

## NEW ORGANIZATION

# Amphibian and Reptile Conservation

by Maria G. Essig, Idaho Herpetological Society



*Despite their representing a greater portion of the nation's biodiversity than either mammals or birds, reptiles and amphibians are, ironically, the least understood of vertebrates.*

– Whit Gibbons

Long-nose snakes and striped chorus frogs were once common throughout the Treasure Valley surrounding Boise, but Mark Gerber would be “extremely surprised” to find one there today. President of the Idaho Herpetological Society, Gerber has been tracking many species of reptiles and amphibians (collectively called herps) in southern Idaho for the past 10 years and has witnessed first-hand the decline of some native Idaho herps. He has also seen an increase in numbers of non-native animals such as bullfrogs, which often outcompete natives for territory and food. Gerber's concerns about maintaining Idaho's native reptile and amphibian populations are shared by researchers, scientists, and herp enthusiasts throughout the state. These concerned people are gaining a powerful new ally, an organization called Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC).

Although the sharp decline of amphibians around the world has been in the news, reptiles have not received the same level of attention. One advantage of PARC is its focus on both amphibians and reptiles. Organized in 1998, the group seeks to “conserve amphibians, reptiles, and their habitats as integral parts of our ecosystem and culture through proactive and coordinated public and private partnerships.”



*Horned lizard in southwest Idaho.*

Maria G. Essig

Modeled after the successful Partners in Flight organization, which raises awareness and takes action about the alarming decline of migratory birds that breed in North America and migrate to the tropics for winter, PARC is dedicated to raising awareness about and helping reptiles and amphibians.

Set up as an umbrella organization, PARC is bringing together state agencies, private groups, and individuals, professionals and nonprofessionals alike, who share PARC's mission. The practical goals of PARC include:

- Educating the public about the importance of herps in our environment, leading to acceptance and appreciation of these animals.
- Standardizing data collection techniques in order to provide comparable information and help recognize

trends.

- Using collected data to establish an organized base of knowledge about reptiles and amphibians throughout the United States and the world.
- Creating a user-friendly interface for accessing information and policies involving reptiles and amphibians.
- Determining the habitat needs of threatened herp species and working with landowners and land managers to provide those needs.

The information collected by PARC will help Idaho researchers confirm both positive and negative changes in herp populations. For example, Gerber believes that the range of tiger salamanders in Idaho has actually expanded as the salamanders use new irrigation canals as corridors to establish populations in areas previously unreachable. At the same time, housing developments are destroying habitat of other native herps, such as the ground snake and long-nose snake. Other, less obvious threats also exist. Collared lizards are declining where removal of large stones for landscaping purposes damages the rocky outcrops that are the lizards' preferred habitat. And no one knows the impacts caused by people who may overlook Idaho permitting regulations and remove from the wild large numbers of native reptiles or amphibians.

Declining, threatened, or endangered herps are not the only interest of PARC. In an effort to ensure children of the future the thrill of seeing a collared lizard outlined against the sky, watching tadpoles grow into frogs, or raising a garter snake, PARC wants to “keep common native species common.”

Magnificent animals, reptiles and amphibians play an important role in our planet's ecosystem. PARC is dedicated to conserving this valuable resource. As Dr. Whit Gibbons, herpetologist at the University of Georgia's Savannah River Ecology Laboratory and one of the founding members of PARC, wrote, “Reptiles and amphibians are sentinels of our environmental health. If they are declining, disappearing, then we need to make amends. Because what happens to them is a sign of what could happen to other wildlife; and we won't be far behind.”

*For more information about PARC, check their website at [www.parcplace.org](http://www.parcplace.org). If you're interested in furthering the PARC mission or participating in an Idaho PARC working group, contact Dr. Charles Peterson, Professor of Ecology and Herpetology, at Idaho State University (208/236-3922 or [petechar@isu.edu](mailto:petechar@isu.edu)). For more information about PARC or the Idaho Herpetological Society, contact Mark Gerber, IHS President (208/378-6236 or [mgerber@IdahoHerpetologicalSociety.com](mailto:mgerber@IdahoHerpetologicalSociety.com)).*

## NEWS & EVENTS

### Mark Your MAY Calendar: International Migratory Bird Day and Other Birding Events

*All these Saturday events are free-of-charge.  
Bring your binoculars and dress for the weather conditions.*

#### **Kootenai National Wildlife Refuge - May 13**

Contact: Dan Pennington, USFWS  
(208) 267-3888

Time: Early morning to early afternoon.

Activities: Try several bird-watching walks, including one for marsh birds and one for forest birds, all beginning at the Refuge. There are also demonstrations, including activities for the kids, such as bird- or bat house building.

#### **Camas National Wildlife Refuge - May 20**

Contact: Gerry Deutscher, USFWS  
(208) 662-5423

Time: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Activities: Come to the Refuge anytime within this period to join a bird-watching tour, each lasting about an hour.

#### **American Falls Fish Hatchery - May 13**

Contact: Chuck Trost, ISU  
(208) 236-3337

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Activities: At the hatchery join guided birding tours of the reservoir area throughout the day.

#### **Salmon Region, Idaho Department of Fish and Game - May 13**

Contact: Vicky Runnoe, IDFG  
(208) 756-2271

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Activities: Meet at the IDFG Salmon Regional office. Morning activities will include discussion of birding, field guides, binoculars, bird identification from slides. Afterwards, there will be a birding tour outdoors, as well as a bird-banding demonstration.

#### **Roberts Community Center, then to Market Lake Wildlife Management Area - May 20**

Contact: Mark Delwiche, Audubon  
(208) 525-9414

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Activities: Visit the Community Center to see displays, bird-carvers, a falconer. During these hours, guided bird-watching tours will leave from here for the marsh, each tour lasting approximately an hour.

#### **Craters of the Moon National Monument - May 13**

Contact: Mike Munts, USPS  
(208) 527-3257

*Reservation is required.*

Time: 9:00 a.m. to noon

Activities: Join the all-morning, guided bird-watching tour at Craters. (Group size for this all-morning trip will be limited for maximum birding success, so call ahead.)

#### **Boise District Bureau of Land Management - Bird Banding Trips - May 6, 13, and 27**

Contact: Nancy Taylor-Grant, BLM  
(208) 384-3463

*Pre-registration is required  
for any trip*

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 or 6:00 p.m.

Activities: Meet at the Boise District BLM office for any of the following all-day bird-banding trips. Call ahead to reserve your space.

**May 6:** western screech-owls  
**May 13:** western screech-owls  
**May 27:** ferruginous hawks

### **Bird-Window Collisions from page 2**

common among cardinals, robins, and bluebirds, but I have observed chickadees and nuthatches doing the same thing.

One construction technique being tested in homes and in commercial buildings is to tilt the windows slightly to reflect the ground instead of the treetops. It remains to be seen if this will prove effective or practical. People like Dr. Klem have shown that bird strikes are a real problem. The

beginning of a solution is our increased awareness of the problem. As more people become aware, more research will hopefully provide more solutions. Then it is up to each of us to implement the ideas and reduce this needless form of bird death.

For more information, contact Betty Miller at Whispering Pines, P.O. Box 8568, Moscow, ID 83843; 1/888/882-8344; or [www.wpines.com](http://www.wpines.com).

