

Amphibian-Calling Survey Form

Observer name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

Survey location (e.g. park, creek name, nearest streets, street numbers if practical)

Date _____

Time _____

Air temperature (appx) _____ Rain last 48 hours? ____yes ____no

Wind: still ____ only leaves & twigs stir ____ branches move ____ strong ____

Sky: clear ____ moonlit ____ partly cloudy ____ overcast ____ foggy ____ drizzle/lt. rain ____

medium rain ____ heavy rain ____

Habitat: steep ____ pond(s), puddle(s) ____ creek ____ open ____ trees ____ buildings ____ lights ____ noise ____

How to survey:

1. Visit a known site, a pond, puddle, marshy area, stream with pools, lake, wet meadow, swamp or other wet area during daylight hours, so you'll know it.
2. Go to the spot with a partner between 1/2 and 2 1/2 hours after sunset. If possible choose an overcast, cloudy, or drizzly night, with calm winds, after rain or when humidity is high.
3. Turn off flashlights. Wait quietly 1 minute.
4. Listen quietly for frog calls for 3 minutes. If loud noise interrupts, start over.
5. Record below **by species** the **largest** number of calls you hear (codes are below):
6. Visit the same spot on at least three different nights in April. Fill out a separate sheet for each night.

Please fill out and return forms even if you hear no frogs.

7. Return the sheets to the address below or on back.
8. If possible, survey again in May - June (warm weather is better for bullfrogs).

Calls BY SPECIES (Code the LARGEST number of calls you hear)

0 = no calls of the given species

1 = individuals of the species can be counted; space between calls

2 = some overlapping of calls of the species

3 = full chorus of the species; calls constant, continuous, and overlapping

____ Pacific chorus (tree) frog (*Pseudacris* or *Hyla regilla*) high-pitched "krreck-ek", but syllables lost in full chorus; also described as "rib-it." This is our only common local frog, it breeds from Feb-June.

____ Red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*, deep-voiced, short "unks" followed by sort of "cronk" growl or groan at end.) (If you think you hear the call of this endangered species, please tape record it and get in touch with survey coordinators. Usually breeds for two weeks between January-March.)

____ Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*, sounds like rubbing your finger over an inflated balloon and a long rattle, and can occasionally sound like a yip from a puppy. Typically breed for 2 weeks in April-June.)

____ Western toad (*Bufo boreas*, sounds like a chirping or honking bird. Typically breed between Feb-April.)

____ Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*, sounds like "room room", a mouse squeak when startled, or a short "bu", and breed May-July.)

____ Unknown species

Other signs of frogs (splashes, eggs, tadpoles, etc.) or other wildlife

Return this form within 30 days after surveying:

Friends of Five Creeks, c/o Susan Schwartz, 1236 Oxford St., Berkeley 94709 (see back; fold, tape, & stamp). As email attachment: f5creeks@aol.com.

For information or more forms download forms from www.fivecreeks.org, call 510-848-9358, or email Friends of Five Creeks, f5creeks@aol.com.

Place
Stamp
Here

Friends of Five Creeks Amphibian-Calling Survey
c/o Susan Schwartz
1236 Oxford St.
Berkeley, CA 94709

Why frog-calling surveys?

Friends of Five Creeks (www.fivecreeks.org, f5creeks@aol.com, 510 848 9358, is a citizens groups that seeks to protect and restore the creeks, watersheds, and habitat of North Alameda and West Contra Costa Counties. We are surveying frog populations:

- To contribute to knowledge about frogs and declining amphibian populations
- To determine where we have frog populations and thus habitat worth preserving
- To look for opportunities to restore habitat, re-introduce frogs to suitable habitat, or correct environmental problems
- To increase appreciation of our creeks, ponds, wildlife, and watersheds.
- To find sites for signs identifying frog habitat (made possible by a generous anonymous donor).

Because of the apparent worldwide decline in amphibian populations, volunteer frog-calling surveys have been underway for more than a decade in the US and Canada. Information from our survey will be contributed to Frogwatch USA, a federally sponsored study. We encourage you to join this year-round survey at <http://www.mp2-pwrc.usgs.gov/frogwatch/>. We have registered several sites as Observer 142; email f5creeks@aol.com for more information.

For frog photos see <http://ice.ucdavis.edu/CANVDecliningAmphibians/> and click on Species Tour. Thanks to California Library of Natural Sounds for tapes of our only common local frog, the Pacific chorus or tree frog, *Pseudacris* or *Hyla regilla*.