

Acknowledgments

The development of this guide would not have been possible without the help of numerous individuals and organizations. To give credit where credit is due, we need to follow the path of its development. The notion of the guides is an outcome of dialogue between Monica Schwalbach, chair of the Federal Steering Committee, and others, notably Kurt Buhlmann and Whit Gibbons. Regional conservation guidelines emerged as a potential tool to convey “best management practices” for herpetofauna to land managers. With start-up funding from the U.S. Forest Service, Kurt Buhlmann, Whit Gibbons, and Joseph Mitchell began work on what such a guide might look like, and using the Savannah River Ecological Laboratory property as the “region,” developed an initial guide—a “straw dog” as Kurt called it. The PARC Management Steering Committee then went to work figuring out how to make the regional herpetofaunal conservation guidelines (HCGs) a reality.

The decision was made to bring an eclectic group of persons with a stake in herpetofaunal conservation together in one place to draft the guides. This would be the HCG workshop. The workshop was a production in and of itself. Through a series of meetings and teleconferences, the PARC Management Steering Committee developed the agenda for the meeting, identified and invited the participants, anticipated problems that might come up during the meeting, and sought solutions. Group members and affiliates that worked intensively on the meeting included Kurt Buhlmann, Erin Clark, Robert Fisher, Whit Gibbons, Randy Gray, John Jensen, Bruce Kingsbury, Joe Mitchell, Earl Possardt, Klaus Richter, and Monica Schwalbach. Illinois Department of Natural Resources hosted the workshop with the leadership of Brian Anderson, director of the Office of Scientific Research and Analysis. Illinois Conservation Foundation provided fiscal support, and a number of agencies and organizations provided funding for the workshop and the guide. To date, agencies contributing funds include Arizona Game and Fish, Conservation International, Illinois Conservation Foundation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Legacy Resource Management Program, U.S. Department of Defense, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, Tie Tracks, U.S.D.I. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources. Monica is to be commended for keeping us on track throughout the many stages of the workshop and guideline development. At the meeting itself, some 85 individuals gathered and worked together over three days to hammer out draft HCG material.

For the Midwest habitat management guide, workshop team members included Scott Ballard, Paul Bartelt, Kimberlee Beckmen, Carolyn Caldwell, Gary Casper, Jaime Edwards, Ed Hammer, Carol Hall, Bob Hay, Cheri Ford, Bruce Kingsbury, Michael Lannoo, Chris Phillips, Ron Refsnider, Jay Rubinoff, Lori Sargent, Ray Semlitsch, John Shuey, Diane Tecic, and Kim Vories. Our thanks to them for their efforts in Chicago.

In terms of the guide itself, a number of people worked extensively on various sections. Bob Hay was the lead on the Grassland and Savanna section, Paul Bartelt and Jay Rubinoff provided significant comments and improvements. Paul Bartelt lead on Agriculture, assisted by Jay and Bob. Carolyn Caldwell was the lead on the Urban and the Caves and Springs sections. Scott Ballard reviewed Caves and Springs. Chris Phillips drafted Rivers and Streams. Carol Hall took the lead on Permanent Wetlands, and Chris Phillips helped review it. Scott Ballard authored the Primary section. John Roe drafted the Ephemeral Wetlands, and Ray Semlitsch helped with the editing. Joanna and I lead the way on the Toolkit, incorporating additional material provided by Paul Bartelt. John Shuey, Paul Bartelt, Bob Hay, and Ellen Jacquart helped with editing and suggestions. I provided the initial drafts of the Forests, Introduction, and Habitat Fragmentation, and Joanna helped out greatly on these as well. In developing the Introduction and Fragmentation sections, I benefited from previous materials developed in the SREL straw dog document. This document came in handy a number of other times along the way as well. Joanna and I drafted the primer on herp biology. Joanna is primarily responsible for sorting and handling graphics. Our thanks to the many photo contributors—each photo denotes who was responsible for taking it. Joanna and I oversaw compilation of the document and substantially contributed to and edited all of sections. I especially thank Kurt Buhlmann, John Jensen, and Bob Hay for their critical final reviews which greatly improved the document. Hank Gruner, Linda Ulmer, and Dave Stratman also provided additional useful comments. I would like to highlight my appreciation for Joanna’s intensive efforts. Document production benefited greatly from her proactive attitude, attention to detail, and efforts to keep me on task and sane. We used the facilities of the Center for Reptile and Amphibian Conservation and Management at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) during guide development. IPFW Publications provided final layout—I greatly appreciate their efforts and patience.

—Bruce Kingsbury, project lead

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