

USACE Natural Resource Management

Reptiles & Amphibians



Arroyo Toad

FAST FACTS

REASONS FOR LISTING STATUS: The arroyo toad has a distribution that is naturally limited by its specialized habitat requirements. This limited distribution coupled with small population sizes makes the arroyo toad particularly sensitive to changes in their habitat.

This toad was listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Endangered on December 16, 1994. Habitat loss, predation from introduced species, and habitat modifications due to water level manipulation coupled with the species' limited natural occurrence and small populations led to the toad's listing. (USFWS)

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION: After being listed as Endangered in 1994, Critical Habitat was designated for this species by USFWS in 2001. The designated Critical Habitat was then revised in 2005 and 2011.

In 2012, the USFWS was petitioned to downlist the arroyo toad and reclassify the species as Threatened. After a 12 month finding which was reopened in 2014, the USFWS withdrew the proposal in 2015. The arroyo toad remains classified as Endangered today. (USFWS)

HABITAT NEEDS: Arroyo toads inhabit aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats such as desert or shrubland (NatureServe).

- More specifically, the arroyo toad occupies medium-to-large rivers and streams with low gradients and intermittent or perennial flows within California.
- Suitable habitat is created and maintained via periodic flooding and scouring which alters channels, redistributes sediments, and modifies pool location and form.
- Breeding habitat is specialized. These toads need slow-moving streams with sandy soils and sandy streamside terraces.
- Reproduction depends upon very shallow, still, or low-flow pools for breeding, egg-laying, and tadpole development. (USFWS)

Description: This toad has snout-vent length of just 2-3 inches when fully grown. These toads range from gray to light brown to olive green in color. There is a prominent white "v" across the top of the toad's head, between its eyes. It can be distinguished from other toads by non-paired symmetrical dorsal blotches and bicolored parotid glands. The belly of this toad is buff-white and usually lacks spots. This species lacks a middorsal stripe. (USFWS)