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE INDIVIDUAL OBSERVATION FORM

Please provide whatever information you can. To simplify reporting a number of observations, you may wish to use the multiple observation form. Thank you

**Common Name/Species:** Provide the common or scientific name of the animal if you are able to identify it. If you cannot identify it, please describe it as accurately as possible. Include the exact or estimated number ( 1-10, 10-100, more than 100, etc.) observed.

**Date:** Include the year and clearly distinguish between day and month (e.g., 6 June 1992).

**Time.** Include AM or PM or use military time.

Please include your **name, affiliation, address, and phone number** so we can contact you if we need further information, a copy of the photograph, etc.

Have you seen this species before?

**Description:** Describe the animal as accurately as you can so we can confirm your identification or so we can identify it from your description. Characteristics to note include size/length, shape, color, pattern (e.g., striped, banded, blotched, or unicolor), skin texture (e.g., smooth, shiny, rough, scaled, etc.), pupil shape (round or elliptical), and presence or absence of limbs and tail. See the references below for more information on identifying characteristics. Did you photograph the animal?

**Behavior:** Behavioral descriptions are useful in identifying animals and are inherently interesting. For example, Was the animal moving or still? Did it crawl or jump or hop? Was it fast or slow? Was it trying to escape from you or was it hunting or feeding? Did it vocalize? What did it sound like?

**Location:** Be as accurate as possible. Try to describe the site so that someone else could relocate it from your directions. For example, in a small pond, 30 yards north of Highway X, 4.5 miles N and 3.3 miles east of a known landmark (junction, the center of a town, etc.). Please include the exact coordinates if you know them (latitude and longitude, UTM's, or Range, Township, Section, quarter section, etc.). Accurate locality information can greatly enhance the value of your observation.

**Habitat:** Describe the major cover type (forested [needleleaf, broadleaf, or mixed], non-forested [alpine, grassland, shrubland, or barren], riparian and wetlands [forested or scrub-shrub riparian, marsh, pond, or lake], or developed land [agricultural or urban]). Also describe the immediate area around the animal (burrow, talus slope, stream bank, etc.).

**Weather:** Include such information as the air temperature, water temperature, wind conditions, cloud cover, precipitation, etc.

**Remarks:** Please include any other information you consider relevant.

### Useful References

- Baxter, G.T. and M.D. Stone. 1985. Amphibians and Reptiles of Wyoming. Second edition. Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. 137 pp.
- Corkran, C.C. and C.R. Thoms. 1996. Amphibians of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia - A Field Identification Guide. Lone Pine Publishing, Vancouver, British Columbia. [very complete]
- Leonard, W.P., H.A. Brown, L.C. Jones, K.R. McAllister, and R.M. Storm. 1993. Amphibians of Washington and Oregon. Seattle Audubon Society, Seattle, Washington. [excellent color photographs]
- Nussbaum, R.A. E.D. Brodie, and R.M. Storm. 1983. Amphibians and reptiles of the Pacific Northwest. University of Idaho Press, Moscow. 332 pp. [The best general source of information on the amphibians and reptiles of Idaho]
- Koch, E.D. and C.R. Peterson. 1996. Amphibians and Reptiles of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. University of Utah Press. 188 pp.
- Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 336 pp. [The best field guide to the amphibians and reptiles of the western United States]
- Storm, R.M., W.P. Leonard, H.A. Brown, R.B. Bury, D.M. Darda, L.V. Diller, and C.R. Peterson. 1995. Reptiles of Washington and Oregon. Seattle Audubon Society Trailside Series. 176 pp. [excellent color photographs]

# AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE INDIVIDUAL OBSERVATION FORM

(April 2002)

Please provide whatever information you can, even if you are unsure of the species.

Species: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Animals \_\_\_\_\_

Observation Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ am pm (circle one)

Observer Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Have you seen this species before? \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Animal (size, color, pattern, pupil shape, skin texture, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Did you photograph the animal? \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Animal's Behavior: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Animal's Location: (Be as accurate as possible; e.g., 4.5 miles north and 3.3 miles east of known landmark; Latitude and Longitude; UTM coordinates; or Range, Township, and Section):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Weather: (temperature, cloud cover, wind, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:

Dr. Chuck Peterson  
Idaho Museum of Natural History  
Box 8007, Idaho State University  
Pocatello, Idaho 83209

(208) 282-3922 office 2824570 FAX E-mail: [petechar@isu.edu](mailto:petechar@isu.edu) Website: [www.isu.edu/~petechar](http://www.isu.edu/~petechar)

# CHECKLIST OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF BIG CREEK DRAINAGE, IDAHO<sup>1</sup>

(Version June 2002)

		Status/Comments <sup>2</sup>
<b>CLASS AMPHIBIA</b>		
<b>Order Urodela Salamanders and Newts</b>		
Family Ambystomatidae	Mole Salamanders	
<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum</i>	Long-toed Salamander	Confirmed
Family Dicamptodontidae	Pacific Mole Salamanders	
<i>Dicamptodon aterrimus</i>	Idaho Giant Salamander	Possible
<b>Order Anura Frogs and Toads</b>		
Family Ascaphidae	Tailed Frogs	
<i>Ascaphus montanus</i>	Rocky Mountain Tailed Frog	Confirmed
Family Bufonidae	True Toads	
<i>Bufo boreas</i>	Western Toad	Confirmed USDS NF Sensitive Species
Family Hylidae	True Tree Frogs	
<i>Pseudacris (=Hyla) regilla</i>	Pacific Treefrog	Possible
Family Ranidae	True Frogs	
<i>Rana luteiventris</i>	Columbia Spotted Frog	Confirmed Indicator species for Salmon/Challis NF
<b>CLASS REPTILIA</b>		
<b>Order Squamata</b>		
<b>Suborder Lacertilia Lizards</b>		
Family Iguanidae	Iguanids	
<i>Sceloporus graciosus</i>	Common Sagebrush Lizard	Possible
Family Scincidae	Skinks	
<i>Eumeces skiltonianus</i>	Western Skink	Possible
<b>Suborder Ophidia Snakes</b>		
Family Boidae	Boas	
<i>Charina bottae</i>	Rubber Boa	Confirmed
Family Colubridae	Harmless Snakes	
<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Eastern Racer	Confirmed
<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>	Gopher Snake	Confirmed
<i>Thamnophis elegans</i>	Terrestrial Garter Snake	Confirmed
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Common Garter Snake	Possible
Family Viperidae	Vipers	
<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	Prairie Rattlesnake	Confirmed

<sup>1</sup> Species names are consistent with Crother, B.I. 2000. Scientific and Standard English Names of Amphibians and Reptiles of North America North of Mexico, with Comments Regarding Confidence in Our Understanding. SSAR Herpetological Circular No. 29. Pp. iv + 1-82. Family names follow Pough et al. 2001.

