

ARIZONA TREEFROG (Huachuca/Canelo DPS)
(*Hyla wrightorum*)

STATUS: Candidate

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: The Arizona treefrog is a small (1.8 inches [4.6 centimeters]) green frog with a dark eyestripe that extends past the shoulder onto the side of the body, and sometimes to the groin area. This dark stripe may break into spots or dashes past the shoulder. Some Arizona treefrogs exhibit dark spots on the head and upper back, and bars or spots on the lower back. The throat of the male is dusky green or tan, and males average a slightly smaller size than females. Larger tadpoles are golden-brown above and below with tails mottled black. They grow to about 1.5 inches. The morphology and calls of the Huachuca/Canelo distinct population segment (DPS) differ somewhat from other Arizona treefrog populations along the Mogollon Rim, Arizona and New Mexico, and in the Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico. The Huachuca/Canelo DPS also possesses a unique, genetic haplotype.

HABITAT: In Arizona, the Huachuca/Canelo DPS is known from Madrean oak woodland and savannah, pine-oak woodland, and mixed conifer forest at elevations of approximately 5,000 to 8,500 feet (1,525 to 2,590 meters [m]). At Rancho Los Fresnos, Sonora, the species occurs in Plains grassland at about 5,000 feet (1,525 m).

RANGE: Historical: The Huachuca/Canelo DPS is known from less than 20 localities, 11 of which have yielded observations of the frog in the last 10 years. These localities are in the Huachuca Mountains and adjacent Canelo Hills in southeastern Arizona, and wetlands at Rancho Los Fresnos southwest of the Huachuca Mountains in Sonora, Mexico. This is probably a species whose range has contracted to more mesic, montane woodland and high grassland areas as climates have become warmer and drier over the last 10,000 years.

Current: The species' current range is probably similar to its recent historical range, but the frog's distribution is limited by a lack of suitable habitats.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: The frog occurs at relatively few localities and breeding populations typically consist of only 2-30 individuals. The populations in the Huachuca Mountains and Canelo Hills are probably geographically disjunct from those at Rancho Los Fresnos. As a result, the frog is at risk due to disruption of metapopulation dynamics (relationships among populations) and factors such as wildfire and drought, which can easily eliminate small populations. Predation by non-native species, such as American bullfrogs and green sunfish, likely limit the types of wetlands in which the frog can successfully breed and maintain populations. Climate change and continuing drought in the Southwest pose additional challenges to Arizona treefrog populations and exacerbate the threat of wildfire.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Mostly Federal (Coronado National Forest and Fort Huachuca), but some private land as well in Arizona; and in Sonora habitats are owned by Naturalia, a non-governmental conservation organization.

NOTES: Habitat restoration is ongoing in Scotia Canyon, Huachuca Mountains, which is one of the key localities for the DPS in Arizona.

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