

# ATAG Amphibian Taxon Management Plan: Oregon Spotted Frog, Washington Population

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## BACKGROUND

### Species (common/scientific names):

Oregon Spotted Frog/*Rana pretiosa*

### Distribution:

7 populations across 3 drainage basins in 2 counties of Southwest Washington (see attached map)

### Conservation status (IUCN, CITES other):

Endangered in Washington State  
U.S. Federal candidate for species listing  
Endangered in British Columbia and Canada  
Critical in Oregon  
Priority species in the ATAG Action Plan

### Threats:

Drainage of flood plains for human development  
Reduction in grazing leading to invasion of reed canary grass  
Native and introduced predators (e.g. bullfrogs)

### Proposed *ex situ* roles (Ark; Rescue; Supplementation; Research; Education):

Headstart rearing for release into new habitat area(s)

### Husbandry guidelines (Y/N, if yes give details and/or hyperlink):

Headstart protocols are being developed jointly through Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Oregon Zoo, Woodland Park Zoo and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Washington Population, using protocols developed at Mountainview Conservation Centre, British Columbia as a starting point. Washington animals have only been raised at two facilities for a single (2008) season, so husbandry protocols are still in development.

### Co-ordinator and contact details:

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### Programme Goal:

Headstart rearing for release currently is a pilot project to determine the feasibility and develop protocols for all stages of tadpole/juvenile OSF rearing, release and monitoring.

## ACTION PLAN

**Ex situ population management**

**Current population (no. of individuals and/or institutions):**

For the Washington State population of OSF, there are 3 facilities participating in head start rearing: Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, Oregon Zoo and Woodland Park Zoo.

**Target population (no. of individuals and/or institutions):**

At this time, no permanent ex situ population is proposed. Animals will be temporarily housed at ex situ rearing facilities only as part of the head-start measure.

**Objectives (clearly defined and measurable):**

To develop rearing methods for OSF that provide animals in the 15-20 g weight range by September for release.

To determine if there are differences in ex situ growth rates between eggs harvested at the Black River and Conboy sites.

**Proposed actions and respective time frames:**

- For 2009, the Washington OSF team is proposing to:
- 1) Follow the protocols used last year by NW Trek, except to lower the final tank density number to 120 individuals and to remove bloodworms from the diet.
  - 2) Elevate water temperatures into the 80 F range as soon as larvae are at a feeding stage and to monitor temperatures in the growth tanks with data loggers to ensure desired temperatures are being maintained.
  - 3) Have all rearing institutions participate in a growth experiment in which half the eggs come from Black River and half come from Conboy. Oregon Zoo and NW Trek will have one growth tank from each site.
  - 4) Have WDFW measure all frogs in growth tanks (soon after metamorphosis is completed) at each rearing institution to obtain a dataset early in the juvenile interval; a second set of measurements (also by WDFW) will be obtained roughly one week prior to the release date.
  - 5) Raise frogs that reach a body weight in the 15-20 g range in late September, which can all be PIT-tagged prior to release. PIT-tagging will occur for each frog after the second measurement is taken (see above).

**Ex situ Research – see above for 2009 details.**

**Current research objectives and expected time frames:**

**Proposed research objectives and expected time frames:**

**Actions necessary to meet research objectives:**

**Ex situ Education**

**Educational message:**

**Objectives (clearly defined and measurable):**

**Proposed actions to meet above Educational Objectives with time frame:**

**Any other information:**

**In-country/field initiatives**

**Current activities:**

Egg mass counts are conducted each spring at each breeding area. Sampling for chytrid has been conducted in these populations (results have been negative).

**Objectives (clearly defined and measurable):**

**Proposed actions and respective time frames:**

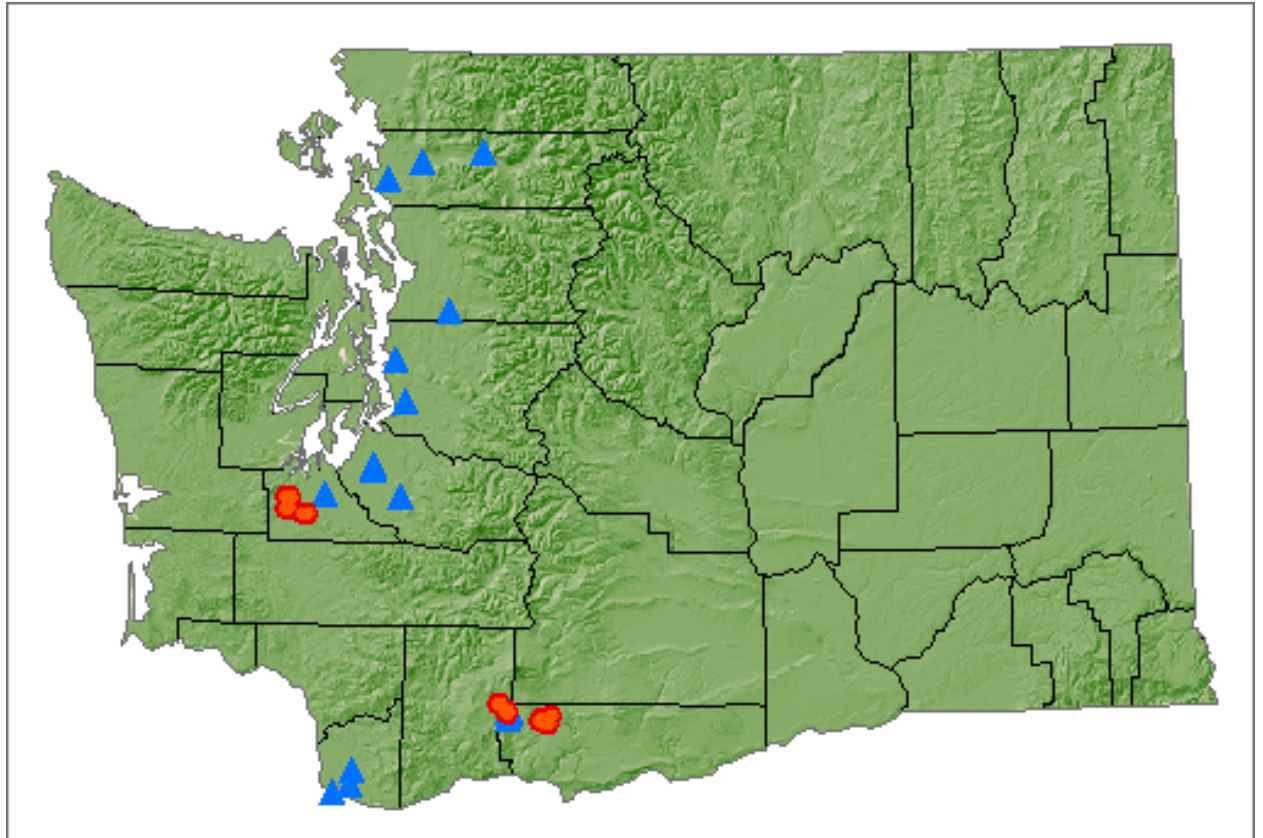
**Long term goal (exit strategy):**

The recovery plan is still in the draft phase, so recovery goals/exit strategies have not yet been defined.

**References – This information is being compiled as part of the draft recovery plan.**

**Publications/reports:**

**Bibliography:**



Wildlife Resource  
Data System Section  
WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Species Observations

- 1984 - 2004
- ▲ Prior to 1984