

# News Release

Washington Fish and Wildlife Office  
510 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, Washington 98503-1263  
Phone: (360) 753-9440  
<http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/>



Contact: Washington: Taylor Goforth (360) 753-4375  
Oregon: Elizabeth Materna (503) 231-6912  
Klamath Falls: Matt Baun (530) 340-2387

Date: June 17, 2014

## **Service Reopens Comment Period for Oregon Spotted Frog in Washington and Oregon**

### *Changes to Proposed Critical Habitat and Availability of Draft Economic Analysis Announced*

Today the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced the reopening of the comment period on its August 29, 2013, proposed designation of critical habitat for the Oregon spotted frog (*Rana pretiosa*) under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended. Based on new information received, the Service is proposing changes to four of the 14 proposed critical habitat areas: the Lower Deschutes River, Williamson River, Upper Klamath Lake, and Upper Klamath.

The proposed changes result in a total addition of 309 acres (125 hectares) to the proposed critical habitat for Oregon spotted frog. These new areas are occupied by the Oregon spotted frog and contain the physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species. There are no changes being proposed in the other 10 proposed critical habitat units.

In addition, the Service also announced the availability of a draft economic analysis (DEA) of the proposed critical habitat designation for the Oregon spotted frog, which addresses the potential incremental economic impacts of critical habitat designation for the species. The DEA estimates the total incremental administrative costs related to the proposed critical habitat for the Oregon spotted frog to be \$190,000.

The reopening of the comment periods allows all interested parties an opportunity to comment simultaneously on the proposed critical habitat rule as published on August 29, 2013, the proposed changes to four of the critical habitat units and the associated DEA. Previously submitted comments on the proposed critical habitat rule do not need to be resubmitted, as they will be fully considered in preparation of the final critical habitat

rule. The Service invites public comment on the proposed critical habitat rule and the draft economic analysis for a 30-day period, and will accept comments received or postmarked on or before July 18, 2014.

Copies of the proposed critical habitat rule may be obtained at <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection> in Docket No. FWS–R1–ES–2013–0088. More information is available from the Washington Fish and Wildlife Office’s website at [www.fws.gov/wafwo/osf.html](http://www.fws.gov/wafwo/osf.html).

*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov), or connect with us through any of these social media channels:*



--FWS--

