



PARC Collaborative Conservation Partnership Award

2026 Nomination Announcement

About the Award: This award is presented annually by Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) to recognize outstanding multi-organizational Partnerships that conduct work in an active PARC area (Fig. 1) and achieved significant outcomes that support PARC's mission to "forge proactive partnerships to conserve amphibians, reptiles, and the places they live."

A representative of the Partnership will receive a commemorative plaque, and all other members will receive a commemorative certificate. A representative for the Partnership will receive an invitation to present at a regional PARC meeting, with registration and lodging provided by PARC's Joint National Steering Committee (JNSC). The representative that receives the plaque and attends a regional meeting will be selected by members of the Partnership.

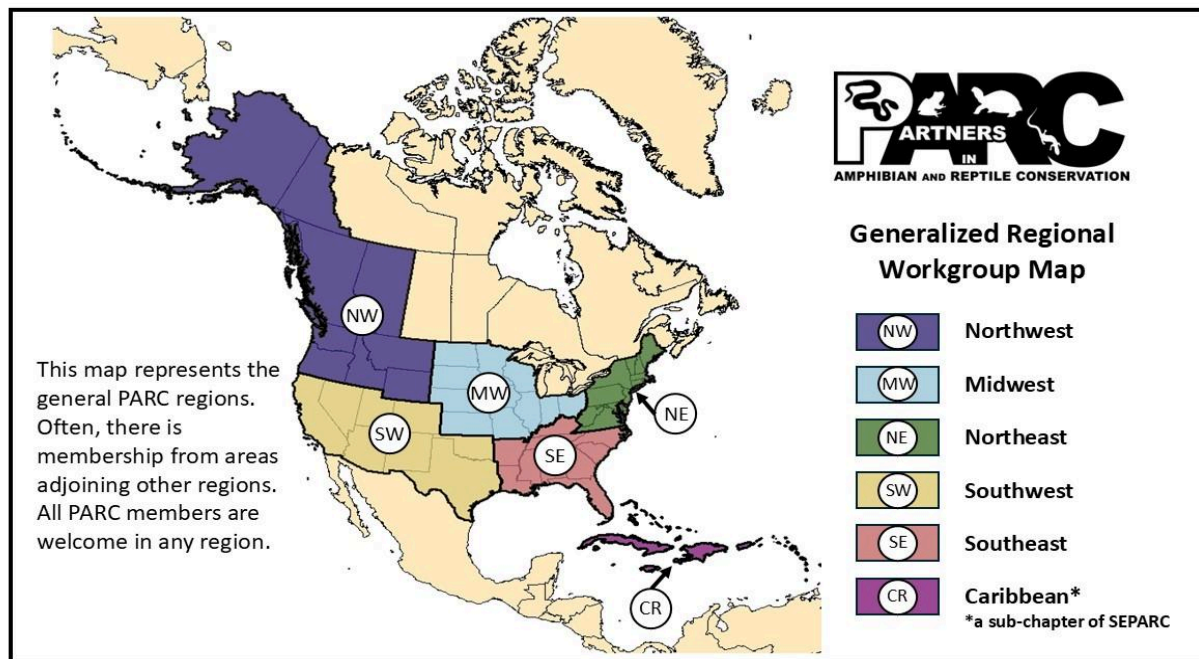


Figure 1. Map showing active PARC areas.

Eligibility:

A Partnership eligible for this award shall minimally comprise three or more individuals representing three or more organizations (e.g., agencies, NGO, universities, industries, etc.) or three or more distinct teams or workgroups within larger organizations (e.g, agency workgroup, university laboratory). Established groups/teams that comprise members from three or more organizations may also be directly nominated.

Partnerships that include one or more members of the PARC Joint National Steering Committee (Table 1) within a nominated team are eligible for this award, as long as they are not the PI, team leader, or team representative. JNSC members that are members of a nominated Partnership, are expected to recuse themselves from voting for an award winner. JNSC members are not eligible for meeting registration or lodging reimbursements if presenting on behalf of the Partnership.

Nominations may be submitted for others, or self-submitted, and must meet **two or more** of the following criteria.

Award Criteria:

Any long- or short-term Partnership that has achieved significant conservation outcomes for herpetofauna and has displayed exemplary commitment to building or strengthening amphibian and reptile conservation through at least **two** of the following:

1. A broad representation of individuals or organizations across sectors, disciplines, or backgrounds.
2. Prioritizing the inclusion of under-represented groups in the field of conservation (i.e., marginalized groups or sectors of society).
3. Inclusion of non-traditional partners in the field of conservation (e.g. industries, businesses, or private sector partners that pro-actively incorporate practices to conserve amphibians, reptiles, and their habitats, or promote efficiencies in herpetofaunal conservation).
4. Inclusion and application of traditional ecological knowledge to conservation of amphibians, reptiles, and their habitats.
5. Exhibited tenacious effort, leadership and professionalism in a manner that is inspiring to their peers and the conservation community at large, and has been overlooked by other means of acclaim, or who has made a significant achievement with limited resources.