Photos: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

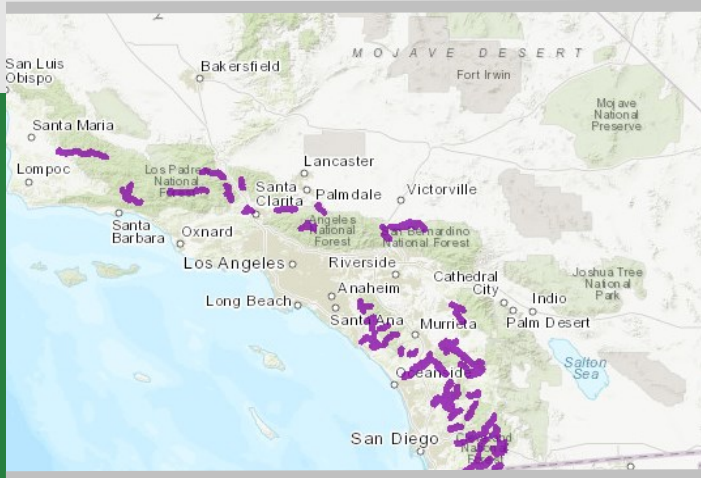
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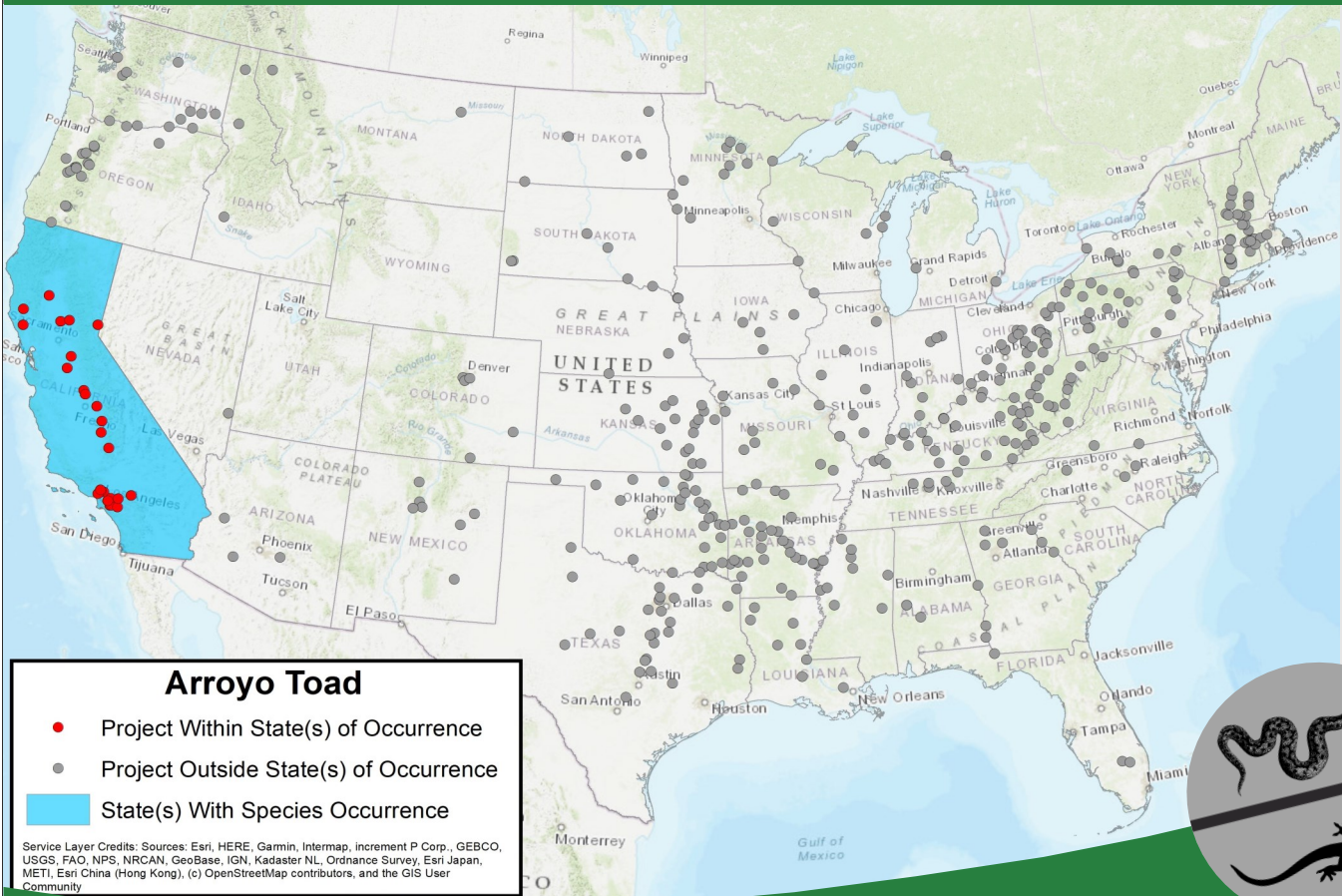
USACE ROLE: According to the Engineering Research and Development Center's Threatened and Endangered Species Team Cost Estimates, the USACE has expended over \$327,000 on efforts related to the arroyo toad since 2007. Of that sum, over \$90,000 has been expended on inventorying, surveying, and/or monitoring efforts for the arroyo toad.

Map, right: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Environmental Conservation Online System range map for the arroyo toad.
 Map, below: The purple highlights arroyo toad critical habitat as designated by USFWS.



WHAT IS USACE NRM DOING:

The USACE manages several projects within the range of the arroyo toad. As such, the USACE works diligently to analyze project plans within this range to ensure that proposed projects will not have negative impacts on the arroyo toad or its habitat. All current and future work is closely coordinated with resources agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



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 Source: Map provided by Ashleigh Boss, ORISE Fellowship, Institute for Water Resources

Arroyo Toad

- Project Within State(s) of Occurrence
- Project Outside State(s) of Occurrence
- State(s) With Species Occurrence

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