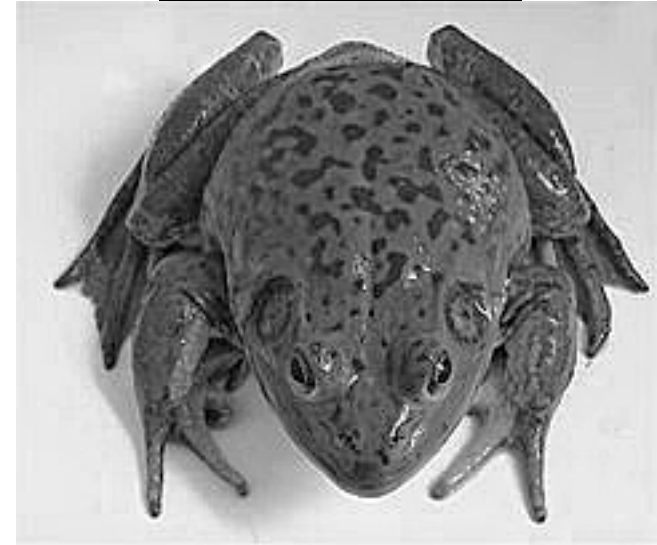




The American Bullfrog

Rana Catesbeiana



When a bullfrog inserts itself into an ecosystem where it doesn't have any natural predators, it eats all the food that the native creatures eat and it disrupts the natural flow of the ecosystem's food chain.

Kevin Harry
Mapleton Schools
2008

Bibliography (sources)

<http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/jas/pod2/animals/amphibian/bullfrog/process/habitat/index.htm>

<http://fsmr.org/ecology/nonnative.html>

http://www.bullfrogcontrol.com/images/bullfrog_in_hand_c.jpg

http://www.brunswick.k12.me.us/jas/pod2/animals/amphibian/bullfrog/process/life_cycle/images/bullfrog_metamorph.jpg

http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/frogs/images/gallery/med/amer_bullfrog_med.jpg

Contact sites

- www.oregoninvasiveshotline.org
- Siuslaw Watershed Council
Phone: 541-268-3044
Fax: 541-268-3045
- Local Soil and Water Conservation District
Phone: 541-997-1272 (Florence)
Phone: 541-681-1998 (Eugene)
- 1-866-Invader (467-2337)



The American Bullfrog has inserted itself unwanted into the Pacific Northwest .It has disrupted a lot of natural habitat, by taking over homes used by native species. Their eggs can cover a very large area, and the frogs also disrupt the natural food chain.

People should care about this because if you like to eat salmon, deer or even cows, the bullfrog is decreasing the amount of food there is for native animals. It disrupts the amount of food that native creatures have to eat and its decreasing the populations of salmon and other fish that call the Siuslaw Watershed their home.



As you can see in the map (above) the American bullfrog is prominent in most of the watersheds in Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. The darker shaded areas are the areas in which they are found. They tend to live and reproduce near plants in many rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. They prefer warm, shallow still water during the summer time. The bullfrog hibernates during the winter by digging itself into the mud. It is able to survive because it can breathe through its skin.



Because of the large size of bullfrogs, they are a threat to the growth of native plants throughout the winter when they are hibernating in good soil that could be used to produce winter crops. They also eat the baby salmon that are born throughout the early spring months when they are in season. They reproduce without any repercussions on them. They don't have many predators in the wild because nothing can eat them. They secrete a toxin through their skin that is poisonous to any animal that attempts to eat them.

They are farmed in different parts of the country for their legs. But if allowed to reproduce they can infiltrate many of the surrounding watersheds. The females are able to produce enough eggs in one reproductive year to fill a 5 gallon bucket, by itself. And if these eggs get fertilized they can get flushed into surrounding watersheds.

We don't need to get rid of it, but we do need to lower the population. Some measures we could take are controlling the amount of frogs that spawn by only letting one or two females worth of eggs be fertilized. I think that the fertilization process should take place in

a controlled environment such as a replica of a pond that is in an indoor area and kept at a suitable temperature. Another way to control the population is to keep them out of unnatural creeks and watersheds. Don't help them take over and they won't.

If you are able to figure out how they are reproducing and what measures you can take to keep them from spreading, then we can control this issue.

