o Other issues are secondary to scale
 - o Die is already cast...not an issue of SLOSS (Single Large or Several Small) land preserve design
 - o Landscape focus will save the most for the longest
 - o Choices subjective = flexible, also defensible
 - o Not dependent of inventory...is good but not completely necessary
 - o Monitor preserve spatial integrity...hard to continually monitor each individual species
 - o Will take people, not publications. Go to town hall meetings and deliver information, walk through available information
 - o Recommendation: PARC should not
 - Promote firm thresholds for preserve size or population viability
 - Rank species to degree of endangerment in region or worse use such list to prioritize funding BOTH LIMIT PEOPLES involvement

Comments:

- Doesn't address isolated pockets of very rare things and inventories are still necessary for small things that will not get picked up in these large scale models
 - o TNC: fine filter vs. coarse filter....this will help to establish areas of concern and then point out areas in need of fine filters..?
- HMGs can be used/incorporated to use in these landscape management scales



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- Good to not just focus on herp, because it may be in conflict with other management for other species.
- Good to help in guiding new development based on landscape...more peripheral and less roads...
 - o Needs both approaches; large scale approach incorporated into the species level approach
- Need regulations for planners, need to start from the planning process and not the regulatory process and changes
- Model Regulations...not as adopting as a zoning overlay...do it more like an amendment
 - o Would rather use the terminology of using this landscape modeling as an APPROACH...not regulation or planning...etc....
- Training and Workshop for habitat management guidelines

Announcement, Robin Jung, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

- EPA and USGS contributed funds to write Mid-Atlantic Vernal Pools Document
- Leslie Brown is spearheading it as graduate research project (email: lbrown@umd.edu)
- Need reviewers for document, please sign up

Group Discussion on Tomorrow's Breakout Topics: Stafford Madison

- Suggestion for project ideas and areas of discussion for tomorrow.
 - o How can NEPARC aid in dissemination of HMG...working @ local level
 - o Possible Species Matrix Format...identifying major research holes and disseminating to research groups and universities
 - o Expanding on what Chris said and how we can use landscape scale approach to make management decisions...connecting these two ideas
 - o Information on Green Forestry Groups on herps and herp conservation
 - o Herp educational product on Powerpoint for teachers/instructors
 - o Possible ideas tomorrow after presentations tonight and tomorrow a.m.
 - o Model land use guidelines for local municipalities
 - o Also have management guidelines for other species and perhaps compile, review and see what does not complement; determine conflicts in herp HMG and other HMG (different species management)
 - Conflicts in recreational use (ATVs) with habitat management guidelines.
 - o Gaps in data matrix; data that we are still sitting on and how to get/use/publish this data
- Tomorrow will provide instructions for breakout sessions

Meeting adjourned for day



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Banquet Dinner and Evening Presentations - at Old Forge Restaurant

- Keynote Presentation: **“Imaginary Wetlands, Mock Turtles, and Chocolate Frogs: Whither the Northeast’s Herps and Their Habitats?”** By, *Betsy Colburn, Harvard Forest, Harvard University*
- Encore Presentation: **“Roger Cognant: Herpetologist, Educator, Mentor”** By, *Joe Mitchell, Richmond University*

Thursday, August 19th, 2004

Introduction of Morning Presentation, *Linda Weir*

Sustainable Forestry Initiative: Herp Conservation and Timber Harvesting, *Michael Thompson, Woodlot Alternatives*

- Consulting Company in Maine with broad range of work with herp species
- Role of Forest Certification in Reptile and Amphibian Conservation
- What is Forest Certification?
 - o Voluntary program to meet standards for sustainable forest management (landowner, larger parcels, etc....encompasses all)
 - Timber sustainability
 - Ecosystem sustainability
 - Socio-economic sustainability
- Applied across the country and the world
- Primary certification programs
 - o Forest Stewardship council (FSC)
 - International Non-profit with standards developed by diverse stakeholder group
 - o AF&PA Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)
 - Industry based system with evolving standards
 - o American Tree Farm System (Tree Farm)
 - Small woodlot focus with evolving standards
 - Up to 10,000acres, focus on small family plots of land
- How does it work?
 - o Objective standards are developed and go through periods
 - o 3rd party audits by accredited certifiers
 - o Publication of public summary of audit findings
- Conservation of Biological Diversity
 - o All programs require conservation of biological diversity and protection of Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive (TES) species
 - o Landscape level focus: landscape analysis and inventory



