

Frog & Toad Watch

FrogWatch and Citizen Monitoring
What is Citizen Monitoring?

Citizen Monitoring is the monitoring of the environment by community volunteers interested in watershed protection. Citizen monitoring activities include collecting water quality data, assessing fish habitat, counting birds, or making visual observations of stream health. Community managers and resources use monitoring information to protect California waters well.

Why is it important?

By monitoring the local streams, rivers or beaches, you can learn about the health and the plants and animals that supports them. You can help point out sources of pollution or identify extensive problems. You can provide the background information needed to develop restoration projects or pollution prevention measures. Their data could assess the success or failure of such projects. Their actions would be instrumental in protecting or improving the waters in their community.

For 150 years, the rapid growth of agriculture, industry and urban development has resulted in drastic changes in our environment. These changes represent significant threats to animals and plants. Amphibians (frogs, toads and salamanders) are affected by these human activities and environmental changes. Among scientists it is well recognized that amphibian populations have declined. Several species are extinct and populations, once prosperous, have declined. In the US the declines are particularly serious in California, the Rocky Mountains, the southwest and Puerto Rico. Habitat loss, exposure to pollutants, ultraviolet radiation, introduced species, parasites and fungal diseases are some of the factors identified with amphibian declines. Understanding the decline of amphibian populations is crucial to discover the ways that people's activities are affecting water quality, wildlife habitat, ecological processes and other aspects of our environment. We share our environment with amphibians, and their decline can foreshadow challenges that the whole world will have to face in the 21st century.

Frogwatch USA is an educational and long-term monitoring program for frogs and toads coordinated by the US Geologic Survey's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. **Frogwatch USA** recruits volunteers to complement other ongoing local, national and global amphibian monitoring efforts. National Wildlife Federation, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, US Geological Survey-Division of Biological Resources, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Laurel, MD 20708-4038
Phone: (301) 497-5840 Fax: (301) 497-5784 Email: frogwatch@nwf.org

Volunteers Participate in:

Learn the life stories and voices of your local frogs and toads.
Choose safe and convenient wetlands for monitoring, often in backyards or local parks.
Periodically monitoring the sites to listen for three minutes to your local frogs and toads after dark.
Registering and submitting results through the **FrogWatch USA** website.

Additional information related to **FrogWatch / Other Amphibian Monitoring Programs:**

FrogNotes

Description: Have frogs disappeared from your favorite community or vacation spot? Have frogs appeared in new locations where you have never seen or heard them? This program allows you to tell us the history of the amphibian populations in your community. Share your local amphibious history with FrogWeb readers and read about others who have observed their neighborhoods.

Creator: National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII).

North American Amphibian Monitoring Program

Description: The North American Amphibian Monitoring Program is an amphibian monitoring program from across the continent, and has some ways you can be involved. By frog calls exams, volunteers drive a pre-specified route 3-4 times during the breeding season, and hear by calls. Terrestrial salamander exams require volunteers to search under "covered objects" that you place in a wooded and local area.

Creator: Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, USGS