

## Endangered Species and Spaces

Home
Up
Table of Contents
Introduction
Classification Systems
Mammals
Birds
Freshwater Fishes
Invertebrates
Vascular Plants
Non-Vascular Plants
Plant Communities
Exotic Species
Protected Areas
Summary-Conclusions
Appendix

Amphibians and Reptiles

Next

### 5.1 Northern Leopard Frog: *Rana pipiens* (Schreber )

**Order: Anura**  
**Family: Ranidae**

#### Status

Global Rank: G5  
COSEWIC: Endangered  
(B.C.)  
Provincial Rank: S1

Provincial listing: **Red list**



#### Distinguishing Features

The Northern Leopard Frog is a slim, medium-sized brown or green frog with large "leopard-like" dark brown or olive coloured spots on the back, sides and legs. The overall colour may be grass green or light brown. The prominent spots vary in size and number, and may be randomly scattered or arranged in two or three rows down the back. The spots have dark edges and light outside halos. The legs are long and the body has prominent dorso-lateral folds that are creamy-coloured and extend along the full length of the back. The belly is white and unmarked. Males range between 50 and 80 mm; females are slightly larger. Very vocal with a large repertoire of calls. (Green and Campbell, 1984).

#### Distribution

Columbia Basin: Found only in the Creston Valley.

British Columbia: Known only from the Creston area. Has disappeared from all previously inhabited sites in the East Kootenays and Okanagan Valley. Rare in the Creston Valley, where it was common in the 1970s. (Cannings et al. 1999).

Global: From Maine and Nova Scotia west through the northern U.S. and southern Canada to British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and California (Green and Campbell 1984).

#### Habitat

The Northern Leopard Frog occurs in and around marshes, wet meadows and riparian areas with thick vegetation that the adults use for cover.

#### Threats

Preliminary surveys reveal that the Northern Leopard Frog does not occur in any of the sites where it was relatively common in the 1970s. Reasons for the decline are unknown - predatory fish introduction may be a factor.

Throughout large portions of its range this species is thought to be declining for such reasons as habitat degradation, introduction of predatory aliens (fish and bull frogs), massive collections for scientific research and educational purposes as well as seemingly unexplained declines (Cannings et al. 1999).

## Biology

They breed in ponds or lake edges, or even temporary wetlands with dense emergent vegetation to which they will attach their egg masses well below the surface of the water. The males start calling with a range of grunts, putters and rumbles early in the spring when the ice melts off of the ponds. The tadpoles stay in the thick vegetation as they develop, taking 2-3 years to reach maturity. They spend the winter hibernating on the bottom of ponds and sluggish streams. If they have bred in a temporary wetland, they will migrate to a more permanent wetland after the breeding season. Northern Leopard Frogs feed on insects, leeches, fish, spiders and a variety of invertebrates. They are in turn preyed upon by such predators as Raccoons, snakes, Bullfrogs and herons. (Cannings et al. 1999).

Amphibians and Reptiles

Next



[ [Home](#) ] [ [Up](#) ] [ [Northern Leopard Frog](#) ] [ [Tailed Frog](#) ] [ [Coeurd'Alene Salamander](#) ] [ [Painted Turtle](#) ] [ [Rubber Boa](#) ]  
[ [Western Rattlesnake](#) ] [ [Amphibians & Reptiles References](#) ]