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- Stand level focus: Screening at stand level
- Relationships to conservation of Herps
 - Landscape level inventories: partnership with Heritage Programs
 - Partnerships with training programs, for foresters, etc
 - Conservation of vernal pools and other habitat features at the stand level
 - Wintering areas, vernal pools, etc...
 - Can find on the ground or on aerial maps
 - Protection of Rare, TES species
- What is expected of landowners
 - Conduct or sponsor credible inventories and research on important habitat features for rare, TES species
 - Landowners are expected to cooperate with state and federal agencies
 - Follow published conservation guidelines where they exist
 - Training for foresters
- Getting Involved
 - Review and comment on standards
 - Meet with landowners regarding conservation goals and objectives
 - Determining gaps in information and help
 - Meet with certifiers and make them aware of conservation goals and management guidelines
 - Is there something that we can develop as guidelines for management of herps on these lands?
 - Conduct inventories for landowners
 - Conduct training programs for landowners
 - Serve on Audit teams
- Additional information
 - Certification Program websites
 - Accredited certifier websites
 - Contact certified companies
 - Contact woodlot Alternatives

Michael Thompson, Woodlot Alternatives
30 Park Drive
Topsham, ME 04086
Phone: (207) 729-1199
Email: mthompson@woodlotalt.com

GROUP DISCUSSION

Comment: How to educate auditors for these smaller tree farm lots, cost effectiveness for smaller landowners?

- Hard, but can work through tree farm organization
- SFI, certifies larger wood farm companies but will also get wood from smaller lots
- County foresters could help with perhaps getting a group certification to help minimize cost



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Question: Are we using guidelines in Maine?

- Working on them to help develop and disseminate
- Once develop need to have training program

Question: Any experience working with woodland streams...setbacks?

- Will look at compliance
- Buffers for certain species, e.g. spring salamanders
- Main focus on vernal pools and looking at woodland streams as well
- Very small portion of the woods are seen by foresters...mostly by loggers.

Question: Do you educate foresters through American forestry societies?

- Not much...but should
- Something for PARC to think about
- Good way to get industry as a whole in a room...collective audience

Question: Spring Salamanders, what is being done?

- Landowner initiative has been good. Some have 300m buffers at headwater stream.
- Have annual audits to make sure continuing efforts

Question: Guidelines that have not worked?

- No real quantitative data on specifics of things that have fallen through
- Have seen positive effects though...buffers around vernal pools, rare plants, initiative by the foresters
- SFC have monitoring programs that they are working with

Question: Working with colleges? Forestry programs?

- Trying...certifying Yale school of forestry
- Bob Seymour in Maine, working in collaboration and help to teach holistic approach to forestry practices, not just looking at prices and harvesting practices

Comment:

- UNH: there are a lot of students that are aware of these things. Foresters are usually the ones that are doing the main on the ground management
- Yes, but it is also dependent on region of the country...varying ideas, tradition, and drives...money vs. conservation

Question: Is SFI international?

- Started in United States, has expanded to Canada
- Canada has a more extensive certification program, going through review right now.
- With more demand for certified woods, Home Depot is starting to feel the demand
- How much more is being paid.....\$.10 - \$2.00 an acre to certify the wood. People have now started to pay premiums in small market for certified wood and also pulp



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products. Need to make these products more readily available and want to support sustainable resources

Question: Are there other companies that should target interested in certification?

- Price premiums for highly visible things, flooring, shelves, etc
- IKEA, LOWES, etc...
- European furniture places have also been very receptive to certification program

Question: Is there a plan for managing old growth forest

- Issues: what are standards...what is definition of true old growth?
- Part of cert is to have % of forest that is old growth

Question: Problems with long-term in certification program

- Need to have long-term commitment for the certification program
- not just for turnover Will also look at buying and selling background and plan

Question: Tax abatement programs? Have these started becoming more rigorous and incorporate green forestry certification in tax abatements?

- Seems to be a great tie in
- Tree Growth tax laws
- Montana, Maine, have initiatives to help landowners with tax breaks...some enough to help offset cost of certification

Breakout sessions, Linda Weir

- Decide what topics interested in pursuing for breakout topics
- BRAINSTORMING session
- Each breakout session needs recorder, moderator and person that will report back to group with a list of action items

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Group A: Risk Assessment:

- Species matrix format
- Develop examples using species matrix
- ID research gaps in species matrix for recruiting grad students, others to do work
- Ideas on how to disseminate data that has yet to be published

Group B: Habitat Management Guidelines

- HMG Dissemination and Implementation
- Info for green forestry groups on herps and herp conservation

Group C: Model Land Use Guidelines for local municipalities



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Discussion session: Interaction of National PARC coordinators & NEPARC organization, *Luke Fedewa and Eric Raffini*

