



About the California Red-legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*)

- The California red-legged frog, known as the California State Amphibian, ranges in length from 1.5 to 5 inches. The belly and hind legs of adult frogs are often red or salmon pink, and the back is characterized by small black flecks and larger dark blotches on its brown, gray, olive or reddish-brown skin. The species can also be recognized by its low, staccato grunts, heard during mating season in late winter and early spring.
- They are relatively prolific breeders and lay eggs in clusters. The total number of eggs laid ranges between 300 and 4,000 (Storer, 1925; personal observation), with an average of about 2,000. Eggs hatch in six to 14 days, and approximately three to seven months later the tadpoles develop into frogs.
- California red-legged frogs feed on a wide-array of prey, including other frogs, salamander, fish, and mice, but the majority of their diet consists of invertebrates. Tadpoles and young frogs hunt day and night, with adults feeding mostly at night.
- The frogs require water for breeding and will remain active throughout summer if they have permanent access to water. In cooler areas, they may hibernate in burrows in winter.
- Historically, they were found coastally from Point Reyes National Seashore and inland from Redding in California, southward to northwestern Baja California, Mexico.
- The species' decline began with the introduction of bullfrogs around 1896, and continued throughout the decades due to the introduction of other exotic species, fungal disease, drought and urbanization. In May 1996 it was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.