



Western chorus frog

Pseudacris triseriata

1.9 to 3.7 cm



Vulnerable species in Quebec - Threatened species in Canada



CHARACTERISTICS

- The smallest species of anuran (a group that includes frogs and toads) in Quebec.
- Its song resembles the sound of a fingernail on the teeth of a comb.



Photographs: Lyne Bouthillier, ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec, Marc Mazerolle, Université Laval, and Jean-Marc Vallières



PERIODS OF ACTIVITY

Reproduction: April (at snowmelt)
 Egg and tadpole development: April to early July (60-90 days)
 Hibernation: November to March



MAIN THREATS

- Habitat destruction and changes in water regime: beaver activity, land filling and drainage (agricultural, road and housing development), etc.
- Fragmentation of habitats limiting migration and exchanges between populations.
- Pollution, weather conditions, and pesticides that can alter the frog's immune system, habitat, or food resources.
- Invasive exotic species (common reed and buckthorn).
- Natural vegetation succession leading to a closed tree canopy.

DISTRIBUTION IN QUEBEC



DISTRIBUTION RANGE



HABITATS

Breeding habitat

A basin of water characterized by the presence of surface water in spring and water-saturated soil until at least the end of June. The wetland becomes almost terrestrial during droughts. Aquatic vegetation (rushes, cattails) is not always established.

Terrestrial habitat

A strip of 200 m of terrestrial habitat around the breeding site. The Western chorus frog feeds, rests and hibernates hidden in litter, under rocks and dead logs.



RECOMMENDATIONS

STEP 1: LOCATE HABITATS

In the field, try to find the nearest breeding habitat, locate it, then also locate the surrounding terrestrial habitat.



STEP 2: AVOID MAJOR DISTURBANCES IN THESE HABITATS:

- ∅ Forest drainage
- ∅ Wood and debris piling areas
- ∅ Road construction or other sources of water flow modification
- ∅ Scarification

STEP 3: AVOID LOADING TRAILS

- o in breeding habitat;
- o in a 15-30 m buffer zone around it.



STEP 4: ADAPT PRACTICES BASED ON SPECIES SENSITIVITY TO DISTURBANCE

Sensitivity to changes in water dynamics

In terrestrial and breeding habitats, avoid altering drainage and reduce the footprint: use an adapted skidder or forwarder and plan skidding trails on soils with adequate bearing capacity.

Monitor habitat modifications caused by beavers (transformation of temporary ponds into permanent ponds through flooding).



Sensitivity during breeding season

In breeding habitat, avoid work and machinery movement between March 1 and August 1 (tree frog breeding and development).

Maintain vegetation by hand only.

Where possible, thin the canopy around potential breeding ponds to ensure maximum sunlight between 10am and 3pm and keep the terrestrial habitat open or semi-open.

Vulnerability to contaminants and invasive species

In terrestrial and breeding habitats, use clean machinery and biodegradable fluids to avoid contaminating the habitat.

Prevent the spread of invasive exotic species such as buckthorn and common reed (e.g. avoid driving machinery through their colonies and immediately revegetate any bare ground).

Maintain vegetated edges of watercourses and agricultural ditches.

Be sure to notify forest workers of protective measures to apply.

This fact sheet was developed through the integration of scientific elements and discussions between experts from the MFFP. The recommendations may evolve as new knowledge becomes available. For references, please visit afm.qc.ca/fiches-paf-bonifies.

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