- Infrastructure to support core efforts of Regional PARC groups
- Want to help in putting together products of PARC
- Helping to coordinate efforts for the HMG, funding sources and filling in holes for additional funding; providing logistical support
- Supporting initiative for funding for publications...minimize distributional errors.
- Website development and resolving issues, contact list, links.
- Want to create dialog for needs

Comments: Publications for guidelines with road development and solutions

- Perhaps compile list of nationwide solutions and success stories of mitigation projects.
- Whit Gibbons and SREL work with road issues on herps
- Publication called "Critter Crossing" projects dealing with herp crossing
- PARC wants to create partnerships in joint publications for these action items

Eric: PARC roadshow, materials and increasing membership, going to conferences to promote mission of PARC

Question: "Please don't release into the wild" pamphlet, what are avenues of distribution?

Contact Luke. Will fill request for info and set up/ build up resources libraries

- Currently developing list of new partners and people to join PARC
- Project certifying public lands and getting orgs (federal, etc?) to use our HMG

Updates/Overview of breakout sessions

Group A: Risk Assessment: Species Matrix, *Robin Jung*

- Want to get species matrix tables up on the Web
- Clean up Bibliography for the tables: get citations, numbered, and have it be similar
- Reformat table to be able to print out only a particular species, genus, other specific taxonomic level
- Included sections: How to use tables, field descriptions, metadata, list of acronyms
- NOTE: On going project that will be updated on a annual/biannual basis; not assigning one individual to do this, will do it on a 2-yr basis with whoever is involved with PARC at the time
- Review tables and bibliography before being posted
- Case studies and how to use template for the future
- Want to also mention HMG in website as a compliment to these tables
- Different scales for the HMG local/private, municipalities, and state level and regional wide
- Gap in knowledge in regional information on species



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- Will assign people to look for gaps in species knowledge and gaps in info in specific research areas. (See Action Item Assignment Below)

Group B: Habitat Management Guideline: Dissemination and Implementation, *Scott Smith, Maryland Department of Natural Resources & Holly Niederriter, Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife*

- Breakout group covered 3 topics (Dissemination, Implementation, Forestry Certification and using HMG) covered in more detail below

Dissemination

- Coordinate workshops on state level: train the trainer
- Get student involvement with workshops & overall dissemination (primarily college students; secondly high school students)
- County extensive cooperatives
- NRCS county cooperatives
- Get in contact with Foresters: SAF certification → continuing education credits
- Wildlife Society State Chapters
- Fisheries Societies, State Chapters
- Town Conservation Commissions
- Land Trust
- University Nature Preserves
- Environmental Education Centers, other non-profits
- Wetland & Soil Scientist, Professional societies
- Watershed Associations
- Identify areas within your state for field trips as part of workshop
- Golf Course certification organization (Audubon)
- Agricultural Community
- State Parks: programs, handouts and displays for visitors and staff
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), design professional certification (More info on LEED: http://www.usgbc.org/leed/leed_main.asp)
- State Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway
- Row Planners
- University Curriculum, need new courses in Biodiversity Conservation
- Reservoir Lands (Local municipalities to state to federal)
- National and State Laboratories: i.e. Brook Haven
- Garden Clubs, landscapers
- Scout Groups, 4-H, Future Farmers of America
- Forest Fire Agencies
- Native American Reservation Systems

Implementation

- Workshops



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- Regulatory requirements as expected biological management plans vs. voluntary compliance
- Find and/or establish demonstration slides
- Collaborate with professors and college courses → extra credit stuff
- Work with various certification programs
- Make sure HMGs are online and downloadable
- State implementation working groups
- Establish HMG NE PARC working group with state representatives from all 13 states
- Annual meeting presentations → get federal partners involved (DOD, NPS, etc.)
- Identify opportunities for audiences
- Work with State DOT, Guidelines for roads and herps
- Compile projects that have mitigation success stories
- Support research on common species
- Target museum organizations
- Identify networks of technical support → list of experts with contacts

Forestry Certification and using HMG

- List of qualified contacts and trainers
- Need to develop out own certification standards (via small NE PARC working group)
 - o Review existing standards, make recommendations to change(?) their standards to improve for herps
 - o How do we do this? Based on our HMGs?
 - SFI- Just G1/G2 (federally listed)
 - FSC- includes S1-S3 (state listed)
 - Should we make recommendations more habitat based? (still need to include species based recommendations)
- Need for species inventories?
 - o Currently, part of the certification process is to work with state heritage programs
 - Heritage maybe able to do inventory for free for smaller landowners
 - There are concerns that rare species will be overlooked if species surveys are not done
 - Landowner may not want Heritage on property, prefer consultant; who is to pay for the consultant?
 - o Certified lumber not well known concept
 - o Reach out to states (forestry): have permitting, BMPs and certifications
 - o Reach out to private foresters: forestry publications, magazines, forestry associations, and newsletters
 - o Take up Mike Thompson's (Woodlot Alternatives) offer to be conduit
- Task 1: Develop & improve standards
 - o Need to establish NE PARC working group
 - o Review existing standards
 - o Make recommendations to improve standards for herps



