

DoD Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation 2014 Annual Report

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During the last five years, the Department of Defense Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (DoD PARC) has expanded its amphibian and reptile efforts and gained recognition as a leader in herpetofaunal management on military lands. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the teamwork and dedication of installation biologists, trainers, and other partners who worked to help DoD PARC ensure military personnel have the information they need to conduct mission-essential activities. DoD PARC leadership is thankful to all who contributed to the success of the group, and look forward to continuing to grow these working relationships well into the future.

A summary of DoD PARC 2014 accomplishments follows.

DoD PARC Lecture Series

Below is a list of lectures conducted in 2014. DoD PARC online lecture series provide an opportunity for group members to learn and share ideas on herpetofauna research, management, and conservation on DoD lands.

- February 6, 2014 – FrogWatch USA. Rachel Gauza (FrogWatch USA)
- February 26, 2014 – Monitoring Aquatic Amphibian and Reptile Populations Using Environmental DNA. Caren Goldberg and Katherine Strickler (Washington State University, University of Idaho)
- April 4, 2014 – Herpetofauna Biodiversity on Department of the Navy Shore Installations. Chris Petersen (Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic)
- April 24, 2014 – Using Mark-Recapture of Brown Treesnakes on Andersen AFB (Guam) to Better Inform Snake Control. Amy Yackel-Adams (U.S. Geological Survey)
- September 25, 2014 – A Scary Animal in a Risky Landscape: Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake Management on a DoD Installation. Jayme Waldron, Shane M. Welch, and John D. Holloway (Marshall University and Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island)
- October 23, 2014 – Texas Horned Lizard Research at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma. Alex Wolf (Missouri Department of Conservation)



Publications

DoD PARC produced several significant reports and publications this year. Most notably, the herpetofauna biodiversity reports for the Navy and Marine Corps (Legacy Projects 12-423 and 13-641) greatly expanded understanding of the species diversity on Department of the Navy lands. It is worth noting that having up-to-date lists of herpetofauna for installations is essential to their management, and to sustaining the military mission. Copies of the Navy and Marine Corps herpetofauna biodiversity reports can be obtained on DENIX (<http://www.denix.osd.mil/>) or by contacting Chris Petersen (chris.petersen@navy.mil). See below for a list of other publications from 2014.

- *Currents Magazine* – Spring 2014
Partnership Serves as a Winning Solution to Rattlesnake Conservation
- *Natural Selections* – Spring, Summer and Fall issues 2014
What's Hoppin' in DoD PARC?
- Legacy Project (12-423). Herpetofauna Biodiversity on Department of the Navy Shore Installations. June 2014.
- Legacy Project (12-426). Department of Defense Amphibian Disease Survey: Natural Resource Manager Training and Data Collection. September 2014.
- Legacy Project (13-641). Herpetofauna Biodiversity on Marine Corps Installations. September 2014.

Update of Herpetofauna Species Lists

During 2014, group members updated herpetofauna species lists for 57 Navy and 17 Marine Corps installations, all of which have Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPS). The lists were peer-reviewed and contained species-specific occurrence data (both confirmed and potential). The species lists will be updated quarterly to ensure installation biologists and senior leadership have the most up-to-date information possible. DoD PARC has also begun to update the herpetofauna species lists for Air Force and Army installations and anticipates completing these tasks in 2015.

Herpetofauna Library

In partnership with the National Military Fish and Wildlife Association–Herp Working Group, DoD PARC members compiled more than 70 herpetofauna reports, surveys, and inventories conducted on DoD lands. These reports are summarized in a

spreadsheet which can be found by searching for respective DoD Service, installation name, or key word. The intent of this project was to compile existing information into a single source so users can more easily find information.

The DoD PARC Photo Website (<http://dodparcphotolibrary.shutterfly.com>)

DoD PARC members added nearly 250 pictures to the Photo Website this year, bringing the total to over 1,000 amphibian and reptile photographs. DoD biologists and environmental planners can use these photos for INRMPs, reports, and publications. The photo Website helped to produce two posters: *Venomous Snakes on Navy Shore Installations* and *Venomous Snakes on Marine Corps Installations*. More than 60 posters have been printed and mailed to group members.



Review of DoD Legacy Proposals

DoD PARC assisted the Legacy Resource Management Program by reviewing and ranking pre-proposals and full proposals related to herpetofauna. Evaluation criteria were used by both the amphibian and reptile, and the migratory bird conservation programs to evaluate and rank taxa-specific proposals. DoD PARC forwarded the results to the DoD Conservation Committee for consideration. Thanks to those partners who participated in the review process.

Strategic Plan for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and Management on Department of Defense Lands

DoD PARC continues to work with senior DoD leadership to finalize its strategic plan. This plan provides a framework for accomplishing DoD-wide conservation objectives related to the protection of amphibians, reptiles, and their habitats while precluding mission conflicts arising from conservation-based regulatory restrictions. Partners and DoD leadership are hopeful it will be approved and published this coming year.

Looking Ahead

The following list summarizes some of the tasks DoD PARC partners are currently executing and would like to complete in 2015. The partnership can always use more help; to become involved, please contact Rob Lovich or Chris Petersen.

- Finalize the Strategic Plan for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation and Management on DoD Lands
- Continue to build the library of herpetofauna surveys and reports conducted on military lands
- Continue to update herpetofauna species lists, including the first complete Army and Air Force lists
- Continue to grow and mature the partnership's efforts, including identifying regional representatives and officers who can help coordinate on-the-ground activities
- Develop INRMP guidance for the conservation and management of herpetofauna on military lands

Thank you again for all your hard work this year. We look forward to your continued support in 2015!

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