



Dear Property Owner:

Your help is requested for an important study on the distribution and condition of Pennsylvania's amphibian and reptile populations. The Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey (PARS) is a statewide program to document the presence of amphibians and reptiles throughout Pennsylvania.

The Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation (MACHAC), in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), is conducting a 10-year survey of the amphibians and reptiles of Pennsylvania beginning in 2013. The purpose of this project is to update historical distributions and establish a baseline for future efforts to detect change in regional population distributions. Final results will be compiled into a publication.

The PARS project is sending professionals and trained enthusiasts to volunteer and visit locations throughout the state search for these animals on public and private lands. Your permission is requested to allow PARS surveyors to visit your property to search for amphibians and reptiles. Searching methods involve driving along roads looking for crossing or dead animals, listening for calling frogs, and walking and actively searching for amphibians and reptiles. The majority of animals will be hiding, so survey crews are also requesting permission to flip logs, rocks, and other debris, and will be sure to return these objects to their original positions. For proper identification purposes, some animals may need to be photographed or collected.

Each surveyor will be appropriately identified and will observe proper protocols. Depending upon the size of your property, surveys may last up to several hours, or require more than one visit. Resultant data will be submitted into a secure database, and property owners will be provided with a list of amphibians and reptiles found on their properties.

If you are willing to allow a survey on your property, or have any questions, please contact The Mid-Atlantic Center for Herpetology and Conservation at info@machac.org.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation – *it is greatly appreciated!*

The Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey Team