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Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

North American Amphibian Monitoring Program

The Challenge: In response to global amphibian decline, USGS formed the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP) to track the status and trends of calling amphibians (frogs and toads). Like birds, frogs and toads make unique breeding vocalizations that can be used to identify individual species. Each year several times during the breeding season, volunteer observers skilled in frog call identification collect data using a frog call survey technique.

The Science: To ensure high quality data, NAAMP observers are required to pass an on-line Frog Quiz testing their ability to idenify species by sound. NAAMP frog call surveys are conducted during the evening, when calling activity is greatest for most species. Observers record what species were heard and include some environmental conditions such as air temperature and wind conditions. These data are submitted on-line to the USGS where the data are used in occupancy modeling to assess trends for these species. NAAMP's State Partners and other land managers can then use these results in their conservation decisions.

The Future: NAAMP is a collaborative effort between USGS and numerous State Partners that manage the program locally. State Partners recruit observers, assign routes, and help manage the data using on-line resources provided by USGS. The USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center provides central coordination for the survey effort. To learn more about NAAMP, including how to become an observer, please visit our website: www.pwrc.usgs.gov/naamp.

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