## Herpetology Laboratory, Idaho State University



### Sources of Information on Amphibians and Reptiles

#### References:

- Corkran, C.C. and C.R. Thoms. 1996. Amphibians of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia - A Field Identification Guide. Lone Pine Publishing, Vancouver, British Columbia. [Very complete]
- Duellman, W.E. and L. Trueb. 1985. Biology of Amphibians. McGraw Hill, New York. [The best general amphibian text.]
- Groves, C. 1994. Idaho's Amphibians and Reptiles. Nongame Leaflet # 7. Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
- Halliday, T. and K. Adler. 1987. The Encyclopedia of Amphibians and Reptiles. Facts on File Publications, New York. 143 pp. [An excellent general introduction to the biology of amphibians and reptiles; accurate, clearly written, and well illustrated]
- Heyer, W.R., R.W. McDiarmid, M. Donnelly, and L. Hayek, (editors). 1994. Measuring and monitoring biological diversity - Standard methods for amphibians. Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. [The single most comprehensive source for information on sampling amphibians.]
- Karns, D.R. 1986. Field herpetology: methods for the study of amphibians and reptiles in Minnesota. Occasional Paper No. 18, Division of Comparative Biology, James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. [Contains good descriptions of techniques for finding and monitoring populations.]
- Koch, E.D. and C.R. Peterson. 1996. Amphibians and Reptiles of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. University of Utah Press. 188 pp. [detailed species accounts]
- Leonard, W.P., H.A. Brown, L.C. Jones, K.R. McAllister, and R.M. Storm. 1993. Amphibians of Washington and Oregon. Seattle Audubon Society, Seattle, Washington. [excellent color photographs]
- Nussbaum, R.A. E.D. Brodie, and R.M. Storm. 1983. Amphibians and reptiles of the Pacific Northwest. University Press of Idaho, Moscow. 332 p. [Although somewhat dated, one of the best general source of information on the amphibians and reptiles of Idaho.]
- Olson, D.H., W.P. Leonard, and R.B. Bury (editors). Sampling Amphibians in Lentic Habitats. Northwest Fauna 4. [An excellent summary of amphibian sampling techniques for pond-breeding amphibians in the Pacific Northwest.]
- Pough, F.H., J.B. Heiser, and W.N. McFarland. 1989. Vertebrate Life. Third edition. Macmillan Publishing Co., New York. [An excellent textbook on vertebrate zoology; especially good chapters on amphibians and reptiles].
- Pough, F.H., R.M. Andrews, J.E. Cadle, M.L. Crump, A.H. Savitzky, and K.D. Wells. 1998. Herpetology, Prentice-Hall, Inc. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. 577 pp. [The best introductory textbook of herpetology]
- Stebbins, R.C. 2003. Western amphibians and reptiles. Third edition. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 544 pp. [The best field guide to the amphibians and reptiles of the western United States.]
- Stebbins, R.C. and N.W. Cohen. 1995. A Natural History Amphibians. Princeton University Press. 316 pp.
- St. John, Alan. 2002. Reptiles of the Northwest. Lone Pine Press. 256 pp. [Excellent photos and illustrations]
- Storm, R.M., W.P. Leonard, H.A. Brown, R.B. Bury, D.M. Darda, L.V. Diller, and C.R. Peterson. 1995. Reptiles of Washington and Oregon. Seattle Audubon Society Trailside Series. 176 pp. [excellent color photographs]

## Sources of Information

### Amphibian Calls:

Sounds of the North American Frogs. 1958. The Smithsonian Institution. Folkways Cassette Series:06166. [Describes types and characteristics of calls; to order, call 202 287-3262]

Voices of the Night. 1982. Library of Natural Sounds. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. [Calls of many species of North American frogs and toads]

Davidson, C. 1995. Frog and Toad Calls of the Pacific Coast - Vanishing Voices. Library of Natural Sounds. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

### Organizations:

Conservation Data Center, Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, 600 S. Walnut, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83707; (208) 334-3402.

Herpetology Laboratory. Department of Biological Sciences, Idaho State University, and Idaho Museum of Natural History. Campus Box 8007, ISU, Pocatello, ID 83209. (208) 236-3922. E-mail: [petechar@isu.edu](mailto:petechar@isu.edu). Website: <http://www.isu.edu/~petechar> – provides links to Idaho Amphibian and Reptile Website, ISU Herpetology Laboratory, and the Digital Atlas of Idaho.

Idaho Herpetological Society. P.O. Box 44484, Boise, Idaho 83711-0484. [Publishes *Idaho Herp News* four times per year; Mark Gerber, President]

IUCN/SSC Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force (DAPTF). [Publishes *FrogLog* four times per year; John Baker, Editor. Department of Biology, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA, United Kingdom; E-mail: [j.m.r.baker@open.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.r.baker@open.ac.uk); World Wide Web <http://acs-info.open.ac.uk/info/other/FROGLOG.html>]

Pacific Northwest Amphibian and Reptile Consortium (PNARC). [A subcommittee of the *Society for Northwestern Vertebrate*]





## INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE MULTIPLE OBSERVATION FORM

The purpose of this form is to provide an efficient format for reporting multiple observations of amphibians and reptiles.

Please include your **name, affiliation, address, and phone number** so we can contact you if we need further information, a copy of the photograph, etc.

**Common Name/Species:** Provide the common or scientific name of the animal if you are able to identify it. If you cannot identify it, please describe it as accurately as possible. Indicate life stage (adult, juveniles, larvae, or eggs). Use separate lines for different life stages. Include the exact or estimated number ( 1-10, 10-100, more than 100, etc.) observed.

**Description:** Briefly describe the animal so we can confirm your identification or so we can identify it from your description. Characteristics to note include size/length, shape, color, pattern (e.g., striped, banded, blotched, or unicolor), skin texture (e.g., smooth, shiny, rough, scaled, etc.), pupil shape (round or elliptical), and presence or absence of limbs and tail. See the identification cards or the references below for more information on identifying characteristics.

**Date and Time.:** Include the year and clearly distinguish between day and month (e.g., 6 June 1992). Include AM or PM or use military time.

**Location:** Be as accurate as possible. Try to describe the site so that someone else could relocate it from your directions. For example, in a small pond, 30 yards north of Highway X, 4.5 miles N and 3.3 miles east of a known landmark (junction, the center of a town, etc.). Please include the state, county, and exact coordinates if you know them (latitude and longitude, UTM's, or Range, Township, Section, quarter section, etc.). Accurate locality information can greatly enhance the value of your observations.

**Habitat:** Describe the major cover type (forested [needleleaf, broadleaf, or mixed], non-forested [alpine, grassland, shrubland, or barren], riparian and wetlands [forested or scrub-shrub riparian, marsh, pond, or lake], or developed land [agricultural or urban]). Also describe the immediate area around the animal (burrow, talus slope, stream bank, etc.).

**Remarks:** Include other relevant information concerning behavior, weather, etc. Behavioral descriptions are useful in identifying animals and are inherently interesting. For example, Was the animal moving or still? Did it crawl or jump or hop? Was it fast or slow? Was it trying to escape from you or was it hunting or feeding? Did it vocalize? What did it sound like? Useful weather information includes air temperature, water temperature, wind conditions, cloud cover, precipitation, etc. Indicate here if you photographed the animal.

