The Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas

Update

2013-2014

May 9, 2015

For the Vermont Monitoring Cooperative

Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas Project (2013-2014)

Background

Localized intensive monitoring

Amphibian monitoring at Mt. Mansfield and Lye Brook Wilderness provide locally intensive data on a subset of amphibian species. While these data are particularly valuable and allow us to see year-to-year population changes of the monitored species at these sites and provide local information on abnormalities, and natural history, they do not allow us to see more widespread changes in the distribution and/or natural history (calling times, migration dates, etc.) of the full range of reptiles and amphibians statewide. Nor do they allow us to see changes in forest health, or the impacts of forest fragmentation and consumption on a larger scale. In addition, there is a real need to get reptile and amphibian natural history and management information out to a wide variety of landowners and land

Data-reporting schedule

species was officially listed as Endangered in Vermont in April of 2015.

Wildlife Action Plan/Species of Greatest Concentration Need

During 2014 our data were also used to revise the reptile and amphibian species accounts for Vermont's Wildlife Action Plan for our species of greatest concentration need.

Outreach

Outreach and public education efforts continue. I again appeared with Jane Lindholm on VPR's Vermont Edition in 2014, was filmed for an Across the Fence program on WCAX, and we continue to get coverage in and provide material for local newspapers and TV. I also continue to offer herpetology courses at UVM. Most of the material for the courses has been generated though the Atlas.

In addition to press coverage and courses; slide shows, educational displays, workshops, and field trips were used to continue to educate residents and landowners about herptiles. All contributors of reports were contacted and thanked for their contributions if contact information was provided. In addition, many questions were answered and conservation recommendations given. Data requests come in regularly from a wide variety of people and organizations, and for a wide variety of reasons.

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