

Meeting Minutes

Front Range American Bullfrog Control and Northern Leopard Frog Working Group

June 3 (3pm); Phone number: 1 (720) 593-3714, Access Code: 91128564#

Attendance: Chelsea Beebe, Joe Ehrenberger, Will Keeley, Mac Kobza, Jim Krick, Ryan Prioreshi, Scott Severs, Kelly Triage, Boyd Wright

Goal: To bring together staff from multiple agencies along the Front Range to discuss efforts to manage bullfrogs and improve habitat for native wildlife, including northern leopard frogs, to create a framework for future discussions.

Quick updates/ questions: 3:00-3:15pm

- 2019 Working Group Meeting Dates and Times – **August 14 (9am); October 28 (1pm)**
- J. Ehrenberger (AES) & others - PARCA (Priority Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Areas)
 - Front Range PARCA- recognizes front range efforts on conservation and management
 - Focus on Northern Leopard Frog and Red-Sided Garter Snake
 - 9 total in Colorado: 3 western slope, S Platt Corridor, Arkansas River valley, SE, Front Range
 - PARCAs are not rules or regulations; they are priority areas
 - **M. Kobza:** Will send a map to the website from Mac
- M. Kobza (BCPOS) – update on working with school group(s):
 - “Donating our frozen bullfrogs to St. Vrain Valley schools for classroom work. If you’d like, I’ll take whole frozen adult frogs (not shot) and donate those. ...Tadpoles too!”
 - Mac has been working with two teachers in district; Silver Creek HS and Coal Ridge HS. This summer they will hold on to the frogs for the summer. BCPOS is working with science director at St. Vrain to refine the methods of delivery.
 - There is no current maximum amount of frogs/tadpoles
 - If you do donate: Specimens need to be a whole frog, not damaged, when euthanize, use orajel, (no msds concerns) or ms22 (fish anesthetic) on tadpoles (rinse and use gloves). If specimens are treated in another way (like chemical)- let Mac know. -
 - Specimens will be dissected using a laboratory manual by students
 - **M. Kobza:** Will create a protocol (including disposal)
 - Contact BCPOS if you have specimens you would like to donate.
- B. Wright (CPW) – *Were these questions answered?*
 - “Data request
 - query all substantiated northern leopard frog occurrences front range wide (Larimer, Boulder, Denver, Jefferson, Douglas, Arapahoe, Adams)
 - fields to include in the query: UTM's, date, county, associated water body (if available), observer, data source (i.e. SciColl Permit, Citizen Science, CPW), life stages present (if available), other amphibians present (if available). **Is there anything I am missing here that we should be asking for?** ...recognizing that there will be a wide range of additional information available for each data point
 - Do we want to do a separate query for American Bullfrog or is the data that Lauren Livo compiled (assume someone has a shape file for that?) sufficient?”
 - **B. Wright is volunteering to put in a data request for NLF and American Bullfrogs**

- Group agreed to enter a data request for both NLF and American Bullfrogs. We will ask for as much data as possible, not specific queries
- o Constraints with data request: no point data for private property
- o Abilities with data requests:
 - Private land: data provided as a polygon
 - Public land: data provided as point data
- o **J. Ehrenberger:** Will ask Lauren Livo if we can have a digital version of her American Bullfrog map
- o Do we want a centralized list of known breeding sites for the Working Group?
 - This will assist B. Wright with land-use proposals and it can assist with agency collaboration
 - The team agreed that a centralized list of known breeding sites will be useful
 - We will store pdfs on the website for now
 - **W. Keeley:** will email a pdf of known sites to be submitted to the Working Group Website
 - **M. Kobza:** has sites compiled in datasheet, he will talk to Susan about how BCPOS can share the data, wanted to work together with data for planning
 - **C. Beebe:** will ask her team if/how JCOS can share breeding site locations

Meeting Objectives:

- **3:15pm** - CPW Wetlands Grant – CPW staff
 - <https://cpw.state.co.us/aboutus/Pages/WetlandsProjectFunding.aspx>
 - o General overview of grant and process
 - o CPW Project Sponsor - B. Wright?
 - o Potential projects of interest to CPW and cooperating agencies/ partners
 - o Most recent awards list (2017):
 - <https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Maps/2017WetlandsGrantAwards.pdf>
 - o 2020 is next funding cycle
 - Range: \$50,000-\$150,000
 - **B. Wright:** Will provide us with the scope and requirements of the grant
 - Usually due April/May
 - o B. Wright recommendations:
 - It will be helpful for B. Wright to see the project site this year
 - need CPW project sponsor; B. Wright happy to assist
 - The grant is for implementation
- **3:30pm** - eDNA follow-up (*see notes attached*) – B. Wright (CPW)/ M. Kobza (BCPOS)
 - o B. Wright: Boreal Toad eDNA funds left over- Will has filters to get samples at sites where frogs are known to occur- need to get a primer
 - W. Keeley: OSMP is picking 2-3 sites to use the filters this year
 - 7-9 breeding sites this year; OSMP is also collecting a couple tadpole to help develop primer
 - B. Wright: likes Pisces
 - To collect data: need to collect 10 samples in given survey event; 3-4 km in stream, ability to detect much greater when breeding
 - o The success of eDNA technology is still to be determined. Right now it does not seem to talk the pace of visual encounter surveys, but it serves as an additional tool.

- There is literature from France where eDNA outperformed visual encounter surveys
- **3:45pm** - Song Meter Protocol – C. Beebe/ A. DuBois (JCOS)
 - Overview of protocol used
 - Is it working? – Pros/ Cons
 - Relate to FrogWatchUSA data and volunteer management – Pros/ Cons
 - **C. Beebe:** Will send notes from Andrew
 - Pros: higher frequency of samples, reducing the risk of missing species with infrequent calling or inconsistent phenology, learn about time of day
 - Using kaleidoscope- cluster analysis- reducing manual listening, has detected NLF in JCOS
 - Cons- initial investment, \$800 +\$400/year. Needs battery changes every two weeks - learn your system and change batteries. Risk for vandalism or theft
 - JCOS: We will share our data in the future
 - Wildlife Acoustics has a small grants program
 - FrogWatchUSA:
 - Volunteers only out for short amt of time, more likely to miss, even with low diversity- mistaken ID from volunteers, good outreach program and survey method
- **3:50pm** - Partner Updates and Questions
 - In general, what is your agency planning for 2019?
 - M. Kobza (BCPOS): checked 20 sites for NLF, no records yet, still checking, they have some ephemeral ponds that just filled in the last week
 - BF: may be electro-frogging soon
 - W. Keeley (OSMP): currently deep into monitoring with visual encounter surveys, 8 breeding sites, all small tadpoles now, egg mass state; 15-16 egg masses throughout 8 sites, good year, one site with a few adult BF- going to control soon
 - C. Beebe (JCOS): primarily system wide survey of all wetlands for baseline inventory for amphibians and an active breeding, checking known breeding locations, no bullfrog management this year (unless incidental), they are conducting cattail management
 - J.Krick (Longmont): currently at the infancy stage, Peschel has BF- Mac will work with Longmont to electro-shock at Peschel
 - Is there something this group (or another agency) could help you with?
 - J. Ehrenberger: Should we submit under one permit?
 - W. Keeley: OSMP will be conducting 2-4 days of cattail removal (habitat manipulation), vegetation management in the fall -> he will let us know dates and all are welcome to attend