### Useful References

- Baxter, G.T. and M.D. Stone. 1985. Amphibians and Reptiles of Wyoming. Second edition. Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. 137 pp.
- Corkran, C.C. and C.R. Thoms. 1996. Amphibians of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia - A Field Identification Guide. Lone Pine Publishing, Vancouver, British Columbia. [very complete]
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- Storm, R.M., W.P. Leonard, H.A. Brown, R.B. Bury, D.M. Darda, L.V. Diller, and C.R. Peterson. 1995. Reptiles of Washington and Oregon. Seattle Audubon Society Trailside Series. 176 pp. [excellent color photographs]

Please send completed forms to:

Dr. Chuck Peterson  
Idaho Museum of Natural History  
Box 8007, Idaho State University  
Pocatello, Idaho 83209-8007

(208) 282-3922 office 282-4570 FAX Internet: [petechar@isu.edu](mailto:petechar@isu.edu) Website: [www.isu.edu/~petechar](http://www.isu.edu/~petechar)

IDAHO RARE ANIMAL OBSERVATION REPORT

A list of rare animals for which we are seeking information and the types of information sought are shown on the back side of this form. Please refer to this list when sending us information. Please enter all available information.

Species Name: Spotted Frog *Rana pretiosa* Date of Observation: 6-11-03  
 Observer(s): Corey Shake, Holly Akenson, Troy Hinkle, Mackenzie Shandlow Phone: ( )  
 Address: Taylor Ranch Field Station AC 83 Box 8070 Cascade, ID 83611  
 Location of Observation: (Be specific, use place names we can locate on topo maps): Cold Meadows,  
S. end of the airstrip  
 County: Idaho T 22N R 12E <sup>SW</sup> ~~NE~~ 1/4 of <sup>NE</sup> ~~SW~~ 1/4 of Section 2 UTM  
 Elevation: 6990 ft Quad Name \_\_\_\_\_ IIT 0661093  
 Landowner/Manager: (e.g., BLM district, national forest) Forest Service 5015698  
 Type of Observation: (tracks, scat, nest, colony, sighting) egg mass and sightings  
 Number of Individuals Seen (include sex and age class): 4 adults  
 Habitat Description: sub-alpine meadow in slow moving water / <sup>thick</sup> grassy vegetation  
 Other Comments: Saw only one single egg mass

Species Name: Spotted Frog *Rana pretiosa* Date of Observation: 6-12-03  
 Observer(s): Corey Shake, Troy Hinkle Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: Taylor Ranch Field Station  
 Location of Observation: (Be specific, use place names we can locate on topo maps): \_\_\_\_\_  
Whimstick Creek ~~8.25~~ 1/4 mi. S. of Root Ranch Lodge  
 County: Idaho T <sup>23N</sup> ~~22N~~ R 12E SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 30  
 Elevation: 5640' Quad Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Landowner/Manager: (e.g., BLM district, national forest) Private / Adjacent to Forest Service Land  
 Type of Observation: (tracks, scat, nest, colony, sighting) Tadpole Sightings / Adult Sighting.  
 Number of Individuals Seen (include sex and age class): 3 adults in the vicinity, at least 40+ tadpole  
 Habitat Description: grassy meadow (thick) in standing / slow moving water  
 Other Comments: Saw most tadpoles on Root Ranch property / some on Forest Service adjacent.

Please return form to: Idaho Conservation Data Center, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P. O. Box 25, Boise ID 83707, (208) 334-3402

A list of rare animals for which we are seeking information and the types of information sought are shown on the back side of this form. Please refer to this list when sending us information. Please enter all available information.

Species Name: Tailed Frog ~~(*Rana*)~~ Date of Observation: 7-26-63  
Observer(s): Troy ~~Hinck~~ Hinck, Corey Shake Phone: ( )  
Address: Taylor Ranch Field Research Station HC83 Box 8070 Cascade, ID 83611  
Location of Observation: (Be specific, use place names we can locate on topo maps): approx. 2 mi  
upstream up Mud Cr. from its mouth (confluence w/ Monumental Cr.)  
County: Valley T<sup>20N</sup> R <sup>11E</sup> ~~NE~~ <sup>NE</sup> 1/4 of ~~NE~~ 1/4 of Section 30  
Elevation: 6700 ft Quad Name Center Mtn.  
Landowner/Manager: (e.g., BLM district, national forest) U.S. Forest Service  
Type of Observation: (tracks, scat, nest, colony, sighting) sighting  
Number of Individuals Seen (include sex and age class): ~~1~~ 1 adult female, possibly 2 other adults  
Habitat Description: Riparian Streambank  
Other Comments: found streamside in wet vegetation right after heavy rainfall  
The other two frogs weren't positively identified but looked most likely to be tailed frogs as well.

Species Name: Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*) Date of Observation: 7-23-03  
Observer(s): Holly Akenson, Corey Shake, Troy Hinck, Mackenzie Shandlow Phone: ( )  
Address: Taylor Ranch Field Station HC83 Box 8070 Cascade ID 83611  
Location of Observation: (Be specific, use place names we can locate on topo maps): approx 100-150 m  
up Monumental Cr. from the mouth of Mud Cr. ±50 m downstream from the trail crossing  
County: Valley T<sup>20N</sup> R <sup>11E</sup> ~~NE~~ NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 28  
Elevation: 5500ft Quad Name Monument  
Landowner/Manager: (e.g., BLM district, national forest) U.S. Forest Service  
Type of Observation: (tracks, scat, nest, colony, sighting) sighting  
Number of Individuals Seen (include sex and age class): 2 adults  
Habitat Description: standing sidewater surrounded by grass w/ various aquatic veg. and algae  
Other Comments:

Please return form to: Idaho Conservation Data Center, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, P. O. Box 25, Boise ID 83707, (208) 334-3402



# Amphibians and Reptiles of the Big Creek Drainage, Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness

Taylor Ranch, Idaho  
29 June 2000

Charles R. Peterson  
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## Outline

### I. General Introduction

- A. Sources of Information
- B. Types and Characteristics of Amphibians and Reptiles
- C. Importance of Amphibians and Reptiles
- D. Status and Conservation
- E. Reporting Observations
- F. Detection/Collection Techniques

### II. Amphibians and Reptiles of South Central Idaho

- A. Identification
- B. Distribution
- C. Natural History
- D. Conservation

## Sources of Information

### Books and Journals

#### General:

Beebee, T.J.C. 1996. Ecology and Conservation of Amphibians. Conservation Biology Series No. 7 (eds. Goldsmith, F.B. and E. Duffey), Chapman and Hall, New York.

Duellman, W.E. and L. Trueb. 1986. Biology of Amphibians. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co.

Halliday, T. and K. Adler (editors). 1987. The Encyclopedia of Reptiles and Amphibians. Facts on File, Inc. New York.

Pough, F. H., R.M. Andres, J.E. Cadle, M.L. Crump, A.H. Savitzky, and K.D. Wells. 1998. Herpetology. Prentice-Hall, Inc. Upper Saddle.

Powell, R., J.T. Collins, and E.D. Hooper, Jr. 1998. Amphibians and Reptiles of the Continental United States and Canada. University Press of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas.

Stebbins, R.C. and N.W. Cohen. 1995. A Natural History of Amphibians. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey.

#### North America

Conant, R. and J.T. Collins. 1991. A Field Guide to Reptiles and Amphibians. Eastern and Central North America. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston. 450 pp.

