California Red-Legged Frogs in Ventura County

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I would like to acknowledge that I am on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Chumash people.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office

Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office works to conserve and protect threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants across the central and southern California coast.
What is the Endangered Species Act?

The Endangered Species Act provides a framework to conserve and protect endangered and threatened species and their habitats.
What is a California red-legged frog?

• Largest native frog in the western Untied States
• Federally listed as threatened in 1996
• California’s state amphibian
Why you should care about California red-legged frogs

• They eat mosquitos and mosquito larvae
• Important prey and predator species in aquatic habitats
• Indicator species for overall habitat health
How to identify a California red-legged frog
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Dorsolateral folds (ridges that run down the side of the frog’s body)

Photo: NPS / Kirke Wrench
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Where can you find California red-legged frogs?

Historical California red-legged frog range
Where can you find California red-legged frogs?

Current California red-legged frog range
California red-legged frog conservation is crucial in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.
Threats to California red-legged frogs

- Loss of habitat (urbanization, development)
- Non-native predators
- Non-native plants
- Fungal pathogens
- Drought
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Photo: Matthew Fisher
Threats to California red-legged frogs

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What can you do to help conserve the California red-legged frog?

Keep your pets leashed and on trail while hiking
What can you do to help conserve the California red-legged frog?

- Plant native gardens
- For general use switch herbicides for white vinegar
- Conserve water
What can you do to help conserve the California red-legged frog?

- Clean all gear after hiking
- Disinfect any gear before and after entering any bodies of water
- Avoid hiking in or on the banks of waterways
What can you do to help conserve the California red-legged frog?

- Never handle a California red-legged frog without prior authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- If you find a California red-legged frog in distress, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or a permitted California red-legged frog biologist.
Thank you!

For more ways to get involved with conservation or any questions please contact kirby_bartlett@fws.gov