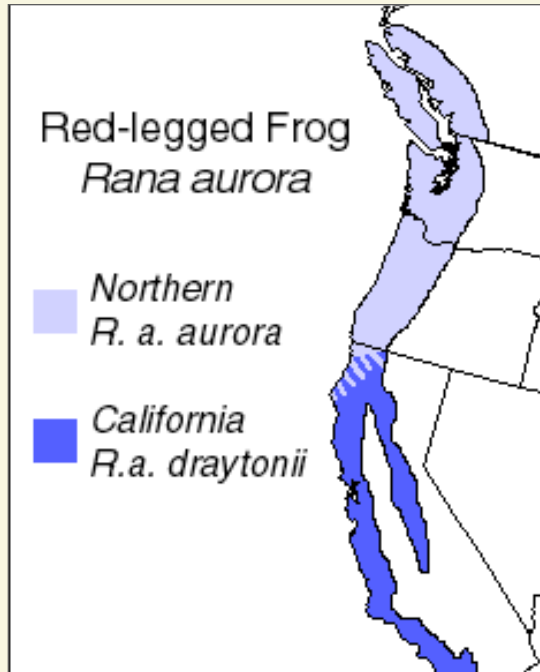


Distribution



Map from www.squidoo.com

Red-legged Frogs are native to western North America, from Baja California to southwestern British Columbia. In Alaska, Red-legged Frogs were introduced from Washington State to Chichagof Island (southeast of Hoonah) in 1982. This population has been successfully reproducing and dispersing into nearby wetlands.

Information from www.adfg.alaska.gov

INTRODUCED SPECIES

Introducing amphibians is illegal in Alaska and can have detrimental, even dire repercussions on the native species. Introduced invasives compete for the same resources as native species and in some cases they will even eat them!

Help us protect our native species by helping to limit the spread of exotic invasive amphibians such as these!



ALASKA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY



The Alaska Herpetological Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the field of Herpetology in the State of Alaska. Our mission is to promote sound research and management of amphibians and reptiles in the North, to foster responsible pet ownership and to provide opportunities in outreach, education, and citizen science for individuals who are interested in these species.

WEB:

WWW.AKHERPSOCIETY.ORG

FACEBOOK:

ALASKA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RED-LEGGED FROG

INTRODUCED

Rana aurora

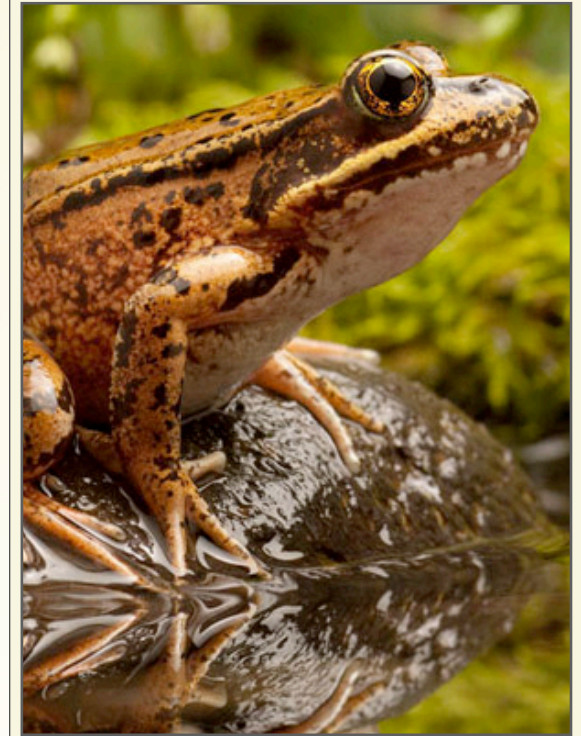


Photo from www.nature.org

INFORMATION

This information on the Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora*) has been provided by the Alaska Herpetological Society.

You can help locate this species on our website, via a voucher or via the epicollect app. See www.akherpsociety.org for more information.



Photo of Red-legged Frog from www.californiaherps.com

Red-legged Frog and Bullfrog Comparison

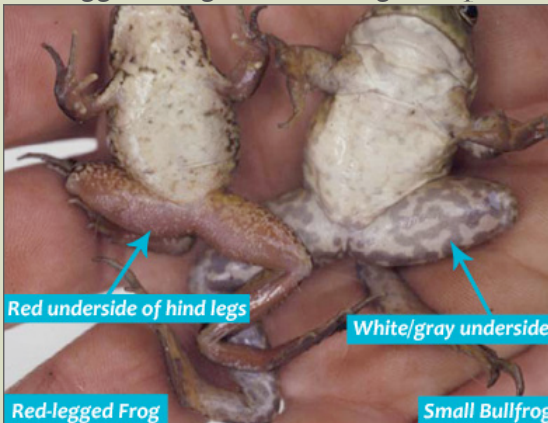


Photo from web.uvic.ca The Bullfrog Project

HOW WAS THIS SPECIES INTRODUCED?

The species was introduced by a schoolteacher at Freshwater Bay on Chichagof Island near Hoonah in 1982/1983. This teacher purchased one of two Red-legged Frog egg masses from Powell Laboratories, Gladstone, Oregon (now Carolina Biological Supply Company), which sold wild collected specimens from the Columbia River Gorge. Eradication on Chichagof appears to be impractical, but continued monitoring is necessary to gauge the impact on native species. Also, this species appears to be on the decline in its native range and Chichagof may actually serve as a refuge of conservation for the species.

Pauly et.al. (2008). *Journal of Herpetology* 42(4): 668-679

Red-legged Frog Information

ADULT

Adults are stout, medium to large frogs measuring up to 13.6cm (5.4in). The head is broader than long and the snout rounded. The light jaw stripe usually ends at the shoulder and the eyes look to the side. Hind legs are long, belly is reddish-brown to gray and the dorsal folds are distinct. Bold cream to yellow and black (or red) mottling in the groin, underside of the hind legs and lower abdomen are translucent red (yellowish) in young animals.

TADPOLE

Tadpoles are stubby with a high dorsal fin. The mouth has three tooth rows on top and four on the bottom (need microscope to see). The larger tadpoles are dark brown with black splashed on the tail.

EGGS

Females lay an average of 530-830 eggs (ranging from 100-1,100) in a large gelatinous cluster which is attached to vegetation beneath the water. The egg mass will eventually float to the surface. Eggs hatch after about four weeks. Eggs are large-sized, averaging 3mm in diameter and are laid in soft, grapefruit to cantaloupe sized mass.

FACTS

This frog occurs in meadows, woodlands, and forests but is usually found in or near ponds, marshes and streams. It prefers ground cover and aquatic or overhanging vegetation.

According to a book by Robert Stebbins in 2003 *Rana aurora* north of the Smith River in Del Norte County California do not have vocal sacs, while frogs from Del Norte County south have rudimentary vocal sacs.

Male mating call is a weak and stuttering “uduh-uh-uh-rowr” lasting 1-3 seconds with the throat enlarging at the sides. Usually call at night while submerged.



Photo from www.californiaherps.com

HANDLING AMPHIBIANS

It is actually illegal in the State of Alaska to handle or remove Native amphibians from their habitat without a scientific collection permit.

Handling them can increase the spread of disease and allows deadly chemicals like bug spray and sunscreen to easily penetrate their permeable skin. Removing them can hurt populations and change their genetic structure. Never move amphibians from place to place.

When possible, scrub boots, waders, nets and other equipment with a 5% bleach solution between sites or when you return home. This helps to stop the spread of diseases like chytrid fungus which has been identified in Alaska and can cause mass amphibian mortality.

Also, never release a pet amphibian into the wild!