Stebbins, R.C. 1985. A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

## Sources of Information

### **Pacific Northwest:**

Baxter, G.T. and M.D. Stone. 1985. Amphibians and reptiles of Wyoming. Second edition. Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. 137 pp.

Corkran, C. and C. Thoms. 1996. Amphibians of Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia: A Field Identification Guide. Lone Pine Publishing, Edmonton, Alberta.

Green, D.M. and R.W. Campbell. 1984. The Amphibians of British Columbia. Handbook No. 45. Royal British Columbia Museum.

Gregory, P.T. and R.W. Campbell. 1984. The Reptiles of British Columbia. Royal British Columbia Museum.

Koch, E.D. and C.R. Peterson. 1995. Amphibians and Reptiles of Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Leonard, W.P., H.A. Brown, L.C. Jones, K.R. McAllister, and R.M. Storm. 1993. Amphibians of Washington and Oregon. Seattle Audubon Society, Seattle, Washington.

Nussbaum, R.A. E.D. Brodie, and R.M. Storm. 1983. Amphibians and reptiles of the Pacific Northwest. University Press of Idaho, Moscow. 332 p. [The best general source of information on the amphibians and reptiles of Idaho]

Reichel, J. and D. Flath. 1995. Identification of Montana's Amphibians and Reptiles.

Russell, A.P. and A. M. Bauer. 1993. The Amphibians and Reptiles of Alberta. University of Calgary Press, Calgary, Alberta.

Storm, R.M. and W.P. Leonard. 1995. Reptiles of Washington and Oregon. Seattle Audubon Society, Seattle, Washington.

## Sources of Information

### Techniques for Detecting, Observing, and Collecting Amphibians and Reptiles:

Campbell, H. W., and S. P. Christman. 1982. Field techniques for herpetofaunal community analysis. Pages 193-200. In: Scott, N. J., Jr. ed. Herpetological communities. U.S. Fish and Wildlife service Wildlife Research Report 13, Washington, D. C., USA.

Fitch, H.S. 1987. Collecting and life-history techniques. Pp. 143-165. In: Snakes Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. R.A. Seigel, J.T. Collins, and S.S. Novak (eds). McGraw Hill Publishing Company, New York.

Grant, B. W., A. D. Tucker, J. E. Lovich, A. M. Mills, P. M. Dixon, and J. W. Gibbons. 1992. The use of coverboards in estimating patterns of reptile and amphibian biodiversity. In: McCullough, D. R., and Barrett, R. H., eds. Wildlife 2001: Populations. Essex, England: Elsevier Science Publishers. p. 379-403.

Heyer, W.R., M.A. Donnelly, R.W. McDiarmid, L.C. Hayek, and M.S. Foster. 1993. Measuring and Monitoring Biological Diversity. Standard Methods for Amphibians. Smithsonian Institution Press. Washington, D.C.

Jones, K. B. 1986. Amphibians and reptiles. Pp. 267-290 in: Cooperrider, A. Y., R. J. Boyd, and H. R. Stuart (eds.), Inventory of monitoring of wildlife habitat. U.S. Dept. Inter. Bur. Land. Manage. Service Center, Denver, Co. 858 pp.

Karns, D. K. 1986. Field Herpetology: Methods for the study of amphibians and reptiles in Minnesota. James Ford Bell museum of natural history occasional paper: number 18. University of Minnesota, Minnesota.

Olson, D. H. , W.P. Leonard, and R. B. Bury (eds.) 1997. Sampling Amphibians in Lentic Habitats: Methods and Approaches for the Pacific Northwest. Northwest Fauna. Number 4. Society for Northwestern Vertebrate Biology.

Plummer, M.V. 1979. Chapter 2. Collecting and marking. Pp. 45-60. In: Turtles Perspective and Research. M. Harless and H. Morlock (eds.). John Wiley and Sons, New York.

Reinert, H.K. 1992. Radiotelemetric-field studies of pitvipers: Data acquisition analysis. Pp. 185-199. In: Biology of the Pitvipers. J.A Campbell and E.D. Brodie, Jr. (eds). Selva, Tyler, Texas.

## Sources of Information

### Audio Tapes and Compact Disks:

Sounds of the North American Frogs. 1958. The Smithsonian Institution. Folkways Cassette Series:06166. [Describes types and characteristics of calls; to order, call 202 287-3262]

Voices of the Night. 1982. Library of Natural Sounds. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. [Calls of many species of North American frogs and toads]

Davidson, C. 1995. Frog and Toad Calls of the Pacific Coast - Vanishing Voices. Library of Natural Sounds. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Davidson, C. 1996. Frog and Toad Calls of the Rocky Mountains. Library of Natural Sounds. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850.

### Herpetological Societies:

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH)

Herpetologists League (HL)

Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR)

Idaho Herpetological Society. You can contact the IHS at P.O. Box 44484, Boise, ID 83711-0484.



## Sources of Information

### Some Herpetological Web Sites:

Amphibian Information Website (<http://monitoring2.pwrc.nbs.gov/amphibs/>)

Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force  
([http://www2.open.ac.uk/Ecology/J\\_Baker/JBtxt.htm](http://www2.open.ac.uk/Ecology/J_Baker/JBtxt.htm))

Digital Atlas of Idaho (<http://imnh.isu.edu/digitalatlas/>)

Idaho Amphibian and Reptile Web Site (<http://www.isu.edu/~petechar/idar/idarmenu.htm>)

Herp Link - contains many links to other herpetological sites.  
(<http://home.ptd.net/~herplink/org.html>)

North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP)  
(<http://www.im.nbs.gov/amphibs.html>)

North American Reporting Center for Amphibian Malformations  
(<http://www.npsc.nbs.gov/narcam/index.htm>)

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (<http://www.parcplace.org/>)

Savannah River Ecology Laboratory's Herpetology Home Page (<http://www.uga.edu/~srelherp/>)

Treating and Preventing Venomous Snake Bites  
([http://www.fda.gov/fdac/features/995\\_snakes.html](http://www.fda.gov/fdac/features/995_snakes.html))

### Some Conservation Web Sites:

Idaho Conservation Data Center (<http://www2.state.id.us/fishgame/cdcranks.htm>)

Montana Natural Heritage Program (<http://nris.state.mt.us/mtnhp>)

Oregon Natural Heritage Program Amphibians (<http://www.heritage.tnc.org/nhp/us/or/amph.htm>)

Oregon Natural Heritage Program Reptiles (<http://www.heritage.tnc.org/nhp/us/or/rept.htm>)

Washington Natural Heritage Program  
([http://www.wa.gov/dnr/hdocs/fr/nhp/refdesk/lists/animal\\_ranks.html](http://www.wa.gov/dnr/hdocs/fr/nhp/refdesk/lists/animal_ranks.html))

Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (<http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/wyndd/herp.htm>)

