

Life History and Ecology of the Sonoran Mud Turtle (*Kinosternon sonoriense*): Living with Uncertainty and Facing the Certainty of Climate Change. Justin Congdon

Populations of organisms around the world are already compromised by habitat loss and exposure to increasing levels of contaminants and toxicants that reduce the ability of individuals to withstand additional problems associated with global warming. Although some current populations of Sonoran Mud Turtles (SMT) appear to be relatively stable, the species was recently upgraded from Vulnerable to Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List. The upgrade was based on documentation that their core areas include intermittent aquatic habitats that will be reduced as global warming occurs. In the short-term the fate of many SMT populations are tied to their reliance on stock ponds and Civilian Conservation Core dams (constructed in the 1930s) that both represent refuges and threats to populations. The spatial biology, general ecology, and life-history trait values of SMTs are examined to build scenarios for the future of SMT populations in the short- and long-term. Justin Congdon is a Professor Emeritus from the University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Laboratory. His research interests are in the major areas of physiology, population biology and evolutionary ecology. Justin has published 148 peer reviewed publications and 13 book chapters on reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals.



15 Aug 2018, 7:15, Ward 3 Conference Room,
1510 E Grant. Pre-meeting dinner at Rubios,
2906 N Campbell, 5:30.

*Justin with an 83-yr old
Blandings Turtle from the George
Reserve, MN.*

