

RAMSEY CANYON (CHIRICAHUA) LEOPARD FROG
(Lithobates chiricahuensis [subaquavocalis])

STATUS: Threatened without critical habitat in 2002. Recovery is guided by the species recovery plan and a multi-party Conservation Agreement.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: A relatively large (up to 5.4 inches [135 mm] snout-urostyle length), spotted frog. A distinctive pattern on the rear of the thigh consists of small, raised, cream-colored spots or tubercles on a dark background, dorsolateral folds that are interrupted posteriorly and deflected medially, relatively rough skin on the back and sides, stocky body proportions, eyes placed relatively high on the head, and usually green coloration on the head and back distinguishes this species from other leopard frogs. The species has a long snore-like mating call which is sometimes given underwater. The Ramsey Canyon leopard frog was described in 1993 as a distinct species, but recent molecular genetic analysis indicate it is the same species as the Chiricahua leopard frog. In their 2008 list of amphibians and reptiles of North America north of Mexico, the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles reclassified *Lithobates subaquavocalis* as the Chiricahua leopard frog. In a petition finding published in the Federal Register on December 16, 2009 [74 FR 66866] the Fish and Wildlife Service officially recognized all populations of the Ramsey Canyon leopard frog as being members of the species *L. chiricahuensis*, the Chiricahua leopard frog.

HABITAT: Adults are found in aquatic systems in pine-oak and oak woodlands and semi-desert grassland in the Huachuca Mountains and adjacent bajadas of southeastern Arizona. The aquatic systems from which Ramsey Canyon leopard frogs are known or likely to have occurred in historical times include springs, cienegas, earthen cattle tanks, small creeks, and slack water of main-stem rivers.

RANGE: Historical: See species account for the Chiricahua leopard frog. In the Huachuca Mountain area, the species' historical range included the upper San Pedro River Valley and adjacent Huachuca Mountains.

Current: See species account for the Chiricahua leopard frog. In the Huachuca Mountains region, populations occur primarily in canyons on the southeastern slope of the Huachuca Mountains and adjacent bajada at elevations ranging from approximately 1,501-1,829 m (4,924-6,000 ft).

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: See species account for the Chiricahua leopard frog. In the Huachuca Mountains area, die offs associated with the fungal skin disease chytridiomycosis, predation by non-native species, and habitat loss are the most serious threats.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Coronado National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Fort Huachuca, The Nature Conservancy, and private.

NOTES: A recovery plan was developed for the species in 2007 [http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/Documents/SpeciesDocs/CLF/Final_CLF_Plan.pdf]. The recovery plan anticipated the reclassification of the Ramsey Canyon leopard frog and included management recommendations for it. A Conservation Agreement among the landowners and State and Federal agencies serves as the local recovery implementation guidance, which provides for conservation through captive breeding and reintroduction, acquisition of habitat, and population and habitat surveys. The Ramsey Canyon population receives additional protection due to its location within The Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon Preserve.