**CHECKLIST OF IDAHO AMPHIBIANS<sup>1</sup>**  
(Version February 2000)

		Status/Comments <sup>2</sup>
<b>Order Urodela Salamanders and Newts</b>		
Family Ambystomatidae	Mole Salamanders	
<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	Tiger Salamander	
<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum</i>	Long-Toed Salamander	
Family Dicamptodontidae	Pacific Mole Salamanders	
<i>Dicamptodon aterrimus</i>	Idaho Giant Salamander	endemic to northern Rockies
Family Plethodontidae	Lungless Salamanders	
<i>Plethodon idahoensis</i>	Coeur d'Alene Salamander	SSC, W, FSR1 S, BLM S, endemic to northern Rockies
Family Salamandridae	Newts	
<i>Taricha granulosa</i>	Roughskin Newt	introduced?
<b>Order Anura Frogs and Toads</b>		
Family Leiopelmatidae (=Ascaphidae)	Bell Toads	
<i>Ascaphus truei</i>	Tailed Frog	
Family Bufonidae	True Toads	
<i>Bufo boreas</i>	Western Toad	SSC, W, SC, FSR1 S, BLM S, declines in se Idaho?
<i>Bufo woodhousii</i>	Woodhouse's Toad	W
Family Hylidae	True Tree Frogs	
<i>Hyla regilla</i> (= <i>Pseudacris</i> )	Pacific Tree (Chorus) Frog	
<i>Pseudacris {triseriata} maculata</i>	Boreal Chorus Frog	
Family Pelobatidae	Archaic Toads	
<i>Scaphiopus intermontanus</i> (= <i>Spea intermontana</i> )	Great Basin Spadefoot	
Family Ranidae	True Frogs	
<i>Rana catesbeiana</i>	Bullfrog	Introduced, game species
<i>Rana pipiens</i>	Northern Leopard Frog	SSC, SC, FSR1 S, BLM S, declines in Idaho
<i>Rana luteiventris</i>	Columbia Spotted Frog	SSC, C (sw Idaho), FSR4 S, BLM S
<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	Wood Frog	SC

<sup>1</sup> Names are generally consistent with Collins, J.T. (1990). Standard Common and Current Scientific Names for North American Amphibians and Reptiles. Third Edition. SSAR Herpetological Circular No. 19: 1-41.

<sup>2</sup> SSC = State Species of Special Concern; C = USFWS Candidate for Threatened and Endangered Species status; W = USFWS Snake River Field Office Watch Species; SC = USFWS Snake River Field Office Species of Concern; FSR# = Forest Service Region 1 or 4; BLM = Bureau of Land Management; S = Sensitive Species

# CHECKLIST OF IDAHO REPTILES<sup>1</sup>

(Version June 1997)

		Status/Comments <sup>2</sup>
<b>Order Testudines</b>	<b>Turtles</b>	
Family Emydidae	Pond and River Turtles	
<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Painted Turtle	some introduced populations; possible declines?
<i>Clemmys marmorata</i>	Western Pond Turtle	one recorded from 1800's; SSC
<b>Order Squamata</b>		
<b>Suborder Lacertilia</b>	<b>Lizards</b>	
Family Anguidae	Anguids	
<i>Elgaria coerulea</i>	Northern Alligator Lizard	SSC
Family Crotophytidae		
<i>Crotaphytus bicinctores</i>	Mojave Black-collared Lizard	SSC
<i>Gambelia wislizeni</i>	Longnose Leopard Lizard	
Family Phrynosomatidae		
<i>Phrynosoma douglassi</i>	Short-horned Lizard	declines in se Idaho?
<i>Phrynosoma platyrhinos</i>	Desert Horned Lizard	
<i>Sceloporus graciosus</i>	Sagebrush Lizard	
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	Western Fence Lizard	
<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	Side-blotched Lizard	
Family Scincidae	Skinks	
<i>Eumeces skiltonianus</i>	Western Skink	
Family Teiidae		
<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>	Western Whiptail	
<b>Suborder Ophidia</b>	<b>Snakes</b>	
Family Boidae	Boas	
<i>Charina bottae</i>	Rubber Boa	
Family Colubridae	Harmless Snakes	
<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Racer	
<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	Ringneck Snake	SSC, BLM S
<i>Hypsiglena torquata</i>	Night Snake	
<i>Masticophis taeniatus</i>	Striped Whipsnake	
<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>	Gopher Snake	
<i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i>	Longnose Snake	SSC, BLM S
<i>Sonora semiannulata</i>	Ground Snake	SSC, BLM S
<i>Thamnophis elegans</i>	Western Terrestrial Garter Snake	
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Common Garter Snake	declines in se Idaho?
Family Viperidae	Vipers	
<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	Western Rattlesnake	

<sup>1</sup> Names are generally consistent with Collins, J.T. (1990). Standard Common and Current Scientific Names for North American Amphibians and Reptiles. Third Edition. SSAR Herpetological Circular No. 19: 1-41.

<sup>2</sup> ? = unverified occurrence; SSC = State Species of Special Concern; C = USFWS Candidate Species for Threatened and Endangered Species status; BLM S = BLM Sensitive Species

## Conservation Status of the Amphibians and Reptiles of the Intermountain West

	Scientific name	Common Name	Global Rank (GRANK)	State Rank (SRANK) Idaho	State Rank (SRANK) Oregon	State Rank (SRANK) Montana	State Rank (SRANK) Wyoming	State Rank (SRANK) Washington	Idaho Dept of F&G State Status	Oregon Dept. of F&W Status	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	U.S.D.A Forest Service Region 1	U.S.D.A Forest Service Region 4	BLM ID
<b>Amphibians</b>	<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum</i>	Long-toed Salamander	G5	S5		S5		S5						
	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	Tiger Salamander	G5	S5		S5		S3		SU				
	<i>Dicamptodon aterrimus</i>	Idaho Giant Salamander	G3	S3		SR								
	<i>Plethodon idahoensis</i>	Coeur d'Alene Salamander	G3	S3		S2			SC		W	S		S
	<i>Taricha granulosa</i>	Rough-skin Newt	G5			SE1								
	<i>Ascaphus truei</i>	Tailed Frog	G4	S3	S3	S4								
	<i>Bufo boreas</i>	Western Toad	G4	S4	S4	S3S4	S2	S3S4	SC	SV	W/SC	S		S
	<i>Bufo woodhousei</i>	Woodhouse's Toad	G5	S3	S2	S4		S3		SP	W			
	<i>Scaphiopus intermontanus</i>	Great Basin Spadefoot	G5	S4		SR								
	<i>Hyla regilla</i>	Pacific Treefrog	G5	S5		S4		S5						
	<i>Pseudacris maculata</i>	Boreal Chorus Frog	G5	S4		S5								
	<i>Rana catesbiana</i>	Bullfrog	G5			SE3		SE						
	<i>Rana clamitans</i>	Green Frog	G5			SR		SE						
	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	Northern Leopard Frog	G5	S3	S2	S3S4	S3	S1	SC	SC	SC	S		S
<i>Rana luteiventris</i>	Columbia Spotted Frog	G4	S3S4	S2	S4	S2S3	S3S4	SC	SU	*C		S	S	
<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	Wood Frog	G5	S4		SR	S2								
<b>Reptiles</b>	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Painted Turtle	G5	S4	S2	S5		S5		SC				
	<i>Elgaria coerulea</i>	Northern Alligator Lizard	G5	S2		S3		S5			W			
	<i>Crotaphytus bicinctores</i>	Mojave Black-Collared Lizard	G5	S2	S2				SC	SV	W			S
	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	Longnose Leopard Lizard	G5	S5	S4					SU				
	<i>Phrynosoma douglassi</i>	Short-Horned Lizard	G5	S5				S5						
	<i>Phrynosoma platyrhinos</i>	Desert Horned Lizard	G5	S4	S3					SV				
	<i>Sceloporus graciosus</i>	Sagebrush Lizard	G5	S5	S5	S3S4				SV				
	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	Western Fence Lizard	G5	S4										
	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>	Side-Blotched Lizard	G5	S4				S5						
	<i>Eumeces skiltonianus</i>	Western Skink	G5	S5		S3S4		S5						
	<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>	Western Whiptail	G5	S4										
	<i>Charina bottae</i>	Rubber Boa	G5	S5		S4	S2S3	S5						
	<i>Coluber constrictor</i>	Racer	G5	S5				S5						
	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	Ringneck Snake	G5	S1				S3	SC		W			S
	<i>Hypsiglena torquata</i>	Night Snake	G5	S3				S4						
	<i>Masticophis taeniatus</i>	Striped Whipsnake	G5	S4				S1						
	<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>	Gopher Snake	G5	S5		S5		S5						
	<i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i>	Longnose Snake	G5	S3					SC		W			S
	<i>Sonora semiannulata</i>	Ground Snake	G5	S3	S2				SC	SP	W			S
<i>Thamnophis elegans</i>	Western Terrestrial Garter Snake	G5	S5				S5							
<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Common Garter Snake	G5	S5		S4		S5							
<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	Western Rattlesnake	G5	S5	S4	S4	S1S2	S5		SV					

