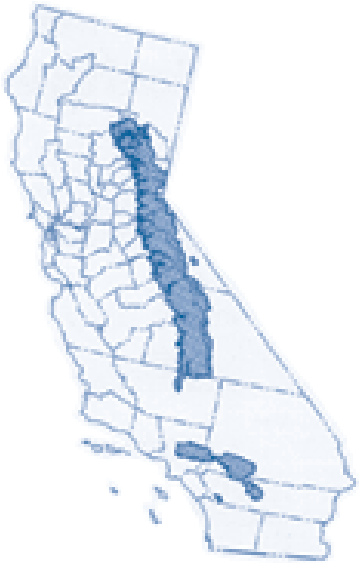
Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog

California Native Frog

2003 Series

MOUNTAIN YELLOW-LEGGED FROG... *Rana muscosa*



FEDERAL STATUS - Forest Service Sensitive

HABITAT - Inhabits sunny streambanks, meadow streams, isolated pools, and lake borders in the high Sierra Nevada from 4,500 feet to over 12,000 feet in elevation, and rocky streams in the mountains of southern California from 850 feet to 7,500 feet. Seem to prefer sloping banks with rocks or vegetation to the water's edge.

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS - Weak dorsolateral folds, no mask, usually no snout patch (as in foothill yellow-legged frogs), no large eardrum (tympanum) behind the eyes (as in bullfrog), yellow on undersides of hind legs and waist. Toe tips usually dark. When handled they smell like garlic.

Reference: USDA. 1991. Monitoring frogs and toads on Region 5 National Forests. R-5 Fish Habitat Relationship Technical Bulletin. Number 4. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.
Stebbins, Robert C. 1998. A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians.
Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.
Map: California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System, revised 10/18/98 by J. Vindum
Photo Credit: Vance Vredenburg, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology