

The Use of Photographic Exhibits for Amphibian Conservation in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

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Public backing is important to support research on amphibian declines and to develop and implement conservation actions. Photographic exhibits can be used to develop public appreciation for the diversity and ecological importance of amphibians and to raise awareness of threats to their populations and habitats. We have developed a traveling photo exhibit for the Idaho Museum of Natural History on the amphibians and wetlands of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). The exhibit consists of nine 36" wide metal prints of representative wetlands with 4" x 6" portraits of each amphibian species known to occur in those wetlands. The exhibit also includes 8" x 12" photos taken in the field of the 8 GYE amphibian species. Concise captions describe identifying features, important habitat characteristics, natural histories, and conservation problems. In addition to the photos, the exhibit also includes audio recordings of anuran calls, a time-lapse video of annual variation in water levels at a Yellowstone wetland site, and posters on species distributions, breeding habitat, overwintering, threats, and conservation actions. The exhibit will travel to museums, libraries, visitor centers, and scientific meetings in Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. A lecture describing the creation of the exhibit and encouraging the public to contribute observations of GYE amphibians via iNaturalist will be presented in conjunction with the exhibit. We are developing and implementing a questionnaire to evaluate the effectiveness of the exhibit. We believe that the exhibit will provide an entry point into the natural history of amphibians, help us reach new audiences, and inspire people to support conservation actions.