

Resources

Contact Organizations and Funding Opportunities

Most state conservation/natural resources departments and even some special interest environmental groups have ecological or ecosystem partnerships in place that offer funding programs for management of ecosystem or watershed-based land regions. Becoming an active partner in one of these offers an opportunity to obtain funding for carrying out management objectives, thereby offsetting the financial burden of your goals. Education is very important in reaching the general public and interpreting the invaluable resource we have in amphibians and reptiles and their usefulness in the environment. Dispelling fears most people have about reptiles and replacing that with an appreciation for the resource goes a long way in changing attitudes about protecting and preserving habitat.

The Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) has offices in nearly every county across the Midwest. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also maintains offices throughout the Midwest. These offices have staff trained in many areas of land management techniques and are in a position to provide contact information for many other skilled persons in their local area. Information on the conservation districts and the programs they promote can be found at <http://www.nacdnet.org/>, or you can contact local district offices by telephone, or by visiting their office in person. The NRCS also offers many funded conservation programs that may be applicable to your activities. More information can be found at the NRCS Web site: <http://www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/PROGRAMS/cprogram.htm>. Contact information is provided in the County Offices section of the Government Pages in your local white pages directory.

Professional reptile and amphibian experts (herpetologists) may also be willing to help you in the many aspects of your planning and implementation of management techniques process. Many state agencies have herpetologists on staff. Another way to obtain contact details for professional herpetologists is by contacting a local university with a Department of Biology. Hopefully, a faculty member will be able to point you in the right direction. Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) is beginning to develop a state-by-state resource directory that includes a listing of professional herpetologists. These pages will become an excellent resource. The PARC Web site address is <http://www.parcplace.org/>. Another PARC project in development is a habitat management literature database. Finally, the Center for Reptile and Amphibian Conservation and Management provides Web resources for herp conservation efforts, especially in the Midwest. The center's Web address is <http://herpcenter.ipfw.edu>.

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Select Resource Material

There is a great deal of resource material available and mentioning every such resource is beyond the scope of this guide. However, we have highlighted some of the resource material available that we particularly like.

A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians of Eastern and Central North America, by R. Conant and J. T. Collins. 1998. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

Amphibians and Reptiles of the Great Lakes Region, by J. H. Harding. 1997. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor.

The Nature Conservancy's Wildland Invasive Species Program (<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs.html>). This Web site provides excellent information on the identification of non-native plant species as well as information on weed control methods. **The Weed Control Methods Handbook: Tools and Techniques for Use in Natural Areas** by Mandy Tu, Callie Hurd, and John M. Randall can be downloaded from this Web site free of charge. We highly recommend this material.

Midwestern Ephemeral Wetlands Brochure (<http://herps.ipfw.edu/wetlands/ephemeral/>). An illustrative brochure that provides informative insights into this vanishing habitat. The brochure is an excellent resource for community organizations, local government, school groups, and other interested parties. Don't miss out! You can download this brochure or obtain hard copies free of charge. For details visit the Web site.

Critter Crossings: Linking Habitats and Reducing Roadkill (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/wildlifecrossings/index.htm>). This site, provided by the Federal Highway Administration, discusses ways to minimize the barrier effects of roads and highways.

Restore Your Shore CD. Offers a guide to protecting and restoring shoreland habitat. The CD is available for \$29.95 through Minnesota's Bookstore, but is available at discounted rates if purchased in bulk quantities. Ordering information can be directed through Minnesota's Bookstore, 117 University Ave., Room 110A, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Web address: <http://www.minnesotabookstore.com/>