


Identification Guide for Frogs and Toads

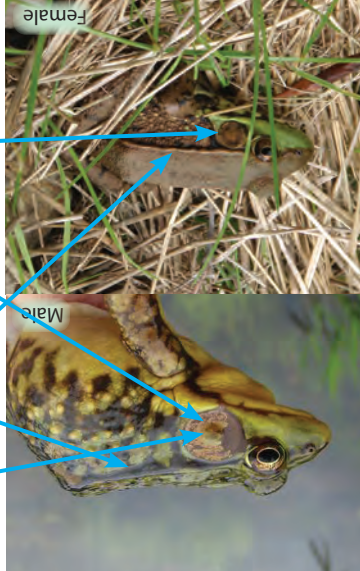
A pocket field guide
to identifying frogs and toads
in low-elevation wetlands of
the Fraser Valley, BC

BALANCE ECOLOGICAL
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING



Q: Does the frog have an obvious tympanum (ear drum) as big or bigger than the eye?
YES → American Bullfrog or Green Frog (below) **NO** → Native species (see over or open!)

Green Frog
(Lithobates clamitans, LCL)
Invasive Species!



BOTH species have a prominent tympanum (ear drum).

Dorso-lateral fold runs from eye to hip.

Prominent skin fold curves behind tympanum.

Males: tympanum significantly larger than eye.

Females: tympanum similar in size or a little larger than eye.

American Bullfrog
(Lithobates catesbeianus, LICA)
Invasive Species!



Northern Pacific Tree Frog
(Pseudacris regilla, PSRE)
Native



Distinctive dark eye band from eye to forearm.

Colouration is dependent on location. Often range from pale yellow to bright green, terracotta red to dark brown.

Western Toad
(Anaxyrus boreus, ANBO)
Special Concern



Adults have large parotid glands and a distinctive pale-coloured dorsal stripe.

Rough, warty skin.

Colouration is not distinctive.

How to use this guide
 This document provides guidelines to help you identify frogs and toads in the low-elevation wetlands of the Fraser Valley, BC. It focuses on features that will help to distinguish between similar species.

The first step distinguishes between introduced and native amphibian species. Introduced frogs, the American Bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) and the Green Frog (*Lithobates clamitans*). Both are now common in the Fraser Valley and should be euthanized when caught.

Commonly encountered native species are the Western Toad (*Anaxyrus boreus*) and the Pacific Northern Tree Frog (*Pseudacris regilla*), both found in a wide variety of wetland habitats and forested habitats. Tailed frogs, found in steep mountain streams, are not covered in this guide.

Two native ranid frogs are similar and easy to confuse: the Endangered Oregon Spotted Frog (*Rana pretiosa*) and the Threatened Red-Legged Frog (*Rana aurora*). Open to Page 2 for an overview of features that differentiate between the two species.

Guide prepared by Balance Ecological, 2013.

Oregon Spotted Frog

(*Rana pretiosa*, RAPR **Endangered**)

AND

Red-Legged Frog

(*Rana aurora*, RAAU **Threatened**)

ADULTS

Oregon Spotted Frog



Generally sits in crouched position, unless preparing to jump.

Red-Legged Frog



Generally sits in upright position, with forearms pushing body upwards.

Oregon Spotted Frog



Colouration not distinctive. Ranges from white-grey mottled to bright red.

Red-Legged Frog



Legs always pink-red with gold flecks.



Raised bumps on sides (and often back) of frog.



Smooth skin on sides and back. Not bumpy.



No yellow on sides. Belly may be grey-white to bright red.



Often bright yellow patches on sides at hip.



From above, eyes do not (or only slightly) protrude beyond body line.



From above, eyes protrude beyond body line.



Skin of legs opaque. Cannot see through to bones and muscle. Diagnostic for adults only.



Skin of legs translucent. Can see through skin to bone and muscles. Diagnostic for adults only.

JUVENILES

Oregon Spotted Frog



Generally sits crouched. Dorso-lateral folds vague on lower back.

Red-Legged Frog



Generally sits upright. Dorso-lateral folds prominent to hips.



Rounded snout.



Pointed snout.

Legs of both are translucent. Underside colouration not distinctive.



From above, eyes do not (or only slightly) protrude beyond body line.



From above, eyes protrude beyond body line.

If you suspect you have found an **Oregon spotted frog**, please take photographs of the frog from the top, side and of its underside. Forward photos and location information (with coordinates, if possible) to spotties@balance-ecological.com.

You may have found a new population!

To Fold:

1. fold in half

2. Z-fold

