

NCPARC
Research Inventory Monitoring and Management (RIMM)
Working Group Meeting

January 25, 2006
1:00-4:00 UNC Greensboro

Introductions : (who we are and why we are here)

Opening remarks:

- Welcome and Thanks to Ann
- What is PARC
- What is the intent of the RIMM Working Group
- The need for the WG chair(s): how Sarah's position coordinating NCPARC and also working for the Commission necessitates other leadership

Overall Goals for this Working Group (tentative list...as Sarah and Mike see them):

- 1) Officially form the RIMM Working Group: become ACTIVE with regard to facilitating research for/with/through NCPARC
- 2) Provide a forum for prioritizing research initiatives in the state
- 3) Provide a clearinghouse for data resulting from and information dealing with ongoing and past research in the state (including published and grey literature)
- 4) Facilitate cooperation among researchers from various industries/agencies
- 5) Support student research by helping students connect to faculty and researchers in fields of interest.

Meeting Goals (action items):

- 1) Further develop goals for the WG (see above)
- 2) Brainstorm and air the big-picture issues and initiatives in need of our attention (see the brainstormed ideas from the Inaugural Meeting below)
- 3) Prioritize these as topics for future meetings or topics that need to be addressed TODAY
- 4) Current initiatives of NCPARC and others that RIMM needs to address ASAP:
 - a. Frog Call project: general info about the project, training folks on frog calls, allaying data concerns
 - b. Upcoming NCPARC Annual Meeting: facilitating field activities there
 - c. Zach Orr's Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake Conservation and Awareness Meeting
 - d. Other?
- 5) Schedule future meetings

- 6) Outline WG structure for voting on the issues. Do we: involve the entire NCPARC membership in planning our initiatives, re-issue invitations to the general NCPARC membership for future WG meetings, require a quorum of this body on decisions, or chose another decision-making method for this WG? Is this even a concern?
- 7) Officially elect a chairperson

Some general Herp RIMM Issues (compiled from the input of the NCPARC general membership at the NCPARC Inaugural Meeting; the working group will undoubtedly pinpoint others):

What research/ inventory/ monitoring/ management needs do we have in North Carolina, and how can we meet these needs?(question posed to meeting attendees)

- Have peer review of research/monitoring projects among experts to maintain rigor (NCPARC research and monitoring study review committee)
- Improve cooperation and communication among researchers
- Could safe harbor model be used?
- Questions of feasibility, particularly for uplands
- Focus on wetlands first
- Improve communication between researchers and land managers to encourage herp-friendly mgmt
- Need good population and natural history studies for most species
- Need good baseline data everywhere- 'fill in the gaps'
- Standardized data collection and database
- Quality control of the data being collected by various groups around the state
- Inventory/ create atlas/ more citizen-science as well as more professionals
- More *Micrus dorcai*
- NCPARC could showcase projects and organize events (via website)
- Act now!
- Comprehensive herp atlas of the state (historical and present)
- Database of relevant herp studies
- Critical research needs: habitat fragmentation/ relocation studies/ true ecological cost when herps are lost (as well as habitats)- encourage an ecosystem approach to the research versus a species-specific approach
- Local inventory programs – involve communities in their local herps
- Involving landowners in the management of their properties
- Identifying funding sources for inventory/ management/ research- clearinghouse for funding information
- Post research needs on a website
- Use surveys/ baseline data collected across the state to share with agencies so that everyone has access to the same information
- Research needed on impacts of fire ants on herp communities– exotics/ invasives in general

- Develop monitoring programs for species and for habitats/ watershed/ landscape scale (e.g., flatwoods salamander)
- Herp atlas (again!)
- More emphasis on surveys and inventory of species we know little about
- More research on the effect of human disturbances/ wetland mitigation/ habitat fragmentation
- Involve public in survey/ monitoring
- Better connection between funding agencies and funding needs- database about available funds and necessary research projects
- Work with TNC, TLC, and other conservation orgs to survey potential sites for herp related protection as well as other flora and fauna