U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE – SPOTLIGHT SPECIES ACTION PLAN

ACTION AND SURNAME SHEET

Common Name: Columbia Spotted Frog (Great Basin Population – Idaho Only)

Scientific Name: *Rana luteiventris*

Field Office: Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, Boise, Idaho

Date Completed: 09/17/09

Surname Routing:		**Date**
FO Biologist (Author) ___**Kendra Womack**	KW	**09/17/09**
FO Assistant Field Supervisor	Stephen D. Duke	09/20/09
FO Field Supervisor		9/29/09

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE - SPOTLIGHT SPECIES ACTION PLAN

Common Name: Columbia Spotted Frog (Great Basin Population)

Scientific Name: *Rana luteiventris*

Lead Region: Region 8

Lead Field Office: Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, Boise, Idaho

Species Information:

Status: Candidate Species

Listing Priority Number: 9

Candidate Assessment Form: December 10, 2008 (73 FR 75198)

Other Agreements:
Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) between Idaho Department of Lands, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for Columbia spotted frogs at Sam Noble Springs. The CCAA is effective for 25 years, ending in December 2027.

Factors affecting the species (threats) include:

- Degradation and loss of breeding and overwintering habitats
- Disease (e.g., Chytridiomycosis)
- Predation by introduced aquatic animals
- Limited habitat connectivity due to loss of quality riparian and wetland habitats

The ultimate causes of these threats are varied, and may include environmental factors (e.g., climate change, drought), current or historical land uses (e.g., inappropriate livestock grazing, spring development, water diversion), and the introduction of nonnative plant or animal species. Overall there is limited information about the distribution of CSF and threats to individual populations across southwest Idaho, especially on private lands. For example, there is some speculation and anecdotal evidence that reductions of beaver in some areas have resulted in the loss of habitat for CSF, although data is lacking. In addition, there is limited information about the potential effects of recreation, and the transmission vectors for diseases.

Target: ***Improve the species' status***

The five-year target for the Columbia spotted frogs is to *improve the species' status* in southwest Idaho (i.e., Owyhee, Twin Falls, and potentially Cassia Counties). This may include increasing quality and availability of breeding and/or overwintering habitats,

restoring connectivity between existing populations to increase the likelihood of natural dispersal, and reducing the prevalence of deleterious nonnative plants and animals. We cannot identify a target that would require rangewide status improvement as this spotlight species plan is only valid where it applies in southwest Idaho.

Measure:

(1) Implement a minimum of 10 new projects or land use changes specifically designed to improve or restore habitat quality, quantity, or connectivity, or to reduce the prevalence of nonnative species affecting CSF. For example, such projects may include restoration (e.g., excavation, repair, plant community alteration) or protection (e.g., exclosures) of ponds or wetlands, creation of new ponds or wetlands, or control of invasive plants or fishes.

(2) Engage at least 3 new private landowners in conservation actions for the species. This may include allowing access for surveys, or direct conservation actions such as pond improvement or land use changes that benefit CSF.

Actions:

Action	Threat(s) addressed	Responsible party	Estimated costs ($)
Management			
Maintain ongoing coordination efforts by defining a CSF technical working group and holding coordination meetings no less than annually. The group should be defined and an initial meeting held by the end of January 2010.	All	**IDFG**, USFWS, BLM, NRCS, IDL, SPT, USGS (TWG Agencies)	IDFG-$2,500 FWS-$2,000 BLM-$2,000 *this assumes 2 staff per agency
Develop CSF long-term strategic planning document for Idaho by December 31, 2010.	All	**IDFG**, USFWS, BLM, NRCS	~$20,000
Develop spatial information to prioritize threats and areas of conservation emphasis. This is a sub-part of the strategic plan, but will be accomplished early to help guide implementation.	All	Bill B. (IDFG)	To be determined
Using the spatial analysis and other considerations, identify, prioritize, and initiate projects to meet measure #1. We envision this will be ongoing and facilitated through the	Habitat loss and fragmentation	TWG Agencies	Included in #1 above.

Action	Threat(s) addressed	Responsible party	Estimated costs ($)
Management			
TWG. At least 3 of these will occur on private lands (total of 10 projects).			
Consider results of USGS investigations regarding interactions between livestock and CSF or their habitats. If appropriate consider changes to management.	Inappropriate livestock grazing, limited information	BLM, IDL	If land use changes are required, cost will be determined at that time.
Continue implementation of methods to minimize transmission of disease during surveys and monitoring (e.g., PNW Herp. Guidelines)	Disease	All	Minimal, incorporated into ongoing monitoring and survey efforts
Evaluate the need to coordinate further with IDL on state lands outside of Sam Noble Springs that may have CSF.	Information needs	BLM, USFWS	To be determined
Evaluate permitted activities during routine permit renewal or application processes, and implement conservation measures to improve habitat for CSF where appropriate		BLM, IDL	None. If changes required, cost uknown/variable.
Outreach and Education			
Expand efforts to coordinate with private landowners. This may include outreach to local lawmakers, ranchers, representatives, or other land users/owners.	Possibly all	USFWS, IDFG, NRCS, BLM, others as appropriate	To be determined…
Engage with Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to share information and cooperate on conservation projects and surveys on Tribal lands. SPT should be invited as part of the TWG.	All	IDFG, other agency support	No cost
Engage south-central Idaho BLM and IDFG regional Staff to participate in TWG.	All	IDFG, BLM	No cost
Explore opportunities to increase educational outreach efforts for CSF (e.g., zoo	All	TWG	Unknown, but minimal until implemented

