

**USGS Research Spurs Conservation Efforts for Northern Leopard Frog:** An ongoing USGS study has documented the decline and disappearance of the northern leopard frog from much of the Grand Canyon and Glen Canyon region of northern Arizona and southern Utah. The work is being conducted by Charles Drost, Lisa Gelczis, and Tim Graham of the USGS Southwest Biological Science Center. Survey efforts are now being extended to upstream areas of the Colorado River drainage in Utah, and the study has attracted interest and participation from a range of State and Federal agencies. In addition to USGS, these include the Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the U.S. Forest Service. As a direct result of the findings of this USGS research, AGFD and USFWS have initiated a project to establish 'refuge populations' of leopard frogs in this region, both to preserve genetic diversity and to provide animals for future release in areas where leopard frog populations have disappeared. USGS is supporting this effort by providing data on the location of extant breeding populations, and by assisting with logistical and field survey support for collection of egg masses, and transport to the rearing facilities established by AGFD and USFWS. On a recent trip, Drost, Gelczis, and Bill Vernieu (also USGS – SBSC) assisted AGFD and USFWS biologists in locating and collecting a single leopard frog egg mass. The eggs are now in a rearing facility, and tadpoles and young frogs will be released to one or more refuge sites in late summer. Contact: Charles Drost, SBSC 928-556-7187, Flagstaff, AZ.

**SBSC Researcher on TV:** USGS SCEP herpetologist Erika Nowak gave presentations on rattlesnake and narrow-headed gartersnake ecology to three public and federal groups recently: 1) Elementary school students at the Verde Valley Birding Festival in Cottonwood, Arizona on April 27; 2) National Park Service staff at the Flagstaff Area National Monuments (this presentation included a half-hour demonstration and hands-on training on safe rattlesnake handling) on May 15; and 3) campground users and State Park Staff at Deadhorse Ranch State Park on May 18. On May 11, she, USGS STEP Robert Parker, and USGS volunteer Matthew Hamilton were filmed processing gila monsters and rattlesnakes at Tonto National Monument with Jeff Corwin of the TV show "Animal Planet." This segment will air in 2008 on the Travel Channel, and will feature Mr. Corwin discovering research and researchers in Arizona National Parks. Contact: Erika Nowak, SBSC Colorado Plateau Research Station, (928) 523-7766 -230, Flagstaff, AZ.