

# Northern Leopard Frog



California Native Frog

2003 Series

# NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG... *Rana pipiens*



**FEDERAL STATUS** - Forest Service Sensitive

**HABITAT** - Occurs in all manner of aquatic habitats: streams, ponds, bogs, canals, reservoirs, etc., frequenting vegetated banks. May forage far from water in damp meadows. They are most active at night. Populations in Northeastern California (Modoc & Lassen Co's) and the Owens Valley are likely native while others in California (e.g. Lake Tahoe) may have been introduced. Most widely distributed amphibian of North America. From sea level to approximately 7,000 feet elevation.

**IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS** - Green or brownish with well-defined spots with light borders on back, light to creamy undersides, 2 well defined dorsolateral folds, white upper jaw stripe. When frightened on land, seeks water in a series of zigzag jumps.

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.

Jennings, M.R. and M.P. Hayes. 1994. Amphibian and Reptile Species of Special Concern in California. California Department of Fish and Game, Final Report.

Map: California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System, revised 10/5/98 by J. Vindum

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