Action	Threat(s) addressed	Responsible party	Estimated costs ($)
Management			
exhibit, frog in the classroom, nature center).			
Research, monitoring, and information needs			
Prioritize and survey potential habitat on willing landowners' properties. Ongoing	Limited information	USFWS, BLM, IDFG, NRCS	$30k over five years
Identify locations where introduced fish species occur sympatric with CSF populations. Determine if steps to eradicate those populations are appropriate. If appropriate, prioritize and take steps. Query fish bios by spring 2010 for discussion at TWG meeting.	Predation	TWG in coordination with agency fish bios.	Variable, depending on nature and extent of control needed.
Continue implementation of long-term monitoring at SNS for at least the next 5 years.	Tracking population trend and conservation at SNS associated with CCAA	IDFG, USFWS, IDL	Actions included in section 6 grant
Continue occupancy modeling and occupancy estimation for at least the five years of this plan.	Limited information, population trend	IDFG	USFWS-$18-21k/year, section 6 BLM-$7k/year CCS IDFG-in kind, ?
Complete evaluation of genetic characteristics of CSF in southwest Idaho. Consider results and evaluate potential need for management changes or additional research.	Limited information, could be multiple	BLM, IDFG, USFWS, Colorado State University	BLM-$20k to date CSU-In kind IDFG-In kind-staff time (?)
Ensure that data regarding occupied, not occupied information is documented. This includes maintaining the IDFG's Animal Conservation Database and ensuring that other important information is also captured and available (e.g., negative survey results, habitat information). Database will be updated by December	Limited information, distribution, prioritization of other efforts	IDFG	Existing database maintenance covered

Action	Threat(s) addressed	Responsible party	Estimated costs ($)
Management			
2010; other information will be discussed at TWG meeting.			
Monitor for BD (Chytrid) to allow us to track the prevalence of the disease across southwest Idaho. Initiate by spring 2010.	Disease	IDFG	$25/sample, assume 200 samples ($5k)

Role of other agencies:

Idaho Department of Fish and Game:

- Lead monitoring activities - specifically the long-term monitoring program
- Provide technical assistance where needed
- Lead coordination efforts and the Technical Working Group
- Information management
- Provide in-kind contributions for CSF conservation efforts as available

BLM:

- Advance CSF conservation on BLM administered lands.
- Facilitate habitat improvement projects by completing environmental compliance documentation (e.g., NEPA) and other clearances.
- Provide technical assistance where needed
- Participate in the TWG
- Provide financial assistance as available to conservation projects, including surveys and monitoring efforts outlined in this plan

Idaho Department of Lands:

- Continue coordination efforts with other involved parties for the management of Sam Noble Springs and other lands where frogs are present

Additional agencies may participate in the TWG or other CSF conservation efforts as appropriate. This may include USGS for research and/or scientific expertise and guidance, NRCS for cost-share funding and project implementation on private lands, and the Governor's Office of Species Conservation for potential funding or other assistance, and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to help fill data gaps and project implementation on tribal lands.

Role of other ESA programs:

- Funding for the long-term monitoring program has traditionally come through the Section 6 Cooperative Agreement with Idaho. This source of funding is expected to continue - $18,000 in 2009.

Role of other FWS programs:

- Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Ecological Services – fund and implement CSF conservation actions with willing landowners.
- Federal Activities – section 7 consultation with BLM – increase awareness of and incorporate CSF conservation measures into Federal land management activities.
- Ecological Services – Conservation Partnerships – engage all parties, public and private, to further CSF conservation and management.

Conservation Actions - Estimated Costs - 5 Year Outlook												
	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		5 Year Total	
Action	USFWS	TOTAL	USFWS	TOTAL	USFWS	TOTAL	USFWS	TOTAL	USFWS	TOTAL	USFWS	TOTAL
Ongoing coordination/TWG participation	$2500	$7k	$2500	$7k	$2500	$7k	$2500	$7k	$2500	$7k	$12.5k	$35k
Develop CSF Idaho Strategy	$7.5k?	$12.5k ?										$20k
Expand efforts to coordinate with private landowners												?
Prioritize and survey habitat	$6k		$6k		$6k		$6k		$6k		$30k	$30k
Control introduced fish occurrences												?
Continue Implementation of long-term monitoring at SNS/Continue occupancy modeling	$18k (S6)	$25k (BLM)	$18k (S6)	$25k (BLM)	$18k (S6)	$25k (BLM)	$18k (S6)	$25k (BLM)	$18k (S6)	$25k (BLM)	$90k	$125k
Genetic Evaluations		$20k (BLM)										$20k
TOTAL											$132.5k	$220k