PARC Collaborative Conservation Partnership Award

2027 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.

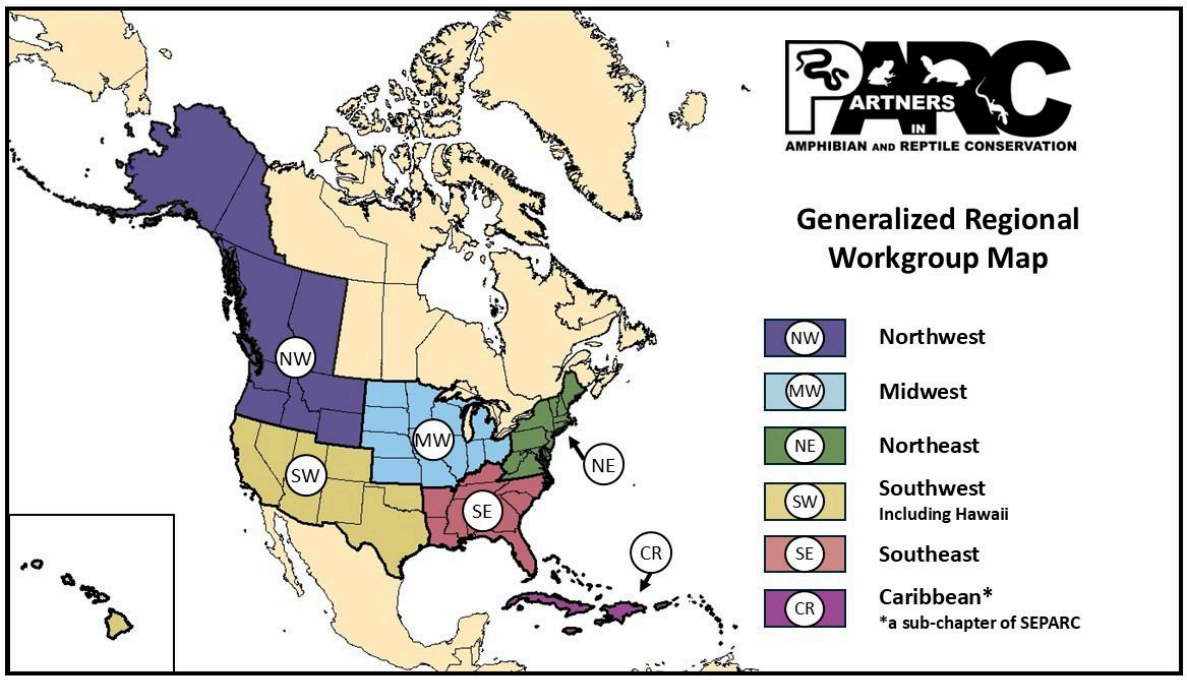


Figure 1. Map showing active PARC areas. In practice, many PARC regions cross political boundaries and partners work across regions. These are generalized areas.

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 **Award Nomination Form**

Deadline for submission: January 8, 2027

Nominations received after this date and incomplete forms will not be considered. The award winner will be notified by Spring 2027.

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 members on PARC's Joint National Steering Committee.

JNSC MEMBER	PARC ROLE	TITLE AND AFFILIATION
Executive Committee		
Melissa Youngquest	JNSC Senior Co-chair	Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Coordinator, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
Dede Olson	JNSC Junior Co-chair	Research Biologist, John G. Shedd Aquarium
Mark Mandica	DEI Representative	Executive Director, Amphibian Foundation
Michelle Christman	National Federal Agencies Coordinator	Fish and Wildlife Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Brad O'Hanlon	JNSC Ex-officio Chair	Southwest Program Coordinator, Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy
Midwest PARC		
Callie Klatt Golba	Senior Co-chair	Associate Professor, St. Cloud State University
Mic Rohde	Junior Co-chair	
Northeast PARC		
Beth Schlimm	Senior Co-chair	Amphibian and Reptile Program Leader, West Virginia Department of Natural Resources
Harrison Goldspiel	Junior Co-chair	Graduate student, West Virginia University
Northwest PARC		
Daniel Trovillion	Senior Co-chair	Veterinary Medical Officer, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Jason Reilly	Junior Co-chair	Fish Biologist, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Southeast PARC		
Houston Chandler	Senior Co-chair	University of Central Florida

Cyndi Carter	Junior Co-chair	Director of Science, The Orianne Society
Southwest PARC		
Cassidy Lee	Senior Co-chair	Biologist, Project Manager, US Fish and Wildlife Service
Dalton Neuharth	Junior Co-chair	Lead Biologist, Origin Ranch Texas
DoD PARC		
Dave McNaughton	DoD PARC Representative	Natural Resources Specialist, US Navy
Chris Petersen	DoD PARC Representative	Senior Natural Resources Specialist, US Navy
At-large Members		
Sara Walker	Zoos and Aquariums Representative	Senior Advisor on Wildlife Trafficking, Association of Zoos and Aquariums
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