

**WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO MANAGE TURTLES,
AND WHY SHOULD ANYONE ELSE CARE?**

Whit Gibbons

This talk will address issues of conservation management and mitigation of habitats that are essential to insure long-term viability of turtle populations and ultimately entire species. Several key related points must be considered at the same time. Can turtles, which have delayed maturity and extended reproductive longevity compared to most wildlife species, withstand continual harvesting? What ecological turtle and habitat data are needed to make a convincing case that any harvesting is sustainable? Who has to be convinced? What do wildlife managers need to know to incorporate turtle life history and ecology information into habitat modification or protection plans? The point will be made that these issues cannot be dealt with in isolation and must be considered collectively.