



Foothill Yellow-legged Frog *Rana boylei*

This frog lives in streams and rivers with off-channel habitat such as pools and other areas of low water velocity. In summer, they are likely to be hidden under rocks, but wet days

can find them wandering out of the water. Adult frogs are gray or brown with yellow underbellies and thighs. Their color helps camouflage them, making them hard to see among the rocks.

Fun fact: The closest you may come to a yellow-legged frog is its splash. They will sun on rocks but are quick to take a dive when sensing a predator.

Lives: Western Oregon



Northern Leopard Frog *Lithobates pipiens*

The northern leopard frog is disappearing from Oregon for reasons believed to be associated with disease, introduced

fish, and other forms of environmental stress. This striking-looking frog has a background color of green or light brown scattered with large rounded brown spots bordered in yellow.

Fun fact: They like to forage for food afoot—often far from water in fields and prairies.

Lives: Limited locations in eastern Oregon



Invader Frog

There is one non-native invasive frog that survives and reproduces very successfully in Oregon—the American bullfrog, *Lithobates catesbeianus*.

Bullfrogs aggressively compete for food and

living space with native frogs. They eat many types of native wildlife including other frogs, young pond turtles, and even ducklings. Bullfrogs can lay almost 10 times more eggs than native frogs and can quickly outnumber them.

Action: Once taken from the wild, it's illegal to release bullfrogs. If you see adults or tadpoles for sale in stores or on a web site in Oregon, please call your local ODFW office.

What kids can do to help

1. Learn about frogs.
2. Never keep a wild frog as a pet.
3. Know that frogs are important to the food web. They eat lots of insects, including mosquitoes. Tadpoles keep water clean by eating algae. Frogs are also an important food source for other animals: fish, snakes and birds.
4. Tell people that frogs are cool. They jump. They splash. They let us know spring has arrived, and they live two lives. First, they live as tadpoles in water, then as adults they can live on the land.
5. Never release science projects into the wild. Get a free copy of Wildlife in the Classroom or Laboratory on the Invasive Species section of ODFW's Web site.
6. Learn more on the Save the Frogs Web site, www.savethefrogs.com
7. Learn more about the Oregon Conservation Strategy, www.dfw.state.or.us

Photo credits: Coastal tailed frog, Brome McCreary; Great basin spadefoot, James Bettaso; Western toad, Kelly McAllister; Woodhouseii toad, ODFW; Northern Pacific Treefrog, Kelly McAllister; Northern red-legged frog, ODFW; Cascades frog, Kelly McAllister; Oregon spotted frog, Kelly McAllister; Columbia spotted frog, ODFW; Foothill yellow-legged frog, ODFW; Northern leopard frog, USDA Forest Service; American bullfrog, ODFW.



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Facts for Kids

Twelve native species of frogs and toads live in Oregon. Many of them are classified as Oregon State Sensitive species and listed in the Oregon Conservation Strategy as species in need of help—that means they have small or declining populations.

Worldwide, frogs are in trouble and many are on the road to extinction. Habitat loss, pollution, pesticides, climate change, infectious diseases, the pet trade and invasive animal species are all causing problems for frogs.



Oregon's Frogs and Toads



Coastal Tailed Frog *Ascaphus truei*

Coastal tailed frogs live in fast running streams—often in fishless headwater streams—and sometimes can be found on damp banks or under rocks. They like

cold water and their coloring often matches the color of local rock. Populations may be declining due to some forest management practices and other activities along streams which alter habitat. This species is found from near sea level to high-mountain streams.

Fun fact: This frog doesn't croak. In fact, it has no voice.
Lives: Coast Range, Klamath Mountains and West Cascades



Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog *Ascaphus montanus*

Rocky Mountain tailed frogs are found in the water or close by it. They are primarily nocturnal, and prefer to live in cold, fast-flowing streams in forests.

In the summer, they hide under rocks in streams.

