

## INVASIVE SPECIES FACT SHEET



**Common Name:** Bullfrog

**Family:** *Ranidae*

**Order:** *Anura*

**Class:** *Amphibia*

**Species:** *Lithobates catesbeianus*  
(formerly *Rana catesbeiana*)

**Origin:** Eastern United States

**Size:** Adults: 3.5 – 8 inches (9cm -20.3 cm)

Tadpoles: 4 - 6 inches (10.2cm -15.3 cm)

### Description:

- Tadpoles are dark green with black spots, orange or bronze eyes and yellowish underbellies.
- Metamorphosis of tadpoles can take up to two years. (The process of change from tadpole to frog).
- Juveniles are green to brown with tiny black spots, and orange- or bronze-colored eyes.
- Adult females are larger than the males, ranging in color from green to dark brown with dark spots on top and a cream or white colored throat. Both sexes have a large tympanum (eardrum) located just behind the eye.
- The females' tympanum is about the same size as its eye.
- Adult males range in color from green to dark brown with dark spots on top and a yellow throat. The males' tympanum is about the twice the size as its eye.
- Adults have golden colored eyes.
- The male emits a loud mating call.

### Ecology:

- Thrives in the warm water of ponds, lakes, marshes, sloughs, irrigation ditches and streams.
- Diet of adult consists of about anything it can fit down its throat including fish, reptiles, small mammals, birds, amphibians and insects.
- Tolerates a wide range of water temperatures.

**Status:** Controlled species in Oregon. Can be legally harvested year-round; no angling license required.

# OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**Interesting facts:** Introduced into Oregon as a food item (frog legs) in the early 1900s. Bullfrogs lay up to 20,000 eggs each season while native species such as red-legged frogs lay up to 5,000 eggs.

**Impact:** Devour native turtles and frogs, adversely affecting native populations; transmit disease to native species; aggressively compete for food and habitat; out produce reproductively, overwhelming native populations.

**Action:** Don't release bullfrogs—pets or science projects—into the wild. If you see adults or tadpoles for sale in stores or online in Oregon, please report them to ODFW.

If you see bullfrogs in the wild, remove them to eat or kill them. One accepted method is stunning the frog with a sharp blow to the head, followed by decapitation. Make sure you have first identified the frog as a bullfrog; most native frogs are protected and cannot be removed from the wild or killed.



**Bullfrogs are most accurately identified by: golden eyes and a large tympanum (eardrum) located just behind the eye. Bullfrogs often have black polka dots on the top of the head and body, blotchy striping on the legs, and a whitish underside with gray mottling. The upper lip is bright green; on males the lower lip is yellowish in color.**



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

4034 Fairview Industrial Dr Se

Salem, Or 97302

Phone (503) 947-6000

[www.odfw.com](http://www.odfw.com)

[www.odfw.com/conservationstrategy](http://www.odfw.com/conservationstrategy)

*the* OREGON  
CONSERVATION  
STRATEGY