



AQUATIC LANDS HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN- **Species Spotlight**

Oregon Spotted Frog — *Rana pretiosa*

Protection status: *Washington State endangered species listing and as threatened through the Federal Government*

The historic range of the Oregon spotted frog extends from southern British Columbia into northern California. Washington has only six known populations of these frogs: four in Thurston County in the Black River watershed and two in Klickitat County.

Life History

Adult Oregon spotted frogs reach lengths of 1.5 to 4 inches (4 to 10 cm), and live approximately 5 years. Males reach sexual maturity in their second year, with females maturing at 2 to 3 years. Females frequently lay their eggs in communal masses of 10 to 75, with individual masses containing between 500 and more than 1,000 eggs. Larvae hatch between 18 and 30 days, with tadpoles undergoing metamorphosis 3 to 4 months later.



Oregon Spotted Frog. Photo: Kelly McAllister.

The Oregon spotted frog has two types of annual migration patterns with wet season migrations occurring infrequently and between widely separated breeding pools. In contrast, dry season migrations are likely a response to changing water levels, with the migrations occurring more frequently and between pools that are closer together.

Adults forage in and under water, primarily consuming beetles, spiders, flies, and ants—although the species has been observed eating newly metamorphosed red-legged frogs and juvenile western toads. Tadpoles graze on algae and plant detritus. Oregon spotted frogs overwinter

in waters generally free of ice, burying themselves in the sediment at the base of plants during the coldest periods.

Habitat Use

The Oregon spotted frog prefers marshy edges of ponds and lakes or overflow pools associated with streams. In Washington, the species occurs in large, shallow, wetland systems associated with streams and beaver dams. Breeding occurs from February to March in seasonally flooded margins of wetlands, with unattached egg masses laid in areas with little or no vegetative shading.

Adults prefer deeper waters, under open canopies, and rarely venture further than 6-1/2 feet (2 m) from surface water. Tadpoles prefer warm, shallow water with dense emergent and submerged vegetation.

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Why are Oregon spotted frogs included in the Aquatic Lands HCP?

The Aquatic Lands Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) addresses 29 species of animals that depend on submerged or intertidal lands for either all or a significant portion of their life history. Specific threats that warrant protection of the Oregon spotted frog include:

- Changes to hydrology including water levels, temperatures, and movement.
- Decrease in water quality.
- Loss of functioning wetlands.
- Increase in predation by bullfrogs and non-native fish.

The Aquatic Lands Habitat Conservation Plan

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the steward of more than 2.6 million acres of state-owned aquatic lands beneath Washington's navigable lakes, rivers, marine waters, and estuaries. DNR sustainably manages these aquatic lands on behalf of the people of the state—to protect fish and wildlife and to provide opportunities for commerce, navigation, and public access.

The increased demand for the use of aquatic lands can be harmful to aquatic habitats and species. To encourage a balanced approach to managing and protecting these lands, DNR is developing an Aquatic Lands **Habitat Conservation Plan** (HCP). The HCP will provide a framework for managing the aquatic lands under DNR's stewardship to ensure the continued health of our state's marine and fresh waters and the species that inhabit them.

Learn more

For more information about DNR's Aquatic Lands HCP and the other species that are covered in the plan, visit: www.dnr.wa.gov/aquaticHCP.

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