PARC is dedicated to promoting inclusivity and collaboration as core values, with a strategic focus on improving equity within the herpetofaunal conservation community. We strive to create diverse and inclusive environments and networks for those involved in herpetofaunal conservation. In addition to achieving significant outcomes for conservation, nominees must align with these values. The nomination packet includes a statement regarding the Partnership's contributions to increase diversity and advance inclusion of under-represented groups of people in herpetofaunal conservation.

Nominated Partnerships must observe and uphold the highest standards of scientific integrity and professional behavior, and must uphold [PARC's Code of Ethics and Meeting Code of Conduct](#).

Partnership That is Being Nominated:

Partnership Name:

PARC Area(s) in Which the Partnership Conducts Work:

Team or Partnership Lead(s) (please also include in Team Members below):

Team Leaders/Representatives:

Please include information for the leading team members. Each organization in the partnership should have a representative listed here. If more than three organizations contribute to the team then please add additional information in the full packet. If the team comprises more than three individuals, additional team members should be listed in the full nomination packet, below.

Name:

PARC Area(s) in Which the Nominee Conducts Work:

Email:

Role:

Name:

PARC Area(s) in Which the Nominee Conducts Work:

Email:

Role:

Name:

PARC Area(s) in Which the Nominee Conducts Work:

Email:

Role:

Nominated by:

Name:

PARC Region:

Phone:

Email:

Nomination Packet:

Please adhere to the word and page limits, or the nomination will not be considered.

1. **In 100 words or less**, describe the Partnership and project goals.
2. **In 300 words or less**, provide examples of the outcomes achieved by the Partnership.
3. **In 150 words or less**, describe how the collaborative Partnership was integral to the success the project and outcomes
4. **In 150 words or less**, describe the Partnership's contributions to increase diversity and advance inclusion of under-represented groups of people in herpetofaunal conservation.
5. **List of additional team members** in the format below:
Name:
Email:
PARC area(s) where the member conducts work:

Team role:

6. [OPTIONAL] **Using no more than 6 pages total**, you may provide a letter or letters of support. This page limit is inclusive of signatures (i.e., you cannot submit a 6-page letter with 2 pages of signatures for 8 pages total). Required format: 12-point font and 1-inch margins.

Please note that nominees are evaluated on the merit of the nomination, not on the number of letters of support or the number of supporting signatures per each letter.

Submission:

Please complete and submit nomination packages through the [PARC Collaborative Conservation Partnership Award Nomination Form](#).

Deadline for Submission: December 5, 2025

Nominations received after this date and incomplete forms will not be considered. The award winner will be notified by Spring 2026.

Selection Process:

PARC JNSC members (Table 1.) will review nominations, evaluate carefully against the criteria, and vote to determine the selection. JNSC members who are part of a partnership effort shall recuse themselves from voting. JNSC's Senior Co-Chair will notify the award recipient and their nominators once a vote is finalized.

Table 1. Current voting members on PARC’s Joint National Steering Committee.

JNSC MEMBER	PARC ROLE	TITLE AND AFFILIATION
<u>Executive Committee</u>		
Melissa Youngquest	JNSC Senior Co-chair	Research Biologist, John G. Shedd Aquarium
Dede Olson	JNSC Junior Co-chair	Oregon State University / U.S. Forest Service
Mark Mandica	DEITT Representative	Executive Director, The Amphibian Foundation
Michelle Christman	National Federal Agencies Coordinator	Fish and Wildlife Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Becca Cozad	JNSC Ex-officio Chair	Southwest Program Coordinator, Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy
Bradley O’Hanlon	JNSC Ex-officio Chair	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
<u>Midwest PARC</u>		
Jennifer Lamb	Senior Co-chair	Associate Professor, St. Cloud State University
<u>Northeast PARC</u>		
Amylynn Ephraim	Senior Co-chair	West Virginia University
Beth Schlimm	Junior Co-chair	Maryland Department of Natural Resources
<u>Northwest PARC</u>		
Christine Parker-Graham	Senior Co-chair	Veterinary Medical Officer, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Daniel Trovillion	Junior Co-chair	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
<u>Southeast PARC</u>		
Matthew Atkinson	Senior Co-chair	University of Florida
Houston Chandler	Junior Co-chair	The Orianne Society

Southwest PARC

Cristina Jones	Senior Co-chair	Biologist, Project Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Jared Holmes	Junior Co-chair	Lead Biologist, Origin Ranch Texas

DoD PARC

Dave McNaughton	DoD PARC Representative	Natural Resources Specialist, US Navy
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At-large Members

Sara Walker	Zoos and Aquariums Representative	Director of Conservation Programs, Association of Zoos & Aquariums
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Federal Agencies Steering Committee

Brad Jost	Federal Agencies Steering Committee Senior Co-chair	Wildlife Biologist, US Bureau of Land Management
Amy Commens-Carson	Federal Agencies Steering Committee Junior Co-chair	Southern Region Fisheries Program Manager, USDA Forest Service

AFWA Amphibian and Reptile Committee

David Golden	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Committee Chair	Director, New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
Becky Gwynn	Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Committee Vice-Chair	Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
