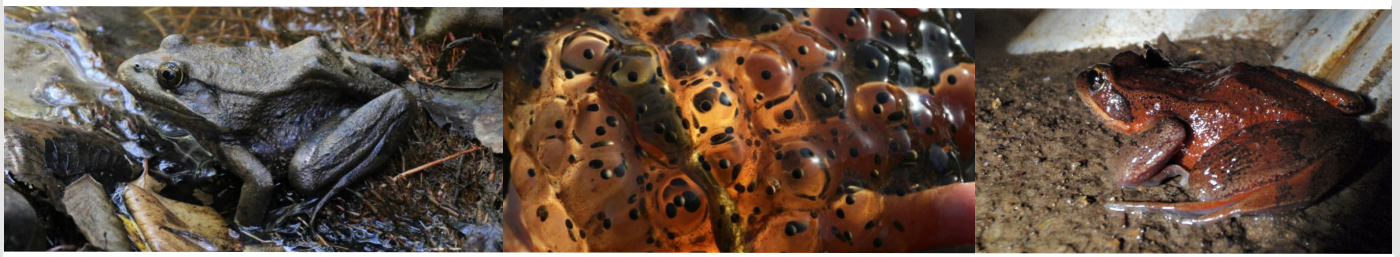


USACE Natural Resource Management Reptiles & Amphibians



California Red-legged Frog

FAST FACTS

REASONS FOR LISTING STATUS: The California red-legged frog has been extirpated from approximately 70% of its former range. This extirpation has been due to the destruction and degradation of habitat. As a result of the subspecies' extirpation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began the process of providing legal protections for the frog in 1991 by listing it as a Category 1 candidate species. In 1996 the frog was listed Threatened under the ESA.

Within the remaining range, this frog still faces threats from urban encroachment, construction of water diversions and reservoirs, contaminants, livestock grazing, and agricultural practice. (USFWS)

MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION: This frog is considered a species of special concern in the state of California. Additionally, it was listed in 1996 as Threatened under the ESA. The USFWS published a recovery plan for this subspecies in 2002 and designated critical habitat for the California red-legged frog in 2010.

The Recovery Plan objectives are to protect remaining populations by reducing threats, restore and create habitat to be managed in perpetuity, survey and monitor populations, conduct further research on the frog, and re-establish populations within the historic range.

HABITAT NEEDS: This frog is found predominantly in the coastal drainages of central California from Marin County, California south to the northern Baja California, Mexico. (USFWS)

- The subspecies requires aquatic breeding habitat to be contained within a mosaic of riparian and upland dispersal habitat.
- Breeding habitat includes marshes, ponds, lagoons, dune ponds, sage ponds, springs, and the pools and backwaters of streams and creeks.
- Upland habitats contain elements which provide protection from predators and prevent desiccation such as downed woody vegetation, leaf litter, and small mammal burrows. (USFWS)

Description: This is the largest native frog of the western U.S. Females are the larger sex and may grow up to 5.4 inches in length. The hind legs and posterior portion of the abdomen of adults are often red or salmon pink. The back is reddish-brown, brown, gray, or olive and has small black flecks coupled with larger, dark blotches. The dorsal spots generally have light centers. (USFWS)

Photos: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resource Management (NRM)

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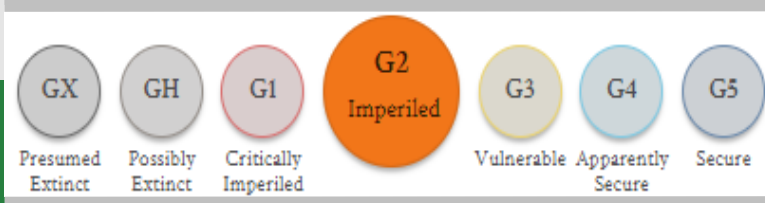


November 2020

USACE ROLE:

The USACE operates several projects within the range of the California red-legged frog. According to the 2019 NRM assessment this frog occurs commonly at the Mojave River Reservoir project of the Los Angeles District. Furthermore, Sacramento District has a project, Buchanan Dam H.V. Eastman Lake, which is noted to have the potential for California red-legged frog occurrence.

Graphic, below: The California red-legged frog is considered to be Imperiled by NatureServe.



Map Above: The California red-legged frog's range as shown in USFWS's Environmental Conservation Online System

WHAT IS USACE NRM DOING: According to the USACE Threatened and Endangered Species Costs Estimates Databases, the USACE has expended over \$2,054,000 on efforts related to the California red-legged frog. Of that sum, over \$27,000 was expended on researching the subspecies. Additionally, \$77,000 has been put toward inventorying, surveying, and monitoring this frog. These funds have been expended across multiple business lines including Environmental Stewardship, Regulatory, and Planning and Program Management.

