



## Department of Defense PARC (Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation) Strategic Plan Phase II

Project # 10-423

### Background:

In 2009, the Department of Defense (DoD) Legacy Resource Management Program initiated the development of a Strategic Plan for the recently established DoD PARC Program. The purpose of the plan is to develop an amphibian and reptile conservation strategy that can be implemented through partnerships. The focus of the Strategic Plan is to reduce and mitigate the threats to amphibians and reptiles on DoD lands, while protecting and sustaining the military mission.

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) was formed in 1998 in response to growing evidence of amphibian and reptile extirpations and declining populations. PARC and DoD signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2006 and renewed it in 2011. The PARC network, comprised of additional concerned scientists, resource managers, and citizens, works together to achieve conservation of amphibians, reptiles, and their habitats on a local, state, regional, national, and global scale.

### Objective:

The objective of the DoD PARC Strategic Plan is to better integrate amphibian and reptile conservation and management on the DoD landscape. The development of the strategic plan will involve two major conservation stakeholders: DoD, one of the largest federal departments in the protection and conservation of threatened and endangered species in the U.S., and PARC. With the comprehensive resources that DoD and PARC bring to bear, DoD will be better able to address amphibian and reptile conservation issues while simultaneously supporting military readiness.

### Summary of Approach:

To develop the strategic plan, two workshops were held in 2010, one in Crystal City, Virginia, and another in Tucson, Arizona. Workshops attendance included DoD and other natural resources experts. The first draft version of the plan was completed in 2011 and made available for comment by the military services and DoD Conservation Committee.

### Benefit:

The strategic plan will provide for enhanced conservation and management of natural resources on military installations throughout the U.S. and provide a framework for similar activities on installations throughout the world. The creation of this plan will focus on the much needed protection and conservation of amphibians and reptiles, many of which are disappearing faster than we can document.

### Accomplishments:

We have held the two workshops mentioned above and have written a draft DoD PARC Strategic Plan. The draft plan has been reviewed by the military services and the DoD Conservation Committee. Approximately 150 comments were received from those reviews. The comments have all been addressed and arranged into a comment matrix and the plan has been updated to reflect those comments. At this time, the plan is ready to be submitted for a second review.

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