

Private landowners are key to conservation

In Skagit and Whatcom Counties, all Oregon Spotted Frog populations have been found on private property. Understanding where these frogs are will enable us to focus our recovery efforts. Private landowners can help WDFW track this species' range and abundance by allowing biologists to survey their land. This can increase our knowledge of Oregon Spotted Frog populations in Washington and may lead to the removal of this species from the state endangered list.

Please call WDFW for advice on simple ways to help our local populations of Oregon Spotted Frogs, which may include:

- Mowing, haying, and managing grazing with consideration of timing to maintain and restore breeding habitat
- Reconnecting seasonal and permanent wetlands
- Working with WDFW before planting trees and shrubs along wetlands to prevent shading of breeding habitat
- Coordinating water retention and draining schedules with the frog's breeding season
- Assessing grazing practices and how they might best benefit these frogs



Photo by Stephen Nyman

Partnering for conservation

We can provide technical assistance to survey for Oregon Spotted Frogs and protect, manage, or improve Oregon Spotted Frog habitat on your land. We are grateful to landowners who currently are helping these frogs and hope you will join us in recovering this unique species.

Please contact us if you have questions or to discuss conservation of Oregon Spotted Frogs on your private property.

Contact

WDFW

North Puget Sound Regional Office
16018 Mill Creek Blvd, Mill Creek, WA 98012
425-775-1311 | teammillcreek@dfw.wa.gov

US Fish & Wildlife Service

1009 College Street SE, Lacey, WA 98503
360-753-9440 | WashingtonFWO_Admin@fws.gov



Individuals who need to receive this information in an alternative format, language, or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact the Title VI/ADA Compliance Coordinator by phone at 360-902-2349, TTY (711), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov).

Oregon Spotted Frogs Need Your Help



Washington
Department of
FISH and
WILDLIFE

Meet the Oregon Spotted Frog

Size and Appearance: Full-grown, this frog is two to three inches long. Its color ranges from dark brown to tan, pale green, or even brick red. The frog's head and back have spots with dark edges and a light center. Their yellow-green colored and upward-facing eyes are a unique feature.

Habitat: Oregon Spotted Frogs live their entire lives in water. In winter and spring, they use seasonally flooded wetlands connected to permanent water. Examples include flooded pastures and hayfields next to rivers, ponds, wetlands, or ditches. In summer, the frogs move to deeper wetland pools that will not dry out.

Geographic range: The current known geographic range of the Oregon Spotted Frog extends from southwestern British Columbia, Canada through western Washington and Oregon, but populations are scattered. Though their range in Skagit and Whatcom Counties is not fully known, we know they live in areas along the South Fork Nooksack River, Samish River, and Sumas River. Elsewhere in Washington, they occur in the upper Black River drainage, lower Trout Lake Creek drainage, and at Conboy Lake.

Mating & Reproduction: Oregon Spotted Frogs breed in shallow, still water with short plants and lots of sun exposure. In Washington, breeding occurs from late February through early April. Males call to females using a soft, low-pitched "knocking" sound, like the sound of a woodpecker tapping. Typically, multiple females lay clusters of eggs, called egg masses, one on top of the other, but single egg masses also can be found. A tadpole develops into a frog in about four months.

Oregon Spotted Frogs are in trouble

Oregon Spotted Frogs are classified as state endangered and federally threatened because they do not have enough good habitat. Much of the wetlands they once used have been drained, diked, developed, or invaded by tall, dense vegetation, such as reed canarygrass. However, certain farming practices, such as grazing and mowing for hay in seasonally flooded areas, can benefit these frogs by keeping vegetation short. The threats to this species include:

- Separation of breeding areas from permanent water
- Tree and shrub plantings that shade or replace frog habitat
- Quick-draining fields that strand egg masses and trap tadpoles
- Unmanaged areas of canarygrass that replace frog habitat
- Removal of beavers and the habitat they create
- Non-native predators, including bullfrogs, green frogs, and some warm water fish
- Herbicides, pesticides, and other chemicals
- Lack of information on where these frogs live

