

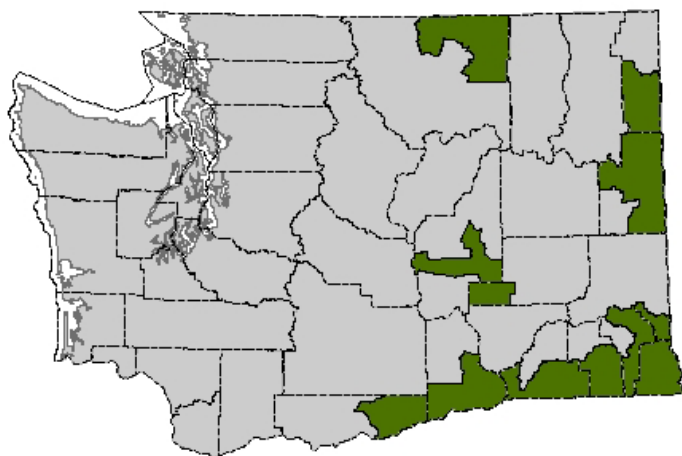
Washington State Species and Communities of Special Concern

information for family forest owners

As a good land steward, it is important to be aware of plant and animal species of special concern that may occur on your lands, and how forest management activities may affect these species. The Washington State Implementation Committee (WA SIC) for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is pleased to provide a series of factsheets on species of special concern that may occur on forested lands within Washington State. Each species factsheet includes a description of the species, habitat, range, and information on known threats to populations in Washington.



Photo of Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)
by William P. Leonard 1997 Washington Dept of FW



Map source is NatureServe with following reference:

IUCN, Conservation International, and NatureServe. 2004. Global Amphibian Assessment. www.globalamphibians.org, version 1.1. Downloaded on September 5, 2006

The information provided in this sheet has been compiled by the Washington SFI Implementation Committee. This species is one example of many that depend on family forest owners in Washington State for protection. To view other accounts, visit www.wdfw.wa.org or www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp, or www.natureserve.org.



Species: Northern Leopard Frog (*Rana pipiens*)

Group: Amphibian

Natural Heritage Rank: G5, S1

Legal Status: State Endangered

General Description

This species is a medium-sized pond-breeding frog. Adults range 2-5 inches in length. Coloring on the back is brown or green with large, light-edged dark spots. There are two distinct light-colored ridges that run down the back from the eyes to the hind legs. Adults breed in spring and lay large gelatinous egg masses attached to vegetation. Adults eat insects and worms. Larvae (tadpoles) eat algae and organic debris.

Habitat

This species lives in wetlands, wet meadows, and along stream and river corridors. They use areas with dense herbaceous cover adjacent to mesic habitat. Adults breed in shallow, relatively still parts of wetlands, oxbows, and ponds.

Range in Washington

Current populations occur near Moses Lake, Washington but these frogs have historically occurred in forested wet areas in northeastern Washington.

Threats

A primary threat to this species has been widespread collection for biological supply vendors. Additional threats may include competition and predation from exotic species such as carp, mosquito fish, and bullfrogs, and water quality changes from pesticides and fertilizers.