## Conservation Status of the Amphibians and Reptiles of the Intermountain West

### Global and State Ranks (The Nature Conservancy)

G = Global rank indicator; denotes rank based on rangewide status  
S = State rank indicator; denotes rank based on status within Idaho  
1 = Critically imperiled because of extreme rarity or because some factor of its biology makes it especially vulnerable to extinction (typically 5 or fewer occurrences)  
2 = Imperiled because of rarity or because other factors demonstrably make it very vulnerable to extinction (typically 6 to 20 occurrences)  
3 = Rare or uncommon but not imperiled (typically 21 to 100 occurrences)  
4 = Not rare and apparently secure, but with cause for long-term concern (usually more than 100 occurrences)  
5 = Demonstrably widespread, abundant, and secure  
E = An exotic established in the state; may be native in nearby regions.  
R = Reported in the state; but lacking documentation which would provide a basis for either accepting or rejecting the report.

### Idaho Department of Fish and Game State Status

SC = Species of special concern; native species which are either low in numbers, limited in distribution, or have suffered significant habitat losses.  
T = Threatened; any species likely to be classified as Endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its Idaho range.  
E = Endangered; any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its Idaho range.

### U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Status

LE = Listed Endangered; taxa in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range.  
LT = Listed Threatened; taxa likely to be classified as endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.  
PE = Proposed Endangered; taxa proposed to be listed as endangered (formal rulemaking in progress)  
PT = Proposed Threatened; taxa proposed to be listed as threatened (formal rulemaking in progress)  
C = Candidate species; taxa for which the USFWS has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support issuance of a proposed rule to list, but  
\* = Indicates Great Basin Population of *Rana luteiventris*  
SC = Species of concern; in Idaho  
W = Watch species; in Idaho

### U. S. D. A. Forest Service

S = Sensitive species; taxa that are identified by the Regional Forester for which viability is a concern, as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in  
W = Watch: Region 1, headquartered in Missoula, MT, currently utilizes this designation for plant species.

### Bureau of Land Management

S = Sensitive Species; taxa that are under status review by U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service/National Marine Fisheries Service, whose numbers are declining so rapidly that  
W = Watch List: in 1996, BLM added a Watch list of species whose populations and range appear to be restricted, but information is lacking as to the cause or the species is

### Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

SC = Critical; species for which listing as threatened or endangered is pending; or those for which listing as threatened or endangered may be appropriate if immediate  
SV = Vulnerable; species for which listing as threatened or endangered is not believed to be imminent and can be avoided through continued or expanded use of adequate  
SP = Peripheral or Naturally Rare; peripheral species refer to those whose Oregon populations are on the edge of their range. Naturally rare species are those which low  
SU = Undetermined Status: animals in this category are species for which status is unclear. They may be susceptible to population decline of sufficient magnitude that they

### Links of Conservation Interest

Idaho Conservation Data Center  
<http://www2.state.id.us/fishgame/cdcranks.htm>  
Oregon Natural Heritage Program  
<http://www.heritage.tnc.org/nhp/us/or/rept.htm>  
<http://www.heritage.tnc.org/nhp/us/or/amph.htm>  
Washington Natural Heritage Program  
[http://www.wa.gov/dnr/htdocs/fr/nhp/refdesk/lists/animal\\_ranks.html](http://www.wa.gov/dnr/htdocs/fr/nhp/refdesk/lists/animal_ranks.html)  
Wyoming Natural Diversity Database  
<http://uwadmnweb.uwo.edu/wyndd/herp.htm>  
Montana Natural Heritage Program  
<http://nris.state.mt.us/mtnhp>

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT THE AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE INDIVIDUAL OBSERVATION FORM

Please provide whatever information you can. To simplify reporting a number of observations, you may wish to use the multiple observation form. Thank you

**Common Name/Species:** Provide the common or scientific name of the animal if you are able to identify it. If you cannot identify it, please describe it as accurately as possible. Include the exact or estimated number ( 1-10, 10-100, more than 100, etc.) observed.

**Date:** Include the year and clearly distinguish between day and month (e.g., 6 June 1992).

**Time.** Include AM or PM or use military time.

Please include your **name, affiliation, address, and phone number** so we can contact you if we need further information, a copy of the photograph, etc.

Have you seen this species before?

**Description:** Describe the animal as accurately as you can so we can confirm your identification or so we can identify it from your description. Characteristics to note include size/length, shape, color, pattern (e.g., striped, banded, blotched, or unicolor), skin texture (e.g., smooth, shiny, rough, scaled, etc.), pupil shape (round or elliptical), and presence or absence of limbs and tail. See the references below for more information on identifying characteristics. Did you photograph the animal?

**Behavior:** Behavioral descriptions are useful in identifying animals and are inherently interesting. For example, Was the animal moving or still? Did it crawl or jump or hop? Was it fast or slow? Was it trying to escape from you or was it hunting or feeding? Did it vocalize? What did it sound like?

**Location:** Be as accurate as possible. Try to describe the site so that someone else could relocate it from your directions. For example, in a small pond, 30 yards north of Highway X, 4.5 miles N and 3.3. miles east of a known landmark (junction, the center of a town, etc.). Please include the exact coordinates if you know them (latitude and longitude, UTM's, or Range, Township, Section, quarter section, etc.). Accurate locality information can greatly enhance the value of your observation.

**Habitat:** Describe the major cover type (forested [needleleaf, broadleaf, or mixed], non-forested [alpine, grassland, shrubland, or barren], riparian and wetlands [forested or scrub-shrub riparian, marsh, pond , or lake], or developed land [agricultural or urban]). Also describe the immediate area around the animal (burrow, talus slope, stream bank, etc.).

**Weather:** Include such information as the air temperature, water temperature, wind conditions, cloud cover, precipitation, etc.

