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Media Contact:

Stephanie Haan-Amato

Communications Director

(575) 652-6957 | shaanamato@ARCProtects.org

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AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE CONSERVANCY RELEASES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2023 FARM BILL FOCUSED ON IMPERILED WILDLIFE

Wildlife Nonprofit Recommends Policy Actions to Conserve Often Overlooked Species

UNITED STATES, April 11, 2023 - The Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (ARC), a national nonprofit to conserve imperiled wildlife, released its [recommendations for the upcoming Farm Bill](#). The organization's recommendations are aimed at improving conservation outcomes for endangered species that are often overlooked and misunderstood, reptiles and amphibians, in balance with the needs of agricultural producers and their communities.

ARC's Director of Private Lands and Policy Kat Diersen stated, "Given the sheer scale of private lands in the US, the importance of the Farm Bill for protecting wildlife, including reptiles and amphibians, cannot be overstated." Privately-owned agricultural or forest land makes up more than 70% of the US land base. More than two-thirds of all federally-listed species rely on private lands for all or part of their life cycles, and for more than half of listed species, 80% or more of their habitat is on private land.

One such species is the bog turtle; between 80-90% of its remaining habitat occurs on private agricultural lands. Diersen explained, "Farm Bill conservation programs have been critically important in slowing population declines for the northern population of the bog turtle."

ARC's priorities for the 2023 Farm Bill include:

- Addressing chronic underfunding and ensuring that conservation programs have enough resources to meet producer demand and conservation goals
- Strengthening the wildlife focus of conservation programs and ensuring programs are not implemented in a manner that could be harmful to amphibians, reptiles, or their habitats
- Preventing degradation or loss of important habitat types for amphibians and reptiles, such as intact wetland and forest ecosystems
- Encouraging USDA's growing emphasis on climate-smart agricultural practices in a manner that provides co-benefits for wildlife and greenhouse gas reduction

- Providing more equitable access to Farm Bill programs for historically underserved producers to improve soil, water, and habitat health on their lands
- Streamlining the program application and contracting process and improving outreach and technical assistance in underserved communities to ensure limited funding goes to the producers who need it most
- Increasing financial and technical support for small-scale farmers; smaller farm sizes are correlated with increased on-farm biodiversity and climate resilience; smaller farms are more likely to be owned by women, beginning farmers, and historically marginalized producers

[Download ARC's Policy Recommendations for the 2023 Farm Bill \(PDF\)](#)

About Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy (ARC)

Amphibian and Reptile Conservancy, or ARC, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit focused on identifying and conserving the highest priority places for amphibians and reptiles in the United States. We protect endangered amphibians and reptiles through a strategic, scientific, and passionate approach. We believe the conservation of amphibians, reptiles, and the habitats they depend on is vitally important. To learn more, visit ARCProtects.org.

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