

Background information to accompany all press releases by members of the Oregon Spotted Frog Recovery Team: Summary of Oregon Spotted Frog Status and Recovery Efforts

Oregon Spotted Frogs, *Rana pretiosa* is the most endangered amphibian in Canada. Found only in British Columbia, this frog is listed as critically endangered under the federal Species at Risk Act and is red-listed (i.e., in danger of extinction) in British Columbia.

Historically, Oregon Spotted Frog populations occurred throughout the Fraser Valley, from South Surrey to Hope. Currently, there are only six breeding populations of Oregon Spotted Frog left in British Columbia, with less than 500 breeding females in total.

The primary cause for the decline of Oregon Spotted Frog has been the loss of wetlands as the Fraser River floodplain was drained for agriculture. The impact is even greater when agricultural land is further converted to housing and urban development. In recent years, additional threats to the few remaining Oregon Spotted Frog populations also include pollution, invasive species such as bullfrogs, mining, and changed hydrology due to water level management.

The Oregon Spotted Frog Recovery Team, a diverse group of biologists and land managers, is coordinating efforts to conserve, manage and recover Oregon Spotted Frog in Canada. The team's key goals for the next 10 years are to maintain and expand the existing populations, as well as establish four additional self-sustaining populations in British Columbia. In support of these goals, the team is currently coordinating a range of projects, including:

- Captive breeding and rearing of Oregon Spotted Frog for release into the wild to increase existing populations and create new populations.
- Building and restoring wetland habitats and measuring the success of these habitats in supporting Oregon Spotted Frog populations.
- Studying the remaining Oregon Spotted Frog populations to improve efforts to increase population growth rates
- Studying habitat use by Oregon Spotted Frogs to better understand the threats faced by this frog
- Managing and protecting Oregon Spotted Frog habitat by talking to and educating people living in the Oregon Spotted Frog range

The Oregon Spotted Frog Recovery Team includes members from the BC Ministry of Environment, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, Environment Canada, Corrections Services Canada, Department of National Defense, District of Kent, Fraser

Valley Regional District, Fraser Valley Conservancy, Vancouver Aquarium, Greater Vancouver Zoo, Toronto Zoo, Mountain View Conservation Centre, Grouse Mountain Refuge for Endangered Wildlife, Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, BC Conservation Foundation, and Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition

Primary funders in addition to ongoing support from partners above include: The Government of Canada Habitat Stewardship Program and Inter-departmental Recovery Fund, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Wildlife Preservation Trust Canada, Canadian Aquarium and Zoos Association among others.