**Remarks:** Please include any other information you consider relevant.

### Useful References

- Baxter, G.T. and M.D. Stone. 1985. *Amphibians and Reptiles of Wyoming*. Second edition. Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. 137 pp.
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- Leonard, W.P., H.A. Brown, L.C. Jones, K.R. McAllister, and R.M. Storm. 1993. *Amphibians of Washington and Oregon*. Seattle Audubon Society, Seattle, Washington. [excellent color photographs]
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# AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE INDIVIDUAL OBSERVATION FORM

(16 August 1997)

Please provide whatever information you can, even if you are unsure of the species.

Species: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Animals \_\_\_\_\_

Observation Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ am pm (circle one)

Observer Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Have you seen this species before? \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Animal (size, color, pattern, pupil shape, skin texture, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Did you photograph the animal? \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Animal's Behavior: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Animal's Location: (Be as accurate as possible; e.g., 4.5 miles north and 3.3 miles east of known landmark; Latitude and Longitude; UTM coordinates; or Range, Township, and Section):

\_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather: (temperature, cloud cover, wind, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:

Dr. Chuck Peterson  
Idaho Museum of Natural History  
Box 8007, Idaho State University  
Pocatello, Idaho 83209

(208) 236-3922 office 236-4570 FAX Internet: petechar@isu.edu



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(208) 236-3922 voice 236-4570 FAX e-mail: petechar@isu.edu

DATE		BEGIN TIME		END TIME		OBSERVERS					
LOCALITY											
STATE		COUNTY		MAP NAME		OWNER		ELEVATION			
T	R	S		UTM ZONE/DATUM		NORTHING		EASTING			
<b>AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE SPECIES PRESENT (INDICATE NUMBERS IN CATEGORIES IF POSSIBLE)</b>											
SPECIES	ADULT	JUVENILE	METAM.	LARVAE	EGGS	CALLING	TECHNIQUE(S)	VOUCHER			
<b>FISH PRESENT</b>		YES ??? NO		<b>FISH SPECIES:</b>							
<b>ENTIRE SITE SEARCHED?</b>		YES NO		<b>IF NO, INDICATE AREA:</b>				meters of shoreline habitat			
<b>WEATHER:</b>		RADIATION: CLEAR PARTIAL OVERCAST			<b>WIND:</b> CALM LIGHT MEDIUM HEAVY						
<b>AIR TEMPERATURE (1 M SHADED)</b>			°C OR F		<b>% CLOUD COVER:</b>		<b>PRECIPITATION:</b> SNOW RAIN				
<b>WATER TEMPERATURE (1CM)</b>		pH:		<b>CONDUCTIVITY</b>		<b>SAMPLE?</b>					
<b>COLOR</b>		CLEAR STAINED		<b>TURBIDITY</b>		CLEAR CLOUDY					
<b>SITE DESCRIPTION</b>		PUT SKETCH AND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON BACK OF SHEET									
<b>ORIGIN</b>		NATURAL MAN-MADE MAN-MODIFIED		<b>DRAINAGE</b>		PERMANENT OCCASIONAL NONE					
<b>SITE TYPE</b>		TEMPORARY or PERMANENT LAKE/POND		MARSH BOG		STREAM		SPRING/SEEP ACTIVE or INACTIVE BEAVER POND			
<b>NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY CLASIFICATION</b>					<b>GAP ANALYSIS COVER TYPE (IF KNOWN)</b>						
<b>STREAM ORDER</b>		1 2		3		4		5 6			
<b>SITE LENGTH</b> m		<b>SITE WIDTH</b> m		<b>MAXIMUM DEPTH</b>		< 1M		1 - 2 M > 2 M			
<b>PRIMARY SUBSTRATE</b>		SILT/MUD SAND/GRAVEL		COBBLE		BOULDER/BEDROCK		OTHER:			
<b>% OF LAKE MARGIN WITH EMERGENT VEGETATION</b>					0		1 - 25		25 - 50 >50		
<b>EMERGENT VEGETATION SPECIES (IN ORDER OF ABUNDANCE)</b>											
<b>NORTH SHORELINE CHARACTERISTICS</b>				<b>SHALLOWS PRESENT</b>		<b>SHALLOWS ABSENT</b>		<b>EMERGENT VEG PRESENT</b>		<b>EMERGENT VEG ABSENT</b>	
<b>DISTANCE TO FOREST EDGE</b> m			<b>FOREST TREE SPECIES</b>								

## Research


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## Javan Bauder

Master's Candidate  
 Biological Sciences, Idaho State University

DeVlieg Taylor Assistantship 2007-2009

Professor  
 Dr. Chuck Peterson, Idaho State University

### Movement and habitat selection of prairie rattlesnakes in the Big Creek drainage of the Frank Church Wilderness

Background and Planning  
 DeVlieg Taylor Undergraduate Scholar 2006

#### Abstract

##### Research Summary

Many species of reptiles and amphibians at the northern latitudes of western North America make seasonal movements between over-wintering, breeding, and foraging habitats. However, topography and recent fire disturbance have the potential to act as barriers to these movements. Prairie rattlesnakes are known to exhibit long-distance, straight lined movements between hibernacula and summer foraging/breeding habitat, yet it is largely unknown how these movements are affected by topography and recent fire disturbance.



Understanding how such barriers influence these movements can contribute to our knowledge of how animals modify their behavior to obtain key resources and can aid in establishing suitable management and conservation guidelines for this species. Although the prairie rattlesnake is widespread throughout much of the western US, its distribution in Idaho is restricted to the upper Salmon River drainage. This species is fairly common in the lower Big Creek drainage. The rugged mountainous landscape of the Big Creek drainage make it an ideal location to study to effects of topography on rattlesnake movement and habitat selection and its location within the Frank Church Wilderness helps to minimize the effects of additional human disturbance. My study will examine the effects of prey and mate distribution, topography, and the effects of the 2006 Duncce Creek Fire on the movement patterns and habitat selection of prairie rattlesnakes in the Big Creek drainage of the Frank Church



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in central Idaho.



Wilderness



Update

**for Field Season 2008**

I have currently collected data on rattlesnake movement during the summers of 2006 and 2007 using radio telemetry. It appears that rattlesnakes in the Big Creek drainage are capable of fairly extensive movements in this rugged landscape. I have had some telemetered snakes move over 2.5 kilometers from their hibernaculum. Although some rattlesnakes will spend the summer in relatively low elevations near valley bottoms, others spend the summer along the tops and sides of ridges in upland habitats. I have also had rattlesnakes cross Big Creek and its tributaries. It appears that the mountainous topography of the Big Creek drainage does not act as an absolute barrier to rattlesnake movement. However, it does appear to influence their movements to some extent by causing some individuals to move along topographic features such as tributary drainages or ridge lines.

During 2007, I monitored six individuals that I also radio tracked in 2006. These individuals appeared to use the same general activity areas during both summers and also returned to the same area to over-winter. During the summer of 2008, I will radio track some rattlesnakes that I also tracked in 2006 and 2007 and so obtain movement data from up to three consecutive summers on these snakes. I will also sample the abundance of small mammal prey in different habitat types within the Big Creek drainage to see if rattlesnakes are using the most prey abundant habitats.

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