



Yosemite Toad (*Bufo canorus*)

What do Yosemite toads look like and where are they found?



Yosemite toads are an endemic species to the montane and subalpine zones of the Sierra Nevada. The word “canorus” means “tuneful” in Latin, referring to the male’s sustained, melodious trill which attracts mates during the early-spring breeding season.

Protection Status: Federal Candidate species and California Species of Special Concern

Physical description of adults: Body length up to 3 inches; tadpoles black; sexes differ greatly in color; juveniles and females have many black spots or blotches edged with white or cream set against a grey, tan or brown background color; juveniles may have thin stripe on middle of back; males have nearly uniform coloration of yellow-green to olive drab to dark greenish brown; paratoid glands (glands on head that produce toxins) are round to slightly oval and separated by less than the width of one gland.

Habitat: Found in a wide variety of high montane, subalpine and alpine lentic habitats; most commonly found in shallow, warm water areas including wet meadows, small permanent and ephemeral ponds, and flooded, shallow, grassy areas and meadows adjacent to lakes.

Reproduction: Eggs laid in pools at snow melt; eggs hatch in 3-12 days; tadpoles metamorphosis into juveniles 48-63 days later; adults begin breeding at 3-6 years of age

Population status: gone from at least 50% of the sites where it is known to have occurred historically and formerly large populations have been reduced in numbers.

Threats: Not well known; factors that have been implicated include climate change, packstock and livestock grazing, roads and timber harvest, recreation, dams and water diversions, airborne contaminants

How can I learn more and become involved?

The National Park Service is preparing the High Elevation Aquatic Ecosystem Recovery and Stewardship Plan and Environmental Assessment to guide how Yosemite will protect the park’s diverse high-elevation aquatic ecosystems into the future. The plan will address future actions that may be needed to restore native species, habitats and systems that have been disturbed by past or ongoing human activities. Here are ways to learn more about this plan and stay involved and informed about this and other Park projects:

- **Attend a monthly Yosemite National Park Open House** to talk with Park staff and obtain more information on this and other planning process:
 - Open House: generally the last Wednesday of each month in the Yosemite Valley Visitor Center Auditorium from 1:00-5:00pm
- **Add your name to the park’s planning list** and receive the *Planning Update* or **submit your email address** to receive the park’s periodic electronic newsletter online at www.nps.gov/yose/parkmgmt/updates.htm.
- **The public review period is anticipated Winter 2009/2010.** To request notification about the plans availability for review:

Mail: Superintendent
Attn: High Elevation Aquatic Resources Management Plan
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, CA 95389

Phone: 209/379-1365; **Fax:** 209/379-1294

E-mail: Yose_Planning@nps.gov

Plan Timeline

Public scoping

Environmental Assessment anticipated for public comment

June 23 – July 25, 2008

Winter 2009/2010