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- Have recommended improvements reviewed by rest of NE PARC and people with forestry backgrounds and contacts
- Task 2: Get certifiers to accept these standards
- Task 3: Outreach and Implementation
 - Need someone to represent NE PARC in each state who knows the process and groups
 - Courses with cooperative extensions (landowners can go to these courses); include newsletters and website (?)

Group C: Model Landuse Guidelines, Chris Raithel

- Not sure that NEPARC is ready to tackle this project at this point
- Need to do some more homework on this issue to be able to present a more cogent set of recommendations
 - Look at language used at environmental law foundations
 - NJ: implementation and language?
- Need to identify appropriate middle level associations
- Offer initiatives
- Possibly modify HMGs to include Model Land Use guidelines
- Web links to technical working groups
- Interesting evening talk on effects of global warming and sea level rise prediction of changes to herps

Assign Action Items – Tasks and Assignments

Group A: Risk Assessment: Species Matrix

- Reformatting and posting Risk Assessment Matrix Tables on Web-Linda Weir, Priya Nanjappa, Robin Jung
- Numbering system for Bibliography-Chris Raithel
- Identifying gaps in data
 - Mike Merhant-turtles
 - Jennifer Wykle- Salamander
 - Marcy Engleman- Squamata
 - Chris Raithel- Anurans
- Introduction and how to use section, review and post (Robin Jung, Chris Raithel, Priya Nanjappa)
- Reviewers for Species Matrix Working Group – will announce on listserve
 - Double check Species Matrix and HMG habitat types to species

Group B: Habitat Management Guideline: Dissemination and Implementation

- Develop working group for HMG dissemination and implementation (Al Briesch, Luke Fedewa, Hank Gruner)
 - Need to flush out list with contacts of people to send information to
 - Developing model framework for workshop how this may work
 - ID network of technical support for users of HMG to contact for resources



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- ID opportunities for audiences (annual, national meetings, and state meetings)-
Stafford Madison
 - o Develop canned planned powerpoint for target audiences
- Forestry Group
 - o Create small working group for Green Forestry Practices (Scott Smith, Bob Brooks, Holly Niederriter, Mary Beth Kolozsvary, Steve Naijar)
 - Review current standards and develop recommended standards
 - Develop partnerships w/ forestry
 - Other 2 tasks have been tabled
 - o Holly- Contact forestry school find out if Society of Forestry

Group C: Model Landuse Guidelines

- Summarize existing models, John Regosin & Chris Raithel
- ID smart growth groups and other potential partners; making more links to websites-
Liz Johnson
- Review EPA (1800 wetlands) resource list to access if good place to point HMG
users- Stafford Madison

Meeting Minutes: minutes taken during meeting will be typed, review and posted on the website (Linh Phu & Linda Weir)

NEPARC Business

- Nomination of new Co-chair: Scott Smith elected as co-chair
- New meeting location: Holly Niederriter will be meeting host. Location will be somewhere in Delaware. Working on details
- Any nominations for the following year: somewhere in PA, west central?
- Meeting structure: 2 days vs 3 days
 - o In past had fall & spring but a 3 day will accomplish more, more beer drinking, more presentations
 - o Additional cost
- Time of year?
 - o Hard for academics during spring and fall, conflict w/ SSAR in Spring, Field work season,
 - o Mid, late august is good time.
 - o Mid-week to Weekend which is better...Thursday to Saturday
- Funding sources and possible reduced registration for students
- Not very many private consultant, need to outreach more

Possible Meeting Ideas

- Update from States on Comprehensive Wildlife Plans
- Ways to mitigate road mortality
- Poster sessions



NEPARC 2004: Annual Meeting Minutes

Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield, Mass.

August 18th & 19, 2004

- Forest Industry person as a speaker
- Discussion on collaborative research
- Speaker on coastal plains (Delmarva bays)
- Field trips?
- Seasonal wetland mapping and headwaters (what's happening in the states)
- Ralph Tinner to come to meeting to talk about seasonal wetland mapping throughout the Northeast
- Student Workshop: techniques not covered in classroom
- Jim White: Reptiles and Amphibians of the Delmarva possible speaker
- Focus on separate habitat types
- NAAMP- looking at the results and data, Frog Quiz

Meeting adjourned