Fun fact: These frogs don't have tongues or vocal sacs, so they don't call at all.
Lives: Eastern Oregon



Great Basin Spadefoot *Spea intermontana*

Great Basin spadefoot toads live in bunchgrass prairie, sagebrush, or ponderosa pine

woodlands that may be dry for all but a few weeks a year and can sometimes stay completely dry for several years in a row. When seasonal pools do appear, they make fast use of them to breed, lay eggs, and complete tadpole growth and metamorphosis, often in less than six weeks. They forage for earthworms and insects at night.

Gray or olive green, they have very large, golden yellow eyes set on the sides of the head. They dig burrows to hibernate for the winter and hide from extreme summer temperatures.

Fun fact: They are named for the small black "spade" on the first toe of each hind foot which allows them to dig into the ground for shelter.

Lives: Eastern Oregon



Western Toad *Anaxyrus boreas*

The western toad is well camouflaged in earth tones to help it stay safe from predators. A large toad with bumpy skin, it lives mainly on land in

a range of habitats from mountain meadows to desert flats. These toads are threatened by loss of wetlands, habitat degradation and other environmental changes.

Fun fact: Western toads have skin secretions that taste bad and help to deter other animals from eating them.

Lives: Throughout Oregon



Woodhouse's Toad *Anaxyrus woodhousii*

The Woodhouse's toad appears in only a few areas along the Columbia River and northern Malheur County, specifically river valleys in

sagebrush or grassland areas. They are light grey to brown generally marked with contrasting spots. They have bumps on their skin which contain poison glands to discourage predators. These toads catch insects by night; their call is a loud, long whistle.

Fun fact: This toad survives hot summer days by burying itself in the ground with its powerful hind legs.

Lives: Limited locations in eastern Oregon



Northern Pacific Treefrog *Pseudacris regilla*

The Northern Pacific treefrog is the most common frog in Oregon. In dry areas, it is found in places high in moisture—marshes, meadows,

woodlands and brush. The treefrog is a fabulous example of what the Oregon Conservation Strategy hopes to accomplish for all our common native species—that is, keep them common.

Fun fact: Pacific treefrogs are often heard on movie soundtracks. You may hear them sing in the spring!

Lives: Throughout Oregon



Northern Red-legged Frog *Rana aurora*

Red-legged frogs lay their eggs in wetlands beginning in late winter.

They spend a lot of time on land in cool damp forests. Adults have red underlegs, hence their name. Studies

indicate populations are shrinking, and some may be harmed by pollution and increases of UV sunlight.

Fun fact: It's unlikely you'll ever hear a red-legged frog call. They call underwater.

Lives: East and West Cascade ecoregions



Cascades Frog *Rana cascadae*

Cascades frogs have gold eyes and long hind legs. They live in moist mountain meadows and damp bogs and forests. Home is usually

a shallow pond, marsh or small stream. Studies indicate populations are increasingly small. Many things can affect this frog including disease, loss of habitat, air pollution and UV-B radiation.

Fun fact: This frog's scientific name is *Rana cascadae*—*Rana* is Latin for frog and *cascadae* refers to the frog's traditional homeland, the Cascade Mountains.

Lives: East and West Cascades



Oregon Spotted Frog *Rana pretiosa*

Oregon spotted frogs like to keep their feet wet. They live in wetlands near ponds, lakes and slow streams. They eat beetles, flies,

spiders and other insects. They are patient predators, remaining motionless, until they see something that looks tasty. The frog then lunges and captures the prey with a sticky tongue. Due to a long list of environmental stressors, this species has disappeared from its former range west of the Cascade Mountains and much of its historic range east of the Cascade Mountains. It is classified as a Threatened Species by the federal government.

Fun fact: This frog's scientific name, *pretiosa*, means precious in Latin.

Lives: Eastern Oregon



Columbia Spotted Frog *Rana luteiventris*

Columbia spotted frogs love the water. They make their homes in or near lakes, ponds, marshes and slow streams. They can be brown, tan or green and

are dotted with irregularly-shaped black spots. This species is being challenged by loss of its habitat and predation by non-native bullfrogs.

Fun fact: Columbia spotted frogs will wander short distances. They will sometimes migrate seasonally and use different water bodies for breeding, summer feeding and overwintering.

Lives: Eastern Oregon