I am from Phoenix, Arizona, and obtained my undergraduate degree in Biology at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. I began working with herpetology at a Research Experience for Undergraduates position at Harvard Forest, where I studied the effect of hemlock forest declines due to hemlock woolly adelgid on terrestrial salamanders. After graduating, I worked at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute studying wood and spotted turtles before joining Purdue University as a PhD student studying the effects of timber management, including prescribed fire, on terrestrial salamanders. I attended my first PARC meeting at NEPARC in August 2018, presented a poster on my work with Harvard Forest, and joined the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Team (DEITT). The following year I joined the DEITT Scholarship Team and helped design and implement the PARC Increasing Participation Award (PIPA), a scholarship for underrepresented groups to attend PARC meetings. In August 2019 I attended the MWPARC meeting and presented a poster on my work at Purdue. As a DEITT representative, I also presented on the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in herpetological science and DEITT's initiatives.

Please let me know if you need anything more or have any questions!

Thank you,

Alison Ochs