

**NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG**  
**(*LITHOBATES<sup>1</sup> PIIPIENS*)**

**Navajo/Federal Statuses:** NESL G2 / not listed under the ESA.

**Distribution:** Range includes most of Canada and northeastern U.S. southwest to NV, central AZ and NM. On Navajo Nation, historic records include Chuska Mountains, Little Colorado, Colorado, and San Juan Rivers, Navajo and Chinle Creeks, Canyon de Chelly, and near Tuba City, Cameron, Thoreau, and Newcomb; most of these populations are now extirpated. Potential exists throughout the Navajo Nation where appropriate habitat is present.

**Habitat:** Breeds in wetlands usually with permanent water and aquatic vegetation (especially cattails), ranging from irrigation ditches and small streams to rivers, and small ponds and marshes to lakes or reservoirs.

**Similar Species:** *L. pipiens* has dorsolateral folds and a spotted dorsum; bullfrog is 2-3 times larger; striped chorus frog is smaller with spots and stripes; canyon treefrog has enlarged toe discs.

**Phenology:**

- m.APR-I.JUL: breeding & egg-laying
- m.JUN-I.SEP: larval stage & metamorphosis
- >I.SEP: overwintering

**Survey Method:** ≥1 pedestrian survey during 1 MAY-31 JUL (1 JUN-31 JUL for elevations >2100 m); habitat evaluation may be done year-round.

**Avoidance:** Within occupied habitat, no surface disturbance (year-round) within 60 m of lakes, 15-60 m of streams (depending on stream category, per Navajo Natural Heritage Program, 1994), or 60 m of wetlands; and avoid upstream activities that impact water quantity and chemistry.

**References:**

- Degenhardt, W.G., C.W. Painter, A.H. Price. 1996. Amphibians and Reptiles of New Mexico. University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM. (description p.88)
- Navajo Natural Heritage Program. 1994. Draft Guidance, [Navajo Nation Aquatic Resources Protection Plan](#). Window Rock, AZ.
- Sredl, M.J. 1997. Ranid frog conservation and management. Technical Report 121. Arizona Game and Fish Dept., Phoenix, AZ.

<sup>1</sup> per: Crothers, B.I. (ed.). 2008. Scientific and standard English names of amphibians and reptiles of North America north of Mexico, pp. 1-84. SSAR Herpetological Circular 37.